



Health situation in the Pacific

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	High	Low
Urban	100%	13%
Population Size	7.3 Mil	1,200
Population growth/decline (per yr.)	+2.5%	-0.4
Population Density (per sq. km)	504	6
Flight of the tertiary educated	81%	8%
CD Burden	48%	12%
GDP growth (2007-12)	+5%	-0.8%

Scale: 1:36,000,000 at 30°S
Mercator Projection

How do we define 'health'?

- “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (*WHO Constitution 1948*)
- Yanuca Declaration on ‘Healthy islands’ (1995)

A unifying theme for health protection and health promotion in the Pacific and reflects the comprehensive and integrated approach to health





Healthy islands are places where

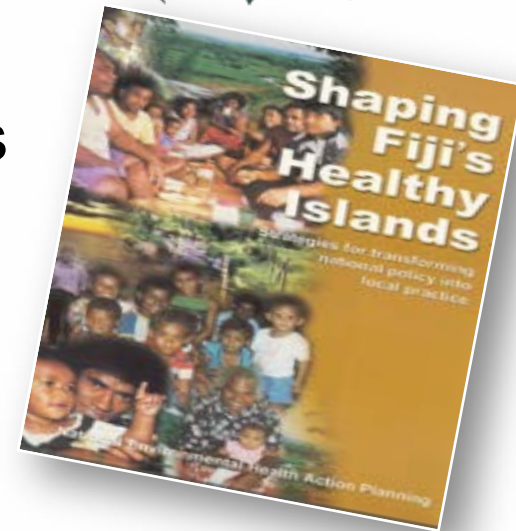
- Children are nurtured in body and mind;
- Environments invite learning and leisure;
- People work and age with dignity;
- Ecological balance is a source of pride;
- The ocean which sustains us is protected



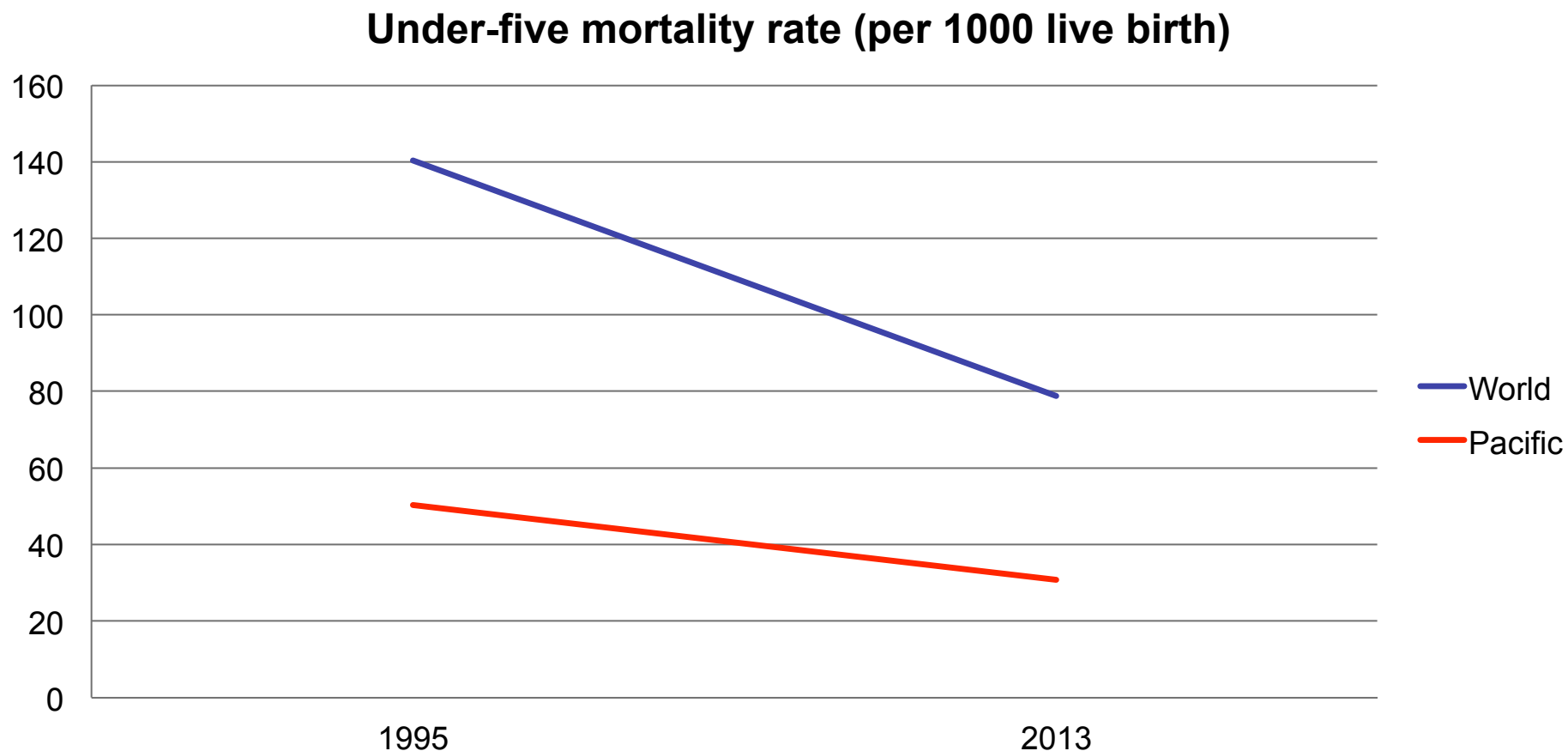
Key ideas behind Healthy Islands



- Vision of how to improve health that is shared between Pacific island countries
- Key instrument used by Pacific Health Ministers to effect change
- Health promotion and protection
- Recognition of the importance to address social determinants of health
- Coordination of efforts across the Pacific (training, medicines)

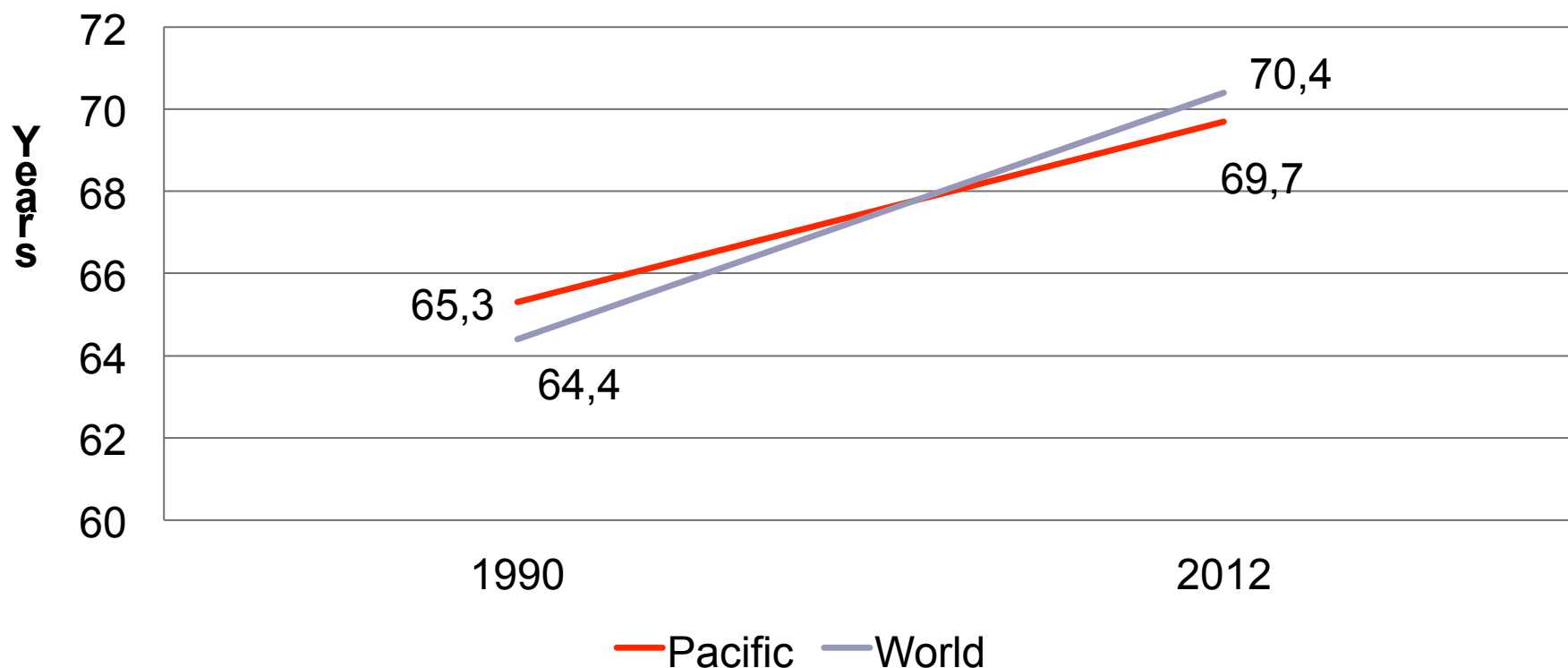


Children are nurtured in body and mind

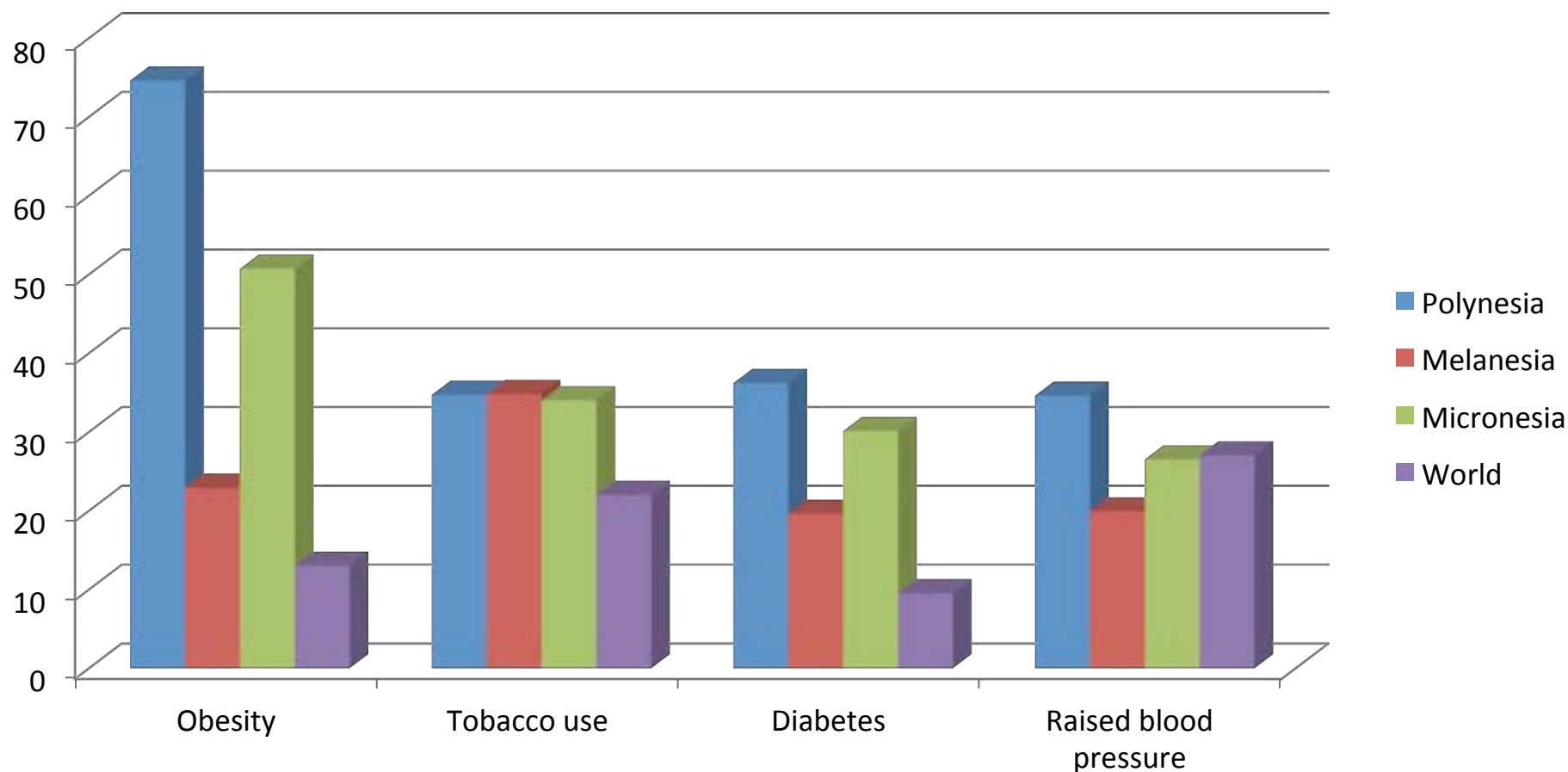


People work and age with dignity

Life expectancy at birth



People work and age with dignity



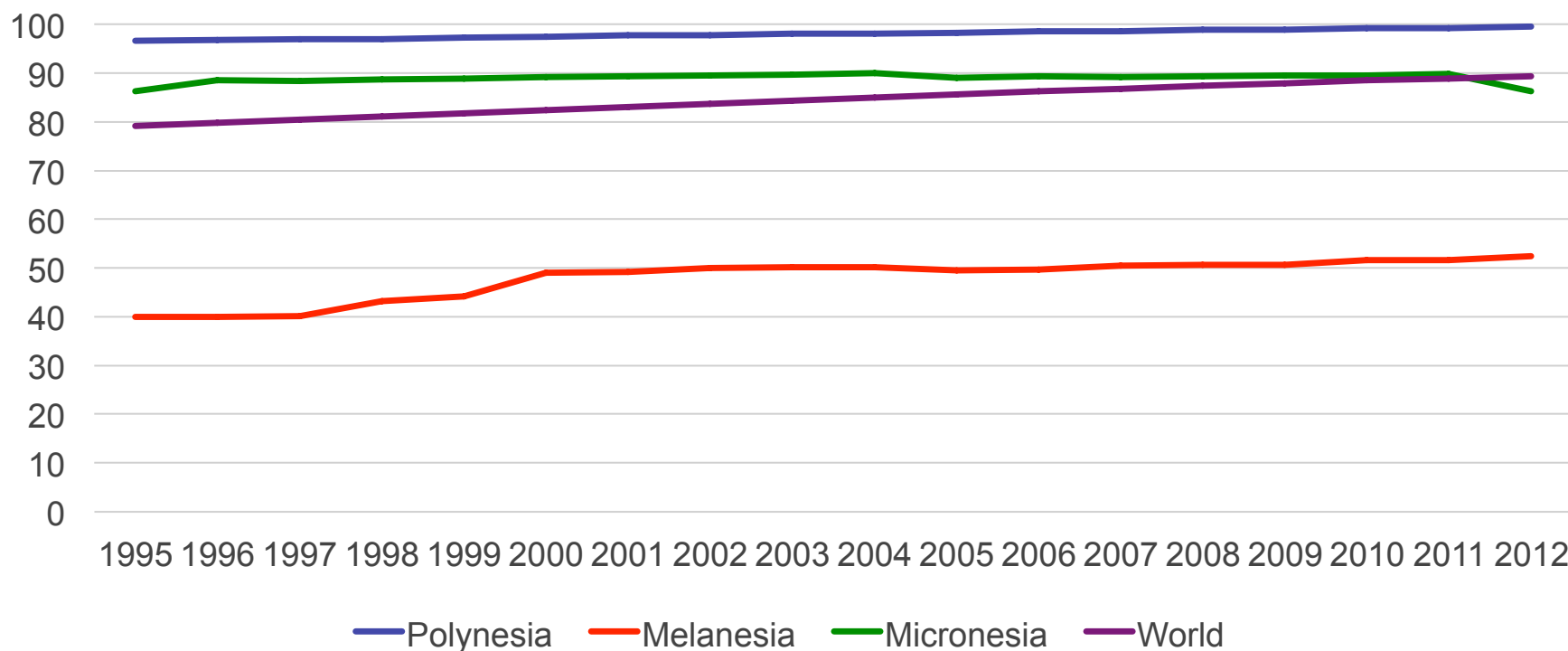
Obesity: Body Mass Index (BMI) $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$

Diabetes: Fasting plasma glucose concentration $\geq 7.0\text{ mmol/l}$ (126 mg/dl)

Raised blood pressure: SBP ≥ 140 and/or DBP $\geq 90\text{ mmHg}$

Ecological balance is a source of pride

Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources
1995-2012 (%)



The ocean which sustains us is protected

1995

1.6 metric tonnes



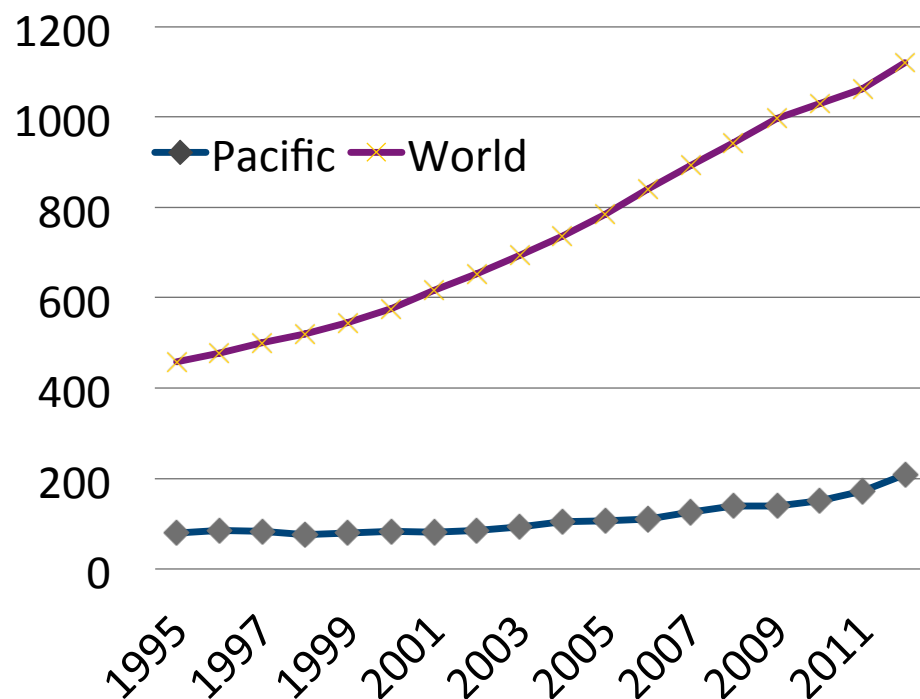
2013

2.6 metric tonnes

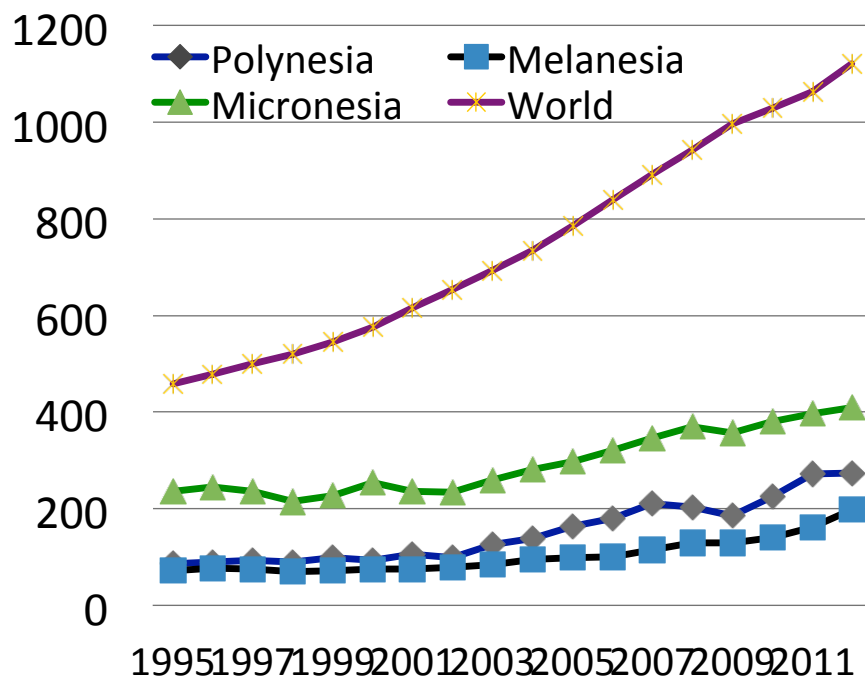
- Populations of tuna species are dropping to dangerously low levels in some areas
- 22% of Pacific people live less than five metres above sea level

What about funding?

Total Health Expenditure per capita
(Current US\$)



Total Health Expenditure per capita
(Current US\$)



What the indicators show

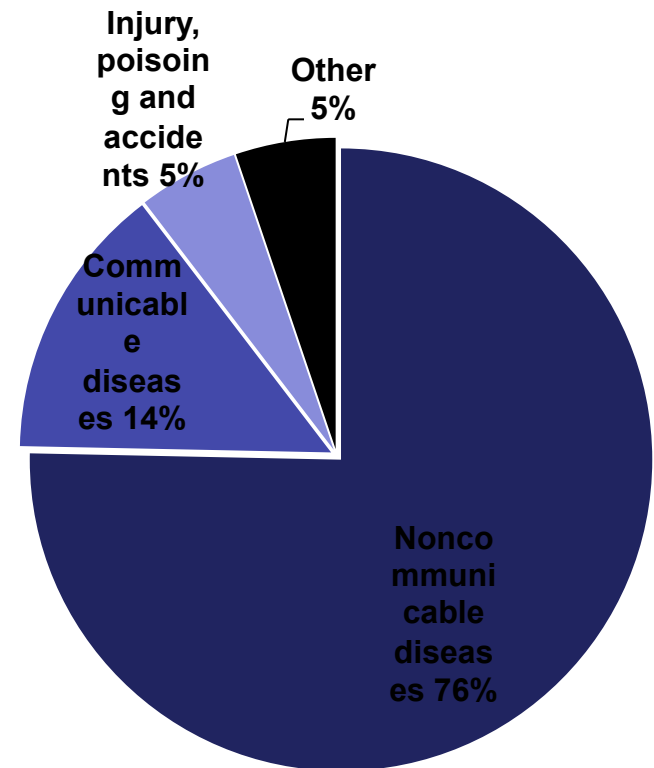
- Pacific health is improving
- The progress is slower than the rest of the world and the gap is increasing
- Health financing is a major issue in some countries
- More effective use of existing resources is possible
- The double burden persists for the bulk of the population
- Considerable inequalities in health between and within countries
- NCD burden is intensifying



Pacific Noncommunicable disease (NCD) crisis

- Health and socio-economic crisis
 - Current health systems cannot cope
- Highest rates of obesity and diabetes in the world
 - 1 in 10 diabetes patients have an amputation (Kiribati highest amputation rate in the world)
 - Diabetes retinopathy is the leading cause of adult blindness
- CVD and stroke are the most common causes of death

Causes of death in the Pacific



Challenges (1)

- Implementation gap at country level
 - Uncoordinated vertical programmes, loss of community-based approaches, weak health management, limited access to data
- Social, economic and environmental challenges
 - Increasing poverty and inequality, 'brain drain', climate change



Challenges (2)

- Challenges in sustaining resources for the health sector
 - Unassured sustainable health financing, lack of skilled health workers in the right places
- Challenges in translating global policy initiatives into the Pacific context
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)





The way forward

- “*Business as usual*” for health development in the Pacific is insufficient to meet the increasing gap between it and the rest of the world
- Special attention needs to be given to the NCD crisis
- Identify health targets and indicators as well as institutional mechanisms to deliver, monitor and evaluate
- Context specific and tailored interventions



Thank you

