

# Pacific Heads of Health

*Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique*

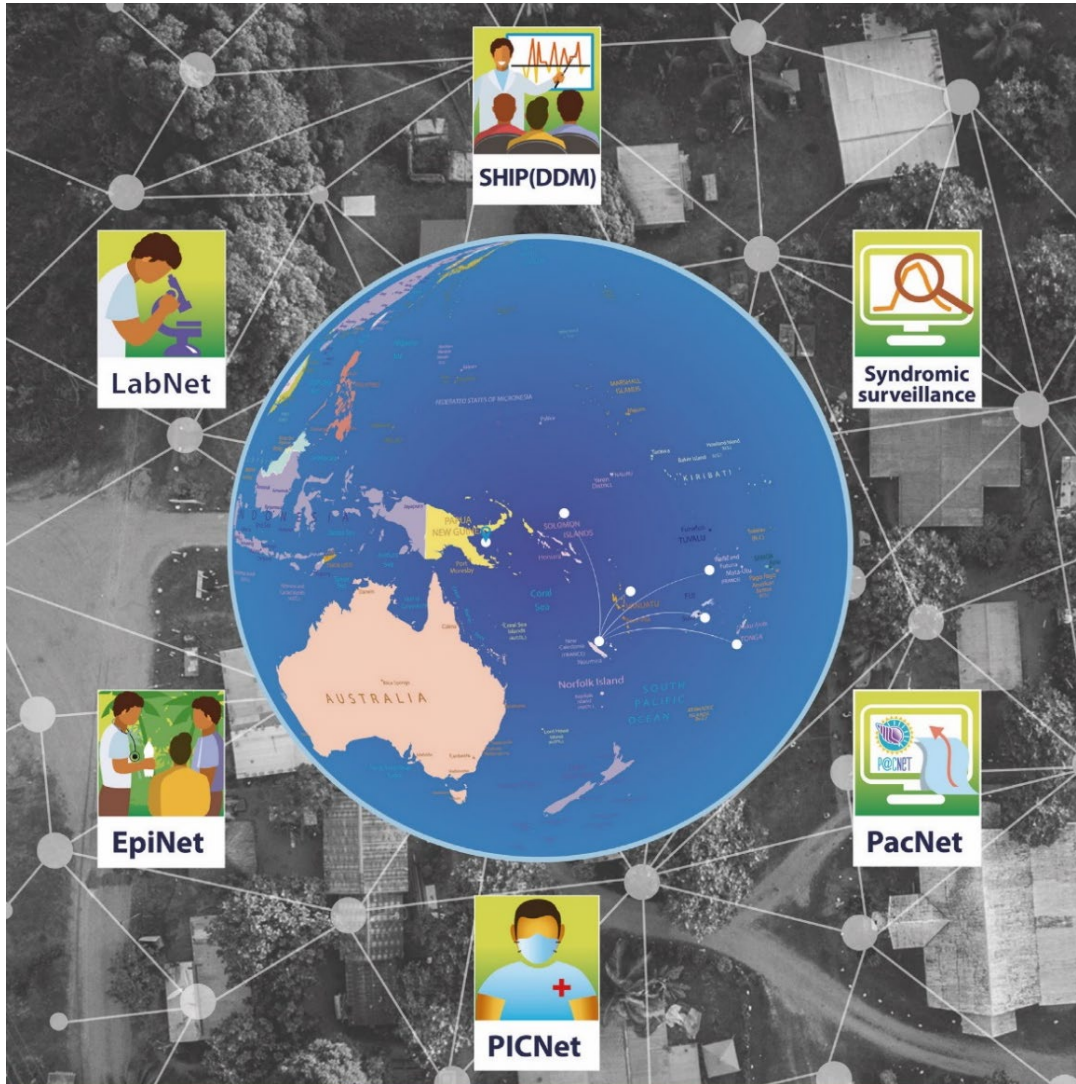
## Updates from the Regional Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) and the LabNet meetings 2022

**Presented by:** Dr Eric Rafai and Dr Litia Tudravu

On behalf of Pacific island countries and territories  
and PPHSN Coordinating Body Focal Point



# Current situation



PPHSN: 25 years of networking and innovation towards health security in the Pacific  
Le ROSSP : 25 ans de maillage et d'innovation au service de la sécurité sanitaire dans le Pacifique



“The PPHSN has evolved over the past 25 years to meet the needs and requirements of its members. For Tonga, we have been able to receive timely updates, capacity development and technical advice to strengthen our surveillance work so that we can provide timely health interventions for our people.”

**Dr Reynold 'Ofanoa**  
Chief Medical Officer and PPHSN  
2022 Chair  
Ministry of Health, Tonga



# The future we want to see

- System capable to address current and future threats
- Comprehensive surveillance inclusive of:
  - access to timely information for action
  - multi-source data
  - qualified multidisciplinary health professionals
  - access to the latest tools and technologies
  - coordination of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral response



# Examples of recent progress - PPHSN


- Transition to DoPH meeting
- Review of PPHSN to be conducted
- SHIP/DDM
  - 51 PGCFE participants to graduate in 2023
- PGDAE course underway for 4 PICTs



# Examples of recent progress - PPHSN

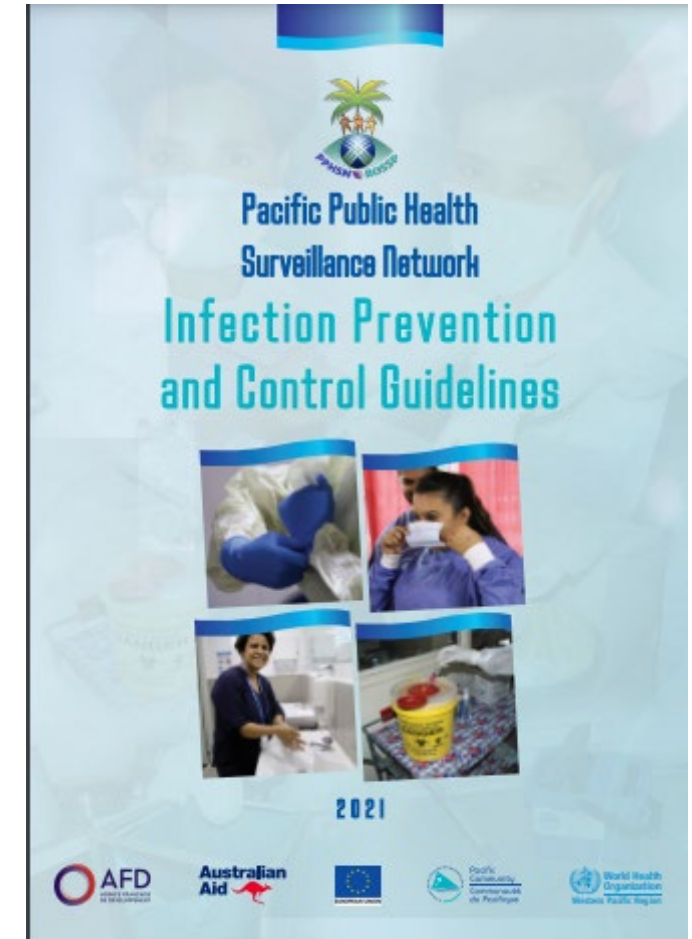
- PICNet

- 5 PICTs updated national IPC guidelines and developing plans

- Su  associated infections and hand hygiene initiatives launched in 8 PICTS

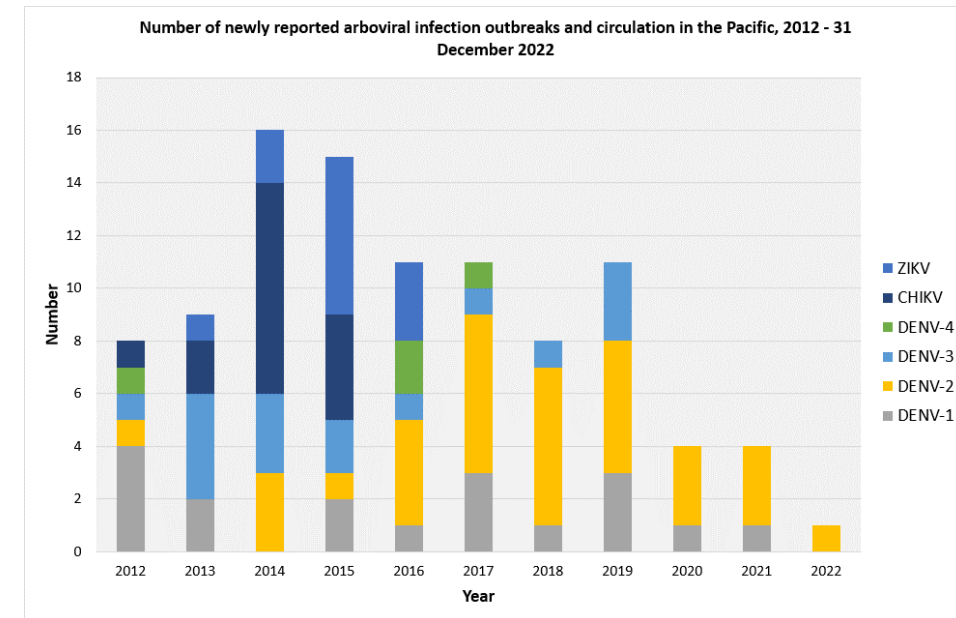


- Pacific Vector Network to be established



# Why urgent action is needed now

- Investment in preparedness is more cost efficient than response
- Crucial to maintain and sustain the momentum and investments into the PPHSN services
- Sharing surveillance and alert information for action
- Ongoing threats in the Pacific:
  - persistent brain drain
  - climate change impacts
  - increase in vector-, food- and water-borne diseases
  - zoonotic diseases



# Proposed recommendations for governments

1. Note the recommendations from the 2022 Regional PPHSN and LabNet meetings
2. Direct ministry staff to share information and alerts on outbreaks or new risks on PacNet leading to better surveillance, preparedness and responses by other countries
3. Support the coordination and collaboration of other sectors in planning and budgeting for public health risks emerging from the human-animal-environment interface

4. Sustain the progress made available during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen surveillance, IPC and RCCE capacity to ensure that health systems are better prepared to respond to the threat of COVID-19, emerging diseases and reemerging health threats and addressing climate change disease patterns impacting health.



# Proposed recommendations for development partners

1. Support the review of the PPHSN, updating of the Strategic Framework and strengthening of the 6 service networks of PPHSN so that they are fit for purpose
2. Support the establishment of the Pacific Vector Network as a new initiative
3. Facilitate and support human resource capacity building as well as cross-country sharing of best practices and lessons learnt in addressing disease outbreaks

# Examples of recent progress - LabNet



- Automated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in all PICTS
- 11 PICTs have manual RT-PCR laboratories
- Whole genome sequencing in Fiji and Guam
- Antibioqram in development



## Why urgent action is needed now

- Ensuring sustainability of the enhanced laboratory testing capabilities

## Proposed recommendations for governments

- Sustain the progress made available during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen laboratory capacity

## Proposed recommendations for development partners

- Enhance laboratory capacity for AMR testing, molecular capabilities and laboratory quality management systems

**Thank you!**

