

## Overview on Health and Sanitation in the Pacific and International Year of Sanitation



Stephan TERRAS, WHO  
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## Drinking Water Quality and Health

- Monitoring of water borne diseases and disease surveillance in particular is a priority throughout the region. It is unwise to select and implement interventions if the disease type, burden and origin are unknown.
- The PICs have recently developed and endorsed a Pacific Drinking Water Quality and Health Framework for Action.
- However, new resources and institutions need to be identified to implement the Framework.

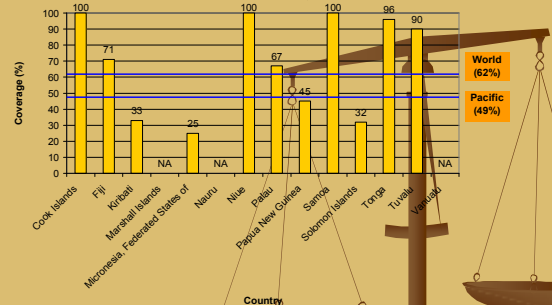
## Drinking Water Quality and Health

“...the issue of impacts to human health due to contamination of water supplies and inadequate sanitation has been recognised for many years...”

(Pacific MDG Report, SPC, 2004)



## Coverage with improved sanitation by Pacific island country, 2006



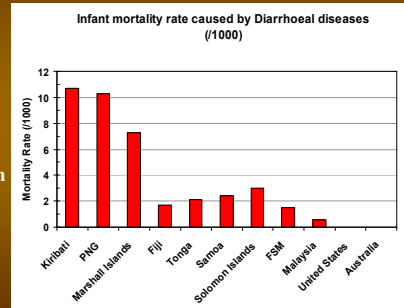
Source: primary country coverage data from WHO, UNICEF (2008)

## Diarrhoeal Diseases

- Diarrhoea is one of the problem caused by the poor quality of drinking water
- In the Pacific island countries, the annual incidence of diarrhoeal diseases nearly matches the numbers of its inhabitants: 6.7 million cases of acute diarrhoea a year, responsible for the annual death of 2,800 people, most of them children less than five years old.
- However, it should be noted diarrhoeal outbreaks can occur in many ways and is not only limited to the poor quality of drinking water.

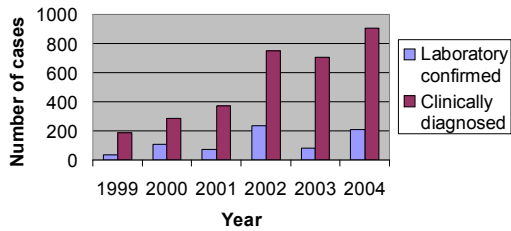
## Diarrhoea

“Growing segments of the population in the Pacific are at risk from water-borne diseases through polluted or depleting drinking water sources.” (SOPAC, 2005)



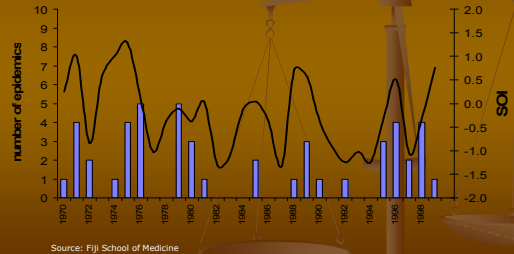
## Typhoid

Typhoid in Samoa 1999-2004



## Dengue

Dengue epidemics in the South Pacific 1970-1998 vs El Niño



## Limited Awareness



## International Year of Sanitation

- To put the spotlight on sanitation the UN General Assembly declared the year 2008 the International Year of Sanitation. The goal is to raise awareness and to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to reduce by half the proportion of the 2.6 billion people without access to basic sanitation by 2015.



## Collaborated efforts at global & Pacific level

- Many international agencies have started to work together in the area of health and sanitation.
- The Pacific WASH Coalition is utilising existing partnerships as established under the Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management and is building on ongoing work programme and activities in Pacific Island countries.

### IYS Partner Organisations

- UN-DESA
- UNDP
- UNEP
- UN-HABITAT
- UNICEF
- WHO
- WSSCC
- UN-Water
- UNSGA
- B
- UN-GWTF
- UNESCO
- O-IHE
- IRC
- GWP
- WaterAid
- WSP
- SIWI
- World Toilet Organization



## Key messages to keep in mind

- Sanitation is vital for human health
- Sanitation generates economic benefits
- Sanitation contributes to dignity and social development
- Sanitation helps the environment
- Improving sanitation is achievable

## WHO's work in the region

- **Promotion of and advocacy for access to water supply and sanitation services**
- - WHO advocates for better access to safe water supply, basic sanitation and good hygiene
- - WHO organizes high level events and facilitates international commitments

## WHO's work in the region

- **Drinking-water quality standards:** support to countries in training and preparation of their own drinking-water quality standards in light of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality.
- **Water Safety Plans (WSPs):** support to countries in training and preparation/implementation of WSPs.
- **Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS):** promotion, training and support to formulation and implementation of HWTS plans at country level.

## WHO's work in the region

- **National sector assessments:** support countries in establishing national sector assessment processes and preparing national sector assessment reports;
- **National sector monitoring:** support to the implementation of national information systems aimed at collecting, analysing and disseminating drinking-water and sanitation coverage data

## WHO's work in the region

- **Health Care Waste**
- - WHO provides guidance and support to countries in sound management of health care waste
- **Water supply and sanitation in emergencies and disasters**
- - The work in this area focuses mainly on preparedness and prevention

## WHO's work in the region

- **Normative aspects and training**
- - WHO prepares norms and guidelines and adapts global documents according to the special needs of the countries. Training in the different areas are also organized based on expressed needs of Member States.

### Pacific Year of Sanitation

Review Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action and

Identify further priorities to meet the MDG targets on Water and Sanitation

THANK YOU

