

Samoa



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samoa>

Key Maternal and reproductive health programs

The Reproductive Health and Adolescent Health Development Division under the MoH program undertakes a coordinating role among the providers of SRH services. Focused areas included capacity building particularly in reproductive health program management and monitoring, family planning, maternal health, reproductive health commodity security and adolescent health development.²⁰

Safe Motherhood Program

Involved the development of the “Birth Book” which requires TBAs to record all the births they attend. Community Nurses collect duplicate copies of these records. In addition to the mother’s name, age, village and sex of the baby, the Birth Book contains information on the conditions of the mother and baby at birth⁹.

Adolescent Reproductive Health Project

- Provision of information and Education Communication
- Provision of Adolescents Reproductive Health Services
- Supports project delivery. Collaboration with key stakeholders and local partners with SPC support.

HRH Education and Training

Nursing / Midwifery: National University of Samoa’s (NUS) Faculty of Nursing & Health Science Bachelor of Nursing (3 yrs)
Medical : Oceania University of Medicine MBBS program
Allied Health: Bachelor of Health Science (3 yrs) NUS
TBA: MoH provides Safe Birthing Course²²

HRH Registration

A registrar for Healthcare Professionals under the Healthcare Professionals Standards & Registration Act 2007 has been appointed. MoH Health Service Performance and Quality Assurance Divisions has office for 1) Nursing & Midwifery and 2) Medical/Allied Health that reviews professional standards with health Professional Councils including TBAs¹⁸

Maternal and Reproductive Health Policies/ Plans⁹

- Reproductive, maternal health service indicators in plan:
- Clinical audits of the implementation of safe motherhood protocols across health care system
 - Compliance of main hospitals with WHO/UNICEF Baby Friendly Hospital protocol
 - Increase in the proportion of pregnant women attending ante natal clinics in the first 20wks of gestation
 - Decrease in the proportion of babies born less than 2500 grams or over 4500 grams
 - Annual decrease in the proportion of women attending antenatal clinics who are anaemic at 36 – 40 weeks
 - Strengthen closer working relationships including negotiating referral pathways with TBAs, involving village mayors
 - Develop and implement a national pap smear screening program
 - Sexually Transmitted Infections program designed, resourced and effective at measuring and then reducing prevalence rates
 - Increase in the proportion of women using modern contraception
 - Evidence of increasing numbers of midwives to meet demand.
- Recognition of role of private workforce in minor obstetrical procedures and health screening programmes to public sector health workforce shortages

Human Resources for Health Policy and Plan of Action 2007-2015^{9,21}

Specifically addresses midwifery workforce	Yes
Attention to MRH demographic trends (adolescent RH)	Yes
Task shifting / task sharing	No
Community engagement	Yes

Service Delivery

Public Sector

National hospital: Tupua Tamesese Meaole II the major referral and only teaching hospital	1
Regional Hospital: Malietoa Tanumafili II Hospital Savaii	1
District Hospital: clinical centres in rural districts providing 24 hour services	7
Community health centres: Registered nurses and midwives enrolled nurses and TBAs provide both primary and outpatient services including ANC and traditional birthing ²³	13
Outreach services: Home-based intermediate nursing and midwifery care.	
Community level: Village Matai council and government women representatives’ liaise between the MOH and the community to promote and deliver health education at a grass roots level including HIV/AIDS, STI’s and sexual reproductive health. ²¹	

Non-State Sector

MedCEN Hospital: 21 bed facility provides inpatient medical, surgical, obstetric, paediatric services, emergency and outpatient consultation⁹. Currently has financial problems²⁴.

Private clinics(16): physicians operating independently providing general outpatient services and specialised medical care including, obstetrics, and gynaecology²⁵.

Tavana Nurse on Wheels: private home care nursing service providing advice on teenage pregnancy, family planning and counselling and health checks pre and post-operative care⁹.

NGO: Samoa Family Health Association clinic and mobile service delivers family planning and reproductive health services, STI screening, counselling, dispensing of contraceptives and ANC⁹.

Samoa

*The World Health Report 2006 suggests the threshold staffing levels needed to provide a minimum desired level of coverage is 2.28 (usually rounded up to 2.3) doctors, nurses and midwives per 1,000 population. The need is comprised of 0.55 doctors, based on Scheffler et al.²⁶ arcsine-log regression model, resulting in 1.73 nurses and midwives.

References

1. MoH Samoa. Samoa National Health Accounts FY 2006/2007. 2007.
2. MoH Samoa. Health Sector Plan 2008 – 2018. 2008.
3. MoH Samoa. Human Resources for Health Country Report: Developments to Date 2007-08. 2008.
4. MoH Samoa. Samoa Health Sector Plan 2007-2015. 2007.
5. WHO. *World Health Statistics*. Geneva: World Health Organization;2011.
6. WHO. Global Health Observatory Data Repository. 2012; <http://apps.who.int/ghodata/?vid=17100&theme=country#>. Accessed 16 April 2012.
7. PHRHA. Samoa 2009; http://phrha.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=129%3Asamoa&catid=54%3Asamoa&Itemid=69. Accessed 16 April, 2012.
8. WHO. *World Health Statistics 2011*. Geneva: World Health Organization;2011.
9. MoH Samoa. *Health Sector Plan 2008 – 2018*2008.
10. MoH Samoa. Human Resources for Health Country Report: Developments to Date 2007-08. 2008; http://www.aaahrh.org/3rd_conf_2008/country%20reports/country_report_Samoa.pdf.
11. MoH Samoa. *Samoa Health Sector Plan 2007-2015*2007.
12. WHO. *The Migration of Skilled Health Personnel in the Pacific Region.*: WHO Western Pacific Region 2004.
13. UNICEF. Samoa Statistics. 2012; http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/samoa_statistics.html. Accessed 17 April 2012.
14. Dumont J, Zurn, P. Immigrant Health Workers in OECD Countries in the Broader Context of Highly Skilled Migration. *International Migration Outlook*: OECD; 2007.
15. WPRO. *Strategic Action Plan for Nursing and Midwifery Development in the Western Pacific Region*. Manila: Western Regional office of the World Health Organization;2007.
16. Fulton B, Scheffler, R. Health Care Professional Shortages and Skill-Mix Options Using Community Health Workers:New Estimates for 2015. *Econometrics of Healthy Human Resources*. Rome2010.
17. Stowers P. Maternal Health in Samoa. *NZ Parliamentary Open Hearing* Wellington New Zealand2009.
18. MoH Samoa. Ministry of Health Annual Report FY 2008/2009. 2009.
19. MoH Samoa. *Annual Report Financial Year 2009-2010*2010.
20. MoH Samoa. *Samoa Demographic Health Survey 2009*. Apia: Ministry of Health Samoa;2010.
21. MoH Samoa. *Human Resources for Health Policy and Plan of Action 2008-2015*. Apia: MoH Samoa and JTA International;2007.
22. MoHF Maldives. *The Maldives Health Report*. Male: Ministry of health the Republic of the Maldives;2004
23. Buchan J, Connell, J., Rumsey, M.,. Recruiting and Retaining Health Workers in Remote Areas: Pacific Island Case Studies. 2011.
24. Samoan Observer. MedCen Samoa - broke. 2011; http://www.samoaoobserver.ws/index.php?view=article&id=33095%3Amedcen-samoa&option=com_content. Accessed 19 April, 2012.
25. MoH Samoa. *Samoa National Health Accounts FY 2006/2007*2007.
26. Scheffler RM, Liu JX, Kinfu Y, Dal Poz MR. Forecasting the global shortage of physicians: an economic- and needs-based approach. *Bull World Health Organ*. Jul 2008;86(7):516-523B.

Dawson, A., Karan, P. (2012) A Profile of Task Shifting / Sharing in Maternal and Reproductive Health in Samoa, University of Technology, Sydney.

This profile was funded by WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research as part of the 2010-2011 Implementation Research Platform