

Health Sector

Environmental consequences of climate change such as extreme heat waves, changes in precipitation and degraded air quality can directly or indirectly impact the physical, social and psychological health of humans.



Impacts on Health

- Temperature related impacts: Warmer average temperatures lead to hotter days. This increases risk of heat related illnesses such as dehydration or heat exhaustion
- Changes in Allergens and Asthma Triggers: Climate Change is increasing the risk to allergic respiratory illnesses and bronchial asthma
- Vector borne diseases: Climate Change favours the proliferation of mosquitoes as a result of an increase in frequency of warmer and humid weather conditions. This increases the risk of vector borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya
- Water related illnesses: Floods can potentially increase the transmission of communicable water borne diseases such as cholera and leptospirosis
- Food safety: Higher ambient temperatures would increase the rate of food spoilage by favouring microbial growth on foodstuff. This could therefore increase risk of food poisoning

Impacts on Health

Mauritius experienced outbreak of Dengue in 2009 and subsequently in 2014 and 2015

- Climate change has caused the outbreak of vector borne diseases following their introduction in Mauritius from their endemic countries
- Increase in temperature and humidity is favouring the proliferation of mosquitoes



Adaptation

- Need to strengthen climate resilient health system
- Need to strengthen preventive measures to avert climate change related disease such as vector borne diseases and water borne diseases
- Awareness raising and sensitization of the public to take action to prevent proliferation of mosquitoes