

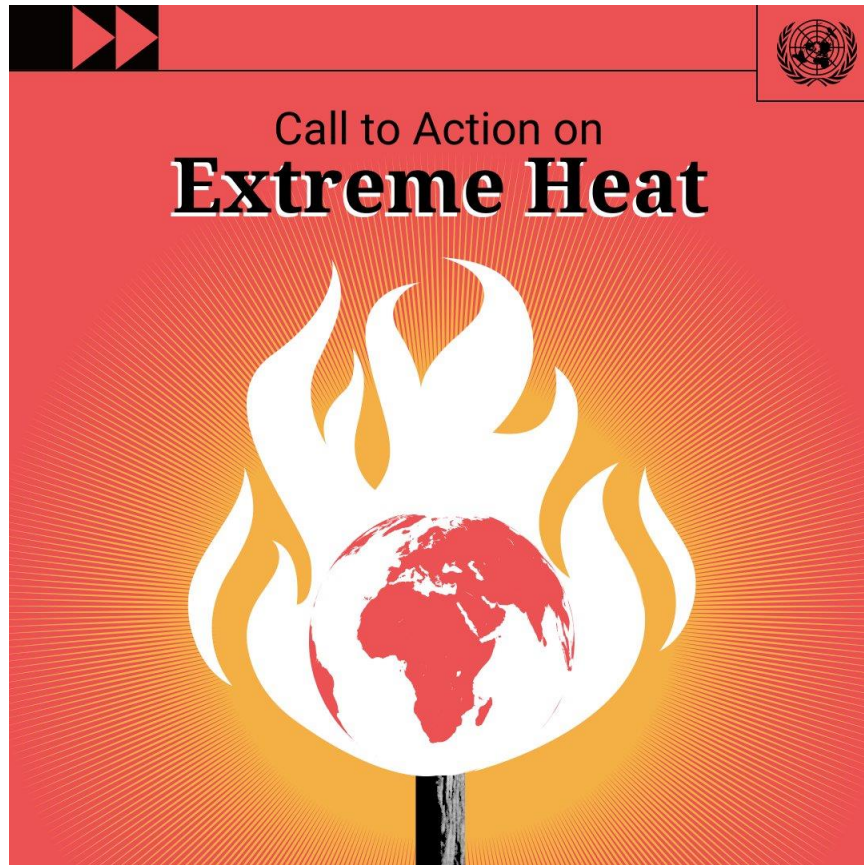


Accelerating action on heat and health: mapping stakeholders in the African Region

- Paul Lokubal, Sari Kovats,
- Caradee Wright, Ousmane Ndiaye

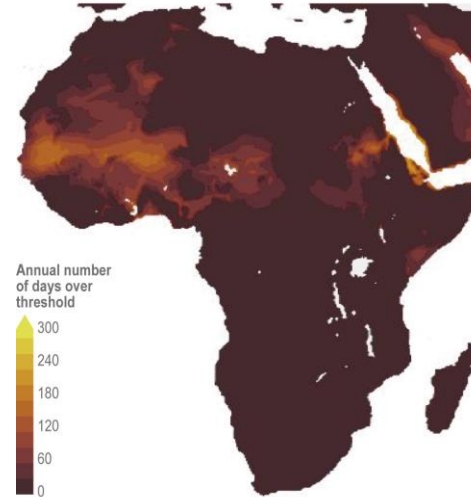


Heat exposures are increasing

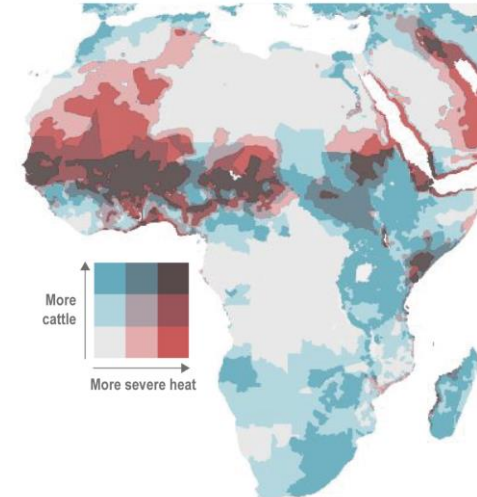


Severe heat stress duration for cattle in Africa is projected to increase with increased global warming

(a) Historical risk (1985–2014)



(b) Historical exposure (1985–2014)



Global Heat Health Information Network

The Global Heat Health Information Network is an independent, voluntary, and member-driven forum of scientists, practitioners, and policy makers focused on improving capacity to protect populations from the avoidable health risks of extreme heat in our changing climate.

Aims include:

- to catalyze and sustain **interdisciplinary partnerships** and co-learning between research and practitioners across relevant government, academic, private sector and civil society actors;
- to synthesize and **advance science** and technology available for decision-making and risk reduction across sectors and time scales;



GLOBAL **HEAT** HEALTH
INFORMATION NETWORK

Management committee members include:
Dr Ousmane Ndiaye, Senegal; Dr Caradee
Wright, South Africa



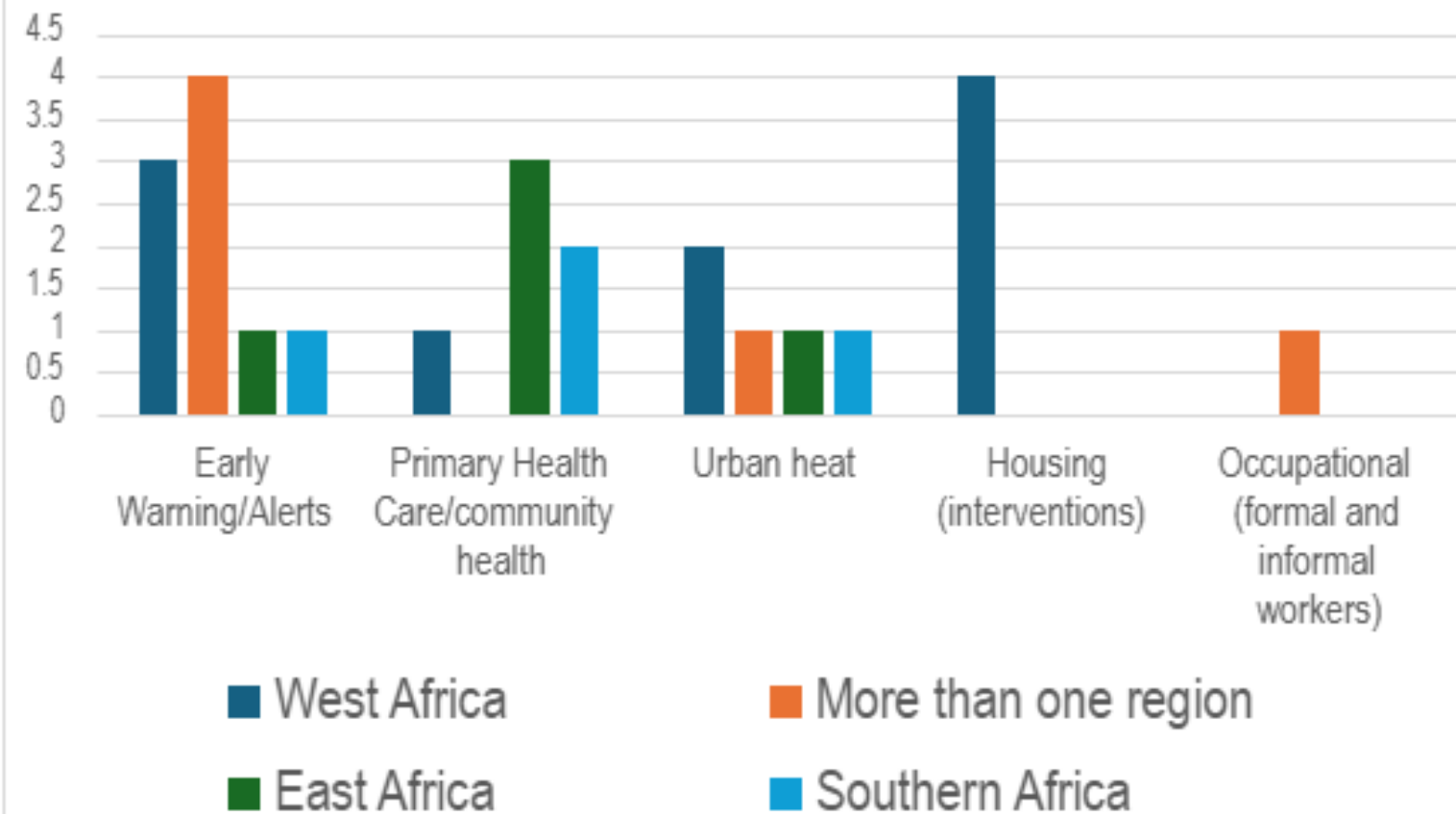
Outline of presentation

Stakeholder mapping to determine who is currently working on heat and health in the African region

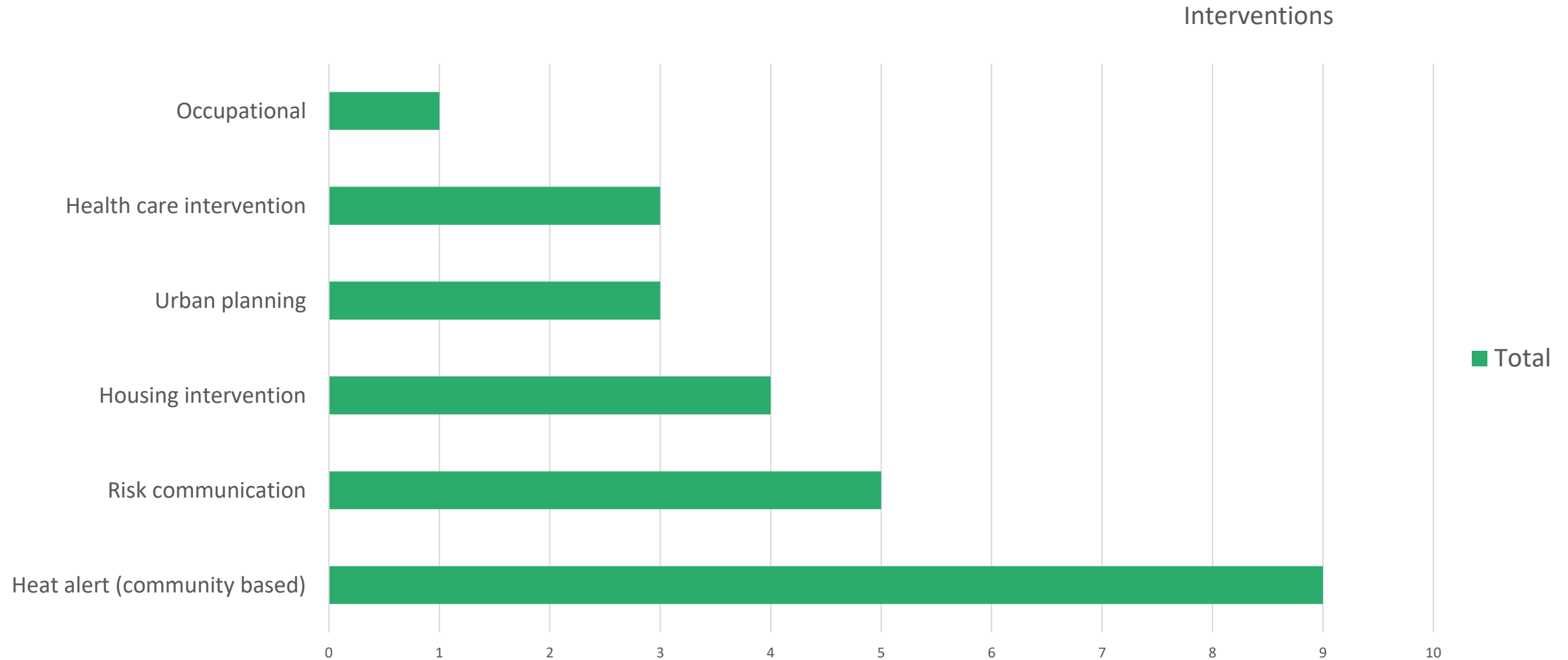
- Current research projects on heat and health
- Policy review -
- Interviews with national weather services (NWS) [preliminary results]

Map of with heat and health projects

Heat topic by the Africa Region

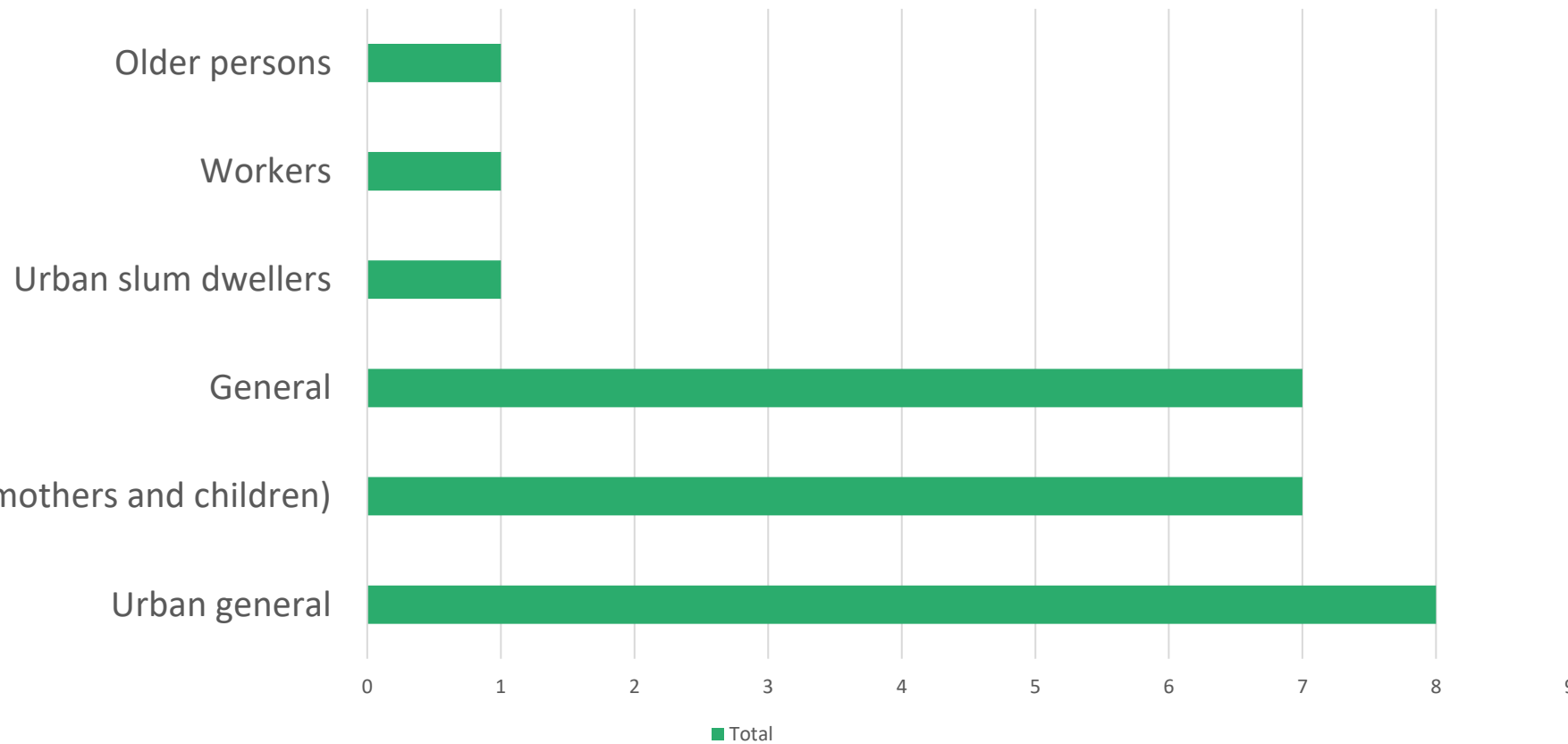


Interventions for heat risks



Target populations for heat risks

Target population



From interviews

- Prisoners
- Pastoralists
- Persons with disabilities
- Street vendors

National or sub-national

- Heat Health Action Plans
 - 1 NATIONAL PLAN [South Africa]
- National Framework of Climate Services
 - 1 pillar on Health
- Adaptation Plans or Strategies

International

- The **Early Warnings for All** initiative aims to ensure universal protection through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027
- WHO Regional Committee for Africa, July 2024 AFR/RC74/9 support for intersectoral action

National heat health planning

National Heat Health Action Plans

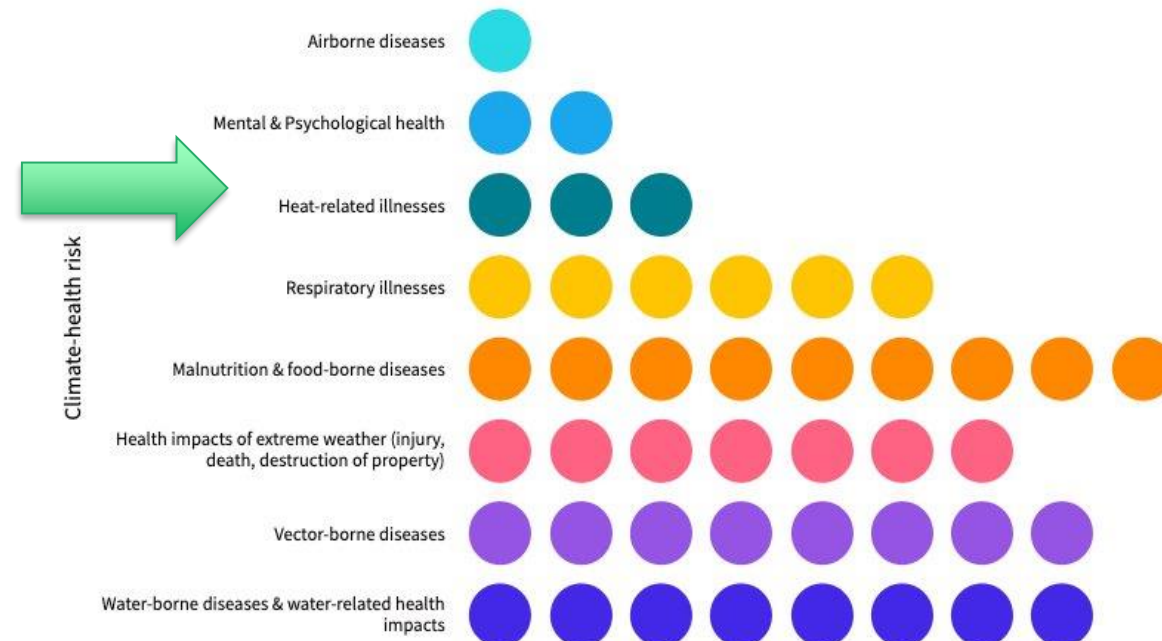
- South Africa

But there are city level plans that address heat risks

- Freetown
- Cape Town

Overview of NAPs in East and Southern Africa 2022 [ENBEL report]

- Only 3 addressed heat risks to health



Source: Our World in Data

Key informant interviews

Methods

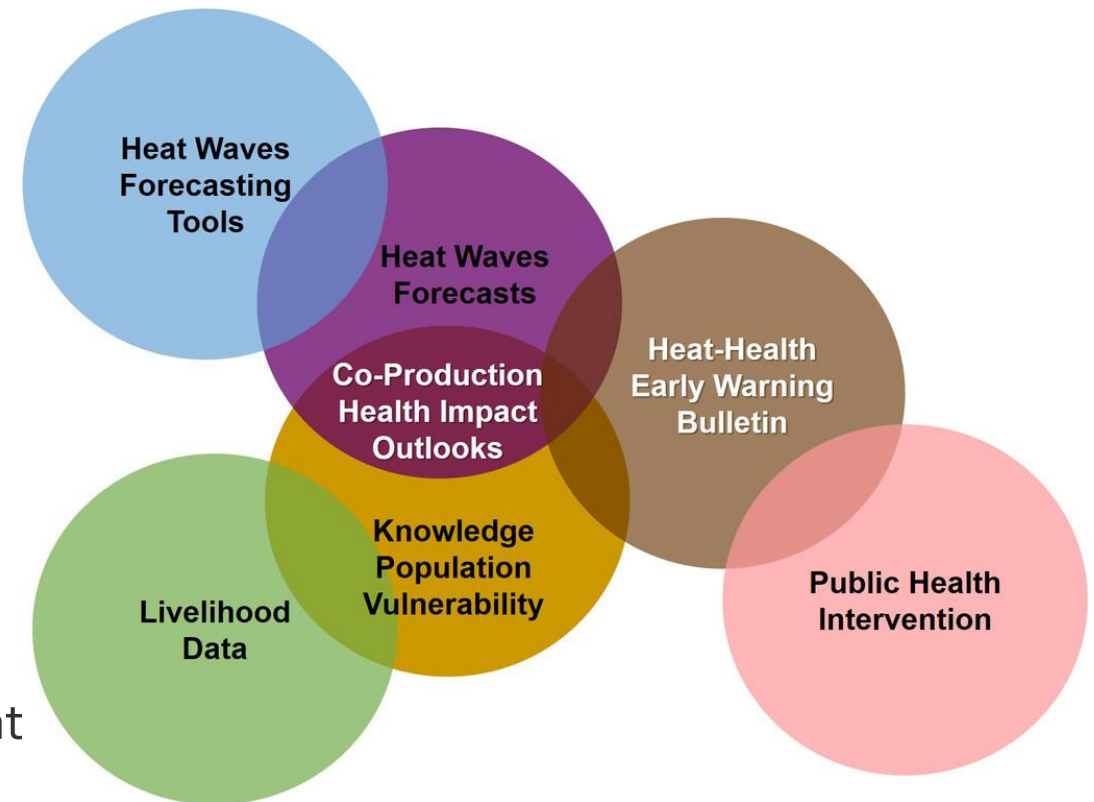
- Interviews conducted Aug-Sep 24
 - 5 member of national weather services [WMO health focal persons]
 - 5 researchers or implementing heat and health projects
- Thematic analysis
- Questions on
 - Implementation of heat-health warnings, interventions, equity, research, collaborators and networks, evidence needs, and policies

WMO Integrated Health Service Focal Points

- Resolution 33 of the Eighteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18) on Advancing Integrated Health Services, requested all Members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs), and the Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) to nominate **health sector focal points** for health-related research and services provided.
- Focal points at the national and regional level are important actors for advancing integrated health information services

Heatwave warning/heat alerts

- National Met Services provide heat warnings to
 - Min of Health
 - Ministry of the Environment,
 - community radio stations
 - non-governmental organizations, humanitarian (Red Cross)
 - communities
- Progress in technical capacity in forecasting heat extremes (day to seasonal)
- Variable engagement between Met Services and Health Sector.
- View that is role of health sector to disseminate heat health warnings and develop health messages.
- Lack of understanding of heat impacts on health
- Collaborations with universities "not easy"



Thiaw W et al. (2022) Toward Experimental Heat-Health Early Warning in Africa. AMS.

Progress in implementation of heat actions

- Development of national heat-health action plans.
- Local implementation of measures but limited evaluation
- Integration of heat considerations into urban planning and health policies.

Challenges

- Limited funding and resources for heat-related research.
- Implementation challenges due to lack of heat-specific policies.
- Need for cross-sector collaboration to address the multi-faceted nature of heat risks.
- Lack of heat-focussed policies

Thank you!

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE

