Building Climate Resilient Health Systems

Global Conference ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Pan American Health Organization

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

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Health System Gains Since Alma Ata

- Sustained long-term economic development
- Significant improvements in life expectancies and health outcomes
- Health systems are more inclusive and responsive
- Access to health services continues to expand
- Implementation of the IHR heightens the response capacity of the health system
- Policies geared towards UAH and UHC improve fiscal space for health and the financial protection of individuals
- Increasing efforts to ensure health in all policies address the social determinants of health

Health Systems in the Americas: Clear and Present Dangers

- Health system remain highly vulnerable to risks that directly impact the capacity of systems to respond to population needs
- Climate change and its impact present major risks to vulnerable health systems:
  - Increased risk of injury, disease and death due to more intense heat waves and fires
  - Increased risks of food- and waterborne diseases
  - Increased risks of vector-borne diseases
  - Increased risk of undernutrition resulting from diminished food production in poor regions
  - Consequences on workers' health include lost work capacity and reduced labour productivity in vulnerable populations and migration
  - natural and other types of disasters more frequent and intense
  - economic downturns
- Erosion of health gains
- Negative impact on national socio-economic development
- Challenges with attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Commitment of PAHO/WHO Member States

- Recalling relevant global frameworks and agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the International Health Regulations
- Commitment to the Strategy for UAH and UHC (2014), the values of solidarity and equity, and the urgent need for the majority of countries to strengthen their health systems
- Resilient health systems policy (CD 55/9) approved by PAHO Member States at the 55th Directing Council – CD 55.R8
- Development of WHO Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient Health Systems

Building a Climate Resilient Health System

- A climate resilient health system is able to:
  - anticipate
  - respond to
  - cope with
  - recover from and adapt to climate-related shocks and stress
- The goal of the WHO Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient Health Systems:
  - to enhance the capacity of health systems to protect and improve population health in an unstable and changing climate.
  - resilient to climate variability and change
- By 2030 all health systems in Small Island Developing States:
  - are reducing carbon emissions to protect the most vulnerable from climate risks;
  - and to gain the health co-benefits of mitigation policies

Building a Climate Resilient Health System

- Resilient Health Systems must be developed within the framework:
  - Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Develop resilience in health systems through integration of actions in the core policy areas of health system strengthening:
  - social determinants of health,
  - risk reduction,
  - public health surveillance and disease outbreak management,
  - implemented within the framework of national sustainable development objectives

Building a Climate Resilient Health System

- Build reserve capacity:
  - in health workers, financing, medicines, and health technologies) to scale up the response of health services in the event of an acute or sustained risk to the system
  - to support and coordinate the response of the health service network to the needs of individuals and the community
- Implement a holistic and multisectoral approach to the IHR:
  - developing, strengthening, and maintaining the capacities and functions called for in the Regulations, as part of strengthening essential public health functions,
  - embedding the Regulations in national health policy and planning processes, in legislative actions and regulatory frameworks, and in efforts to strengthen the capacity of institutions, networks, and human resources to respond to disease outbreaks of international concern;
  - work with other partners to support States Parties' IHR implementation

Integration of IHR with Health Systems Functions

- Integration of the IHR with the Essential Public Health Functions;
- developing, strengthening, and maintaining the capacities and functions called for in the Regulations.
- embedding the Regulations in national health policy and planning processes, in legislative actions and regulatory frameworks,
- all in efforts to strengthen the capacity of institutions, networks, and human resources to respond to disease outbreaks of international concern

Building a Climate Resilient Health System

- Strengthen health information systems that support
  - the identification and isolation of public health risks,
  - capture in a timely manner impending risks, and
  - support measured and targeted responses,
  - reporting on system capacity (e.g., health service delivery and utilization, human resource mapping, availability of health financing, and availability of medicines and health technologies),
  - and decision making related to rapid reorganization of health systems and services;

Building a Climate Resilient Health System

- Maintain and increase investments in health systems and actions to improve their resilience, in line with the orientations of the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage
- As appropriate, strengthen the Integrated Health Services Networks (IHSNs) within countries, and build networks among countries with a special focus on health in border areas.

Making Healthcare Facilities in the Caribbean

S M A R T

A platform for integrating Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental Management, and Conservation Efforts

RESILIENCY

SAFE

- Sound Roof & Foundation
- Improved Security & Signage
- Secured Equipment & Fuel Storage
- Protected & Efficient Doors and Windows
- Good Drainage
- Back-up Power
- Water Reserve
- Disaster Management Plans
- Comprehensive Maintenance Planning
- Disability Access

SMART HOSPITAL

Hospital safety Index –Score A
Green checklist –Scores above 70%

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

GREEN 70+

- Water Efficiency
- Waste Minimization & Management
- Pollution Reduction
- Rain Water Harvesting
- Alternative Power Using Renewable Energy
- Efficient Lighting & Cooling
- Improved Indoor Air Quality

SUSTAINABILITY

SMART

- Reduced Downtime
- Resilient Structure
- Reduced Operating Cost
- Improved Safety
- Satisfied Patients and Staff
- Environmentally Sound Operations
- Improved emergency care and services for the community

Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization Americas
UKaid

Implemented by: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
Funded by: the UK Department for International Development (DFID)

SMART HOSPITAL
SAFE + GREEN = SMART

Smart Healthcare Facilities in the Caribbean

Providing safer greener health facilities to deliver care in disasters

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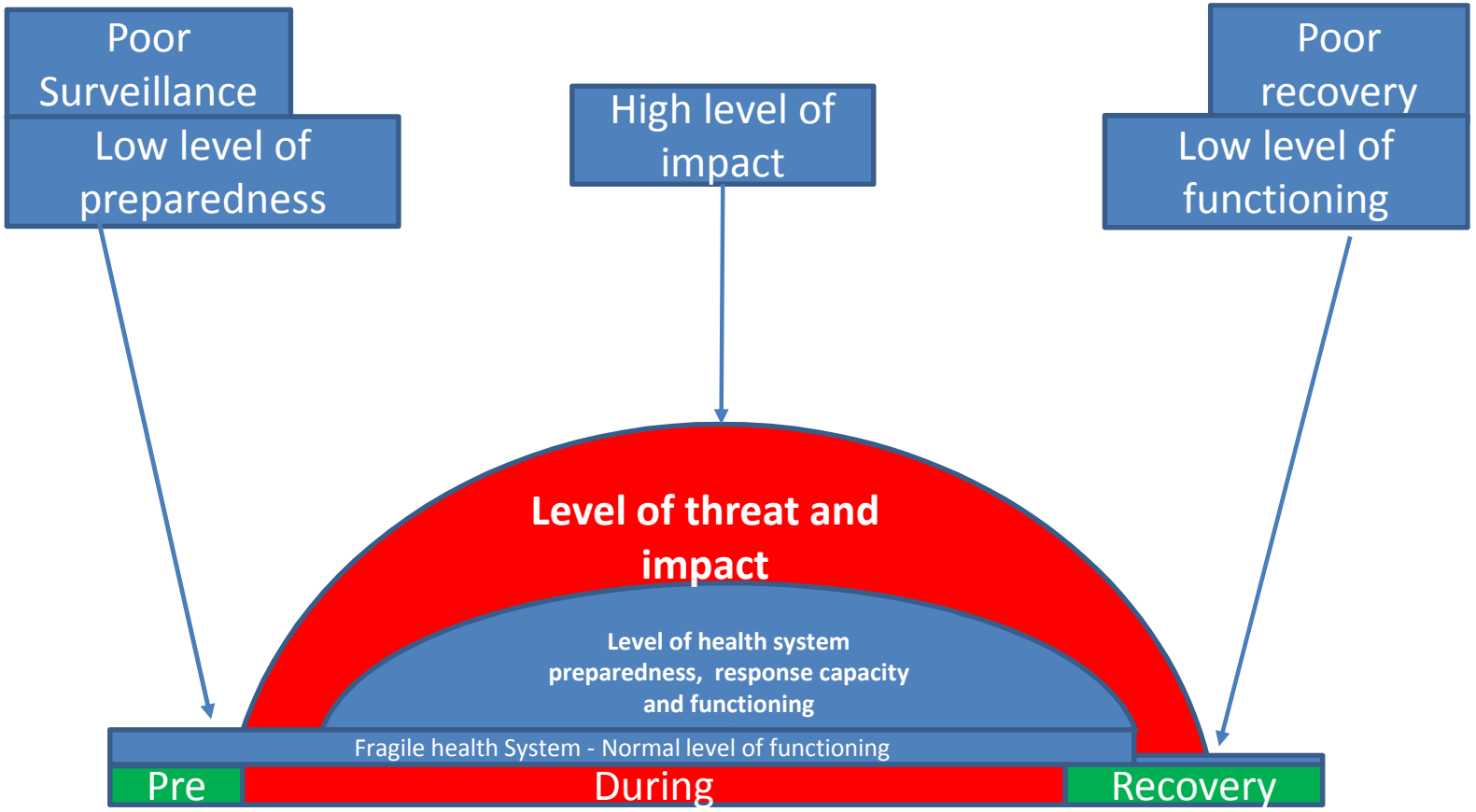
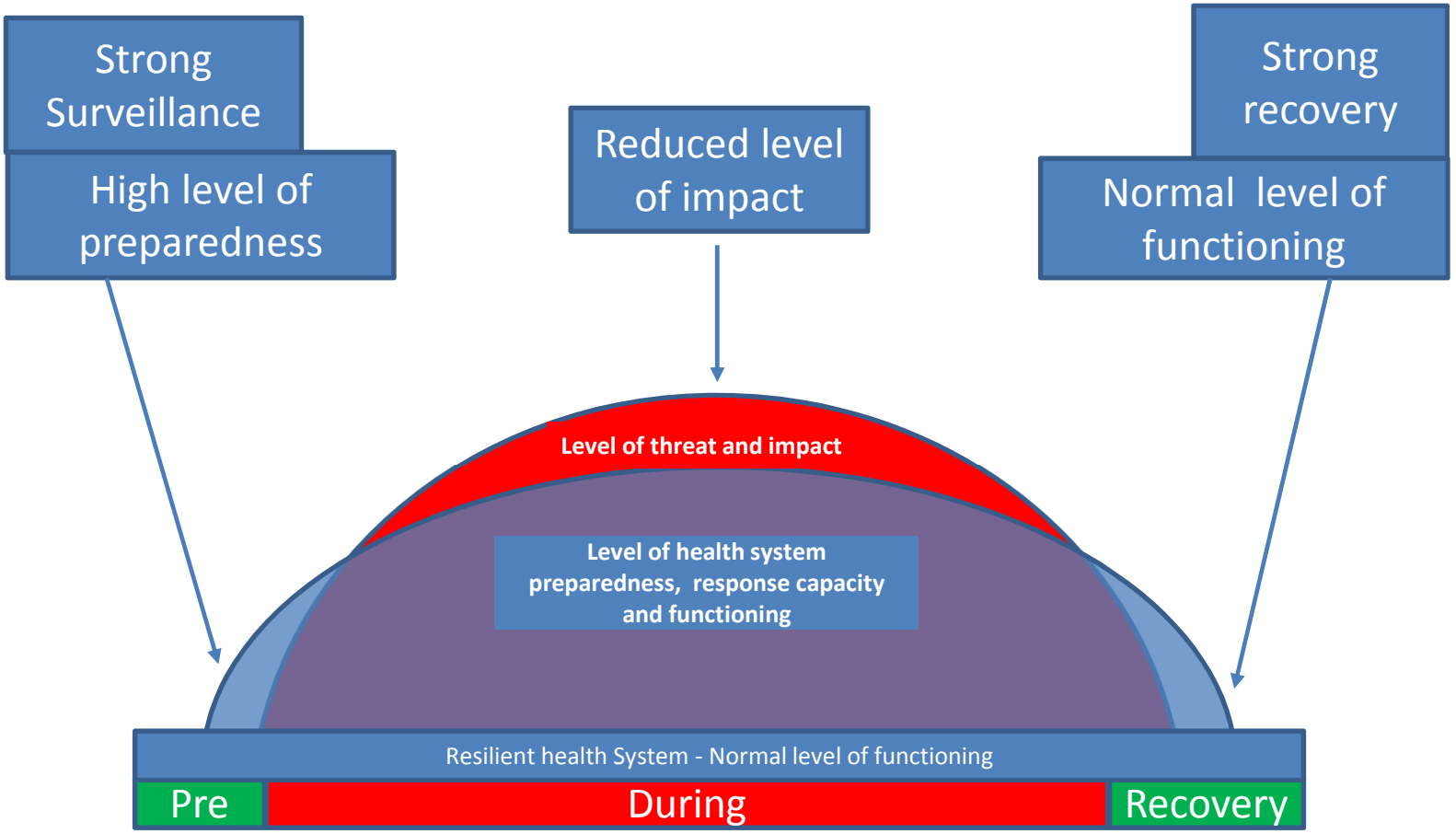
Fragile Health System



Resilient Health System



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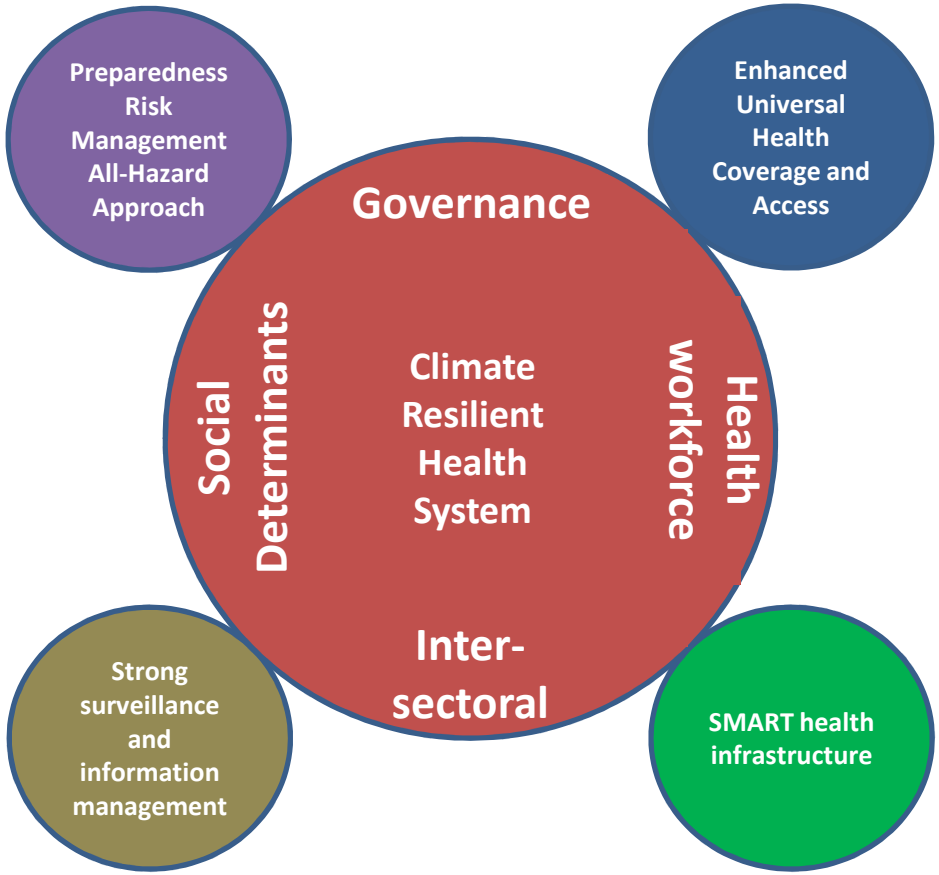
Climate Resilient Health System



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Thank You!