

EB158: Solomon Islands Statement on Agenda Item 14

Primary Health Care

Pacific Island countries face unique challenges in implementing PHC, including geographic dispersion, limited human and financial resources, vulnerability to climate change, and a high burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Based on the report's findings, the following support is essential:

- a) **Tailored Financing and Investment:** Many Pacific Islands lack sustainable funding for PHC. Support should include technical assistance to develop costed PHC roadmaps, integrate PHC into national health financing strategies, and access blended financing mechanisms. The WHO peer-to-peer learning program on PHC financing should be expanded to include Pacific-specific modules.
- b) **Strengthening Health Workforce:** There is a critical need to train and retain PHC workers, including community health workers. WHO should support the development of regional training programs and facilitate digital learning platforms to overcome isolation.
- c) **Climate-Resilient PHC Infrastructure:** Given the region's vulnerability to climate-related health risks, support should focus on integrating environmental health and disaster preparedness into PHC systems. This includes improving WASH services in health facilities and ensuring continuity of care during emergencies.

Conclusion

Pacific Island countries require targeted, context-sensitive support to overcome PHC implementation barriers. WHO, in collaboration with partners, should prioritize these actions in the lead-up to the 2027 UN high-level meeting on UHC.

Thank you Chair