

Technology Fact Sheet for Adaptation

Technology to enhance adaptability of the people on Psychological effects due to climate change ⁱ

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Health</i>
Adaptation needs	Climate change will have adverse impacts on Mental Health as well, along with other health issues. Incidences of mental illnesses are increasing as a result of climate change. Loss of social cohesion due to extreme weather events related to climate change could be linked to increased incidence of anxiety, depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, bereavement, self harm /suicide and substance abuse. It is estimated one in five people are reported to be mentally affected due to effects of climate change in some countries. Commonly rural areas are more affected. Therefore, it is important to establish networks with skilled personnel to improve adaptability and speedy recovery from such ailments to maintain health of the individuals, families and communities at large to take part in development activities of the country.
Technology name	Technologies to provide knowledge and skills to mental health personnel to identify counsel and refer affected individuals for management.
How this technology contributes to adaptation	The technology will help to identify affected people and to provide assistance for adaptability. The families and communities will be regularly provided the services to minimize the health, social and economic impacts Health seeking behaviour of the community with regard to mental illnesses will be improved
Background/Notes, of the technology option sourced from ClimateTechwiki, Seminars etc.	The Climate Institute, A Climate of Suffering: <i>Mental health and community wellbeing in the wake of extreme weather</i>, The real cost of living with inaction on climate change (Melbourne and Sydney: The Climate Institute, 2011). WHO. Mental health assistance to population affected by the Tsunami in Asia. [Online].Geneva: WHO, c2008 www.who.int/mental_health/resources/tsunami [Accessed on 20th October 2011)
Implementation assumptions, How	The knowledge and skills obtained by the mental health workers will

the technology will be implemented and diffused across the sector	be visiting households, temporary sites (In cases of internal migration/displacement) and provide the necessary counselling services, refer when and where necessary for further management to hospitals and support the families affected. This shall be planned at the centre with the participation of service providers at different levels, NGOO involved in mental health work and UN agencies. Other government and private sector too shall be invited to take part in related activities The trained personnel will be training the field mental health workers and Community Social Workers to assist them. Both the hospital and field health personnel will be provided the opportunities for capacity building. Existing structures will be used for this technology as well Monitoring and evaluation will be done at district levels and information will be shared with all stakeholders
Cost	1500 \$ US per district

<i>Impact Statement- How this option impacts the country development priorities</i>	
Country social development priorities	Mental health services will be provided at field level, specially in rural areas The health workers will be provided with skills to identify needy affected and at the same time the community attitude/stigma will be reduced.
Country economic development priorities	The Community Health Workers will be employed to assist the field staff during field activities and this opportunity will be limited and temporary in nature. Capital requirements are negligible.
Country environmental development priorities	No GHG emissions due to high energy use. No effect on ecosystems and no pollution of the environment
<i>Costs</i>	
Capital cost	-

Operational & Maintenance costs	250 \$ US per district
Daily Supply capacity per facility	Services will be provided by the facility over the working days of the week. If there is an emergency the services will be provided 24/7
Up-scaling potential	70% coverage can be achieved in three years time

<i>Local context</i>	
Opportunities/ Barriers	Opportunity is there in the public sector. It is important to incorporate NGO, Community Based organizations and private sector to serve in this technology. Routine transfer of public health personnel , attrition of number of volunteers, mandate of some NGO can become barriers.
Country status	Ongoing in a very limited way. The services currently provided to the resettled people in the Northern and Eastern provinces
Timeframe	Mid 2012- end of 2015

ⁱ This fact sheet has been extracted from TNA Report – Technology Needs Assessment Reports For Climate Change Adaptation – Sri Lanka. You can access the complete report from the TNA project website <http://tech-action.org/>