

# What it takes to develop **Climate-resilient** health systems in Asia Pacific?

Caitlin McNamara<sup>a</sup>, Manjit Sohal<sup>b</sup>, Wynken Gelito<sup>b</sup>, Connie Gan<sup>a</sup>

- <sup>a</sup> School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University
- <sup>b</sup> Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia

## Asia Pacific Roundtable Key Findings

# **Background**

A <u>rapid assessment</u> of existing climate resilience guidance frameworks and assessment tools for healthcare systems and facilities to answer the question, what do we need to have truly climate-resilient health systems?

# Methodology

<u>literature review</u> of current research and a stocktake of existing frameworks and assessment tools, in which common principles and notable gaps are discussed. The Asia Pacific perspective was captured through a <u>roundtable discussion</u> among policymakers and practitioners which informed the conceptualization and interpretation.

## **Results**

Within the literature, there is a clear consensus that healthcare operations, especially high use from hospitals, contribute significantly to greenhouse emissions. It is clear from this review that most frameworks and assessment tools attempted to address both disaster risk and emissions, most remain as a concept with <u>limited</u> <u>evidence</u> that interventions guarantee climate-resilience health systems.

#### **Global South**

Impacts of climate change more prevalent in Global South, focus is on vulnerabilities and resilience to crisis.

#### Inequality

How does climate-resilient healthcare contribute to achieving health equity.



#### Socio-political

Considerable social and political obstacles to implementing climate-resilient healthcare.

#### Policy

The need for local/ regional policies, processes and mechanisms to implement climate-resilient healthcare.

### **Empowerment**

Emphasis on empowering the healthcare workforce through training and leadership.

## **Discussion**

- Mitigation vs Adaptation vs Resilience, and conversely Disaster Planning vs Emissions, what is the priority or primary outcome?
- \* How to incorporate climate-health impacts and climate-sensitive disease burden into clinical pathways?
- \* How to prioritize sustainability [or more specifically emission control] during a disaster, health emergency or pandemic?
- Limited resources to address dual disasters and multi-hazard health emergencies, what are the consequences?
- \* There are no widely available metrics and indices to test the effectiveness of climate-resilient health care interventions.
- Base-line function, how to get health care functioning at optimum levels prior to excessive climate impacts?
- What is the scope of the health care sector and systems e.g. should supply chain and outsourcing be included?



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