

If you are interested in implementing this tabletop simulation exercise, please contact the Global Health Hub Germany via Katrin Würfel Katrin.Wuerfel@globalhealthhub.de or info@globalhealthhub.de

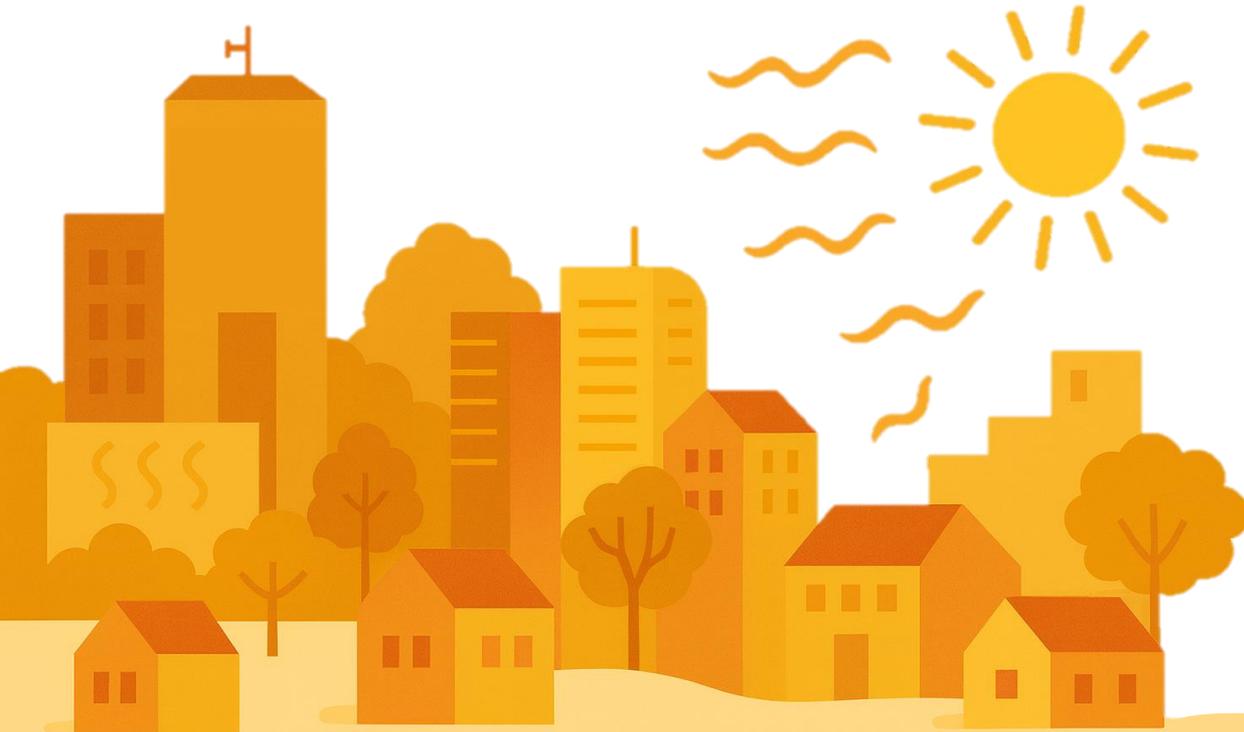


Simulation Exercise

Critical Choices



Federal Ministry
of Health



Heat Edition

Game Mechanics

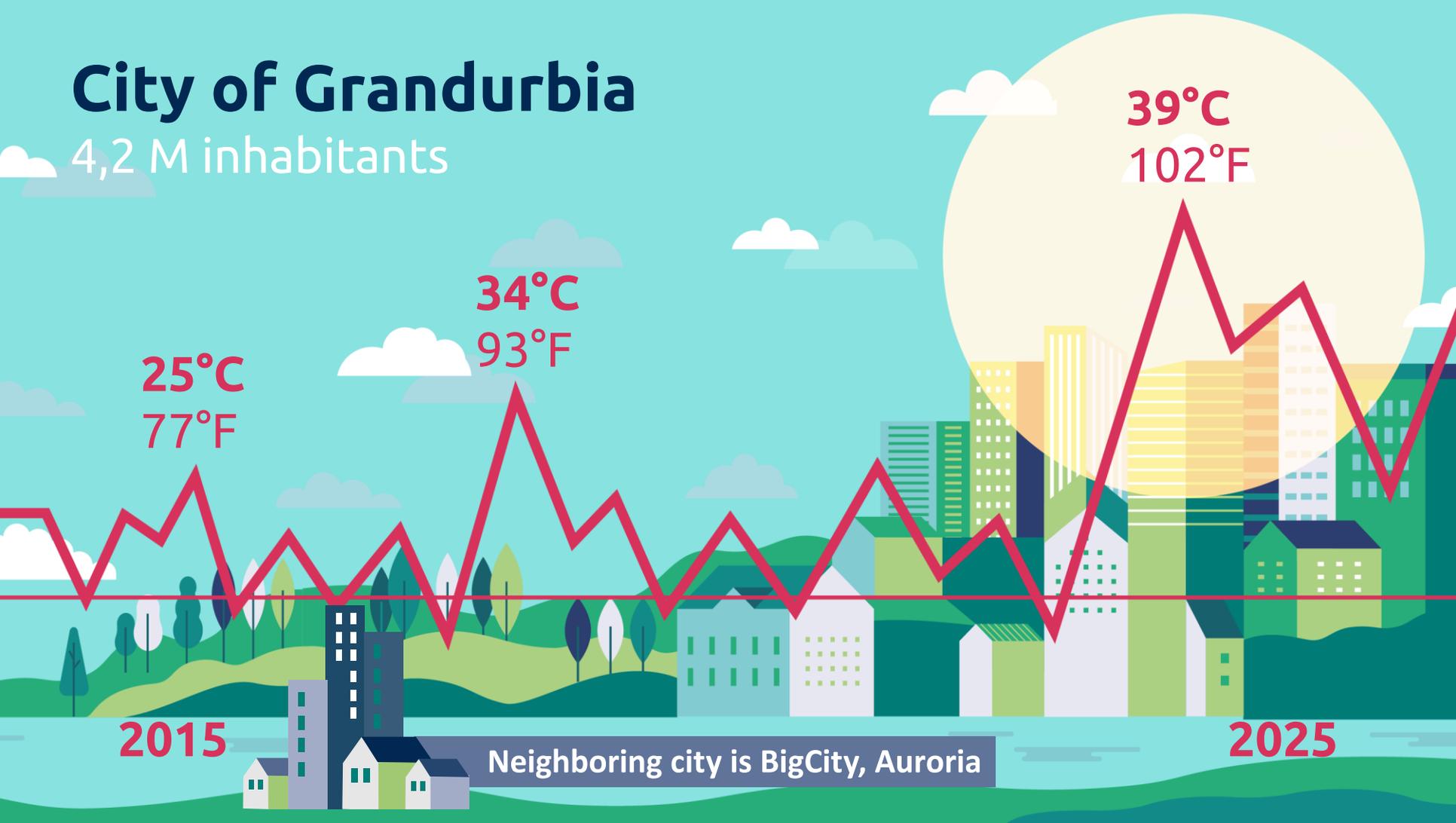
- You collectively act as the **Mayor** of a fictional city, making key decisions by voting.
- Each decision has consequences determining the fate of the health system.
- The storyline advances only with the “Most Preferred Choice”.
- Scenarios are **simplified for educational purposes** and do not reflect the full complexity of the real-world

Scan to vote



City of Grandurbia

4,2 M inhabitants



2015

Neighboring city is BigCity, Auroria

2025

Congratulations!



Antonia Francis

Mayor of Grandurbia. You want to act for the benefit of your city and its people, which is not always easy.



Congratulations
on Year 2 Mayor!

March
03



PUBLIC
CARE FACILITY



FIRE
DEPARTMENT



ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT



SOCIAL
WELFARE
DEPARTMENT



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



PUBLIC
UTILITY
COMPANY



CIVIL
SOCIETY

March
05



THE DAILY TIMES

Mayor of Grandi
unveils social m
Begins second year in



Horizontal lines representing text columns.

CITY NEWS

MAYOR INTRODUCES
SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNEL

Francis begins second year in office



Begins second
year in office

Horizontal lines representing text columns.

GRANDURBIA POST

OR LAUNCHES
SOCIAL MEDIA
CHANNEL

second year in office



Horizontal lines representing text columns.



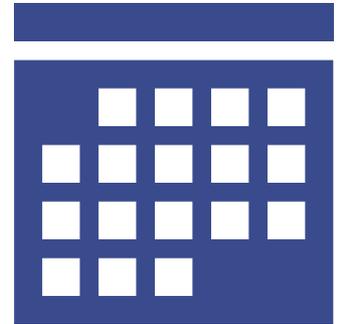
Get Engaged



Join the **WhatsApp** Channel to get an understanding of the community pulse



Six weeks later...



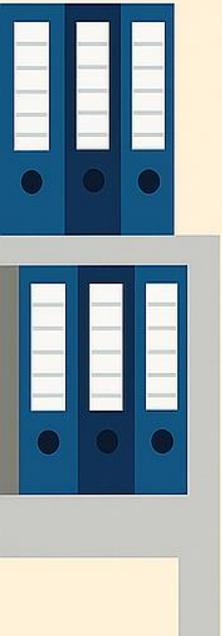


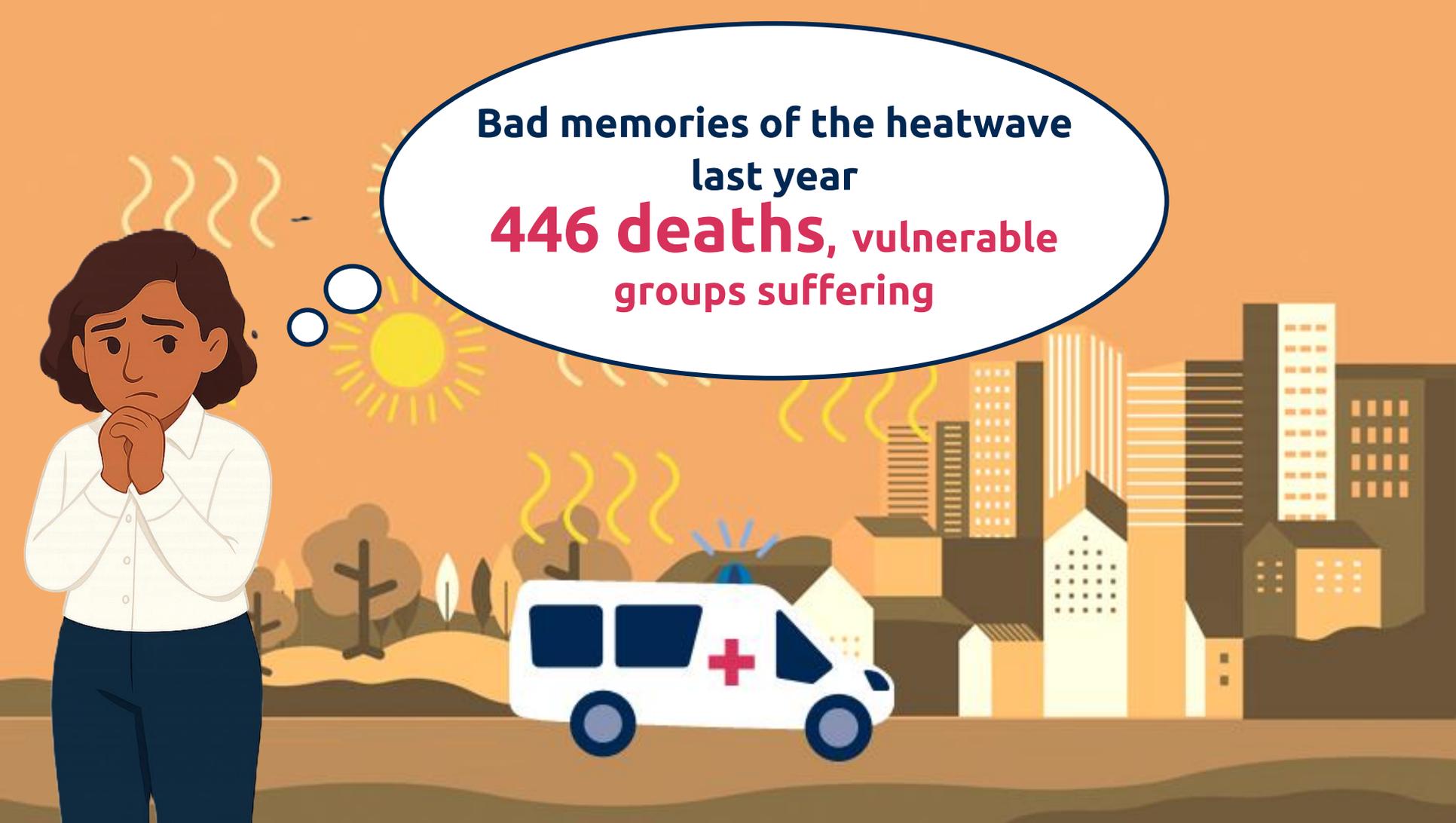
Oh yeah! Time for
*The Morning
Pulse*

April
15

April
15

+++
the Summer will be
nice and warm, but there is also
a 70% chance temperatures will
be way above average.
+++



An illustration of a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white button-down shirt and dark blue trousers. She has a sad expression and her hands are clasped in front of her. To her right is a large white thought bubble with a dark blue border. Inside the bubble is text about a heatwave. The background is a stylized cityscape with various buildings, a bright yellow sun with rays, and wavy lines representing heat rising from the ground. A white ambulance with a red cross and blue lights is driving in the middle ground.

**Bad memories of the heatwave
last year**

**446 deaths, vulnerable
groups suffering**



I hear it is better at BigCity!

2024

Where should we go on hot days?

Why weren't we informed?

We need to prepare sooner and better than last year!



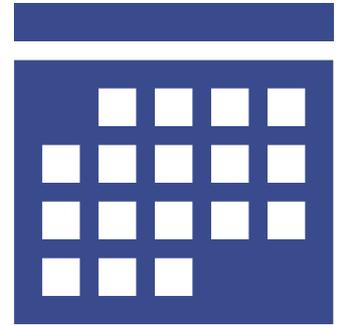
April
15



“The heat health action plan is not ready yet. **I need help**, especially for our health and care providers.”

+++ stay tuned for more news after the break+++

Two days later...



An illustration of a man and a woman in an office. The man, on the left, has a worried expression and is holding a phone to his ear. The woman, on the right, is wearing a green hijab and a red top, and is smiling while talking on a phone. In the background, there are bookshelves with binders, a window with a plant, and a sign for the Ministry of Health. A calendar in the top right corner shows the date April 17.

Good morning, this is Tony Francis – we expect heat wave ahead this summer. I need support to prepare my city. Are there **guidelines** I can use?



Ministry
of Health

April
17

Thanks for reaching out, Mayor. The guidelines were delayed due to recent global health funding changes. We are now preparing as best as we can. However,...



Ministry
of Health



**April
17**

Let me tell you, what
we already have available.
You can choose
between...

1

We commissioned a study on heat impacts and warning communication targeting vulnerable groups (elderly, pregnant women, children)

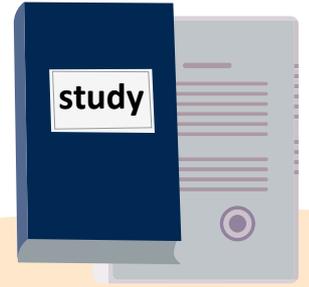
2

We launched a funding programme for climate adaptation and cooling in public buildings, incl. subsidies for outdoor greening and shading

3

Manual on heat preparedness for care facilities

1 Good Choice!

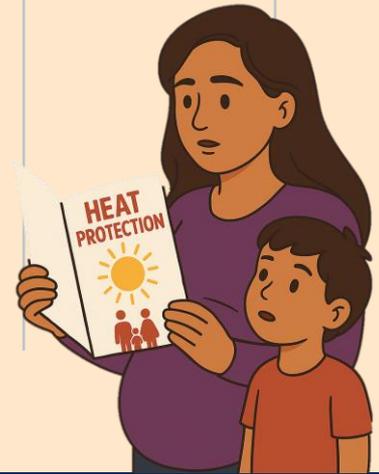
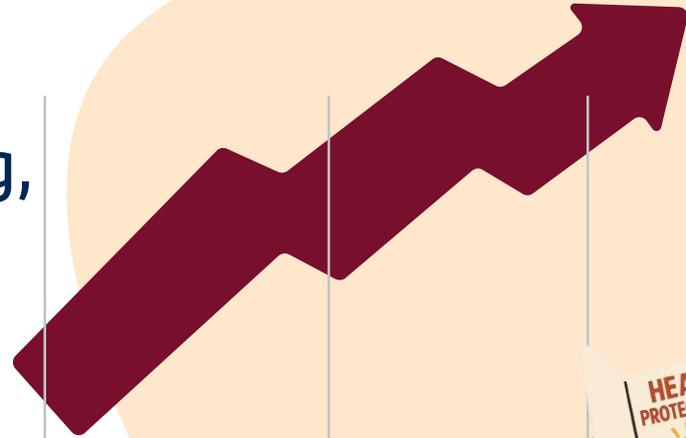


“Evidence is needed!
But the study is still ongoing,
it will be months before
final results.”

now → month

month

month



② Good Choice!

“Cooling indoor temperature is needed! But only new construction projects and comprehensive renovations are eligible! And greening and shade construction will take too long”



3 Excellent Choice!

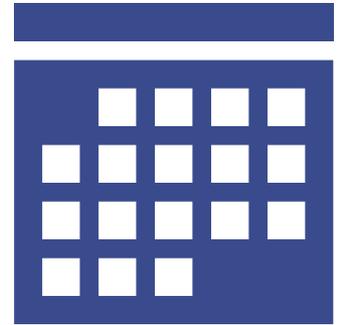
“The manual will be used by care-staff!”

Public Health Information Institute

Please contact
the PHII for awareness
campaigns.



Five days later...



**April
22**



Hello, this is Mayor Tony Francis from Grandurbia. Do you have any initiatives or information we can use?

Dear Mayor, glad to see you prioritise heat! We rarely get requests on this – most of our budget now goes to dengue and West Nile virus materials



But we do have some things that we are working on.

What do you think about these options:



1

Social Media Campaign offering behavioural guidance during Heat Waves

2

Join International Exchange with WHO and WMO on heat adaptation at local level

3

Use Auroria's communication guidelines on heat impact and adaptation in schools and child care centres



1 Good Choice!



Well that did not work
so well last year.

**What about
the elderly?**

**“drink, daily routine,
dress accordingly”**

2 Excellent Choice!



The Mayor attends the WHO-WMO conference and learns from best practices as implemented in participating cities.

Conference
scheduled in
three weeks

May
15



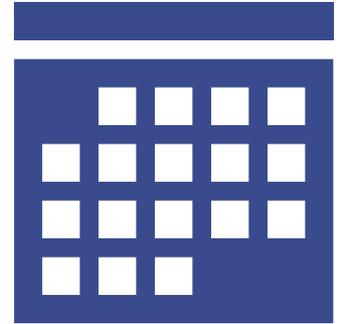
③ Good choice!



Auroria's heat adaptation guidelines for schools and childcare centres could be useful but need translation and adjustment to Grandurbia's context



Three weeks later...





**CONFERENCE
WHO · WMO**

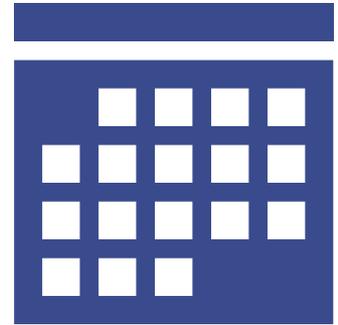


HEAT ADAPTATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

**May
15**



One week later...



METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT

May
24



Hello, this is Mayor Tony Francis. Other countries get automatic advice what to do!

Can we have something like this too?



MR. GARCIA

Hello Mayor, we're developing a text alert tool linking flood warnings with behavioural tips.

We were asked by the Ministry of Interior to first focus on floods.

METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT

May
24

Thanks, Mr. Garcia. That sounds great. Could this tool also work for heat waves?

Can it be ready for this summer?

If you prepare some behavioural messages, we might include them in the heat alerts

I'll check with my superiors and the ministries and let you know

MR. GARCIA

Time jump!



July
1

WARNING!



**Extreme heat
in 4 days:**

Drink enough,
Look out for
elderly relatives,
...

SMS Alerts &
behavioural advice
in Mid-August



Oh, I wish I had more time...

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



July 03

Mayor, listen: A new **10-day forecast** confirms that another heat wave is just ahead!

July
03

CARE HOME

Juri, I have bad news:
there is another heatwave
on the way,
**possibly worse than
last year. Are you
ready?**

Mayor Tony, Yes I think
we are ready.

**We considered the
following options:**

Attention: **Third decision**

Choose a yes or no for each option!

CARE HOME



July
03

1

Ensure that the activity schedule is changed so that there are no outside activities.

3

Instruct staff to follow guidance on ventilation and shading of windows as highlighted in the MoH manual.

2

Install air-conditioning in the common area.

4

Do an awareness raising session with all staff on symptoms of heat and other relevant measures.

1 Change activity schedule



“But we must not forget that temperatures will also be high inside the building.”



② Install air condition



“Juri, I think this will take too long. And our contingency budget could not cover this for all Care Homes.”



3

Instruct staff: ventilation and shading (MoH)



"Excellent choice!
Ventilation & shading
helps keep indoor
temperatures safer and
protects residents from
heat stress!"



4

Awareness raising session with staff



"Excellent choice!
Everybody should
be aware how to
handle heat health
consequences!"



CARE
HOME

July
03

Juri, great to hear,
that you are
preparing well!

Juri

Heat task force | 9 days to go

July
04



PUBLIC
CARE FACILITY

FIRE
DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT

HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC
UTILITY
COMPANY

CIVIL
SOCIETY

SOCIAL
WELFARE
DEPARTMENT

Heat task force | 9 days to go

July
04

Decide for a **set of options** within our **current budget**



Choose options within your budget of 8,000 Grandurbia-\$

- 1 Cool down public spaces and squares through misting (5000 GU-\$)
- 2 Set up a Heat Call Centre (outgoing and incoming) (5000 GU-\$)
- 3 Open air-conditioned shops and restaurants for non-consumers to cool down (3000 GU-\$)
- 4 Set up mobile water distribution and cooling centres with heat information (3000 GU-\$)
- 5 Install additional public toilets (3000 GU-\$)
- 6 Together with the Public Parks Administration invite people to visit parks (1000 GU-\$)
- 7 Coordinate ER admissions with neighbouring provinces (1000 GU-\$)
- 8 Display Heat Warnings on the public transport provider's messaging boards (1000 GU-\$)



1 Option 1!

Through the public utility company and fire department: implement ad-hoc measures to cool selected public spaces and squares using shading and mist installations which also allow for children to play at.



“The measure is generally well received, although there was some confusion about the city ‘wasting’ a lot of water while there is a public call to save water. Passers-byes enjoy the refreshing cool mist.”

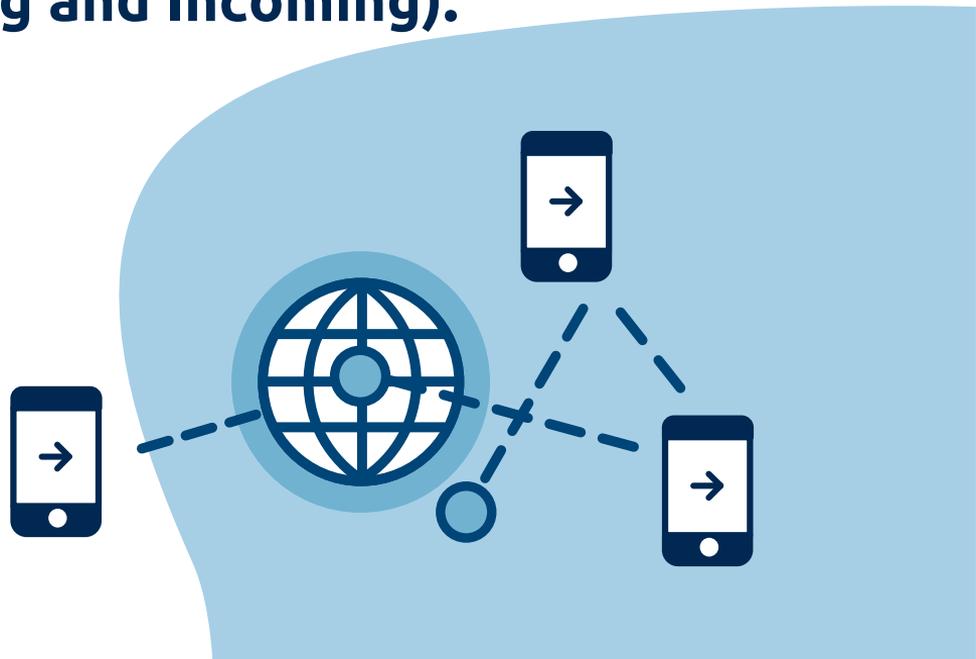
2 Option 2!



Let the social welfare department set-up a Heat Call Centre (Outgoing and Incoming).



The social welfare department **lacks a set of data with attached phone numbers** that can be used in this situation as it was not prepared beforehand.



3 Option 3!

**Through the chamber of commerce:
Ask for a campaign to open air-
conditioned shopping areas to cool
down without the pressure to consume.**

Many have reported about this great initiative, which also brought many shops new publicity, when passer-byes entered shops they would not have entered otherwise.

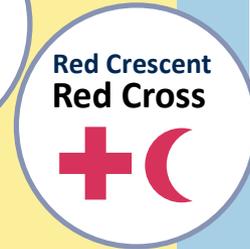


4 Option 4!

Through the Red Cross Red Crescent, NGO partners and the public utility company: Set-up mobile water distribution points and cooling centres with heat information.



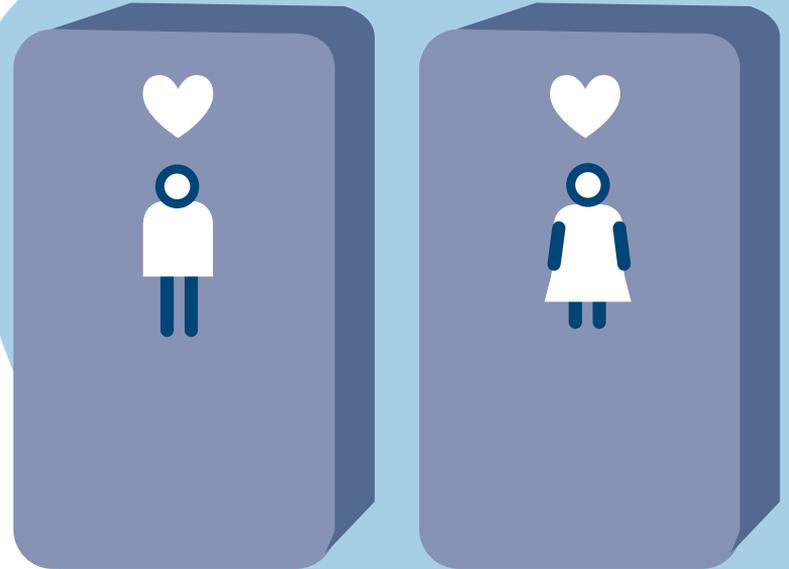
The cooling centres and water distribution points with accompanying information receive many visitors around the heat wave.



5 Option 5!

Request the public utility company to install portable toilets especially for elderly people.

“This measure is much appreciated. Senior citizens especially refrain from hydrating enough when they are not certain about clean and safe sanitation areas that are accessible for them.”



6 Option 6!

Together with the Public Parks Administration invite people to visit parks

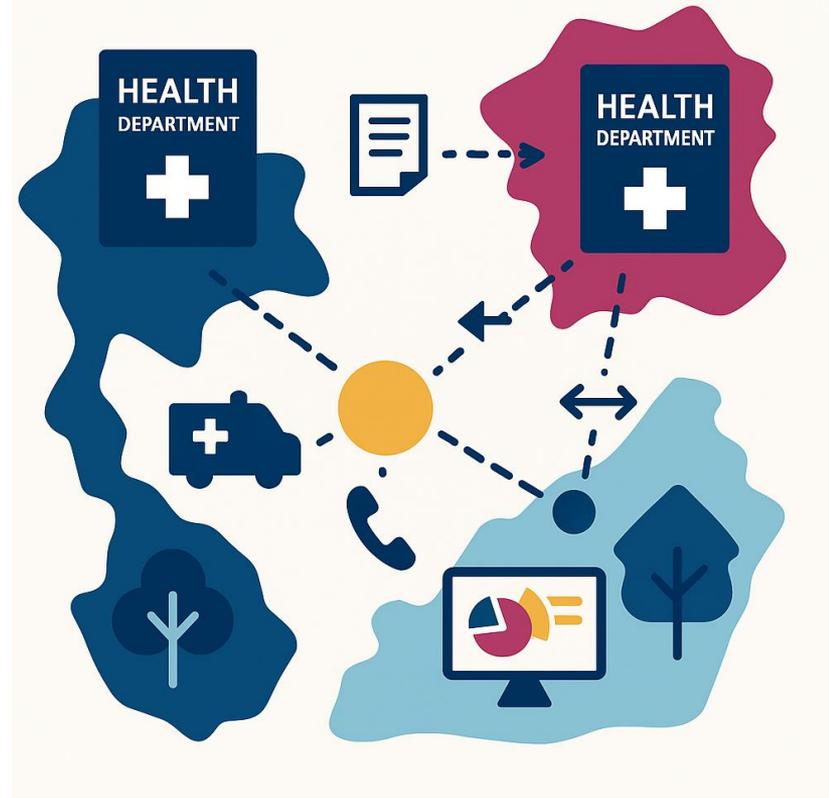
This measure is appreciated, but we must ensure to provide clean and safe sanitation areas that are accessible for everyone.



7 Option 7!

Exchange with health departments of neighbouring and foreign provinces in order to coordinate ER capacities during peak admissions.

This exchange has helped a lot to monitor the incoming patients as well as distributing them over to hospitals in Midania and Auroria.



8 Option 8!

Through the public transport provider: use messaging boards of the local public transport to provide short information about forecasted heat and measures to prevent its detrimental impacts.



“Messages are displayed easily. It is estimated that an additional part of the population has received heat information through this bannering.”



Outro





Federal Ministry
of Health



The Simulation Exercise „Critical Choices – Heat Edition“ was developed by the Global Health Hub Germany on basis of the „G7 Grandurbia Simulation Exercise“ by the Anticipation Hub of the German Red Cross in close consultation with the German Federal Ministry of Health.



For further information about this Simulation Exercise, please contact Katrin Würfel via katrin.wuerfel@globalhealthhub.de