



Maniitsoq Health Center

What is the Health Baseline Study?

- A study to understand how the proposed Project relates to management of community health near the Project site.

Study Area

- Primary area of focus: Maniitsoq
- Study also considers: Sisimiut, Nuuk, Atammik, Kangaamiut, Napasoq, and Itilleq

What Was Studied?

- Local and regional health conditions
- Health risk factors
- Access and capacity of existing health services
- Challenges to the local health care system
- Project-related health concerns



Napasoq Health Post (left). Meeting with members of village council in Itilleq (right).



Who was Consulted?

- Department of Family and Health
- Center for Arctic Environmental Medicine
- Dronning Ingrid's Hospital
- PAARISA
- National Board of Health
- Personnel from health facilities in: Nuuk, Maniitsoq, Sisimiut, Atammik, Napasoq, Itilleq, and Kangaamiut
- Emergency responders
- Government officials and village council members from: Nuuk, Maniitsoq, Sisimiut, Atammik, Napasoq, Itilleq, and Kangaamiut.

Preliminary Results

- Health conditions across Greenland are comparable, however, health conditions in larger, urban areas differ from conditions in smaller rural settlements.
- Current disease patterns include a combination of pre-existing or historic diseases (e.g., TB) and an increase in new diseases (e.g., diabetes).
- Health risk factors include:
 - change in lifestyle behaviors
 - lapse time between onset of first symptom and diagnosis
 - mental health, alcoholism, smoking, abuse
- Challenges to the health care system:
 - availability and continuity of staff (nurses and doctors)
 - financing of the health care system, in particular cost of international transfers for specialized care

Main Health Topics Raised by Stakeholders Regarding the Project (interviews, June 2009)

-Environmental degradation (emissions) and potential health effects
- Spread of diseases
- Cultural conflict between workers and the local community
- The responsibility and cost of the health care associated with foreign workers
- Increase in demand for health services given existing staffing and capacity shortages
- Drain of funding for services for towns outside of Maniitsoq
- Emergency response preparedness in Maniitsoq

Next Steps

1. Additional information to be considered in the study:
 - Results of Maniitsoq health study conducted in 2009
 - Changes to health structure/services (e.g., prevention board) after municipal integration is finalized
 - Sexually-transmitted disease prevention activities in Maniitsoq
 - National / regional staffing levels and gaps
 - Perspectives on health status from Maniitsoq residents via household survey
2. The EIA will assess the following topics in relation to community health:
 - Emissions to air, water, and/or soil
 - Effects on health services and capacity
 - Risk of accidents from traffic and other accidents
 - Spread of communicable diseases
 - Effects of the Project on natural resources important to local livelihoods
 - Project compliance with applicable National and International standards to protect community health
 - Additional topics identified by the public and local experts

