

Assessing Policies for a Climate-Resilient Health Systems in Guyana: A Comprehensive Mixed-Methods Study

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The study sought to critically evaluate Guyana's policies, from 2003-2023, for a climate-resilient health sector using a mixed-methods case study. Data was gathered through stakeholder engagement, literature review, quantitative surveys, semi-structured interviews, and situational analyses. The analysis utilised the WHO Operational Framework and provided a situational analysis of health system policy responses to climate change. The results showed multiple policies addressed climate change impacts on health, including the National Health Plan, Country Cooperation Strategy, and Climate Change Resilience Strategy and Action Plan. These proposed interventions like improved occupational safety, disaster preparedness, and vector control. However, implementation was hindered by limited resources, coordination issues, and the evolving nature of climate change policies, rendering progress incomplete to embryonic. Despite these challenges, Guyana's 2023 budget shows its commitment to health impact mitigation with significant investments. The study also identified a knowledge-action gap, with respondents unaware of the specific health impacts of climate change or response initiatives, highlighting the need for better awareness. The findings, mapped to the WHO Operational Framework, noted leadership, governance, financing, and workforce issues. In conclusion, despite proactive strategies, implementation is hindered by resources, poor coordination, and knowledgeaction gaps. Future studies should focus on financing mitigation efforts locally and effectively using potential oil industry revenue. The study calls for continuous critical assessments of climate change policies.



Dr Cecil Boston is an accomplished academic who currently holds the office of Dean, College of Medical Sciences, and Chair of the Committee of Deans at the University of Guyana. Academically, he holds a BSc. in Medical Laboratory Sciences and a Diploma in Education (Science) from the University of Guyana. Dr Boston holds three master's degrees and a PhD, having studied at the University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies, and the University of Central Lancashire. With more than 40 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals at the academic rank of reader, his area of expertise includes diabetes, environmental and occupational health and safety, climate change and laboratory science. His research work is cited and presented at several local, regional, and international conferences, most notably the Caribbean Public Health Research Conference, the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research pre-conference, and the International Indigenous Nursing Research Summit. Professionally, Dr. Boston serves as a research consultant to the Government of Guyana, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization.