

# Scenarios

## **Syndr0me**

*2 January 2039*

After 10 years of operating a global health database, a massive data breach occurs, and all users' health information is published online. Then, an innovative tech company called Syndr0me feeds this data into an AI system to train an AI that can provide hyper-accurate predictions for the health of individuals. These constant and accurate updates lead to an epidemic of mental health issues, with Chronic Health Hypervigilance Syndrome (CHHS) being entered into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders (DSM).

Community health worker

## **The Interplanetary Health Organization**

*7 April 2098*

Space travel was once reserved for the uber-wealthy, but in 2034 increasing competition opened access more widely. By 2080, new colonies have begun to spring up across the extra-Earth region. Many space migrants are coming from those nations on Earth whose lands were lost due to rising sea levels. The Interplanetary Health Organization, an extension of the World Health Organization, is set to open the first space health-service in its 150<sup>th</sup> year to monitor and manage the emergent diseases of space.

Inaugural director of the health service.

## **Future Fertility**

*4 August 2042*

Fertility rates in men have continued to decline across the Region and it is assumed this relates to environmental pollutants. Simultaneously, fertility rates in women have been declining alongside increased education, workforce participation, and changes in social expectations. Pregnancy at advanced age has become more common, and health services are expected to provide reproductive technologies and achieve near-zero infant mortality.

Philanthropic fund manager.

## **NCDs Leading the Agenda**

*7 April 2057*

Funding for preventing non-communicable diseases has increased across the Region, surpassing funding for reactive health services for the first time. You have been tasked with spending this money to make a difference in population health.

Local mayor or leader of a municipality

## **Displacement**

31 October 2051

Sea levels have risen, causing major population displacements. Movement into closer proximity with wild animal populations, along with changing animal migration patterns, results in the spread of numerous new zoonotic diseases, including one virus that is more virulent and deadlier than COVID19.

Clinic nurse

### **Multi-resistant Pathogen**

12 March 2045

The continued agricultural overuse and overprescription of antibiotics throughout the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century resulted in an epidemic of an antimicrobial resistant pathogen across the Western Pacific Region. Strict quarantine practices have been put in place that so far have contained the pathogen to the Region, but significant global attention has been placed on stopping its spread.

Minister for agriculture

### **Pollution**

16 December 2055

The Pacific Garbage Patch has shifted with changing global currents, decimating traditional fishing grounds across the Region. The livelihoods of whole communities have been destroyed and large populations are consuming fish with dangerous levels of microplastics, leading to the emergence of new neopelagic species.

Local doctor

### **Extreme Heat**

2 September 2031

A three-week extreme heatwave culminates in a 12-hour period with a wet-bulb temperature of over 37°C. Tens of thousands of people die from hyperthermia due to an inability to access air conditioning. Ever since, the city has been overcome with fear and citizens are marching to demand the government take action before the next heatwave strikes.

Carer for an elderly parent

### **WPR Blue Zones**

30 June 2047

The Western Pacific Region has adopted a target of having the highest number of Blue Zone sites of any WHO region. This would lead to increased longevity and wellbeing in ageing. However, today, globalised food systems with poor nutrition are leading to chronic ill-health and poor wellbeing.

Community leader

### **Inter-pandemic Period Preparedness**

7 March 2050

Successive pandemics linked with a changing climate have resulted in significant economic turmoil around the world. Following the successful management of the 2032, 2039, 2045 and 2048 pandemics, the Member States from the Western Pacific Region are asked to lead the design of a preparedness response to equip the world for this changed reality.

Media and Communications Adviser