

Workshop on Mitigating Damage to Health Facilities, Jakarta, Indonesia

Over 100 people are expected to participate in the "Workshop on Mitigation of Damage in Health Facilities" to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia in July 2005. The participants will be government officials from the Ministry of Health and representatives from donor and bilateral agencies, hospital administrators, engineers, architects and NGOs involved in the post-tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation program in Aceh, Indonesia. The workshop is being conducted in joint collaboration with the South East Asia Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- promote the adoption of measures to mitigate damage to health facilities from natural disasters in the future, and
- integrate the concept of "vulnerability reduction" into reconstruction project planning following the tsunami.

The workshop agenda will cover Indonesia's current legal and institutional framework, scientific capacities and resources, mitigation of damage to health facilities, a review of the WHO/WB guidelines for new facilities and a review of health reconstruction projects by participating agencies, how to integrate mitigation measures into rehabilitation and reconstruction project planning, and the need for technical support and guidance. Steps to ensure vulnerability reduction in future disasters, the role of engineering auditing firms and mitigation in the broader context of disaster reduction and preparedness in the health sector will also be part of the broader discussion.

Conclusions and recommendations from the WHO Global Lessons Learned conference in Phuket, Thailand on May 6-8, 2005 will also be shared at the workshop and it is expected to shape rehabilitation efforts particularly in regard to health facilities in all the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami.

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