

2008–2009 PROGRAMME BUDGET

FRENCH POLYNESIA

French Polynesia comprises 3521 sq km of land on 120 islands in the South Pacific, of which 25 are inhabited. The principal and most populated island is Tahiti. In 2005, French Polynesia had an estimated population of 254 600.

French Polynesia has reached a high level of health and socioeconomic development with about 10% of the gross national product being spent on health. This favourable situation may be attributed to significant socioeconomic development and to the gradual implementation of an efficient health care system.

Like many other countries, French Polynesia is experiencing an epidemiological transition, where communicable diseases are decreasing while noncommunicable diseases are increasing. Nearly all of the population have ready access to quality health care, resulting in immunization coverage levels of over 90%, low infant mortality rates (6.3 infants deaths per 1000 live births), a low maternal mortality ratio, and a high life expectancy at birth of 71.7 years for men and 76.8 years for women.

While morbidity due to acute respiratory infections remains fairly high, especially in rural and poor urban districts, improvements in medical care have resulted in very low mortality for these conditions. The leading causes of mortality are noncommunicable diseases, especially cardiovascular diseases and cancers.

In 2008–2009, WHO technical cooperation with the Government is expected to focus on the following WHO strategic objectives:

	Strategic objective	Office-specific Expected Result
SO1	To reduce the health, social and economic burden of communicable diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support provided to French Polynesia to enhance its capacity to carry out surveillance and monitoring of lymphatic filariasis