Terms of Reference
Development of a hospital safety assessment tool and conducting safe hospital assessment for selected hospitals in Sri Lanka

1. Background

1.1 Introduction

In emergencies, disasters and other crises, a community must be able to protect the lives and well-being of the affected population, particularly in the minutes and hours immediately following impact or exposure. The ability of health services to function without interruption in these situations is a matter of life and death.

The continued functioning of health services relies on a number of key factors, namely: that health services are housed in structures (such as hospitals or other facilities) that can resist exposures and forces from all types of hazards; medical equipment is in good working order and is protected from damage; community infrastructure and critical services (such as water, electricity etc.) are available to support the health services; and health personnel are able to provide medical assistance in safe and secure settings when they are most needed.

The Safe Hospitals Initiative, started in the Americas in 2004, has influenced the thinking of the 168 United Nations Member States, leading to the commitment as a goal for 2015 that all new hospitals should be built in such a way that continued operation in disasters is ensured and that existing hospitals should progressively improve their safety levels in this respect. A safe hospital is a facility whose services remain accessible and functioning at maximum capacity and within the same infrastructure immediately following a natural disaster. The term 'safe hospital' encompasses all health facilities, regardless of their level of complexity.

The development of instruments for safety evaluations, in order to understand and analyze the situation of hospitals, compare results, and prioritize interventions, proved to be the best strategy to move from theory to practice, giving priority to interventions in those critical services for which continuous operation can represent the difference between life and death.

Strategic Plan for Health Sector Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response in Sri Lanka has introduced safe hospital initiative as a priority area of action. In order to enhance the structural, non-structural and functional capacities of hospitals, assessment of safety of hospitals is a mandatory requirement. Safe hospital initiative is a methodology used by many countries to improve the hospital preparedness for emergencies/disasters. However, the pilot study conducted in 2018-2019 utilizing the WHO hospital safety index and the guidebook found out that it cannot be directly adopted to Sri Lanka given the unique epidemiology of emergencies/disasters of our country. Nevertheless, conducting a safe hospital
assessment using a tool to the suitable country context will identify areas to be improved in short term, medium term and long-term basis, in order to improve the hospital preparedness for emergencies/disasters.

1.2 Objective

1. To develop a hospital safety assessment tool to assess the structural, non-structural and functional vulnerabilities of healthcare institutions considering the emergency/disaster epidemiology in Sri Lanka.
2. To conduct safe hospital assessments for 15 hospitals strategically positioned in Sri Lanka utilizing the newly developed tool. (List of hospitals annexed)
3. To conduct meetings at each hospital (15 meetings with 25 participants in each) to share the findings of the safe hospital assessments at each hospital.

2. Planned timelines

The activity is to be completed by 15 February 2023

3. Requirements

3.1 Work to be performed:

The contractual partner is expected to conduct the following:

- Submit a detailed proposal on the plan to develop the hospital safety assessment tool for Sri Lanka to assess the structural, non-structural and functional vulnerability of healthcare institutions considering the emergency/disaster epidemiology in Sri Lanka, considering other available tools
- The consultant should submit a detailed proposal to the WHO of how he/she will plan to how he/she is planning to conduct the safe hospital assessments utilizing the newly developed tool and to conduct the finding sharing meetings at each hospital

The contractual partner is expected to work under the overall supervision of the WHO Representative to Sri Lanka and in close collaboration with relevant WHO technical staff and focal points of the Ministry of Health.

3.2 Deliverables

- Submission of the newly developed hospital safety assessment tool – Sri Lanka
- Present preliminary findings of 10 hospitals to WHO and Ministry of Health focal points
• Submission of the final safe hospital assessment report and present final findings to WHO and Ministry of Health focal points

4. Expected characteristics of the provider

The contractual agency shall:
• Comprised of an expert/ team of experts with higher university degree in civil/ structural engineering or a related discipline
• Have a lead consultant with a minimum 5 years of experience in the fields of civil/ structural engineering or facilities management including facility safety management.
• Have prior experience in conducting national/ international projects of similar caliber.

Desirable
• Past experience in conducting safety assessments in healthcare facilities.

Curriculum vitae of the identified expert/s should be annexed to the proposal.

5. Place of assignment

Sri Lanka; travel to hospital locations necessary

[Signature]

27/10/2022
Annex: List of Hospitals

1. Teaching Hospital Kuliapitiya
2. Colombo East Base Hospital
3. District General Hospital Hambantota
4. Teaching Hospital Peradeniya
5. Base Hospital Akkaraipattu
6. Base Hospital Mahiyanganaya
7. Base Hospital Panadura
8. Base Hospital Tangalle
9. District General Hospital Nuwara-Eliya
10. Base Hospital Elpitiya
11. Base Hospital Marawila
12. Base Hospital Nikaweratiya
13. Base Hospital Warakapola
14. Teaching Hospital Rathnapura
15. Base Hospital Dehiattakandiya