About the Project

The Health Sector Management Program Support Project aims to improve the effectiveness of the Government of Samoa in managing and implementing the Health Sector Plan 2008-2018. This will involve working on three key areas:

1. **Health promotion and prevention**
   Health promotion is at the centre of the Ministry of Health’s reform efforts. The project will support the change in the health sector from a medical focus to a wider health and general wellness view.

2. **Quality health care services**
   The project will aim to improve the quality and delivery of health care, particularly at the primary care level. This will involve:
   - Staff training on disease management;
   - Building the skills of health workers;
   - Improving reproductive, maternal and child health services to reduce the number of deaths amongst new mothers and babies;
   - Improving general health care and community health outreach; and
   - Improving understanding of medicinal needs, distribution and use by upgrading warehouses and inventory management systems.

3. **Policy, monitoring, and oversight of the health system**
   The project will support the Ministry of Health in its role of coordination, policy development, monitoring and regulation in the health sector. Potential activities include creating and putting in place a human resource strategy for the health sector, including a database of multi-skilled nurses; monitoring and evaluating health care systems; promoting partnerships with non-government organisations and the private sector in order to improve health care service delivery; and developing a Bachelor of Health Science degree at the National University of Samoa.

Background

Over the past several decades the health status of Samoa’s population has improved significantly, largely through the supply of basic health services. Although most infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, measles and other childhood diseases are under reasonable control, acute respiratory infections and rheumatic fever remain dominant and result in a high and growing demand on hospital services. Outbreaks of dengue, measles, and endemic typhoid over recent years highlight the need for continued support in core public health programs.

**Location:** The project will be based in Apia at the Ministry of Health and will be run nationwide, aiming to improve the delivery of health services across Samoa.

**Approval Date:** 19 July 2008

**Closing Date:** 31 December 2013

**Total Project Cost:** US$11.4 million

**Donors:**
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)—US$4.5 million
- World Bank (International Development Association)—US$3 million
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs—US$2.4 million
- Government of Samoa—US$1.5 million

**Implementing Agency:** Samoa Ministry of Health

**Contact:** World Bank Task Team Leader
Aparnaa Somanathan
Health Economist
asomanathan@worldbank.org

www.worldbank.org/pi