



Grant agreement no. 243964

QWeCI

Quantifying Weather and Climate Impacts on Health in Developing Countries

D6.2.c – Report on African Workshops

Start date of project: 1st February 2010

Duration: 42 months

Lead contractor: ICTP

Coordinator of deliverable: ICTP

Evolution of deliverable

Due date : M18

Date of first draft : M18

Start of review : M18

Deliverable accepted : M18

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)

Dissemination Level

PU	Public	
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	PP
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

D6.2c) Report on African Workshops.

As described in the DoW (T6.2b), the two workshops were intended primarily as fact-finding efforts. Their purpose was to provide a forum for a first exchange of views and objectives between the scientific and the stakeholder communities with regard to the desired components of decision support systems (DSS) within the QWeCI pilot project frameworks.

The Blantyre Workshop.

A workshop was held in Blantyre at the Malawi Meteorological Service (MMS), Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services in Blantyre on November 12th 2010. Participating members from the QWeCI consortium were UNILIV, ICTP and UNIMA. A representative from the Malawi Ministry of Health (MMH) was also expected to participate but was unable to in the end due to logistical problems. As an alternative, the following day two staff members of ICTP travelled to Lilongwe, the location of the MMH, for a meeting with a representative of the Department of Planning and Policy Development Central Monitoring and Evaluation Division.



Figure 1.

QWeCI partners in Lilongwe during preliminary discussions.

During the Blantyre session of the workshop, QWeCI partners expressed the intention to use meteorological station data, available to the MMS, to verify ECMWF hindcasts and

observed/renanalysis products and to develop disease models. On their part, representatives of the MMS expressed interest in the QWeCI project, the prospect of receiving individual training during extended visits to UNILIV or ICTP, collaborative research and, finally, in the prospect of participating in the first QWeCI symposium to be held at ICTP in September 2011.

On the following day during the Lilongwe session of the workshop, inquiries were made to the MMH regarding the present modes of data gathering and format for malaria incidence rates over Malawi and requests for access to this data were made to verify and calibrate QWeCI dynamical disease models. QWeCI partners learned that Malaria Incidence Rate (MIR) data is collected by Ministry of Health using the Health Management Information System (HMIS). In particular:

- disease incidence rate data is collected at health facility level using hand written registers,
- reports are compiled by the local ‘assistant statistician’ and sent to the local District Health Office,
- data is collated by the MMH at district level on a quarterly basis. Malawi is divided into 28 districts,
- at present, there is a Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) unit which is a sub-system of HMIS,
- malaria, and other diseases such as cholera, plague and 12 others, require immediate reporting.

QWeCI partners made the following disease data requests to the MMH:

- Monthly malaria cases per district/health facility since 2002.
- Shape files for districts/health facilities.
- Blank copies of data collection forms.
- Data regarding bed-net distribution/water supply and other malaria risk indicators.
- Demographic and socio-economic indicators from the Malawi National Statistical Office (<http://www.nso.malawi.net/>).
- List of all health facilities.
- Population data from 2008 census.

Outcomes of the Blantyre workshop.

The main objectives of the Blantyre workshop were:

- the establishment collaborative relations with local stakeholders,
- to collect meteorological data,
- to collect disease incidence data,
- to set the stage for future extended visits of local stakeholder to European QWeCI member institutes.

All the above objectives were achieved. Elina Kululanga, staff member of the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services of the MMS, and James Chirombo, staff member of the MMH, have been collaborating closely with ICTP staff. The requested meteorological and disease data have been obtained for the most part (D5.4a, D5.4b). Both James and Elina were expected to

participate in the September ICTP symposium though Elina has had some last minute difficulties and may not be able to be present.

The Dakar Workshop.

The second workshop, to be held in Dakar, was postponed to the 14th – 19th November 2011. This is due to fact that the scope and goals of this activity have broadened since the compilation of the DoW. While initially intended only as a fact-finding and local effort, much like the first workshop held in Blantyre, it is now expected to host international participants from the QWeCI consortium, along with a large panel of Senegalese stakeholders (NGOs, policy makers, strategists, etc.). The workshop will provide fact-finding opportunities but also allow for dissemination of early QWeCI results to local and international end user communities. Preparations for the workshop are well under way and a poster for the activity will soon be circulated among consortium partners and potential invitees. A final report, similar to the one compiled for the Malawi workshop will be delivered in month 24 of the project when the outcomes of the Workshop are clear.