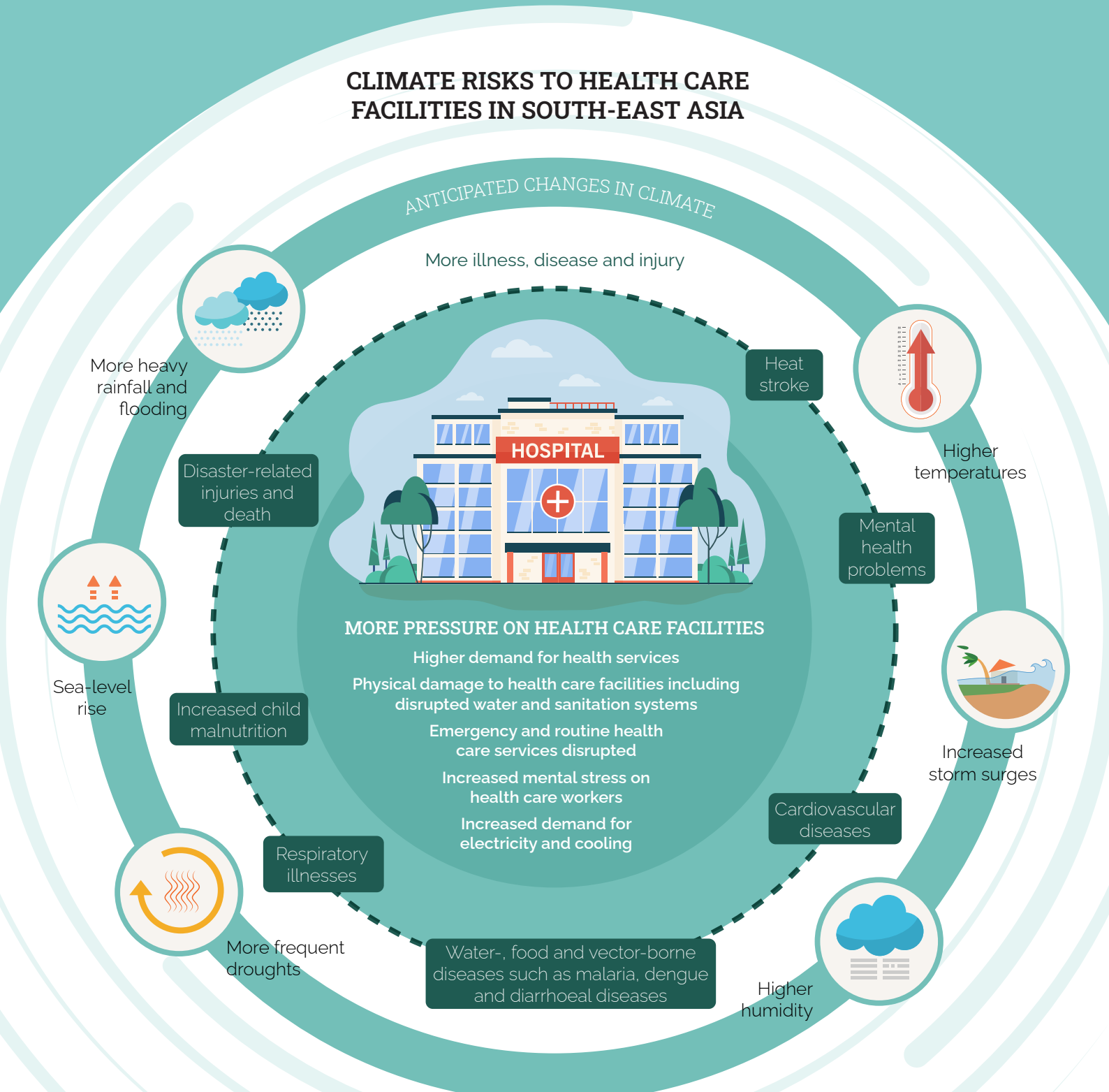
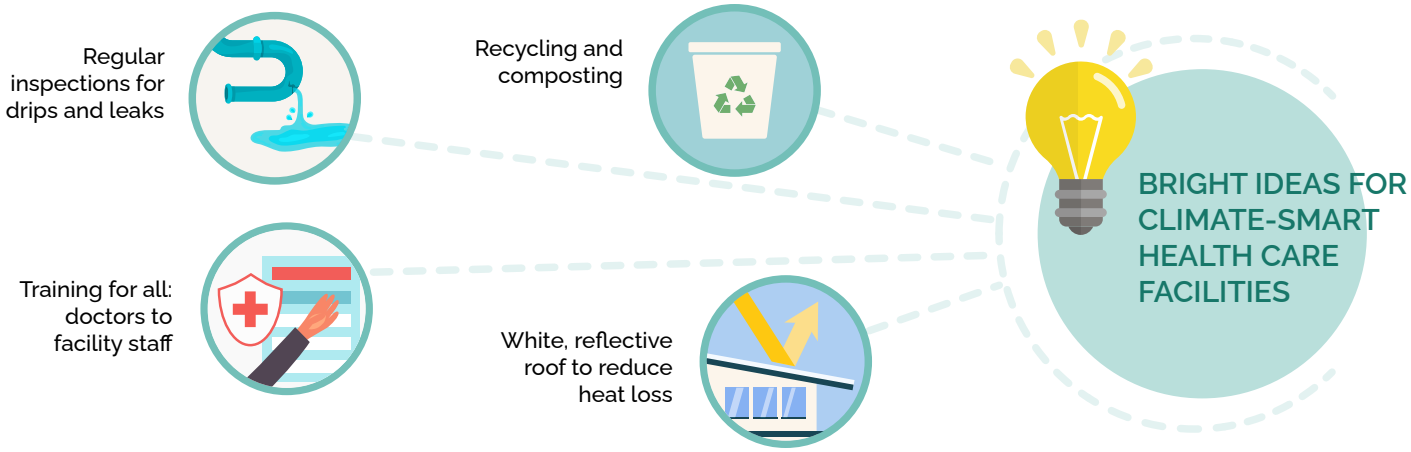
A Quick Guide to Climate-Smart Health Care Facilities

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR South-East Asia

Investments in health care facilities now will save lives and prevent disease later

Hospitals and clinics - the cornerstones of healthy communities - face a serious threat: climate change. Action now will reduce illness and infection, promote maternal and newborn health, and bring us closer to achieving universal care. This guide provides an overview of the ways health advocates and decision-makers can take action.





What can we do?

Fighting climate risks to health starts with health care centres. The four-point framework below seeks to strengthen all the systems that power health care facilities.

Health workforce

- Train medical professionals on disaster response and climate-sensitive diseases, including mental health
- Train them on water and energy conservation, and waste management
- Empower them to educate the community about climate and health
- Engage them in climate action plans for their health care facility
- Mobilise them to advocate for budgets for climate resilience and environmental sustainability
- Provide adequate staffing and ensure workers have decent conditions

Water, sanitation, hygiene and medical waste management

- Assess and regularly monitor water and waste systems
- Protect water storage from mosquitoes and other pathogens
- Protect sanitation facilities against flooding, sea level rise and other threats
- Provide hand washing stations at points of care and toilets
- Dispose of hazardous waste properly
- Ensure health sector planning and budgeting addresses water, sanitation and waste management

Energy

- Convert to sustainable energy sources, such as solar
- Update lighting, cooling and heating systems
- Protect electrical and other equipment from flooding and high winds
- Mobilise all staff in saving energy

Infrastructure, technologies and products

- Assess local climate impacts, prioritise risks and develop response plans
- Ensure surge capacity
- Scale up disease surveillance and early warning systems, integrating climate information
- Develop contingency plans for acquiring and distributing vaccines, medicines and other supplies
- Improve data management to strengthen supply chain forecasting
- Establish back-up systems for energy, water, sanitation and communications
- Factor extreme weather into site selection, construction and renovations

WHO resources to inform action

- Guidance on climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities
- WHO SEARO Health-Climate Advocacy Toolkit



CLIMATE ACTION IS HEALTH ACTION

Action on health care facilities should move on two tracks: building resilience to climate and minimising negative environmental impacts.