Snapshot of the demands on healthcare in rural and remote areas in Samoa
Content

- Background of Samoa
- Current health system
- Key challenges
- Future Strategies
Background of Samoa

- 4 main islands (inhabitant)
- 14 tiny islands
- Area of 3,030 km square
- Independent in 1962 (first in pacific)
Background of Samoa

- Town - Apia
- Population around 200,000
- Economic status – developing country
Background of Samoa

- Main export is agricultural product (Taro, banana etc.)
- Main revenue – remittances & tourism
Current health system

Government Planning system

National Plan

Sector plans

Government Organization’s plans

Government Budget

Health Sector plan

SAMOA HEALTH SECTOR PLAN
Current health system

- National Hospital separated from the Ministry of health in 2006

- Merge again in 2018 under the Ministry of health
Current health system

- 2 main hospitals in the country:
  - 1 main hospital in town: Apia
  - 1 second main hospital at other island: Tuasivi
Current health system

- National Kidney Foundation of Samoa established in 2006 (one each of the two big islands)

- Oceania University of Medicine established in 2002 (PPP e-Medical Education with Florida based company)
Current health system

- 6 district hospitals spread across the country
Current health system

- 16 private clinics scattered around mainly in Apia

- Connections with the main hospital
Current health system

- ICT in place for Healthcare Information System:
  - Databases
  - Data analysis reporting and sharing
  - System administration
  - Website maintenance

- No linkage of system between hospitals

- Telemedicine operates
Key challenges

☐ Shortage of medical professionals (doctors):
  ✓ 30 per 50k people.
  ✓ Most treatments (surgeries for cancer, heart, stroke etc.) depend on overseas specialists
  ✓ In 2020, fulltime doctors only were assigned for each district hospital
  ✓ Most experienced doctors are in private clinics (hire by the hospitals)
Key challenges

- Shortage of equipment
  - Most equipment are in the main hospital Apia
  - e.g. One CT scan, few ambulances to serve the whole country (none in district hospitals)
  - Again, depend on overseas

- Financial difficulties and budget constraints
Future expectations and strategies

- Public Private Partnership approach for district hospitals:
  - Utilizing private doctor capabilities and private investors buying equipment
  - Performance based

- Continue to improve utilization of ICT to improve Health Information System (online clinics)
Future expectations and strategies

- Public and Community Partnership approach to promote and enforce healthcare system in communities

- New Government focus – community developments:
  - Budget for community leaders to develop respective communities

- Continue improving medical professionals (capacity)
THE END!

Faafetai tele lava
(Thank you)