Pacific Steering Group on Revitalising Healthy Islands (focussing on NCD)

Organised by The World Health Organization

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Nadi Statement on the NCD crisis in Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs)

Pacific Island countries are in crisis due to the rapid build-up of the overwhelming NCD epidemic. The burden of NCD in the region ranks amongst the highest in the world (up to three in four adults are obese and up to four in five adults smoke). Already our children are at risk of dying before their parents.

This crisis is impacting adversely on the social development and the economic aspirations of PICs and is a barrier to achieving the vision of Healthy Islands as articulated in the 1995 Yanuca Declaration and the MDGs.

The NCD crisis threatens fragile health systems in PICs which are especially vulnerable because of their geographic isolation, small populations, and the threats of climate change and globalization.

Despite some positive early progress, the overall response to date has been inadequate due to:

- Lack of bold evidence-based multisectoral policies and their implementation;
- Insufficient resources;
- Weak infrastructure; and
- Limited community engagement.

...too little but not yet too late!

The aspirations of the people of the Pacific are to:

1. **Reduce premature death and disability due to NCDs;**
2. **Improve the health and well being of all people;**
3. **Prevent the emergence of NCDs in children and in future generations; and**
4. **Reduce the economic impact of NCDs on individuals, families and national economies.**

In view of the NCD crisis, and the inadequate response to date, to achieve these aspirations, the following urgent actions are required:

1. Demonstrated political leadership at the highest level to take responsibility for and address the crisis at national and regional levels;
2. Ensure the right multi-sectoral policy environment to mainstream the response;
3. Support priority cost effective interventions, monitor their implementation and expand the evidence base through research and surveillance;
4. Adequately resource and sustain the response (human resources, infrastructure, financial, technical);
5. Ensure full accountability of all sectors for their respective contributions;
6. Significantly strengthen advocacy and community engagement to maintain a focus on the NCD crisis; and
7. Strengthen health systems to effectively respond to the crisis.