**2010 – 2011**

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Solomon Islands form a Pacific archipelago of 922 islands, 347 of which are inhabited. Its land area of 28,900 km² is widely scattered over 1.3 million km². The population was estimated as 496,000 in July 2006 (Asian Development Bank estimate). An estimated population increase of 59,000 persons during 2000–2005 supports a demographic trend, creating increasing pressure on infrastructure and employment, as well as raising growing environmental issues.

Social disturbances in recent years have challenged economic and health improvements. The Government’s Medium-Term Development Strategy for 2008–2010 has identified a number of health-related outcomes. These include rehabilitating damaged economic infrastructure as well as building new infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, especially in rural areas, and to work towards food security for the nation and ensure a healthy, literate and contented population. Expected health-related outcomes in the 2008–2012 United Nations Development Assistance Framework include strengthened equitable social and protection services through support to the development of evidence-based policies and enabling environments; and improved capacity to deliver affordable, quality basic social services with strengthened safety nets and an emphasis on equality, inclusiveness and access. These areas of collaboration have been reflected in the WHO country programme budgets over the last two bienniums. WHO’s programme is managed through a country office.

In 2010–2011, WHO technical cooperation with the Government is expected to focus on the following WHO strategic objectives:

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| SO1 To reduce the health, social and economic burden of communicable diseases. | • Support provided to increase the immunization coverage in Malaita, Western and Renbel provinces.
• Support provided to the Solomon Islands for the prevention and control of dengue fever.
• Support provided in achieving the minimum capacities and functions required by the International Health Regulations (2005).
• To facilitate effective operations and response by partners and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to declared emergencies and situations due to epidemics and pandemics. |
| SO2 To combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. | • Support provided in the reduction of HIV risk behaviors by means of prevention, advocacy using human rights approach and adopting high confidentiality standards.
• Support provided to the Solomon Islands National TB Control Program for the expansion and implementation of DOTS strategy in the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of TB and promoting the delivery and access to health services to the population most in need. Other areas of support will include strengthening human resources through training; strengthen laboratory capacities and monitoring and evaluation.
• Support provided to the Ministry to implement internationally accepted norms, standards and guidelines for the quality, safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness and to strengthen the national regulatory system and quality assurance of medical products and technologies.
• Support provided to the Solomon Islands to strengthen national and provincial surveillance, evaluation and monitoring systems including monitoring of drug and insecticide resistance.
• Support provided to the HIV unit to help build capacity with NGOs, churches and CBOs to effectively implement HIV programs.
• Support provided to the Solomon Islands for operational research capability strengthening in malaria control and elimination. |
<p>| SO3 To prevent and reduce disease, disability and premature death from chronic noncommunicable conditions, mental disorders, violence, injuries and visual impairment. | • Support provided to the Solomon Islands National NCD Control Program for Policy development, program implementation, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening of health and rehabilitation systems and services, implementation of prevention programmes and capacity building in the area of chronic non communicable conditions, including |</p>
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| SO4 To reduce morbidity and mortality and improve health during key stages of life, including pregnancy, childbirth, the neonatal period, childhood and adolescence, and improve sexual and reproductive health and promote active and healthy ageing for all individuals. | Cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes. Other areas of support will include population wide approaches to tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity as risk factors; and in relation to approaches directed at individuals at high risk from these risk factors, as well as the prevention of others.  
- Improvements made in the Solomon Islands capacity to collect, analyze, disseminate and use data on the magnitude, causes and consequences of mental health disorders.  
- Support provided to the Solomon Islands National NCD Control Program for Policy development, program implementation, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening of health and rehabilitation systems and services, implementation of prevention programmes and capacity building in the area of chronic non communicable conditions, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes. Other areas of support will include population wide approaches to tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity as risk factors; and in relation to approaches directed at individuals at high risk from these risk factors, as well as the prevention of others.  
- Support provided to oral health services promotion in the Solomon Islands.  
- Support provided to the Ministry of Health to help decrease the prevalence of trachoma in the country.  
- Guidance & support provided to the Solomon Islands to improve the ability of their health & social systems to prevent and manage chronic noncommunicable conditions, mental and behavioral disorders, violence, injuries, and disabilities together with visual impairment including blindness. |
| SO5 To reduce the health consequences of emergencies, disasters, crises and conflicts, and minimize their social and economic impact. | Support provided to the Ministry of Health to be able to deal with the issue of Anaemia in Pregnancy which requires special attention as this problem has increased over the last few years, contributing to the high MMR in the country.  
- Support provided to the Ministry of Health to reduce neonatal mortality and morbidity through improved neonatal resuscitation.  
- Support provided for capacity building /training for the implementation of childhood policies and strategies development.  
- Support provided to the Ministry of Health in the provision of adolescent and youth health services.  
- Support provided for the rollout of the Family Health Card strategy in the provinces to improve access to RH/FP services, strengthen community involvement and expand health workers’ understanding of what is happening in their catchment area that affects the health of families.  
- Support provided to the Solomon Islands to implement food safety mitigation and environmental health emergencies. |
| SO6 To promote health and development, and prevent or reduce risk factors for health conditions associated with use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and other psychoactive substances, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and unsafe sex. | Establishment and strengthening of provincial healthy setting models and committees.  
- Support provided to the Social Services unit to demonstrate to parents and care-givers positive child rearing practices.  
- Social mobilization to support World No Tobacco Day and effect community behavior change interventions as regards Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD).  
- Training of trainers to establish behavior change models for intervention activities. |
| SO8 To promote a healthier environment, intensify primary prevention and influence public policies in all sectors so as to address the root causes of environmental threats to health. | Support provided to the Solomon Islands government for the implementation of environmental threat mitigation to health and review of legislation and National Environmental Action Plan.  
- Support provided to the Solomon Islands to strengthen healthcare waste management systems and services at primary and secondary care centres. |
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| SO9 To improve nutrition, food safety and food security, throughout the life-course, and in support of public health and sustainable development. | • Support provided to the Solomon Islands for the procurement, promotion and implementation of healthcare waste management policy.  
• Support provided to the Solomon Islands to develop policies, strategies and recommendations to improve access to clean and safe water over drought and wet seasons resulting from impacts of climate change.  
• Effective programs established to ensure good growth for women and their children through the introduction of the new growth monitoring guidelines by training health workers in the use of the new WHO growth charts and the use of iron supplementation for women in child bearing age groups.  
• Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training for health workers and communities implemented.  
• Support Solomon Island efforts to improve nutrition, food safety throughout the life course and in support of public health and sustainable development through data collection and food analysis.  
• Support Solomon Island efforts to improve nutrition, food safety and food security throughout the life-course and in support of public health and sustainable development through strengthening National Food Program. |
| SO10 To improve health services through better governance, financing, staffing and management informed by reliable and accessible evidence and research. | • Support provided to establish a workable health information system with selected core indicators that links the provinces and the hospitals.  
• Support provided to strengthen the on-going e-learning and other e-health applications.  
• Support provided to improve the production, distribution, skill-mix, retention and the management of the workforce in the Solomon Islands. |
| SO11 To ensure improved access, quality and use of medical products and technologies. | • Support provided to develop, monitor or revise comprehensive policies on access, quality and use of essential medical products and technologies. |