

# **PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH**

*Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique*



# The Pacific Vector Network – A Network of the PPHSN

Pacific Heads of Health Meeting  
April 15-17, 2024  
Apia, Samoa

Emi Chutaró, Executive Director, PIHOA  
Dr. Limb Hapairai, Regional Medical Entomologist, PIHOA

# Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA)

- Governed by the US PICTs health leadership
- Provide health policy, advocacy and technical support for identified priorities
- Support alignment with global commitments and shared Pacific-wide priorities
- Support partnership engagements, particularly between US-based health partners with Pacific-based partners
- Long-time partner to SPC and WHO
- One of the founding partners to the PPHSN

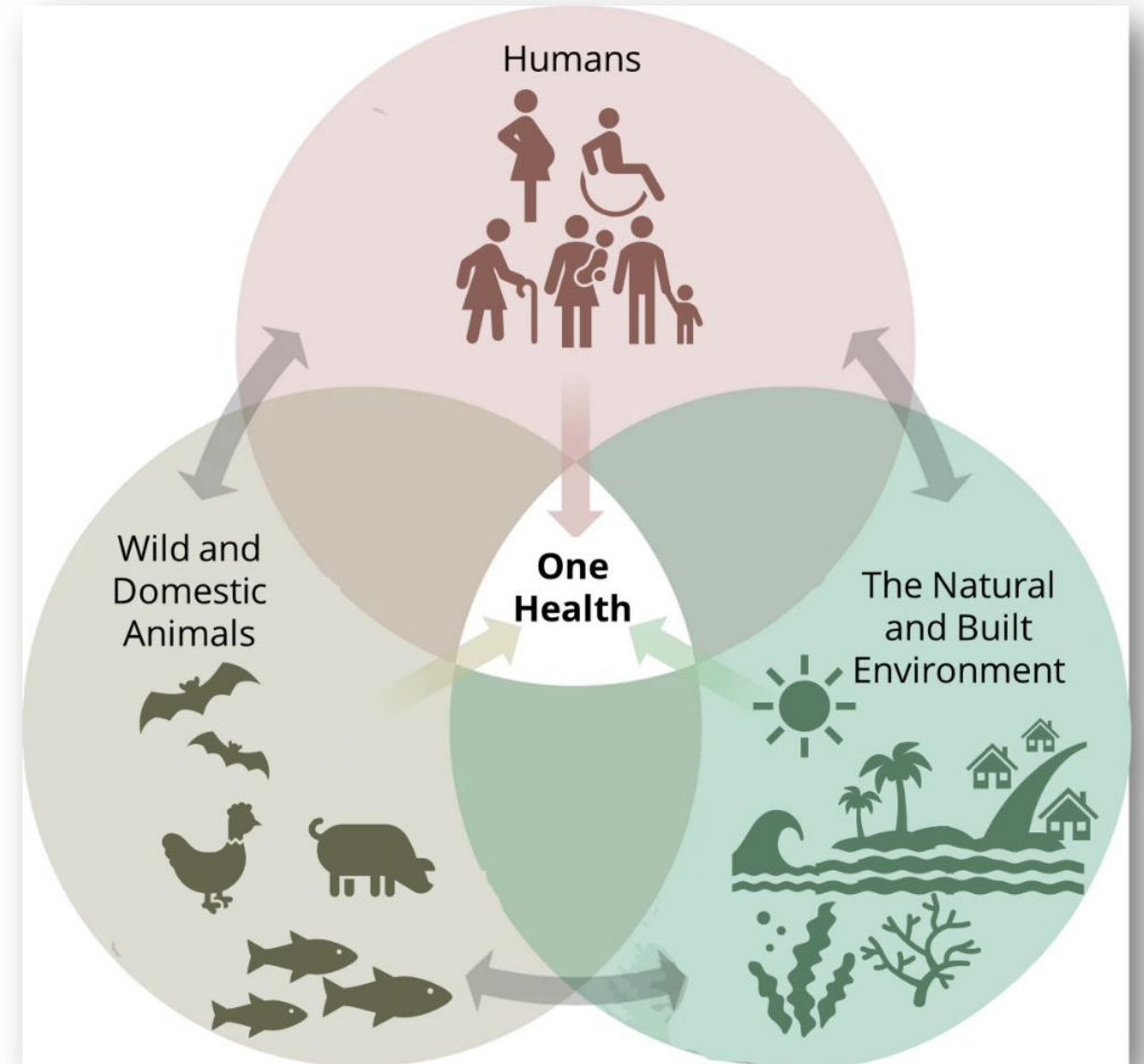




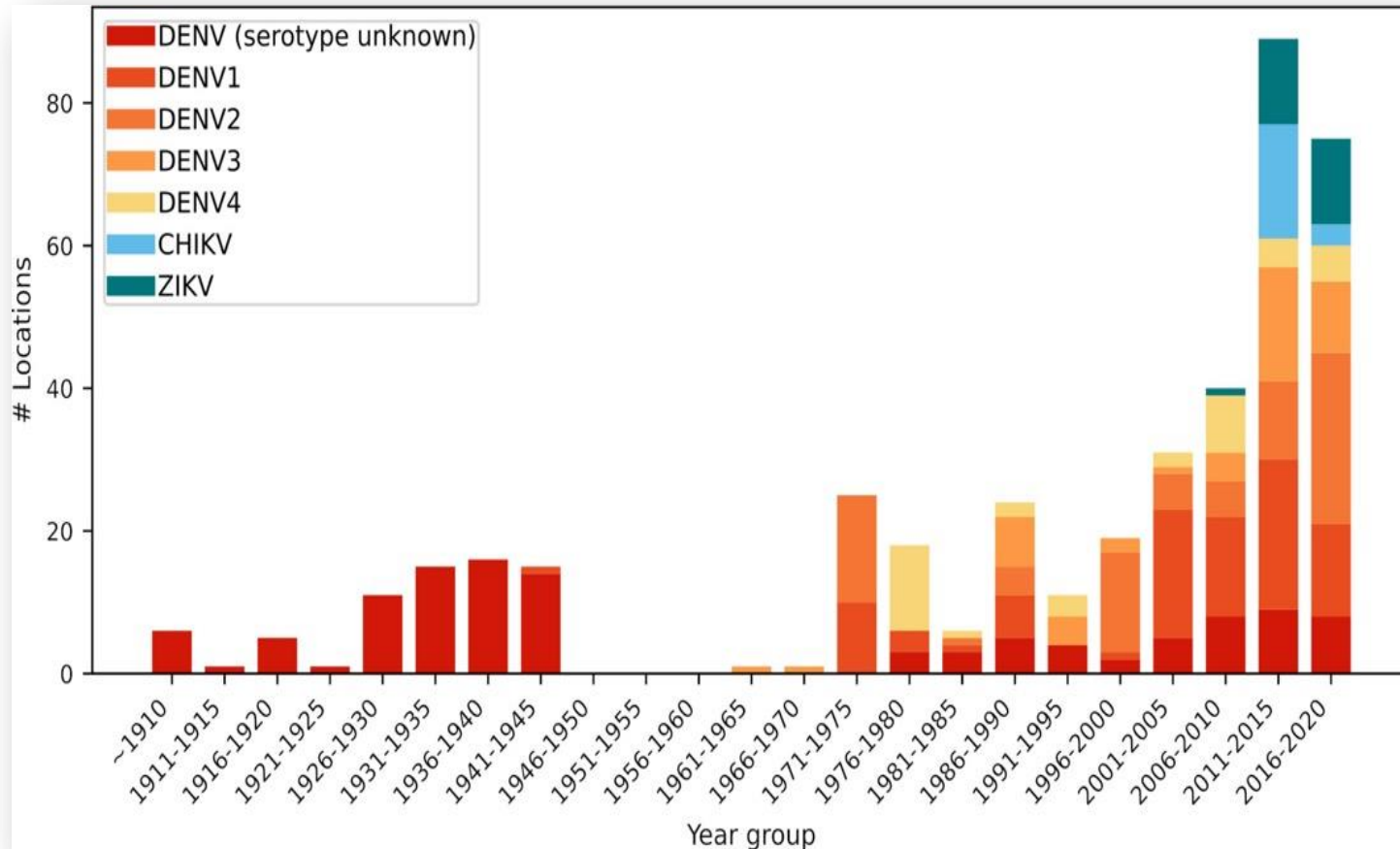
# One Health

- Recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent
- Emphasizes the critical importance of mobilizing multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to tackle shared threats to health and ecosystems
- The Pacific One Health Concept further expanded this to include the importance of climate change

Pacific One Health Concept, PHOH 2018  
WHO, FAO, UNEP, WOAHO OneHealth Joint Plan of Action 2022-26



# Why is the PVN Needed?



Seok et al. 2023

- Identified as a priority area for the PPHSN when the Pacific One Health Concept was endorsed by the PHOH in 2018
- Increased risk for mosquito-borne diseases across the Pacific
- Since 2016, PICTs calling for increased regional action on vector-borne disease surveillance, prevention and control
- Human and mosquito mobility accelerated by climate change

# PVN as a Functional Network of the PPHSN



SHIP



PacNet



LabNet



PSSS



EpiNet



PICNet

# The PVN Journey

---

The Pacific Network for Vector Control Response was proposed in 2019 during a joint SPC-WHO PICT consultation

---

Further consultations took place with PICTs and partner agencies (WHO, SPC, PIHOA, US CDC, etc.)

---

In October 2022, PPHSN member countries approved the country-led Pacific Network for Vector Control Response

---

Inaugural meeting was held in Hawaii in June 2023; the Pacific Network for Vector Control Response was renamed the Pacific Vector Network





# Core Functions

- Coordinate and convene meetings of PICT vector management leadership, officers and technical partners
- Identify and review regional priorities, gaps, and support to strengthen vector management systems and capacities
- Facilitate regional and global partnerships in support of PICT priorities
- Support information-sharing to promote evidence-based collective action and innovation





# The June 2023 Inaugural PVN Launch



- Inaugural PVN meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii attended by 16 PICTs co-hosted/funded by SPC, WHO, PIHOA, US CDC and US Department of State
- Environmental scan of key country needs and priorities
- Drafting of the PVN Terms of Reference and governance structure under the PPHSN

# Identified PVN Member Priorities

- Ensure regular meetings and **communication** between PVN members
- Promote **information-sharing** among members
- Improve **entomology skills** and vector management expertise
- Establish or improve **entomology laboratory capacity** in each sub-region
- Strengthen **preparedness and response** to mosquito vector-borne disease outbreaks
- Support the use of **digital tools and innovative technologies** for collecting, analyzing and sharing vector surveillance data, including early warning systems

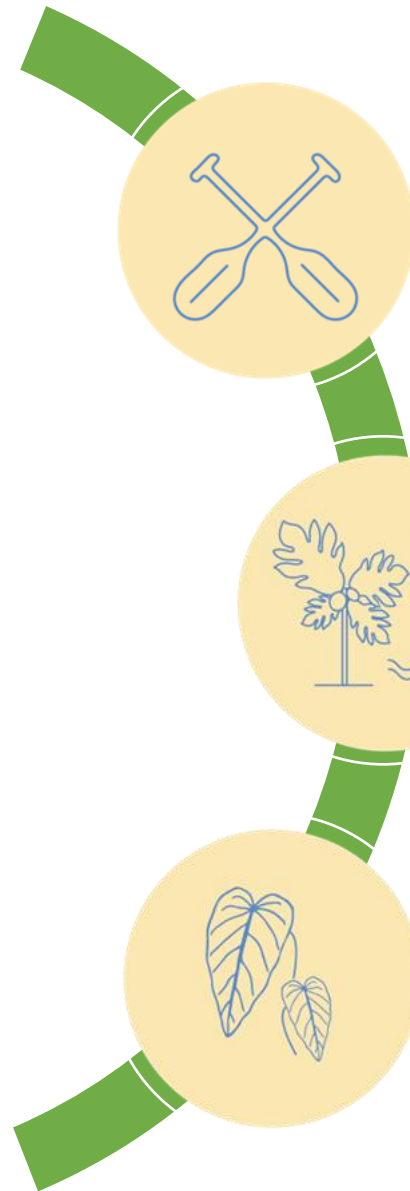
# PVN Governance

## PVN Core Members

(22 PICTS +  
Partners)

Chair: GU

Co-Chair: WS



PVN Technical Working Body (TWB) – 7 PICTs (AS, FJ, GU, SB, TK, WF and WS) + PVN Secretariat + 3 temporary Allied Partners

PVN Secretariat and Permanent Allied Partners (SPC, WHO and PIHOA)

PVN Allied Members (partners, academic institutions, laboratories, etc.) and Hawaii



# 2023 PVN-Supported Vector Management and Outbreak Response Training

- Conducted in Hilo, Hawaii in partnership with University of California Davis and Hawaii Department of Health
- Over 40 participants from 18 PICTs and Hawaii
- Mosquito-borne outbreak preparedness and response training
- Information-sharing on best practices





# Field Training



Mosquito Identification



Mosquito Trapping



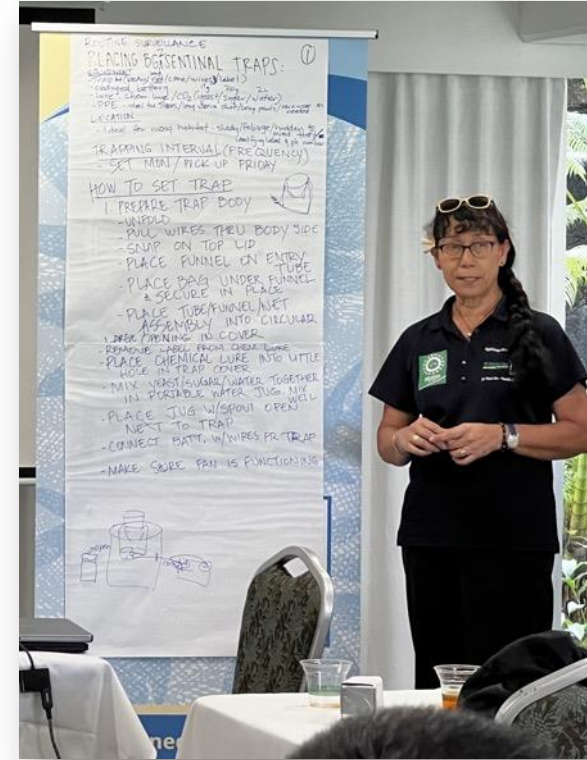
Insecticide Resistance Testing



Insecticide Residual Spray



# Outbreak Simulations



Lessons learned from previous experiences to improve outbreak preparedness and response planning



# Immediate Next Steps

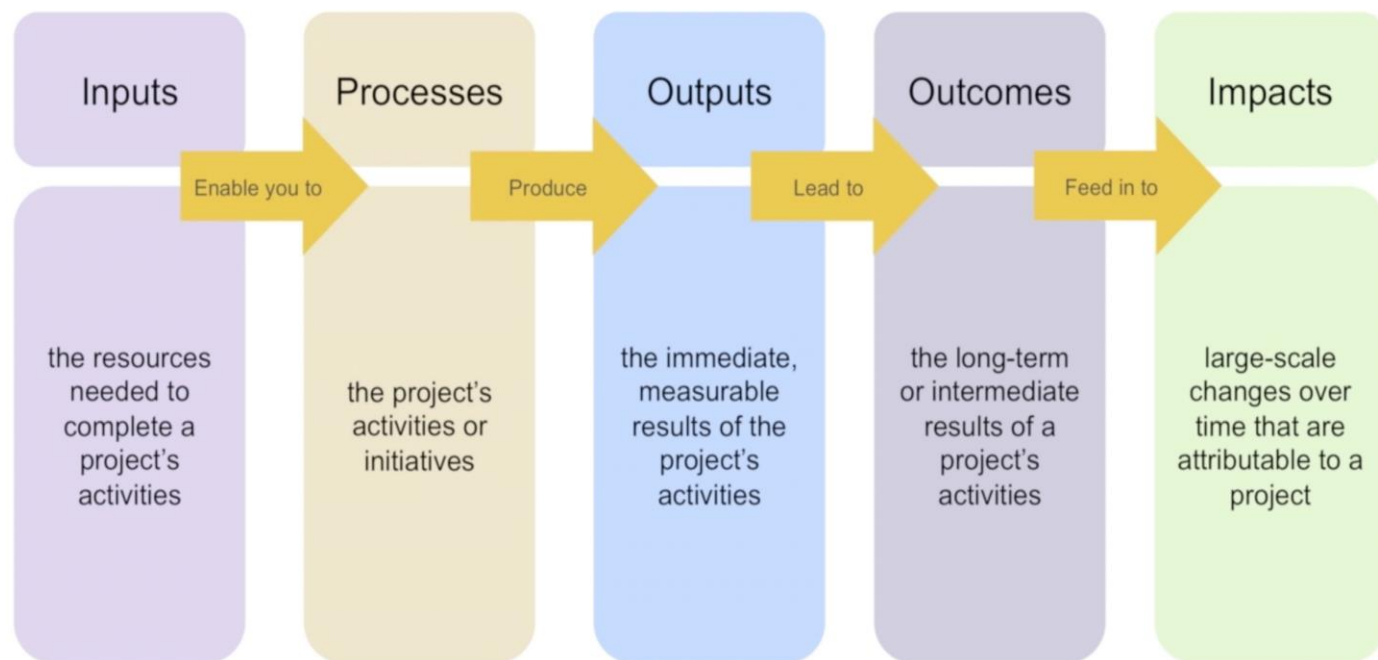
- Request PHOH leadership to endorse PICT nominations to the PVN TWB
- Convene the next annual PVN meeting in Guam in 2024
- Convene quarterly online meetings of the PVN Secretariat and Technical Working Body (TWB)
- Create a PVN web page on the PPHSN website
- Invite and review allied partners' membership applications



Guam Department of Environmental Health  
Laboratory (Mosquito and Food Safety)

# Longer-Term Next Steps

## Logic models: the conceptual framework of an M&E plan



- Develop a Pacific regional strategic action plan
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan to track and assess impact of training and capacity-building activities against agreed benchmarks
- Enhance communication channels for exchange with other vector management networks

# Acknowledgements

- PICTs Health Leadership
- PVN Secretariat: WHO, SPC and PIHOA
- Funders and Partners: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of State, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the French Government Pacific Fund



# Fa'afetai Tele Lava!

