



## REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Date of event:  Your name:

Event type (tick the box):

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Pre-session      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | High-level panel |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Round Table      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Informal Plenary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Special Event    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other            |

Event name (write the name below):

**Health Risk Reduction and Safe Hospitals: finding better ways to save lives**

Number of participants

**Total: 31**

*(Please count or estimate this, as not all will be recorded in the list.)*

### 1) Key questions or issues raised, main challenges or constraints identified (say, max 5):

*If possible, record who raised these.*

- There is a myth that making health facilities safer is too costly for many countries - low cost improvements can make a difference.
- Hospital safety needs to give as much attention to training health workers to deal with the consequences of disasters as making the physical infrastructure safe.
- Risk reduction for health cannot be achieved by the Ministry of Health alone – multi sectoral action is needed to address all health risk factors.
- Major investments in health risk reduction (preparedness, recovery) are often not based on needs identified by risk and capacity assessments.
- Hospitals are not prepared for epidemics and pandemic - risk reduction activities must be multi-hazard.

### 2) Principal proposed solutions, messages or recommendations:

*If possible, record who offered these.*

- Address Hyogo Framework priority to build, by 2015, all new health care facilities to withstand the impact of disasters and remain functional in accordance with Safe Hospital guidelines.
- Continued investment in safe hospitals at facility, national and global levels, with priority to assessments of hospital safety
- Encourage countries to assess and report on safety and vulnerability of health facilities as part of reporting to ISDR.
- The World Bank Guidance Note on Safe Hospitals provides guidance for integrating risk reduction into health infrastructure development projects.
- There are tools such as the Hospital Safety Index that provides a starting point to set priorities for action.
- St Vincent and Grenadines used the Hospitals Safety Index to substantiate the case to the political level (Finance, Planning, and Health) for funding safety improvements to the island's hospital.
- To convince policymakers to act:
  - demystify the subject of disaster risk reduction for health,
  - demonstrate the consequences and repercussions for governments when hospitals fail,

- Encourage people to write/share case studies and success stories to stimulate action worldwide.
- CDC has developed a tool for mapping human vulnerability in at risk areas.

### **3) Conclusions by the Chair of the event:**

- WHO with ISDR system partners will develop a global thematic platform for health risk reduction to bring health and other actors together.
- Participants agreed to support the proposal to provide regular reports on hospital safety as part of HFA reporting.
- Participants supported the need for standardizing a global programme on safe hospitals, including development of indicators which aid in reporting.
- Follow systematic risk and capacity assessments to ensure that resources are not misallocated.
- Health must be featured more prominently in risk assessments, disaster risk reduction programmes and high-level meeting agenda.

### **4) Your additional thoughts on the event:**

*(E.g. on tone and success of event, unresolved issues, commitments made by participants, etc.)*

- Event was highly successful in outlining key issues in Safe Hospitals and Disaster Risk Reduction in Health initiatives and in encouraging participants to share experiences and challenges.
- Discussion was insightful in providing examples of specific successes of Safe Hospital implementation (i.e. St. Vincent and Grenadines) as well as outlining challenges faced by other countries (i.e. Maldives, Philippines, U.S.A.).
- Session ended with general consensus to initiate thematic platform for health disaster risk reduction and scale up actions on safe hospitals.

