

### (A287) Who Regional Office for Europe - Health Systems Crisis Preparedness Assessment Tool

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**Objectives:** Health crises are often unpredictable and may occur at any place or time. Communities are particularly vulnerable when local and national systems, specifically health systems, are unable to cope with the consequences of a crisis, usually because they are overwhelmed by a sudden increase in demand or because the institutions that underpin them are fragile and cannot deliver what is required. The World Health Organization (WHO) Europe Health System Crisis Preparedness Assessment Tool aims to provide guidance to ministries of health and other relevant authorities on evaluation and strengthening of their health system's capacities for crisis management.

**Methods:** Based on an all hazard approach, an assessment tool was developed which comprises essential attributes considered vital for countries to meet the challenges of future health crises. The foundation of the tool derived from expert consultation workshops and pilot testing in eight countries in the WHO European Region.

**Results:** The tool lists essential attributes with respective indicators crucial for evaluating and identifying gaps in health system crisis preparedness. The assessment tool is structured according to the six building blocks of the WHO health system framework and is complemented by a user manual, allowing countries to apply a self-assessment approach. The tool is intended for use by ministries of health or other relevant institutions.

**Conclusions:** The tool may help determine the current status of health system crisis preparedness and facilitate the development of a prioritized plan of action that addresses any gaps identified. When used regularly the tool will help monitor progress.

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### (A288) World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe All-Hazard Hospital Emergency Preparedness Checklist

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**Objectives:** Hospitals play a critical role in communities to provide essential medical care during all types of disaster. Depending on their scope and nature, disasters can lead to rapidly increasing service demand that can overwhelm the functional capacity and safety of hospitals and the health care system at large. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe All-Hazard Hospital Emergency Preparedness Checklist aims to assist hospital administrators and disaster managers in preparing health facilities to respond effectively to the most likely disaster scenarios.

**Methods:** A checklist tool was developed that comprises current hospital-based emergency management principles and

techniques, and integrates applications specific to hospital preparedness needs in the WHO European Region.

**Results:** A list of recommended actions within critical service categories is provided in a step-wise, all-hazard form for rapid implementation by hospital administrators and disaster managers in response to the most likely types of disaster.

**Conclusions:** The principles and recommendations provided in this tool may be used by hospitals at any level of emergency preparedness. The checklist is not intended to replace standards and protocols already defined in hospital emergency management plans. Rather, it provides recommendations to enhance existing plans in concert with national guidelines.

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### (A289) Developing Damage Assessment Methodology with Community Participation — Case Study of the 2010 Leh Flash Flood

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The frequency of catastrophic events has increased considerably in recent times. As a result, impacts of such catastrophes have multiplied exponentially. It is the responsibility of the government to revive and reconstruct the communities and economies affected by disasters. Domestic institutions should be resilient enough to absorb the shocks and mitigate the impacts. Too often, damage assessments rely on quantification in terms of monetary valuations of damage. This approach has created various distortions in valuation. Damage evaluation in developed countries is higher because of the monetary value of infrastructure and housing. On the contrary, in a poor, informal settlement, the value of the damage is less, but the impact is huge from a human development perspective. The government follows a standard procedure for items and means of assistance for initiating post-disaster recovery and response. All affected families are entitled to compensation based on the damage done to life and property, irrespective of socio-economic conditions. All items are listed beforehand, with their monetary values ascertained respectively. This paper examines Leh (Ladakh, India), which was struck by heavy flash flood in the month August 2010. It explores the methodology adopted for damage assessment in 42 affected villages of Leh. This case study demonstrates the inherent drawbacks of the standard procedure and methodology in assessing post-disaster damage and needs assessments, and analyzes the role of community participation in household and community damage assessment. The paper presents recommendations for a flexible and accommodating approach for conducting damage assessments on a contextual basis.

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### (A290) Coordinated Hospital Disaster Response: A Detailed Assessment of Leadership

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**Introduction:** The Hospital Preparedness Program, prompted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, emphasizes the value of developing