



ELEMENTS OF

Climate-Resilient Healthcare

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Elements of Climate-Resilient Healthcare



Over the past years, **Health Care Without Harm** has successfully developed robust programs and tools to support the transformation of the health sector in the face of climate change. To fulfill this transformation, the sector must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously establishing infrastructure, systems, and community resilience to “anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from and adapt to climate-related shocks and stress, so as to bring sustained improvements in population health.” (WHO, 2015) This includes adapting health care facilities to withstand the impacts of climate change and serving as a community anchor in the midst of the crisis, while investing in sustainability and equity to address social and environmental determinants of health.

To understand the key elements of climate-resilient health care, Health Care Without Harm conducted a scoping assessment of existing frameworks and tools from its regional offices and strategic partners. This assessment aimed to answer the question: **“What are the essential elements of climate-resilient health systems?”**

Two key approaches guided this process:

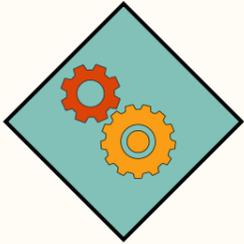
- 1 An extensive review of literature, analyzing current research, frameworks, and tools that are available online and are focused on building climate resilience in the health sector
- 2 In-depth interviews with regional offices and strategic partners of Health Care Without Harm to learn about the different approaches and strategies employed in various parts of the world

This document presents and highlights the key recommendations from the assessment. It proposes a set of elements centered on enabling the sector to proactively address the challenges posed by climate change and build climate-resilient systems while reducing its environmental footprint and prioritizing equitable access to healthcare and overall community health and wellbeing.



Proactive and innovative adaptation and mitigation strategies

When the siloes are bridged, a balanced mix of these strategies can help the health sector identify its greatest climate vulnerabilities and sources of emissions, facilitate the prioritization of programs and investment areas, and encourage innovation and ingenuity, positioning the sector as a dynamic leader in climate resilience.



Collaborative and multi-sectoral approach

Building climate-resilient healthcare systems and facilities involves the collaboration of different stakeholders, including energy, transportation, public health, emergency management, environmental management, among others. Multi-sectoral approaches strengthen interventions and their impact.



Localized vulnerability solutions

Tailored climate adaptation strategies are essential at the community, facility, and system levels. Understanding climate change-related risks and vulnerabilities can help identify existing capacities that need to be protected or promoted, as well as areas that need to be improved to ensure the continued delivery of quality healthcare services.



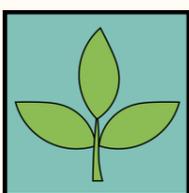
Inclusive and community-centered strategies

Collaboration between healthcare providers and the communities they serve promotes community engagement, empowering them to address the health impacts of climate change and to put in place climate-resilient healthcare strategies that address community health and resilience.



Workforce-centered practices

Healthcare workers at various levels play a vital role in advocating for and delivering climate-resilient healthcare. Prioritizing their well-being and safety, and providing them with access to relevant training programs and resources are some of the initiatives that will better equip them to respond to climate change impacts.



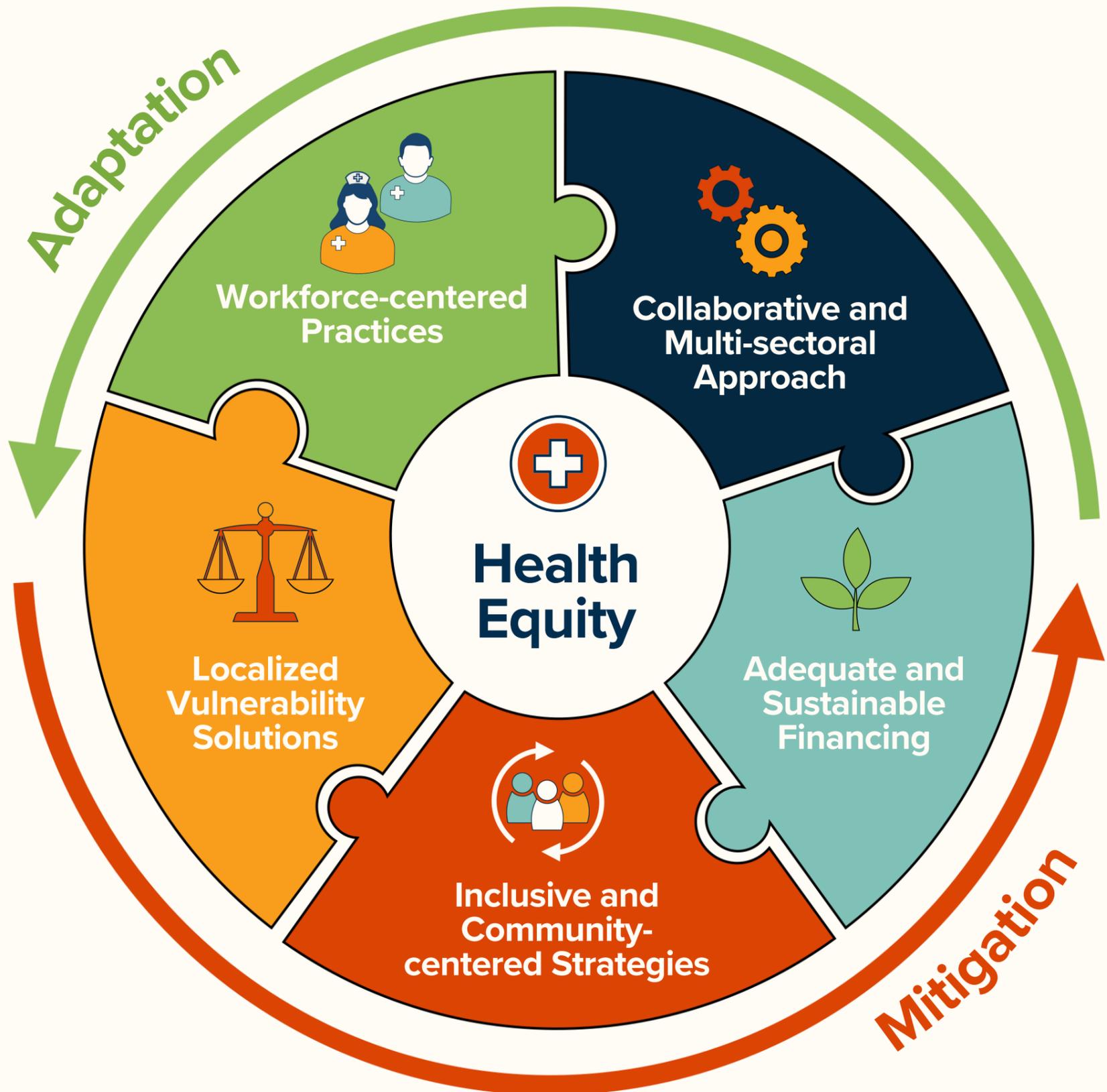
Adequate and sustainable financing

Climate-resilient healthcare requires appropriate financial investments. Allocating adequate resources and securing sustainable financing for will not only improve resilience of health systems and facilities but also contribute to better community health outcomes.



Equitable and quality healthcare

Climate-resilient healthcare systems that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations are essential to achieve health equity and reduce health disparities. Climate-resilient healthcare enhances the overall quality of healthcare services by providing people-centered, effective, and safe care - doing no harm to the environment or further posing threats to individual and population health.



In addition to the above-mentioned elements and recognizing the ever-changing nature of climate vulnerability and impacts, climate-resilient healthcare needs to be a contextualized, dynamic approach that encourages **regular assessments and flexible planning**. This iterative process ensures that healthcare systems and facilities remain responsive to emerging challenges climate change poses.

In conclusion, building climate-resilient healthcare advocates for a collaborative and multi-sectoral approach grounded in innovative policies and strategies. It seeks to reduce vulnerabilities and fortify adaptive capacity, promote environment sustainability and emissions reduction through mitigation strategies, tailor responses and interventions to local contexts, empower communities and the health workforce, and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare.