|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Research Presentation**  Monitoring progress on policy and legislation to address Non Communicable Diseases: a mutual accountability mechanism in the Pacific Islands |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)**  **Background/Objectives:** The Pacific region is often referred to as ‘the Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) capital of the world’. The Pacific Island countries (PICs) leaders have declared NCDs to be a crisis and committed to take action on the Pacific NCD Roadmap, which specifies policy and legislation measures aimed at preventing NCDs and promoting health. To monitor and report on progress against the Roadmap at every Pacific Heads of Health and Pacific Health Ministers’ Meeting, the Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) was formed, and a mutual accountability mechanism - the MANA Dashboard - was developed.  **Methods:** The MANA Dashboard comprises 31 indicators across the areas of leadership and governance, preventive policies, health system response and monitoring processes, and uses a ‘traffic light’ rating scheme to track progress. This was endorsed by the Pacific Health Ministers in 2017. The MANA coordination team collaborated with national NCD focal points to complete Dashboards for all 21 PICs in an agreed process.  **Results:** As of August 2018, Dashboards have been completed and endorsed for 19 PICs. The results highlight that PICs are at varying stages of developing and implementing NCD policy and legislation. Strong policy and legislation are in place in some areas, for example tobacco taxation, smoke free environment, alcohol licencing and taxation, healthy food policies and physical education in schools, national guidelines for NCD care, and population risk factors surveys. However, there are several policy and legislation gaps that need to be addressed urgently. Key gaps include preventing tobacco industry interference, restricting alcohol advertising, reducing trans fats in the food supply and limiting marketing of unhealthy foods to children.  **Discussion:** The Dashboards provide useful information on current strengths and areas where more action is needed to address NCDs. The Dashboards can be used to guide identification of national priority actions and to track progress on NCD policy and legislation. At the regional level, this can be used as a mutual accountability mechanism to monitor and update PICs progress on NCD action annually. This accountability mechanism will strongly contribute to scaling up of NCD action and promoting health towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Healthy Island Vision.  **Keywords:** Non Communicable Diseases, Pacific Island countries, Accountability |