HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM GLOBAL PROGRAMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Table of Contents

Reflections	2
Health Care Without Harm - Global Programs	3
Global Green and Healthy Hospitals	5
Climate	7
Procurement	3
Waste	5
Events	7
About Health Care Without Harm	8



Dedicated staff of Health Care Without Harm and its strategic partners spread across 13 countries on 6 continents manage and deliver programs around the world.

Reflections

It is a strange sensation to write about the glories of 2019 at this exquisitely painful moment.

Although only a few short months have passed since the new year dawned, it feels like a lifetime ago. We may well look back at the end of 2019 as the closing out not only of a decade, but of a chapter of modern human history. Yet that chapter, and what we did last year, is still highly relevant in helping us decide how we will move forward.

The 2020s have dawned with the coronavirus tempest throwing business as usual for most everyone on the planet to the wind. Many of the hospitals and health professionals we work with around the world have been called to the front lines of a global health emergency. The sun of this new decade has also risen on an Earth that continues to get hotter, stormier, unhealthier, more dangerous. Climate change is a slower-moving, but no less serious global health emergency.

Health Care Without Harm was founded 24 years ago at the intersection of human health and the environment. At no time in our history has our mission been more relevant than now.

The work that we did in 2019 with doctors, nurses, hospitals, health systems, ministries of health and United Nations organizations has achieved many positive results that will inform our efforts in this and coming years. Our global programs are accelerating the reduction of health care greenhouse gas emissions, building greater health system resilience, protecting people from the health impacts of biomedical waste, and reducing the social and environmental footprint of health care's supply chain. Most importantly, we continue to build an ever growing and more dynamic set of networks—a worldwide community. It is this community that has helped lay the groundwork for the health sector we need in this new decade: a sector that will be more resilient to both pandemics and climate change. A sector that will provide public health protection and access to healthcare for all. A sector that will be more proactive in making the social and political changes necessary to protect people's health, their well-being, their economic security, and the stability of the world's ecosystems on which all of us depend.

Enjoy the report. Stay healthy. And think about a positive future.

JOSH KARLINER International Director of Program and Strategy



Health Care Without Harm Global Programs

Three Health Care Without Harm regional offices, eight national strategic partner organizations, a Latin America team and a global coordination team deliver a portfolio of programs and initiatives around the world to foster the transition to sustainable, climate smart health care, while mobilizing health professionals as advocates for environmental health and justice.





From technical pilot projects in health care facilities, to programs focused on achieving large-scale change on climate and procurement; from a global member network of health care institutions to national networks of doctors and nurses; from supporting local community health to engaging with national policy makers at global forums, Health Care Without Harm employs a multidimensional and wide reaching approach to support the transformation of the global health care sector.

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) is an international network of hospitals, health care facilities, health systems and health organizations dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health. The program educates, engages and empowers its members to transition to sustainable, climate-smart health care through its agenda of ten interconnected sustainability goals.

GGHH sits at the core of Health Care Without Harm global programs. It provides a network of health care institutions that engage in pilot projects and research. It also serves as a vehicle to scale best practices and cutting edge strategies to achieve sustainable health care.

2019 brought another year of continued growth and development for the GGHH network around the world. We welcomed over 135 new members, ranging from small health care facilities to large health systems, and expanded into 10 new countries. From Portugal, to Iraq, to Vietnam and points in between, health care institutions are committed to transforming their operations and the sector.

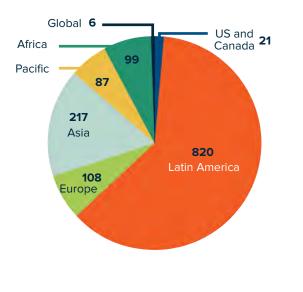
Member distribution by region

Health system and organization members

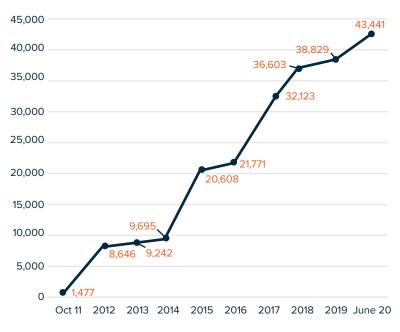
Over 35 health system and organization members joined the GGHH network in 2019. With direct management of, or connection to large portfolios of hospitals and health care facilities, these members have the opportunity to influence and drive large scale change to mitigate environmental impacts and improve the health of their communities.

Notable new members from 2019 include:

- Australian Medical Association
- Doctors without Borders Canada
- Health and Environment Management Agency -Vietnam Ministry of Health
- Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World)
- Public Center for Epidemiological Surveillance and Disease Control - Mexico



Hospitals and health centers represented by GGHH members



GGHH Member Spotlights



GGHH members are using their innovation and ingenuity to design and implement cutting edge solutions to bring their vision for sustainable health care to reality.





To reduce energy costs and carbon emissions, Holy Family Hospital invested in installing a state-of-the-art solar array on all 4,000 m² of their facility rooftops. At peak output the solar system can create 300 kWh of clean energy that saves the hospital over USD 4,000 in energy costs and reduces their carbon emissions by 25 metric tons of CO₂e each month.



Melbourne Health Australia

In an effort to reduce food waste and provide meals to those in need, Melbourne Health launched an innovative food donation program. Since February 2018, they have donated an average of 4,200 meals per month, preventing over 9 tons of food waste per year from going to the landfill and in turn, reducing their carbon emissions by over 17 tons of CO₂e.



University Hospital of Grenoble France

In collaboration with their community and local government, the University Hospital of Grenoble has been a key player in efforts to reduce air pollution and promote alternative modes of transportation around the city. By creating and implementing a mobility plan and community outreach strategy, they have seen significant reductions in fuel use and pollutant emissions along with an increase in urban integration and accessibility.

Somerset Hospital South Africa



Amidst intense drought conditions, Somerset Hospital designed and installed an autoclave water and energy recovery facility to recycle and reuse these resources. This system allows the hospital to recycle 6,000 liters of water per day and to capture the heat from the process to produce hot water. This will create financial savings of over USD 15,000 per year, while also reducing carbon emissions.



Hospital San Rafael de Pasto Colombia

Laundry and food service at the hospital were sources of high environmental impact due to the use of diesel boilers. By purchasing new gas boilers and innovating solutions using passive solar architecture, solar energy and air diffusion by displacement, the hospital has seen positive results and benefits. Annual operating costs of the boilers dropped by over USD 25,000 and carbon emissions have reduced by close to 25%.

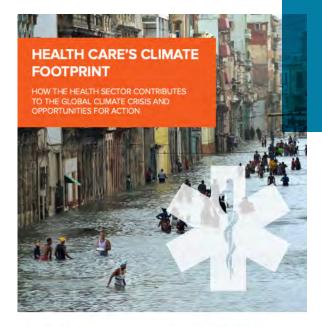


Solar panels at Holy Family Hospital in India create financial and environmental benefits.

The year 2019 was arguably the year that the climate crisis came home to roost. Heat waves, droughts, wildfires, extreme storms and flooding ravaged every continent. Youth movements rose up in protest and the health sector became increasingly engaged.

Health Care Without Harm played a leadership role over the course of the year, issuing cutting edge research reports, launching health professional-led initiatives in multiple countries, organizing events, integrating health into climate action, and climate into health action around the world.

In 2019 Health Care Without Harm successfully completed the first year of its five-year climate plan. The plan aims to help put the health care sector on a trajectory to align with the ambition of the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius, build resilience and mobilize health care's leadership voice.





Health Care Without Harm Climate-smart health care series Green Paper Number One

Produced in collaboration with Arup September 2019



Health care's climate footprint report

Health Care Without Harm released a groundbreaking report that provides the first ever robust global estimate of health care's climate footprint. The report found that health care contributes to more than 4.4% of net global emissions. If health care were a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter on the planet. In addition to these findings, the report outlines a series of international, national and subnational policy recommendations for health care climate action.

Health Care Climate Challenge

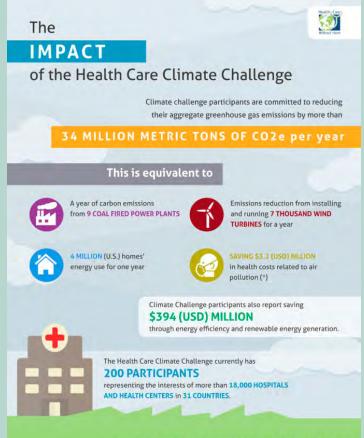
In 2019 the Health Care Climate Challenge reached several important milestones that demonstrate the growing commitment of the health care sector to play a key role in addressing climate change and advocating for a healthy planet.

In September, Health Care Without Harm announced that the Climate Challenge reached its 200th participant at an event organized by WHO at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit. These 200 participating health care institutions come from over 30 countries and represent more than 18,000 hospitals and health centers. Collectively they have committed to reducing their annual climate emissions by 34 million metric tons, close to 2 percent of all global health care emissions. Participating institutions are as diverse as they are numerous, ranging from small, rural health services to large, urban health systems.

In 2019 we also saw our largest annual cohort of Climate Champions with over 40 participating institutions receiving awards and recognition for their achievements in the areas of mitigation, resilience and leadership.



Health Care Without Harm advocates for policies to support sustainable, climate smart health care. In 2019, Health Care Without Harm staff presented its work and vision at the World Health Assembly and UN Climate Action Summit.



www.healthcareclimatechallenge.org

Greenhouse gas equivalents calculated using the U.S. EPA Greenhouse Gas E https://www.epa.rov/energy/ereenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

(*) Approximation based on the operation of 9 coal-fixed power plants for one year. Sources: Epstein et. al. (2013), Full cost accounting for the life cycle of coal, https://bit.ly/21s18wc; U.S. EPA (2018), Greenhouse Gases Equivalencies Calculator, https://bit.ly/23xh05A; U.S. EPA (2018), eGRD 2016 data.https://bit.ly/22xh07F.



Policy action

Health Care Without Harm and its strategic partners are working to create and support policies that make sustainable climate-smart health care mainstream practice at the national and sub-national level. In 2019 inspiring progress in policy development accelerated around the world.

NATIONAL

Chile: The Chilean Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Health Care Without Harm Latin America team, co-organized the first Latin America Huellaton in 2019. This event, along with several others that took place over the year, was part of their Green Hospitals program to support hospitals in calculating and mitigating their carbon footprint.

India: Health Care Without Harm's partners Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Centre for Chronic Disease Control organized a gathering of 30 hospital CEOs to discuss climate action. The White Paper emanating from this conclave was presented to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. PHFI was subsequently named a Centre of Excellence for Climate Resilient, Green Health Care, and is now helping lead national policy development.

Maldives: At the World Health Assembly, the Minister of Health of the Maldives, Abdulla Ameen, announced that his ministry is developing green climate-smart policies for his country's hospitals based on two reports co-produced in late 2018 by Health Care Without Harm and the World Health Organization.

United States: The US Health Care Climate Council, a coalition of 19 major health care systems convened by Health Care Without Harm, visited Capitol Hill in October 2019 to brief lawmakers on the role of health care in addressing the climate crisis. They expressed the urgent need to transition the US to 100% clean, renewable energy and to invest in health care climate resilience.



State level climate alliances organized by Health Care Without Harm in the US are powerful vehicles to create cross-sectoral support for climate-smart health care. Governor Jay Inslee speaks at the launch of the Health Care Climate Alliance in Washington State.

SUBNATIONAL

Australia: In states around the country our partner, the Climate and Health Alliance of Australia, is engaging with government agencies to advise on and support the development of policies on health, well-being, climate action and sustainable health care. A policy framework they developed for Queensland in 2018 in now guiding policy development in Tasmania.

India: Our partner Healthy Energy Initiative India advised the states of Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu in developing state action plans on climate change and human health.

United States: Health Care Without Harm launched its third statewide Health Care Climate Alliance in Washington's tate in December 2019 with the support of Washington's governor Jay Inslee. Alliance members represent almost 40% of the hospitals in the state. These Alliances serve as a vehicle to bring health care's expertise, experience and trusted voice to work with state governments to develop policies and strategies that foster climate-smart solutions for the sector and support the state's climate goals.

Cool hospitals

In 2019, Health Care Without Harm began a two-year, three country project with the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP). The project is designed to help support greenhouse gas emissions reductions in hospitals by fostering greater energy efficiency in air conditioners and other cooling equipment. Working with our China partner, Rock Environment and Energy Institute, our Health Care Without Harm South East Asia office in the Philippines, and our Latin America team in Argentina, we established a series of pilot projects with partner hospitals, conducted energy audits and began to see positive results.

A sub-national hospital cooling policy is taking shape in Argentina, while actions to foster greater efficiency in both China and Philippines are moving forward.





Nine hospitals in Argentina, the Philippines and China are working with Health Care Without Harm to develop strategies for cooling efficiency to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.



Climate and Health Air Monitoring Project (CHAMP)

Health Care Without Harm is working with hospitals and health professionals to collect data about air pollution, communicate its impact on human health and foster solutions for clean air and a healthy climate. By leveraging the trusted voice of the health care sector, the project aims to educate communities on air pollution and advocate for protecting their health.

CHAMP is currently active in India, the Philippines and South Africa.

INDIA

In 2019 the project blossomed, with 25 members of the Health and Environment Leadership Platform (HELP), the Indian arm of GGHH, committing to host TV monitors in their facilities to display real time air quality data, forecasts and health recommendations.

Health Care Without Harm's strategic partners, Lung Care Foundation and Healthy Energy Initiative India, set up a hospital-based air monitoring network in Jaipur to relay health-based information to communities on air pollution and engaged leading doctors in assessing air quality impacts on vulnerable populations such as traffic police.





PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia worked with St. Paul Hospital Iloilo and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians to conduct real-time air quality monitoring at the hospital to investigate the impact of transport and coal-fired power plants on community health, and to inform health interventions.

SOUTH AFRICA

Over 80% of the energy in South Africa comes from coal fired power plants, creating significant air pollution problems. groundWork, Health Care Without Harm's strategic partner in South Africa, has focused on working with hospitals in highly polluted areas where the coal plants are located to install air pollution monitors and educate the local communities on the health impacts.

In 2019, groundWork installed its first air pollution monitor at Sebokeng Hospital, a GGHH member.



Health professional advocacy

Doctors for Clean Air

At the end of 2018, Lung Care Foundation of India and Health Care Without Harm launched Doctors for Clean Air, a nationwide network of leading doctors and medical associations committed to addressing air pollution. Over the course of 2019 we launched chapters in six states around the country, produced targeted videos in multiple local languages and brought the health care voice to the media.

Global climate strike

In September, Health Care Without Harm and strategic partners around the world participated in the global climate strike. Health care professionals showed up in droves to advocate for action to address climate change and protect public and environmental health.

- In the US, Health Care Without Harm organized teams of doctors and nurses to participate and created an initiative to provide a medical excuse note for youth to miss school and attend the strike.
- In India, the Philippines and other countries, leaders and youth health professionals from GGHH member institutions joined the strike.

DOCTORS FOR CLEAN AIR



Health professionals are using their trusted voice to advocate for climate action to protect planetary health. At Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India and at rallies in the US, they gathered to participate in the global climate strike.

12

Photo on left by Shanda Demorest.

Procurement: Greening the health care supply chain

The health care sector represents 10% of the global economy and contributes 4.4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The lion's share of these emissions, 71%, are primarily derived from the health care supply chain through the production, transport, and disposal of goods and services. The United Nations (UN) alone buys over \$5 billion in health products and services to support health programs each year.

The size and scope of the global health care supply chain represents an important responsibility and significant opportunity for the health care sector to be good stewards of the planet by ensuring that the products used in caring for people minimize negative impacts on their health and that of the environment. Since 2018, Health Care Without Harm together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), have been working together to integrate sustainability into health sector materials production and procurement practices in the Sustainable Health in Procurement Project: SHiPP.

SHiPP has three areas of focus: carbon reduction, safer chemicals and sustainable resource use. Working in ten countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Moldova, South Africa, Tanzania, Vietnam, Ukraine and Zambia; and two regions: Latin America and South East Asia, SHiPP aims to develop standards and criteria for sustainable products and develop capacity among health systems, procurement officers and suppliers to implement sustainable procurement practices in their organizations.



Procurement departments at hospitals can choose safer chemicals and equipment to protect the health of their patients, staff and environment. The University Hospital in the Department of Nariño, Colombia replaced glutaraldehyde sterilization with hydrogen peroxide and autoclaves.



Purchasing products with recyclable materials is one of the many strategies that health care facilities can employ to implement sustainable procurement.

Photo by Michael Harder, Aarhus University Hospital.

Procurement

In 2019, year two of the four-year SHiPP project, Health Care Without Harm regional offices, strategic partners and GGHH members achieved major advances in policy and standards development and the integration of sustainability criteria into procurement practices. By supporting change at hospitals on the ground while developing policies to enable large scale change at the national and subnational level, the project is able to use a two-faceted strategy to achieve success.

Policy success

AFRICA: The Southern African Development Community developed a pooled procurement agreement including a policy on sustainability.

CHINA: Rock, Energy, Environment Institute, Health Care Without Harm's strategic partner in China, along with the Environmental United Certification Centre developed a draft sustainable procurement standard. This will support the implementation of sustainable procurement at health care facilities and will be a vehicle to promote systematic change in the health care sector.

LATIN AMERICA: In Colombia, the Secretary of Public Health of the state of Cundinamarca issued a new ordinance, which states that all public institutions including hospitals will use sustainable procurement as criteria for the acquisition of goods and services.

INDIA: The Centre for Chronic Disease Control, a Health Care Without Harm strategic partner in India, created a new standard and accreditation for Green Hospitals with a chapter on sustainable procurement.

SE ASIA: In Vietnam, the Ministry of Health published a new directive calling for a reduction in the use of plastics and related waste in the health care sector. All public health care facilities in the country will be developing and implementing strategies and plans to address plastics.



Practice implementation



Carbon emissions and energy use reduction

 Pilot hospitals participating in SHiPP are procuring renewable energy, efficient light bulbs and anesthetic gases with the lowest carbon footprint. They are joining the movement towards a decarbonized economy to protect health from climate change.



Safer chemicals

- Health Care Without Harm Europe led a survey project to gather information from hospitals around the region on their use of disinfectants and identify those that are least toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative.
- Western Cape Department of Health in South Africa began work to incorporate sustainability criteria into the procurement of laundry and cleaning chemicals.

Educational workshops



- In each of the regions and countries where Health Care Without Harm and its partners are working on the SHiPP project, workshops play a vital role to educate and engage the health care sector. Attendees learn key strategies and approaches to integrate sustainability into their facility purchasing and have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with colleagues to leverage their collective purchasing power.
- In 2019 sustainable procurement workshops took place in Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Vietnam and Zambia.

Waste

Sustainable health care waste management was one of the founding issues for Health Care Without Harm when the organization began twenty-four years ago. It is a crosscutting issue and has implications for how health care addresses climate change, procurement, chemicals and plastics. Today, it remains a key programmatic area around the world, especially in the Global South.

Health Care Without Harm is continually conducting research and tracking the latest developments in health care waste management to advise and support the implementation of sustainable practices at hospitals and health centers around the world. Through a series of pilot projects in select regions and countries, Health Care Without Harm is demonstrating the viability of waste management solutions that limit their impact on environmental and public health. By sharing these examples of success regionally and globally, Health Care Without Harm supports scaling solutions with the ultimate goal of having them become policies that can create large-scale positive impacts.



MOBILIZING HEALTH CARE TO PREVENT PLASTIC POLLUTION: A PLASTICS TOOLKIT FOR HOSPITALS



Plastics in health care

Health care facilities are consumers of large amounts of single-use plastics, contributing to the plastics pollution problem plaguing the world. As part of a project to provide solutions and guidance to address this issue, the Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia office released a new resource in 2019: Mobilizing Health Care to Prevent Plastics Pollution: A Plastics Toolkit for Hospitals. It provides information on life cycle hazards of different polymers, long term vision and short-term recommendations for action, a how-to guide on the conduct of simplified plastics audit and guidance on how to reduce plastics within health care.



Autoclaves treat health care equipment and waste with high temperatures and steam to allow for their reuse or safe disposal. Many of the hospitals participating in the HCWH/WHO/UNDP project have installed autoclaves as an alternative to incineration.

Health care waste management in Africa

The year 2019 was the penultimate year of the Health Care Without Harm project with UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the governments of Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia to support hospitals in the implementation of sustainable health care waste management programs and mercury device elimination.

Health Care Without Harm has played an integral role in transferring learnings on biodigestion of organic and pathological waste from Nepal to project hospitals in Tanzania. Monitoring from a biodigester installed at Mwananyamala Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, showed it was safely disposing of placenta from the maternity ward and food waste from the whole facility, while producing 2.5 m³ of biogas each day, which was used for heating water in the maternity ward. The success prompted plans for further units in Tanzania and Madagascar.

The project has been using data collection tools designed by Health Care Without Harm to monitor how well the new waste management systems are operating. Doing so has allowed the regional expert team to track the extent to which we were meeting our targets and identity operational problems so that they could be solved.

Waste

To date, the Africa project has installed 18 autoclaves that have collectively treated over 500 tons of waste.

Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh

In 2019, the Health Care Without Harm global team along with its strategic partner, Health Care Foundation Nepal, joined the World Health Organization to assess existing health care waste management in Cox's Bazar, located in southeastern Bangladesh, where over 900,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar now live in refugee camps.

Together we have crafted a plan to create an integrated safe and sustainable health care waste management system to treat the waste from the hospitals and health care facilities that support both refugees and the community alike. When implemented, these systems will protect refugee and community health by enabling waste collection and treatment to occur at the main hospitals in each subdistrict. Hospitals would also be able to sell materials that are non-infectious and treated to the local recycling industry or send them to landfill.



Biodgesters, like this one under construction at Mwananyamala Hospital in Tanzania, allow for the safe disposal of food waste and placentas, while generating biogas for use at the facility



Health Care Without Harm and its strategic partner, Health Care Foundation Nepal, conducted an assessment of health care waste management in Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh with the WHO. The recommendations aim to create systems that can properly treat waste and protect the health of the Rohingya refugees and community.



Events

Health Care Without Harm regional offices and strategic partners host a variety of events around the world to convene health care sector representatives, sustainable health care experts, GGHH members and government officials. These meetings provide a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate and co-create solutions to transform the sector.

2019 saw long running events continue in several regions, while new and exciting meetings debuted in other parts of the world.



AFRICA GGHH Africa Conference Durban, South Africa **EUROPE** European Health Care Climate Summit London, United Kingdom UNITED STATES CleanMed Nashville, US



PACIFIC Greening the Health Care Sector Forum Melbourne, Australia **ASIA** Green Hospitals Asian Conference Singapore LATIN AMERICA Climate and Health International Summit Medellín, Colombia

About Health Care Without Harm



Health Care Without Harm works to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint and becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Health Care Without Harm's vision is that health care mobilizes its ethical, economic and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable and healthy world.

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Strategic partner organizations

Centre for Chronic Disease Control - India www.ccdcindia.org

Climate and Health Alliance - Australia www.caha.org.au

Doctors for Clean Air - India www.doctorsforcleanair.org

groundWork - South Africa www.groundwork.org.za

Health Environment Climate Action Foundation - Nepal www.hecaf.info

Healthy Energy Initiative - India www.healthyenergyinitiative.org

Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis - Brazil www.hospitaissaudaveis.org

Public Health Foundation of India www.phfi.org

Rock Environment and Energy Institute - China reei.org.cn

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