



Report of 2-Day Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Building Climate-Smart Health Professionals

Executive Summary

The Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Building Climate-Smart Health Professionals, jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMoHSW) and Project HOPE, was held from 24–25 September 2025 at Sawalino Hotel, Keffi, Nasarawa State. The two-day national workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of health professionals to understand, communicate, and respond effectively to the health impacts of climate change, while integrating climate resilience into healthcare delivery across Nigeria.

This initiative aligns with global and donor priorities to strengthen climate-resilient health systems, promote One Health approaches, and advance Nigeria's commitment to addressing climate-sensitive diseases and environmental health risks.

Through expert-led sessions, case studies, and interactive group work, participants deepened their understanding of the linkages between climate change and health, including air pollution, vector-borne diseases, food insecurity, mental health, and effective risk communication. They also developed draft state-level climate and health action plans, providing a practical framework for localized implementation.

Key achievements included a notable improvement in knowledge and skills, as evidenced by pre- and post-test assessments, and strengthened collaboration among multi-sectoral stakeholders. The workshop also marked the first national-level ToT on climate and health in Nigeria, setting a strong foundation for cascading training to state and community levels.

Participants and stakeholders recommended the integration of climate considerations into all health programs, the development of a national health emission profile, and stronger collaboration with the energy and environment sectors to promote low-carbon, climate-smart health systems.



Next steps agreed upon include:

- Revision of training materials and adaptation to subnational contexts.
- Development of a standardized national training curriculum on climate and health.
- Organization of state-level ToTs to cascade learning.
- Creation of a post-training coordination and learning platform.

In summary, the ToT workshop successfully advanced Nigeria's goal of developing a climate-smart, resilient health workforce, aligning with both national priorities and donor strategic objectives for sustainable, climate-resilient public health systems.

Background and Rationale

Climate change poses a growing threat to public health in Nigeria, driving increased incidences of vector-borne, waterborne, and foodborne diseases, as well as worsening malnutrition, heat stress, and respiratory illnesses. Extreme weather events—such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves—continue to disrupt health systems, livelihoods, and access to essential services, amplifying existing vulnerabilities. The intersection between environmental degradation, disease transmission, and population displacement underscores the urgent need for a climate-resilient health system capable of anticipating and managing these evolving risks.

In response, Project HOPE, in collaboration with the FMOHSW and the Federal Ministry of Environment, is supporting national efforts to strengthen institutional and workforce capacity to address the health dimensions of climate change. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing Nigeria's National Climate Change Policy and the Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP), while reinforcing coordination across sectors through a One Health approach.

The initiative also aligns with the World Health Organization's Global Framework on Climate Change and Health, which emphasizes preparedness, adaptation, and resilience-building within health systems. By integrating climate awareness and adaptive capacity into the health workforce, Nigeria moves closer to achieving its vision of a sustainable, climate-smart health sector that safeguards population health amid changing environmental conditions.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS

The workshop aimed to equip health professionals with the knowledge and skills to understand, communicate, and respond to the health impacts of climate change while promoting resilience in Nigeria's health system.

Key objectives were to:



Strengthen understanding of climate–health linkages.



Clarify health workers' roles in addressing climate-related health risks.



Build communication and advocacy skills on climate and health.



Develop a network of master trainers to cascade training nationwide.



Promote climate-smart behaviors and integrate climate resilience into service delivery.



Workshop Methodology

The two-day residential Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop adopted an interactive, learner-centered approach combining expert presentations, group exercises, and practical sessions. Facilitated by specialists from Project HOPE and the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the sessions integrated plenary discussions, case studies, and micro-teaching exercises to strengthen participants’ understanding of climate–health linkages and communication skills.

This participatory approach ensured practical learning, peer exchange, and readiness for participants to cascade the training across states and institutions.

Participants and Representation

A total of 31 participants attended the workshop, comprising State Climate and Health Focal Persons from Plateau, Nasarawa, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT); staff of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMoHSW) from key departments and programmes, including Climate Change and Environmental Health, Mental Health, and the National AIDS/STI Control Program. Also in attendance were representatives from the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv), National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria, Community Health Registration Board of Nigeria (CHRBN), and implementing partners such as eHealth Africa, CHAI, ICAP, and Save the Children.

The participants represented a diverse mix of gender, technical expertise, and institutional affiliations, ensuring broad cross-sectoral input. This diversity enriched discussions and fostered collaboration across national, state, and partner organizations working at the intersection of climate and health.



Key Sessions And Highlights

Day 1 - Setting the Foundation: Understanding Climate–Health Linkages and Nigeria’s Vulnerability

The first day of the Training of Trainers workshop focused on setting the stage for climate–health dialogue and capacity building. The opening session featured goodwill messages from the FMoHSW and Project HOPE, emphasizing national commitment to building a climate-resilient health workforce. Participants shared expectations that closely aligned with the training objectives.



Technical sessions commenced with a pre-test to assess participants’ baseline knowledge, followed by a series of expert-led presentations. Dr. Zakariya Mohammed provided an overview of climate change and its impacts on Nigeria’s health systems, while Dr. Costa introduced Project HOPE’s global health programs and its partnership with FMoHSW.

Subsequent sessions explored critical topics including air pollution and health risks, climate change and HIV, extreme weather events, and food insecurity and diarrheal diseases, highlighting real-world implications for Nigeria’s most vulnerable populations. Through interactive discussions and case studies, participants examined the health consequences of extreme climate events such as floods, heatwaves, and droughts, and their ripple effects on food systems, infectious diseases, and community well-being.

The day concluded with a robust plenary discussion and reflections, reinforcing the need for integrated, multisectoral climate–health strategies in Nigeria.

Day 2 – Communication, Mental Health, and Action Planning

The second day began with a recap of Day 1 and transitioned into deeper exploration of climate-related health impacts and adaptation strategies. Sessions covered extreme heat and vector-borne diseases, mental health, and effective communication for climate and health, emphasizing practical tools and frameworks for risk communication and behavioral change.

Participants engaged in micro-teaching sessions, group exercises, and peer feedback, enhancing their ability to teach, advocate, and communicate climate–health linkages confidently. A key highlight was the development of State-Level Climate–Health Action Plans, where participants collaboratively designed strategies for integrating climate resilience into state health programs.

During plenary discussions, participants provided constructive feedback on training materials, recommending stronger contextualization to the Nigerian setting—such as using local examples, inclusive visuals, and simplified technical language.

The workshop concluded with a post-test evaluation and feedback survey, which demonstrated significant knowledge improvement and increased confidence among participants. Closing remarks from the Director, Climate Change and Environmental Health Division (FMoHSW) and Project HOPE commended participants’ enthusiasm and reaffirmed commitment to cascading the training at subnational levels.

Outputs and Immediate Results



Improved awareness and technical understanding of the interlinkages between climate change and health among participating health professionals.



Draft state-level Climate and Health Action Plans developed, outlining context-specific priorities and next steps for local implementation.



Strengthened network of trained climate–health champions across federal and state institutions for coordinated advocacy and capacity building.



Enhanced confidence and communication skills among participants to effectively engage communities, policymakers, and peers on climate-related health risks and adaptive responses.

Lessons Learned and Participant Feedback

The Climate and Health Training of Trainers workshop provided valuable insights into the intersection of climate change and health, reinforcing the urgency of building a climate-smart health workforce.

Key Lessons and Insights:

- Improved Knowledge and Awareness:** Pre- and post-test evaluations revealed a significant increase in participants' understanding of the links between climate change and public health, including the impacts on food security, water safety, and disease patterns.
- Integration into Health Systems:** Participants emphasized the need to mainstream climate considerations into all health programs, policies, and service delivery frameworks.
- Community-Level Relevance:** Health workers highlighted their strategic role as frontline communicators who can raise community awareness and promote adaptive practices that protect vulnerable populations.
- Action-Oriented Learning:** Group discussions and state-level planning sessions encouraged participants to translate knowledge into practical interventions within their respective institutions and communities.



Participant Reflections:

Participants described the workshop as both “eye-opening” and “transformative.” Mrs. Mayaki captured the collective sentiment, stating:

“The training made me realize that climate change isn’t just about the weather — it affects our health in so many ways, from increasing the risk of diseases to threatening our food and water security.”

Dr. Costa, Project HOPE’s Acting Country Representative, reinforced this perspective, noting:

“Building climate-smart responses is essential for safeguarding food and water security and reducing the burden of climate-related diseases.”

Similarly, Dr. Zakariya Mohammed, Director of Climate Change and Environmental Health, emphasized the multisectoral nature of the challenge:

“Climate change is multi-sectoral and must be mainstreamed into all health programs.”

Another participant, highlighted the role of health workers in cascading impact:

“Training health workers is key to reaching our communities and raising awareness. Empowering them will fast-track our response to climate-related health impacts on vulnerable populations.”

These reflections underscore a shared understanding that climate action is health action. The workshop not only strengthened technical capacity but also inspired a collective commitment to advancing climate resilience across Nigeria’s health system.

Recommendations and Next Steps

Recommendations

Stakeholders at the workshop emphasized the need to institutionalize climate and health capacity building within Nigeria’s health system and ensure stronger multisectoral collaboration. **The following key recommendations were made:**

- The health sector should conduct a comprehensive health emission profile to assess greenhouse gas contributions and identify opportunities for low-carbon interventions.
- Climate change considerations should be integrated into all health programs, policies, and implementation frameworks.
- Strengthen collaboration between the health and energy sectors to promote cleaner, low-carbon health systems.
- Project HOPE and partners should adapt all training materials and case studies to the Nigerian context, ensuring local relevance and inclusivity, including the participation of persons with disabilities.
- Extend the duration of future ToT workshops from two to four or five days to allow for deeper engagement and practical exercises.

Next Steps

Building on the success of this inaugural ToT, the following next steps were agreed upon to sustain momentum and institutionalize climate–health capacity development:

- Adoption and domestication of the training curriculum at the next National Climate and Health Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting, with the aim of endorsing it as a national reference document.
- Cascade trainings at state and subnational levels using the adopted curriculum to train frontline health workers and community-level practitioners.
- Development of national training guidelines and tools by Project HOPE, the FMoHSW, and partners to support standardized implementation across states.
- Establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) and digital platform to promote continuous learning, mentorship, and peer exchange among trained professionals.
- Strengthened cross-sectoral coordination among FMoHSW, Federal Ministry of Environment, NCDC, NPHCDA, and partners to align climate and health interventions with national and global frameworks.

Annex 1: Workshop Agenda

Annex 2: Participant List

Annex 3: Pre/Post Test Summary Data

Annex 4: Group Action Plans and Photos



