



PHONIC: Public Health Operations for Climate Change Action - Development of a framework to identify priority operations

Project type

interdisciplinary pilot project cross-sector project global health postdoc fellowship

Research areas involved (check all that apply)

Biomedical sciences Public health
 Social sciences and humanities Engineering and other sciences

Project duration

April 2023 - December 2024

Project team

Name	Organization	Discipline(s)
Dr. med. Karin Geffert	Chair of public health and health services research, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)	Public Health, Biomedicine
Dr. Franziska Matthies- Wiesler	Institute of Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München (HMGU)	Biology, Epidemiology
Annkathrin von der Haar (formerly Maike Voss)	German Alliance on Climate Change and Health (KLUG)	NGO/ Project Partner, Social Science

Case study

Introduction

Climate change and its consequences pose the greatest health risk of the 21st century. Accordingly, effective climate protection and effective adaptation to climate change require dedicated action especially from the public health sector.

Summary of the project

This project 'PHONIC: Public Health Operations for Climate Change Action - Development of a framework to identify priority operations' was implemented jointly by the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich, the Helmholtz Zentrum München (HMGU), the Centre for Planetary Health Policy (CPHP) of the German Alliance on Climate Change and Health (KLUG) and the



Planetary Health Eastern African Hub (PHEAH) as an associated partner. The aim of the joint project was i) to adapt a framework for public health measures in the context of climate change adaptation and climate protection and ii) to develop a methodological approach with specific indicators and examples of good practice to assess the priority area 'climate transformative leadership and governance'. This developed methodological approach was piloted in Germany and Kenya. The research has been carried out in close cooperation with experts from science, politics and practice. The work was carried out in three parts: I. Identification of links between public health measures and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through a **scoping review**; II. **Adaptation of a framework** for public health measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation through identification of a set of **indicators** for the governance component in a participatory approach and **identification and compilation of good practice examples** for each indicator through desk review and stakeholder consultation; III. **Piloting the governance component** in Germany and Kenya through situation analysis, benchmarking and prioritisation of further recommendations for action by a stakeholder panel.

Summary of findings

1. A set of indicators for the area of governance with a catalogue of good practice examples, pilot-tested in two settings (Germany and Kenya)
2. Evidence on public health measures implemented by public health institutes focuses mainly on climate change adaptation measures and only very little on climate change mitigation.
3. A comparison of governance structures between Kenya and Germany revealed interesting insights regarding strengths but also weaknesses of the structures.
4. The developed methodological approach allows for an iterative and adaptive process of assessing governance structures for climate change and health in the respective contexts.

Lessons learned

The project experienced challenges with regard to the following points:

- a. Climate change and health is a very dynamic field, and the research process was adapted multiple times to accommodate for that.
- b. The realisation of an in-person workshop in Kenya was impeded by climate change related flooding. Therefore, the workshop had to be switched to a virtual format.
- c. The participatory approach required a great deal of commitment from the participating experts and project staff.
- d. The developed and tested methodology and approach can potentially be extended to further domains and components of resilient and sustainable health systems



Group discussion at a project workshop in Kenya
Credit: PHONIC/ Melvine Otieno



Team member Annkathrin von der Haar (CPHP) presents PHONIC at GLOHRA Day
Credit: GLOHRA/ Ralf Rühmeier

List of materials and publications

- Evidence report: https://cphp-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CPHP_Evidenzbericht_01-2024.pdf
- Policy brief for Germany: <https://cphp-berlin.de/governancestrukturen-fuer-ein-klimaresilientes-gesundheitssystem-in-deutschland-staerken/>
- GLOHRA information video on the PHONIC project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6NE3NPbqAc>
- Further publications and materials will be submitted for publication in early 2025.

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Contact

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