

### 3. Pacific Island Countries and Areas – WHO Cooperation Strategy and the Healthy Islands vision



The Pacific's future is in the hands of its children. Leadership and action for health today will expand their horizons for tomorrow.

The *Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy for the Pacific 2013–2017* detailed the strategic vision and technical cooperation between WHO and the 21 Pacific island countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region. An updated version of the strategy is being developed, with the Healthy Islands vision as the guiding principle in shaping strategic priorities and focus areas for 2018–2022.

The current strategy presents the diverse geographic, demographic, cultural, economic and health parameters for the 21 Pacific island countries and areas. It also promotes a country-focused approach with country-specific information, summarizing each country and area's health status, national health policies and systems, and strategic priorities. The strategy takes these elements into

account in crafting a holistic subregional strategic vision with Healthy Islands as the unifying theme. The draft *Pacific Island Countries and Areas – WHO Cooperation Strategy* is designed to hasten progress towards the vision of Healthy Islands by improving and protecting the health of all Pacific islanders.

To ensure alignment of the *Pacific Island Countries and Areas – WHO Cooperation Strategy* and the Healthy Islands vision, the Healthy Islands monitoring framework will be the fundamental tool for monitoring the outcomes and impacts of DPS work. The monitoring framework provides indicators that gauge progress in the implementation of specific actions to realize the vision. The indicators were drawn mainly from global frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure harmonization with international standards.

The strategic agenda of the *Pacific Island Countries and Areas – WHO Cooperation Strategy for 2018–2022* underscores the responsiveness of DPS to the needs and priorities of Pacific island countries and areas and to multisectoral collaboration to establish cross-cutting initiatives that provide sustainable support for the more than 3 million people in the Pacific. Progress towards the goals of the strategy will help realize the Healthy Islands vision. ■