

# Checklists to assess vulnerabilities in health care facilities in the context of climate change

The WHO publication Checklists to Assess vulnerabilities in Health Care Facilities in the Context of Climate Change, along with other checklists, is available on the WHO website at www.who.int/publications/i/item/checklists-vulnerabilities-health-care-facilities-climate-change.

## FLOODS

#### Checklist for assessing climate hazards

ARE THESE AREAS IMPACTED?					
		X Current observ	ved impacts <b>O</b> Pos	ssible impacts with o	changed conditions
CLIMATE HAZARD TYPE	IS HAZARD OR EXPOSURE PRESENT? Yes/No	Health workforce	WASH and health care waste	Energy services	Infrastructure, technologies, products, processes
Flood					
Storm					
Sea-level rise					
Drought					
Heatwave					
Wildfire					
Cold wave					



### FLOODS: checklist for assessing vulnerabilities

WORKFORCE			ility
High: unprepared; unable to respond (Higher risk) Medium: basic or incomplete preparation; low level of response (Medium risk) Low: prepared; able to respond (Lower risk)	High	Medium	Low
Is the health workforce,			
(Human resources)			
provided with programmes for supporting staff with regards to mental health, injuries, medical treatment and related support measures?*			
equipped with an emergency plan for shift relay or replacement of health professionals to ensure that staff get adequate rest?*			
prepared with a contingency plan for accessing additional health workforce to strengthen performance capacity?*			
provided with an information system to manage occupational safety and health in the facility during a flood?			
equipped with an emergency plan to protect health workers from multiple biological and chemical hazards?			
provided with a postflood employee recovery assistance programme according to staff needs?			
equipped with a coordinated plan, including volunteers on standby, to assist during an emergency or to support health professionals?*			
provided with full personal protective equipment, especially for clean-up crews (including waterproof safety boots, goggles, work gloves and masks)?*			
provided with safe water and food during an event?*			
(Capacity development)			
trained on public health and climate change hazards including health impacts related to floods?			
equipped with knowledge, experience, training and resources to manage flood risk reduction at the facility and in the local communities?*			
engaged in the development of plans and responses to flood risk?			
prepared and able to implement risk reduction actions for protecting themselves?			
prepared with a contingency plan for additional health workforce to strengthen performance capacity?*			
prepared with a contingency plan for continuing to provide services at other facilities or in the local communities (health primary care), if necessary?*			
trained to detect posttraumatic stress disorder among staff to take prompt action?*			
trained to manage hazardous chemicals in emergency situations?			
trained to an appropriate standard to maintain the correct level of safety of electrical power supply, in both routine and emergency/disaster situations?*			
(Communication and awareness raising)			



provided with a safe internal communication system, specially in emergency situations?*		
informed on how to use and follow a surveillance system to track health outcomes?		
aware of contingency plans for accessing and leaving the facility during flood emergencies, and health workforce transportation?		
regularly participating in community disaster planning committees to: improve knowledge on how to reduce risks, be prepared and respond to floods, and recover better than before through adaptation measures?*		
prepared with clear messaging about water and food safety during and after a flood?		
prepared with clear messaging, and staff trained on exit and evacuation routes that are clearly marked and free of obstacles to enable emergency evacuation)?*		
equipped with a flood plan or programme with clear instructions on how to proceed during flood emergency situations?		
equipped with a community health educational programme to assist the community to reduce vulnerabilities to flood impacts?		
equipped with a community health educational programme to improve community health in the face of flood risks?		

WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH CARE WASTE		nerab level	ility
High: unprepared; unable to respond (Higher risk) Medium: basic or incomplete preparation; low level of response (Medium risk) Low: prepared; able to respond (Lower risk)	High	Medium	Low
Does the health care facility,			
(Monitoring and assessment)			
have an updated assessment plan to map risks to the sanitation infrastructure in place, and to identify where services could be disrupted from floods?			
verify water safety conditions, including updated risk assessments to map water resources and water supplies for the facility?*			
have a quality monitoring plan for drinking water during and after the event?			
regularly assess its sanitation system for any possible damage in the event of flooding?			
monitor sewer overflows in order to fix pumps in advance of the flood season?			
regularly verify safety conditions and proper functioning of all elements of the water distribution system, including storage tanks, cisterns, valves, pipes and connections, and water disinfection?			
have information on water system installation that ensures lower risk of contamination?			
conduct a waste audit to reduce waste as much as possible?			
(Risk management)			
have a natural floodwater infiltration system to reduce risk of facility flooding?			
have anti-mosquito breeding measures?			



have a schedule for emptying latrines in advance of the flood season to avoid overflows?		
have a safe health care waste storage place?		
have a safe waste disposal system before, during and after floods?		
have an established safe management approach to health care waste transport (including hazardous waste) in case of floods?*		
have chemical, radioactive and biological hazardous waste stored in a safe place and on a level above the ground floor?*		
have water storage tanks appropriately covered to prevent access or contamination, and safety located for flooding events?*		
have onsite water purification equipment to provide safe drinking water?		
have nonreturn valves installed on water supply pipes to prevent backflows?*		
have waste pits able to withstand flood events?		
have a surveillance system for diseases related to water quality and sanitation?*		
keep waste sealed in rubbish bins to avoid rodents?		
(Health and safety regulation)		
have an emergency water supply plan?*		
staff who are trained to an appropriate standard to maintain the correct level of safety of water quality controls, use of supplies and alternative sources?		
have a water safety plan in place, in case of water contamination?*		
have a mechanism or regulation to carry out sanitary inspections of water supply, and when necessary, establish a temporary ban on use, until improvements are made?		
have a contingency plan to ensure effective and timely delivery of safe water during floods and emergencies over the short- and long-term?*		
have a plan to provide and maintain adequate cleaning and disinfection supplies (such as chlorine, filters or other water treatment technology, rapid water testing kit) for water safety?		
have an emergency plan for maintenance and restoration of waste management systems?*		



ENERGY	Vul	nerab level	ility
High: unprepared; unable to respond (Higher risk) Medium: basic or incomplete preparation; low level of response (Medium risk) Low: prepared; able to respond (Lower risk)	High	Medium	Low
Does the health care facility,			
(Monitoring and assessment)			
regularly assess its energy system to ensure that it can cope with flood events?*			
have an emergency backup generator (including fuel, where relevant) that is able to cover at least all critical service areas and equipment during and after a flood event?*			
periodically check emergency backup generators (including fuel, where relevant)?*			
assess whether renewable energy (if available, such as solar) is sufficient to power critical equipment?			
identify priority areas within the facility which would require emergency power during and after a flood event?			
(Risk management)			
have a secure place to protect the backup generator (e.g. an elevated place; including fuel or battery storage, where relevant) from flood waters?*			
have adequate daylight to ensure proper visibility during a power outage?			
have power-operated doors that can easily be opened manually to permit exit in case of power failure?			
have appliance thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer to determine if food, vaccines and other essential refrigeration-dependent medical supplies are safe?			
have a clear guidance to alert staff on safety measures (e.g. never restore power when the power is off, until a professional inspects and ensures the integrity of the electrical system; do not use electrical equipment that has been exposed to flood waters until checked by an electrician; unless power is off, never enter flooded areas or touch electrical equipment if the ground is wet)?			
(Health and safety regulation)			
have an emergency plan for power outages in the short- and long-term (before, during and after a flood)?			
work with energy utility agencies to prevent suspension of electricity services?			
have a management plan for intermittent energy supplies or system failure?			
have a plan or regulation to determine ways to reduce overall energy use?			
have an emergency plan to ensure availability of adequate lighting, communication and information systems, and refrigeration and sterilization equipment during a flood?*			



INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGIES, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES			nerat leve	-
Medium: ba	epared; unable to respond (Higher risk) asic or incomplete preparation; low level of response (Medium risk) red; able to respond (Lower risk)	High	Medium	Low
-	health care facility,			
	n of current systems and infrastructures)	_		_
	dge, experience (considering previous damages) and resources (including rial, financial, supplies chain and logistics) to manage flood risk			
provide great risks and resp	ter advocacy on health workforce education to cover climate change ponses?			
work with the	e local government to support vulnerable local populations to actively risk reduction management, policy making, planning and			
conduct climation	ate risk and vulnerability assessments for all facility sectors to identify s, vulnerabilities and the facility's response capacity?			
	sessed information as a basis to plan and prioritize measures to reduce			
	al planning consider how climate risks may change in the future?			
	es available to adopt risk reduction measures on the building and its e, technologies, products and processes?			
	ate these assessments, considering emerging scientific information?			
	ule to inspect the facility regularly, both internally and externally, for rioration (e.g. cracks or sinking structural elements) to avoid or reduce s?			
	condition and safety of structural and nonstructural elements impacted exposure to flood?*			
have a safe lo situation?*	ocation for critical services and equipment in a flood emergency			
	plan to prevent medical and laboratorial equipment and supplies, and to be exposed to flood waters?			
have procedu	ures to store food and bottled water on shelves that will be safely out of ontaminated water in case of flooding?			
have an effec	tive emergency risk communication plan to reduce risks and impacts for rs and patients?*			
	ngency plan in place for safe and efficient personnel evacuation (including nd patients) before, during and following a flood?*			
	and consistent mechanism for secure evacuation of health workers and			
have a plan to	o transfer critical equipment and medical supplies to another health care a secure storage?			
explore the re of flood threa	elationship between social learning and adaptation measures in the face ats to identify and implement the best behavioural responses from alth facilities?			



have evaluation tools (e.g. forms) to identify damages and minimum needs in terms of health workers and medical supplies to ensure continuous functioning of services?*		
have a mechanism for providing prompt maintenance and repair of equipmentrequired for essential services?		
have a plan for relocating medical devices, medicines, mobile equipment and other supplies and services in case of operational disruption or outbreaks and epidemics that overwhelm the facility?		
have walls protected and insulated against moisture and mold?		
assess the performance and vulnerabilities of each critical part of the facility (structural and nonstructural elements) that can be affected by floods?		
have measures to remove mosquito breeding sites?		
have roof drainage systems for rainfall?*		
have rooftop structures and equipment revised for anticipated increased rainfall?*		
have roofs that are leak-proof and insulated?*		
have machine rooms that are resistant to flooding or rooftop damage?		
ensure removal of equipment and power supplies from basements and ground floor level to avoid damage from flooding?		
have a coordinated mechanism across the health sector in different levels of government, to manage the response and risks resulting from public health emergencies and disasters (including sharing of resources and supplies, transferring of patients, and health workforce support)?*		
have established procedures for procuring, and safely transporting and storing medical devices, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, laboratorial supplies, parenteral nutrition and blood supplies, and other essential medical supplies?		
have established procedures or plans for procuring, transporting and storing bottled water and food supplies during an emergency?*		
have a space within or external to the facility for the storage and stockpiling of additional supplies, considering ease of access, security, temperature, ventilation, light exposure and humidity?		
have a plan to house staff at the health care facility if shelter is required (sleeping areas, food, water)?		
have an established postflood recovery plan of all infrastructure facilities (structural and nonstructural elements)?*		
(Promotion of new systems and technologies)	 	
have an information system between the health sector and meteorological services to communicate about climate hazards?		
have an established plan to review, evaluate and catalogue climate risks related to floods for the health care facility's location?*		
have an established plan to review, evaluate and catalogue risks related to floods for the health care facility's supply chain?*		
have electronic patient health records to make available to other receiving health		
care facilities, in case of evacuation? have information and communication systems safely secured with backup		
arrangements (via cloud, satellite) to satisfy the facility's demand?*		
ensure information and communication flow between the health workforce and policy makers, particularly during high-stress situations and demands created by emergencies?		
have an established, clear and consistent knowledge transfer procedure for a public health emergency?*		



have identified capacities, resources and needs to better cope and manage floods?		
perform site and building maintenance procedures that include specifications on how the weather may affect the safety and continued functioning of the facility?		
have an information system for tracking and monitoring diseases following flood events?		
(Sustainability of health care facility operations)		
have adaptive governance capacity regarding evaluation and measures for risk identification, risk reduction and response?		
have partnerships established between the facility, community and local authorities to reduce vulnerabilities in the surrounding areas?		
have a secure storage for hazardous chemicals to avoid their damage or release during a flood event?*		
have a defined and sustained budget as part of core budgeting for emergency preparedness and response to flood events?*		
have an access route for public transportation which is likely to remain operational during or immediately following a flood event?		
review building code design baselines against rainfall volumes, and map each risk?*		
have trees planted in a secure place that will not block access to the facility or fall on the building during an event?		
have estimates of the consumption (such as amount used per week) of essential medical, pharmaceutical, nutritional and laboratorial supplies, personal protective equipment, food, etc., using the most likely flood scenario?		
undertake risk assessments of the supply chain for essential medical and nonmedical products?		
have a secure plan to ensure continuity of the facility's supply and delivery chain?		
have secure access to essential backup services, such as sterilization, laundry and cleaning services, via multiple agreements with different facilities to maintain functioning of critical services?		
have secure access to essential backup food sources via multiple agreements with different vendors, and through cooperative agreements with other facilities to maintain functioning of critical services?*		

\*For further details see Hospital Safety Index (Reference 2 in the Checklist Guidance). For WASH and health care waste details see WASH FIT (Reference 3 in the Checklist Guidance).



#### FLOODS: checklist for assessing impacts

HEA	LTH WORKFORCE			
Level of impact				
MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR		
<ul> <li>Deaths or life-threatening injuries or illness (e.g. drowning, hypothermia and infectious diseases, such as diarrhoeal diseases, leptospirosis, cholera, vectorborne diseases)</li> <li>Health professionals are not able to arrive at or depart from the health care facility</li> <li>Large loss of work capacity</li> <li>Cessation of critical programmes or services</li> <li>Significantly reduced performance capacity of health workforce needing additional support (local, regional or national)</li> <li>Effects on mental health of staff due to disaster trauma, loss of a family member, friends or patients</li> <li>Increased demand for health services from infectious diseases (water-, food-and vector-borne diseases), animal bites (including poisonous animals), respiratory infections, zoonotic diseases (rodentborne diseases such as, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, leptospirosis), noncommunicable diseases, electrical shock and toxic chemicals exposure</li> <li>Increased health workforce overload and stress</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Serious harm, injury or illness requiring hospitalization or medical treatment</li> <li>Health professionals have difficulty in arriving at or departing from the health care facility</li> <li>Reduction in health workforce functions</li> <li>Restrictions to provide services and programmes</li> <li>Unable to provide adequate care to patients</li> <li>Increased work overload along with stress</li> <li>Facility overcrowding lacease cases among health workers from water and health care waste contamination</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Minor injuries to health workers, not requiring immediate medical treatment</li> <li>Difficulty in providing usual treatment and medication</li> <li>Reduced primary services at home for communities</li> <li>Service delivery and programme delays</li> </ul>		



WASH AN	D HEALTH CARE WASTE					
	Level of impact					
MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR				
<ul> <li>Damage to water supply and storage infrastructure</li> <li>Disruption of wastewater and sewage systems</li> <li>Water contamination</li> <li>Shortage of safe water</li> <li>Unable to provide hygiene services</li> <li>Damage to waste storage causing environmental contamination by biological and chemical hazards</li> <li>Lost sharps containers and hazardous waste bins</li> <li>Damage to emergency water sources</li> <li>Toilets unavailable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Temporary water supply interruption</li> <li>Reduced capacity to provide safe water for drinking or cooking</li> <li>Reduced capacity to provide disinfection or sterilization processes</li> <li>Cross-contamination from damages to sewage system</li> <li>Reduced water quality as animal faeces and sewage get washed into surface water</li> <li>Reduced capacity to maintain waste collection and treatment systems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reduced capacity to access drinking water</li> <li>Reduced capacity to use toilets, showers, etc.</li> <li>Reduced capacity to use laundry and dishwashing machines</li> <li>Reduced capacity to provide cleaning services (floor, toilets, patient rooms, emergency rooms)</li> <li>Heavy sediment and pollution loads make treatment ineffective</li> <li>Possible rodent infestation around rubbish bins</li> </ul>				



	ENERGY				
	Level of impact				
MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR			
<ul> <li>Power failure</li> <li>Shutdown of cold storage systems</li> <li>Interruption in providing health care services that require electricity such as dialysis, oxygen therapy, diagnosis equipment</li> <li>Loss of vaccines, laboratorial supplies, drugs, parenteral nutrition and blood supplies, pharmaceuticals, food supply, and other essential refrigeration-dependent medical supplies</li> <li>Damage to emergency generator or other sources of energy</li> <li>Disruption of the fuel supply chain</li> <li>Disruption of energy-dependent water pumping and treatment systems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Temporary power supply interruption</li> <li>Difficulty in providing critical health care service deliveries (dialysis, oxygen therapy, diagnosis equipment), causing patients to be evacuated to other health facilities</li> <li>Reduced capacity to provide services that need electricity (laundry, dishwashing machines, etc.)</li> <li>Reduced capacity to provide disinfection services that need electricity (autoclave, microwave, water boiler)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No ambient cooling</li> <li>Loss of food or difficulty in refrigerating food</li> <li>Reduced capacity to follow boil water advisories</li> </ul>			



Level of impact		
MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
<ul> <li>Flood damage or destruction of structural components (full or parts of the facility)</li> <li>Partial destruction by floods causing land erosion</li> <li>Blocked transport systems and flooded ambulance stations</li> <li>Damage to building access</li> <li>Damage to critical equipment</li> <li>Damage of internal and external communication and information systems</li> <li>Loss or damage of health care facility essential supplies (medications, medical devices, drugs, laboratorial supplies, blood, pharmaceuticals, vaccines)</li> <li>Interruption of complex and emergency health care services (surgery, complex treatments, urgent care)</li> <li>Disruption of health care services delivery and operation</li> <li>Cessation of services or prolonged disruption of services due to loss or damage</li> <li>Breakdown of routine health care services (such as ambulatory, immunization, maternity room, pharmacy, medication for chronic diseases, dental, and other primary services)</li> <li>Interruption of diagnosis due to equipment damage</li> <li>Contamination of medical devices, instruments and equipment</li> <li>Interruption of supply chains</li> <li>Long-term effect on the environment needing external assistance/interventions systems (elevators, ramps, corridors)</li> <li>Increased immediate and long-term costs to recover from damage</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Disruption to communication and information systems and assets</li> <li>Damage to road, disrupting access to health care facility</li> <li>Difficulty in transporting patients due to damaged or disabled transportation systems</li> <li>Reduced capacity to deliver health care services due to damage and reduced supplies</li> <li>Temporary suspension of service deliveries</li> <li>Damage to paper medical record storage</li> <li>Reduced capacity to access clinical and laboratorial supplies</li> <li>Increased hospitalization rates requiring extra medical supplies and health workforce</li> <li>High demand for cleaning services in all facility buildings after flood event requiring extra personal protective equipment</li> <li>Increased demand in costs for repairing or buying damaged or lost medical equipment and devices, needed for short-term recovery</li> <li>Increased costs due to necessary postflood repairs</li> <li>Increased costs for repairing all damaged administrative equipment and furniture</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Localized disruption of services with minor loss and damage</li> <li>Damage or loss to health care facility documents and records</li> <li>No lasting effects on the external health care facility environment</li> <li>Minimal impact on local operations and equipment that do not compromise health care service deliveries</li> <li>Minimal impact on the supply chain, which can continue to support health care facility needs</li> <li>Possible mold, indoor and outdoor, requiring special cleaning-up or essential personal protective equipment for cleaners</li> <li>Increased demand for providing cleaning and disinfection supplies</li> </ul>

#### INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGIES, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES



#### FLOODS: proposed response actions

HEALTH WORKFORCE
WASH AND HEALTH CARE WASTE
ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGIES, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES