HEALTH SITUATION

The population of Palau was estimated to be around 17,770 in 2013 - of which approximately 69.9% are Palauan, 15.3% Filipino and 4.9% Chinese. In the coming years, there is expected to be an increase in foreign investment as well as the number of workers on the island. This will result in a number of environmental concerns, including water pollution due to the lack of sufficient land area for proper waste disposal, and the degradation of air and marine quality due to increased industrial activity.

Furthermore, the burden of diabetes, heart disease, obesity and kidney failure is increasing in Palau. Belau National Hospital is the main health facility in the country, with additional community centres and satellite dispensaries for more remote areas. However, as the need for quality health-care increases, cost evaluations are needed for off-island medical referrals, haemodialysis and intensive care services, and for the financial sustainability of a secondary health care facility.

HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

The Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2014–2018 outlines the strategic priorities to: provide accessible and high-quality patient-centred hospital services; provide accessible and high-quality primary and preventive services; ensure effective partnerships are developed and maintained; value the people and support their growth and development; and ensure that the administrative and support services are accountable and sustainable.

According to the plan, the vision of the Ministry of Health is one of healthy communities with access to comprehensive health-care services. The Ministry focuses on strengthening health systems by providing holistic care, integrating services, and maintaining effective partnerships with staff, patients, the community and partners.

An annual operational plan for each of the bureaus under the Ministry is also in place to provide details on how each of the bureaus achieves its priorities.

COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

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.

Sources of data
Global Health Observatory May 2017
http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.cco
### WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2018–2022)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strategic Priorities</th>
<th>Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation</th>
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| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:** To provide accessible and quality people-centred preventive, primary and hospital services for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) as a priority | 1. Implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control through several key aspects of tobacco control including graphic health warnings, tackling tobacco industry interference, reducing second-hand smoke and promoting cessation.  
2. Establish partnerships between community and primary health care services for community-based rehabilitation.  
3. Work on alcohol harm reduction through restrictions or bans on advertising, marketing and promotions.  
4. Endorse further “sin taxes” on unhealthy food based on experiences in the tobacco and alcohol areas.  
5. Conduct NCD surveillance activities.  
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:** To effectively manage and support the health workforce through the existing fellowship and internship programmes for new graduates overseas | 2.1. Increase the number of sponsored course students through Pacific Open Learning Health Network each year and strengthening continuing professional development.  
2.2. Develop an internship programme and conducting a midterm evaluation by 2022. |
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:** To strengthen the role of communities as partners in health | 3.1. Profile the health situation of individuals and communities, linking people’s health needs to the health system.  
3.2. Develop capacities of communities on health planning to ensure health needs and challenges are reflected in national policies strategies and plans. |