Pacific Islands Action Plan on Climate Change and Health

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Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS)
Countries & Areas - Western Pacific Region

37 countries and areas
1.8 billion people

Legend:
- Member State
- Territory and Area
Relative importance of factors shaping health

- **Behaviour**
  - 30-40%

- **Socio-economic conditions**
  - 40-50%

- **Environment**
  - 10 – 20 %

- **Genetic**
  - 15 – 30 %

- **Health care**
  - 10- 20 %

Ecosystems are part of the region's cultural identity;

PICs are among the most vulnerable to climate change.
  - threatens the fragile ecological balance
  - could change the culture of the Pacific

‘Health is the human face of climate change’ (Williams, 2016)
Altered rainfall patterns
- Frequency and/or severity of extreme weather events (extreme heat, floods, storms)
- Accelerating sea-level rise
- Increased ocean salinity and acidity
- Disruption to health services (including damage to key infrastructure)
- Incidence of foodborne diseases (including ciguatera)
- Incidence of vector-borne diseases and zoonoses
- Traumatic injuries and deaths
- Morbidity and mortality from NCDs and mental health disorders
- Incidence of waterborne diseases and compromised water security
- Malnutrition (including dependence on imported foodstuffs)

**Pathways for health impacts**
- Direct and indirect exposures
- Social disruption
- Detrimental impacts on economic and human developments

**Mediators of health impacts**
- Sociopolitical strategies
- Environmental measures
- Health systems resilience
- Economic development

WHO 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLIMATE-SENSITIVE HEALTH RISK</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health impacts of extreme weather events¹</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat-related illness²</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water security &amp; safety (including waterborne diseases³)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security &amp; safety (including malnutrition &amp; foodborne diseases⁴)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vector-borne diseases⁵</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoonoses⁶</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Respiratory illness⁷</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disorders of the eyes, ears, skin and other body systems⁸</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diffuse effects</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disorders of mental/psychosocial health⁹</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)⁰</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health systems problemsⁱ</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population pressures¹</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Susceptibility to Sea Level Rise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Susceptibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokelau</td>
<td>Extreme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Line Islands</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Micronesia</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitcairn</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>French Polynesia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Marianas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallis and Futuna</td>
<td>Modest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Samoa</td>
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</table>

Source: Woodward et al. (1998)
In 2016, 5 out of the top 18 countries in the world most frequently exposed to extreme natural events such as earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts, and sea level rise are located in the Pacific:

- Vanuatu
- Tonga
- Solomon Islands
- PNG
- Fiji
Health System Actions to address impact of climate change on health

Inputs: Building blocks

Attributes and Domains

Outcomes

Reduced health risks and improved health

Equitable health outcomes

Improved financial protection
Example of a Climate-Resilient Health System

National CC Adaptation

- Water & Sanitation
- Food Safety
- Vector Control
- Health Services
- Disaster Risk Management

Surveillance

Safe Hospital
The Road to Climate Change and Health in the Pacific SIDS

First workshop organized by the WHO global programme on climate change and health, jointly with WPRO.
Samoa, 2000
Meeting to develop the Pacific Action Plan on Climate Change and Health

- 15-16 March 2018, Fiji
- 71 Participants
  - 35 representatives from 18 countries and areas
  - Health sector/Climate sector
  - Academia, Development Partners

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting

- A need for urgent action to finalise the Action Plan through a fast-track process

- Proposed action from the Co-chairs
  - Finalise the Action Plan and endorse at the side meeting in WHA71

- Develop strategies to strengthen co-operation amongst SIDS Ministers of Health
Timeline of Fast-track Process

16 March 2018: Draft Action Plan developed at the meeting;
19 March 2018: Draft Action Plan circulated to all meeting participants for comments;
23 March 2018: Deadlines for comments and inputs;
06 April 2018:
Hon Nandi Glassie circulated the Draft to all Ministers of Health and inform about the Action Plan for comments before 19th April 2018

07 April 2018:
As follow-up to the Hon Nandi Glassie’s email, Dr Josephine Herman, Secretary of Health Cook Islands circulated the Draft Action Plan to all DGs, Secretaries and PS for inputs and comments before 19th April;

19 April 2018: deadline for feedback
27 April 2018: PIC action plan finalised by secretariat, with all feedback
11 May 2018: PIC action plan edited, laid out and proofread
Week of 14th May 2018: printing of the PIC Action Plan

Week of 21st May 2018 : official endorsement and launching of the Action Plan at the side meeting in the WHA 71 in Geneva
Goal of the Action Plan

By 2030, all health systems in SIDS will be resilient to climate variability and change.
Four Strategic Lines of Action for
the Period 2019-2030

Empowerment -
supporting health leadership in SIDS to engage nationally and internationally

Evidence -
identifying priority investments and monitoring their success.

Implementation -
preparedness for climate risks, and health promoting mitigation policies

Resources -
increasing and facilitating access to climate and health finance
Action Plan on Empowerment

Action Plan:

- Ensure that the health argument is effectively incorporated into the official positions of SIDS groupings in global UNFCCC negotiations.

Proposed Indicators:

- # of countries reporting to the PHMM on progress in the implementation of the SIDS Initiative in the Pacific
Action Plan on Evidence

Action Plan:
- Enhance capacity of countries in the Pacific to undertake research in the area of climate change and health.

Proposed Indicators:
- # of countries with completed Climate and Health Country Profiles
Evidence: Science of Climate Change and Health

In many locations, dengue shows a strong seasonal pattern, and understanding of meteorological effects may help preparedness and targeting of control efforts. The figure shows pooled monthly dengue cases (red line) and monthly rainfall (blue bars) in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Action Plan on Implementation

Action Plan:

- Strengthen the role of the health sector in promoting health co-benefits of climate change mitigation actions implemented by those sectors

Indicators:

- # of countries implementing action towards building climate resilient health systems
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAZARD ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>NO. OF HEALTH FACILITIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH</td>
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<tr>
<td>MODERATE</td>
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<td>LOW</td>
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<th>HAZARD ASSESSMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>MODERATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOW</td>
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<td>SAFE</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODERATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAFE</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>NO DATA</td>
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</table>
Action Plan on Resources

Action Plan:
- Strengthen Health Ministries to prioritise, expand, and diversify the funding streams potentially available to build

Indicators:
- # of countries with existing national mechanisms to access climate finance
The Mapping of Climate Change and Health Projects in the Pacific

- **Total Amount of Financial Resources Allocated to Climate Change:** $1,040,700,000
- **Budget Allocated to Health Projects in 2018:** $23,861,124

Source: Climate-related Development Finance (OECD, 2016)
Building Resilience of Health Systems in Pacific Island LDCs to Climate Change

CC&H Direct Effects
- Water security & safety (including waterborne diseases)
- Food security & safety (including malnutrition & foodborne diseases)
- Vector-borne diseases
- Zoonoses
- Respiratory illness
- Disorders of the eyes, ears, skin and other body systems

CC&H Indirect Effects
- Disorders of mental / psychosocial health

CC&H Diffuse Effects
- NCDs

Health Impacts of extreme weather events
- Health systems
- Population Pressures

Pacific LDCs Project Components
- Governance and policies
- Health information and climate early warning systems
- Service Delivery
- Knowledge management and technical assistance

Health System Building Blocks
- Leadership / governance
- Health care financing
- Health workforce
- Medical products, technologies
- Information and research
- Service Delivery

Kiribati
- Adaptation strategies related to priority climate-sensitive health risks
  - CSHRs
  - Adaptation strategy
    - Waterborne Diarrhoeal Pathogens
      - Water monitoring, Technical capacity, Public WASH awareness
    - Food Safety & Foodborne Diseases
      - Food inspection, Delayed food from port, Env Health food test capacity, Training / awareness
    - Vector-Borne Diseases
      - Surveillance, training, equipment
    - Disease Surveillance
      - Clinic nurse capacity, Training for DSUs, Update syndromic surveillance tools

Solomon Islands
- Adaptation strategies not identified; CSHRs listed instead
- Risk category
  - Extreme
    - Vector-borne diseases, Respiratory diseases
  - High
    - Waterborne diseases, Malnutrition, NCDs (e.g., obesity, diabetes), Foodborne diseases, Other / emerging (e.g., leptospirosis, leprosy), Traumatic injuries & deaths
  - Medium
    - Circulatory disease, Mental health issues, Temperature-related illnesses, Eye, ear and skin conditions
  - Low
    - Sexually transmitted infections

Tuvalu
- Climate-sensitive health risks (adaptation strategies too voluminous to include in table)
  - Diarrhoeal disease (waterborne and foodborne diseases)
  - Respiratory disease, Infective and obstructive
  - Compromised food security and impact on nutrition and NCDs
  - Morbidity from extreme weather events (cyclones, storm surges, floods, extreme heat / rainfall events, droughts)
  - Skin infections / infections

Vanuatu
- Adaptation strategies not identified; CSHRs listed instead
- Risk category
  - Extreme
    - Waterborne diseases, Foodborne diseases
  - High
    - Vector-borne diseases, Malnutrition, NCDs (e.g., obesity, diabetes), Temperature-related illnesses, Occupation-related illnesses
  - Medium
    - Respiratory infections, Skin conditions, Eye diseases, Mental health disorders, Traumatic injuries and deaths
Thank you
The Pacific Ministers of Health are invited to:

- Approve and Endorse the Pacific Islands Action Plan on Climate Change.