

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.

SEA-LEVEL RISE

Checklist for assessing climate hazards

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



SEA-LEVEL RISE: checklist for assessing vulnerabilities

	WORKFORCE	Vul	nerak Ievel	-
	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)			
_	aware of the potential risks of sea-level rise to the health care facility and to themselves?			
	equipped with with a programme for assistance for mental health, injuries, medical treatment, etc.)?*			
	protected from impacts of storm surges?			
	equipped with an emergency plan to protect health workers from multiple biological and chemical hazards?*			
	provided with full personal protective equipment, especially, for clean-up crews (including waterproof safety boots, goggles, work gloves and masks)?*			
	(Capacity development)			
	equipped with knowledge, experience, training and resources to manage risks and to be prepared to address actions to reduce impacts from sea-level rise?*			
	prepared and able to implement risk reduction actions and recover better than before the event?			
_	trained on public health climate change issues related to effects of sea-level rise on human health?*			
_	trained to manage hazardous chemicals in emergency situations?*			
	engaged in the development of plans and responses to sea-level rise and storm surge risks?			
_	prepared and able to implement risk reduction actions for protecting themselves?			
	prepared with a contingency plan for storm surges and floods?			
	trained to maintain correct level of water safety, quality control and treatment supplies, in both routine and sea-level rise related events?			
_	trained in multihazard assessments?			
	trained to an appropriate standard to maintain the correct level of safety of electrical power supply, in both routine and emergency/disaster situations?*			
_	trained to detect posttraumatic stress disorder among staff to take prompt action?*			
	(Communication and awareness raising)			
	provided with an established information system for managing occupational safety and health in emergency situations?			
	regularly participating in community disaster planning committees to: improve knowledge on how to reduce risks, be prepared and respond to sea-level rise risks,			
	and recover better than before through adaptation measures?*			
	aware of contingency plans for accessing and leaving the facility during flood, erosion			



and storm surge emergencies, and health workforce transportation?			
provided with a contingency plan for continuing to provide services at other facilities or in communities (primary health care), if necessary?*			
prepared with clear messaging about water and food safety during and after a storm surge event?			
informed on how to reduce risks and vulnerabilities to flood and storm surge events resulting from sea-level rise?			
WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH CARE WASTE	Vu	Inera	bility
WATER, SARTIATION AND HEALTH CARE WASTE		leve	_
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 water and sanitation infrastructure in place to identify where services could be disrupted from sea-level rise?			
regularly assess its sanitation system for any possible damage from sea-level rise impacts?*			
have an evaluation system to monitor its water system or supply before, during and after a strom surge event?			
have a contingency plan for monitoring and reducing contaminant concentrations in the facility's water supply system?			
regularly verify safety conditions and proper functioning of all elements of the water distribution system as early action for sea-level rise (e.g. storage tanks, cisterns, valves, pipes and connections, and water disinfection)?*			
have a water quality monitoring plan for human consumption?			
(Risk management)			
have a mechanism to protect freshwater sources around the facility from all types of contamination, including saline intrusion?			
have a safe water and wastewater management system for sea-level rise impacts, including standing water near the facility?			
store waste in a safe place to avoid release in case of flooding?*			
store hazardous chemical, radioactive and biological waste in a safe place and on a level above the ground floor?*			
have a schedule for emptying latrines regularly and in advance of flooding from high tides to avoid overflows?			
have safe waste disposal of debris after a high tide event?			
have an established safe management approach for health care waste transport (including hazardous waste) during and after a flood event due to sea-level rise?			
provide appropriate covers for water storage tanks to prevent damage, water contamination and saline water intrusion in case of flooding related to sea-level rise?			
have nonreturn valves installed in water supply pipes to prevent backflows, in case of	П	П	П

flooding?

build waste pits to withstand flood events?



-	have onsite water purification equipment to provide safe drinking water?			
	(Health and safety regulation)			
	have an alternative water source to supply the facility?*			
-	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 mid-term?*	Ш	Ш	Ш
-	have a coordinated cross-sectoral water management plan to protect local or	$\overline{\Box}$	\Box	П
_	alternative water sources?			
	ENERGY	Vul	nerab	ilitv
	ENERG!		level	_
	High: unprepared; unable to respond (Higher risk)		۶	
	Medium: basic or incomplete preparation; low level of response (Medium risk)	High	dig	Low
	Low: prepared; able to respond (Lower risk)	工	Medium	۲
-	Does the health care facility,			
-	(Monitoring and assessment)		_	_
	regularly assess its energy system to ensure that it can cope with sea-level rise events (including flooding)?*	Ш	Ш	Ш
	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 the event?*			
_	periodically check the emergency backup generator (including fuel, where relevant)?*			
	assess whether renewable energy (if available, such as solar) is sufficient to power			
-	critical equipment? (Risk management)			
-	have a secure place to protect the backup generator (e.g. an elevated place; including	\Box	$\overline{\Box}$	
_	fuel or battery storage, where relevant) from damage?*			ш
	have appliance thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer to determine if food,			
-	vaccines and other essential refrigeration-dependent medical supplies are safe? have adequate daylight to ensure proper visibility during power outage?		_	
-		_빌	<u></u>	<u> </u>
	have power-operated doors that can be opened manually to permit exit in case of power failure?	Ш	Ш	Ш
-	have a safety backup for telecommunication and information systems (e.g. via cloud			
-	and satellite)?*			
	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	Ш	Ш	Ш
	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 sea-level rise flood event)? work with energy utility agencies to prevent suspension of electricity services?		_	
-		_ <u></u>	 	<u> </u>
	have a management plan for intermittent energy supplies or system failure?	Ш	Ш	Ш



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, as well as refrigeration and sterilization equipment during a flood?*		

INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGIES, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES	Vuli	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,			
(Adaptation of current systems and infrastructures)			
provide health workforce training to cover climate change risks and responses regarding sea-level rise?			
have a monitoring and early warning system integrated with other areas to manage and reduce risks from storm surges and floods related to sea-level rise?			
have knowledge, experience (considering previous damages) and resources (including human, material, financial, supplies chain and logistics) to manage risks from sea-level rise?			
work with the local government to support vulnerable local populations to actively participate in risk reduction management, policy making, planning and implementation?			
map the facility's location relative to sea-level rise hazards?			
assess the performance and vulnerabilities of each critical part of the facility (structural and nonstructural elements) that can be affected by sea-level rise hazards?*			
have a plan for assessing vulnerable public infrastructure along the coastal area of the health facility (e.g. transit systems and roads, water and sewage systems, energy infrastructure, alternative route for other health care facilities, logistics and supply chain for medical and laboratorial supplies, drinking water, food and other supplies)?*			
in their annual planning consider how climate risks may change in future?			
have resources available to adopt risk reduction measures to the facility and its infrastructure, technologies, products and processes?			
regularly update these assessments, considering emerging scientific information?			
have a schedule to inspect the facility regularly, both internally and externally, for signs of deterioration (e.g. broken plaster, cracks, corrosion, or sinking structural elements) to avoid or reduce sea-level rise impacts?			
evaluate the condition and safety of structural and nonstructural elements impacts resulting from previous exposure to sea-level rise event?*			
have evaluation tools (e.g. forms) to check and identify damages and the minimum needs in terms of health workers, medical supplies and other essential supplies and services to ensure that operational care service functions continue during and after a storm surge event?*			
have funding to protect the facility and vulnerable assets from sea-level rise?			
have an evacuation plan to transfer critical medical, laboratorial and administration equipment to another health care facility or to a safety storage or location in a storm surge emergency situation?			



have established procedures for safely procuring, transporting and storing medical supplies (medical devices, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, laboratorial supplies, parenteral nutrition and blood supplies, and other essential health care supplies)?			
have established procedures for safely procuring, transporting and storing bottled water and food supplies during an emergency?*			
have an effective emergency risk communication plan to reduce risks and impacts for health workers and patients?*			
have a contingency plan in place for safe and efficient personnel evacuation (including health staff and patients) before, during and following a flooding or a storm surge?*			
have a clear and consistent mechanism for secure evacuation of health workers and patients?*			
have evacuation routes above flood elevation?*			
have a plan to transfer critical equipment and medical supplies to another facility or to a safe storage?			
implement anti-mosquito breeding measures?			
have walls protected and insulated against moisture and mold?			
have machine rooms resistant to storm surge damage?			
have water-resistant interior construction?			
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 of public health emergencies and disasters (including sharing of resources and supplies, transferring of patients, and health workforce support)?*			
estimate the possible risks and losses, and adapt to reduce impacts?			
(Promotion of new systems and technologies)			
have an information system between the health sector and meteorological services to communicate about storm surge hazards?			
have electronic patient health records to make available to other receiving health care facilities in case of evacuation?			
have implemented measures to respond to sea-level rise scenarios and threats (e.g. seawater pump stations, floodplain mapping, assessing future sea-level rise impacts)?			
have mitigation measures in place to respond to sea-level rise scenarios and threats identified, including engineering, planning, as well as preparedness solutions for the facility and community surroundings (e.g. stormwater pump stations, floodplain mapping, assessing future climate change impacts)?			
(Sustainability of health care facility operations)			
review building code design baselines against sea-level rise to assess the risks, impacts and possible loss?			
have adaptive governance capacity regarding evaluation and measures for risk identification, risk reduction and response to sea-level rise conditions?			
have established partnerships between the facility, community and local authorities to reduce vulnerabilities in the surrounding areas?			
have health care coalitions and partnerships with local health care providers for strategic decision-making on health services and clinical resources?			
have a route for public transportation which is likely to remain operational during or immediately following a flood event?			
have salt-resistant trees and plants?			
have trees planted in a secure place that will not block access to the facility or fall on	$\overline{\Box}$	П	$\overline{\Box}$



have a secure storage for hazardous chemicals to avoid their damage or release during an event?*		
undertake risk assessments of the supply chain for essential medical and nonmedical products?		
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 during or immediately following an event?		
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 during or immediately following an event?*		
have a coordinated plan with municipal health department heads to ensure appropriate preparations for ongoing sea-level rise?*		
have a postflood recovery plan related to sea-level rise for the entire infrastructure (structural and nonstructural elements) of the facility (e.g. clearance, removal and disposal of debris; demolition of critically damaged, or repair of less damaged, structural elements; reposition of equipment and furniture; reassessment of risks)?*		
have a plan to consider relocating the facility?*		

^{*}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).



SEA-LEVEL RISE: checklist for assessing impacts

HEA	LTH WORKFORCE	
	Level of impact	
MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
☐ Increased risk of indoor mold growth from excess dampness, with impacts on respiratory disease ☐ Health professionals not able to arrive or depart from the health care facility ☐ Loss of work capacity ☐ Increased demand for health care due to infectious and noncommunicable diseases (renal effects, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases) and injuries (electrical shocks, chemical exposure) ☐ Cessation of several programmes or services with possible overflow of patients to other locations	□ Possible increased risk of infectious diseases for the health workforce from water and health care waste contamination □ High water salinity leading to increased risk of hypertension in the health workforce □ Minor injuries to health workers requiring short-term medical treatment □ Significantly reduced performance capacity needing additional support (local, regional or national) □ Restrictions to provide health care services and programmes □ Increased work overload resulting in stress	Reduction of health workforce functions Service delivery and programme delays Minor injuries to health workers not requiring immediate medical treatment



WASH AND HEALTH CARE WASTE Level of impact **MAJOR MODERATE MINOR** $oldsymbol{\square}$ Permanent damage to water, ☐ Saltwater intrusion in ☐ Increased water and wastewater and sewage infrastructure water and wastewater wastewater systems containment systems management and repairs leading to reduced due to inundation or ☐ Increased saltwater intrusion into capacity for water erosion aquifers, resulting in increased salinity treatment and distribution ☐ Shortage of safe water of groundwater basins and well water ☐ Limited access to water ☐ Water contamination ☐ Damage to alternative for drinking and cooking emergency water ☐ No access to drinking water ☐ Reduced volume of stored sources Leakage from septic tanks, sewer freshwater ☐ Reduced capacity to systems and instability of storage tanks Reduced capacity to provide safe cleaning and pipes provide disinfection or services (floor, toilets, ☐ Increased corrosion of the water and sterilization processes and patient rooms, wastewater drainage system hygiene services emergency room and ☐ Possible contamination of medical other rooms of the ☐ Surface water ingress into devices, instruments and equipment facility) septic tanks leading to ☐ Risk of environmental contamination by overflow of effluents into ☐ Reduced capacity to use biological and chemical hazards laundry and dishwashing streams, rivers and oceans Loss of water pumping and treatment machines ☐ Risk of sharps containers systems and specific biological and ☐ Possible damage to medical waste bins lost or emergency water damaged sources



	ENERGY	
	Level of impact	
MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
□ Damage to power lines causing outage □ Power failures □ Shutdown of cold storage systems □ Interruption of health care services which require electricity such as dialysis, oxygen therapy, diagnostic equipment □ Disruption of internal and external communication and information systems □ Disruption of the fuel supply chain	☐ Disruption of electricity generation and delivery ☐ Reduced capacity to follow boil water advisories ☐ Possible damage to emergency generator or other sources of energy ☐ Reduced capacity to provide critical health care service deliveries such as dialysis, oxygen therapy, diagnosis equipment ☐ Patients need to be transferred to other locations ☐ Loss of vaccines, laboratorial supplies, drugs, pharmaceuticals, milk, parenteral nutrition and blood supplies, and other essential refrigeration-dependent medical supplies	☐ Temporary power supply interruption ☐ Possible delay in restarting power, thereby affecting health care ☐ Reduced capacity to provide cleaning services that need electricity (laundry, dishwashing machines) ☐ No ambient cooling ☐ Loss of food or difficulty in providing food refrigeration Reduced capacity to provide disinfection services that need electricity



INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

Level of impact **MAJOR MODERATE** MINOR ☐ Infrastructure damage (structural Localized disruption of and nonstructural; full or parts of the and nonstructural; full or parts of services with minor loss the facility) and damage facility) ☐ Building collapse from coastal erosion Partial disruption of health care ☐ Increase in costs to and material corrosion facility functions resulting from maintain and repair the coastal erosion or corrosion facility building and its ☐ Increased water treatment assets Disruption of the food chain due (desalinization process) to saline intrusion in agriculture ☐ Damage or loss of ☐ Increased maintenance and repair of documents and medical the facility building ☐ Damage to road access Ongoing facility flooding during high Difficulty in transporting patients ☐ Minor impact on local due to damaged or disabled tides operations without transportation systems ☐ Blocked transport systems and compromising health care flooded ambulance stations ☐ Reduced capacity to deliver services health care services due to ☐ Blocked building access ☐ Minimal impact on the damage and reduced access to ☐ Damage to critical medical equipment supply chain clinical, laboratorial and medical ☐ Damage to essential supplies supplies ☐ Short-term negative (medications, treatments, medical effect on the environment ☐ Temporary suspension of service devices, drugs, laboratorial supplies, deliveries pharmaceuticals, vaccines, blood, High demand for cleaning milk, nutritional supplies and other services for the entire facility critical supplies) requiring prompt building, after a flood event repositioning Long-term effect on the ☐ Interruption in complex and environment needing external emergency health care services assistance/interventions (surgery, complex treatments, urgent ☐ Increased costs from the water care, blood banks, etc.) desalinization process ☐ Disruption of health care service Possible replacement of sections delivery and operations, such as ambulatory, immunization, maternity of the health facility's building room, pharmacy, medication for ☐ Increased costs due to demand chronic diseases, and other primary for repositioning of all damaged services or lost medical equipment and Cessation of services or prolonged devices service disruption due to loss or ☐ Increased demand for providing damage all necessary essential or critical ☐ Interruption of supply chains supplies (medications, treatments, medical devices, ☐ Damage to internal access systems drugs, laboratorial supplies, (e.g. elevators, ramps, corridors, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, milk, garage) parenteral nutritional and blood ☐ Increased costs of building supplies, and other critical maintenance supplies) ☐ Damage to medical and ☐ Increased costs of recovery of administration equipment and infrastructure, postevent furniture



SEA-LEVEL RISE: proposed response actions

HEALTH WORKFORCE
WASH AND HEALTH CARE WASTE
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ENERGY
ENERGY
ENERGY ENERGY
-NERGY
NFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGIES, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES