

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

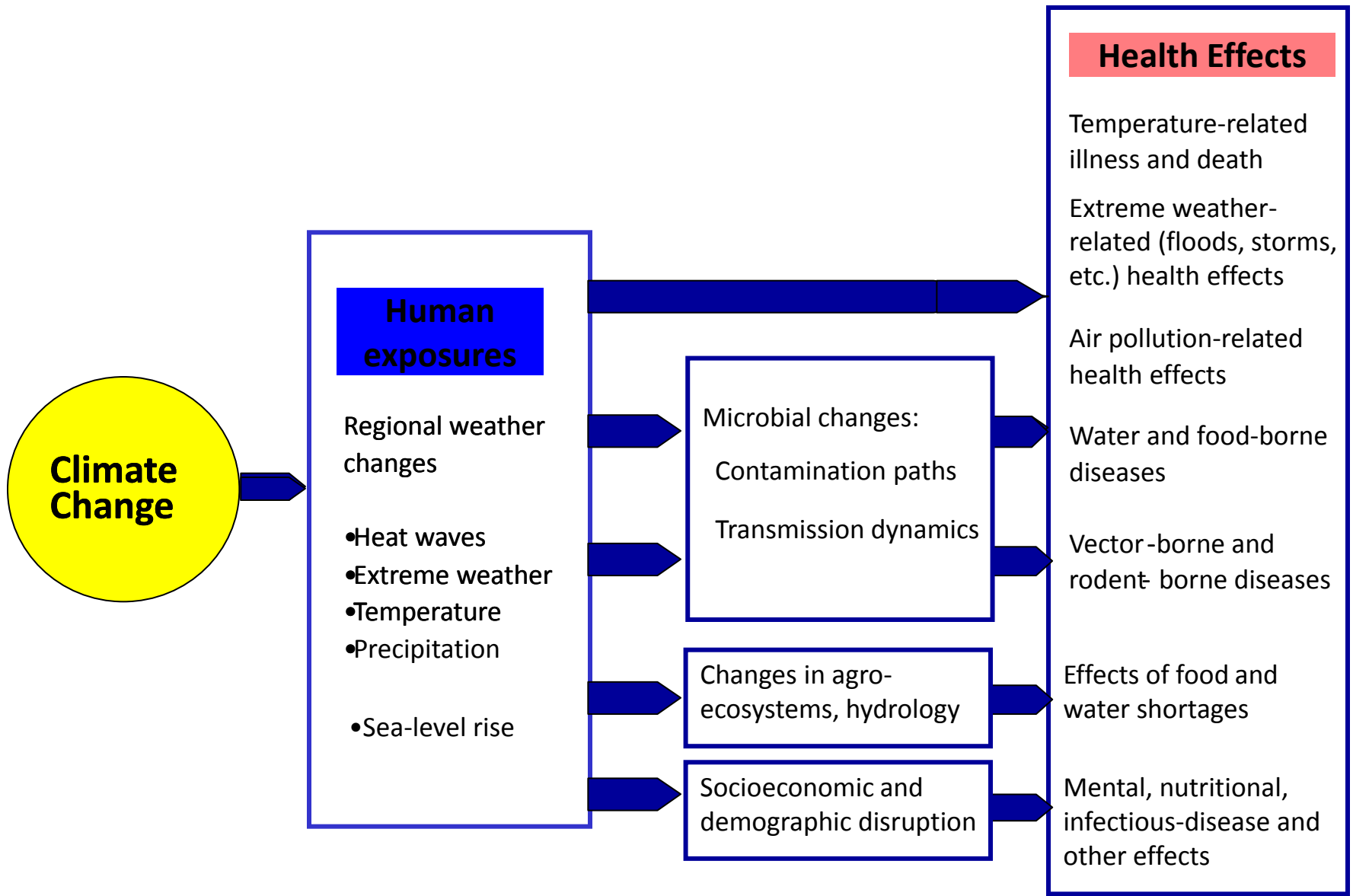
FRAMEWORK FOR A HEALTH SECTOR
AGENDA

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

- Will disease pattern be affected
- What changes will occur in respect of the existing disease burden
- Who will be most affected
- What kinds of investments will be needed to maintain desired levels of health status
- What systemic changes are needed and when
- What indicators will best measure performance in the implementation of plans for mitigation

CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS HEALTH

- Changes in temperature, precipitation and wind speed affects environment we evolved in.
- Extreme changes have clear implications on morbidity and mortality
- Mechanisms for dealing with extreme changes (frequent disasters) expensive and economically disruptive
- Some changes support diseases and can push “health clock” back

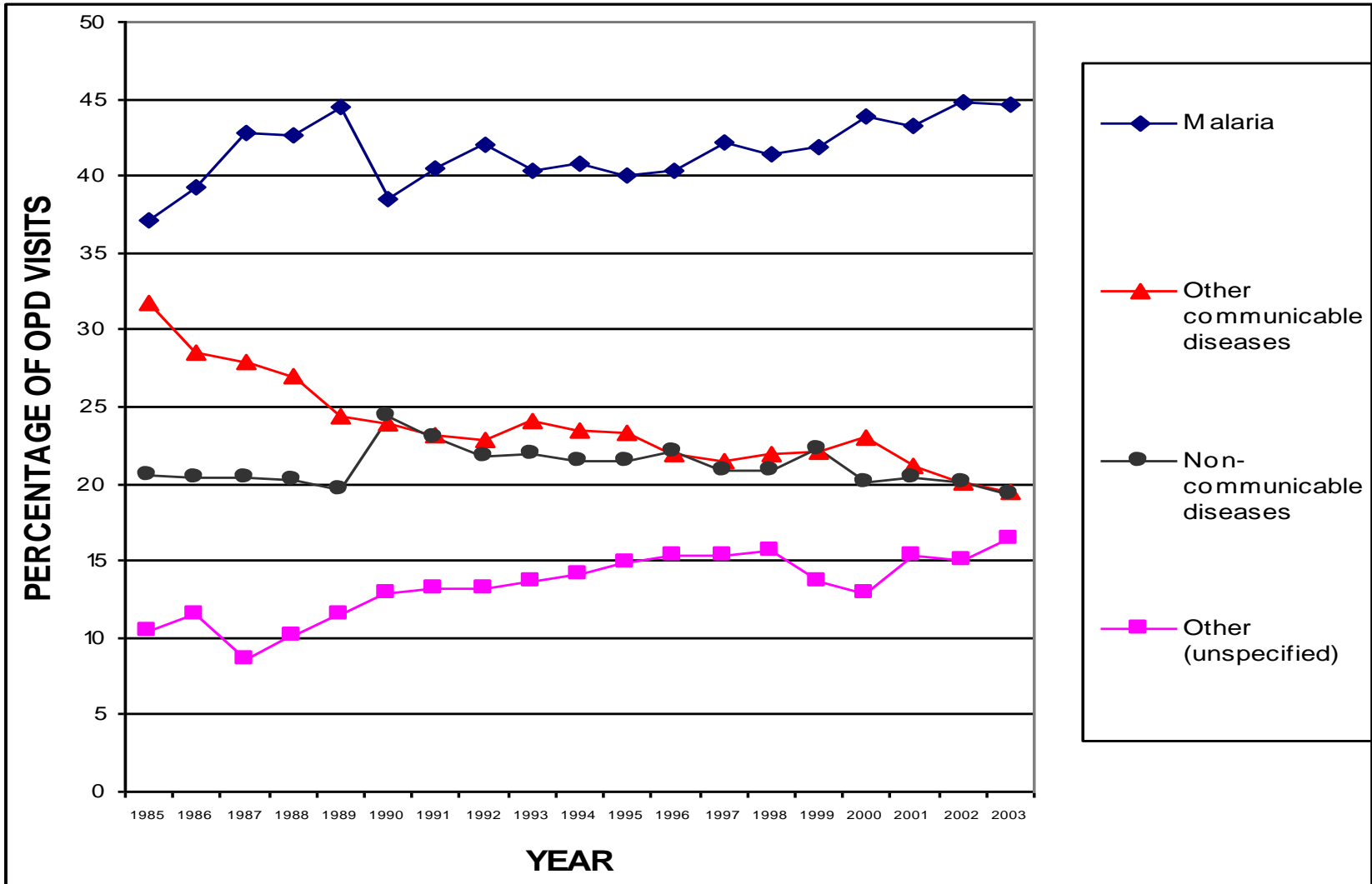




CHANGES IN DISEASE PATTERNS/BURDEN

- Increased burden of communicable diseases
 - Water scarcity, water abundance lead to surge in diarrhoeal diseases
 - Mass contamination of water sources related to collapse of sewage systems - High cost of treatment of water
 - Changes in distribution of disease vectors – new breeding sites, more favorable conditions for aggressive breeding

Trend in percentage of outpatient visits



CHANGES IN DISEASE PATTERNS/BURDEN

- Food security and malnutrition – potentiate effects of communicable diseases especially among children
- Secondary effects due to mitigation efforts to increase – e.g. high load of pesticides in the food chain
- Increased stress related diseases – mass displacement, loss of income ect.

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Already weak health infrastructure will be exposed
 - Many already in harms way (recent floods in the north)
 - Most planned based on existing need (difficulty in coping with policy change)
 - Inadequately distributed even in “quiet” times
- Inadequate supporting structures – no reception centers in times mass displacement of people
- Emergency services grossly underdeveloped
- Fundamental challenge in planning health infrastructure
 - Follows population
 - Population follows livelihood
 - Livelihood found close to disaster prone areas

HEALTH SYSTEMS

- Health system is highly developed around MCH services – reduces vulnerability but limited in dealing with full effects of climate change
- Climate change issues not on health radar – (MDGs a proxy?)
- Human resource availability lags heavily behind real need (1 doc to 11,000popu)
- Resource inadequacy means natural growth reduced (90% of budget for Item 1)
- Other public health systems not working together – weak enforcement of byelaws, chaotic planning weak capacity to deal with current levels of risks.

HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE

- Need to recognize that Climate Change is imminent
- Current POWs lack direction in Climate Change Mitigation Strategies
- Policy Environment
 - Reduce contribution to GHE
 - Reduce impact of Climate Change
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Reduce burden of communicable diseases
- Revamp health infrastructure
 - Plan with Climate in mind
- Improve health status of the population
- Reduce effects of poverty

FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSE

- The policies needed to reduce GHE promote public health
 - substantial reductions in heart disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes, road deaths and injuries, and air pollution
 - The same focus of the National Health Policy
- Climate Change policies are important drivers of public health
- Provide huge opportunities for primary prevention

THE HEALTH SECTOR AGENDA

- National Health Policy as starting point
 - Need to sharpen policy to respond to Climate Change Challenges
 - Set up structures outlined in policy and review mandate
- Disease surveillance systems to transform to early warning systems
 - improve capacity to make use of information available nationally and globally to inform decision making
- Improve sector capacity to respond
 - Capacity to plan with different scenarios and models
 - Modernize response systems
 - Review infrastructure development principles and plans
- Need for more information to support Increased advocacy
- Need for strong inter-sectoral actions – NDPC, Local Government to play significant role

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

- Will disease pattern be affected?
 - Yes but we need more information to understand how and where
- What changes will occur in respect of the existing disease burden?
 - Signs point to Malaria and other vector borne diseases
 - Other communicable diseases also to stage a come back
 - We need to understand how so we can review current strategies
 - Build more capacity to analyze existing data and to look for new data
- Who will be most affected?
 - Not clear but geographical areas already identified
 - Need to incorporate this information in health sector plans
- What kinds of investments will be needed to maintain desired levels of health status
 - Modernize response mechanisms and service
 - Review infrastructure development
 - Develop HR capacity
- What systemic changes are needed and when
 - National Health policy defines most
 - SMTOP offers opportunities!
- What indicators will best measure performance in the implementation of plans for mitigation
 - Indicators of development but need to be contextualized

