

WHO

Environmental Health in the Pacific

W.H.O.

O.M.S.





What is Environmental Health?



Environmental health comprises those aspects of human health, including quality of life, that are determined by physical, chemical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment. It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing, correcting, controlling and preventing those factors in the environment that can adversely affect the health of present and future generations.

Environmental Health is a public health science devoted to protecting and improving the health of human populations by limiting their exposure to biological, chemical and physical hazards in their environments.



Environmental health in the pacific involves:



- ◆ Water supplies
- ◆ Sanitation (excreta disposal)
- ◆ Waste management
- ◆ Pollution control
- ◆ Vector control
- ◆ Food safety
- ◆ Development control
- ◆ Hygiene education



WHO Programme Areas, or Themes



- ◆ Combating communicable diseases
- ◆ Building healthy communities and populations
- ◆ Health sector development
- ◆ Reaching out



Building Healthy Communities (focus areas)



- ◆ Healthy settings and environments
- ◆ Child and adolescent health and development
- ◆ Reproductive health
- ◆ Non-communicable diseases, including mental health
- ◆ Tobacco-free initiative



WHO support mechanisms



- ◆ Local costs (primarily for local training and workshops)
- ◆ Fellowships (for overseas training)
- ◆ Local fellowships (for in-country training)
- ◆ Short-term consultants (external technical support)
- ◆ Special services agreements (local contracts for technical support)
- ◆ Supplies and equipment



Pacific Workshop on Water Quality Surveillance

29 Oct. - 1 Nov.



The focus of the meeting will be on assessing efforts by member states to monitor and control the safety of drinking water and to provide input to ongoing global efforts in revising/ updating the current WHO guidelines.



The Meeting will Include:



- ◆ Country reports
- ◆ Review of DWQ guidelines and practicality to Pacific Island States
- ◆ Planning and implementation of surveillance programmes
- ◆ Hygiene education
- ◆ Water sampling and the importance of standardizing equipment
- ◆ Data needs and management information systems
- ◆ Linking surveillance data to health
- ◆ Regional needs (role of the regional programme)
- ◆ A draft declaration of commitment



Concept of Healthy Islands

Healthy Islands should be places where:



- ◆ Children are nurtured in body and mind;
- ◆ The environment invites learning and leisure;
- ◆ People work and age with dignity;
- ◆ Ecological balance is a source of pride

People have the potential to make long-term differences in their health as well as the health of others.



Healthy Islands Survey

Control of Soil-Transmitted Helminths

Control of Soil-Transmitted Helminths

**Linking
Environmental Health,
Health Promoting Schools
and
Healthy Communities**





Survey Components



- ◆ Intestinal parasite survey
- ◆ Environmental health survey
- ◆ Nutrition survey
- ◆ Health promoting schools



Survey Objectives



- ◆ To obtain data on Helminth prevalence, nutritional status and environmental sanitation in primary schools
- ◆ To test the survey protocols
- ◆ To assess capacities in EH

Transmission Routes

In the school and community

- ◆ **Water Supply** (sources, condition, availability)
- ◆ **Excreta Disposal** (type, sanitary condition)
- ◆ **Environmental Sanitation**
 - Waste disposal
 - Water pollution
 - Drainage
- ◆ **Food Safety**
- ◆ **Personal Hygiene**
- ◆ **Personal Protection**

A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT IS
THE KEY TO
HELMINTHIASIS
CONTROL

Water Quality Analyses

Colour

Odour

Temperature

Conductivity

Turbidity

Chlorine

pH

Faecal coliforms

Total coliforms



Drinking Water



Environmental Sanitation Water Pollution



Personal Hygiene



Health Promoting Schools Involving Students





Conclusions



- ◆ Helminthiasis exists in the Pacific
- ◆ Helminthiasis is the result of poor sanitation
- ◆ Helminthiasis transmission is not restricted to schools
- ◆ Helminthiasis control starts in the schools

The Healthy Island's Survey as the starting point

- ◆ **Training survey teams**
 - The handwashing demo
 - Nurses and nutrition
 - Food safety and nutrition
 - Parasitology and soil sampling
- ◆ **Providing equipment**
- ◆ **Obtaining base-line data**
- ◆ **Next year and beyond**
 - Standards setting
 - Action planning
 - Demonstration projects



