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 15\textsuperscript{th} 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 15\textsuperscript{th} 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.