

# Pacific Heads of Health

*Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique*

## UN/WHO Small Island Developing States Plan for NCDs and Mental Health

Collin Tukuitonga  
University of Auckland

# Purpose

To seek further contributions to the UN/WHO plan for the prevention and control of NCDs, improvements in mental health in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)

# UN and WHO High Level Process

- 4<sup>th</sup> UN High Level Meeting on NCDs 2025
- High Level Policy Expert Group (Co-Chair)
- High Level Technical Meeting, Barbados, 17/18 Jan 2023
- Preparing Outcome Statement for Ministerial Conference on NCDs and Mental Health, Barbados, June 2023
- Handful of nations on track to achieve SDG 3.4 by 2030, most SIDS will not meet targets

# So many strategies, so little impact

- SAMOA Pathway (2014)
- Declaring a Regional State of Health emergency due to NCDs (2010)
- Declaration on NCDs: Time for action (2011)
- Honiara outcome: NCD (2011)
- Yanuca Island Declaration on health in Pacific Island countries and territories (2015)
- Pacific NCD Summit (2016)
- Pacific Regional NCD Roadmap (2014)
- Political commitments for Tobacco free Pacific (2013)
- Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA)
- Ending Childhood Obesity in the Pacific
- Pacific regional Legislative Framework for NCD
- Baseline status of policy and legislation actions to address NCD
- Status of NCD policy and legislation in PIC and territories
- Pacific Island NCD Roadmap
- WPRO Regional Action Plan for NCDs

# Objectives

- Discuss progress, challenges, opportunities to scale up
- Discuss WHO NCD Roadmap 2030
- Share experiences from SIDS nations
- Identify key recommendations for the Outcome Document to be included/endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting

# Why SIDS deserve dedicated consideration?

- Small populations, isolated dispersed communities
- Disproportionate impact from NCDs, climate crisis
- Vulnerable – 2/3 of nations with highest losses from disasters yearly
- Most SIDS in Middle Income group, hence some excluded from development support available to Low Income nations
- High transactional costs, high import/export costs, low volume products for global markets
- Capacity constraints, 15% of HCW work outside of their countries
- Resource constraints

# What should/could be included in the Political Declaration Barbados Ministerial Meeting June 2023?

- Pacific NCD Roadmap 2014
- CARICOM Port of Spain Declaration 2007
- Establish operational multi-dimensional vulnerability index?
- SIDS specific data portal
- Concessional access to external funding
- Actions on commercial determinants, private sector influence
- Act with one voice



# Key Messages

- SIDS face unique challenges in preventing and managing NCDs and mental health conditions. Key factors include geography, population size, climate change, food security and capacity/resource constraints.
- SIDS are disproportionately represented among the countries with the highest estimated risk of dying prematurely from any of the four main NCDs. Within some areas of NCD prevention and management, SIDS face the same issues as non-SIDS peers. In others, such as diet, they face specific and usually increased levels of risk.
- SIDS also have diverse economic resources and institutional situations , including longstanding collaboration platforms, from which they can address NCDs and mental health conditions.
- SIDS have important lessons learned and success stories in addressing NCDs and mental health conditions as an integral part of climate change resiliency and emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
- To respond more effectively, most SIDS need additional support in specific disease areas. Many also require support in overall capacity development, infrastructure investment and routine data collection for NCDs and mental health, including death registration.



- [collin.tukuitonga@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:collin.tukuitonga@auckland.ac.nz)