

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

Deliverable D6.11

Project update for stakeholders

Grant Agreement no. 266327

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| Short summary | This Project Updates summarises the work that has been carried out during the first 12 months (01/01/2011 TO 31/12/2011) of the HEALTHY FUTURES project highlighting noteworthy achievements. An annual update will be released to stakeholders at the end of each year of the project. It is intended to be a short brief, providing readers the means to obtain further information if desired | | |
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1. HEALTHY FUTURES at a glance

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|------------------------|--|
| Total Budget | €4,194,963 |
| EC Contribution | €3,377,998 |
| Duration | January 2011 – December 2014 (48 months) |
| Coordinator | Trinity College Dublin, Ireland |
| Consortium | 15 partners: 8 Africa-based and 7 Europe-based |

2. Project overview

The HEALTHY FUTURES project commenced in January 2011 and will run for four years. Through a team of international and inter-disciplinary health, environment, socio-economic, disease modelling and climate experts, as well as government health departments, it aims to respond to the health concerns of environmental change in eastern Africa.

HEALTHY FUTURES focuses on three water-related, high-impact vector-borne diseases (VBDs) (malaria, Rift Valley fever (RVF) and schistosomiasis) in the eastern African countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. The project aims to contribute to reducing the future burden of these three diseases in Africa, and will predict future disease outbreaks and their impacts (direct and indirect) on human health as a result of changing environmental (including climate) and socio-economic conditions.

HEALTHY FUTURES, with its integrated holistic approach and innovative methodological developments, will improve disease outbreak surveillance and early warning systems via the provision and effective implementation of a new generation of Decision Support tools for VBD risk reduction in Africa.

The project has received funding from the European Union's (EU) Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development, which is the EU's main instrument for supporting collaborative research, development and innovations in science, engineering and technology. The Framework Programme is open to EU public and private entities of all sizes and incorporates provision for the participation of non-EU countries. Further information on FP7 can be found at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html.

3. Project progress (January 2011 – June 2012)

Project Meetings:

The project has held:

- 3 partners' meetings (Dublin, Ireland, February 2011; Kampala, Uganda, October 2011; Arusha, Tanzania, May 2012);
- 2 Expert Review Panel meetings (Kampala, Uganda, October 2011; Arusha, Tanzania, May 2012); and
- Various Work Package-related meetings (Dublin, Ireland; Liverpool, UK; Nairobi, Kenya; Butare, Rwanda; Salzburg, Austria; and Trieste, Italy).

The following are some of the project's key achievements to date:

- Modification of an existing model – the Liverpool Malaria Model – to produce a dynamic RVF model resulting from the continued synergy with sister EU-FP7-project QWeCI (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/qweci/>)
- Development of a new dynamic malaria model (VECTRI)
- Regional climate simulation model set up and pilot study for target region of eastern Africa conducted
- Examinations of past environment-disease outbreak linkages in the study region and formation of an historical disease outbreak database incorporating Google Earth
- First spatial risk and vulnerability assessments of outbreaks of malaria, RVF and schistosomiasis in eastern Africa
- Literature review on the socio-economic aspects of malaria, schistosomiasis and RVF
- Appointments of several research staff and research students to the project in consortium member institutions in Europe, and eastern and southern Africa
- First HEALTHY FUTURES Early Stage Researcher Generic Skills and Networking Workshop (for HEALTHY FUTURES-funded early stage researchers) (Arusha, Tanzania, May 2012)
- Co-organised and co-hosted (with QWeCI) a well attended session ("*CL2.5 Climate and infectious disease interactions*") at the 2012 European Geosciences Union meeting (Vienna, Austria, April 2012)
- Several presentations at major conferences including EU organised side event at UN Climate Change Conference (COP-17) (Durban, South Africa, December 2011)

- Production of first batch of scientific publications arising from the project now underway, notably papers describing the new VECTRI model and on links between disease outbreaks and environment in the study area in the past
- Representatives of HEALTHY FUTURES participate in the 1st Meeting of the EAC Regional Steering Committee for the 4th Annual East African Health and Scientific Conference (Kigali, Rwanda, May 2012)
- Further enhancement of collaboration and synergy with other EU FP7 related projects such as attendance at AfriCAN Climate project kick-off meeting (Brussels, Belgium, November 2011) and at an African Cluster meeting organised by the EU (with the aim to improve communication between ('cluster') climate change research projects that target Africa) (Brussels, Belgium, November 2011)
- Identification of field study sites at a local scale, where primary environmental and disease data will be collected: Lake Albert, Uganda; northern and southern Rwanda; and Ijara, Kenya
- Project field visit to schistosomiasis study site on the shores of Lake Albert following the 2nd Partners' Meeting (Kampala, Uganda, October 2011)
- Production of two project newsletters providing articles on the work carried out over the first 18 months, as well as information on related projects and early stage research staff appointed to the project (available to download from the project website)

Further Information:

- The next Project Update for Stakeholders will be available in December 2012
- For further information please visit the project website (<http://www.healthyfutures.eu>)
- The website:
 - Provides a comprehensive overview of the project and further information on consortium members
 - Is available in English and Kiswahili (with a Google translate option for 50 other languages)
 - Contains the Project Factsheet in English and Kiswahili (available to download)
 - Contains the first two editions of the Project Newsletter (December 2011 and June 2012) (available to download in English only)
 - Contains the Minutes and Reports from the first and second Expert Review Panel meetings (available to download)
 - Provides a FAQ and Feedback component
 - Has received more than 4000 visits during the eight months between early November 2011 and end of June 2012

Upcoming Events:

- HEALTHY FUTURES will be represented amongst the presenters at the 32nd International Geographical Congress in Cologne, Germany, 26 – 30 August 2012. Further information on this conference is available at <https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php>
- The next Partners' Meeting is provisionally scheduled for 29 – 30 April 2013 at Trieste, Italy

4. Contact us

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