

**CENTRAL AMERICA:
FOOD AND
NUTRITION SECURITY
IN VULNERABLE
GROUPS**

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Canadá, October 23rd., 2006

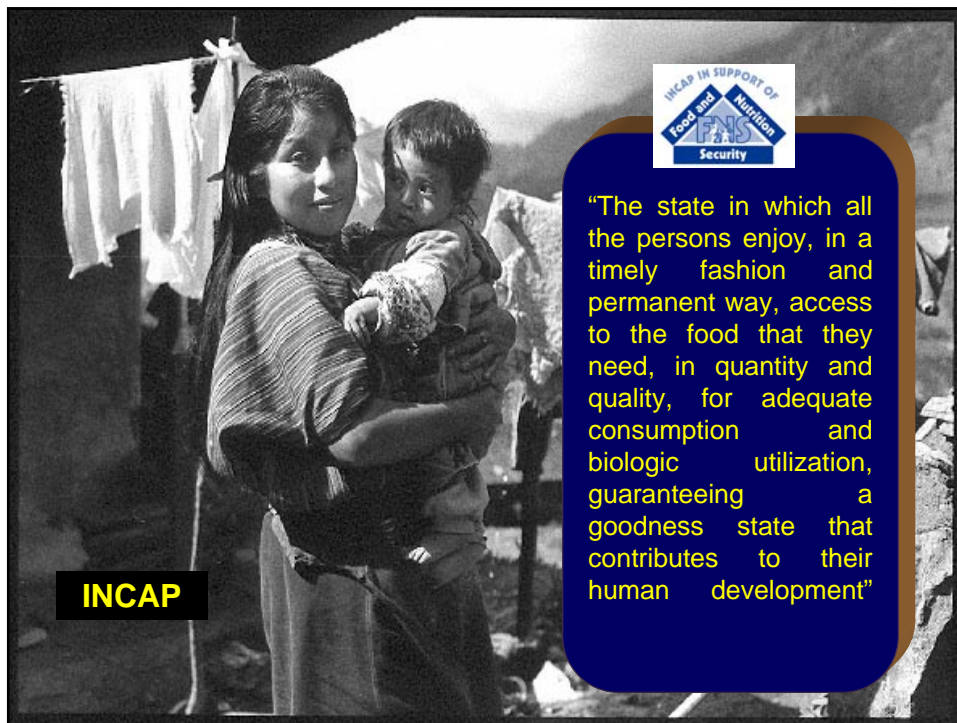
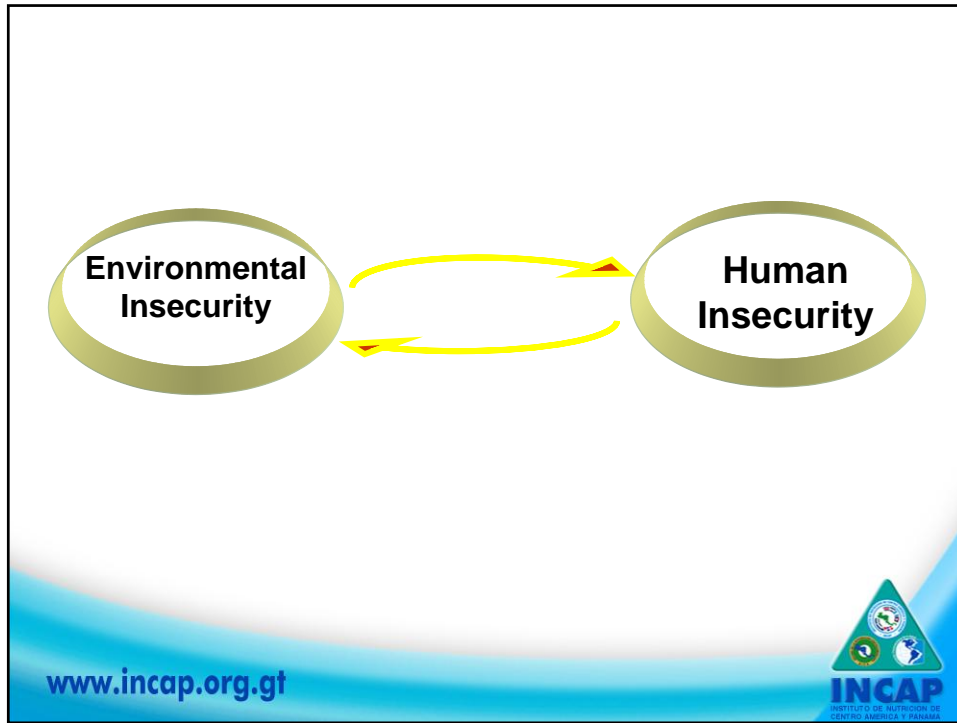
Central America:

- 0.4% of the surface of the globe
- 20 biological reserves containing 8% of the planet's biodiversity
- 54% of the biodiversity of the region is concentrated in border areas
- Approximately 6 million indigenous people live in these border areas
- 50% of families in vulnerable areas have food reserves
- 50% of families in vulnerable areas depend exclusively on their own cultivations

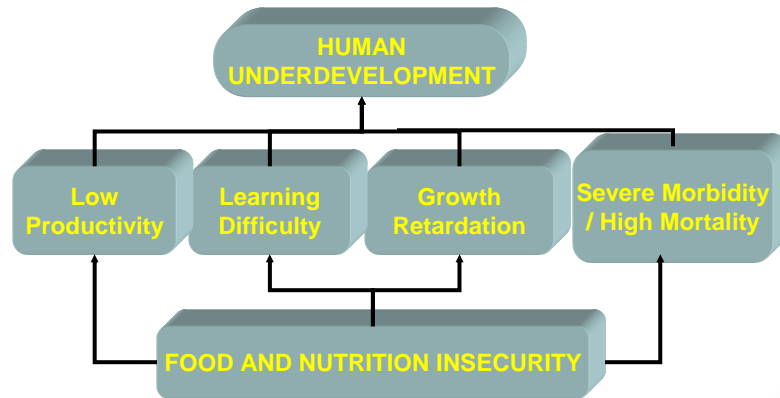
57 thousand dead 10 millions of victims 15,000 millions of US\$

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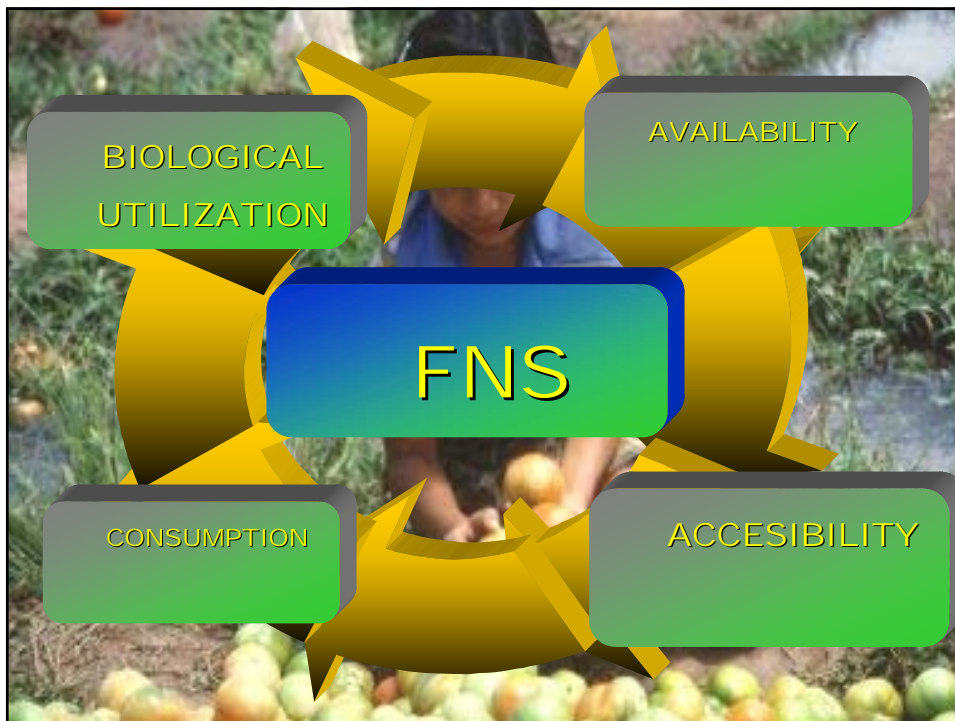
Cette présentation a été effectuée le 23 octobre 2006, au cours du symposium "Saurons-nous conjuguer santé et changements climatiques?" dans le cadre des Journées annuelles de santé publique (JASP) 2006. L'ensemble des présentations est disponible sur le site Web des JASP, à l'adresse <http://www.inspq.qc.ca/jasp>.



MANIFESTATIONS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY



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ETHNIC GROUPS REPRESENT 18.4% OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN POPULATION



Guatemala	70.0 %
México	14.0 %
Panamá	10.0 %
El Salvador	10.0 %
Honduras	11.9 %
Nicaragua	7.6 %
Costa Rica	1.0 %

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VULNERABLE GROUPS: HEALTH AND LIFE CONDITIONS

- Poverty
- Low wages
- Unemployment
- Migration
- Dropout Rate
- Illiteracy Index
- Lack of land
- Territory epidemiological Profile
- Preventable diseases

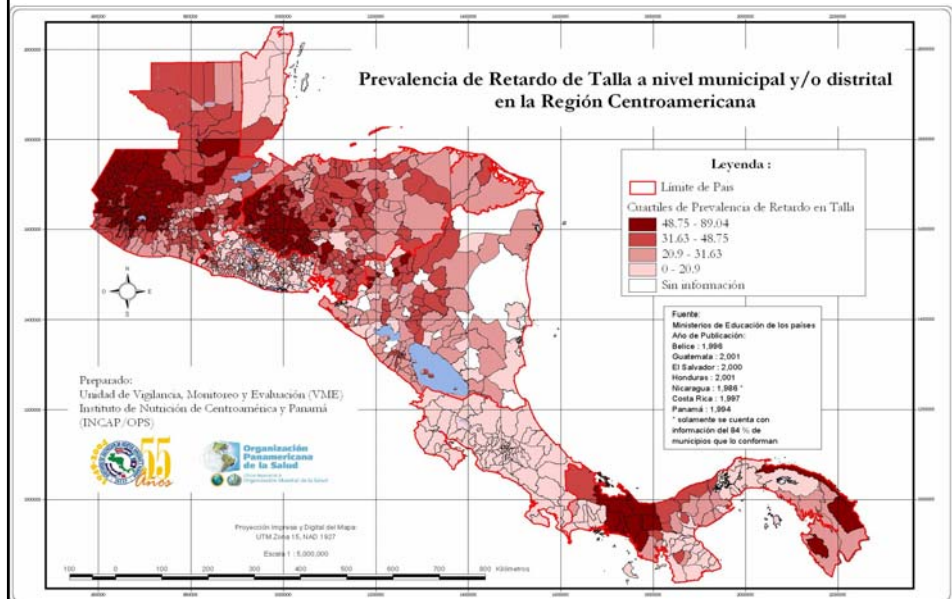


- Malaria
- Respiratory Infections
- Diarrheal Diseases
- Mental Health Problems

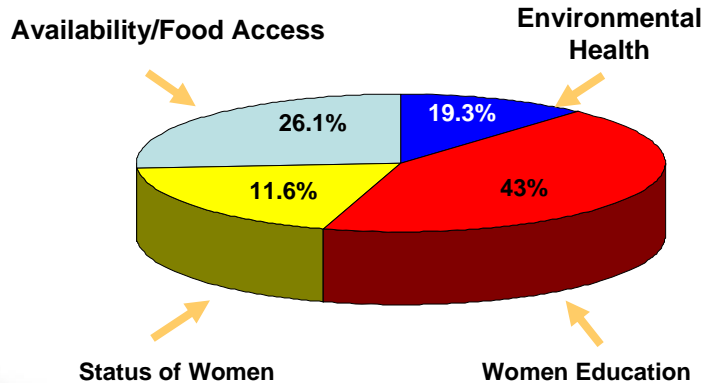
Malnutrition
Onchocerciasis
Alcoholism

Tuberculosis
Chronic Diseases
AIDS

HEIGHT RETARDATION IN SCHOOL CHILDREN AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL, CENTRAL AMERICA



DETERMINANTS OF THE LOW WEIGHT IN SCHOOLCHILDREN



Fuente: L. Smith y L. Haddad, Overcoming Child Malnutrition in Developing Countries: Past Achievements and Future Choices (Washington, DC: IFPRI, 2000)

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Some measures to help communities cope with climate risks

- Better housing for poor people located out of hazardous zones, such as floodplains.
- Improved sanitation and greater access to clean water in poor neighborhoods, and more efficient use of water in key areas.
- Early warning systems combined with public education about the hazard; preventive actions prior to a warning; and appropriate responses when a warning is issued.
- Better building codes and strict enforcement thereof.
- Better management of resources during emergencies.
- Public education programmes on preparedness for slow onset hazards, such as drought.
- Improved weather and climate forecasting from short to seasonal time horizons.
- Partnerships among forecasters, intermediary organizations and users to facilitate delivery, interpretation, and application of forecasts to manage climate risks.
- Better coastal zone planning guidelines, especially those that recognize the flood mitigation potential of mangroves and natural wetlands.
- Community situational rooms.

• Source: The third report from the Working Group on Climate Change and Development

BACKGROUND

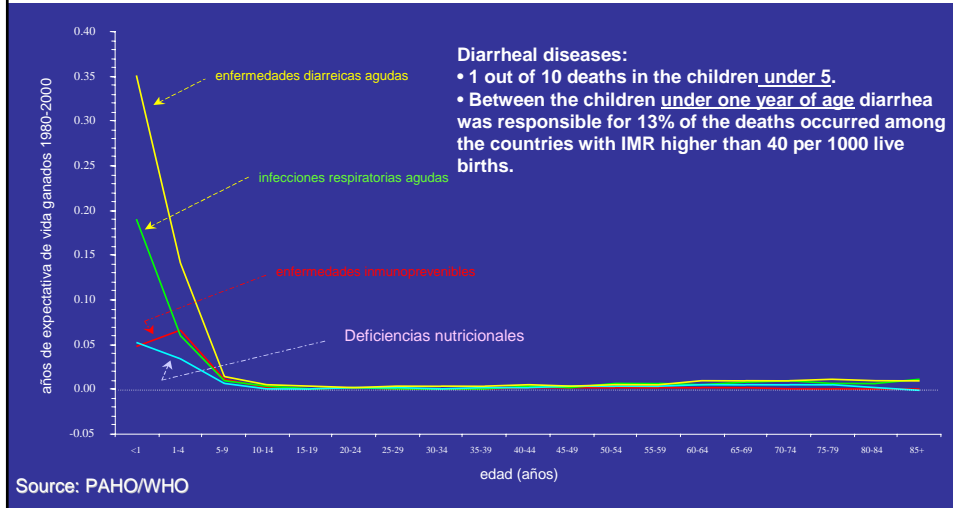
- **Millennium Development Goals.**
- **Meetings of Ministers of Health Agriculture and Environment, June 2004 and 2006.**
- **Regional Strategy of Nutrition in Health and development**
- **Initiatives**

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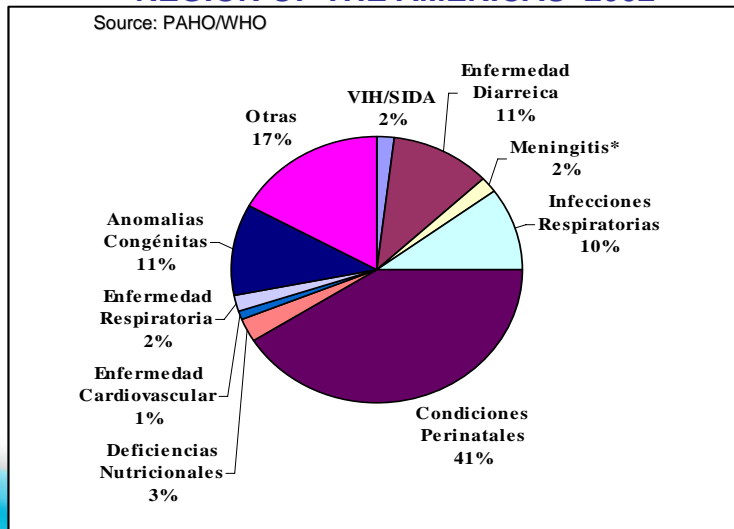


UNFINISHED AGENDA THE MDG AND THE ASSOCIATE FACTORS TO ITS ACHIEVEMENT

- **OBJECTIVE 4: *Reduce the child mortality***



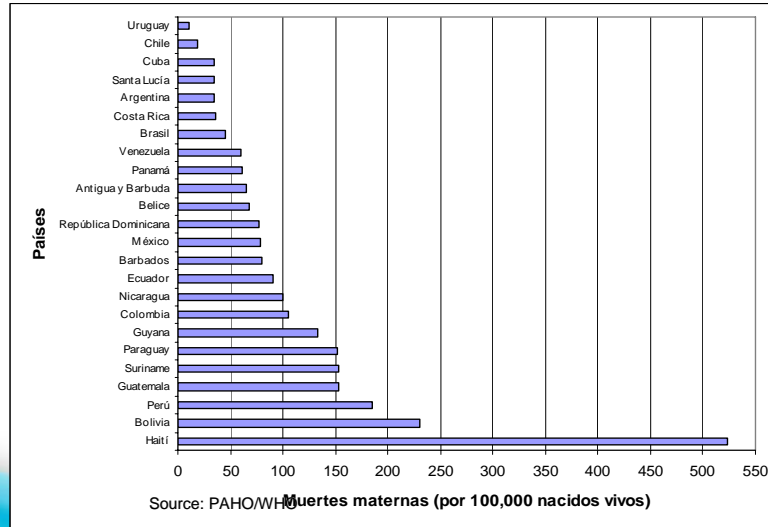
LEADING CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD REGION OF THE AMERICAS-2002



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**Maternal mortality ratio in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Due to selected countries.
Last available year around 2000**



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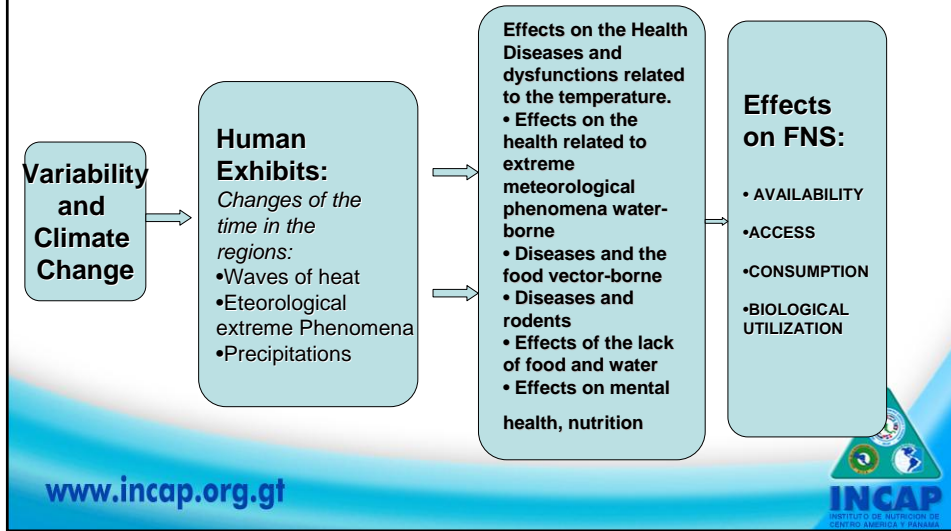
**ORIENTATIONS OF POLICY TO REACH
THE MDGS**

- Promote the intersectoral approach.
- Health is a multidimensional phenomenon that requires from intersectoral strategies within the strategies in order to reduce the poverty and promote a sustainable development.
- Strengthen the work between health and environment.
- Around 23% of the health problems appear as a consequence of environmental issues.
- More than 5 million children die every year of diseases related to environmental problems.
- Importance of the improvement of children's environmental health.

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RESULTS OF THE VARIABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE HEALTH AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY -FNS



VARIABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

World Health Organization,
Report of Health 2002

Variability &
Climate
Change

2.4% of the cases of diarrhea
6.0% of the cases of malaria

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Resolutions of Central American Ministers of Health, Agriculture, and Environment Meeting, June 2004

- Support interventions that increase the resistance to the adverse impact of variability and climate change on the countries of the region with priority in vulnerable communities.
- Strengthen the capacity of the countries in mitigation and adaptation actions at the national and community level in order to face the challenges of the variability and climate change.

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- Facilitate a greater effectiveness of the early warning systems for communicable diseases linked to the variability and climate change.
- Strengthen the programs for:
 - Epidemiological surveillance of infectious diseases linked to the climate and to the climate change
 - Advanced systems of remote sensing that facilitate the integration of information from the health, agriculture, and environmental sectors.

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INCAP/PAHO in response to the recommendations of the Health-Environment and Agriculture Minister's Meeting

- Strengthening of public policies that could facilitate the mechanisms of adaptation of the countries of the region to variability and climate change.
- Technical cooperation for the strengthening of surveillance systems and epidemiological evaluation of infectious diseases linked to the climate.
- Share lessons learned among the health, agriculture and environmental sectors related to variability and climate change.
- Facilitate the establishment of multisectoral partnerships and creation of knowledge networks at local, national and regional levels, facilitating the sharing of information on strategies and best practices.
- Develop an information, education, and communication strategy related to variability and climate change, health/nutrition/food security.

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NEXT STEPS

- Regional Conference on the effects of the variability and climate change on health and Food and Nutrition Security, Costa Rica in February 2007
- Formulation of a Regional Program on: *Health and Food and Nutrition Security related to the Variability and Climate Change.*



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BACKGROUND

- **Millennium Development Goals.**
- **Meetings of C.A. Ministers of Health Agriculture and Environment, June 2004 and 2006.**
- **Regional Strategy of Nutrition in Health and development.**

INCAP/PAHO in response to the recommendations of the Health-Environment and Agriculture Minister's Meeting

- Strengthening of public policies that could facilitate the mechanisms of adaptation of the countries of the region to variability and climate change.
- Share lessons learned among the health, agriculture and environmental sectors related to variability and climate change.
- Facilitate the establishment of multisectoral partnerships and creation of knowledge networks at local, national and regional levels, facilitating the sharing of information on strategies and best practices.
- Develop an information, education, and communication strategy related to variability and climate change, health/nutrition/food security.
- Strengthening programs for:
 - Epidemiological surveillance of infectious diseases linked to the climate and to the climate change.
 - Advanced systems of remote sensing that facilitate the integration of information from the health, agriculture, and environmental sectors.
- Systematic collection of nutrition/disease/climate change information and the interpretation and distribution of this information to relevant actors
 - Includes risk factors necessary to interpret nutrition and disease data.

Short and medium term priorities

- Adaptation is a process that requires sustained commitment
- Reduction of vulnerability through surveillance and early warning systems coupled with effective response capabilities.
- Public education programmes on preparedness for slow onset hazards, such as drought.
- Partnerships among forecasters, intermediary organizations and users to facilitate delivery, interpretation, and application of forecasts to manage climate risks.
- An understanding is needed of the multiple and interacting determinants of disease to inform the development of adaptation options.

Short and medium term priorities

- **Improved sanitation and greater access to clean water in vulnerable areas and more efficient use of water in key areas.**
- **Improved weather and climate forecasting from short to seasonal time horizons.**
- **Better coastal zone planning guidelines, especially those that recognize the flood mitigation potential of mangroves and natural wetlands.**
- **Establishment of “Community situational rooms” in coordination with local governments.**
- **Intersectoral approach is needed due to multiple political, social, economic, technological, and human factors that determine whether adaptation strategies, policies, and measures are effective.**
- **Public health challenges need to be addressed within the context of issues such as inadequate nutrition, access to clean water and sanitation, and diseases such as HIV/AIDS**