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Climate change and variability: The impacts on climate-sensitive diseases in the 2050s for North-West Nigeria.

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The research aims to assess the extent of climate change and variability and its likely impact on climate-sensitive diseases in north-western region of Nigeria. Much more research is required in this area especially following the citations in the human health chapters of the fourth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report, which specifies that significant attention should be given to health impact of global climate change, most especially in vulnerable countries. The report also recommends that the climate change scenarios should be downscaled to regional levels. In this research both of these recommendations will be covered by using pre-existing literature, disease surveillance data from the weekly record of World Health Organisation (WHO), Federal Ministry of Health, and some selected hospitals within the region for reported cases. Meteorological data will be obtained from a sample of stations in the region and reanalysis data from the archives of NCEP/NCAR. The following will be addressed: a) establishing the extent of climate change and variability from 1960 - 2010, b) establishing the relationship between climatic variables and diseases, c) determining the frequency of heat wave occurrences, and d) prediction of how climate is likely to change in the region up to 2050 under the IPCC climate change scenarios (SRES). The research will focus initially on meningitis and cholera.