

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Establishing the Pacific Climate Change and Health Network

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Objectives of this session

- To inform on progress at the regional and global forums of Climate Change and Health
- To propose the establishment of a Pacific Climate Change and Health Network
- To reflect on Fiji's climate change and health journey
- To recommend how we can move forward with the proposed network.

1.0 Introduction - Why more climate actions is required in health.

The climate crises is one of the greatest threats to human health in the 21st Century.

It affects the social and environmental determinants of health: clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and secure shelter.

These impacts of climate change on human health and infrastructure raises concern amongst health leaders.

Calls for actions to prevent communicable and noncommunicable diseases, damage to health infrastructure and impaired workforce.



Echoes from the 12th Pacific Heads of Health

...develop or strengthen plans to address the health impacts of climate change;

...support advocacy on the need for intersectoral and international action to address the health impacts of climate change, including at national and international forums such as COP meetings;

.... 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;

Partners agreed:

...to produce and share regional guidance on climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health-care facilities, and

...support countries in its implementation; and facilitate cross-country sharing of ideas and best practices, including through the digital arm of the CCE platform



Progressing Climate Change and Health

UNFCCC COP 23 (2017)
Special Initiative on
Climate Change and
Health in SIDS was
launched

UNFCCC COP 26 (2021)
health commitments by
77 member countries

UNFCCC COP 28 (2023)
UAE Declaration on
Climate and Health by
122 countries, 10 from
PICs

2018 - Pacific Islands
Action Plan for Climate
Change and Health (PIAP-
CCH)

2020- Technical Advisory
Group on Climate Change,
the Environment and
Health in the Western
Pacific Region (CCE TAG)

2024
Pacific SIDs Health
Leaders Network



Goal

To empower Heads of Health in Pacific SIDs, in acknowledging their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, realize the agreement made at the 12th Pacific Heads of Health and the commitments in COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health where health leaders committed to convene regularly with diverse line-ministries and stakeholders to foster synergies and strengthen national and multilateral collaboration on climate change and health, including through the ATACH initiative.

Objectives

1. Support member countries realize and act on the agreements of the 12th Pacific Heads of Health Meeting which reflected Health Ministers commitment at the 13th Pacific Health Ministers' Meeting.
2. Support member countries realize and act on the commitments in the COP28 UAE Declaration.
3. Promote actions that ensure better health outcomes, including through the transformation of health systems to be climate-resilient, low-carbon, sustainable and equitable, and to better prepare communities and the most vulnerable populations for the impacts of climate change.
4. Facilitate mechanisms for accessing and utilizing climate finance for health.
5. Serve as the CCH hub for the Pacific that provides the platform for sharing of knowledge, experiences, and innovations in raising climate and health actions ensuring a collective response to climate crises without leaving anyone behind.

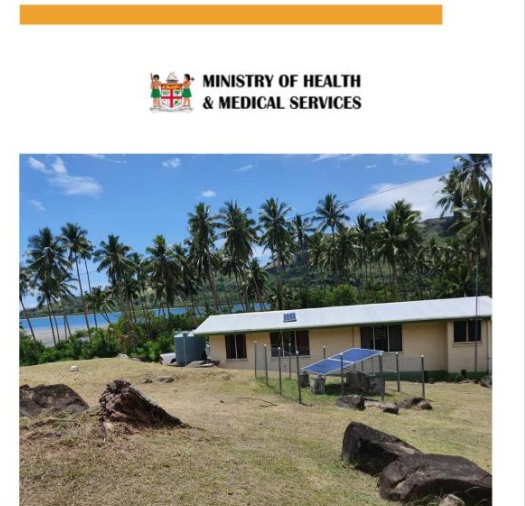
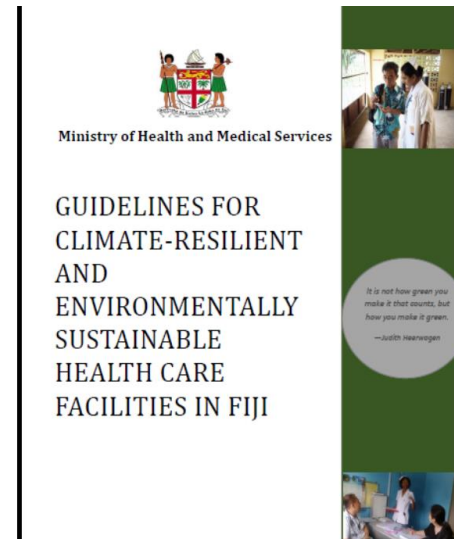


Fiji's climate change and health journey

- Transformative and sustained milestones
- Supports all climate change and health innovations, regionally and globally
- 2016 – 2020/22 Climate Change and Health Strategic Action Plan (CCHSAP)
 - The exit plan from the global project PPCAPHH
 - Building block for consequent 'instruments' driving climate change and health in Fiji
 - Country profile informs of available evidence on climate hazards, health vulnerabilities, health impacts using models
 - Health national Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) 2023 – 2030 – carrying Fiji from the 'establishment phase', through the 'enhancement phase' and into the 'excellent phase'
 - Sustainable low health carbon system – as per commitments
 - Guidelines for Climate Resilient and Sustainable Healthcare Facilities in Fiji - CRESHCF – assessment and prioritization, of 210 (public) HCF – assessed for CHVA, Interventions and adaptation planning
 - KOICA – “Strengthening Health Adaptation Project: Responding to Climate Change in Fiji” (SHAPE project)



HEALTH & CLIMATE CHANGE COUNTRY PROFILE 2021



Health – National Adaptation Plan for Fiji

Building climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health system in Fiji



- **Fiji's Minister for Health – COP26 Commitments -**

- Initiative on Building Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Systems

- **Climate resilient health system**

- Climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment (V&A): continue assessing vulnerability to climate change in an iterative way, to continue to inform health policies and programs.
 - Health national adaptation plan (HNAP): update the health component of the National Adaptation Plan based on new evidence.

- **Sustainable low carbon health system**

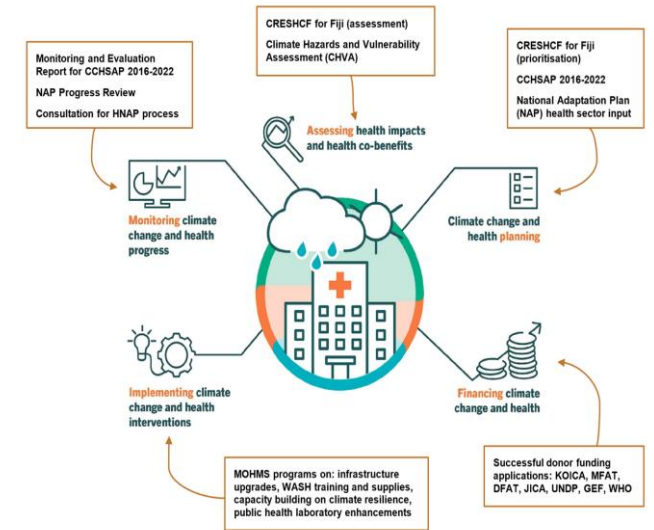
- Develop sustainable and low carbon health system, contributes to meeting the emission targets of the Paris Agreement. This includes commitment(s) to:
 - Publish an action plan - how we will develop a sustainable low carbon health system (including supply chains), considers the role the health sector can play in reducing exposure to air pollution through its activities and its actions. We will publish this action plan by June 2024.
 - Reach net zero health sector emissions by 2050 through eradicating emissions under the direct control of health service delivery; emissions for health sector delivery and associated supply chain. We have started drafting a strategic plan for this commitment.

- **Funding for health**

- We will seek to use the vulnerability and adaptation assessment, health National Adaptation Plan and our action plan for a sustainable low carbon health system to facilitate access to climate change funding for health, including through the climate change multilateral funding mechanisms (e.g., project proposals submitted to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) or Adaptation Fund (AF) or GCF Readiness program)

- **Fiji's Minister for Health – COP28 Commitments**

- This includes commitment(s) made under the UAE Declaration on Climate and Health



Recommendations for Consideration

1. That the members of the Pacific Heads of Health (PHOH) endorse the proposal for a Pacific Climate Change and Health Network.
2. That the members of the PHOH acknowledges the chair to lead the Network.
3. That the members of the PHOH shall support the process for the establishment of the Network.
4. That the lessons shared from Fiji can be used to guide members build climate resilience and environmentally sustainable healthcare systems.