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# HEALTH RISK REDUCTION AND SAFE HOSPITALS



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## ISDR definition of **disaster risk reduction**:

The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

### Interpretation:

Risk  $\propto$  Hazard X Vulnerability

Capacity

# Health Emergency Management, Safe Hospitals and Hyogo Framework for Action

<b>HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPACITY</b>	<b>SAFE HOSPITALS</b>	<b>HYOGO FA</b>
Health emerg. mgt policy, strategies legislation	Policies on Safe Hospitals	1
Hazards, vulnerabilities, risks, capacities assessed	Same	2, 1, 4, 5
Comprehensive health risk reduction/emergency preparedness programme with funding	Comprehensive health facility emergency risk reduction/emergency preparedness programme	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
A MoH coordinating unit for health emergency management	Coordinating committee and staff within health facility with links to MoH and to community	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

# HEM, Safe Hospitals and HFA

HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPACITY	SAFE HOSPITALS	HYOGO FA
Coordination framework/mechanisms to develop and implement health emergency management	Coordination within health facility, other health facilities, infrastructure, MOH, disaster managers	1, 5, 2, 3, 4
Health contingency, response recovery planning, exercising, monitoring	Same	5, 2, 3
Procurement, stockpiling, pre-positioning of supplies and equipment, including emergency health kits	Arrangements with infrastructure, drugs and equipment suppliers, surge capacity staffing	5
Standards, norms, protocols, guidelines and tools for HEM	Same	3, 1, 5, 2, 4
Education/training programmes for health and related sectors	Same	3, 1, 2, 4, 5

# HEM, Safe Hospitals and HFA

HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPACITY	SAFE HOSPITALS	HYOGO FA
Community and health worker awareness, risk communication, training	Health facility support community health workers and community	3, 4, 5, 2
Technical capacities: First aid, search and rescue, mass casualty management; disease control; nutrition; maternal, newborn, child health; mental health, psychosocial support; water and sanitation	Same	3, 5
Health facilities, related infrastructure built safely, deliver health services in emergencies.	Safe Hospitals programmes	4, 5, 1, 2, 3
Rules for requesting assistance –national and international (inc management of donations.)	Procedures for requesting external assistance. Donations management	5, 1

# Challenges in other settings

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- Health sector not integrated into disaster risk reduction or member of platform
- **Gaps in knowledge – risks, populations, actions**
- Resources are not allocated on basis of risk
- Lack of stakeholder analysis – who is already doing what, where, when
- Capacity building activities are not built on existing system
- Planning is not coordinated within and between sectors
- Health risk reduction/emergency preparedness programmes do not exist
- Health response plans not been tested
- Lessons from disasters are not institutionalised
- Not enough attention is given to the management role
- Lack of evidence base

# Health Risk Reduction

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- a. How is your country or organization contributing to health risk reduction?
- b. What is health risk reduction? Or is disaster risk reduction for health?
- c. What can be done to increase action on health in disaster risk reduction and within the ISDR system?
- d. Over the next five, ten, twenty years, what are the priorities?
- e. What's next?

# Global/National Platform for Health RR

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- Articulate health risk reduction (HRR) by:
  - describing the relevance of health to risk reduction and emergency preparedness, and vice versa
  - describing the critical contributions of the health sector to risk reduction and emergency preparedness
  - describing the critical contributions that other sectors make to health risk reduction and emergency preparedness
- Strengthen capacity in risk reduction and emergency preparedness across all health and related disciplines



# Thematic Platform for HRR

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- Build a health risk reduction community, which includes representatives of all sectors contributing to health risk reduction
- Achieve a greater investment of resources to health risk reduction
- Enable the health sector to contribute more effectively to disaster risk reduction,
  - national, regional and global platforms for disaster risk reduction

# High Level Panel Recommendations

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Ensuring that the **health sector** is represented on all national and regional platforms for disaster reduction by 2011.

Establishing a **global technical platform for health risk reduction** by 2011.

Conducting **national assessments of the safety of existing health facilities** and establishing a schedule for retrofitting the most critical and vulnerable ones by 2011.



# High Level Panel Recommendations

Adopting comprehensive national multisectoral **Safe Hospital policies and programmes**

Ensuring that health facilities develop **disaster and emergency risk management programmes by 2015,**

Establishing **regional and global strategies** among partners to achieve multisectoral and international support for national actions

# HLP Recommendations – Schools and Hospitals

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- **Research** strategies for health and education, giving priority to climate change effects
- **Research**, case-studies, guidelines and projects to increase the effectiveness of emergency evacuation and sheltering related to health facilities and schools<sup>011</sup>
- Elaborating comprehensive national strategies and policies and result based **action plans for integration of DRR in the Health and Education sectors** by 2015.
- **Gain resources** to invest in *Safer Hospitals and Schools*
- Further capacity development strategies, such as face-to-face and e-learning training courses, research, exchanges of personnel and experience-sharing forums

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# SAFE HOSPITALS

*World Disaster Reduction  
Campaign 2008-09:*

**Hospitals Safe From Disasters**



World Health  
Organization



# Hospitals: Why are they also disaster casualties?



- Chronically weak health systems
- Under-investment in health
- Poor facility location, design and construction
- No emergency plan
- Staff are not trained

# Six essential actions to make hospitals safe

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1. Adopt national policies and programmes for safe hospitals
2. Design and build resilient hospitals
3. Assess the safety of your hospital
4. Plan for emergency response
5. Protect and train health workers for emergencies
6. Protect equipment, medicine and supplies

# Lessons learned: 1985 Mexico earthquake

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1985

- Five hospitals collapsed and 22 suffered major damage, 6000 beds lost.
- 561 people died at Juarez Hospital alone.

Today

- More than 500 people are trained to use the PAHO Hospital Safety Index, which has been applied to more than 100 facilities across the country.
- Index lets authorities determine which facilities are "safe" and which must be improved.



# What can you do?

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- **Form partnerships** between facilities and the community.
- Create **emergency risk management programmes** in health facilities.
- Develop **health facility emergency response plans**.
- **Test** and update response plans with **drills** and **exercises**.
- **Train** health workers to respond to emergencies.
- **Learn lessons** from past emergencies and disasters.
- **Overall, develop & implement national policies and programmes.**



- Aims to foster mainstream disaster risk reduction into a broader array of health sector initiatives
- UNISDR devoting its 2008-2009 WDRC to "Hospitals Safe From Disasters," working closely with WHO and World Bank.



- WHO focus on strengthening health facilities to withstand the impacts of natural disasters, conflicts, effects of climate change and disease outbreaks.
- World Health Day 2009 devoted to the issue.
- Developing Global Programme on Safe Hospitals



# Proposed Global Safe Hospitals Programme

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## **National programmes on Safe Hospitals (Member States, international and national financial institutions and other stakeholders)**

- Advocacy for funding of health facilities, international financial institutions, and stakeholders
- Economic assessment methodologies, conduct assessments, and determine incentives for making health facilities safer

## **Advocacy on health facility emergency risk management**

## **Technical materials on Safe Hospitals - health facility emergency risk management**

- health facility safety assessments
  - siting, design, development and construction of safe health facilities
  - emergency preparedness, including exercising of plans
  - damage assessment of health facilities
- Case studies, success stories
  - Research programme

# Global Safe Hospitals Programme

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## Training programmes for health and non-health sectors

- existing courses on health facility emergency risk management,
- training packages based on technical guidance indicated above to
- fostering institutions to conduct training courses
- conduct and evaluate training courses at regional, sub-regional and national levels

## Demonstration sites and projects which exemplify good practice in health facility emergency risk management

## Programme Coordination and Management

- Develop and strengthen regional task forces on Safe Hospitals and Health Facilities (eg. DiMAG)
- Advisory committees and technical commissions
- Specific events, discussions and exhibition on health facility emergency risk management
- A network of specialists is needed to provide expert advice to national agencies, international agencies and other partners.

# Health Risk Reduction - summary

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- We know what needs to be done, action is critical
- \* Save lives and livelihoods: Invest in risk reduction and build back better
- \* Working together for people's health at community level – for natural hazards, climate change, food crises, pandemic etc
- \* Health needs YOUR support!

# Proposed action

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- \* A global thematic platform for health risk reduction to bring health and other sectors together
- \* Health represented on all regional and national platforms for disaster risk reduction
- \* Continued investment in safe hospitals at facility, national and global levels, with priority to assessments of hospital safety
- \*Investment in research and evidence base to inform decisions and action
- \*10-20 percent of humanitarian funding to disaster risk reduction

# *Save lives. Make hospitals safe in emergencies*

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Thank you.