

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC- NEW RESEARCH AND THE ROLE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Session 3: Increased Resiliency against Climate Change Impact and Disaster Risk

New research led by the World Health Organisation-Division of Pacific Technical Support (WHO-DPS) has revealed how various aspects of human health (communicable and non-communicable diseases) as well as health determinants in the Pacific are sensitive to climate change. Conducted in twelve Pacific Island countries (PICs), the research has culminated in the development of National Climate Change and Health Adaptation Plans (NCCHAPs) in eleven PICs. The research is also currently being compiled into a Regional Synthesis Report on the Health Impacts of Climate Change in the Pacific. This presentation will highlight the findings of this research and priorities for future research. In addition, it will highlight lessons learnt for health adaptation from the GEF-funded, joint UNDP-WHO-Fiji Ministry of Health-Fiji Red Cross Society implemented project titled "Piloting Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health". WHO-DPS' work on climate change and health is guided by resolutions from the World Health Assembly, the Regional Framework for Action to Protect Human Health from Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific region and the Madang Commitment, an outcome from the Pacific Health Ministers' meeting in 2009. Our approach to resilience in the health sector is an integrated one, combining climate change adaptation mainstreamed into existing disease prevention, surveillance and control programmes, disaster risk reduction and improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the Pacific region. The final part of this presentation will map WHO-DPS' plans for climate change adaptation for the Pacific region over the next 5 years.

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