

WHO GUIDANCE FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES



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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR	antimicrobial resistance
ARV	antiretroviral
COVID-19	coronavirus disease of 2019
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
GHGs	greenhouse gases
HCWH	Health Care Without Harm
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus infection/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HSI	Hospital Safety Index
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MERS-CoV	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome–coronavirus
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NRGH	Nanaimo Regional General Hospital
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PHC	primary health care
POP	persistent organic pollutants
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UHC	universal health coverage
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
V&A	vulnerability and adaptation
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WASH FIT	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this guidance is to enhance the capacity of health care facilities to protect and improve the health of their target communities in an unstable and changing climate; and to empower health care facilities to be environmentally sustainable, by optimizing the use of resources and minimizing the release of waste into the environment. Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities contribute to high quality of care and accessibility of services, and by helping reduce facility costs also ensure better affordability. They are, therefore, an important component of universal health coverage (UHC).

This document aims to:

- Guide professionals working in health care settings to understand and effectively prepare for the additional health risks posed by climate change.
- Strengthen capacity to effectively conduct surveillance of climate-related diseases; and monitor, anticipate, manage and adapt to the health risks associated with climate change.
- Guide health care facility officials to work with health determining sectors (including water and sanitation, energy, transportation, food, urban planning, environment) to prepare for the additional health risks posed by climate change through a resilience approach, and promote environmentally sustainable practices in providing services.
- Provide tools to assist health care facility officials assess their resilience to climate change threats, and environmental sustainability based on appropriate use of resources (in particular water and energy and sustainable procurement), and release of hazardous materials (biological, chemical, radiological), into their surrounding environment.
- Promote actions to ensure that health care facilities are constantly and increasingly strengthened and continue to be efficient and responsive to improve health, and contribute to reducing inequities and vulnerability within their local settings.

The guide builds upon *WHO's Operational framework for building climate resilient health systems (1)* by focusing on health care facilities and specifically on opportunities to enhance their climate resilience while also taking steps towards their environmental sustainability. It expands on the information related to the four fundamental requirements for providing safe and quality care in the context of climate change.

- (i) Health workforce: adequate numbers of skilled human resources, with decent working conditions, empowered and informed to respond to these environmental challenges

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