

Pacific Umbrella Initiative: Pacific Islands Health for Sustainable Development July 2002 - December 2012

Proposed Partners (Further consultation required to confirm partners at all levels)

Governments

Pacific island countries and territories (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Is, Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Saipan, Solomon Is, Tokelau Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna), and Australia, New Zealand, France, UK, USA

Intergovernmental Organisations

Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji School of Medicine

Potential Major Groups/NGOs

NGOs including, FSP (Foundation for the People of the South Pacific), Greenpeace Pacific/WWF Pacific, Live & Learn, Communicable Disease Network Australia, International Network of Pasteur and Associate Institutes, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, UNICEF, WHO/WPRO

Possible donor partners

ADB, Australia, Denmark, ESCAP, EU, France, Japan, New Zealand, UK, USA, UNDP, UNESCO and the World Bank

Leading Partner (To be determined through consultation)

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The main objectives are:

- Improved health surveillance
- Coordinated and strategic approach to the reduction of environmental health threats

Expected results to be determined by countries on the basis of national assessments and stakeholder consultations. These could include:

Environmental health

- Improved identification of priority environmental health threats in the region
- Improved management of these threats, including through enhanced coordination and cooperation between countries and territories
- Support to individual countries and territories to assist them in developing and implementing environmental health improvement plans and other initiatives, and development and implementation of relevant legislative provisions.
- Continuing advocacy for environmental health initiatives, and for the importance of achieving environmental health improvements

Health surveillance

- Improved preparedness to communicable disease outbreaks
- Improved investigation capacities of communicable disease outbreaks
- Improved access to diagnostic facilities
- Improved public health response to outbreaks of communicable diseases
- Limited spread of epidemics

Specific Targets of the Partnership/Initiative and Timeframe for their Achievement

July 2002- June 2003

Initial consultation on development of Regional Environmental Health Strategy and commence implementation of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) plan of action endorsed by Health Ministers

July 2003- Oct 2004

Development of Regional Environmental Health Strategy and of implementation plan, and approval of countries obtained. Consultation with countries on in-country policy/legislative initiatives commenced.

2004-2012

Development and implementation of in-country initiatives, monitoring, reporting (these activities to be ongoing) including the review of partnerships, initiatives and re-shape, re-establish as appropriate as required

Coordination and Implementation Mechanism

National level coordination and implementation to be determined through consultation. Regional level coordination of health surveillance components through the PPHSN Coordinating Body and the CROP Health and Population Working Group with implementation, where appropriate, by the Regional EpiNet Team and relevant organisations, in particular SPC (Public Health Programme).

Arrangements for Funding

The initiative is partly supported by existing public health expertise and resources in SPC (part of funding expected from the French Government and NZAid). Additional funds needed: (surveillance) USD 725,000. (environmental health) USD420 000.

This initiative seeks to extend and complement these existing arrangements and also attract other interested donors and parties.

Arrangements for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

Specific capacity building and technology transfer requirements will be determined by national assessments and stakeholder consultations for WSSD. This could include:

Surveillance

- Training in public health surveillance & response provided to the EpiNet team members (short courses and projects with possible academic recognition and field epidemiology training program).
- The development of guidelines by EpiNet team members is by itself a learning process and enhances the appropriateness and ownership of such guidelines.
- The strengthening of national EpiNet surveillance and response teams goes through an institutional recognition.
- Public health laboratory capacity building (training, equipment) for selected Pacific Island-based public health labs aiming at providing, on a sub-regional basis testing for epidemic communicable diseases not available in-country.
- Provision of support at regional level for national EpiNet teams through networking Pacific Island-based expertise.

Environmental Health

- Working closely with national agencies and staff to jointly develop locally relevant policies/plans/legislation, and build local capacity to undertake priority environmental health work
- Develop a regional strategic approach to priority environmental health issues
- Reduce fragmentation in the management of environmental health issues in the Region
- Assist countries and territories in the Region to fulfill international commitments.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

This initiative is in-line with international WHO strategies for the surveillance and response to epidemic communicable diseases (Global Outbreak and Response, IHR). PPHSN was launched to coordinate, harmonize, and develop public health surveillance activities in the region: it allows to avoid duplication and to optimize the use of scarce resources. Links will also exist with:

- 3rd World Water Forum Secretariat and World Water Council (WWC)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Healthy Islands initiative
- Yanuca Island Declaration on Health in the Pacific

Monitoring Arrangements

- Progress Reports to SPC/WHO meetings of the Ministers and Directors of Health of the Pacific Islands in March 2003 and March 2005.
- Inform'Action, the bulletin of the PPHSN.
- Website at <http://www.spc.int/phs>
- Meeting and workshop reports.
- Biannual reports

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