Partnership for Health System Sustainability and Resilience

CAPRi

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, and Republic of Vanuatu

Sustainability and Resilience in Pacific Island Health Systems

Collin Tukuitonga, Roannie Ng Shiu, Siale Akauola, Emi Chutaro, and Caroline Fried

April 2024

Sustainability and Resilience in Pacific Islands Health Systems

Joint Report by Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa (Centre for Pacific and Global Health) University of Auckland and CAPRI (Centre for Asia Pacific Resilience and Innovation) launched Nov 2024

Part of Partnership for Health system Sustainability and Resilience (PHSSR) – an international initiative collaborating across sectors to build more resilient and resilient health systems for the future

Includes LSE,WHO Foundation, AstraZeneca, KPMG, World Economic Forum, Phillips, CAPRI, local/regional partners

Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of Vanuatu

Health Systems in the Pacific Islands

Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health major Burden of Disease in the Pacific Islands – social and economic costs unsustainable

Health systems small, fragile, curative focussed, underfunded, outdated equipment, chronic workforce challenges, medicines supply

People live with 2-3 chronic conditions; changing patterns of care

Impact of the climate crisis, more than half of critical facilities located within 300 metres of hydrological threat

Summary of Findings/Policy Recommendations

- Population Health
- Environmental Sustainability
- Health Systems Workforce
- Medicines and Technology
- Health Service Delivery
- Health Systems Financing
- Health Systems Governance

Population Health

- Dramatic improvements in IMR and U5MR
- Life Expectancy decline/plateau in some islands
- NCD and Mental Health major cause of mortality, morbidity

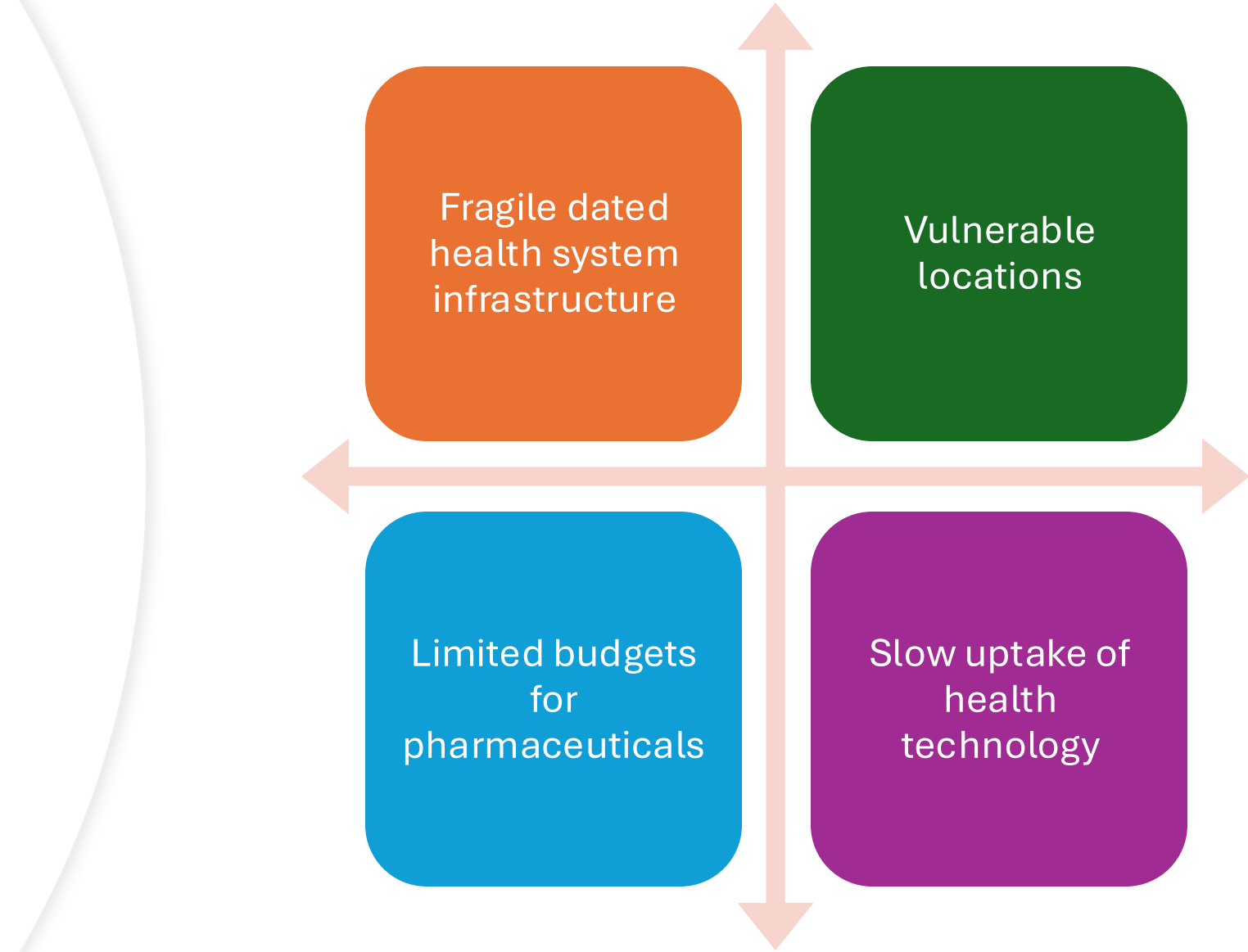
Environmental Sustainability

- Climate crisis impact on lives and livelihoods
- Miniscule contribution to GHGs from PICTs
- Impacts on all health determinants, reduction in fishing and agricultural yields, water security threats
- Rise in vector-borne diseases
- Health sector response plans limited

Health Systems Workforce

- Chronic intractable problem for all island nations
- Outmigration and inadequate numbers being trained
- Push and Pull factors
- Consider greater use of (Independent) Nurse Practitioners

Medicines and Technology



Health Service Delivery

Good progress towards UHC

Problems with provision of specialist medical services

Cost of off-shore referrals

Health Systems Financing

MOST PICTS SPEND < 5% GDP ON HEALTH (HIGHER SHARE IN NORTH)

LIMITED SCOPE FOR INCREASED ALLOCATION FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES

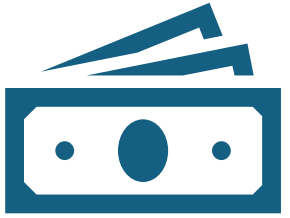
HIGH OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES

ALTERNATIVE MODELS NEEDED E.G PALAU HEALTH FUND

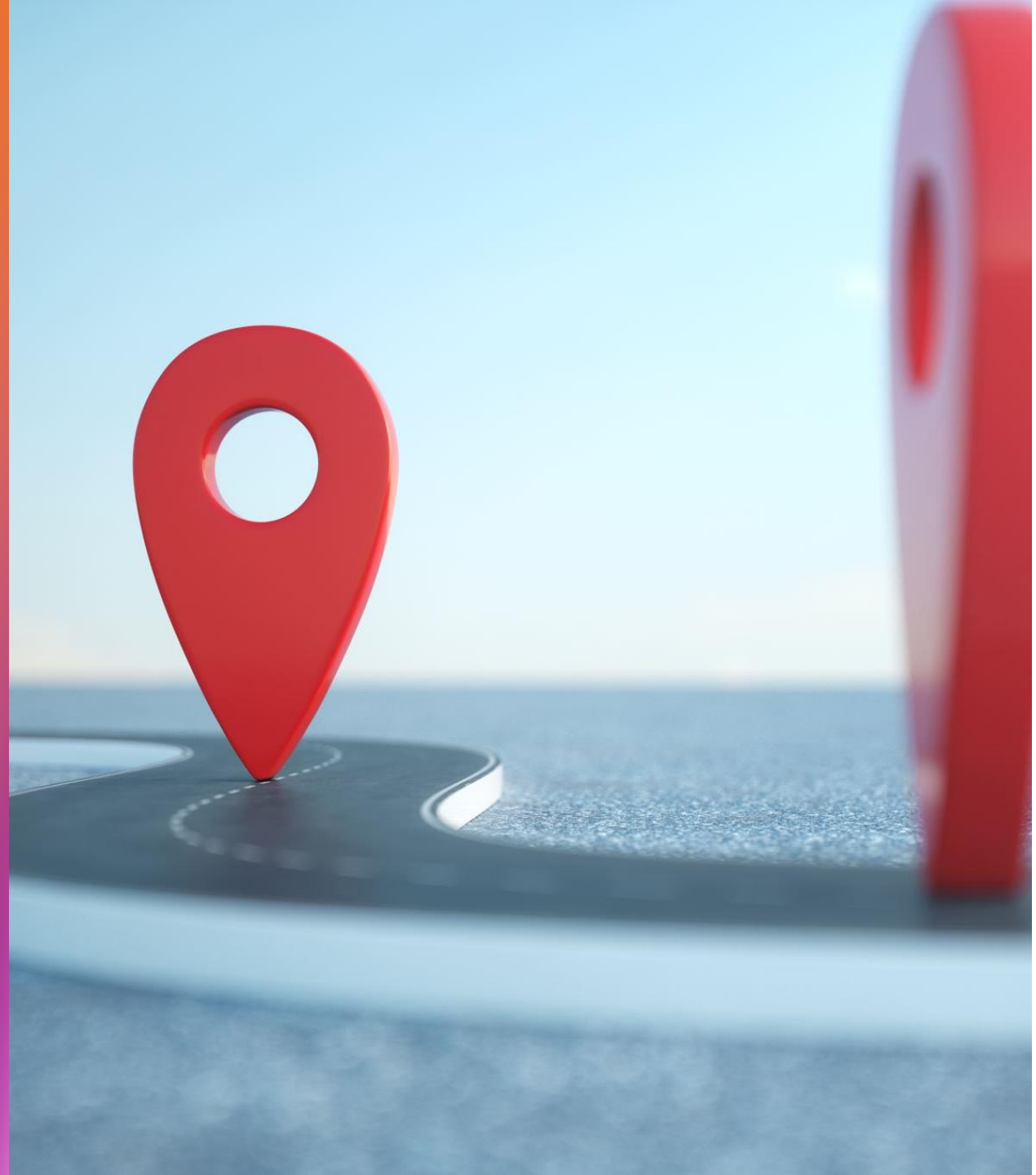
Health Systems Governance

Dominant role of governments as funders and health service providers

Ministerial roles high turnover



Short political cycles not conducive to long term investment in health



Next steps

- Advocacy tool
- Phase 2 examples, local partners
- Global discussions
- Technical assistance

https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_PHSSR_CAPRI_Pacific_Islands_2024.pdf