COVID-19 VACCINE CERTIFICATE FOR CROSS BORDER TRAVEL

'OCEANIA VACCINATION VOYAGER'

Outline

- Background
- Issue of Importance
- Regional Response to COVID-19
  - Pacific COVID-19 Certificate Project
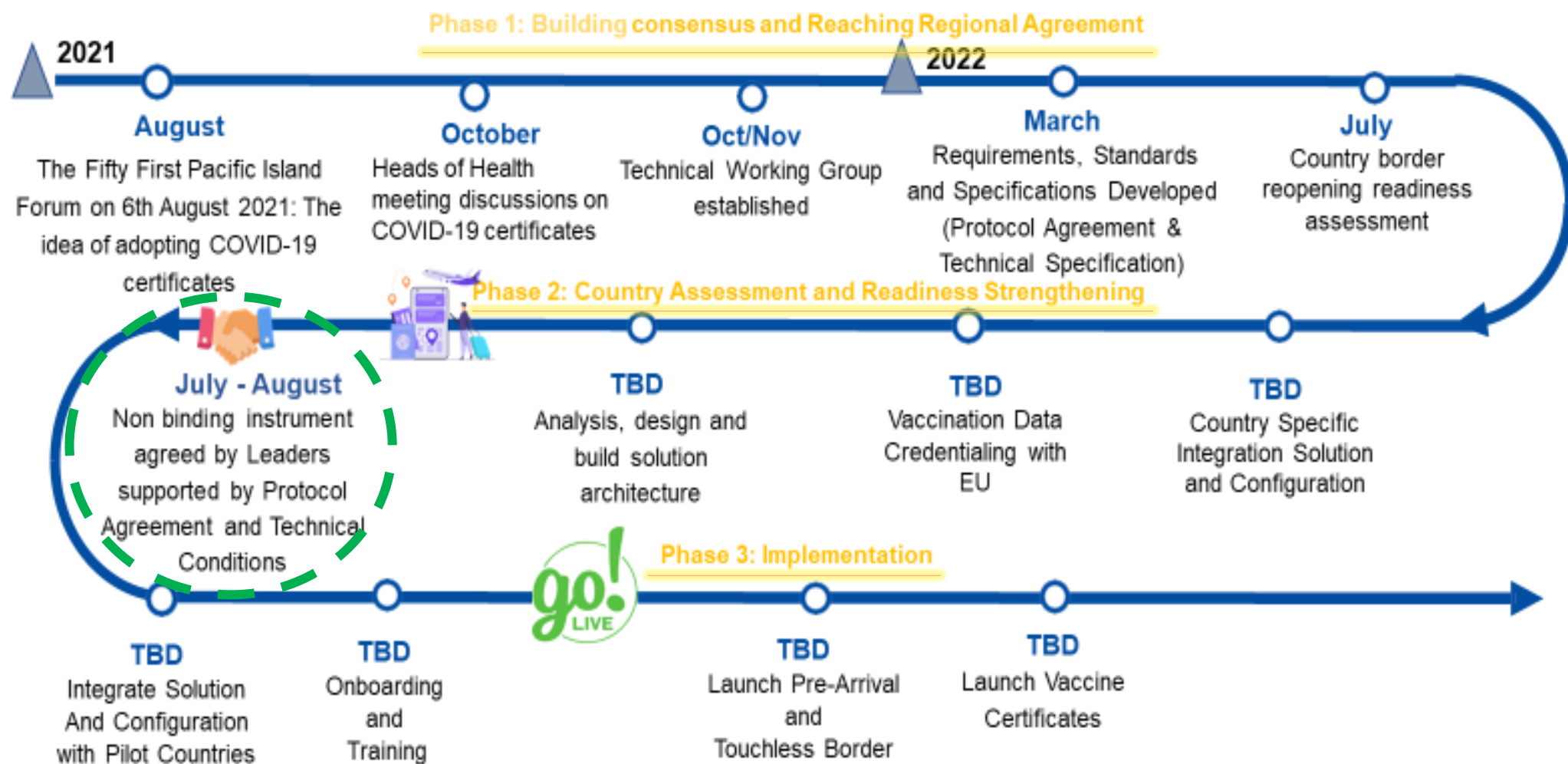 - Regional Status
- Recommendations

Background

- August 2021 Forum Leaders Meeting.

- October 2021 Pacific Heads of Health and RTF meetings.

- Establishment of COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate for Cross Border Travel TWG, 38 meetings to date.

- Concurrence to move forward as "one region, one solution", to ensure no Pacific country is left behind.

- Utility beyond COVID-19 pandemic

- Non binding instrument.

Issue of Important

- National immunization records data quality and Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR).

- Data quality for recording national immunization records and standards in alignment to WHO Pacific Immunization Reference Model

- Call to Action for quality assessment of national immunization records accelerated due to COVID-19.

- PICTs developing own vaccine credentials that meet international standards for cross border travel.

- The role of border agencies (Immigration, Customs, Border Services) and transport (e.g., airlines) in vaccine credential verification.

Roadmap to the Pacific COVID-19 Certificate

Phase 1: Building consensus and Reaching Regional Agreement

2021

August
The Fifty First Pacific Island Forum on 6th August 2021: The idea of adopting COVID-19 certificates

October
Heads of Health meeting discussions on COVID-19 certificates

Oct/Nov
Technical Working Group established

2022

March
Requirements, Standards and Specifications Developed (Protocol Agreement & Technical Specification)

July
Country border reopening readiness assessment

Phase 2: Country Assessment and Readiness Strengthening

July - August
Non binding instrument agreed by Leaders supported by Protocol Agreement and Technical Conditions

TBD
Analysis, design and build solution architecture

TBD
Vaccination Data Credentialing with EU

TBD
Country Specific Integration Solution and Configuration

Phase 3: Implementation

go! LIVE

TBD
Integrate Solution And Configuration with Pilot Countries

TBD
Onboarding and Training

TBD
Launch Pre-Arrival and Touchless Border

TBD
Launch Vaccine Certificates

Phase 1: Building Consensus and Reaching Regional Agreement

- TWG responsible for policy and technical guidance
- Accenture engagement to support TWG
- Phase 1 from January to April
- Phase 1 Transition Support from May to July
- Implementation modality was remote/virtual.
- Regional Workshop Series from Feb to March.
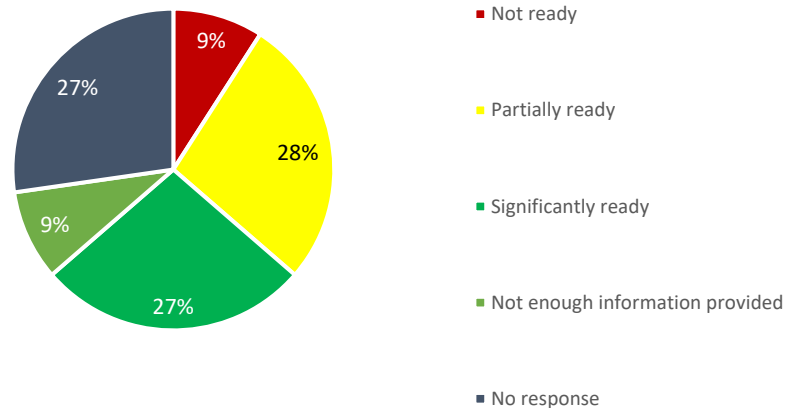- Border Reopening and Vaccination Certificate Readiness Survey

Deliverables

- **Phase 1**
  - i.   <mark>Landscape Analysis</mark> – Assessment on existing, internationally accepted, vaccination certificates for cross border travel (evolving).
  - ii.   <mark>Protocol Agreement</mark> – Outlines the high level functions and technical requirements and provides an overview of the proposed COVID-19 travel document solution to promote safe cross border travel.
  - iii. <mark>Technical Conditions Agreement</mark> – Overview of the architecture within the context of broader public health, border management and technical capabilities necessary to implement the solution defined in the Protocol Agreement
- The PA and TCA based on <mark>EU DCC model</mark> (gold standard) adopted by over 50 countries and territories.
- Communication Strategy and Products
- Preliminary Readiness Assessment Results
- Country Implementation Roadmap Approach

Border Reopening and Vaccination Certificate Readiness Survey

Readiness Assessment Preliminary Results

% of Country Readiness: Issuance

Pie chart legend:
- Not ready — 9%
- Partially ready — 28%
- Significantly ready — 27%
- Not enough information provided — 9%
- No response — 27%

% of Issuance readiness:

Significantly Ready 27% : Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu

Partially ready 28 %: American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu

Not ready 9%: Kiribati, Solomon Islands

Not enough information 9% : Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru
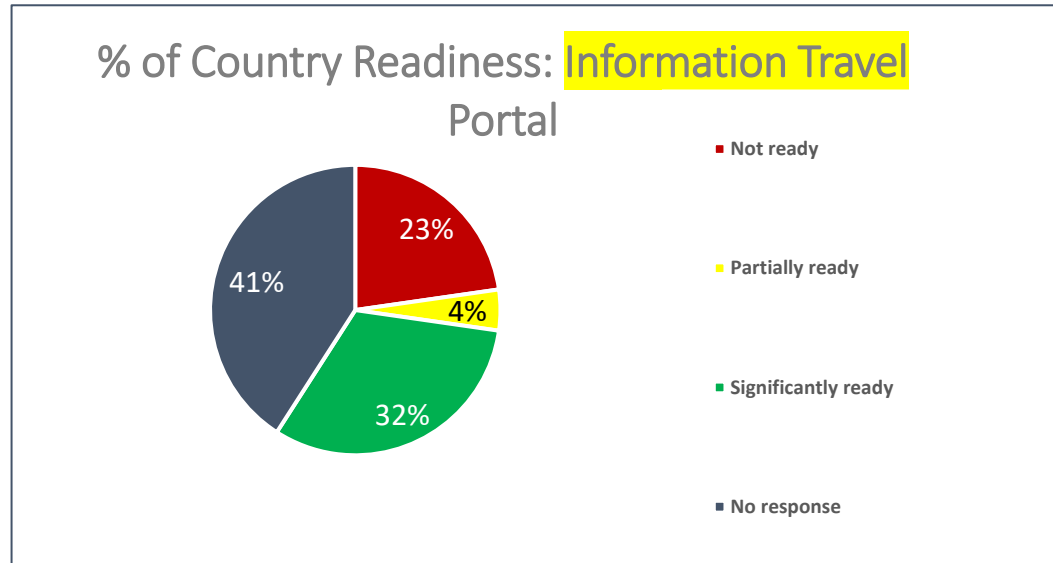
No Response 27 % : Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Wallis and Futuna

Countries with COVID-19 certificate issuance service/system

Bar chart (vertical axis 0–9):
- Non-digital: 3
- Digital (EU DCC): 6
- Digital (Smart Health): 1
- Digital (ICAO-VDS): 1
- Machine-readable: 2
- Not enough…: 1
- No response: 8
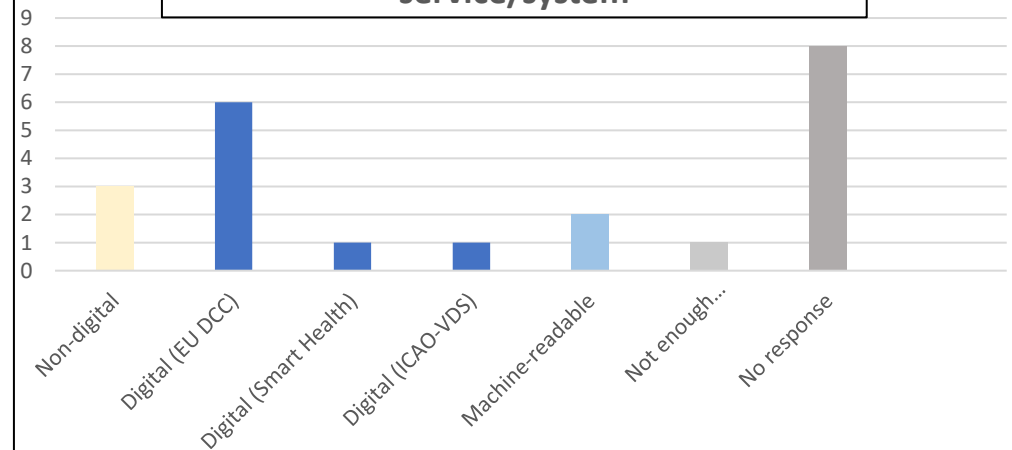
- **Digital EU DCC**: Cook Islands, Tokelau, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Fiji
- **Digital (Smart Health):** Marshall Islands
- **Digital (ICAO-VDS):** Samoa
- **Machine-readable**: Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Niue
- **Non-digital, handwritten**: American Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands
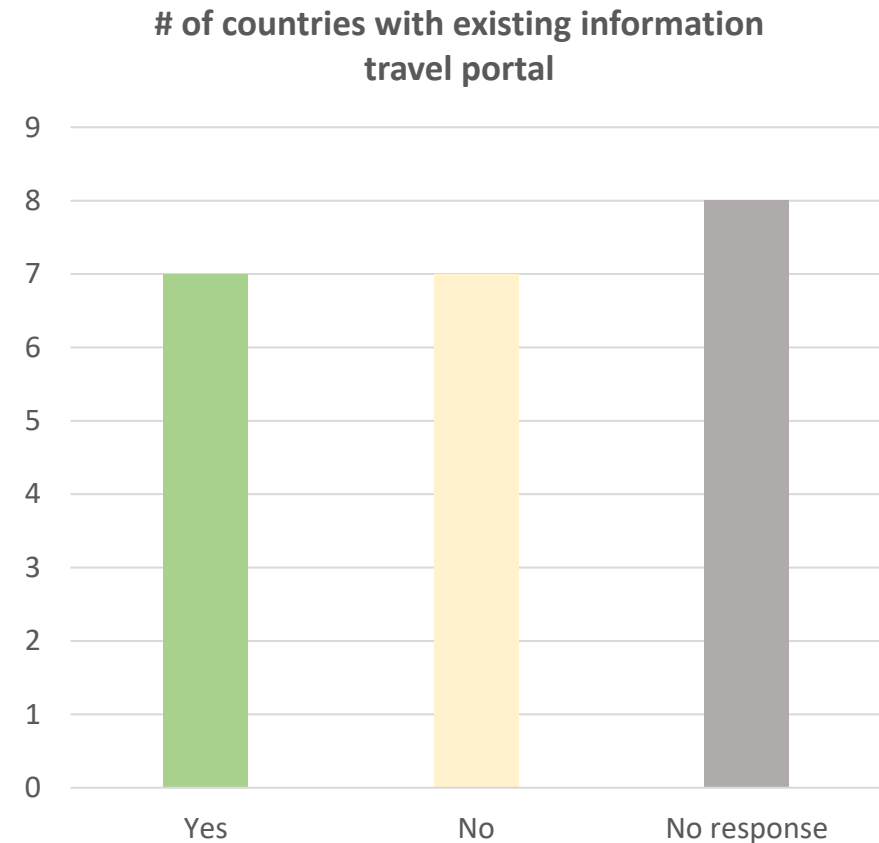
Readiness Assessment Preliminary Results

% of Country Readiness: Information Travel Portal

- Not ready
- Partially ready
- Significantly ready
- No response

Pie chart values: 23%, 4%, 32%, 41%

% of Information Travel Portal readiness

Significantly ready 32 % : American Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Vanuatu

Partially ready 4%: Marshall Islands

Not Ready 23 %: Federated States of Micronesia, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu
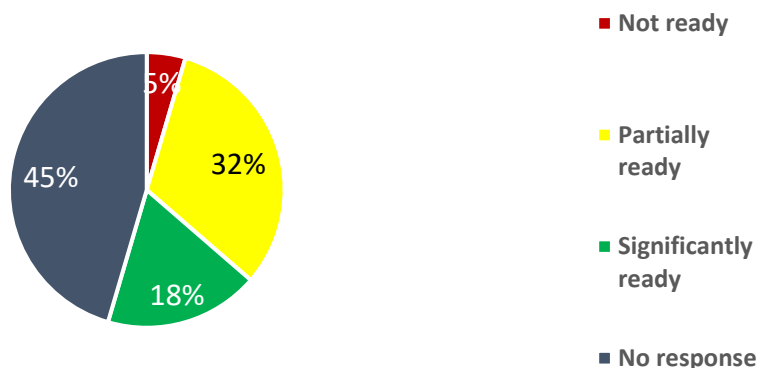
No Response 41 %: Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Wallis and Futuna

# of countries with existing information travel portal

Bar chart: Yes = 7, No = 7, No response = 8

Significantly Ready (Yes): American Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Vanuatu
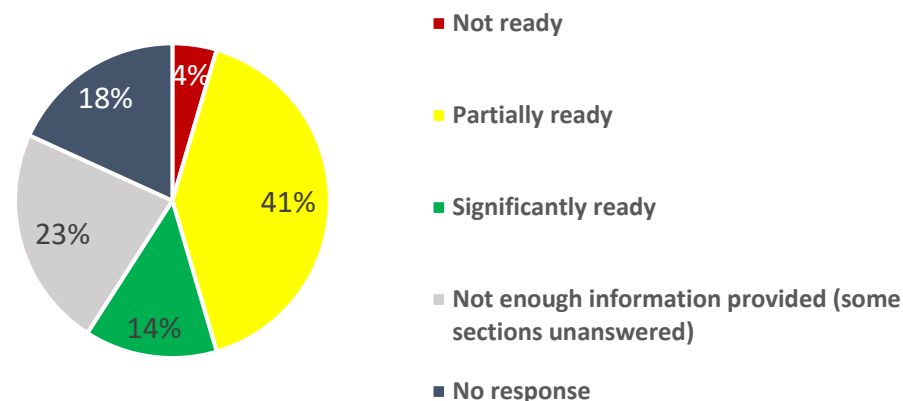
Readiness Assessment Preliminary Results (Cont.)

% of Country Readiness: Verification and Pre-Arrival Travel Portal

- Not ready
- Partially ready
- Significantly ready
- No response

% of Country Readiness: Overall

- Not ready
- Partially ready
- Significantly ready
- Not enough information provided (some sections unanswered)
- No response

% of Verification and Pre-arrival Portal readiness

Significantly ready 9 %: Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa

Partially ready 32 %: Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands

No Response 45 %: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna

Not ready 5%: Kiribati

% of Overall Solution Readiness

Significantly ready 14 % : Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa

Partially ready 41 %: American Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Not enough information 23 %: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea

No Response 23 % : Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Wallis and Futuna

Not ready 4%: Solomon Islands

Request for Country Support

% of countries requiring technical assistance (including IT software, hardware and/or digital literacy support)

- 32% Yes
- 36% No
- 32% No response
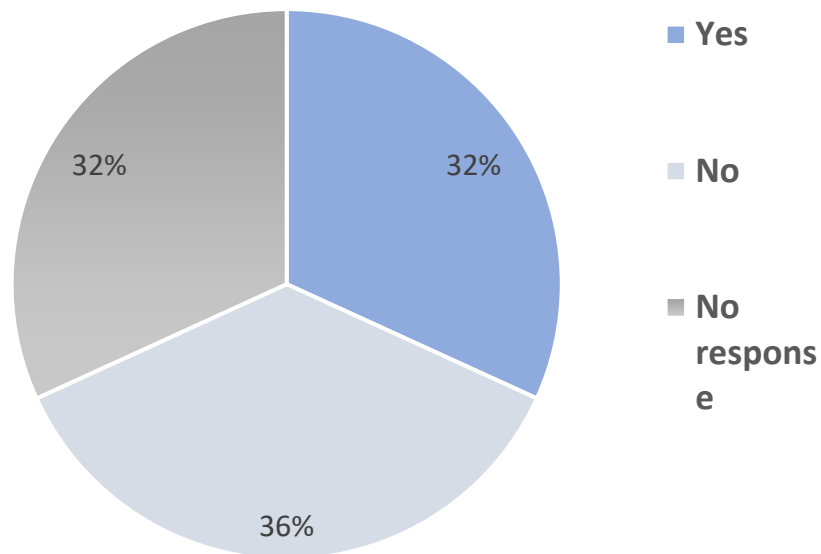
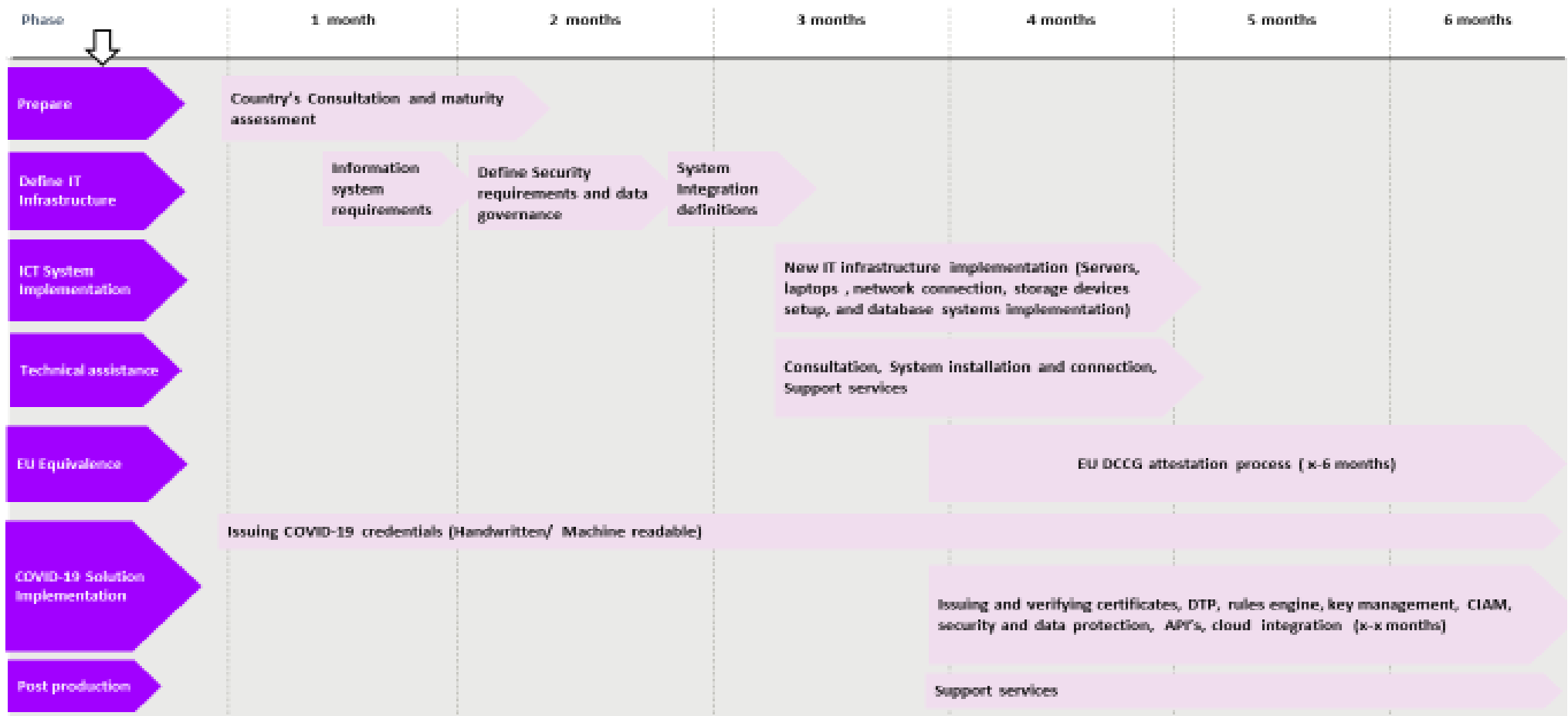7 countries explicitly requested technical support from partners such as SPC, WHO, etc.:

1. **Testing Facility** IT Equipment Support: Solomon Islands

2. Issuance Solution **Digital Literacy Support**: American Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Vanuatu

3. **Airport technical infrastructure** and systems support: Kiribati, Niue, Samoa

4. **Maritime Port of Entry technical infrastructure** and systems support: Niue, Solomon Islands

Next Steps

Regional Status of Project

- July Special FOC Meeting agreement reached on 6ᵗʰ Common Protocol for PHP-C;

  i. noted the update provided by the SPC on the regional vaccination certificates and the progress of the work undertaken by the Technical Working Group to respond to the August 2021 direction of Forum Leaders;

  ii. noted that the proposed Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross Border Travel transcends the COVID-19 pandemic, and will have an enduring impact on the region's immigration, border security and public health infrastructure, including in the face of varied and new communicable diseases such as Monkey Pox and measles and future pandemic preparedness and response; and

  iii. agreed that the 6th Common Protocol for the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C) on Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel (Protocol) be considered for endorsement by the Ministerial Action Group on the PHP-C to allow Members further opportunity to review the Protocol.

High-Level Roadmap (for each country)

Phase	1 month	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months
Prepare	Country's Consultation and maturity assessment					
Define IT Infrastructure	Information system requirements	Define Security requirements and data governance	System Integration definitions			
ICT System Implementation			New IT infrastructure implementation (Servers, laptops, network connection, storage devices setup, and database systems implementation)			
Technical assistance			Consultation, System installation and connection, Support services			
EU Equivalence				EU DCCG attestation process (x-6 months)		
COVID-19 Solution Implementation	Issuing COVID-19 credentials (Handwritten/ Machine readable)					
			Issuing and verifying certificates, DTP, rules engine, key management, CIAM, security and data protection, API's, cloud integration (x-x months)			
Post production			Support services			

Minimum Infrastructure Components vs Quantities (?)

Service	Function	Infrastructure component	Quantity	Venue	
Issuing COVID-19 Certificates	Issuing capability	Laptops/Desktops Servers Storage devices Peripheral devices		Health authority	Registered lab facility
	Certificate Distribution	Printers Mail server/ notification service or gateway		Health authority	Registered lab facility
	Certificate Storage	Storage devices Database systems (SQL, other)		Health authority	Registered lab facility
	Key management	Country Signing Certificate Authority (CSCA) server/service National backend system (Servers and storage devices) Internet connectivity		Health authority	Registered lab facility
	EU DCC Gateway Connection	Routers and switches Network infrastructure LAN Internet connectivity		Health authority	Registered lab facility
	Data integration	Electronic Immunisation register Storage devices Database systems (SQL, other)		Health authority	Registered lab facility
Verifying COVID-19 Certificates	Verifying capability	Internet connectivity Rules engine Biometrics: Facial recognition Scanner		Airport	Seaport
	Hardware/ Infrastructure	Verifier Devices/Smart Phones Backend system		Airport	Seaport
Digital travel Portal	Informational Portal/ Pre arrival Portal	Laptops/Desktops Peripheral devices Data service/database Rules engine Cloud Integration Biometrics Capability			

Key Recommendations

Recommendationations for Heads of Health

1. Support the 6th Common Protocol proposed regional solution based on the EU DCC model used by nearly 50 countries and territories including within the region New Zealand, Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and Fiji.

2. Recognise the 6th Common Protocol proposed regional solution provides the opportunity to address challenges and gaps within each individual countries health information systems and digital health particularly for vaccination registries.

3. Identify solution deployed for each country for issuance of digital certificates to assess compliance with the WHO's Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificate Vaccination Status Technical Standards (WHO DDCC: VSTS) including non-digital (wholly paper-based) and determine digital health infrastructure needs for digital vaccination certificates beyond COVID-19 and other digital health initiatives.

4. To confirm and verify the preliminary country results and findings of the Border Reopening and Vaccination Certificate Deployment Readiness Survey.

5. To request relevant technical support and capacity building needs to implement solution and allow SPC to develop country specific implementation roadmap and minimum infrastructure components and quantities.

6. Identify clinicians and nursing champions to lead the strengthening of national immunization programme information and digital systems.

Recommendationations for Development Partners

1. Technical and financial support for the Pacific region is essential to implement vaccination certificate and development of this solution beyond COVID-19 through strengthening of health systems
   a. Develop and support Electronic Medical Records (EMR)
   b. Strengthening in country capacities in ICT legislations regarding data privacy, protection and confidentiality
2. Support digital literacy assessments for all health users to ensure capabilities and skill sets are available in responding and preparing for future public health threats as PICTs continue to monitor and manage border reopening safely even with the rise of other communicable diseases like the Monkey Pox and measles.
3. Identify cross cutting investments in health systems strengthening in vaccination systems development to ensure collaboration, effective partnership, and clarity in leading and support roles as necessary.

Thank You