

STRENGTHENING FRAGILE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS: A NARRATIVE FROM FIJI

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STRENGTHENING FRAGILE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS:

A NARRATIVE FROM FIJI.

- RESOURCE INVESTMENT IN HEALTHCARE
- IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC
- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK: 6-BUILDING BLOCKS
 - EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP
 - WORKFORCE
 - SERVICE DELIVERY
 - HEALTH FINANCING
 - TECHNOLOGY
 - PHARMACOLOGY/CONSUMABLE SUPPLY CHAIN

FIJI' FRAGILE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

- Archipelago of 330 islands - 5 larger isles carry bulk of population.
- Population 864,000.
- Indigenous Population: 62%: Fiji-Indians: 34%: Other Ethnicities: 4%:
- Mean Age of Population; 28 years.
- Urban population: 56%. Rural/maritime: 44%.
- 10% live in Squatter settlement (nationally). Suva: 20% in squatter settlements.
- Health /GDP 2.8% (WHO Regional criteria > 6.6%)
- Health/ Total Government Expenditure < 9% (WHO regional criteria > 14%)
- National lifespan: Males: 64 years: Females: 70 years: > 60 years (8%) > 16% by 2030.
- 30% population living below poverty line pre-COVID (Fiji Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

- Communicable Diseases: Endemic: Typhoid, Leptospirosis, Dengue.
- Non-Communicable Diseases: Responsible for 80% premature deaths. WHO STEP SURVEYS
- DFAT Structural Reform Reviews: Health In Transition reports undertaken to 2014:
- **Impact of COVID-19 on Fiji's Healthcare System.**
 - First Wave (2020) 2 case fatalities-Imported Delta Variant (India) returning patients.
 - Second wave (April 2021 -> Current 15th September 2021)
 - > 49,390 cases +ve cases; Swabbing now selectively undertaken.
 - Deaths (Direct: 540) & (Associated: 374) COVID-19 deaths. Total deaths = 914.

MOHMS press release 15th September 2021.

VACCINATIONS STRATEGIES.

% TARGETED POPULATION VACCINATED:

FIRST DOSE: 97.5% SECOND DOSE: 61.9% AS AT 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021.

VACCINE DIPLOMACY > SLOW START.

AZ > MODERNA VACCINES AVAILABILITY.

POLITICAL CALL FOR MANDATORY VACCINATION.

VACCINE STRATEGY NEEDS ELABORATION IN THE WIDER COMMUNITIES.

CALL TO REOPEN BORDERS BY 1ST NOVEMBER 2021.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

- Containment initially. Mitigation phase followed.
- Public Health Vs Macroeconomic weigh-in.
- Quarantine: Dedicated and home now.
- Screening, Swabbing curtailed.
- Contact tracing, careFiji app?
- Isolation, Social distancing masking.
- Short term Locked-down strategies (72 hours).Virus wins!
- Food Security an issue.

UNFOLDING CHALLENGES IN THE PANDEMIC

- Containment > Mitigation:
- State party fiscal restraints:
- Budget reductions in 2009:
- Loss of employment, livelihoods and earning capacity. Cost of living escalating.
- Utilization of Personal retirement funds- loss of long term \$ security.
- Private Sector, NGO, Civil Society not party to State party efforts.
- Private Public Health System not called up to support healthcare effort.
- Continued International Vaccine diplomacy > slow uptake initially. (Anti-vaxers).

FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Urgent Healthcare Strengthening of facilities, supply chain management, technology operational and upgraded et Human resource optimization.
- Health Literacy & increased Public Awareness.
- Addressing Micro-economics- Food security, wellness and livelihoods.
- Booster Dosing - Adult population.
- Vaccination strategies for 16-17 year old's in 2021-22.
- Children vaccination (11-17).
- Future general and health educational measures.
- Scaling up Healthcare et Social Services funding.

EXCESS DEATH IN PANDEMIC TIMES.

- Death classification:
- Training of medical personnel in coding.
- Current Classifications: Direct v Associated v Non-COVID.

- Thank you.
- Neil Sharma.