

Summary of Parallel Session 11 "Experiences from joint Health and Climate Action – Perspectives from NGO's, Academia and Policy" (13.5.2017, 11:00-12:30)

This break-out session created a platform for discourse between policy makers, representatives of civil society and research regarding adaptation to climate change in the health sector. These groups shared best practices and lessons learned which can support policy makers in their decision-making to mainstream climate action into health agendas, as well as integrating health in all policies. Additionally, this session could inspire non-state actors to incorporate health aspects into their adaptation actions and programmes.

Heiko Warnken, head of the Division for Health, Social Security and Population Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Bonn, Germany, shared the relevance and position of BMZ looking at the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement from a health perspective as well as some practical experiences and lessons learned in implementing climate change adaptation and health projects. His key message was: "Making health systems everybody's business" as otherwise the negative effects from climate change on human health will jeopardize health outcomes globally.

Charles Kabiswa, program director of Ecological Christian Organization (ECO), Kampala, Uganda, urges all actors to step out of sectoral comfort zones to implement the SDGs 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement. He presented evidence and lessons learnt from an integrated Population-Health-Environment (PHE) project in Uganda and Kenya. The given examples presented opportunities and lessons that demonstrate the actual and potential contributions of multisectoral integrated approaches to the implementation and attainment of SDG and Paris Agreement. He appealed to donors as well as ministries to strongly support programs with a multisectoral approach as otherwise it will be impossible to reach the SDG, mitigation and adaptation goals.

Geoffrey Mwangi Wambugu, assistant Lecturer of Environmental Science, Karatina University, Kenya, presented a case study focusing on the impact of a hydropower plant built in Ethiopia on the livelihoods and health of indigenous people that live at and are dependent from the Lake Turkana. This example showed that despite existing transboundary policies' and regulations regarding Environmental and Social Impact Assessments their implementation is often limited to a national level perspective. In this case study their existence did not protect vulnerable people in this cross-border context from the negative effects of the hydropower plant reducing the water levels of the Lake Turkana dramatically. Focusing solely on Ethiopia this hydropower plant might be seen as a success and valuable goal of both SDG (Energy) as well as part of the national adaptation plans (NDC)

under the Paris agreement. Thus adequate peoples representation as well as holistic and multisectoral approaches are essential to avoid maladaptation.

In the discussion various participants shared their experiences on the missing collaboration of health and climate experts which is not yet established on a regular basis. Contributions to national or sub-national adaptation plans are mostly the first occasion to bring these experts together and should therefore be aspired.