

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Projects and Initiatives in the Caribbean

Title: Smart Health Care Facilities in the Caribbean

Organisation: Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO)/World Health Organisation (WHO)

Aims and Objectives:

Enable health care facilities to be both environmentally greener and safer against disasters and climate change impacts. A higher standard of design and construction as well as energy and water use and service delivery capacity will be established to help withstand expected climate variability and change.

Duration: Start Year: 2012 Completion Year: 2013

Estimated Cost (USD): \$1,500,000

Funding Source: Department of International Development (DFID)

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Key Words: Smart Hospitals; Green; Checklist; Assessment; Sustainable Construction

Geographic Coverage: St. Kitts; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Sectoral Focus: Hospital Administrators; Health Disaster Coordinators; Health Facility

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Designers/ Health Planners; Engineers and Architects; Financiers

Target Beneficiaries: Hospital Administrators and Staff; Health Disaster Coordinators; Health Facility Designers; Engineers and Maintenance Personnel; Patients and End Users of the health facility

Outputs:

Smart hospital toolkit, baseline assessment tool including a water audit, green checklist, cost benefit analysis methodology, Smart hospital Policy. Smart schools policy in the British Virgin Islands (BVI)

Project Links and References:
http://www.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1742&Itemid=911

Impacts:

- Awareness garnered at Regional level of the effects climate variability and the practical measures that can be implemented, from the successful demonstration projects in St. Vincent and St. Kitts.
- Requests to PAHO have been received from three other countries for assistance in implementing smart measures at various health facilities.
- If the project did not occur, the health sector would not have a dedicated technical, practical guide for addressing the vulnerability of its health infrastructure to the impact of climate change and climate variability.
- In discussions with donor agencies to further expand on the completed smart project, into a phase II, which would include the ‘strengthening’ through the smarting of up to 12 existing health facilities.

Sustainability:

Factors contributing to sustainability:

Having a prominent champion(s) to advocate the Smart concept and its benefits, and apply the concept in their countries and/or communities.

Limits include:

Lack of funding or visible incentives (‘boasting rights’) to implement smarting measures. Perceived lack of independent ability to incorporate smarting measures without a consultant or specialist.

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Lessons for the Future:

1. Include more practical data and tools in the Guide for developing cost estimates for implementing smaller, independent smarting measures relative to the available funds.
2. Include cultural and local norms into smarting measures
3. Include ‘public awareness’ incentives for smarting health facilities
4. Disseminate information to, and train more health actors.
5. Execute practical smarting projects in countries/ communities where there are persons willing to champion the smart concept/project.

Opportunities Arising from the Project:

Develop more detailed and ‘do-it-yourself’ technical guides. Develop a rating system to rank the level of ‘Smart’ of a health facility. Train more persons in the region, through the actual smarting of more health facilities and training workshops for health actors in the Region.

Further Comments:

Key documents: Smart Hospital Toolkit