



SIDE EVENT

“Safer hospitals – essential priorities for disaster risk management and community resilience”

CONCEPT NOTE

Schedule	13h00-13h55, 23rd May 2013
Organizers	World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), International Union of Architects (UIA)
Focal Point	<i>Mr. Jonathan Abrahams, WHO (abrahamsj@who.int)</i>
Background and Rationale	<p>Many countries and communities have responded positively to the call for increased action and investment in safer hospitals as expressed by the Hyogo Framework for Action and the explicit targets in the Chair’s Summaries of previous Global Platforms. By recognizing that hospitals are vital assets and a priority for strengthening community resilience and improving health outcomes, many countries have initiated Safer Hospitals programmes, which are aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting hospital patients, workers and visitors from hazards; • protecting the significant investment in hospital buildings and equipment; and • ensuring the functioning of hospitals to withstand the impact of hazards and to provide life-saving care and other services in emergency situations. <p>Collaboration by many sectors and stakeholders and their resources, is essential to assure the safety and preparedness of hospitals and other health facilities. Additionally, the importance of implementing climate change scenarios into the design of safer and greener health facilities is becoming more and more apparent. Investing in this kind of efforts not only reduces risks from climate change hazards but also contributes to lowering energy consumption, and operation and maintenance costs. Speakers and participants in this session will be invited to discuss the progress up-to-date as well as propose future directions in implementing safe hospital initiatives at local, national, regional and global levels. Additionally, new and updated tools to assess the safety of hospitals and other health facilities will be presented. These brief presentations will provide the impetus for participants to discuss future directions for safer hospitals, including key inputs to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.</p>
Session Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share progress on the safe health facilities initiatives at country, regional and global levels • To present developments and capture good practices and developments in the field of safe health facilities, including the revision of the Hospital Safety Index and the green hospitals initiative • To promote, and explore opportunities, for the increased investment in safer hospitals • To make recommendations on the future approach to safe health facilities, including the post- 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction
Discussion agenda and structure	<p>Chaired by: Mr Jonathan Abrahams, WHO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks (5 Minutes)

	<p>Mr Jonathan Abrahams, WHO</p> <p>2. Report on progress on safer and greener hospitals programmes and the revised Hospital Safety Index (10 minutes)</p> <p>Dr Ciro Ugarte, PAHO</p> <p>3. Country case studies on Safe Hospitals, including the application of the Hospital Safety Index</p> <p>a. Dr Mihail Pisla, Ministry of Health, Moldova (5 minutes)</p> <p>b. Ms Rahima Mukairsheova, Hospital Safety Project, MoH/WHO Tajikistan (5 minutes)</p> <p>4. Social and economic benefits of investing in safer hospitals before the disaster event: Ms Natalia Garcia Romero, UNOPS (5 minutes)</p> <p>5. Panel discussion - Proposed recommendations for future work on safe health facilities and inputs to the dialogue and design of post- 2015 DRR framework (30 minutes)</p> <p>Dr.Mihail Pisla, MoH Maldova; Ms. Rahima Mukairsheova, MoH Tajikistan; Dr. Ciro Ugarte, PAHO; Ms Natalia Garcia Romero, UNOPS; Mr Hans Eggen, UIA</p> <p>6. Wrap-Up and Closing of Session (5 Minutes)</p>
<p>List of expected outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of major progress on safe health facilities initiatives, including the revision of the Hospital Safety Index and case studies at local, regional and global levels. • Recommendations for a global plan of action on Safer Hospitals: Prepared for Disasters • Inputs to the dialogue and design of the Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction concerning the safety and preparedness of health facilities
<p>Relevance of the initiative</p>	<p>The safety of new and existing hospital facilities is an explicit activity in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and has stimulated initiatives including World Health Assembly Resolutions as well as regional and national action in more than 40 countries. The Chair's Summaries for the past two Global Platforms have also set the following targets:</p> <p>- By 2011, national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken.</p> <p>- By 2015, concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries.</p> <p>Enhanced safety of facilities is essential for safeguarding the lives of patients, staff and visitors from the impact of hazards, for protecting the substantial national and community investments in hospital assets and equipment; and for ensuring essential health services can be delivered in times of emergencies. Activities such as safe site selection, safe access, safe design, construction and retrofitting (including structural and non-structural elements) are among the most effective and efficient approaches towards alleviating the damages caused by major hazards. There is a strong case for the health, social and economic benefits of designing and constructing a safe new hospital from its inception as opposed to a hospital which requires structural retrofitting or fails when most needed in a disaster, and requires reconstruction.</p> <p>Facility emergency preparedness activities, including planning, training and exercises, will enable an effective response, including provision of life-saving services. Collaboration from a diverse range of stakeholders, such as from urban</p>

	<p>planning, building, finance, infrastructure and health sectors, is required to ensure the safety and preparedness of health facilities, and thereby strengthen the resilience of communities.</p>
Subject's link to Post 2015	<p>Placing health prominently in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and in the post-2015 development agenda will contribute toward improved health outcomes for people who are risk of emergencies and disasters. Programmes and actions to enable new and existing hospitals able to withstand current hazards and future threats, such as those from climate change, and better preparedness for emergencies, are key strategies in disaster risk reduction and in strengthening community and national resilience from both a multi-sectoral, whole-of-society perspective and for public health sector.</p> <p>Safer hospitals initiatives exhibit a systems-thinking approach that links the building and its integrity, to the value of hospital services to the community, especially in emergency situations. Safer hospitals are relevant to both the rural health service setting and the resilient cities context.</p> <p>Now is the time to scale up and reinforce the investment of communities, countries and all stakeholders in safer hospitals, so much so that the long-standing commitment of the global community to safer hospitals through the ISDR, HFA and other frameworks should be reinforced in future frameworks for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.</p>
Expected number of participants	50-100
Technical Equipment Required	Video projector, Screen, Computer, Microphones for speakers and audience
Background documents	<p>Hospital Safety Index (as revised)</p> <p>WHO Website: http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/preparedness/en/index.html</p> <p>PAHO Website: http://new.paho.org/disasters/</p> <p>UNOPS Website: www.unops.org</p> <p>UIA Website: www.uia-architectes.org</p> <p>Safe hospitals website: www.safehospitals.info</p>