

3. Strengthening efficiency through hospital services planning and management



The Government will be moving the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, to a safer location, further from the disaster-prone coast.

WHO has focused on the role of hospitals as a key driver of service delivery and system efficiency, specifically by supporting better clinical services planning and strengthening capacity in hospital management. Several countries in the Pacific have recognized the central role of hospitals in health services delivery reform and progress towards UHC.

In January 2016, Kiribati's Ministry of Health and Medical Services embarked on a process of national strategic planning for health infrastructure and services.

WHO supported the planning process, using a systems-based approach for hospital services development that is sustainable, resilient and coordinated well with

public health services. WHO also continued to support Solomon Islands with the planned relocation of its National Referral Hospital, following an assessment based on the Hospital Safety Index.

The assessment noted the flood-prone location of the hospital, and the Government decided to relocate it to safer ground. WHO also provided technical support to strategic planning for the new hospital and nearby clinical services area.

At the Eleventh Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in April 2015, Member States requested leadership and management training. In response, WHO organized a hospital management workshop in Fiji in September 2015. Attendees included 18 senior managers from mid- and national-level hospitals in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The workshop engaged experienced facilitators for discussion and group work, and was conducted in a participatory manner to maximize learning. Participants said the learning experience was essential for their work as hospital managers and suggested holding similar workshops for mid-level hospital managers in their home countries. WHO will follow up with national-level workshops, aiming to enhance management capacity of Pacific countries at the institutional and policy levels. ■