



World Health  
Organization

Western Pacific Region

A Regional Overview of  
Action, Impact, and  
Opportunity

# **Climate-Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities in the Western Pacific Region**



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## Introduction and Purpose

The Western Pacific Region is home to some of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries and communities. Health systems in this Region are increasingly affected by climate change, facing mounting challenges from rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation. These threats impact not only the delivery of essential health services but also exacerbate already high burdens from noncommunicable diseases, infectious diseases, and poor environmental health conditions.

Air pollution, unsafe water and sanitation, and extreme temperatures collectively cause millions of preventable deaths annually. The health sector also has a significant environmental footprint — accounting for approximately 5% of global carbon emissions — while many health facilities remain ill-equipped to withstand or respond to climate-related disruptions.

To address this, WHO is strengthening its Climate-Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable

Health Care Facilities (CRESHCF) approach, which aims to support countries in building safer, lower-carbon, and more resilient health systems.

This includes enhancing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); improving energy efficiency; embedding early warning systems; and integrating climate considerations into health system governance, financing, and service delivery.

This report consolidates country-led progress and WHO-supported efforts under CRESHCF across the Western Pacific Region. It reflects a continued commitment to action. The document aims to celebrate country leadership, highlight practical tools and lessons, and chart a path for further investment and coordinated action.

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## Regional Snapshot

### **Across the Western Pacific Region, Member States are:**

- Conducting vulnerability assessments of health facilities
- Retrofitting and solarizing facilities to ensure continuity of care
- Integrating climate and health into national health plans and policy
- Developing local tools and guidelines for sustainable health infrastructure
- Building technical capacity for early warning and emergency response



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WHO has supported this progress through technical guidance, financing coordination, and deployment of tools such as the CRESHCF Action Planning Tool and open-source platforms for digital monitoring and planning.

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## Country Highlights

### **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**

- National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) on climate and health developed, with CRESHCF integrated.
- National guidelines, training tools, and policy alignment delivered with WHO support.
- University of Natural Resources and Environment will graduate its first cohort of undergraduates in climate and health in 2025.
- PNG's profile in the global climate-health dialogue raised through WHO-sponsored delegate participation at COP28 and recent international conferences.
- Government ownership has been fostered through multisectoral collaboration and capacity building.

### **Fiji**

- 220 health facilities assessed for climate vulnerability — nearly 100% of national coverage.
- Five facilities prioritized for full retrofitting, and 20 are being solarized.
- Major visibility campaign through WHO platforms, with the story "It Takes a Village" becoming the second most popular WHO HQ social media post in February 2025.
- Strengthened syndromic surveillance and integration of GIS into national systems.
- Enhanced training for health inspectors on environmental determinants of health.



## Solomon Islands

- Comprehensive GIS mapping of healthcare facility vulnerability in partnership with the National Disaster Management Office.
- MoU under development for weather data sharing between health and meteorology sectors.
- DHIS2 syndromic surveillance module operationalized with continuous training support.
- Technical assessments completed for facilities in Lata, Kirakira, and NRH to support climate resilience.
- SOPs for healthcare workers now include environmental safeguards and resilience measures.



## **Vanuatu**

- National symposium on climate and health held with strong multisectoral participation.
- WHO-led retrofitting work underway in three facilities in SAMMA province with GEF funding.
- National Health Adaptation Plan (HNAP) development underway with input from academic and government stakeholders.

## **Kiribati**

- Health facilities on four outer islands solarized and upgraded with WHO support.
- MoU signed between Ministry of Health and Meteorological Office to improve climate-health monitoring.
- Locally developed CRESHCF vulnerability assessment tool piloted on two islands.
- High-impact communications work, including a widely engaged WHO feature on solar-powered internet enabling emergency health care.

## **Lao PDR**

- 114 hospitals upgraded with improved WASH infrastructure following the 2021 National WASH Survey.
- Focused support provided to ensure climate and disaster resilience in flood- and drought-prone areas.
- Initiative aligns with national Safe, Clean and Green Health Facility vision.



- Climate data integrated within climate sensitive disease dashboards in the Health Management Information System with an aim towards establishing an early warning and alert system

## Viet Nam

- CRESHCF pilots conducted in areas vulnerable to floods, droughts, and saltwater intrusion.
- Data and lessons from these pilots are now informing the development of national CRESHCF guidelines and indicators.
- Strong national ownership, with WHO-supported sites informing future scale-up.
- Feature story on CRESHCF progress in Viet Nam published by WHO and widely shared across platforms.



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## Tools and Technical Support

WHO has developed and rolled out an evolving suite of tools and platforms to strengthen climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems:

- **CRESHCF action planning tool:** Developed in response to Member State requests, and built on open-source software, this tool allows for electronic data collection, visualization, and linked action planning — helping countries digitize and scale their response efforts. It provides a structured, step-by-step framework to guide national and subnational planning aligned with the global CRESHCF framework.
- **Open-source digital platform:** WHO is in the final stages of launching a web-based interface that complements the action planning tool.
- **Integration with surveillance and early warning systems:** WHO has provided direct technical support to help countries like Solomon Islands and Fiji integrate weather and climate data into disease surveillance systems (e.g., DHIS2) and expand GIS capabilities. This helps health systems anticipate and respond more effectively to climate-sensitive health threats.
- **National guidelines development:** WHO has supported the drafting and institutionalization of national CRESHCF guidelines and policy frameworks in countries such as PNG, Viet Nam, and Solomon Islands. These documents provide a country-owned and context-specific roadmap for climate-resilient health infrastructure.
- **Capacity building and training modules:** Across the Region, WHO has provided training for frontline health workers, facility managers, engineers, and ministry officials. Trainings include environmental safeguards, SOPs for climate resilience, and sector-wide planning.
- **Knowledge sharing and visibility tools:** WHO has helped elevate national efforts through storytelling, comms campaigns, and South-South exchange. Popular digital features (e.g., the Kiribati and Fiji



stories) have helped generate public interest and build political momentum.

Together, these tools and technical support mechanisms are forming the backbone of an emerging, regionally tailored approach to CRESHCF implementation.



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## Next steps and regional opportunities

### 01 Scale up climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems

Work with Member States to expand adoption of the CRESHCF framework and operationalize the WHO guidance across health infrastructure, policies, and systems. This includes WASH services, green procurement, and carbon footprint assessments.

### 02 Mobilize resources and investment

Align health and climate goals with financing strategies by leveraging donor interest, engaging with vertical funds, and supporting Member States to develop investment cases and multi-country proposals.

### 03 Strengthen monitoring and data systems

Build national and regional capacity to track implementation using WHO tools, such as CLIMAQ-H and WASH FIT, and enhance reporting on progress toward climate-health objectives.

### 04 Establish a regional Member State partnership network of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)

Launch a dedicated ATACH partnership network focused on climate-resilient and sustainable health systems, bringing together Member States across the Region to share progress, align priorities, and build regional solidarity. This will be anchored by a regional forum co-hosted by WHO and partners in Singapore in September 2025.

### 05 Establish regional coordination through WHO ACE

Create a dedicated implementation support hub for climate-resilient health systems at WHO ACE, offering technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and a platform for country collaboration and peer learning.







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## Conclusion

The momentum across the Western Pacific Region shows that countries are ready to take bold steps to climate-proof their health systems. From policy alignment to facility retrofitting, Member States are already delivering meaningful change — but now is the time to scale this progress for greater health impact.

To do so, we must move from pilots to system-wide implementation, from fragmented support to coordinated investment, and from scattered data to robust monitoring. With the CRESHCF tools and country experiences in hand, we have a strong foundation to expand delivery, unlock new funding, and embed climate resilience at the heart of universal health coverage.

The goal is not only to build facilities that withstand climate shocks, but to deliver healthier lives and communities — reducing preventable illness and death, improving health equity, and ensuring access to safe, reliable, and sustainable health services for all.

This effort will be strengthened through the establishment of a new regional ATACH partnership network of Member States, focused on shared learning, coordinated action, and strengthening health systems to better respond to climate and environmental challenges.

*Together, we can accelerate implementation and scale our impact — for health systems that are resilient, and for a Region that is healthier, safer, and more just.*

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