

PACE-NET Plus Bremen Conference and Think Tanks

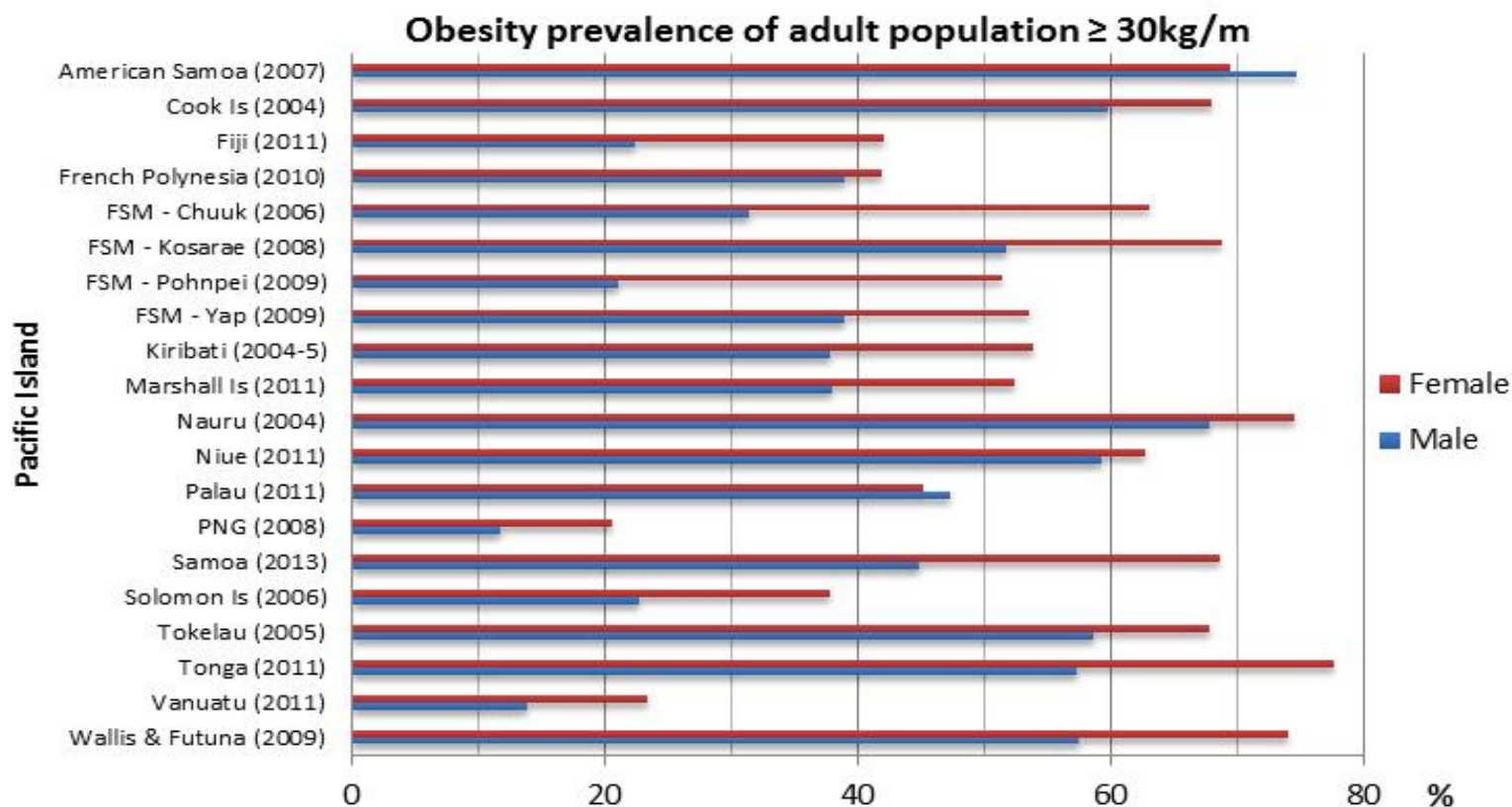
September 9-11, 2014 | Bremen (Germany)

TT1: Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases: Lifestyle options for improved nutrition and well-being



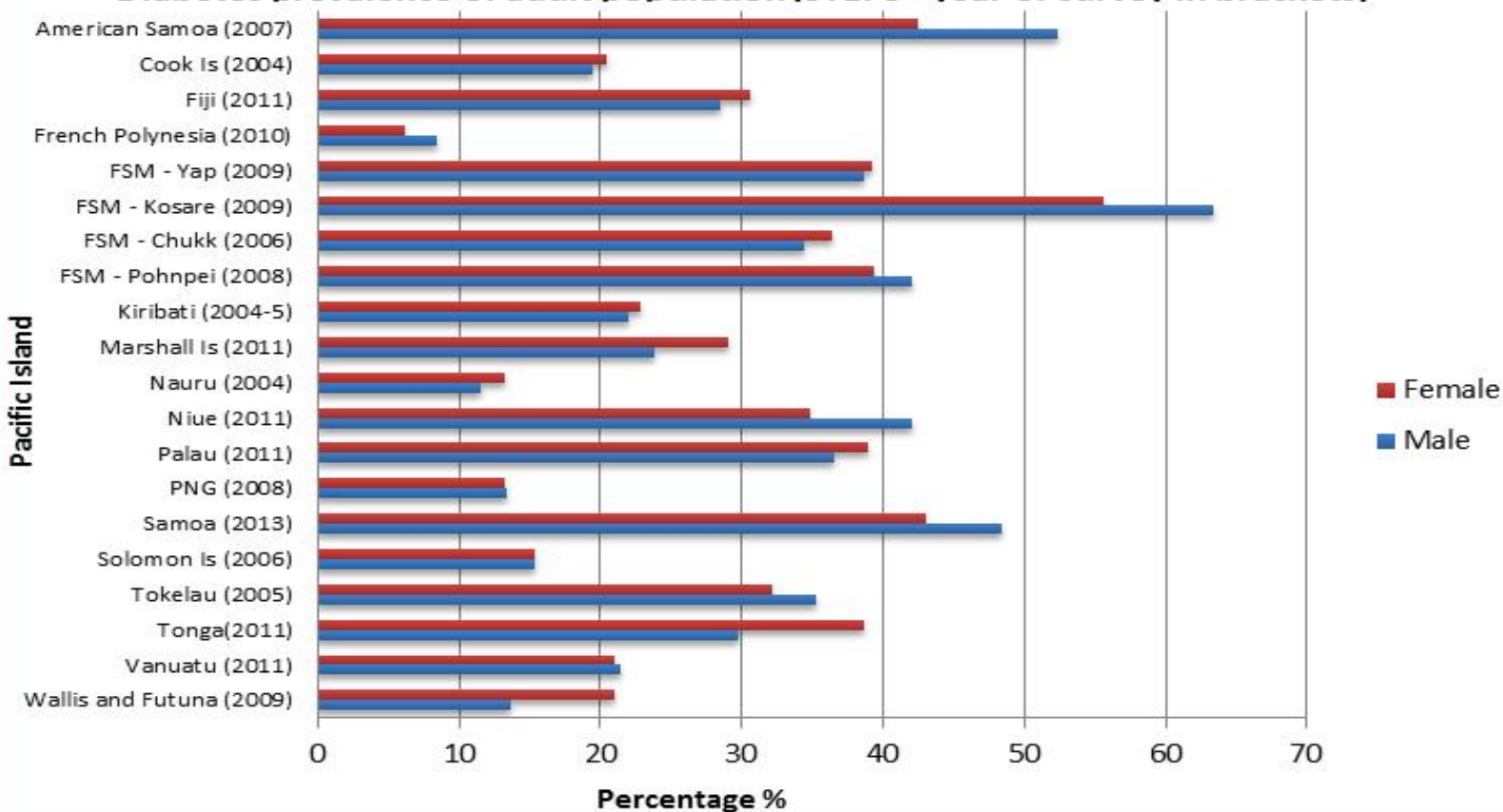
THINK TANK 1

NCD crisis in the Pacific



NCD crisis in the Pacific

Diabetes prevalence of adult population (STEPS - year of survey in brackets)



Tackling NCDs in Europe and the Pacific

- **Pacific Islands facing NCD crisis**
 - UN/WHO has adopted 4 x 4 approach
 - Diabetes, Chronic lung disease, cardiovascular diseases, cancer
 - Tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity
 - Pacific obesity rates among world's highest
 - European rates increasing, similar challenge – similar solutions
- **Overarching principles**
 - Policy across the four risk factors
 - Multi-sectoralism
 - Community-led
 - Monitoring and accountability

Pacific offers opportunities to trial innovative interventions

- Strong partnerships between the regions can be developed
- Willing governments
 - High-level political commitments
 - Plans and strategies are in place
- Small jurisdictions – fast decision making
- Opportunities for innovative approaches to be implemented rapidly

Priorities: Food Policy issue

- Critical approach to improve diets in PICTs (NCDs, double burden nutrition, food security)
- Issues include:
 - Trade agreements and their impacts
 - Evidence for action
 - Impact assessment/monitoring and evaluation
 - Approach options including taxation, standards, settings-based policies
- Pacific islands can develop globally relevant evidence base

Action areas: food policy

- Health impact assessment of trade agreements and cross-sectoral policies
- Developing evidence base for key food policy interventions, through strong M&E and targeted research, with complementary support for action
- Developing public health advocacy institute for the Pacific (focal areas to includes food policy)

Community informed and led action

- **Priorities**
 - Community-based NCD intervention studies are lagging, yet urgently required
 - Prevention and treatment via primary health care
 - Build on existing structures and traditional systems
- **Actions**
 - Strengthening civil society organizations

Research priorities

- Better harmonization of research priorities and cooperation
- Improved accessibility of research opportunities and findings
- Turning research into action and holding policy makers accountable
- Social determinants of health and attitudes towards health

Research actions

- Stronger focus and resource allocation towards NCD related research
- Greater two-way knowledge transfer
- Culturally appropriate and national prioritized research
- Build research capacity and dissemination within the EU and Pacific

Data and Surveillance Priorities

- Lots of activities – impact?
- Need more considered approach to policy development based on evidence and data
- Test policy innovations to improve the knowledge base of what works
- Improve quality of data across a range of domains (RF, COD, disease prevalence) – track progress
- Improve use and translation of data into powerful messages to drive policy and change
- Dashboards for mutual accountability

Data and surveillance - Action

- Build on existing structures, networks and plans
- Build a regional COD coding facility
- Create an ICT platform for improved access to NCD data and knowledge
- Build regional innovative accountability frameworks
 - support Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA)

Working together

- Linking with Pacific networks and institutions
- Working in line with regional priorities and existing plans and structures
- Openness and increase ease of access to EU funding and support

Project partners

