

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

SPC/PHD/HOH15

Working paper 4.0a

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

15th PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH MEETING,
15-17 April 2024, Apia Samoa

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PANEL SESSION: CONCEPT AND FORMAT

Scaling up Implementation on Regional Commitments and National Priorities to Tackle NCDs

Paper presented by the Secretariat

CONTEXT:

1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) continue to threaten human health and hinder socio-economic development in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Monitored by the Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCDs Action (MANA) Dashboard, it has been observed to date that PICTs have made some progress and achievement in tackling NCDs, however the implementation has been slow to achieving the global NCD targets, due to the challenges including the weak political will and leadership and competing priorities due to emerging infectious diseases and natural disasters at the national level.
2. There have been several declarations and commitments aimed at addressing NCDs at the global and regional level: including the WHO Global NCD Plan and NCD Best-Buys, Pacific NCDs Roadmap, Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) priorities, 2023 Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health, and 2023 Pacific Ministers of Health Meeting Commitments on NCDs etc. However, there is still an urgent need to translate global and regional commitments into national/local actions to achieving the SDGs' NCD target particularly to reduce premature mortality from NCDs and realising the Healthy Island Vision. (*Ref: attached technical paper on 'Scaling up implementation on regional commitments and national priorities to tackle NCDs'*)
3. Recognising this, the proposed NCD panel session will focus on the **'implementation'** of regional commitments and national priorities to tackle NCDs more effectively through leadership from the Pacific Heads of Health, with the following specific objectives.

PANEL SESSION OBJECTIVES:

4. The objectives are to:
 - Discuss and share experiences, challenges, and solutions in scaling up NCD actions at the country level through the lens of multi-sectoral collaboration;
 - Advocate to foster implementation of NCD priorities at the national level through leadership from the Pacific Heads of Health;
 - Reaffirm commitment to take bold country specific timebound actions to accelerate the implementation of the Pacific NCD Roadmap and the Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health; and
 - Put forward specific recommended actions (for government/PICTs and development partners) to scale up implementation at the national level.

PANEL SESSION FORMAT:

5. **Moderator/chair:** The panel session will be moderated by Sir Collin Tukuitonga, Associate Dean Pacific – Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Administration; Associate Professor – Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Population Health; Director University Research – Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Centre for Pacific and Global Health, New Zealand.

6. **Panellists:** This session will entail a panel discussion of the four Pacific Heads of Health or their representatives from different subregions (Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and the French Territories) who will offer insights on scaling up implementation from countries perspective.

7. Moderated by the chair of the panel, each panellist will address the following key discussion points drawing their experience and expertise, and provide way forward recommendations.

Key discussion points:

- a) Experiences, challenges, and solutions in scaling up NCD implementation (with 1-2 relevant country examples on what has/hasn't progressed and why) from each panellist. E.g., the panellist can choose to address in the area of strengthening NCD governance/committee; enforcing NCD related policy/legislation; empowering stakeholders i.e. youth/CSOs; enhancing management of NCD/primary health care etc. at the national level.
- b) Way forward recommendations on how to improve implementation at the national level through HOH leadership e.g. what HOH can do AND how Development Partners can support.

Run of session:

Date/Time: To be confirmed (approximately 30 minutes session)

Panel Session		
Time	Segment	Who
3 minutes	Welcome and introduction (Progress made, the importance of implementation and the objectives of the panel). <i>(Note: Secretariat will prepare a couple of summary slides on the progress made based on the recent MANA Dashboard findings)</i>	Sir Collin Tukuitonga
12 minutes (3 min each)	Each panellist addresses the key discussion points. 1. Experiences, challenges, and solutions in scaling up NCD implementation (with 1-2 relevant country example/s on what has/hasn't progressed and why), and 2. Way forward specific recommendations on how to improve implementation at the national level through HOH leadership e.g. what HOH can do AND how Development Partners can support.	Panellists
12 minutes	Discussion based on interventions, and Question & Answer	All participants
3 minutes	Wrap up 'summary of key points discussed and recommendations'	Sir Collin Tukuitonga

Secretariat: MANA Coordination Team (SPC, WHO, PIHOA, FNU/CPOND) Secretariats will support the chair/moderator and panellists, serve as rapporteur for the panel session, compile recommendations to inform the meeting outcomes document.

