



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

**“Smart” hospital initiative addressing emergencies and
climate change resilience:
a blueprint for SIDS**

29 May 2024, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

American University of Antigua, Conference venue - Room 7

**Organized by: Pan American Health Organization, UK
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO);
Jamaica Ministry of Health; St Vincent & the Grenadines
Ministry of Health & the Environment; Saint Lucia Ministry
of Health, Wellness and Elderly Affairs; Antigua & Barbuda
Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment**

Background on the event (one paragraph)

On 29 May 2024 of the 4th International Conference of Small Island States (SIDS4) held in Antigua and Barbuda, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization along with its partners organized and facilitated the side event session on *“Smart” hospital initiative addressing emergencies and climate change resilience: a blueprint for SIDS*. The event was filled with insightful discussions following a keynote address by the Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness Director of Hospital Services and Allied Health and remarks from the Minister of State (Climate, Environment, and Energy) at both the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Panelists in the sessions comprised of Ministries of Health senior officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Special thanks to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for their contribution in making the side event happen.

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- The smart hospital concept and the Caribbean experience has contributed to shaping the climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction landscape throughout the Region of the Americas and beyond.
- Smart hospital initiative is a successful approach for building climate resilient and low carbon sustainable health infrastructure in small island developing states.
- The smart hospital initiative has set a new standard for infrastructure disaster and climate resilience in SIDS in the Caribbean.
- Evidence of impact in St Vincent and the Grenadines presented, highlighting the “gold standard” resilient health facilities surviving multiple hazards.
- Implementing lessons learnt, Ministry of Health Jamaica incorporated health resilient design standards into health building codes.
- Best practices at a smart health facility showcased by MOH Saint Lucia.
- Using smart health facilities standards post hurricane Irma in Antigua and Barbuda.

Key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points)

- Continue to advocate for the incorporation of the smart hospitals standards (safe+green+sustainable) in building practices for health facilities and other essential services.
- Document and publish case studies, lessons learned and evidence of impact of smart health facilities to public health and other key sectors.
- Health authorities to include the aspect of maintenance from the start – from designing “smart” health facilities to implementing maintenance checklists and plans.
- Use the smart hospitals initiative as an investment model for building safe, climate resilient and sustainable health infrastructure in small island developing states.
- Partnerships with international and expert agencies need to be created or strengthened. Synergies between smart hospitals and other disaster-climate resilient initiatives need to be made.
- Expansion of the smart hospitals initiative in the region and to other countries particularly other small islands developing states.