



12 October 2022, Cairo – Climate change is now regarded as the greatest global health threat of the 21st century. Human activities continue to cause environmental pollution and loss of biodiversity, factors that are leading not only to the emergence of new diseases but to the redistribution of existing ones.

A side event at the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean discussed a regional framework based on WHO guidance to enable health care systems and facilities to become climate resilient and environmentally sustainable by optimizing the use of resources and minimizing the release of waste into the environment.

It also emphasized the importance of ensuring clean and efficient energy supplies; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services; waste management; occupational health and safety; food safety; air quality and chemical safety in moving towards climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities

The side event outlined additional COVID-19 environmental health burdens, described current WASH and environmental management systems used in health care facilities, and summarized evolving best practices and solutions for reducing the impact of pollution on human and environmental health.

Ways to develop low-carbon and low-emission health care facilities were also discussed, alongside promoting an equitable, healthy and green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Premature deaths from unhealthy environments



~~Full text of this document is available at: <https://www.who.int/emro/publications/mixed/publications-reports/one-planet-one-health-building-sustainable-and-resilient-health-care-systems>~~