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Ministry Of Health

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

(.....)

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Department of Health Services

Pachali, Teku  
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Date : .....

### Preface

The finalisation of the non-structural assessment and the dissemination of the findings is a significant achievement that will enable the national health system to take the appropriate measures to ensure the functionality of the hospitals after a major earthquake.

Experiences from around the world have demonstrated that one of the first casualties from earthquakes may in fact be the very hospitals and other health institutions whose task is to take care of the victims. Functional hospitals are a cornerstone in a coordinated national disaster response and without it the health consequences could be disastrous.

This report outlines the possible extent of non-structural damage to 9 hospitals in the country in case of earthquakes, but even more importantly, it also outlines very practical and easy to use mitigation measures, many of which the maintenance sections of the hospitals themselves can carry out at low costs.

However, in order to achieve full functionality even after severe earthquakes a concerted effort must be made, and that is why I sincerely hope that all emergency planners will take notice of this report and that the findings and recommendations will be taken into consideration in the future planned activities at all levels of emergency preparedness.

I would like to extend my appreciation towards WHO for supporting this initiative and to reassure that the Ministry of Health, Department of Health Services and Epidemiology and Disease Control Division remain committed to the task of reducing the vulnerability and enhancing the capacity of the health sector to deal with all types of emergencies.

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