

South Asian Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN)

Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) - Preliminary Meeting South Asian Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN)

Minutes of Meeting

Date	18th March, 2020
Venue	IRADe, C-80, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi
Meeting agenda	Discussion on the framework for South Asian Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN) and the Webpage for SAHHIN
Participants :	
IRADe	Rohit Magotra, Deputy Director Ajit Tyagi, Senior Advisor Nimisha Jha, Senior Research Analyst Mohit Kumar, Research Analyst Moumita Shaw, Research Analyst Ananya Bhatia, Research Associate Vijay Raj, Consultant
IMD	S.C. Bhan, Scientist F
IIPH-G	Dileep Mavalankar, Director IIPH-Gandhinagar
NDMA	Anup Kumar Srivastava, Expert & Consultant
NRDC	Polash Mukerjee, Consultant
WMO	Joy Shumake-Guillemot, Officer in Charge the WHO/WMO Joint Office for Climate and Health

Key points of discussion

- a. Framework of South-Asian Heat Health Information Network was discussed with the participants. This network will be a knowledge sharing and dissemination platform.
- b. This network is proposed to be in line with the GHHIN framework.
- c. IRADe proposed a design of the webpage of the network. Suggestions proposed were:
- d. Organisations such as NDMA, IMD, NGOs will be formally approached to join the network.
- e. The logos of all the institutes which will be part of the network will be displayed on the website.

- f. Solutions for managing heat stress which will be displayed on the website.
- g. It was suggested that the vision of the network should be **solutions-focused**.
- h. This network would also serve as citizen – science interface where the citizen’s engagements are two-fold viz, provide knowledge inputs and also help in knowledge dissemination.
- i. The newsletter should be fortnightly.
- j. It would be useful to rope in countries from South East Asia as well.
- k. Individuals and Organizations from other countries, who are working on South Asia heat stress related issues, are also welcome to join and contribute to the network.
- l. The secretariat of SAHIN will be operated by IRADe (and others as things evolve).
- m. It was also suggested to have a steering committee to operate the network.
- n. The publications, photographs, charts, etc. to be added in resource tab of the SAHHIN.
- o. Experts in the domain to be requested to become its members such as Ms Vikas Desia, UCHRC; Dr Lipika Nanda from Hyderabad, etc.
- p. Country wise list of interested agencies/institutions should be made part of this network. WMO will share a list of 120 members from India. WMO will also provide the assistance of their Communications Team Lead for development of web-page.
- q. WMO will also share a document based on 2016 Climate Forum held in Colombo which will guide in developing an action plan for South Asia.
- r. As initial step forward, the SAHHIN will be operated from resources by IRADe.
- s. The memberships model of the network and who joins SAHHIN or GHHIN (Global Heat Health Information Network) needs to be clearer.
- t. The SAHHIN should be more streamlined in line with GHHIN
- u. Once the network structure is clearer, along with the compilation of reasonable list of members, funding opportunities will be explored.
- v. The web content to be designed in line with the GHHIN.
- w. Identify priority areas of research and action in South Asia.

Actions to be taken

- Joy to share documents and initiate communications for web design.
- Prepare a note on research priority areas in South Asia.

Concept Note on South Asian Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN)



South Asia Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN)

About SAHHIN

The South Asia Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN) aims to act as a platform to share, deliberate, learn and disseminate policy issues, knowledge, research and information to tackle heat stress using better preparedness and planning measures among the researchers, practitioners, policy makers and citizens of South Asia. It shall identify priority areas of research and action in the region. The network would also aim to serve as a citizen–science interface where the citizens provide knowledge inputs and also help in knowledge dissemination.

It will complement the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) and work towards evolving a multistakeholder and multidisciplinary platform for research, capacity building, action, partnerships, data and knowledge.

Why is it needed?

South Asian region with population close to 2 billion is one of the worst heat affected regions in the world. Under the 2-degree Celsius warming scenario of IPCC AR5, the frequency of heat waves in India is projected to increase by 30 times of the current frequency by end of the

century, whereas, the duration of heat waves is expected to increase 92 to 200-folds under 1.5 and 2-degree Celsius scenarios.

Heat waves are a “silent disaster” and adversely affect the health, livelihood and productivity of people. Health impacts of heat are more severe in urban areas, where residents are exposed to higher and nocturnally sustained temperatures due to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect (Climate Council of Australia, 2016). Heat stress induced deaths in 2100 are estimated to be about 85 per 100,000 globally and above 100 per 100,000 in lower-income groups. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020, countries in South Asia are among the most vulnerable globally to the impacts of climate change. Globally, 2% of total working hours are projected to be lost every year, either because it is too hot to work or because workers have to work at a slower pace. Lost productivity from heat stress at work, particularly in developing countries, is expected to be valued at \$4.2 trillion dollars per year by 2030, driving more inequality. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address Heat Health in South Asia and implement effective public heat health response and adaptation strategies.

First Heat Action Plan in South Asia was launched in Ahmedabad I India in year 2013. In year 2016, National Disaster Management Authority, NDMA issued guidelines for preparing Heat Action Plans for the states. In year 2019, NDMA in association with Indian Meteorology Department also developed City Level Thresholds for 100 cities in India. There are several states and cities in India which have drafted and implemented Heat Action Plans. Karachi (Pakistan) is the only city other than India which has a heat action plan.

A coordinated effort among the South Asian Nations, along with the participation of agencies and key stakeholders who are at the forefront of the battle against heatwave, is essential to ensure expedited solutions for heat challenges in South Asia.

SAHHIN's Mission

SAHHIN's mission is to support and empower researchers, policy makers, healthcare systems, and civil society organizations in the design, development and dissemination of effective heat health strategies in order to reduce impact of heat stress and ensure the implementation of the same at international, national, and local levels. We envision a heat adaptive future where communities can effectively minimize heat stress illnesses.

SAHHIN Objectives

1. To act as an interagency coordinating platform for enabling heat actions in South Asia
2. To act as a knowledge sharing platform, disseminating information and data on heat adaptation and mitigation, thereby facilitating faster implementation of heat health actions.
3. To function as a unifying network for researchers, policymakers, health authorities and other stakeholders, thus facilitating the development of heat health interventions like Heat Action Plans for long-term sustainability.
4. To help capacity building among grassroots level stakeholders in their fight against heat stress.
5. A platform to share learning and experiences regarding heat stress events and its immediate long and short time consequences; identify regional priorities and facilitate regional coordination to benefit from distributed strengths.

SAHHIN Steering Committee

SAHHIN is in the phase of establishing a steering committee. The committee will be designed to include members with diverse expertise and perspectives on heat health, from around the world. The steering committee, which will include experts from public health, sustainability, climate and meteorology, will coordinate the work of the network. They will be instrumental in disseminating critical information pertaining to Heat Health Action in South Asia and beyond.

Activities of SAHHIN

- SAHHIN will be actively involved in the organization of heat action conferences and workshops in South Asia, and provide opportunities for members and stakeholders to advance their knowledge and resource base required for developing heat adaptation policies and actions.
- SAHHIN newsletters will be sent out to a wide network of subscribers every week/month, an important pathway for disseminating the latest development in heat action sphere

- SAHHIN will act as a platform to support policy level interventions and develop action plans based on quantitative and qualitative measures, primary and secondary data, and shared learning dialogues with stakeholders.
- SAHHIN will also provide a platform for exchange learnings and experiences regarding heat stress events and its immediate long and short time consequences
- SAHHIN being a forum driven by field and subject experts, scholars, scientists, practitioners, policy makers and administrators will work collectively in capacity building of intermediaries for effective actions; and of vulnerable groups for protection from extreme heat events and developing innovative and affordable climate adaptation measures

Close Partnerships

1. National Disaster Management Authority
Central to heat health focus in India, Helping over 23 states and 100 cities and districts with heat action plans
2. Department of Health and Family welfare, Government of India
3. India Meteorological Department
The National Meteorological Service provider of India, currently providing forecasts for 350 plus cities and a key partner for physical basis analysis
4. Integrated Research and Action For Development (IRADe)
5. Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH)
India's first Public Health University, helping with critical research insights into heat health in India.
6. State Governments and Municipal Corporations
7. Indian Red Cross (IRS)
8. NGOs and professional societies (Indian Meteorological Society, Indian Medical Association, SAMA etc)
9. National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
10. TARU

Prospective Partners

- National Health and Meteorological Services in the region
- Disaster Management Agencies
- City Administrations
- Civil Society (Professional Societies like Red Cross, Medical Associations, Meteorological Societies, local Non-Government Organizations),
- Academic and Research Institutions in the region.
- Citizen Scientists

Stakeholder Benefits

- Participation and dissemination platform
- Improvement in the organizational reach for enabling heat adaptation and mitigation in South Asia
- Situation/Profession specific Impact Assessment for adaptation and Mitigation strategies.
- Increase in capability and scope for work in heat action
- Multistakeholder interaction with policymakers, administrators, and the scientific community
- Opportunities to leverage the Network's size and diversity to form multidisciplinary collaborations for heat health advancement globally
- Online platform to share learnings, experiences, case studies. Exchange of knowledge and information on Heat stress and Action Plans
- Regional profiling on groups and population affected by heat stress and Facilitate active use of information and evidence for policy-makers
- Analysis and synthesis of the reports and cases





INDIAN
INSTITUTES
OF PUBLIC
HEALTH



Indian Red Cross Society



Webpage:

<http://climateandcities.org/about-us/south-asia-heat-health-information-network/>