



**NIUE–WHO**

**Country Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022**

## OVERVIEW

Niue is an island covering 260 square kilometres in the South Pacific Ocean. Niue is a self-governing country in free association with New Zealand. Niue's population, 1460 people in 2011, is one of the smallest in the world, having seen sharp declines over the past five decades due to outward migration. Niue is governed by a premier elected by the Legislative Assembly, which in turn is elected by popular vote. Major economic activities in Niue include handicrafts, food processing, agriculture, fishing and tourism. With around 400 employees, public service remains the dominant employer on the island.

## 2. HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Niue is experiencing increases in the incidence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, stroke and cancers, in conjunction with high rates of obesity (61%), hypertension (33.5%) and hyperglycaemia (38.4%).

The Niue Foa Hospital is the hub for the majority of health services and public health programmes, providing both primary and secondary medical care. Tertiary care is provided via transfers to New Zealand and an emergency evacuation service, complemented with annual visits from New Zealand-based specialists. The current model of care promotes a treatment-based approach, and more needs to be done to promote disease prevention and healthy living. There are limited monitoring and reporting mechanisms to gauge the efficiency or effectiveness of health-care delivery, and a dearth of clinical practice guidelines. The ability of the health sector to provide effective services is further challenged by a declining health workforce and ageing population. As a small country, village-level community health workers can play a key role in the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases at the community level.

Niue maintained zero rates for communicable diseases, such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis (TB) until 2013.

## NATIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES WHO AND THE GOVERNMENT 2018–2022

The World Health Organization (WHO), working with partners, will support the Government in pursuing its national strategic priorities. Each strategic activity is linked to at least one of the subregional focus areas that are detailed in the *Pacific Island Countries and Areas–WHO Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022*:

### 1. To set the strategic public health agenda

- 1.1 Enact and enforce tobacco control laws aligned to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- 1.2 Enact and enforce the draft mental health care bill and subsequent implementation.

### 2. To provide technical support in designing and implementing health priorities

- 2.1 Develop and/or review NCD and mental health guidelines to promote improved cost-effective primary and secondary case management.
- 2.2 Establish and strengthen monitoring, evaluation and surveillance of NCD risk factors and interventions, as well as other health indicators in the Niue Health Strategic Plan.
- 2.3 Increase emphasis on disease prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.
- 2.4 Promote adoption of policies to improve access to and affordability of healthy food.
- 2.5 Develop a communicable diseases strategy to maintain zero rates for communicable diseases (HIV, malaria and TB) and prevent the introduction of communicable diseases and pandemics.
- 2.6 Support ongoing mapping, transmission assessment and sentinel surveys.
- 2.7 Initiate biennial exercises to test pandemic preparedness.

### 3. To strengthen the capacity of the health workforce

- 3.1 Adopt policies that promote health workforce performance, quality and retention.
- 3.2 Enhance capacity of village-level community health workers to undertake NCD screening and other community health promotion activities.
- 3.3 Offer relevant continuing professional development to community health workers through Pacific Open Learning Health Network and other opportunities.

## **4. NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY**

Niue's leading development plan, the *Niue National Strategic Plan (2009–2013)* identifies NCDs as a major threat.

The vision of the *Niue Health Strategic Plan (2011–2021)* is “a healthy population, well supported by quality health services”. Strategic actions put forth in the plan are linked to a set of key objectives and based on the findings of the 2011 Niue Health Sector Needs Assessment. The strategic plan calls for strengthening management and planning, clinical leadership, effective community outreach and the implementation of a performance monitoring system.

The *Niue Health Strategic Plan* includes a proposed sector coordination process to identify priorities, promote collaboration among health partners, identify common survey instruments and encourage rationalized reporting. Its monitoring and evaluation framework will be used to measure progress against 21 core indicators. A core target of the strategic plan is to reduce the incidence of NCDs by at least 10% per annum.

## **5. PARTNERS**

In implementing this strategy, WHO and the Ministry of Health will work with other government ministries, other sectors, academia, civil society, other United Nations agencies, bilateral development partners, regional and global health initiatives, philanthropic foundations and others in support of planned national health priorities.

## HEALTHY ISLANDS INDICATORS

Number of skilled health workers* per 10 000 population	<b>116.13</b>	2008
Per capita total expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US\$)	<b>1 162.2</b>	2014
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (%)	<b>7.45</b>	2014
Tuberculosis incidence (per 100 000 population)	<b>8.1</b>	2015
Life expectancy at birth (both sexes)	<b>73.2</b>	2007-11
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	<b>23</b>	2015
Absolute number of maternal deaths	<b>NA</b>	
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)	<b>NA</b>	
Adult mortality rate from NCDs at ages 30–69 years (%)	<b>NA</b>	
Number of suicides	<b>0</b>	2015
Immunization coverage rate for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (three doses) (DTP3) (%)	<b>99</b>	2015
Immunization coverage rate for measles-containing vaccine (first dose) (MCV1) (%)	<b>99</b>	2015
Current tobacco smoking among persons 15 years of age and over (%)	<b>15.8</b>	2015
Population using improved drinking-water sources (%)	<b>98.5</b>	2015
Population using improved sanitation facilities (%)	<b>100</b>	2015
Proportion of endemic neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) having reached elimination goals envisaged in the global NTD Roadmap to 2020 (%) – target 100%	<b>100</b>	2017

NA = not available

\*Skilled health workers are defined as physicians, nurses and midwives

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