



TongaHealth

TONGA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE INTENT 2025-2026

Promoting an Active and Healthy Tonga

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ACRONYMS

NCD	Non Communicable Disease
TongaHealth	Tonga Health Promotion Foundation
Hala Fononga	National Strategy for Prevention and Control of NCDs
TSDG	Tonga Strategic Development Goals
TSDF	Tonga Strategic Development Framework
THSSP2	Tonga Health Sector Support Program Phase 2
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NNCDC	National Non Communicable Diseases Committee
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DFAT	Australian Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
The Act	Tonga Health Promotion Foundation Act 2007
MTRs	Mid-term Reviews
FCTC	Framework Convention for Tobacco Control
AVP	Australian Volunteers Program
HiAP	Health in All Policies
GDM	Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
HPU	Health Promotion Unit
WHO	World Health Organization
MoH	Ministry of Health
MAFF	Ministry of Food and Forestry
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
Tapaka Tonga	Locally Grown Tobacco
Tuku ifi leva	Anti-Tobacco
SHS	Special Health Services
SPC	Pacific Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
VicHealth	Victoria Health Promotion Foundation
SMA s	Special Management Areas

1. BACKGROUND

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continues to be the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and disability in Tonga imposing a heavy burden on individuals , families , workplaces ,churches, communities and the nation's economic and healthcare system. The four primary NCDs are heart disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cancer. Despite implementing three consecutive National NCD Strategies, progress made has not translated into noticeable impact. While awaiting for the next STEPS survey anticipated to start in 2025 , the results from the last STEPS surveys 2017 showed that the prevalence of these diseases has increased significantly. Hypertension has increased from 27.6% in 2012 to 37.8% in 2017. The primary NCDs share four behavioural risk factors, namely unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, alcohol, and tobacco consumption as well as overweight or obese. The 2017 STEPS survey showed 69.1% of the population had at least three or more of the above risk factors an increase from 57.1% in 2012.

Tonga is currently implementing the fourth National NCD strategy - ***Tuiaki 'i he 'Amanaki National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Strategy 2021-2025*** this was approved by Cabinet (CD # 1156) in December 2021 and launched by the Prime Minister of Tonga in June 2022. The NCD strategy was recently approved by Cabinet in 2024 at the recommendation of the NNCD to extend the implementation period to 30 June 2030. There will be a meeting which will be called in 2025 with the relevant stakeholders to revise and prioritise activities as per the remaining implementation period.

TongaHealth co-hosted with the Ministry of Health the first national NCD forum in November 2024 with a theme to re-energise our fight against NCD . The NCD forum re-established the need for collective action with a whole of a Government and a whole of community approach are committed to a comprehensive , multisectoral approach that priorities prevention and promotion , early detection , effective management and community engagement to combat the NCD crisis. The outcome statement of the NCD forum 2024, the Review of NCD – Related Legislation in Tonga 2024 together with the Tuiaki Strategy will guide the operations of Tonga Health for the next 5 years. The Tuiaki strategy seeks to build on past success as well as address gaps to improve coordination, stakeholder engagement and ensure effective implementation that is realistic and

measurable in a systemic way. The whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach is encapsulated in the concept of ‘tuiaki’ where active collaborations and equal participation of partners at every level of society is required. The vision of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy is one where through working together, the people of Tonga are empowered to choose wellness and to live long and healthy lives through the prevention and control of NCDs. This is in line with the Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDF) for 2015-2025 and the Tonga Strategic Development Goals (TSDG) for Tonga 2015- 2025 for “a *stronger and more integrated approach by all parts of society to address non-communicable disease*”.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUNDATION

TongaHealth’s operations will be guided by the *revised National NCD Strategy 2021-2030: Tuiaki ‘I he ‘Amanaki ki ha Tonga Mo’ui Lelei*.

Vision

TongaHealth’s vision is for a healthy Tonga where everyone is responsible for promoting health and everyone shares in the benefits of a healthy population.

Mission

TongaHealth’s mission is to prevent and reduce harm from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Objectives

In 2025-26 TongaHealth will:

- In collaboration with the HPU revise the Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030 and communicate it to all stakeholders including communities.
- Continue to implement Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030 as per the revised Implementation plan of the strategy and
- Develop TongaHealth 10 year Strategic plan and continue to work with the MOH to ensure alignment to the Tuiaki NCD Strategy and the Tonga National Strategic Health Plan.

- Advocate for increase in priority and resource allocation to the prevention and control of NCDs through the adoption of sustainable financing for the Foundation through redirecting a fixed percentage of the revenue received from tobacco and alcohol excise tax to the Foundation to significantly boost at a sustainable efforts to combat NCDs.
- Develop effective national and regional strategic and capacity building partnerships on NCD prevention and control
- Strengthen relevant healthy lifestyle policies and legislation in all settings in relations to the recommendation from the legal consultant report
- Manage evidence based, targeted competitive Grants and Sponsorship Programs
- Strengthen existing NCD research and data sharing.

3. GOVERNANCE

3.1 Governance of NCD Control and Prevention in Tonga

The NNCDL was established by Cabinet in 2004, it is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ministry of Health (MOH). Membership on the NNCDL is Cabinet appointed CEOs of key ministries, Chair of TongaHealth Board, a representative from the church leaders, private sector and CSOs. The Executive Officer for NNCDL is the CEO of TongaHealth. The NNCDL has the ultimate responsibility for achieving national NCDs strategic outcomes. The MOU between NNCDL and TongaHealth was revised in 2024, both parties mutually agreed and signed the MOU in February 2025. It sets out the roles and responsibilities including delegation of authority for NNCDL and TongaHealth.

The NNCDL key functions are to:

- Advise government on issues pertaining to the prevention of NCDs
- Inform and recommend on policies pertaining to NCD health promotion and prevention strategy, including legislations and regulations as required
- Oversee implementation of the NCD Strategy and Annual Plans
- Monitor and review progress against annual plans on a quarterly basis and update/revise as required

- Delegate the coordination of policy development to TongaHealth which will administer and support NNCD, Advisory Committees and other time limited task groups
- Review processes and outcomes of authority delegations against desired specific strategic outcomes

To address the serious gaps in governance performance for the implementation of the Tuiaki strategy, the Charter developed was revised and approved by the NNCD in December 2024 this will help improve performance of the NNCD. The Charter provide clear expectations on how NNCD is envisaged to operate, including guiding values, members responsibilities, purpose, accountability, effective culture, compliance and baseline performance expectations. It is expected that the NNCD will meet formally at least quarterly at minimum, with additional meetings to be convened as necessary and called by the Chair. A meeting should occur prior to the preparation of Government's Annual Budget to ensure coordination of planning and reporting processes.

Presence of five voting members plus the Chair or Vice Chair are required for a quorum for a formal NNCD meeting to proceed. Meetings may be conducted virtually in which case new provisions of an electronic -resolution to be passed will require the approval of two thirds (2/3) of voting members including the Chair.

Membership of the NNCD and their contribution must be reviewed annually by the NNCD (or an appointed Sub-Committee). Revisions of government memberships may be conducted in consultation with the Minister of Health and Cabinet endorsement sought concurrently with the submission of the annual NCD report. Opt-out options will be given to members who may no longer wish to remain on the NNCD or may feel that they are unable to contribute to the NNCD in a satisfactory manner. Notification of withdrawal to be submitted to the NNCD Chair must be submitted as soon as possible.

3.2 Governance of TongaHealth

The general direction and supervision of TongaHealth is vested in its Board of Governance. TongaHealth Board of Governance members include:

- 1 Representative of Churches or Communities – Elder Sione Tui'one (Chairman)
- 2 Health experts – Dr 'Ofa Tukia (Chief Medical Officer, Head of Public Health Division) and Sr Meleinu Filise (Chief Nursing Officer , CNO).

- 1 Member of the Legislative Assembly – Honourable Veivosā Taka
- 1 Management/Business/Law Expert – Mrs ‘Emeline Tuita (CEO Tonga Development Bank)

Membership on the Board is up to three years and it can be renewed at the end of the term. Secretariat support for Board is provided by the CEO of TongaHealth. TongaHealth is charged with the responsibility of administering the Tonga Health Promotion Fund (the Fund) in accordance with the Act.

The functions of TongaHealth include managing grants from the Fund for activities, facilities, projects or research programs related to the promotion of good health, safety and the prevention and early detection of non-communicable diseases.

S15 (3) of the Act provides that the Fund’s monies may be derived from:

- (a) money appropriated by the Legislative Assembly for that purpose;
- (b) appropriate revenue measures as agreed by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health from time to time;
- (c) bequests, donations and grants
- (d) any other income or payment due to the Foundation

The role of the Board, acting on behalf of the Minister of Health, is to govern TongaHealth so that it fulfills its statutory responsibilities, whilst acting ethically and prudently and remaining within the law.

4. BUDGET 2025-2026

Recurrent funding for 2025-2026 is from two primary sources:

- The Government of Tonga providing TOP\$1,120,000
- The Government of Australia through the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) providing AUD\$350,000 (totalling approx. TOP\$546.5k over the five years).

DFAT support to MOH and TongaHealth currently comes through the TongaHealth System Support Program (THSSP3) which was signed in May 2023 this phase will conclude on 30th June 2025 . The final report for the THSSP3 Grant Agreement will be completed as per the agreement requirements.

The Annual Budget and Work Plan for 2025-2026 is prepared in accordance with the Tonga National NCD Strategy 2021-2030 with an intention to implement all activities by the end of 20230 as per the revised 5-year implementation plan.

Other sources of funding this financial year includes the investments from Dr Tapa Fund of \$78,671 TOP for Dr Tapa's scholarship and staff capacity development in Health Promotion or Public Health.

A detailed budget can be found in the Annual Business Plan 2025-2026.

5. NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

5.1 Overview

TongaHealth's activities are guided by the following documents:

- The Tonga Health Promotion Foundation Act 2007 (the Act)
- The National NCD Strategy 2021-2030 (Tuiaki 'I he 'Amanaki)
- The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the National NCD Committee and TongaHealth in February 2025, and
- Tonga Health System Support Program Phase 3 (THSSP3) design agreement if extended otherwise , the THSSP4
- Review of NCD- Related Legislation in Tonga 2024

TongaHealth will focus on:

- Communicating and dissemination of the revised Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030 to all relevant stakeholders and donor partners as well as the communities including outer islands.
- Continue to Implement the revised Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030

- Continue to Support the Healthy Island initiatives in ‘Eua , Ha’apai , Vava’u , Niuatoputapu and to establish the Health Committee in Niuafo’ou
- Implement high quality Grants and Sponsorship Program that efficiently and effectively supports the delivery of health promotion activities identified in the 2021-2030 NCD Strategy.
- Identify and fund priority research activities to support and build our capacity to monitor and evaluate the Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030
- Continue to build international connections and share good practice
- Develop a long term 10-year TongaHealth Strategic Plan 2023-2033 with a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework.
- Finalise the 2025-2030 TongaHealth Communications Strategy with a greater focus on building partnerships for NCD prevention, emergency preparedness and building resilience.
- Review TongaHealth policies and roles and responsibilities.

5.2 Key TongaHealth Priorities for 2025-2026

The priorities for TongaHealth in this financial year will be to implement the activities for year 4 and 5 of the implementation plan of the Tuiaki Strategy. The key priorities for TongaHealth for 2025 - 2026 are as follows:

1. Dissemination of the Revised National NCD Strategy 2021-2030
 - Implementation of the National NCD Strategy 2021-2030 with specific focus on implementing activities in the year 4 and year 5 .
2. Implementing the Grants and Sponsorship Programs, including making them more:
 - Competitive
 - Accessible and accountable
 - Strategically relevant and better aligned with the 2021-2030 NCD Strategy
 - Results focus
 - Collaborative with improved engagement with key cross cutting stakeholder organisations /communities

3. Provide Capacity Development for Tonga Health staff:

- Ongoing staff training using online/ remote learning approach and looking for training opportunities overseas.
- Review of job descriptions, ToRs and roles and responsibilities of all TongaHealth staff and Board members.

4. Organize and facilitate Cross Sector Capacity Building with key regional stakeholders (including SPC, VicHealth, WHO and World Bank) including training in:

- NCDs
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Health promotion
- Health Planning
- Project management
- Communications

5. Strengthen alignment of TongaHealth priorities with key regional and global commitments such as the following:

- Pacific NCD Road Map
- Pacific NCD MANA Dashboard
- Pacific NCD Legislative Framework
- Pacific End Childhood Obesity (ECHO)
- WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC)
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- WHO Global Acceleration Plan on Obesity Prevention

In 2025-2026, TongaHealth will have a total of up to 20 staff members..

5.3 Implementation of Tuiaki 'i he 'Amanaki Strategy

To achieve the goals and objectives of this strategy, emphasis will be on achieving results in the following Key Results Areas (KRA):

- Effective governance and leadership
- Multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement and partnerships
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Health system strengthening
- Monitoring, evaluation, surveillance, research and learning

Recommended actions are outlined in the Tuiaki NCD Strategy and reflected in the THSSP3 Workplan. Activity design will be guided by the program logic and theory of change processes to demonstrate how outputs from the activities contribute to achieving the expected outcomes in the KRAs.

5.3.1 Key Result Area 1: Effective governance and leadership

Key Objective 1: NCD governance is strengthened in order to ensure effective oversight of the implementation of this strategy.

Key Outputs:

- Effective governance is ensured by the NNCDL for implementation of this strategy.
- NNCDL members are active and trained on effective governance, leadership, health promotion and NCD issues.
- Reinstate the 4 advisory committees in addition to the technical panel registry under the NNCDL, as a platform for technical-level coordination and a source of technical expertise.

Key Activities:

- Prime Minister's Office as Secretariat continues convening quarterly meetings for the NNCDL with support from TongaHealth providing fund for necessary meeting cost and assistance with NNCDL secretarial role.
- Continue advocating for relevant ministries the health in all policies to ensure allocation of budget line for NCD prevention activities and to be a standing agenda item at the NNCDL meeting.
- Convene trainings on effective governance, leadership, health promotion and NCD issues with NNCDL members and to be a standing agenda item at the NNCDL meeting. This includes data presentations by researchers on public health and NCD issues and provides opportunities for policy actions related in Tonga.
- Engage Technical Working Groups in NCD related issues ensuring that quarterly meetings are held.

5.3.2 Key Result Area 2: Multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement and partnerships

Key Objective 2: Multi-sectoral engagement and partnerships are strengthened in order to accelerate and scale up the national response to NCDs.

Key Outputs:

- Convene bi-annual NCD forum with stakeholders
- Engage parliamentarians to garner support for NCD actions
- Prepare policy briefs and/or factsheets for stakeholders to guide and support their NCD prevention and control activities
- Utilize stakeholder map of NCD activities and identify opportunities for collaboration
- Establish and strengthen CSO alliances
- Advocate for health-in-all policies to be incorporated into all government policy development processes

Key Activities:

- ❖ Convene and host bi-annual national NCD stakeholder conference in partnership with Ministry of Health, Technical Working Group, Prime Minister's Office (November) and forum report to distribute to participants. Nominate Community NCD Champion Awards for the year NCD forum is held and awards to be announced during the national NCD conference.
- ❖ Continue preparing policy briefs to guide and support NCD prevention and control activities especially to the Government of Tonga, TongaHealth and Ministry of Health. A consultant will be engaged to expedite and excel those policies recommended from the Legislative Review report in December 2024.
- ❖ Disseminating stakeholder map report to the public and utilize for creating programs or opportunities to collaborate.
- ❖ TongaHealth Project Officers in the Outer Islands convene quarterly multi-sectoral health committees in 'Eua, Ha'apai, Vava'u and Niuatoputapu islands.
- ❖ Convene visits to Niuafo'ou office to establish the multi-sectoral health committees in Niuafo'ou Island.
- Maintaining stakeholder mapping list and continue collaborating on identifying gaps and alliances opportunities with NGOs, private businesses, government ministries, schools, churches, kava clubs, food vendors (roadside), restaurants, shops (foreign & local), women, youth and men groups.
- In collaborating with HPU, engage Tonga Civil Society Forum (peak body for CSOs) to convene workshop for member CSOs on NCDs and their role in implementing the NCD Strategy.
- Ongoing sector engagement workshop in collaborating with PMO and MOH to advocate for increase in priority and resource allocation to the prevention and control of NCDs in the national agenda and policies.

5.3.3 Key Result Area 3: Health promotion and disease prevention

Key Objectives 3: Build the capacity of individuals, families and communities to make healthy choices by creating healthy environments.

Key Outputs:

- ❖ Cost effective measures implemented
- ❖ Health promoting setting approaches implemented
- ❖ Awareness is raised on all aspects relating to NCD prevention and control

Key Activities:

- ❖ Conduct 2 days' workshop with NNCD members, M&E Taskforce, Technical Working Group and all stakeholders to communicate and track the progress of the NCD Strategy implementation . Strategy to be translated into Tongan and launch of the revised strategy for 2021-2030. An independent consultant will be contracted to assist with this task.
- ❖ Strengthen the implementation of the Health Promoting Schools (HPS) Program [Polokalama 'Apiako Ma'alahi] initiatives including:
 - Continue to work collaboratively with the HPU at MOET and the HPS Coordinator at HPU, MOH to support school's health initiatives with provision of HPS awards.
 - Partner with the Tonga Secondary School Principal Association – Sports Committee and related allies to support the Annual Inter-College Sports Competition with TongaHealth as the corporate sponsorship of the event to promote health messages through sports for young people. Also convene Annual Zumba Competition as standard agenda of the sports events.
 - Support the Junior School Sports competition.
 - Support implementation of Mai e 5 program in schools.
 - Support organizations who implement school related sports and health projects for students.
- ❖ Strengthen implementation of the Health Promoting Churches (HPC) [Polokalama Haofaki Mo'ui] initiatives including:

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- Continue partnerships with HPU, MOH in coordinating HPC committee meetings (Haofaki Mo'ui) and supporting different denominations health activities through grant projects and small community projects.
 - Advocating for healthy lifestyle messages and healthy food arrangement to be promoted during Church Annual Conferences.
 - Strengthening relationships and networks with Private sector, NGOs and CSOs who are working with Churches such as 'Amanaki Fo'ou, Salvation Army, Tonga Lifeline and SDA Health Department, etc through grant projects and information sharing.
- ❖ Strengthen implementation of Health Promoting Workplaces (HPW) initiatives including:
- Strengthen relationships and networks with relevant government agencies and CSOs who implement NCD prevention actions in workplaces such as:
 - Ministry of Internal Affairs to promote physical activity in the workplaces and the annual Fiefia Sports Competition. Partner with other sports association where necessary.
 - Collaborate with HPU at MOH through the HPW Coordinator and Committee plus other Government Ministries to promote healthy lifestyles in workplaces through large or small grants projects. Also trainings on the risk factors of NCDs and promoting alcohol-free work events and gatherings to create a healthy and supportive work culture.
 - TongaHealth consistently execute the 4-5 minutes Drop Everything and Shake (DEAS) program inside the office around 11am and 3pm, ensuring that anyone that's in the office either visiting or for a meeting must join.
- ❖ Strengthen the implementation of Health Promoting Communities (HPCom) initiatives including:
- Supporting grants and sponsorships applications from government agencies, community groups, NGOs and CSOs for youth/community-based initiatives to address risk factors of NCDs.
 - Strengthening stakeholder with funding and necessary resources to main Ministries such as MRC, MAFF, MTED, Tonga Police.

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- Partner with Tonga Police to enforce alcohol, tobacco and other drugs acts and policies and to reduce related crimes.
 - Support District Community Playground throughout Tonga.
 - Launch community awareness program about the importance of breastfeeding throughout the community.
 - Delivering Funshake activities in communities in collaboration with related organizations and zumba instructors who could be mobilised to lead FunShake Zumba when communities requested.
 - Initiate the discussion or planning to establish a drug rehabilitations centre in partnerships with respected stakeholders in Tonga.
 - Work with Communication Officer to promote health messages, project's information, stories and local chefs cooking videos via social media platforms plus any other campaign resources.
- ❖ Strengthen Health Promoting Island initiatives, including:
- Strengthening the operations TongaHealth Offices that have been established in the outer islands of 'Eua, Vava'u, Ha'apai, Niuatoputapu and Niuafo'ou to:
 - Maintain the Health Committees in their respective islands, meeting quarterly.
 - Support and assist grant and sponsorship applications from outer island communities.
 - Facilitate and assist with M&E of grant activities, including data collection, follow up reports, update of stakeholder mapping and stakeholder satisfaction surveys.
 - Promote TongaHealth's mission of promoting and enabling healthy behaviours in remote communities and advocating for health.
 - Strengthen relationships and networks with government ministries, NGOs, CSOs, community groups and stakeholders in their respective islands

- In partnership with HPU and WHO to discuss and link the HPI initiatives to the WHO Health Promoting Island Framework and launch it at 'Eua island.
- Building capacity of TongaHealth Project Officers in the outer islands through regular participation in virtual training opportunities as well as face-to-face participation in training at the main office in Tongatapu.

5.3.4 Key Result Area 4: Health System Strengthening

Key Objective 4: Strengthened health system to provide accessible, affordable and good quality care to all people with or at risk of NCDs.

Key Output:

- ❖ Capacity of TongaHealth and stakeholders built to address NCDs

Key Activities:

- ❖ Develop health promotion competencies for TongaHealth staff through online and/or face-to-face courses as well as work attachments with credible institutions.
- ❖ Foster close working relationships with key partners and institutions such as Ministry of Health, SPC, WHO and VicHealth and other regional Health Promotion Foundations and Forums.
- ❖ Develop/ adapt and distribute NCD policy briefs and factsheets
- ❖ Promote and support implementation of 1,000 days initiatives and life-course approaches such as the Breastfeeding Awareness Month activities and the new Baby Friendly Hospital requirements.
- ❖ Provide ongoing training for healthcare workers on the important of breastfeeding.
- ❖ Implement the institutional strengthening plan for TongaHealth and track progress.
- ❖ Create a safe work environment for TongaHealth including a possibility of building a new office in Vava'u by the Governor's office funded also by the LDS.

5.3.5 Key Result Area 5: M&E Surveillance, Research & Learning

Key Objective 5: Establish sustainable monitoring, evaluation and surveillance systems

Key Outputs:

- ❖ The National M&E Taskforce is operational
- ❖ Robust accountability mechanisms developed.
- ❖ Conducted NCD research and strengthened surveillance activities and developed research capacity of local researchers

Key Activities;

- ❖ Convene regular meetings for the M&E taskforce with report submitted to the NNCD. The taskforce will monitor progress of the implementation of the strategy
- ❖ Strengthen M&E of grants and sponsorships activities through
 - regular site visits including at least 1 visit to outer islands and support island officers to collect data
 - conducting M&E and report writing workshops for grant recipients
- ❖ Conduct bi-annual stakeholder satisfaction surveys
- ❖ Support the undertaking of a multisectoral action study to assess the level of participation and engagement of stakeholders in multisectoral actions to implement the National NCD Strategy.

6. RESEARCH, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

To achieve the expected results of actions highlighted in the previous section, the M&E team will focus on the following key activities:

- Monitor the implementation of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030. Convene regular M&E Taskforce meetings
- Review and update TongaHealth Strategic Plan and the M&E framework
- Supporting research activities to build evidence for policy and decision making
- Strengthen M&E performance of TongaHealth through:

- Undertaking stakeholder mapping exercise and satisfaction survey
- Monitoring progress of grant and sponsorship activities
- Evaluating impact of grant and sponsorship programs
- Maintaining database of stakeholders
- Building capacity of stakeholders in M&E

6.1 Implementation of the National NCD Strategy

TongaHealth is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy as mandated in the Tonga Health Promotion Foundation Act 2007. To support this function, a M&E Taskforce has been established to monitor progress of implementation of the national strategy. Membership on the Taskforce include M&E focal points from MOH Planning, Information and IT sections, Tonga National Statistics, Prime Minister's Office and M&E Adviser from the Tonga Australia Support Platform (TASP). TongaHealth is the secretariat for the Taskforce.

The M&E Taskforce will provide technical oversight for the drafting of regular report for the National NCD Committee and the Minister of Health on the progress of implementation of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy. This report will be tabled at the Health System Support Implementation Group (HSSIG) that provides management oversight for the Tonga Health Systems Support Program Phase 3 (THSSP3) and the funding agreement between TongaHealth and DFAT is part of the long-term overarching support from the Government of Australia to Tonga to address national health priorities. TongaHealth is represented on this committee. This annual report will also be shared with stakeholders.

6.2 TongaHealth Strategic Plan and M&E Framework.

Work alongside the consultant to developing the new TongaHealth 10year Strategic Plan and monitoring framework will be crucial as these have expired and it needs to be reviewed and updated to align with the Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030 and the THSSP3 support. The strategic plan will guide how TongaHealth deliver on its obligations and contribute to the Government's efforts to address the national health priority - NCDs.

It is crucial that this long-term plan be developed to align to the current NCD Strategy and looking beyond for a further 5 years.

6.3 Research Activities

TongaHealth has funded various research activities over the years, particularly in the area of the health impact of tobacco smoking. Key research priorities TongaHealth will focus on this year are aligned with activities identified in the Tuiaki NCD Strategy. These include:

- Conduct bi-annual stakeholder satisfaction surveys
- Conduct and publish NCD research and develop business cases for NCD prevention. This includes independent evaluation of sponsorships and grants and publishing lessons learnt.

TongaHealth will also continue to partner with other research institutions such as Deakin University, Otago University, etc as or when appropriate to undertake research relevant to Tonga.

7.PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To support implementation of key priority activities identified above, building and strengthening TongaHealth's technical capability is essential. TongaHealth supports professional development through the opportunity for staff to attend local, regional and international meetings, conferences and training including the Annual Meeting of the International Network of Health Promotion Foundations which will be held in Singapore , in September 2025.

TongaHealth will focus on re-establishing ongoing peer support and capacity building partnerships with VicHealth and SPC while working to develop the 10 year Strategic Plan in line with the revised NCD Strategy. TongaHealth will continue to explore other capacity building options including online/remote learning courses and peer support and in collaboration with VicHealth, The Fono and SPC. Activities planned include TongaHealth:

- Re-establish organisational peer support and technical advice from VicHealth

- Staff and cross-sector ongoing M&E Training facilitated by SPC and TASP
- Follow-up organisational M&E Capacity Development provided by SPC and TASP
- Other relevant trainings provided by international organisations and institutions in the following areas:
 - NCDs
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Health promotion and Communications
 - Health Planning
 - Project management

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

A Risk Register provides an important framework to assist TongaHealth plan and minimize risks that would impact on its operations and ability to deliver on its obligations. Experience with the measles outbreaks, COVID19 pandemic and volcanic eruption coupled with tsunami highlighted the need to have an up-to-date Risk Register and to regularly monitor and report on these.

These health emergencies and natural disasters impacted TongaHealth's delivery of grant and sponsorship programs as well as stakeholder engagement processes and capacity building activities.

TongaHealth will continue to explore new ways of doing business and engaging with stakeholders. Improving communications with stakeholders will be crucial going forward to ensure TongaHealth stay connected with stakeholders and continue to promote healthy lifestyles and minimize the impact of emerging health risks as well as natural disasters such as climate change.

9. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

TongaHealth's public profile will be enhanced through the development of the TongaHealth 2025-2030 Communications Plan. The plan will be designed to increase public awareness of TongaHealth's contribution to national development through the implementation of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy 2021-2030. In addition, the plan will also include strategies to maintain communication with stakeholders during other health emergencies should they arise in the future.

The Administration Team will lead the development of the communication plan with support from a consultant if need be .

10. GENDER, DISABILITY AND OTHER CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

TongaHealth is committed to addressing the needs of vulnerable population groups acknowledging that gender roles, where you come from, where you live, what school you go to, what you do for a living, your cultural and spiritual beliefs all have an impact on health outcomes.

TongaHealth grants and sponsorship programs are open to everyone and one of the key criteria for receiving funds from TongaHealth require implementers to identify how their proposed projects reach or impact the lives of vulnerable groups.

Tonga is vulnerable to threats because of climate change and natural disasters as experienced during the 2022 volcanic eruption and tsunami. Following these events, TongaHealth contributed to the national recovery efforts by engaging private sector nurseries to provide vegetable and fruit tree seedlings to households and communities so they can grow their own vegetables and fruit trees. TongaHealth will continue to foster these kinds of relationships to ensure households have access to resources to help them recover from the aftermaths of natural disasters.

11. FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Tonga Health Promotion Foundation Forecast Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2026

Current Assets	\$
Cheque Account	27,312
DFAT - Implementation Account	58,526
Interest Receivable	78,645
Petty Cash	500
Total Current Assets	164,983
Less Current Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	19,855
Accrued Expenses	31,587
Income in Advance	58,526
Payroll Clearing Account	3,915
Consumption Tax	-19,874
Total Current Liabilities	94,009
Working Capital	70,974
Add Non-Current Assets	
Office Equipment	39,115
Computer	54,143
Furniture and Fittings	21,223
Motor Vehicles	191,250
Building	630,269
Investment NRBT - Dr Tapa	820,041
ANZ Term Deposits	122,471
MBF Term Deposits	610,179
Total Non-Current Assets	2,488,691
Net Assets	2,559,665
Equity	
Retained Earnings	1,177,029
Dr Tapa Fund	1,301,000
Current Year Earnings	81,636
Total Equity	2,559,665

12. ANTICIPATED BORROWING

TongaHealth does not anticipate borrowing from any financial institutions for the financial year 2025-2026

13. ANY OTHER MATTERS AS ARE AGREED BETWEEN THE MINISTER AND THE BOARD

There are no other matters for this Statement of Corporate Intent

ANNEX A: TONGAHEALTH PERFORMANCE TARGETS

(aligned with the Tuiaki NCD Strategy)

KEY RESULT AREAS 1: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP					
KEY OUTCOME: Strengthened NNCCDC governance performance to provide oversight for the implementation of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy					
Outputs	Activities	Implementation timeframe	Stakeholders	Indicators	Data Source
1.1 Effective governance provided by the NNCCDC for the implementation of the Tuiaki NCD Strategy	1.1.1 Draft and finalise Charter to guide how the NNCCDC function and operate and submit for endorsement and (refer to Annex 1 for details).	completed Charter approved in December 2024	NNCCDC TongaHealth	NNCCDC is operating, meeting & submitting reports regularly on time, is inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, and is catalysing and monitoring actions on NCDs	NNCCDC meeting records NNCCDC performance report NNCCDC annual report
	1.1.2 Review the January 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between the NNCCDC and with TongaHealth and communicate it to stakeholders	2024 MOU revised and signed in Feb 2025	NNCCDC	MOU revised and updated Charter recorded as approved, adopted and reviewed annually	
	1.1.3 Convene quarterly meetings for the NNCCDC	2025-2026	NNCCDC TongaHealth		
	1.1.4	2025-2026	NNCCDC		

	Review NNCD performance against Charter baseline expectations (Annex 2) and revised MOU		TongaHealth		
	1.1.5 Appoint independent secretariat for the NNCD with TORs for the role	2023-completed – PMO is the secretariat	NNCDC TongaHealth	Independent secretary appointed and adequately resourced	NNCDC secretary annual performance review report
1.2 NNCD members trained on effective governance and leadership, health promotion and NCDs issues	1.2.1 Provide training for NNCD members on governance, leadership, health promotion and NCDs.	2025-2026	TongaHealth MOH	# of members trained	Training workshop report

KEY RESULT AREAS 2: MULTISECTORAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

KEY OUTCOME: Strengthened multisectoral engagements and partnerships to accelerate and scale up national response to NCDs

Outputs	Activities	Implementation timeframe	Stakeholders	Indicators	Data Source
2.1 Advocated for effective NCD prevention and control interventions among stakeholders	2.1.1 Convene an annual NCD forum with stakeholders	2024-2026	NNCDC TongaHealth	# and range of stakeholders participating in the Forum # of stakeholders investing own	NCD Forum report Published success stories

				resources into NCD actions	Parliament papers and briefings
	2.1.2 Prepare policy briefs and/or factsheets for stakeholders to guide and support their NCD prevention and control activities	2025-2026	TongaHealth MOH	# NCD friendly policies endorsed and implemented	
	2.1.3 Engage parliamentarians to garner support for NCD actions	2025-2026	NNCDC TongaHealth MOH		
2.2 Established mechanisms for multi sectoral collaborations and partnerships	2.2.1 Map stakeholder NCD activities and identify opportunities for collaborations	2025-2026	TongaHealth NNCD	# successful joint interventions demonstrating positive results	NCD Forum report
	2.2.2 Establish and strengthen CSO alliances	2025-2026	TongaHealth		
	2.2.3 Create and maintain a panel registry of Technical Experts (note that NNCD approved to revive the 4 advisory committees)	2025-2026	TongaHealth		
	2.2.4 Cultivate innovative partnerships for NCD actions	2025-2026	TongaHealth Development partners		

	2.2.5 Create and maintain a platform for inter-ministerial collaborations	2025-2026	NNCDC TongaHealth		Ministries' annual reports Statements of Corporate Intent
	2.2.6 Advocate for health-in-all policies to be incorporated in all government policy development processes	2023-2025	NNCDC PMO TongaHealth	# of Government ministries with health policies	Ministries' Corporate plans

KEY RESULT AREAS 2: MULTISECTORAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS					
KEY OUTCOME: Strengthened multisectoral engagements and partnerships to accelerate and scale up national response to NCDs					
Outputs	Activities	Implementation timeframe	Stakeholders	Indicators	Data Source
3.1 Implemented healthy promoting actions targeting the 4 key NCD risk factors (<i>unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, alcohol misuse and tobacco smoking</i>) in key settings – <i>schools, workplaces, churches, villages,</i>	3.1.1 Work with the Ministry of Education to implement, strengthen, evaluate and expand health promoting school actions in all schools in Tonga	2025-2026	Ministry of Education MOH Health Promotion Unit (HPU) TongaHealth Schools	# different settings implementing health promoting actions against 4 key NCDs risk factors	Ministries' Annual reports

communities and islands					
	3.1.2 Work with CEOs to implement, strengthen, evaluate and expand health promoting action in workplace	2025-2026	Public Service Commission MOH HPU TongaHealth		
	3.1.3 Work with church leaders to implement, strengthen, evaluate and expand health promoting actions in churches	2025-2026	Council of Churches MOH HPU TongaHealth		
	3.1.4 Work with community leaders and town councils to implement, strengthen, evaluate and expand health promoting actions in communities and villages	2025-2026	Town Councils & Officers CSOs MOH HPU TongaHealth		
	3.1.5 Pilot Healthy Promoting Island initiative in 'Eua, including establishing a multisectoral committee	2024 Completed and ongoing	'Eua MP & Town Council MOH HPU TongaHealth	Health Promoting Taskforce (inclusive of all relevant stakeholders), established and workplan developed and implemented	Project reports

	3.1.6 Identify champions in the different settings who model and actively health promoting behaviours	2024-2027	TongaHealth	# Health Promoting Champion awards	NCD Forum report
3.2 Cost effective measures adapted and implemented	3.2.1 Implement and enforce relevant legislations, regulations and policies for tobacco control and alcoholic and non-alcoholic sugar sweeten beverages (SSBs)	2023-2027	Crown Law Revenue Customs MOH	# legislations and fiscal measures enforced	Cabinet papers Amended legislations
	3.2.2 Draft/review relevant legislations & regulations to address advertising, marketing and promotion of unhealthy foods and SSBs to children	2023-2027	Crown Law Revenue Customs MOH	Relevant regulations amended and endorsed	Cabinet papers
	3.2.3 Draft/review alcohol legislations & regulations and policies to address sales, access, advertising, marketing and promotion of alcohol	2023-2027	Crown Law Revenue Customs MOH		Cabinet papers
	3.2.4	2023-2027	TongaHealth MOH HPU	# people trained	Training reports

	Provide training on salt reduction interventions to food handlers, caterers, restaurants owners and bakeries		CSOs		
	3.2.5 Provide assistance to stakeholders to support the implementation of the <i>Behaviour Change Communication Strategy</i> on nutrition and physical activity	2023-2027	TongaHealth World Bank Media	# of Behaviour changed strategies implemented	Project reports
	3.2.6 Provide assistance to stakeholders to support implementation of the <i>Healthy Living Guidelines for Tonga</i>	2023-2027	MAFF MOH TongaHealth		Project reports
3.3 Life course approaches (1,000-Days initiatives, Baby Friendly Hospital, Exclusive Breastfeeding Campaigns) developed and implemented	3.3.1 Advocate for the Government to adopt the <i>International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes</i> to support and protect exclusive breastfeeding	2023-2027	NNCDC MOH Crown Law	Code formally adopted and enforced # of 1,000-Days initiatives implemented	Cabinet papers Newspaper articles
	3.3.2 Strengthen and expand the implementation of 1,000-	2023-2027	MOH TongaHealth		

	Days initiatives such as Baby Friendly Hospital and workplaces				
	3.3.3 Support breast feeding awareness week activities	2023-2027	MOH TongaHealth		
	3.3.4 Advocate for the new Baby-friendly Hospital guidelines to be adopted and adapted to the Tonga context	2023-2027	MOH		
3.4 Raised awareness on all aspects relating to NCDs prevention and control	3.4.1 Engage media and communication agencies to raise awareness on the importance of making healthy behaviour changes	2023-2027	TongaHealth Media MOH	# joint media collaborations and initiatives # mass media campaigns implemented and evaluated	Media reports and news articles
	3.4.2 Develop mass media campaign to raise awareness on the 4 NCD risk factors	2023-2027	TongaHealth Media MOH		
	3.4.3 Communicate and socialize the Tuiaki NCD Strategy to all stakeholders	2023-2027	TongaHealth MOH NNCDC Media		

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KEY RESULT AREAS 4: HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING					
KEY OUTCOME: Health systems strengthened to effectively deliver comprehensive essential health services for the prevention and control of NCDs					
Outputs	Activities	Implementation timeframe	Stakeholders	Indicators	Data Source
4.1 Capacity of MOH to address NCDs built.	4.1.1 Establish a NCD Coordinator position within the Ministry with clear TORs and appoint Coordinator	2023-2026	MOH PSC	Key positions filled and adequately resourced	MOH annual report Pharmacy annual report
	4.1.2 Revive and strengthen the MOH NCD Taskforce	2023-2027	MOH leadership	MOH NCD Taskforce revived & functioning and multidiscipline in representation	
	4.1.3 Established and appoint a Health Promotion Officer in Vava'u	2026	MOH PSC	MOH capacity and systems strengthened	
	4.1.4 Review organisation structure to support career pathways for Community and PHC	2023-2026	MOH Corporate Service, PHU, TMA, TNA		
	4.1.5 Strengthen allied health capacity in particular the dietetic & nutrition, health promotion and community psychologist	2023-2026	MOH Corporate Services		
	4.1.6 Enhance systems for supplying and accessing essential NCD medicines	2023-2026	MOH Procurement Unit Pharmacy		

4.2 Comprehensive packages of essential services PEHS WHO PEN delivered	4.2.1 Advocate for increase budget allocation for PHC to deliver PEHS and WHO PEN	2023-2026	MOH Corporate Services	% of Ministry budget allocated to support PHC to deliver PEHS PEN tools adapted and used	MOH annual report
	4.2.2 Provide targeted training on PEHS and WHO PEN to PHC staff	2023-2026	MOH	# qualified and trained PHC staff	MOH annual report
	4.2.3 Revise and contextualize PEN Package for Tonga	2023-2026	MOH Public Health and Clinical Units		MOH annual report
	4.2.4 Foster closer relationships between MOH and TongaHealth	2023-2026	MOH TongaHealth		TongaHealth & MOH annual reports
4.3 Coordination mechanism for delivering quality services developed and maintained	4.3.1 Develop and update prevention and control guidelines to address NCDs	2023-2026	MOH clinical & PH	# of guidelines developed and used ND registry/database created and updated regularly	MOH annual report
	4.3.2 Strengthen delivery of telemedicine services for NCDs to outer islands	2023-2026	MOH clinical		Clinical services report
	4.3.3 Create and/or strengthen and maintain a NCD database/registry such as a	2023-2026	MOH Corporate Services		MOH annual report

	cancer registry, diabetes registry etc, for Tonga,				
	4.3.4 Review and strengthen referral systems to improve access to services	2023-2026	MOH NCD Taskforce		MOH NCD Taskforce meeting records
4.4 Developed and implemented strategies to build capacity of PHC programs and staff.	4.4.1 Develop and apply appropriate competencies for all PHC staff	2023-2026	MOH Corporate Services	% of PHC staff achieving minimum competency requirements for the role	MOH annual report
	4.4.2 Develop and implement appropriate strategies for recruiting and retaining qualified PHC and NCD staff	2023-2026	MOH Corporate Services PCS	# of guidelines developed to guide service delivery %of graduate nurses choosing to work in PHC	MOH annual report
	4.4.3 Assess and strengthen PHC preparedness to integrate NCDs community mental health services	2023-2026	MOH Mental Health Services PHU		Mental Health Services Report
	4.4.4 Develop a model with appropriate guidelines for	2023-2026	MOH Private sector CSOs		MOH annual report

	involving private sector providers and CSOs in provision of NCD prevention services				
	4.4.5 Provide targeted training to NGOs/CSOs to delivery key NCD prevention services	2023-2026	MOH CSOs		MOH annual report
4.5 Promoted integration of essential services for NCD prevention and control	4.5.1 Foster and strengthen collaborations between Oral Health, Health Promotion, Diabetes, MCH, Immunization Programs to enhance integration	2023-2026	MOH NCD Taskforce	# of joint multi-discipline actions in place	Program reports
	4.5.2 Boost and expand GDM program to include 1,000-Days initiatives	2023-2026	MOH MCH		Diabetes program report

KEY RESULT AREAS 5: M&E, SURVEILLANCE, RESEARCH AND LEARNING

KEY OUTCOME: Enhanced accountability measures and improve data collection, analysis and timely dissemination of results to guide decision making

Outputs	Activities	Implementation timeframe	Stakeholders	Indicators	Data Source
5.1 National M&E Taskforce	5.1.1 Establish National M&E Taskforce with clear TORs	2023-2026 Completed and ongoing	NNCDC TongaHealth	M & Taskforce established with clear TORs and functioning	NNCDC meeting reports

established and operational	to monitor, evaluate and report on progress of NCD actions against agreed targets		Statistics Department PMO	Regular quarterly M&E reports submitted to NNCCDC	
	5.1.2 Communicate the M&E framework to all stakeholders to facilitate and enhance shared understanding of reporting requirements against agreed targets	2023-2026	M&E Taskforce TongaHealth National Statistics Office	NNCCDC meetings minutes confirmation of M&E report tabled	M&E Taskforce meeting reports
5.2 Robust accountability mechanisms developed and in place	5.2.1 Conduct annual national level surveys to monitor the targets and indicators	2023-2026	M&E Taskforce SPC WHO	Surveys conducted Survey reports and findings published	Survey reports
	5.2.2 Establish quality assurance structures and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating NCD interventions	2023-2026	M&E Taskforce MOH	# of completed reporting templates submitted	Taskforce meeting records
	5.2.2	2023-2026	M&E Taskforce		Survey reports

	Conduct annual National NCD Health Facility Survey or integrate health systems performance indicators in existing health facility surveys		MOH		
	5.2.3 Conduct periodic School Based Health Surveys	2023-2027	M&E Taskforce MOH MOE		Survey reports
5.3 Research capacity of local researchers developed	5.3.1 Advocate for funding support for locally-led operation research initiatives	2023-2027	M & E Taskforce TongaHealth Ethics Committee Research institutions	# of locally led research conducted and findings published #of business cases developed and contributed to the body of evidence	Published reports
	5.3.2 Conduct and publish operational and policy research initiatives on NCDs prevention and control	2023-2026	M&E Taskforce MOH TongaHealth External research organisations		Published reports
	5.3.3 Conduct training on research methodology, advance data analysis	2023-2026	M&E Taskforce SPC		Training workshop reports

	skills, proposal writing and project management				
	5.3.4 Document success stories and lessons learnt for continual improvements	2023-2026			Published stories