


Climate Change and Health in the Caribbean

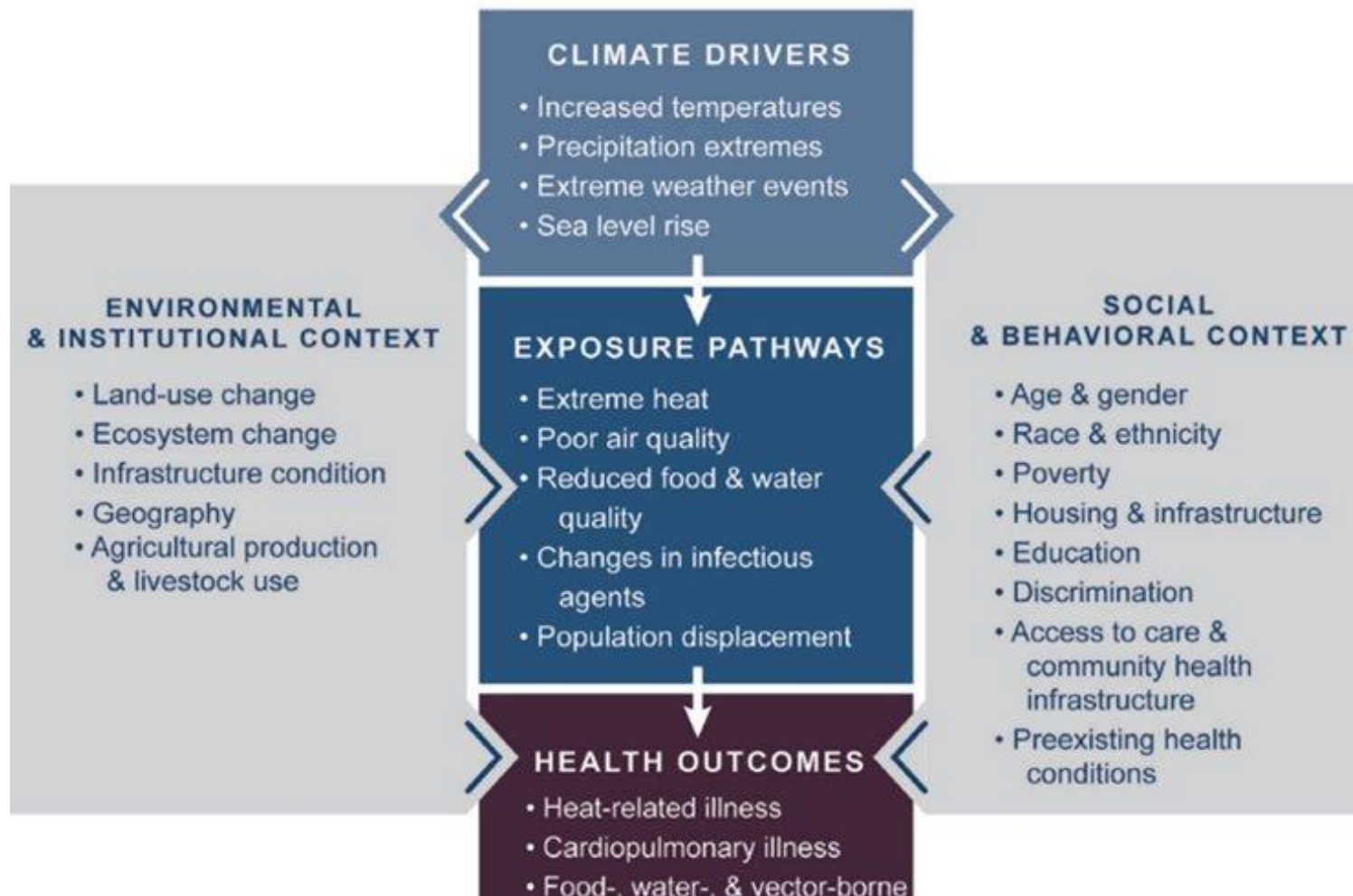


Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

*Launch of the 2019 Lancet Countdown on
Health and Climate Change Report
December 19, 2019*

Dr. Joy St. John
Executive Director, CARPHA



Source: The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States, US Global Change Research Program

<https://health2016.globalchange.gov/>



WHO 2015:
Climate change is the greatest threat
to global health in the 21st century

Poster by the Environmental Health
Department, Dominica

Food Security and Nutrition

Effects

- Shortage of fresh foods as indigenous agricultural production ceased
- In first few days, hygienic conditions in shelters are sub optimal with no potable water, little fresh food and challenges with toilet facilities
- 80 to 90% reduction in forest coverage and shade of watersheds



Actions

- Some assistance in monitoring environmental conditions which challenge health –stagnant water, shelter conditions, gastrointestinal illnesses
- Regulation and inspection of agricultural vendors , supermarkets and food establishments




Safe drinking water and sanitation

- Cuts in water supply and risk of exposure to sewage, as water and sewage pipes can be compromised
- Accumulation of waste: garbage collection vehicles, equipment and roadways damaged/ destroyed
- Stagnant water resulting from damaged infrastructure: risk of vector-borne disease
- Need for Water, Sanitation and Health: Mass distribution of water, sanitation tablets and clean-up supplies
- Community mobilisation, education
- Testing of water quality with CARPHA (EHSD)



Study Findings

- Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, cases of gastroenteritis increased more rapidly in the countries that were struck by the hurricanes at Category 4 or 5 than in those that were not
-  fever cases in the countries struck at Category 4 or 5 strength after the hurricanes
- Fever cases rose rapidly for two weeks after Hurricane



Algal Blooms



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/habs/index.html>

Harmful Algal Blooms Affect

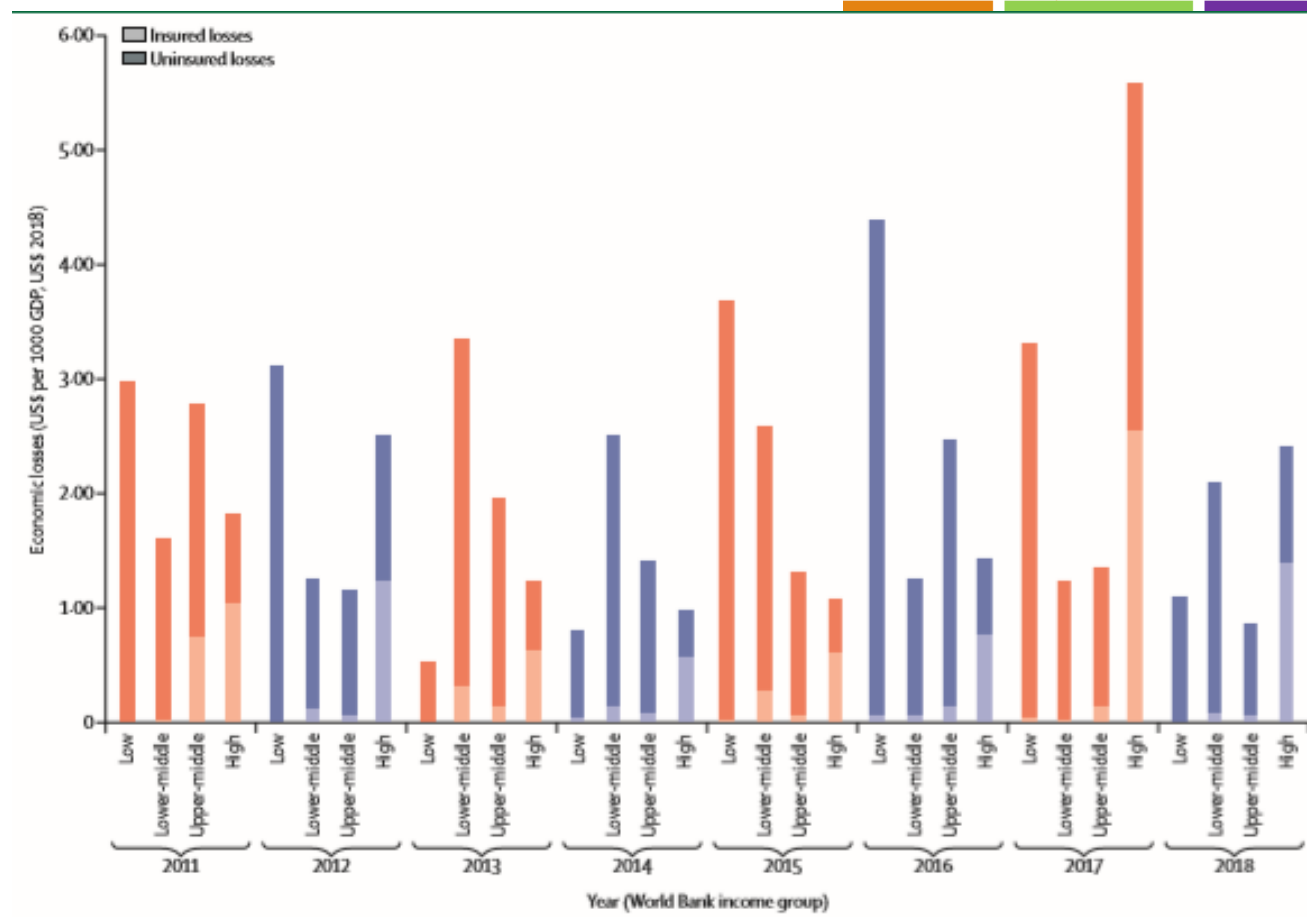
- Marine life
- Human health

Health Exposure pathways e.g.

- Water Sports
- Air Quality
- Food and water quality

Economic Impacts

Economic losses from climate-related events relative to GDP

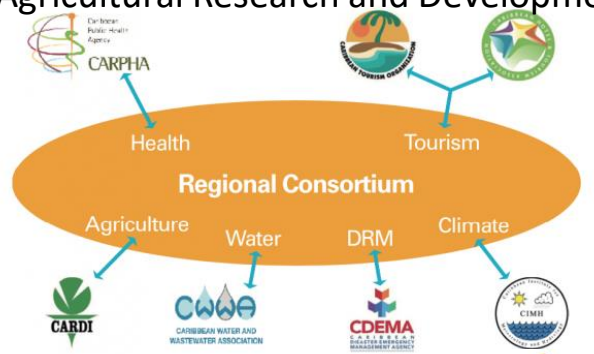


Source: Lancet 2019; 394: 1836–78

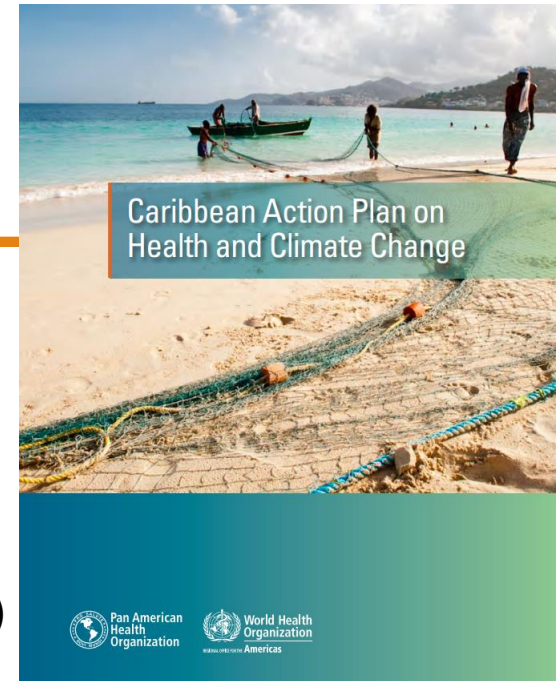
file:///C:/Users/gasparja/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/TK8KUX7/Lancet%20Countdown%20in%20health%20and%20climate%20change.pdf

Organizations working with Climate Change in the Caribbean Region

- CARPHA
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Climate Studies Group, (CSG) University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica
- Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO)
- Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)
- Caribbean Regional Climate Centre (Caribbean RCC)
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
- Regional Coordinating Mechanism on Health Security (RCMHS)
- 1 CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
- Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)



Caribbean Regional Climate Centre



Regional Frameworks

- Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)
- SAMOA Pathway
- Liliendaal Declaration (2009)
- Caribbean Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilience to Climate Change (2009-2015)
- Caribbean Cooperation in Health IV (CCH IV)
- One Health, One Caribbean, One Love Project
- Third Global Conference on Health and Climate Change: Special Focus on SIDS, 16- 17 October 2018, Grenada
- Caribbean Action Plan on Health and Climate Change



Damage to Princess Margaret
Hospital Laboratory, Dominica



La Plaine Health Centre
Post SMARTING Project,
Dominica

Health Climatic Bulletin

Climate-smart tool developed and disseminated by the CARPHA, PAHO and CIMH



*Key
Messages
until
February
2020*

- Caribbean dry season : Increased potential for wildfires
- Short and long-term drought
- Potential extensive crop damage due to crop damage or loss (Food Insecurity)
- Increased humidity may promote mould growth

CARPHA's Role

- Environment monitoring
- Environmental assessments and environmental auditing
- Emergency response
- VBD management

CARPHA as part of recent deployment to Bahamas





CARIBBEAN PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE CARIBBEAN 2017-2018

*Climate and Health: Averting and Responding to an
Unfolding Health Crisis*



- Launched in June 2019

<http://carpha.org/Data-and-Publications/Publications/CARPHA-Publications>

The image features a vibrant sunset background with a bright orange and yellow sky. Silhouettes of tall grasses and a dark horizon line are visible at the bottom. A white double-line border frames the central text.

**SOMETIMES LATER
BECOMES NEVER.
DO IT NOW.**