

# ACMAD CONTRIBUTION ON CLIM-HEALTH NEXUS NEWSLETTER

## 1. On recent achievements

### Co-producing climate services for the health sector



ACMAD expert presenting ACMAD achievements during the Clim-Health Africa Workshop in Gabon, July 2023

During the last Clim-Health Africa workshop held in July 2023 in Gabon, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) delightedly contributed and presented its progress on climate services for health and food security in Africa. Two climate products captured the interest of the assembly-in-session during the workshop.

The first notable product is the Meningitis Outbreaks Vigilance Maps which is produced with the sub-seasonal-to-seasonal forecasts and updated twice a week. This is developed through a collaborative co-production process framework involving WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) and the Intercountry

Support Team West Africa (IST WA) based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. These maps aid countries in the African Meningitis Belt in their efforts to combat meningitis. The collaboration demonstrates a proactive approach to utilizing climate information for public health preparedness.

The second noteworthy product presented is the Continental Rainfall Brief designed for policy and decision-makers. This powerful tool, generated monthly, is a result of consensus-building with Africa's regional climate centers, achieved through online or physical briefings with experts. The brief for policy and decision makers provides impact-based seasonal climate forecasts along with advisories to support anticipatory actions in water supply and food security across Africa. It reflects a concerted effort to leverage climate data for informed decision-making at both regional and continental levels.

An additional available health related products provided by ACMAD are here also highlighted; these include the heat waves vigilance and the air quality monitoring products. Both are provided twice a week and disseminated through various communication channels to our partners including the ACMAD webportal ( the link to the outlook of the heat waves: [http://sgbd.acmad.org:8080/thredds/fileServer/FIT/BRIEFING/Continental Hazard Outlook Heat Wave.jpg](http://sgbd.acmad.org:8080/thredds/fileServer/FIT/BRIEFING/Continental_Hazard_Outlook_Heat_Wave.jpg) and the link to the air quality maps: <https://openmap.clarity.io/> ).

### **A Continental User Interface Platform (UIP) for Health to support awareness, preparedness and response actions for climate sensitive diseases**



Group work sessions during the UIP workshop organized by ACMAD in Cameroon, July 2022

A recent milestone in advancing climate information and services for health initiatives involves the workshop on the establishment of User Interface Platform

(UIP) for climate and Health in Africa. Conducted in Yaounde-Cameroon in July 2022, this collaborative event brought together climate and health experts, to assess Climate risk for the health sector, identify risk causes, define climate products required to better manage climate related health risks, establish the operational platform to accelerate generation, delivery and use of climate services for diseases surveillance and control. The main partners of this UIP health include WHO, CLIM-Health Africa network, National health networks and Regional Climate Centers. The workshop yielded significant outcomes, including the formulation of a statement outlining the Terms of Reference and specifying the necessary climate products and services for the health sector. Among the requested services are watches, warnings, alerts, and risk assessments tailored for diseases such as meningitis, malaria, cholera, and other climate-related health issues. In addition, participants expressed the need for projections and historical analyses of the relationship between climate and health required to enlighten health policy formulation, update and implementation. This workshop marks a crucial step forward in enhancing the capacity of the climate and health sectors to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change on public health in Africa.

Visit the UIP climate services for health page for more details: <https://acmad.org/index.php/cuip-health/>



Photos gallery of the UIP workshop organized by ACMAD in Cameroon, July 2022

## 2. Ongoing activities and plans for 2024

This year ACMAD has decided to leverage climate services for adaptation and resilience by strengthening co-production and reinforcing existing partnerships. In line with ACMAD’s vision for “a world class continental operational center at

**the heart of Africa supporting better resilience to disasters and adaptation to climate change with modern meteorological services for the African people”,** many activities and workshops have been planned in the 2024 Agenda. ACMAD looks to continue, particularly for the health sector, the operationalization of the UIP through regular provision of vigilance products on air quality and epidemic surveillance and control, organization of workshops and interactive dialogue on the UIP Climate and Health. The main objective being the support for better health in a changing climate in Africa by developing and expanding climate services through the UIP on climate and health.

Furthermore, the recent analysis showed that 2023 has been the hottest year recorded in Africa with the second highest number of very hot days. Recognizing that climate change is leading to more high temperature events that threaten human health, a workshop is planned to exchange and review climate services for health in Africa with emphasis on heat related diseases.

As part of the co-production approach, we intend to continue to provide regular weekly vigilance service for meningitis surveillance and control to the WHO Multi-Disease Surveillance Centre in Ouagadougou (MDSC - Burkina Faso). The research and development division at ACMAD is constantly seeking to improve the climate products. ACMAD, in this framework and in collaboration with UK Universities (e.g. Leeds), is exploring ways for improving and operationalizing the Meningitis Early Warning System (MEWS). Moreover, among the upcoming additions, it is projected to take full advantage of the climate multi ensemble forecast approach in order to improve risk assessments and vigilance maps for health related products. The WMO designated Sand and Dust storm Centre of the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre of the Spanish meteorological service (AEMET) is a key research and innovation partner of ACMAD under EU funded Horizon 2020 programme to improve dust monitoring and forecasting in Africa.