

Pacific Heads of Health

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Advancing health information and digital transformation in the health sector

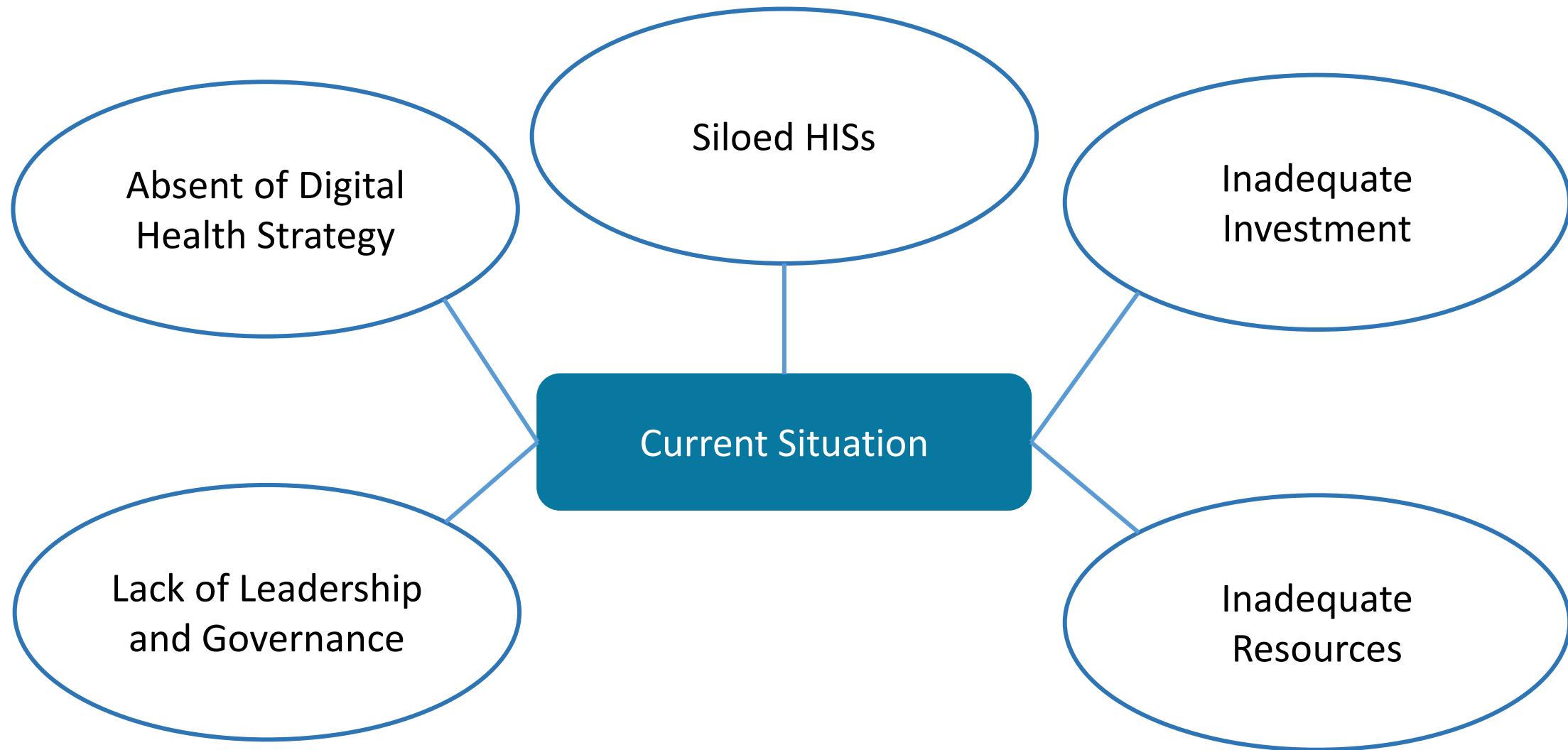
Presented by: Shane Walter Hurrell

On behalf of Pacific island countries and areas



Outline of Presentation

- Current situation
- Vision for the future
- Case studies
- Why urgent action is needed
- Proposed Recommendations
 - Heads of Health
 - Health Ministers
 - Development Partners

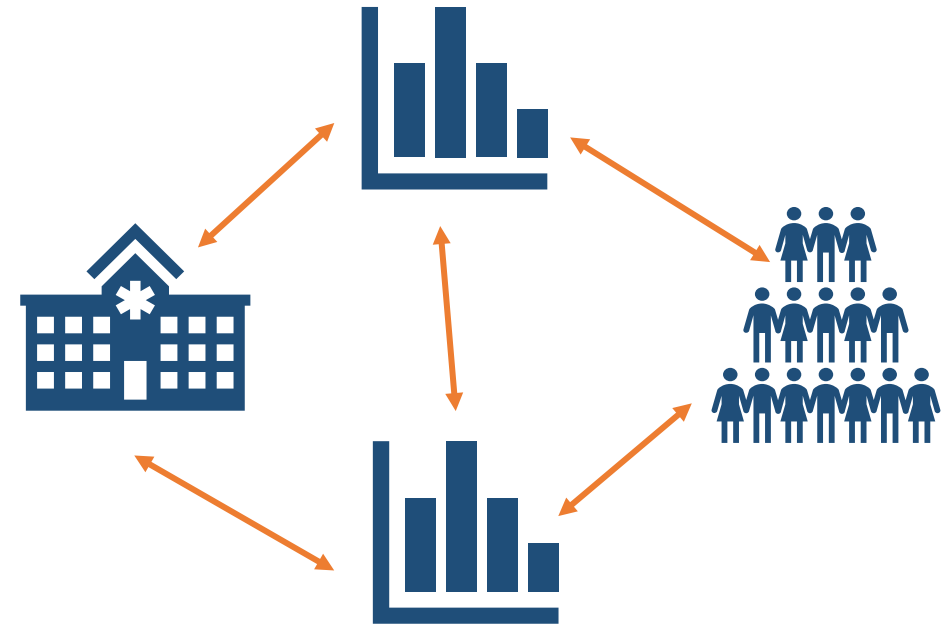


A culture of people-centred digital health implementation and data-driven decision making is absent.

The future we want to see



People Centred-
and
Health System-Oriented



Interoperable HIS

Evidence-based digital health strategy in Fiji

- Developed a National Digital Health Strategy:
 - Guides Fiji in how to use Digital Health solutions for Health System improvement;
 - focusing on strengthening Digital Health foundations, Governance, Architecture, Digital Systems, and Change Management



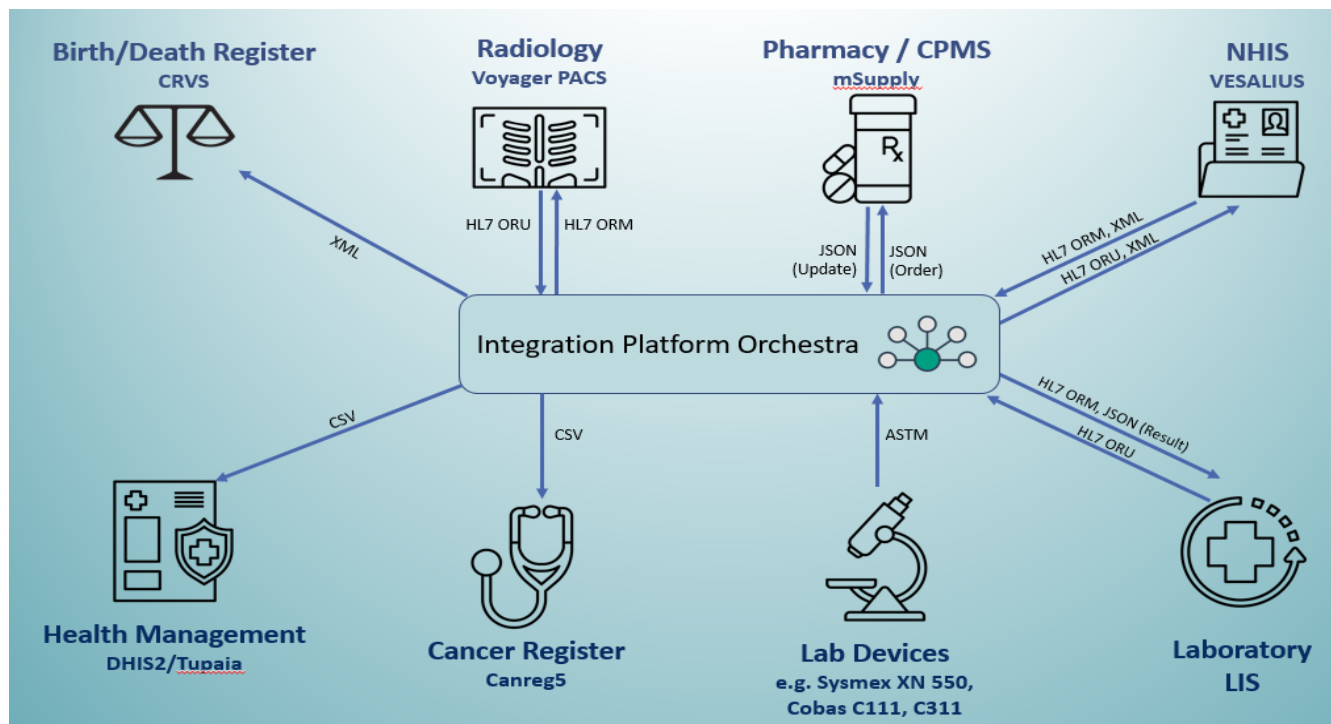
Telecommunication for health service delivery in Tuvalu

- Implementation of the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT)
 - Connects Princess Margaret Hospital to primary health clinics on 8 outer islands
 - More clinically meaningful consults and improved patient management.
 - Reduced number of domestic and overseas medical referrals.
 - Increased access to formal and informal health workforce education and training.

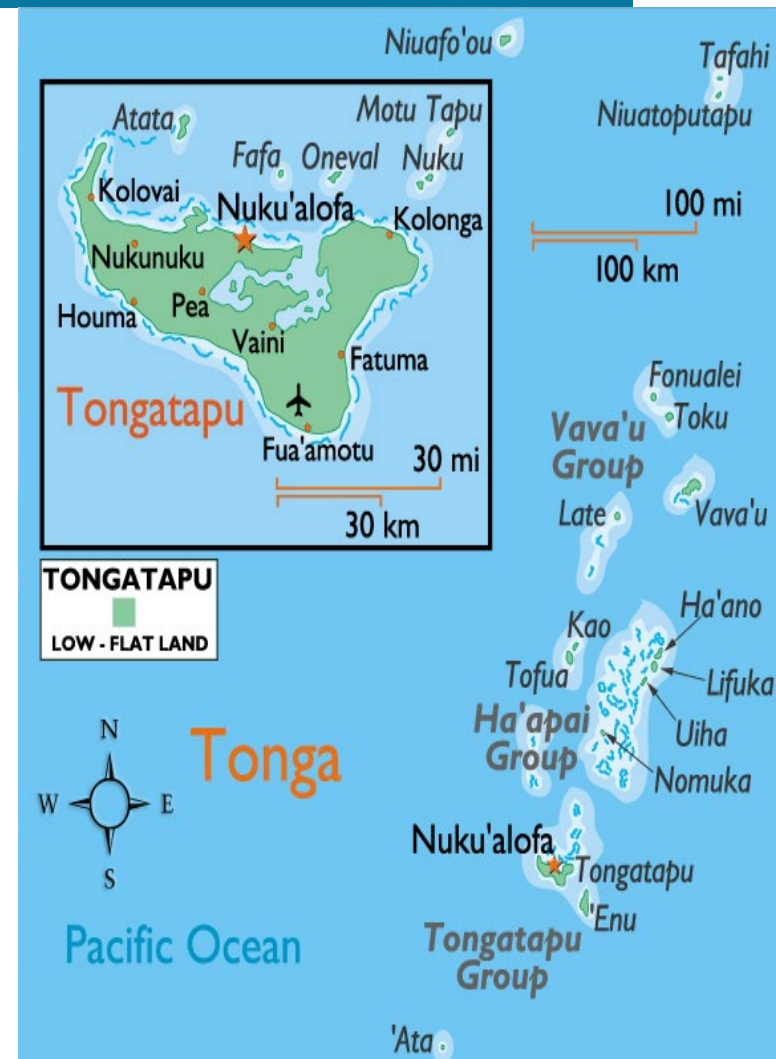


Interoperable health information systems in Tonga

- Implemented an integrated National Health Information System



- Utilized in 4 Hospitals, 14 Health Centers, and 15+ Reproductive Health Clinics



Why urgent action is needed now

Successful implementation of digital interventions over the course of the pandemic demonstrates that a digital future is possible for the Pacific.

Momentum

Long-term Investment
and Effort

Each PIC must start on their health information and digital health transformation now.

Proposed recommendations for Heads of Health

- Define, adopt, and document minimum technical standards and interoperability requirements for health information and digital health solutions.
- Develop and implement an evidence-based strategy and operational plan for health information and digital health development, based on the digital health maturity model. Special focus on:
 - CRVS strengthening by ensuring notification and registration of births and deaths and cause of death assignment are consistent with the data standards
 - deploying interoperable digital health interventions
 - allocating sufficient training and resources to support uptake.
- Sharing of best practices through established sub-regional mechanisms (e.g. Pacific Health Information Network, Directors of Clinical Services Meeting, and Directors of Heads of Nursing and Midwifery Meeting)

Proposed recommendations for Health Ministers

- Lead coordination with ministries outside of healthcare to steer HIS and digital health advancement.
- Direct a country-owned health information and digital health transformation process by establishing institutional mechanisms that enforce adherence of technical standards.

Proposed recommendations for development partners

- Ensure Pacific governments are in the driver's seat by implementing health information and digital health interventions that adheres to technical standards and health system needs defined by each PIC.
- Prioritize the interoperability of any new health information systems by coordinating technical assistance and donor resources across development partners, including:
 - Convening annual coordination meetings with all development partners and key stakeholders investing and implementing HIS and digital health interventions in the region.
 - Providing cohesive support to develop interoperable HISs and digital health interventions
- Support the development and implementation of regional and standard solutions to common challenges

Thank you!