



Terms of Reference

Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) Network

Introduction

The ECHO Network is a member state-driven Pacific coalition that provides a platform for collective advocacy and action on proven population based prevention measures. These measures are recommended in the ECHO Implementation plan, Pacific NCD Roadmap and Decade of Action on Nutrition towards achieving the Healthy Islands vision in the Pacific. They include, physical activity promotion, tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, front-of-pack labelling, restriction on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children and the provision and promotion of healthy diets in schools and other settings where children gather.

Membership

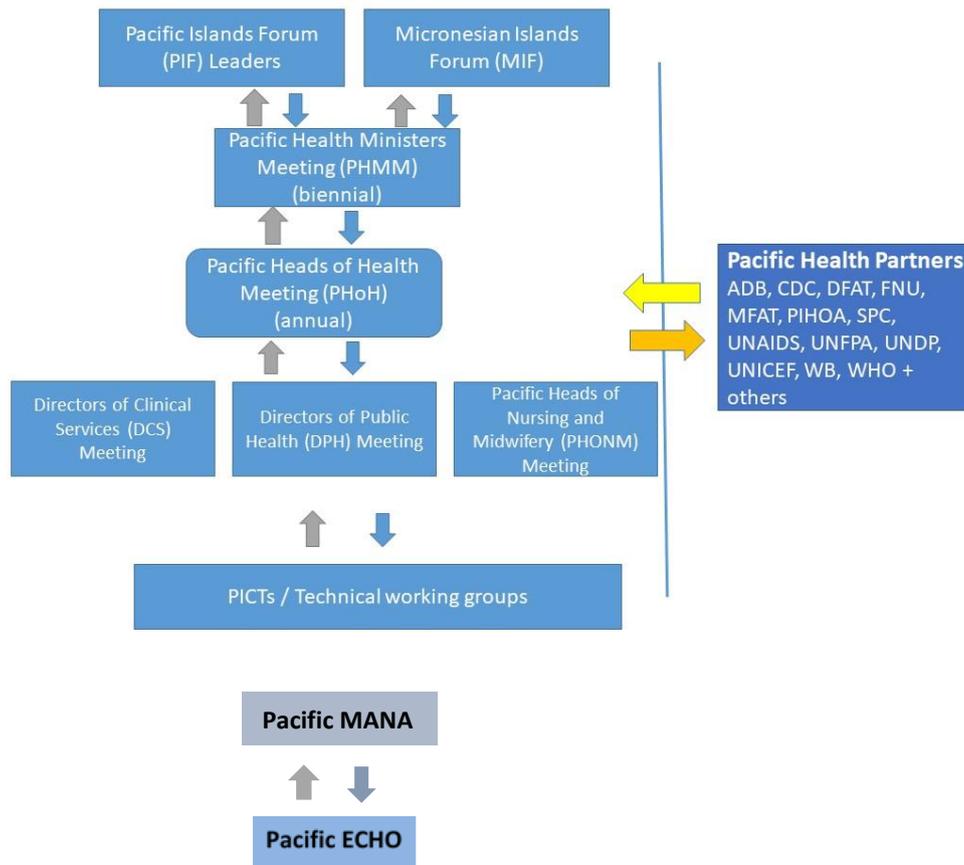
Membership will be voluntary and free to technical and implementing partners, civil society organisations and academia in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) involved in the efforts to prevent and manage childhood obesity. Any other interested stakeholders must be registered through the Secretariat to ensure the integrity of the Network and to manage conflicts of interest or engagement of potential members in interest groups that could bring the Network into disrepute.

Governance and Reporting

The Pacific ECHO Network will be governed by the Heads of Health (HoH) Sub-Committee and will report to the Directors of Public Health (DPH) Meeting, the HoH and PHMM through the Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) Coordination Team.

The efforts to strengthen the regional health architecture have resulted in good linkages between the technical input and decision making overseen by the HoH and the political leadership by the PHMM as shown in Fig 1 below with insertion of where ECHO Network is situated.

Fig.1 Pacific Regional Health Architecture



Operating Principles

The Pacific ECHO network will support and share best practice examples from academia, international and national context and develop collectively activities, guidance, and useful materials which may be of Pacific-wide relevance related to childhood obesity. Collective decisions are made at the HoH and the PHMM but policy decisions are made at country level through normal government processes.

- Accountability – members are accountable individually to their respective countries and organisations and collectively to the HoH and PHMM.
- Efficiency – Emphasis will be on ensuring efficient processes, with well-structured agendas for all discussions and meeting, good chairing, and early circulation of meeting papers and reports.
- To ensure a clear focus, as far as possible, discussions and meetings will be framed around the Pacific NCD Roadmap and the WHO Report on the Commission of Ending Childhood Obesity.
- Adhere to agreed aid effectiveness principles.

Coordination team

A coordination team for the Network will be made up of the following:

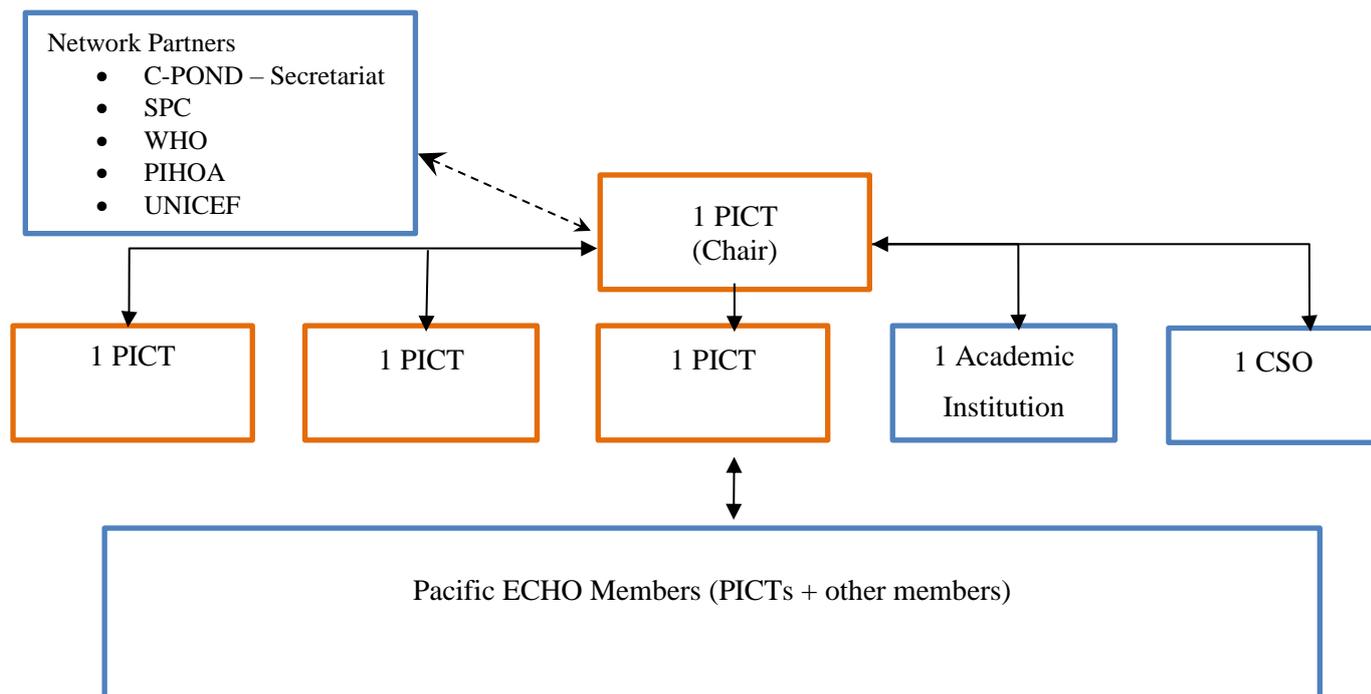
- Four representatives from the countries – one each from Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia and Francophone countries, with one of these to be chair. The chair acts as an important link between the coordination team and network members but without necessarily preventing direct access of network members. The role of the chair is to ensure an effective relationship between the coordination team and network members. The chair and PICT representatives will act as a lead for the implementation of plans of action and will report to the network on the progress of plans of action. They are to ensure that countries are provided with practical guidance, advice and adequate support relating to the network’s collective actions and individual country efforts in the identified priority areas. The countries providing the representatives will be the same countries that make up the HoH Sub-Committee. This is to ensure there is better alignment across all the governance mechanism;
- One representative from CSOs;
- Representatives from the partners (C-POND, PIHOA, SPC, UNICEF and WHO); and
- One representative from academia outside the PICTs.

The Coordination team will carry out the necessary background work as directed by the Network and can co-opt more members as required by the specific tasks to be carried out including working groups if necessary.

The role of the Pacific ECHO Coordination Team is to ensure that the HoH and PHMM are provided with evidence based, practical guidance, advice and support relating to interventions aimed ending childhood obesity to enable them to make informed decisions. This will include the following:

- Collecting evidence on best practice on how best to address Childhood Obesity in the Pacific;
- Coordinating responses by countries, partners, CSOs and academia to childhood obesity;
- Develop and facilitating where necessary collaborations for research related to childhood obesity; and
- Developing recommendations to the HoH and PHMM.

Fig.2 Network Coordination Team



Working groups

Working groups will be formed as needed to bring together multiple ECHO members to work on a particular issue. In the initial stages of the Network, working groups on a PIC-wide PA campaign, fiscal interventions and controlling marketing to children have been formed. Their meetings will be supported by the Network secretariat, however the members will agree the workplan and undertake the relevant activities. They will supported by the Coordination team.

Secretariat arrangements

The Secretariat services for the Network will be provided by the Pacific Research Center for the Prevention of Obesity and Non-Communicable Diseases (C-POND) with support from the Pacific Community (SPC), World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA).

Meeting Schedule

The WG will meet primarily by electronic means (eg. Zoom) at least twice a year. Face to face meetings will depend on funding availability.

The coordination team will meet at least a quarter or more as the need arises.