OVERVIEW

The Pitcairn Islands is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, consisting of four islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Only one island with an area of 46 square kilometres is inhabited. Fifty-four people, including five children, live on the island. The Pitcairn Islands is governed by the mayor and chairman of the Island Council, elected by popular vote. The head of state is represented by a United Kingdom high commissioner and a governor.

Economic activities include fishing, postage stamp production, handicrafts, beekeeping and honey production. Residents are either self-employed or work for the local government. A scheduled supply boat stops at the inhabited island only once every three months.

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The leading causes of illness are diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, allergies and asthma, and accidents. The Pitcairn Islands actively participates in the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, closely monitoring communicable diseases. Primary health care is available and accessible to all residents of the Pitcairn Islands. Health care is financed by the United Kingdom Department for International Development. The Pitcairn Health Centre currently provides general practice, nursing, dental X-ray technology and ultrasound. Emergency evacuation is by sea to Mangareva in French Polynesia, and then by air transport to Tahiti in French Polynesia or New Zealand. A growing health-related challenge for the Pitcairn Islands is extended periods of drought.
WHO, working with partners, will support the Government in pursuing its national strategic priorities. Each strategic activity is linked to at least one of the subregional focus areas (SFAs) that are detailed in the *Pacific Island Countries and Areas–WHO Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022*:

1. To maintain the syndromic surveillance system.

2. To promote healthy living for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.

**NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY**

*Pitcairn Islands Strategic Development Plan 2014–2018* has five goals including health care.

The objective of the health care goal is to provide the best possible health care to all members of the community, acknowledging the challenges of its geographical location.

There are five strategies for health care:

1. provide best primary health care and education via the medical centre;
2. provide secondary health care as required via Tahiti and New Zealand;
3. ensure that the Healthcare and Compassionate Grant Policy is followed, operates effectively, and meets the best practices and needs of both patients and the Government of Pitcairn Islands;
4. prepare for the needs of the ageing population within the community in terms of health care, health and safety and infrastructure development; and
5. improve on-island communications by introducing a communication repeater system.

**PARTNERS**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provides substantial bilateral cooperation to the Pitcairn Islands. The Pitcairn Islands communicates with WHO by submitting a weekly Pacific syndromic surveillance report on the number of cases of outbreak-prone syndromes.