

Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific - Data for Decision Making (SHIP-DDM) Program

Program Description	<p>The Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific - Data for Decision Making (SHIP-DDM) Program for capacity development is one of the service delivery networks of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). The Program aims to improve the knowledge and skills of health staff to strengthen the collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data, and use the results as an evidence base for guiding decisions on the health actions, policies and programs to improve health outcomes in the Pacific. The Program consists of a set of three successive training courses in epidemiology and public health and is fully accredited by the Fiji National University (FNU).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data for Decision-Making (basic level course) - accredited for the Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology (PGCFE); 2. Operational Research (Intermediate level course) - accredited for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology (PGDAE); and 3. Applied Epidemiology (advanced level course) - accredited for the Master's in Applied Epidemiology (MAE).
Course Description	
Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology (PGCFE)	<p>The PGCFE is the basic level course in field epidemiology (now referred to as the PGCFE in the accredited curriculum) and is made up of five modules which are conducted at 5-to-6 weeks intervals to be completed over a period of about 18-24 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 - Introduction to Epidemiology and Field Epidemiology: Trainees learn the basic concepts and methods in epidemiology and field epidemiology, and the application of this knowledge to identify, assess and respond to health needs and problems in the community. • Module 2 - Introduction to Health Information Systems (HIS): Trainees learn the principles of HIS and the quality attributes of a functional system. They will apply this knowledge to develop their <i>Field Project</i> by mapping the flow of data from the point of data collection and of analysis, to the distribution of results for informing decisions. • Module 3 - Investigation and Management of Disease Outbreaks: Trainees learn the methods for investigating disease outbreaks including developing a questionnaire for collecting data, developing a database for data entry, analysing the data, and reporting on the outbreak with a Situation Report (or 'SitRep'). • Module 4 - Management and Analysis of HIS Data: Trainees learn how to create a database for their <i>Field project</i>, enter the data, assess data quality, and 'clean' their dataset. They learn how to formulate the objectives of the analysis and conduct the analysis. • Module 5: System Improvement Project: Trainees apply the knowledge and skills acquired from the previous four modules to report on the results of the analysis and prepare the <i>Information Product</i> as an evidence-base for guiding decisions on health actions, policies and programs aimed at improving health outcomes. <p>Who May Apply: Government staff from all levels of the health system, including staff from health clinics, hospitals and public health programs, and the national office, including doctors, nurses, laboratory and pharmacy staff, data coordinators, and program managers.</p>
Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology (PGDAE)	<p>The PGDAE course will be delivered through four classroom-based modules (one module on biostatistics and three modules on operations research), each conducted over a period of 5-days through hands-on learning activities. The modules will be conducted at 6-to-8 weeks intervals to be completed in 12 months. During this period between the three modules, each trainee will progressively develop and refine the research proposal and implement their project.</p> <p>Who May Apply: Graduates of the PGCFE course whose performance meets specified standards may be eligible to enrol for this intermediate level of training.</p>
Master's in Applied Epidemiology (MAE)	<p>The MAE Course is offered to PGDAE graduates through a one-year, full-time, and work-based placement within a unit of the MoH. Each trainee will complete three projects identified as workplace priorities: (i) investigation and response to a public health emergency; (ii) establishing or evaluating a HIS or intervention program; and (iii) designing, implementing, and reporting an epidemiological study on a priority health problem.</p> <p>Who May Apply: Graduates whose performance in the PGDAE course meets specified standards may be eligible to continue to the advanced level of training.</p>
For Inquiries	<p>For more details related to the SHIP-DDM courses, please communicate with Jojo Merilles (JojoM@spc.int). For matters related to selection of country participants and application processes, please communicate with Dr. Louise Fonua (LouiseF@spc.int).</p>