Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
Americas

PAHO

# International Webinar Launch
# VIRTUAL COURSE ON EVALUATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES USING THE HOSPITAL SAFETY INDEX (HSIv2)

**July 30, 2024**

Mexico City 6 AM I Washington DC (EST) 8 AM I Bridgetown 8 AM I Geneva 2 PM I Cairo 3 PM I Mumbai 5:30 PM I Manila 8 PM I Sydney 10 PM

## Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) has promoted and supported the Safe Hospitals Initiative for over 25 years as a primary disaster risk reduction strategy. Your involvement is crucial in this initiative, which aligns with the seven goals and four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) introduced the first version of the Hospital Safety Index (HSI) in 2008. Since then, the tool has been revised and updated, with significant revisions made in 2015. It is now applied in more than 83 countries worldwide. The second version of the HSI, published in 2018, plays a central role in local, national, and global initiatives to enhance the resilience of the health sector to health emergencies and disasters. This version integrates cross-cutting themes such as gender, ethnicity, and the inclusion of people with disabilities in addressing multiple hazards.

Identifying vulnerabilities through the HSI-2 can significantly increase a health facility's preparedness for response, ensuring continuity of operations during health emergencies or disasters and facilitating a more efficient early recovery.

The virtual course "Evaluation of Health Facilities using the Hospital Safety Index Second Version (HSIv2)" is a self-paced training program designed to provide potential HSI evaluators with a comprehensive 40-hour base theoretical knowledge. This course equips participants with all the necessary elements to develop their competencies and skills. Another essential objective is to achieve greater dissemination of the importance of the Safe Hospitals initiative, based on its foundation, the Hospital Safety Index, Second Version.

## The objective of the Webinar

This meeting's objective is to present the virtual course "Evaluation of Health Facilities through the Hospital Safety Index, Second Version" within the initiative of Resilient Hospitals to Health Emergencies and Disasters.

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## Methodology:

- **Type:** Webinar
- **Registration:** Zoom Link (**Capacity:** 500 participants)
- **Duration:** 90 minutes
- **Language:** English

## Audience:

- Hospital Safety Index Evaluators
- Professionals with experience in Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management, including engineers, architects, electrical and mechanical equipment specialists, and healthcare personnel (doctors, nurses, and administrators).
- Specialists in planning or administration and logistics, and safety advisors, safety inspectors, among others.
- Safety and hygiene inspectors.
- Disaster Risk Management professionals.

## Preliminary Agenda:

| Time | Subject | Speakers | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15 min | Welcome and Opening Remarks | Dr. Celso Bambaren<br>**Unit Chief, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR (CPI)**<br>**PAHO/WHO HQ**<br><br>Dra. Qudsia Huda<br>**Head,Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Health Emergency Program**<br>**WHO HQ**<br><br>Dr. Felipe Cruz Vega<br>**Special Health Projects Coordinator**<br>**Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS)** | Welcome remarks<br><br>Global overview and areas of opportunity<br><br>Overview of Safe Hospitals as a Main Pilar of Resilient Hospitals Initiative |
| 10 min | The virtual course Evaluation of Health Facilities through the Hospital Safety Index | Dr. Alex Camacho-Vásconez<br>**Disaster Risk Reduction Unit Chief a.i.**<br>**Health Emergencies Department**<br>**PAHO/WHO HQ** | Course objectives, content, design, tools, and innovations. |
| 15 mins<br>(7 min) | Success histories in the use of the Safety Hospitals Index | EMRO<br>PAHO: Safe Hospitals into the Caribbean SMART Hospital Project | Success experiences, gaps and areas of opportunity in the implementation of Safe Hospitals Recommendations |

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| 45 min | **Round table**<br><br>The Hospital Safety Index. A worldwide tool and the need to improve the level of evidence on its use towards a model of Resilient Hospitals to Health emergencies and disasters | **Moderator:**<br>Dr.PhD. Diana Contreras<br>**Assistant Professor, Geospatial Science**<br>**Cardiff University**<br><br>**Panelists:**<br>Dr. Hamdi Lamine<br>**Assistant Professor at the college of Nursing, University of Ha'il.**<br>**Research Fellow at CRIMEDIM, University of Eastern Piedmont**<br><br>Dr. Nebil Achour<br>**Associate Professor in Disaster Mitigation, Anglia Ruskin University**<br><br>Dr. PhD. Hamidreza Khankeh<br>**Professor/International Researcher**<br>**University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran** | |
| 5 min | Closing remarks | Dr. Celso Bambaren<br>**Country Preparedness & IHR Unit Chief**<br>**Health Emergencies Department**<br>**PAHO/WHO HQ** | |

## Virtual Course Description

This self-paced virtual course comprises an introductory module, followed by five comprehensive modules:

1. Hazards that affect the safety of the hospital and the role of the hospital in the management of health emergencies and disasters
2. Structural safety
3. Non-structural safety
4. Emergency and disaster management
5. Procedure for the evaluation and presentation of results.

The course is available at the PAHO Virtual Campus of Public Health and focuses on the technical knowledge essential for using HSI v2 during hospital evaluations. Each thematic module includes feedback activities to reinforce complex aspects identified through the evaluators' experiences.

This self-paced course requires a 40-hour learning investment. There is no time limit for completion, and participants will receive a certificate upon finishing the course. However, it is important to note that the certificate does not authorize the participant to be an evaluator; national authorities are responsible for setting the criteria to accredit evaluators.

## Guiding Questions for the Round Table Discussion

1. What were the main challenges your region faced in implementing HSI? How did you overcome these challenges, and what solutions were most effective?
2. What measurable improvements have you seen in hospital safety and resilience in your region since implementing HSI?
3. Can you comment on any specific events where HSI helped mitigate the impact of a health emergency or disaster on a hospital?
4. Do you consider that HSI had any impact on the preparedness of health facilities to face the pandemic pro COVID-19?
5. How has the HSI integrated cross-cutting issues such as gender, ethnicity, and disability inclusion into its assessments? What impact has this integration had on hospital safety and preparedness?
6. What are the key areas for future improvement of the HSI tool based on your experiences?
7. How can international collaboration be improved to further strengthen the implementation and impact of the HSI on a global scale?
8. What technical or operational adjustments have you made to adapt the HSI to local contexts?
9. How to ensure sustainability of HSI implementation and the continuous improvement of hospital safety?
10. Can you share examples of effective public policies or governance structures that have supported the implementation of the global Safe Hospitals initiative?

## Panelist Information

### Dr. Nebil Achour

Dr Nebil Achour, Associate Professor in Disaster Mitigation, Anglia Ruskin University, with over 20-year international experience in hospital system resilience and functionality. International Adviser and Consultant for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and contributor to the revision of the Hospital Safety Index (HSI), global discussions and trainings, and several technical reports. A member of the ARU Sustainable Futures Research, Innovation and Impact Theme representing the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Scoial Care (HeMS). Published over 60 scientific publications in journals, conferences, reports and book chapters. He was awarded the Best Paper Award during the CIB World Congress 2010, and the Highly Commended Paper in the 2016 and 2015 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence. 2022 Frontiers Champion of the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng) and lead of the Fostering Innovative Resilience Healthcare Service (FIReS) international Network. He chaired and co-chaired several international conferences and webinars and served as External Examiner in several national and international universities.

Dr Achour leads the MSc Healthcare Management, a programme with over 200 students. His background is in Engineering. he received his first degree from the Tunis Advanced School of Science and Technology, Tunisia, Dr Achour worked in private engineering and design firms, designing structures and training engineers in several countries. Granted a Japanese Government Scholarship to further his education, he gained his MSc with a focus on the response of hospital lifeline systems following seismic activities, and his PhD on hospitals' fragility assessment, in 2004 and 2007 respectively from Kanazawa University. Following his graduation, he was employed as a Post-doctoral Researcher in his graduate university. He worked in Loughborough University between September 2007 and February 2014 as a Research Associate. During this period, he coordinated the research activities of the £11million HaCIRIC research centre, and the CPM WBDL MSc Programme. Nebil is actively involved in national and international research and consultancy activities and interested in exchanging knowledge with academics and practitioners, specifically those working on similar topics.

## Dr. Felipe Cruz Vega

General Surgeon with a master's degree in Disaster Medicine from the European Center for Disaster Medicine, endorsed by the World Health Organization, University of Brussels Belgium and the University of Novara Italy. Postgraduate from the Seminar on Emergency and Disaster Medicine held at the Osaka City General Hospital in Japan and certified by Japan International Cooperation Agency. Director of the WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center on Resilient Health Services. Member of the World Association for Emergency and Disaster Medicine (WADEM). Member and Ex-President of the Mexican Academy of Surgery and Head of the Trauma Committee for more than 28 years. Member of the Mexican Academy of Civil Protection, Member of the French Academy of Surgery. Member and Technical Secretary of the National Committee of Evaluation and Diagnosis of Safe Hospital Program in Mexico, as well as its Technical Advisory Group. Author of several articles, books and publications related to hospital and pre-hospital preparedness for emergency and disaster. Winner of the "Doctor Ignacio Chávez" award for Medical Humanism in 2020. Currently Head of the Coordination of Special Projects in Health of the National Medical Direction of the Mexican Social Security Institute.

## Prof. Dr. Hamidreza Khankeh

Prof. Hamidreza Khankeh is a renowned expert in public health, emergency, and disaster health, specializing in qualitative and mixed methods research in the field of Emergency And Disaster Health. He is a professor at USWR in Tehran, a senior researcher at Karolinska Institute in Sweden, and affiliated with the QUEST Center at the Berlin Institute of Health. He earned his doctorate in 2007 from Iran University of Medical Sciences and completed post-doctoral studies at Karolinska Institute. A member of the Iranian National Academy of Medical Sciences since 2017, he received the Georg Forster Research Fellowship in 2019. He teaches extensively and has designed research modules for the Berlin Institute of Health.

## Dr. Alex Camacho-Vasconez

Dr. Alex Camacho has over 20 years of combined national and international experience in emergency and disaster management programs, including specific knowledge of managing health emergencies, disability inclusion, and disaster risk reduction at national and global levels.

He is based in Washington D.C. and works at the Pan American Health Organization Health Emergencies Department as Disaster Risk Reduction Unit Chief a.i. and Regional Advisor on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Dr. Alex Camacho is a Medical Surgeon who holds a master's degree in public health, Health Management for Local Development and has postgraduate studies related to health policies with a scope on Emergency Management and disasters, and disability. In the academic field, Dr. Camacho has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels at several universities.

Dr. Camacho is a founding member of the Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction Network and the Latin American Network for Inclusive Disability DRR and currently leads the Resilient Hospital to Health Emergencies and Disasters initiative in the Americas.

## Dr. Diana Contreras

Dr Diana Contreras is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Geospatial Science at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Cardiff University. Her research focuses on disaster management, socio-economic vulnerability assessment, health inequality, and social justice. Dr Contreras obtained her PhD in Natural Sciences – Applied Geoinformatics at the University of Salzburg in Austria. She completed a Master of Science in Urban Planning and Management at the University of Twente in The Netherlands. Her bachelor's degree in architecture was awarded by La Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Dr Contreras has worked in the academy in Austria, Chile and the United Kingdom. Before joining the academy, she worked in the public sector in Colombia. After her doctoral studies, she worked in the private sector in Italy for a while before rejoining academia.