

# A policy framework to address NCDs in the Pacific: Health in All Policies

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# Overview

## Policy for NCDs in the Pacific: HiAP

- ▶ Obesity and diabetes in the Pacific
- ▶ Policy option: Health in All Policies
- ▶ Policy examples: other countries
- ▶ Key points and conclusion

# The NCD problem in the Pacific

- ▶ World's highest prevalence of NCDs: Pacific island countries
  - ▶ obesity prevalence up to 69-80% of adults and 40% with diabetes (SPC, 2010; WHO, 2013)
  - ▶ costing the region an estimated US\$8 billion annually (World Bank, 2012)
  - ▶ Linkages with food insecurity, trade practices, culture and limited economic scale, as well as geographic factors and low resilience to climate change (ADB, 2014; FAO, 2010)
  - ▶ PICs are in a poor position to attempt to meet SDGs 2 and 3, relating to food security and reduced NCD mortality

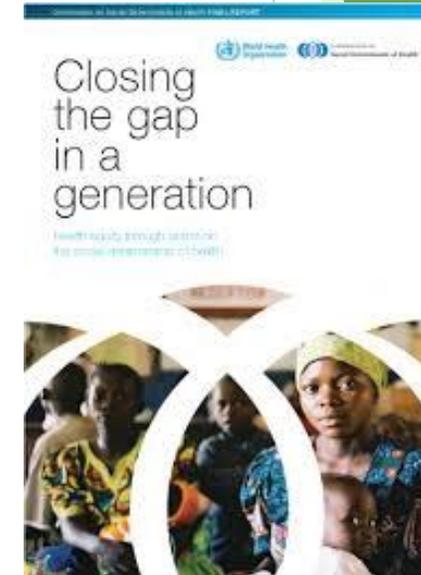


2013)



# Health in All Policies

- ▶ Promoting population health through policies outside health sector
  - ▶ Addressing the ‘social determinants of health’
- ▶ Public policy coherence across sectors, to promote health outcomes
- ▶ Intersectoral collaboration (leads to action!)
- ▶ Coordination by health sector, shared leadership with other sectors



# Relevance to the Pacific NCD crisis

## Health in All Policies

- ▶ Structured use of limited public resources
- ▶ Obesity and diabetes linked to non-health factors:
  - ▶ Trade dependence (Samoa ended ban on turkey tails to enter WTO)
  - ▶ Low quality of food imports
  - ▶ High transport costs
  - ▶ High quality of coastal fisheries, indigenous/organic agriculture
  - ▶ High food price sensitivity of Pacific communities
- ▶ Multisectoral approach is critical



**Vaimoana Tapaleao**

Vaimoana Tapaleao is the New Zealand Herald's Pacific Affairs and People reporter.

## Fatty diet wreaks havoc in islands

5:30 AM Friday May 3, 2013

In Tonga, the taste for fish and vegetables—lean staples of traditional Pacific island diets—was lost long ago.

As of 2010, Tongan households were spending more money on mutton, chicken, white bread, and corned beef [than any other food items](#) (p.

## Samoa rewarded for turkey tail turnaround

PACIFIC

# Fatty meat creeping back into Fiji despite ban

4:02 pm on 25 February 2013

*New Zealand officials are under pressure for placing trade in unhealthy meat cuts ahead of the health of Pacific Island nations. Geoff Cumming reports*

They are meat cuts affluent New Zealanders feed only to their pets: lamb and mutton flaps laden with fat.

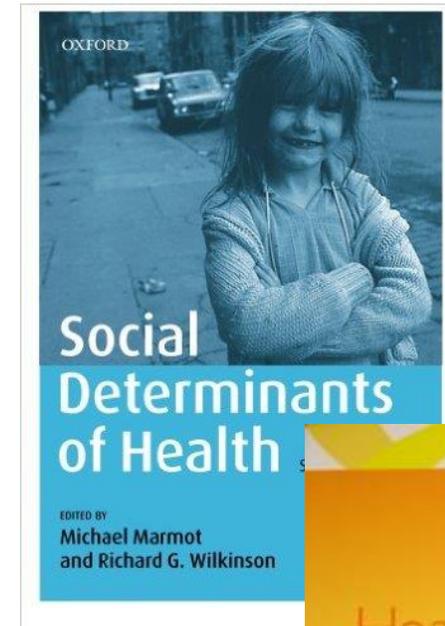


# Choosing Between Free Trade and Public Health

Pacific nations try to restrict imports of fatty foods

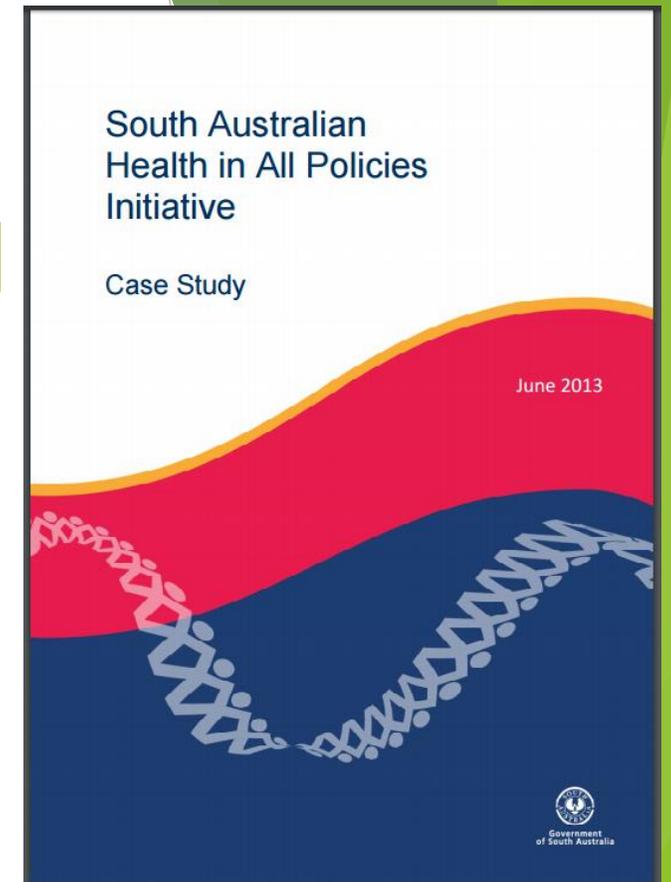
# Examples of HiAP to address NCDs

- ▶ South Australia
- ▶ Chile
- ▶ Thailand
- ▶ New Zealand
- ▶ Finland, European Union members
- ▶ North America (USA, Canada provinces)



# HiAP and NCDs in South Australia: Supporting Transport, Education, Food

- ▶ Mandate from Head of Government (SA Premier)
- ▶ Understanding of structural approach, not just behaviour and lifestyles
- ▶ Conducted Health Lens Analysis
  - ▶ Transport - active transport, not just motor vehicles
  - ▶ Education - physical ed., school foods, health messages with youth
  - ▶ Food supply - visits and involvement of local authorities, towns
- ▶ Led by senior executive group to catalyse, lead, and oversee policy linkages and implementation
- ▶ Linked with universities to facilitate analysis and advice



# HiAP and NCDs in Chile: Supporting Law, Education with healthy foods



1. Recovering abandoned newspaper stands to sell fruits and vegetables
2. Reconverting snacks stands into healthy ones
3. Legalizing citric juice stands
4. School canteens selling healthy snacks and drinks

Courtesy: Sebastián Peña, Chile

# Key points for Health in All Policies

- ▶ High-level, sustained political commitment
- ▶ Core team of policy champions
  - ▶ Support other sectors to achieve their goals
  - ▶ Windows of opportunity
- ▶ Involvement of communities in the policy process
- ▶ Adequate funding, without conflicts of interest (commercial sources)

# Next steps for NCDs in the Pacific

- ▶ Capacity building for policy makers to undertake HiAP with a ‘whole-government’ response to NCDs
- ▶ Pacific research on HiAP implementation can adapt the policy approach to this region
- ▶ Civil society to involve communities and to promote cultural appropriateness, gender equity in policy
- ▶ Development partners to align aid and trade in support of national priorities on NCDs in the Pacific
- ▶ Account for cost of NCDs in GDP, trade accounts

# Conclusion

- ▶ The Pacific exports its best foods to the rest of the world, and imports the worst quality from the rest of the world
  - ▶ Income from exports cannot cover costs of NCDs
  - ▶ Benefits of trade/exports not being seen by populations
  - ▶ World's worst rates of diabetes and other NCDs
  - ▶ Neither 'inclusive growth' nor 'enhanced resilience'
- ▶ Health in All Policies can enable multisectoral action to stop the obesity and diabetes epidemics in PICs
  - ▶ Prevent early morbidity/mortality in working-age population
  - ▶ Sustainable financial viability of PIC national treasuries
  - ▶ PICs need an integrated, coherent policy approach to prevent NCDs, not just more projects to respond too late