

Juhina Al Shamsi

Administrative Coordinator, Yahya Construction LLC

COMPETITIVE DIVISION – Practitioner

Evolution of Building Resilience in a Timeline of 11 Years: a Holistic Practice of Oman Healthcare Sector during Catastrophic Cyclones

Situated in the southeastern coast of Arabian Peninsula, Sultanate of Oman is to face a cyclone every five years. This has demanded additional efforts of emergency management. What are the characteristics associated with health institutions in Oman that have manifested resilience practices, despite the steady increase in tropical storms? Oman's role in safeguarding through healthcare institutions has elucidated, from cases of maintaining bed capacity during a category five cyclone in 2007 to a full evacuation of hospitals within 48 hours in 2018. This study introduces a holistic approach to building disaster resilience through preparedness and response actions in a timeline of 11 years.

Oman's practices of emergency management are assessed with Safe Hospital Framework provided by the World Health Organization (WHO). The qualitative results are measured with respect to WHO Response and Recovery checklists. Key components being analyzed include but not limited to, sustainable infrastructure, livelihood affairs, and crosscutting matters. Along with deductive interviews, Communications Center, from Oman Ministry of Health (MoH), has been utilized to acquire quantitative research materials.

It has become evident that Oman Incident Management System (IMS), operating under the National Committee for Civil Defense (NCCD), is evolving through a short period. Over the past ten years, the government has expanded the number of medical centers to meet the demand of healthcare capacity. To ensure

competence, hospitals in Oman are gradually becoming decentralized since decentralization policy first took an effect on the 1990s. Additionally, over 80% of the public hospitals started to operate electronically (e.g. adopting a cashless transaction system). These efforts have preserved common goals on protecting patients and healthcare workers through investing in medical care infrastructure.

Presentation Theme: Emergency Management Practices within Healthcare Sector

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