

HEALTHY FUTURES



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Health, environmental change and adaptive capacity; mapping, examining & anticipating future risks of water-related vector-borne diseases in eastern Africa

Collaborative Project
Seventh Framework Programme
Cooperation

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***Third project update for stakeholders, March
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WP/Task Leader	AQUATT		
Contact person	Ciara Egan, AQUATT		
Contributors	NUS, TCD and Consortium		
Short summary	This Project Update summarises the work that has been carried out during the period March 2013 – February 2014 of the HEALTHY FUTURES project, highlighting noteworthy achievements. It is intended to be a short brief, providing readers the means to obtain further information if desired. The update, which commences on page 4 of this document, was disseminated to the stakeholders compiled as part of D6.1 Stakeholder and end-user database.		
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1. HEALTHY FUTURES at a glance

Total Budget	€4,194,963
EC Contribution	€3,377,998
Duration	January 2011 – December 2014 (48 months)
Coordinator	Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Consortium	16 partners: 8 Africa-based, 7 Europe-based, 1 Asia-based

2. HEALTHY FUTURES overview

HEALTHY FUTURES (Health, Environmental Change and Adaptive Capacity: mapping, examining & anticipating future risks of water-related vector-borne diseases in eastern Africa) is a FP7-funded project that aims to address the risk of outbreaks and transmission of three water-related vector-borne diseases (VBDs) in eastern Africa: malaria, schistosomiasis and Rift Valley fever (RVF).

Motivated by the knowledge that each year an estimated 2.4 million environmental health-related deaths in Africa are avoidable, and that the effects of environmental change will be felt most acutely by the poorest members of society, HEALTHY FUTURES strives to further understand the relationship between climate and health in eastern Africa. An understanding of links between climate, societal changes and health can help in the prediction and costing of the health impacts of climate change, as will increased awareness of the possible health impacts of environmental change.

HEALTHY FUTURES is responding to the health concerns of environmental change in eastern Africa by improving disease outbreak surveillance and early warning systems via the provision and effective implementation of a new generation of Decision Support Tools (DSTs) for VBD risk reduction in the region. As HEALTHY FUTURES enters its final phase in 2014, effective communication will be needed to provide a firm foundation for stakeholder uptake, ownership and further development of the DSTs, their dissemination, and their use beyond the project's end.

3. HEALTHY FUTURES progress (March 2013 – February 2014)

- Spatially-referenced environmental and disease data has been compiled and analysed for the study region of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The historical environmental deterministic links associated with the transmission, occurrence and intensity of VBDs are evident, particularly in the case of rainfall and malaria in Kenya during the early 1900s where there was marked increase in malaria cases after periods of heavy rain.
- Surface hydrology was incorporated within the new dynamical disease model, VECTRI, which also directly downscales temperature to the high resolution topography.
- An online based metadata entry platform (project database) has been created using the free open source software Esri Geoportal Server (version 1.2.2). The metadata portal, available at

<http://41.204.190.50/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>, will allow guests to view and download all publically accessible disease, environmental and climate data generated from the HEALTHY FUTURES project.

- A strategic network map of stakeholders, including national ministries, other governmental entities, research institutes and NGOs, was compiled for each country and the report is available to download from the results page of the project website: http://www.healthyfutures.eu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=140&Itemid=267&lang=en
- HEALTHY FUTURES and its sister project, QWECI, organised the joint symposium, *'Environment and health in Africa - (Climate and vector-borne diseases) Symposium'* which was held on 29 March 2013 at the 4th Annual East Africa Health and Scientific Conference and International Health Exhibition and Trade Fair in Kigali, Rwanda. The aim of the symposium was to interact with scientists, practitioners and communities with an interest in health and environment in eastern Africa, and share knowledge on ongoing research during the conference. In all, 17 participants submitted abstracts and presented during the symposium. Further information, including a short report on the symposium, can be found on the project website: http://healthyfutures.eu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=152%3Aeac-climate-and-vector-borne-diseases-symposium-successfully-held&lang=en&Itemid=262.
- A one-day stakeholder meeting entitled *'Malaria Seasonal Forecasting and Climate Change Adaptation'* was held on 25 October 2013 at Kampala, Uganda. The meeting focused on stakeholder input in the development of malaria Decision Support Tools (DSTs). The need to effectively communicate the uncertainty associated with the forecasting system presented was highlighted by stakeholders. The meeting report is available at: http://healthyfutures.eu/images/healthy/Stakeholder_meeting_Kampala_Oct_2013/healthy_futures_stakeholder_meeting_report_kampala_uganda_october_2013.pdf
- A regional stakeholder engagement workshop was held at the International Livestock Research Institute's facilities in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 – 25 February 2014. Through consultation with stakeholders, the workshop evaluated and refined the DSTs in relation to each of the three VBDs, in order for them to be of maximum value to the decision maker once they are implemented.
- HEALTHY FUTURES was featured in articles in two EU published magazines:
 - i) *'Predicting disease outbreaks in East Africa'* features in the November 2013 edition of the EU Research & Innovation Magazine 'Horizon'. The article is available at http://horizon-magazine.eu/article/predicting-disease-outbreaks-east-africa_en.html
 - ii) *'Anticipating climate change, tackling disease'* features in the November 2013 edition of EU Research*EU Results magazine. The article is available at file:///C:/Users/ciara.egan/Downloads/ZZAC13009ENN_002.pdf
- HEALTHY FUTURES partner AquaTT produced a video introduction to the project. This is available at <http://vimeo.com/70318624> or by clicking on the image below.



- The upcoming conference, ‘*Climate Change and Vector Borne Diseases: Past, Present and Futures*’, is scheduled to take place from the 18 - 20 November 2014 at Kigali, Rwanda. More information can be found on the conference website: <http://www.climatechange-vbdconference2014.nur.ac.rw/>

4. Further Information:

- The next Project Update for Stakeholders is scheduled for December 2014. To keep updated on project progress, project-related news and events and for further information on the project and consortium members, please visit the project website <http://www.healthyfutures.eu/>.
- Feedback is welcome and can be provided via the ‘FAQ and Feedback’ component on the project website.
- The latest issue of the HEALTHY FUTURES Newsletter (January 2014) is available to download from the project website at the following link http://www.healthyfutures.eu/images/Media_centre_articles/press_release/healthy_future_s_press_release_jan_2014.pdf.

5. Contact us

Scientific Coordinator

Prof. David Taylor
Department of Geography
National University of Singapore
Singapore
Email: david.taylor@nus.edu.sg
Telephone: +65 65 16 7394

Coordinating Institute

Dr. Laragh Larsen
Department of Geography
Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2
Ireland
Email: llarsen@tcd.ie
Telephone: +353 1 896 1054

Project Officer

Ms. Ciara Egan
AquaTT
P.O. Box 8989
Dublin 2
Ireland
Email: ciara@aquatt.ie
Telephone: +353 1 644 9008