



Pacific Island Countries and Areas – WHO Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022

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FOREWORD

Pacific island countries and areas and the World Health Organization (WHO) are pleased to present this *Pacific Island Countries and Areas–WHO Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022*.

Pacific island countries face a triple burden of challenges: the unfinished communicable disease agenda; rapidly rising noncommunicable disease epidemic; and the health impact of climate change that further aggravates the fragile health status of Member States.

At the same time, national health budgets are under increasing pressure as these challenges evolve and public expectations continue to increase regarding what the health sector should be delivering.

Recognizing these challenges, the ministers of health of the Pacific island governments have reaffirmed their commitment to Healthy Islands as a unifying vision to guide health development in the region. They are monitoring progress to ensure the realization of this vision.

The *Pacific Island Countries and Areas–WHO Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022* provides the overall strategic direction for WHO support to the Pacific. The Cooperation Strategy builds on the commitment to the Healthy Islands vision with four action-oriented priorities, which were developed during the Eleventh Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in 2015. They are:

1. Strengthening leadership, governance and accountability;
2. Nurturing children in body and mind;
3. Reducing avoidable disease burden and premature deaths; and
4. Promoting ecological balance.

This Cooperation Strategy is unique. Country cooperation strategies usually involve only individual countries and WHO. This Cooperation Strategy goes further. It covers the collective needs and priorities of the Pacific while also capturing country-specific national specificities, which were identified during consultations started in 2016.

To advance these Pacific-wide and national priorities, WHO will continue to provide strong, tailored support to Pacific island countries and areas through the network of WHO country offices, in coordination with the Division of Pacific Technical Support in Fiji, the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific and WHO headquarters.

On behalf of our respective governments and WHO, we look forward to working together to implement the *Pacific Island Countries and Areas–WHO Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022*, including our specific national cooperation strategies, over the next five years to improve the health and well-being of all Pacific islanders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Shin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.

Regional Director for the Western Pacific
World Health Organization



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