**Enabling DSS in health, a NOAA Initiative on Climate and Health for Africa**

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NOAA has long been interested in working with the health sector to enable decision support services in heath. A Service Level Agreement of the National Weather Service and the Office of Atmospheric Research has provided an opportunity to test the feasibility of the use of climate information in health decision making. This presentation focuses on the NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center (CPC) project on climate and health for Africa with much emphasis placed on heat-health. The scientific community has demonstrated that extremely elevated air temperatures, or a combination of high temperatures and relative humidity can exacerbate heat related illnesses, such as cardiovascular and/or respiratory diseases, trigger heat strokes, or cause severe and debilitating discomforts. The impact of climate variations on health is a global issue, but proven to be more acute in the developing world, especially Africa. The presentation aims at describing the recent development of forecasting tools to enable heat heath early warning in Africa, with the understanding that the tools are transferrable to other areas where excessive heat is a challenge. The presentation defines heat waves and describes the predictability of heat waves at week-2 that is heat wave forecasts with a lead-time of eight days, providing sufficient time for early action to mitigate impacts of heat waves. Then the presentation discusses tools for the real time forecasting of heat waves, and using case studies, presents work with the health sector to accelerate decision support services for health.