Regional action breaks new ground

Contributed by Administrator
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SPC has introduced a new programme to its 22 member countries to help address the epidemic of non-communicable diseases in the region such as diabetes, heart failure and cancer. The 2-1-22 programme is a collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and is supported financially by Australia and New Zealand. Since the programme was established in 2008, it has resulted in:

- — the annual Pacific NCDs Forum

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- — 12 new national NCD plans and 80 per cent of countries and territories now covered

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- — 18 major contracts of up to AUD$500,000 over three years for national NCD plan implementation, strengthening national-level capacity to address NCDs

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— 12 health professionals appointed as national NCD coordinators

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— 78 small grants to 18 countries and territories for community projects to address the key risk factors. These include: Tobacco Control Summit (FSM), walking and fitness trails (Samoa), ‘Go Local’ food security project (FSM), community gardening (Solomons, Fiji, FSM, Wallis and Futuna), Physical Activity interventions (Niue, Nauru), Diabetes Education (French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna), Tobacco legislation implementation (Cook Islands, Tuvalu)

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- — 10 country interventions 25 new country interventions on nutrition, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol controlmade to implement the global Diet and Physical Activity Strategy, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and Regional Strategy to Reduce Alcohol related harm

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- — 11 national, multisectoral NCD committees formed

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- — Modifications to taxation, progress towards health promotion foundations and other sustainable funding mechanisms in four countries

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