

Pacific Heads of Health

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT – INFORMATION PAPER

At a glance:

- This paper provides information for the Pacific Heads of Health, on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent that was endorsed by Leaders at their Meeting in Suva, July 2022
- The achievement of health outcomes will be critical for ensuring the success of the Strategy and for ensuring the realization of the Leaders' vision to ensure the wellbeing and prosperity of all Pacific Islanders
- The paper provides an update on the work underway by the 2050 to develop an Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the Strategy.

Current situation

At the 51st Pacific Islands Forum, Leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The 2050 Strategy features 10 commitments that Leaders have made to strengthen their collective action and deepen regionalism to realise the vision. In support of these commitments, the Strategy brings together seven interconnected thematic areas that are based on comprehensive consultation with Members, CROP and other regional organisations, Non-State Actors, and regional experts.

[\(https://www.forumsec.org/2050strategy/\)](https://www.forumsec.org/2050strategy/)

1. The seven thematic areas outlined in the 2050 Strategy are:
 - i. Political Leadership and Regionalism
 - ii. People Centered Development
 - iii. Peace and Security
 - iv. Resources and Economic development
 - v. Climate Change and Disasters
 - vi. Oceans and Environment
 - vii. Technology and Connectivity
2. Also, at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum, Leaders tasked Senior Officials to progress the development of an Implementation and Monitoring Plan (IMP) and report back to Leaders at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum.

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3. To support the work of the FOC Sub-committee, four Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEGs) have been set up and tasked with developing detailed pathway descriptions drawing on the 2050 Strategy Policy Brief, the Pacific SDGs indicators set, the outcomes of the 2050 Strategy national and regional consultations on potential collective actions in the relevant Thematic Area. These MSEGS met for the first time in March and to begin their work to develop the IMP.

Future Vision

4. The Leaders' Vision for 2050 is articulated as follows:

“As Pacific Leaders, our vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives”.

5. Key to realizing our Leaders' vision is addressing the many health issues and challenges that we continue to face as a region. Forum island countries are vulnerable to emerging infectious diseases, including pandemics, food and water borne diseases, and to natural hazards, especially extreme weather events that are expected to increase in severity or frequency as a result of climate change. Additionally, the incidence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and other cardiovascular illnesses among Pacific nations is the highest in the world and accounts for 75% of all deaths in the region. These issues and hazards threaten national and regional health and can cause lasting social, political, and economic vulnerability.
6. Under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, health is included as a part of the People Centered Development thematic area.
7. Noting the important role Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH) play towards the achievement of the vision for the 2050 Strategy, the Pacific Community through their participation as technical leads on the People centred Development thematic area have the opportunity to ensure health outcomes are developed under the IMP.

2050 Strategy Online Questionnaire on Regional Initiatives

8. A 2050 Strategy Online Questionnaire for the Mapping of Regional Initiatives is underway to support the Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEG) established to develop the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy
9. Analysis is currently underway on the regional online questionnaire on regional initiatives. The intent of the questionnaire(s) is to: a) identify existing regional initiatives; b) map these regional initiatives to the seven thematic areas; c) map partners support across regional initiatives; and d) identify the connection of these

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regional initiatives to the strategic pathways within the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific.

10. It will also focus on identifying gaps in terms of programmes and financing as well as help inform the identification of collective actions to be prioritized in the implementation plan. The online questionnaire was sent out to CROP, development partner agencies, Dialogue Partners, and Non-State Actors on December 23rd, 2022, and continues to be updated.

Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups

11. A cluster group approach has been endorsed to help accelerate progress, strengthen interlinkages of the 2050 Strategy with technical experts and advisers. These expert groups will be chaired by Members and supported by CROP agencies that will act as technical leads.

MSEG Cluster	Co-Chairs	CROP Technical Advisors
Political Leadership, Regionalism, Peace and Security	Solomon Islands New Zealand	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Pacific Islands Development Program
People Centered Development	Cooks Islands Australia	Pacific Community University of the South Pacific
Resources, Economic Development, Technology and Connectivity	Vanuatu Federated States of Micronesia	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Pacific Community
Climate Change, Disasters, Oceans and Environment	French Polynesia Tuvalu	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Pacific Community

Why urgent action is needed now

12. Noting the important role that the Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH) meeting play in addressing health issues within the region, it is important that the PHoH are informed through existing mechanisms on development of the Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The Pacific Community as CROP Technical Lead for the People Centered Development thematic area of which health is part of, plays a key role in facilitating this process.

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Recommendations to be considered by the Heads of Health

Heads of Health are invited to:

1. Note the progress made to develop the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy;
2. Note the key role health outcomes will play in realising the 2050 Strategy Vision set by Leaders; and
3. Note the important role the PHoH will play achieving health outcomes of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Recommendations for development partners

1. Note the progress made to develop the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy