

# Pacific Heads of Health

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Putting health at the centre of the  
climate change discussion

# Objective of this session:

1. To update on progress since the 13<sup>th</sup> PHMM
2. To share how we can achieve our vision of a healthier and greener future
3. To suggest recommendations for Heads of Health and partners

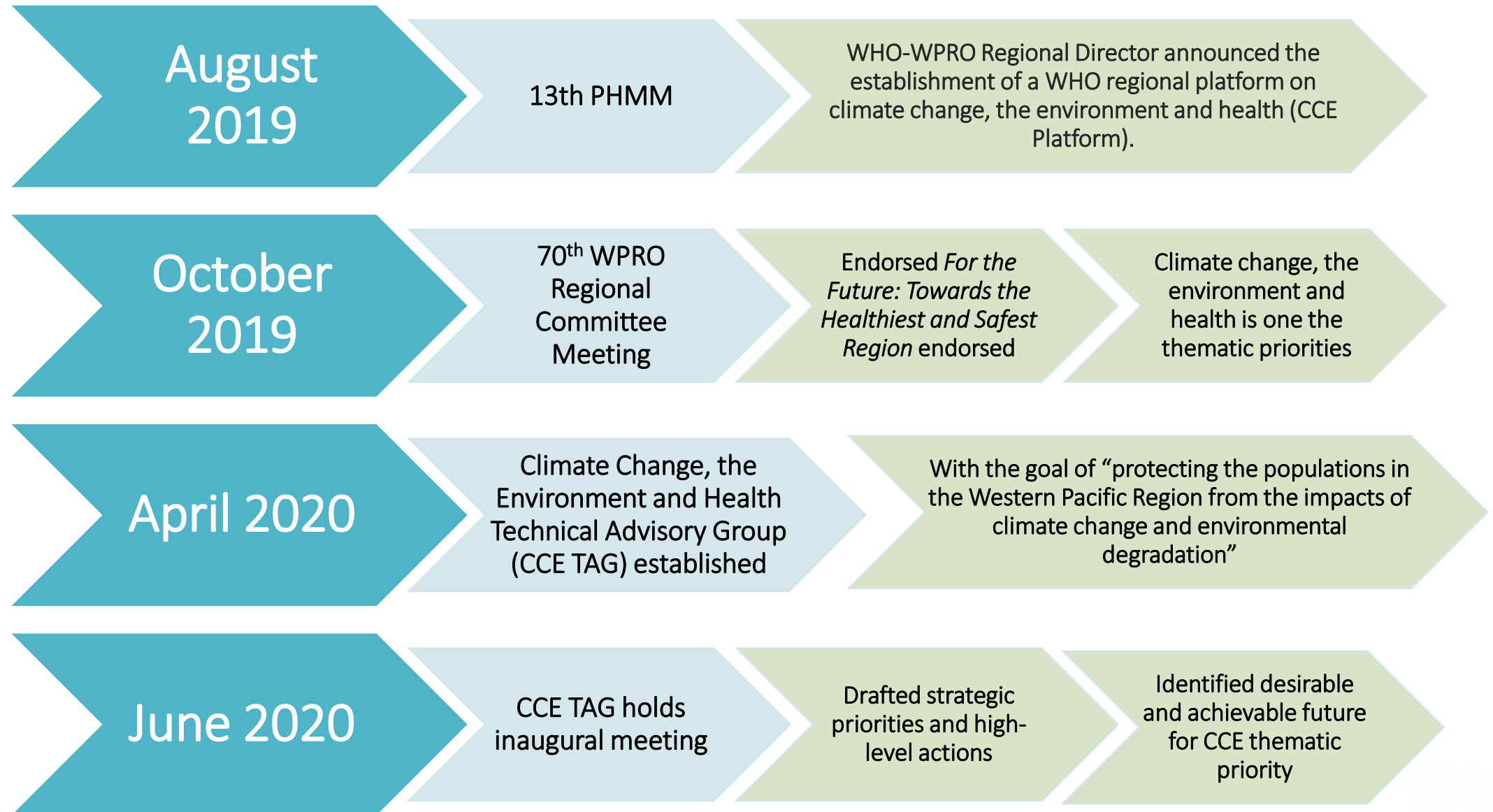


# Recap on CC&H from 13th PHMM

With the Healthy Islands Vision in the backdrop, Ministers of Health agreed to Implement the Pacific Islands Action Plan on CC&H to:

- Elevate climate change, environment and health to the highest level of Government and ensure all sectors understand what it means for them (the co-benefits other sector will bring to health);
- Ensure Climate and Health and Environmental Health country profiles are up-to-date and nationally 'owned';
- Analyze vulnerabilities and the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on health and health systems - as well as adaptation measures;
- Strengthen communication work on CC&H

# Updates since the 13<sup>th</sup> PHMM



# Examples of the Progress Achieved Since the Last PHMM: Pacific islands Action Plan on CC&H and CCE Thematic Priority

## Bringing health to the centre of climate change discussion

- Policies, strategies and plans on CC&H:
  - ✓ *Kiribati National Environmental Health and Climate Change and Health Action Plan 2020-2023 (NEHCCHAP)*
- Leaders and Ministers of Health in PICS participated in global CC&H events
- ✓ *SIDS Summit for Health (June 2021): Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands participated in the CC&H session of the Summit*
- Videos on CC&H were developed for the Pacific and also for Solomon Islands; (3) Tuvalu; (4) Kiribati; and (5) Cook Islands.
- ✓ *CC&H in the Pacific - [https://youtu.be/clSpjQf\\_bME](https://youtu.be/clSpjQf_bME)*

## Building climate resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare facilities

- WHO Guidance on Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Healthcare Facilities
- ✓ *Fiji developed National Guidance on Climate Change and Environmentally Sustainable HCFS*
- ✓ *Non-burning waste disposal technologies in Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu*
- Training Materials on CC&H:
  - *SPC is working collaboratively with WHO on the development of eight modules for entomology training in the region.*

## Building evidence on climate change's impacts on health

- WHO and SPC developed “Manual on surveillance and control of Aedes vectors in the Pacific”
- CC&H country profiles developed:
  - *Fiji* - [WHO-HEP-ECH-CCH-21.01.01-eng.pdf](#)
  - *Vanuatu* - [who-unfccc-cch-country-profile-vanuatu.pdf](#)
  - *Tuvalu* - [WHO-CED-PHE-EPE-19.3.3-eng.pdf](#)
  - *Solomon* - [WHO-CED-PHE-EPE-19.3.1-eng \(1\).pdf](#)

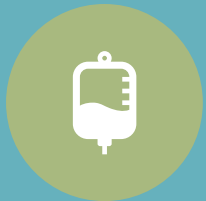
- ✓ *Reviewed existing digital platforms on CC and CC&H to establish a digital arm on CCE in the Region for easy access to existing information and tools on CCE; and sharing of experiences and innovations.*

2030:  
The future  
we want to  
see in the  
Pacific

The Pacific is well prepared to face a changing climate and environment.

The health sector has emerged as a strong force for preserving the planet in partnership with other sectors.

# To get there we need...



Health care facilities across the Pacific to be climate resilient and more environmentally sustainable

-- e.g. contributing fewer carbon emissions



To create healthier environments where we have addressed the environmental determinants of health

– e.g. access to clean water and sanitation, reductions in water and air pollution



To have convinced other sectors to actively seek collaboration with the health sector to address the health impacts of climate and environmental change

9<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of IPCC - UN Sec General  
“Code Red for Humanity”; 6<sup>th</sup> September, 200 medical editorials – WHO DG  
“Every action taken to limit emissions and warming brings us clos

If we are serious about addressing the issues that will claim lives and livelihoods now and, in the future, then we must address climate change.

The pandemic has shown that health systems are the main line of defence in protecting populations. As we look to build back better from COVID-19, **it is essential that we plan for a greener and healthier future.**

PHMM will take place just a few months after COP26 – **where health has been chosen as a science priority area for the first time.**

We can capture the attention of those beyond the health sector.



# Why action is needed now



## Recommendations for consideration

### *Pacific Heads of Health are invited to:*

1. Develop or strengthen plans to address the health impacts of climate change.
2. Support advocacy on the need for inter-sectoral and international action to address the health impacts of climate change, including at national and international fora such as COP meetings.
3. Strengthen the climate resilience of healthcare facilities, making progress towards the following 5-year targets:
  - a) *100% of healthcare facilities have access to basic water, sanitation, hygiene and medical waste management*
  - b) *100% of healthcare facilities have access to electricity*
4. Health infrastructure has been assessed and strengthened to withstand climate shocks and health emergencies
5. Identify opportunities to reduce the health sector's environmental impact (e.g. reduce the health sector's carbon footprint and waste).
6. Gather and share data and evidence on the health impacts of climate change and the co-benefits of action taken by colleagues outside the health sector.
7. Contribute to the digital arm of the CCE platform, sharing information, evidence, and good practices with other countries and partners.

## Recommendations for consideration

### Development partners are invited to:

1. Support countries' efforts to develop or strengthen plans to address the health impacts of climate change, focusing on developmental effectiveness and identifying opportunities to optimize available resources to tackle both COVID-19 and climate change simultaneously .
2. Support the efforts of Pacific leaders to inspire those beyond the health sector to play their part in addressing the health impacts of climate change, including through the development of communications and advocacy tools.
3. Produce and share regional guidance on climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities, and support countries in its implementation.
4. Monitor the health impacts of climate change and gather and share evidence to inform decision-making, guide advocacy, drive action and track the impacts and successes of interventions.
5. Facilitate cross-country sharing of ideas and best practices, including through the digital arm of the CCE platform.