

Results of *Inform'ACTION* survey

Inform'ACTION bulletin has been published since July 1998, at the rate of 3-4 issues per year. Each bulletin is distributed to around 800 health professionals, of whom the majority is based in the Pacific Region.

The survey was conducted during the 1st Regional EpiNet Workshop, which gathered members of national/territorial EpiNet teams and experts from regional organisations and collaborating institutions. In total, the participants filled in 35 questionnaires.

DISTRIBUTION

Did you receive the last three issues of *Inform'ACTION* (12, 13, 14)?

	Number	Percent
Yes	24	68.6
No	11	31.4
Total	35	100.0

Among the "No" answers: 4 never received it, the others received previous issues to No 14 only.

Did you receive the bulletin from:

	Number	Percent
A colleague	4	13.8
Your library	2	6.9
SPC	23	79.3
Total	29	100.0

After you read the bulletin, did you

	Number	Percent
Archive it	9	31.0
Circulate it*	18	62.1
Transmit it to the library	2	6.9
Total	29	100.0

*Among the 18 participants who replied that they circulate the bulletin, it's interesting to note that *Inform'ACTION* is circulated at least to 300 extra health professionals in the Region in addition to the 800 original recipients.

CONTENT**Do you find the articles interesting?**

	Number	Percent
Yes, in general	26	89.7
Sometimes	3	10.3
Rarely	0	0.0
Total	29	100.0

Did you find the information published useful for your work?

	Number	Percent
Yes	30	96.8
No	1	3.2
Total	31	100.0

Would you like to see included some PacNet messages regarding a topic that has been intensively discussed by email?

	Number	Percent
Yes	27	81.8
No	6	18.2
Total	33	100.0

Which topics would you like to see discussed?

The responses included:

- Country responses to the 6 priority diseases: dengue, leptospirosis, influenza, cholera, typhoid fever and measles.
- Issues of current importance, such as emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (e.g. SARS, rubella).
- National/international information reporting systems.
- Any health topic of significant public health importance in the Pacific region.
- Final outcomes of outbreaks – especially those outbreaks “lost for follow-up” and with outcome not known or publicized.
- Communications on public health, health quarantine, existing and proposed legislation, across the Pacific.
- Needed steps for capacity strengthening among the EpiNet group and for other key personnel in the PICTs.
- Weaknesses in governments health support.
- Quality control measures in terms of infectious disease controls in all institutions (health care) and especially laboratory personnel.
- Laboratory diagnostic features for measles, dengue and rubella, as well as the current available test kits for the above; and
- NCDs protocols or recommendations.

FORMAT

The length of the articles is:

	Number	Percent
Too short	0	0
Too long	3	11.1
Right length	24	88.9
Total	27	100.0

The size of the font is too small

	Number	Percent
Yes	2	7.4
No	25	92.6
Total	27	100.0

Does the fact that the pages are bilingual disturb you while reading?

	Number	Percent
Yes	2	7.4
No	25	92.6
Total	27	100.0

Inform'ACTION is also available on the Internet. Did you try to access the electronic versions?

	Number	Percent
Yes	8	29.6
No	19	70.4
Total	27	100.0

If yes, did you have difficulties in downloading/opening the individual articles?

	Number	Percent
Yes	2	25.0
No	6	75.0
Total	8	100.0

Are you still interested in receiving a hard copy of this bulletin?

	Number	Percent
Yes	27	96.4
No	1	3.6
Total	28	100.0

The next issues of Inform'ACTION will be developed in accordance with these results, and the distribution problems will be addressed. So the format will not change except maybe for the colour. The suggestions regarding the topics to be discussed will be as much as possible taken into consideration. Therefore all contributions covering the various aspects of public health surveillance and response activities, especially those mentioned in the survey, are welcomed.

Many thanks to the participants in the survey!