

Technical Specification – Environmental Health, Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Health Impact of Climate Change (HP 12)

Environmental health challenges and the growing impacts of climate change are increasingly shaping the health landscape across the ASEAN region. Health Priority 12 (HP 12) focuses on three interlinked areas: strengthening environmental health systems, advancing the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIA), and addressing the health consequences of climate change. These efforts are essential not only to protect public health, but also to support long-term resilience, sustainability, and equitable development in ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. ASEAN's commitment to integrated, cross-sectoral action is central to achieving these goals.

Health Impact Assessment, in particular, provides a structured way to anticipate and mitigate potential health risks in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, urban planning, and other sectors. At the same time, understanding and responding to the health effects of climate change demands that health systems are better prepared, communities are engaged, and policy frameworks are aligned with national adaptation strategies and global climate goals.

Projects intending to contribute to HP 12 should demonstrate that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional, and national considerations:

General

Overarching themes:

- Minimising healthcare's impact on climate: environmental mitigation and sustainability
- Strengthening resilience and adaptation of health systems in response to climate change
- Strengthening country's capacity to assess the health impacts of climate change and evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation and the health co-benefits of mitigation measures

Global

- Refer to the "[*Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Health Systems 2023*](#)" to develop plans, proposals, and interventions on climate and health
- Refer to the "[*WHO Guidance for Climate-Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare Facilities 2020*](#)" for a comprehensive framework to support local interventions, as well as guidance on implementation, monitoring, and evaluation at national and sub-national levels

- Refer to the "[*Checklists to assess vulnerabilities in health care facilities in the context of climate change \(2021\)*](#)" to identify and assess climate-related vulnerabilities and impacts
- Refer to the "[*Health Care' Climate Footprint*](#)" published by Health Care without Harm to understand how the health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and opportunities for action
- Refer to WHO page on [Health impact assessment \(HIA\) methods](#) to understand the process to undertake an HIA and also to access some of the tools around health impact assessment
- Access a [wide range of multilingual resources related to the climate crisis and health](#) produced by Global Climate and Health Alliance and partners
- Refer to the WHO "[*Quality Criteria for Health National Adaptation Plans*](#)" (HNAPs, 2021) which presents examples of good practices in HNAP development to assist countries in developing a comprehensive, feasible and implementable plan
- Refer to ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems for embedding sustainability and environmental risk reduction in healthcare operations (online version not available without a purchase of the standard)
- Refer to WHO's Toolkit for Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems (companion to 2023 Operational Framework) ([Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems](#)) to access tools to assist with climate - resilient initiatives
- Use the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) ([One health joint plan of action \(2022–2026\): working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment](#)) to obtain information about how to implement One Health
- Refer to FCDO Guidance on the Application of UK International Climate Financing to Health Programmes (Guidance available from HSP) ([Together for People and Planet: UK International Climate Finance Strategy - GOV.UK](#))

Regional:

- Refer to the "[*Resilient Health Systems in Asia \(2025\)*](#)" for a guidance by FHI 360 and Health Care Without Harm Asia on contextualising climate vulnerability assessment tools for local needs
- Refer to the [AHC 2 Work plan for Cluster Priority 13](#) and its relevant Programme Objectives (2021-2025) to identify priority activities
- Refer to the ASEAN "[*Policy Brief on Integrating Climate Lens into The Health System: Regional Mitigation and Adaptation \(2024\)*](#)" to understand ASEAN's recommendations to enhance climate-resilient health system and to learn of policies to integrate climate considerations in a health system

- Access information on ASEAN cooperation on environment, including publications, strategies, guidelines, and media releases at <https://environment.asean.org/>

National

- National Determined Contribution (NDC) – a country's self-defined climate action plan
- National manuals such as "[*Philippines's Green and Safe Health Facilities Manual 2021*](#)"
- National Climate Change Health Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans
- Reports on green viability and climate vulnerability and health impact assessments and guidelines
- National Actions Plans for Global Health Security
- National One Health or Multisectoral Platforms addressing environmental risks
- National monitoring frameworks indicators for climate-health assessments