

POLA PUIPUI

**NATIONAL PREVENTION FRAMEWORK
FOR ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SAMOA**



**GOVERNMENT
OF SAMOA**

The Pola Puipui Framework - National Prevention Framework for Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa was developed by the Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development with support from UN Women through the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership), and the Spotlight Initiative.

The Pacific Partnership brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), and increase access to quality response services for survivors. The Pacific Partnership is funded primarily by the European Union, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and UN Women.

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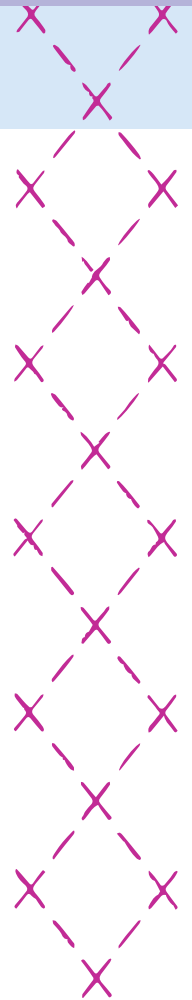
Foreword

Imagine a future where we are all supported and provided opportunities to flourish; where we have transformed attitudes and addressed structural inequalities to reduce violence. We all deserve to live, learn, and work free from violence, in a society in which we can all thrive. Violence perpetrated in the home or among family members is as much a matter of public concern and must never be accepted or excused. As a country, we all need to take up the challenge of Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa and recognize and advocate that it has no place in our society.

To build that future, we must first address the reality that Gender Based Violence exists in Samoa. We need to talk about it, condemn any act of violence we witness, and transform social norms that perpetuate gender inequality. As country leaders, we need to ensure that there is accountability to victims; that we enact laws; that we hold perpetrators to account; and that we support and empower victims to live life on their own terms, based on their own decisions. Our government can and will demonstrate leadership, but it is not equipped to bring about cultural shift on its own. It is going to take a coordinated and united effort. It is going to take all Samoans to take a stand, step up and commit to change. Everyone in our community must make it clear that we will not tolerate the behavior of anyone who harms another person, including within a relationship of intimacy and trust.

The **Pola Puipui Framework** can only succeed if it works for every one of us. It will inform the approach to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa for the next decade. This is a vital, urgent moment to lay strong foundations to make change happen. Findings from consultations support the need for a Prevention Framework, including a 'Made in Samoa for Samoa' approach that can drill right down to some strong messages that reflect the reality of the change that needs to happen in Samoa. Findings also confirmed we needed 'A Samoa Blueprint for Reform'. We need our own transformation agenda to change the story of Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. This Framework presents a long-term aspiration and goal to be achieved over a ten-year period, with key prevention principles and practices and approaches so we can advocate the agenda for transforming harmful gender norms, structures, and practices.

The Pola Puipui Framework reflects a revolutionary approach to change the story and bring about sustainable changes to transform the causes of violence – a revolution based on kindness and care for each other,



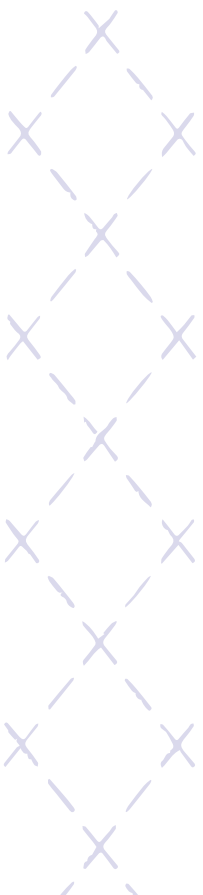
based on respect and dignity – so that women and girls of all diversities can live in Samoa, where they are safe from all forms of violence. We need to respect our differences and celebrate diversity. We need to give our people hope, backed by a vision for real and lasting change – a cultural transformation. Cultural change requires a long-term commitment from everyone in the community to effect genuine change in our beliefs and behaviors. This framework outlines a positive plan of action to address Gender Based Violence in Samoa. It has a strong focus on prevention – stopping the violence before it happens – and supporting those living with violence.

To make this possible, we need to work together. We need to learn to deal with conflict in a peaceful matter, without violence. We need to learn to raise our children without violence. We need to teach our children to manage their anger and frustration in a peaceful manner, without using violence. This starts at home, in schools, in our churches, and in our communities. It's about building stronger foundations in our families and communities to prevent violence before it starts. Our values and beliefs, and our attitudes to women, gender diverse people, children and families all contribute to people using gendered violence.

Our government holds the power to shape the systems, policies and structures that can reduce violence. The Pola PuiPui Framework has laid out a blueprint that can lay the foundation for that safer future. Governments can unlock it through investment in transformative, systemic change. Governments must expand support for prevention initiatives that reach people where they live, learn, work, and socialize with Programs that target gender inequity and attitudes of entitlement and disrespect; and expand the focus on evidence-based efforts to prevent Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

It is also about shifting the burden to the person who uses violence. Victims of violence have too long been expected to shoulder the burden of managing their safety. They are often expected to leave their homes and communities, facing extra financial pressure, and being pushed to place their privacy and well-being at risk in family and criminal courts. We should instead shift more of the focus and burden of consequences on the person who uses violence, and increase interventions to change their behavior, and training to enable better risk-identification to prevent ongoing or escalated violence.

Gender Based Violence in Samoa will not disappear on its own. There is no single button we can press, or speech we can deliver, that will solve this issue. We must continue to address Gender Based Violence in Samoa in all contexts; not only through our organizations, but in our home,



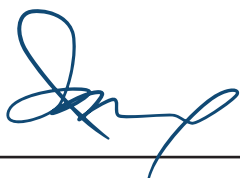
our schools, our workplaces, and our communities. Our business, religious, sporting and community leaders need to help drive this change. They must do more in condemning violent behavior, modelling respectful behaviors, and supporting victims of abuse. Community champions must step up and show us how they will address this issue.

The financial cost of Gender Based Violence in Samoa is substantial. While we have limited statistics about these costs as per Sector, it has been reported in the 2018 National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa, the economic cost of family violence is likely to be at least ST98 - \$132m, approximately 6-7% of Samoa's GDP. This is a substantial drain on our economy. Gender Based Violence in Samoa is one of the most critical issues holding back our national development. Until we can ensure the protection and safety of every single citizen of Samoa, we will never be able to harness our full development potential. Samoa's Constitution demands that we protect our citizens and our freedoms. If we are to meet our national development objectives, we must take action to end all forms of Gender Based Violence in Samoa and advocate for a zero-tolerance approach now.

I salute the determination of NGOs and civil society organizations across Samoa who are at the forefront of this fight to end violence. You are working tirelessly to provide support to the victims, often with limited resources. You often risk your own safety to protect others and I want to commend you all for the work you do each day to support the victims of violence.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in our community collaboration program and provided invaluable feedback on how we can work together to end Gender Based Violence in Samoa. Your experiences have helped to shape our reform agenda to ensure we can build safe, caring and connected communities.

Together we can end the violence. It is time to act. Violence, in all forms, is a violation of basic Human rights and goes against the founding principles of our Constitution.



Afioga Hon. Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molioo

MINISTER - MWCSO



Acknowledgments

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development would like to acknowledge with appreciation the contribution and support of several organizations towards the development of 'The Samoa National Pola Puipui Framework to end Gender Based Violence in Samoa'.

The development of this framework is a major step into fulfilling this country's vision outlined in its National Plan, the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2022/2026, which is 'fostering social harmony, safety and freedom for all'. As the focal government agency for community well-being, the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development is pleased to have led and completed the development of the inaugural Pola Puipui Framework for Samoa. This would not have been possible without the support of many individuals and organizations, whose efforts and invaluable contributions have allowed this work to come into fruition.

A special thank you to UN Women, Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, funded primarily by the European Union, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the Spotlight Initiative through which their partnership and collaboration manifested through financial and technical support, enabled the Ministry to conduct this massive undertaking, hoped to impact positively on the safety of women and girls of Samoa as well as all the other vulnerable population groups and all communities.

Thank you to all the stakeholders, both government and non-governmental organizations as well as community partners for their immense contribution through the wealth of knowledge and experiences shared unreservedly during the consultation phase of this work.

Humbly, the Ministry would also like to extend a word of appreciation to the Prime Minister, Afioga Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Cabinet and all government leaders for their passion for the prevention of Gender Based Violence, demonstrated through their insightful contribution and partaking in the development of the framework.

With the continuous support of several partners, stakeholders and communities; and the blessing of our dear Lord, the Ministry anticipates the successful implementation of this framework to guide all prevention work in Samoa, in order to provide an enabling environment, whereby social harmony, safety and freedom is enjoyed by all especially our women and girls.

Faafetai tele;



Loau Donina Va'a

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Contents

Foreword	III
Acknowledgments	VII
Policies Linkage Table	X
1. Introduction	1
2. Consultation Approach	2
3. Why Samoa Needs a National Prevention Framework	6
3.1 The Urgent Need for Change	6
3.2 The Case for Prevention	9
3.3 The Root Causes of Gender Based Violence in Samoa	12
4. Vision and Guiding Principles	16
4.1 Our Vision is for Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa	16
4.2 Guiding Principles	17
5. Key Features of the Framework	20
5.1 Understanding the Continuum of Prevention	20
5.2 Four Domain Areas	24
5.3 Domain One: Primary Prevention	25
5.4 Domain Two: Victims	25
5.5 Domain Three: Perpetrators	26
5.6 Domain Four: Prevention Infrastructure	27
6. What Needs to be Done – Our Approach	30
6.1 Focus On the Root Causes of Violence	30
6.2 Act on the Contributing Factors	30
6.3 Work With Our Communities	32

6.4 Reach People in a Range of Key Settings	33
6.5 Connect and Coordinate Prevention Efforts - Build Partnerships for Prevention	34
6.6 Agree that Gender Based Violence in Samoa is Both a Public Health and Human Rights Issue ...	35
6.7 Build Continuity with the Response System	37
7. How we will do it	40
7.1 By Constant Reference to the Theory of Change	40
7.2 Through the Application of Concepts of Fa'aSāmoa and Faith	41
7.3 By Successful Community Mobilization	43
8. What Needs to be in Place	46
8.1 Build Prevention Structures and Systems	46
8.2 Build the Prevention Workforce	47
8.3 District-level Partnerships With Engagement at All Levels	48
8.4 Research and Evaluate	50
9. What We Aim to Achieve and How We Will Know if We Are Successful - Outcomes Framework	52
10. How Samoa will Deliver On and Review This Pola Puipui Framework	62
10.1 Governance Arrangements	62
10.2 The Prevention Agency Approach	64
10.3 Prevention Actions and Investment in Phased Ending Violence Action Plans	66
10.4 Mid-term Review of this Framework	67
10.5 District Councils and Women's Committees	67
Reference List	70

Policies Linkage Table

INTERNATIONAL POLICIES

Sustainable Development Goals

1- No poverty, 3 - Good health and Well-being, 4 - Quality Education, 5 - Gender Equality, 10-Reduced Inequalities, 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

International Law

Samoa is Party to many of the core international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Samoa also ratified in 2016 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Under these Conventions, Samoa is required to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of the rights contained in each treaty. The provisions of an international treaty must subsequently be reflected in domestic legislation for Samoa to be compliant with international law

REGIONAL POLICIES

Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014 - 2023

Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Human Rights 2018-2030

Pacific Platform for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

NATIONAL POLICIES

National Pathway & Sector Planning

Pathway for the Development of Samoa FY2021/22 - FY2025/26

Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016 - 2020

Community Sector Plan 2021-2026

Law & Justice Sector Plan 2020/2021 - 2024/25

Samoa Health Sector Plan 2008 - 2018

Samoa Education Sector Plan 2019 - 2024

National Policies

National Policy on Family Safety: Elimination of Family Violence 2021- 2031

National Policy for Persons with Disabilities for Samoa 2021-2031

National Policy on Gender Equality & Rights of Women and Girls 2021-2031

Komesina o Sulufaiga A'oa'oga o Komiti o Saogalemu o Aiga 2020 - Samoa

Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013 - Legislation of Samoa

Research

National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa 2018 - Fa'asamoa, Human Rights and Faith

MWCSD (2017) Samoa Family Safety Study

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development through consecutive Community Development Sector plans have demonstrated consistent leadership in terms of promoting community safety and well-being in our communities. The suite of national policies the Ministry has produced alongside those of other critical sectors working across the Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa landscape represents critical informing and supporting documents for the Pola Puipui Framework.

Of particular significance is the National Policy on Family Safety: Elimination of Family Violence 2023-2033; and its accompanying Samoa Inter-Agency Essential Service Guide 2021 for Responding to Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection. The key initiatives that the Pola Puipui Framework hopes to achieve are informed by the preceding phases of work outlined in the Desktop Review Report and Consultations Summary report through a detailed look at the sector, national, regional, international policy and planning landscape and the invaluable consultation feedback.

Targeted activities that are documented in the Community Development Sector Plan and other critical sector plans that inform Samoa's national development goals are linked to outcomes of this overarching Pola Puipui mechanism. Enhancing the development of our communities has always and continues to be a national development priority evidenced in our community sector vision; "Communities Leading Development."

The Pola Puipui Framework (National Prevention Framework) provides an enabling platform to consolidate cross sectorial focused outcomes and initiatives in the GBV prevention and elimination of GBV space. The Outcomes Framework of the Pola Puipui Framework is the critical mechanism that provides the medium to link activities to focused outcomes and initiatives that will help realize the vision of prevention and elimination of Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

The Community Development Sector already has well established links with other sectors, and it is a matter of using the Pola Puipui Framework platform to roll out identified; and any new activities through a suite of rolling action plans over a ten- year implementation period.





The Framework acknowledges that this needs the leadership of our communities and a strong reference to existing District Development plans and Village Safety Plans while continuing to focus on building the appropriate and relevant governance and operational frameworks to prepare both Village and District Councils for implementation of their respective development plans and targeted activities aimed at GBV.

This is also supported by a clear focus in the NPF on what needs to be in place to support the national approach to the prevention and elimination of Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

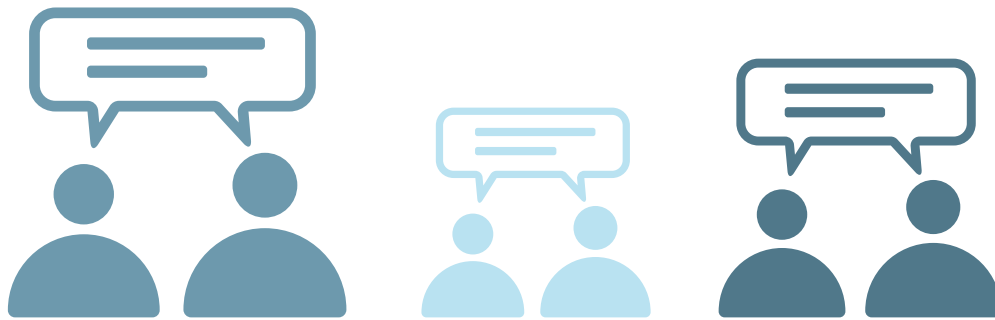
2. Consultation Approach

A Consultation Tool was developed and provided a generic overview of key information for the consultation teams and targeted facilitators from the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. This was designed to be adaptable. Included also were key messages that the NPF Consultation Team wanted discussed and validated. The primary purpose of the Consultations was clear in this tool. In summary, the purpose of the consultations was to:

- ✘ Consult the target audience on the development of the Prevention Framework.
- ✘ Facilitate the inclusion of their voices, inputs, experiences, and context.
- ✘ Record the responses from the target audience.
- ✘ Report the outcomes of the consultations.

The facilitators were encouraged to use the following Key Messages that were extracted from the National Public Inquiry throughout the consultations to drive home the idea of prevention, behavior change and change of social norms that promote zero tolerance to all and any form of violence.

- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is a breach of human rights.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is prevalent.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa can have serious and long-lasting health, social and economic consequences.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is preventable.



2.1 Types of Consultation Approaches Adopted:

I. One on One Consultations with Cabinet Ministers

This presented as an invaluable opportunity to discuss the Snapshot and Desktop Review Report and raise Cabinet awareness of this national issue; and establish early ‘buy in’ to the process and opportunities to commit to the development of a Pola PuiPui Framework for Ending Gender Based Violence.

II. Stakeholder & Partner Consultation

The Community Stakeholder and Partner consultations specifically targeted Government Ministries, Quasi-government entities, Private Sector, Professional Councils and Non-Governmental Organizations. These are stakeholders who provide prevention and response services to GBV and have a history of work in this space. The selection of stakeholder and partners were drawn from the Community Development Sector partners and actors leading efforts to address gender inequality and Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

III. Community Consultations

The Community consultations targeted the public and provided a space for different levels of community actors – village council, women’s committee, church, youth, and our diverse populations to contribute to the development of the Framework. The selection of communities was based on a socio-demographic approach to have a representative voice across Samoa. It included representatives from Rural and Urban Upolu & Savaii as well as representatives from Manono & Apolima.

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Why Samoa Needs a National Prevention Framework

To Prevent and Eliminate Gender Based Violence in Samoa



3. Why Samoa Needs a National Prevention Framework to Prevent and Eliminate Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

3.1 *The Urgent Need for Change*

Gender Based Violence in Samoa is unacceptable and inexcusable, yet family violence and Gender Based Violence in Samoa remains prevalent and pervasive, shattering lives, families, and communities across Samoa. This was also documented in the conclusion of the National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa¹ and previously in the MWCSO led Family Safety Study in 2017.² The impacts are far-reaching and can include deteriorated physical and mental health, loss of housing, loss or limited access to employment, precarious financial security, isolation, and alienation of extended family/social support, and in extreme cases death. Violence also has profound impacts on the overall development of children who witness it or are victims themselves. Further, if we do not stop violence from happening in the first place, children will continue to experience and witness violence – with impacts crossing generations. In addition to these personal impacts, the wider social and economic costs of failing to act to prevent this violence in Samoa are substantial and borne by the whole community.

A National Prevention Framework provides the opportunity to recognize our indigenous approaches; and the diverse needs throughout communities and is a means to bring together the segmented, fragmented way of working. It provides us with the ability to monitor and analyze what works; and where our current and future focus should be. The call to end Gender Based Violence in Samoa has also come from the community, which plays a critical role in prevention. All sectors of the community, including prevention and response sectors, will need to work together to deliver meaningful and lasting change. We must each be courageous and move to collective action across government, agencies and our communities, our faith-based organizations and sector partners. This is not an easy shift, so it will mean taking transformational steps.

Samoa's Second Voluntary National Review Report process revealed the need for disaggregated data for all SDGs to better reflect the situation of persons with disabilities and to ensure all sectors reflect interventions for

¹ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence/State of Human Rights Report Samoa 2018:281-282

² National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa/SHRR 2018 and MWCSO (2017) Samoa Family Safety Study

³ Samoa's Second Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the SDGs: July 2020:26



them and their inclusion. There are still pending recommendations from the Samoa Law Reform review that need to be addressed such as ensuring the completion of the necessary review of other national legislation to ensure they are CRPD compliant and the need for the development of a Disability Act.³

These data gaps were also identified earlier in the National Inquiry Report and the Samoa Family Safety Study⁴ recognizing that in the Office of the Ombudsman’s specifically focused Status of Human Rights Report on the rights of persons with disabilities that there was a clear lack of reporting in relation to abuse of persons with disabilities, in particular women to police. A reason noted; was the absence of avenues for reporting when they were subjected to abuse and violation; and it was equally unclear if police were trained and equipped to handle such complaints.⁵

The Samoa Family Safety Study 2017 while had a focus on PWD’s, the sample sizes were deemed too small to draw any conclusions about whether these groups are more vulnerable. The Ombudsman’s Office concluded however they believed PWD’s, especially women with disabilities, were more vulnerable; and that more research was needed to establish why the increased risk; and types of risk.⁶ Over the period of the NPF and its related Action Plans, Samoa can be more responsive to PWD’s and other vulnerable groups; and develop targeted interventions.

- ✧ July 2020 -Samoa’s Second Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the SDGs – confirmation of increased levels of Gender Based Violence in Samoa against women and children from 46%-60% (2000-2017).⁷
- ✧ July 2020-Percentage of women aged 15-49 years who have experienced any physical violence (committed by a husband or anyone else) since age 15 and in the past 12 months: a) ever in their lifetime – 52.3% b) in the past 12 months – 18.7%.⁸
- ✧ July 2020 – Percentage of women aged 15-49 years who have experienced any physical violence (committed by a non-partner) since age 15 and in the past 12 months: a) ever in their lifetime – 41.5% b) in the past 12 months – 16.2%.⁹



⁴ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa/SHRR 2018 and MWCSO (2017) Samoa Family Safety Study: 98

⁵ Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI; State of Human Rights Report: Persons with Disabilities 2016:29-30

⁶ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa/SHRR 2018 and MWCSO (2017) Samoa Family Safety Study:98

⁷ Samoa’s Second Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the SDGs: July 2020

⁸ Samoa DHS-MICS 2019-2020 (July 2020) SBS&SPC&UNFPA&UNICEF

⁹ Samoa DHS-MICS 2019-2020 (July 2020) SBS&SPC&UNFPA&UNICEF



(Continued..)



- ✘ Percentage distribution of women aged 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since aged 15, who report specific persons who committed the violence a) current husband/partner – 37.5%; b) mother/step-mother – 65.9%; c) Father/stepfather 53.7%; d) Teacher – 17.0%. ¹⁰



- ✘ Percentage distribution of women aged 15-49 who experienced any sexual violence (committed by any perpetrator) – a) ever in their lifetime -21.7% b) in the past 12months – 12.6%. ¹¹



- ✘ Percentage of women aged 15-49years who have experienced any specific acts of physical, sexual or emotional violence committed by their¹² current husband/partner (if currently married) or most recent husband/partner (if formerly married) a) ever in their lifetime – 39.9% b) in the past 12 months - 32.6%. ¹³

- ✘ Percentage of women aged 15-49 years who have experienced physical or sexual violence who sought help – 40.6%. ¹⁴

- ✘ SFHSS 2000 - 46% of Women had experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. ¹⁵

- ✘ SFHS 2017 – 60% of Women had experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. ¹⁶

- ✘ Stakeholder Consultations Report – 87% of respondents within the family setting had experienced threats of violence and 86% had been subject to kicking, punching or other assaults. 9.5% of female respondents reported to have been raped by a family member in their lifetime. ¹⁷

- ✘ Only 11% of victims of family violence reported the abuse they had experienced. ¹⁸

- ✘ 85% of Inquiry Survey respondents across Samoa believe this is an issue that must be addressed as a priority. ¹⁹

- ✘ The economic cost of family violence is likely to be at least ST\$98-\$132m per year, approximately 6-7% of our GDP. ²⁰

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ ibid

¹² ibid

¹³ ibid

¹⁴ ibid

¹⁵ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence/State of Human Rights Report Samoa 2018

¹⁶ ibid

¹⁷ ibid

¹⁸ ibid

¹⁹ ibid

²⁰ ibid

3.2 The Case for Prevention

Preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence in Samoa is about upholding human rights. Failure to act now would allow this violation of rights to continue. Everyone has a right to live a life free from violence; and we can safeguard this right if we are to focus on preventing violence from happening in the first place. The complex and deeply entrenched root causes or 'drivers' of Gender Based Violence in Samoa mean that an equally comprehensive and long- term approach to ending Gender Based Violence is needed. It asks us to focus on the underlying reasons why Gender Based Violence in Samoa happen. We must begin this work now. To stop violence once and for all; it will require all our citizens – as individuals, as partners, as members of families, communities, churches, organizations, institutions, and society as a whole – to not only say no to violence, but to challenge and reject the drivers of violence, and to uphold respect and equality for all.

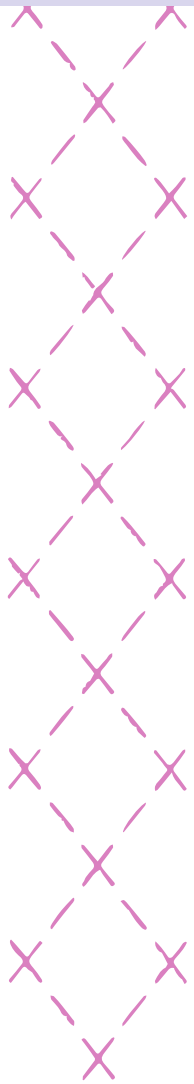
Consultations confirmed that never has there been such dedicated support to end Gender Based Violence in Samoa. Consultations validated messages such as; Gender Based Violence in Samoa is a breach of human rights, Gender Based Violence in Samoa is prevalent, Gender Based Violence in Samoa can have serious and long-lasting health, social and economic consequences; and Gender Based Violence in Samoa is preventable.²¹

This means that everyone in the community has a role to play in prevention – men, women, children, and young people. Prevention is not just a task for those affected by violence, nor is it simply the role of service providers and response systems. Rather, prevention requires all kinds of individuals and communities to act on the underlying causes in everyday places, to promote respect and equality; and to reject violence in all its forms.

This means that the individual attitudes and beliefs that condone violence that we seek to prevent need to be understood not only at an individual level but at a social/societal level. This means that any activities to address violence cannot only focus on the individuals who are perpetrating such violence; we must also address the social structures, norms and practices that influence individual attitudes and behaviors which lead to violence.

Targeting the structures, norms and practices at a society, community, organization, and individual level, in both universal and more tailored ways, will ensure that the prevention message reaches everyone and is consistently reinforced in all settings.

²¹ Consultation Summary Report and Annexes – Development of a Pola Puihui Framework for Gender based Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa in Samoa – Leautuililagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster – Barlow Schuster Consult – November 2021



It is also about the application of a Strengths Based approach that acknowledges that the aiga (family) is where identity, belonging and sacred relationships are nurtured and protected. A public theology response to domestic violence in Samoa presents us with an enormous challenge “to rediscover our values—as people, as families, as communities of faith, and as a nation.”²² Domestic violence in Samoa is an issue that reflects a “profound values crisis”²³ for Samoans. It is a problem that requires a search for the common good and a re-affirmation of the value and dignity of all life and all human beings. The vision of a Samoan public theology is centered in the rediscovery and re - appropriation of the core Samoan-Christian values of fa’aaloalo (respect), alofa (love), tautua (selfless service), amiotonu (justice), and soalaupule (consensual dialogue). A critical re-appropriation of these values can serve to restore justice and peace within family relationships torn apart by the impact of domestic violence. Core values in the fa’asamoa cannot be separated from Christian values. This is encapsulated in Moreli Niuatoa’s comment that “Fa’a-Samoa (cultural values) and spirituality (religious values) are inseparable. Samoan spirituality is non-existent without Fa’a-Samoa.”²⁴ In applying the core Samoan-Christian values of fa’aaloalo (respect), alofa (love), tautua (selfless service), amiotonu (justice), and soalaupule (consensual dialogue), Samoan theologians and citizens can develop ways to initiate discussions on and respond to sensitive public issues such as domestic violence. In these public dialogues the core values will always be interrelated, such that each value supports, validates, and strengthens the others.²⁵

Because Samoa’s culture came to be grounded in the Christian faith, Christianity occupies a prominent position in Samoan public life. All spheres of Samoan life appeal to Christian values. The Constitution of Samoa upholds the crucial role of the Christian faith in shaping the lives of Samoan people.²⁶ There are many traditions which reinforce the embodied Christian value system of Samoan society. This interconnectedness between Culture and Christianity means that there is theoretically; a natural opening for Christian values, which reinforce Samoan core values, to be taken seriously in addressing issues of public concern such as domestic violence. The challenge occurs when these core values are overtaken by powerful countervailing worldviews such as patriarchy—the foundational sub-structure that supports and maintains domestic violence.²⁷

²² A Public Theology Perspective to Domestic Violence in Samoa; Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko; University of Otago. Article published in the International Journal of Public Theology Feb 2016; uploaded July 2018: 60

²³ Ibid: 60

²⁴ Ibid: 60

²⁵ Ibid: 60

²⁶ A Public Theology Perspective to Domestic Violence in Samoa; Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko; University of Otago. Article published in the International Journal of Public Theology Feb 2016; uploaded July 2018:65

²⁷ Ibid: 65



Tui Atua, the previous Samoan Head of State, explains how fa'asamoa (the Samoan way) is, for many Samoans, the very essence of their identity. Tui Atua describes the Samoan identity as follows:

"I am not an individual; I am an integral part of the cosmos. I share divinity with my ancestors, the land, the seas, and the skies. I am not an individual, because I share a 'tofi' (an inheritance) with my family, my village, and my nation. I belong to my family and my family belongs to me. I belong to my village and my village belongs to me. I belong to my nation and my nation belongs to me. This is the essence of my sense of belonging."²⁸

In explaining the Samoan identity, Tui Atua elaborates on the fa'asamoa as a collection of spiritual and cultural values that motivate people. This Samoan collective sense of self, which is shared with many other Pacific Islands cultures, should be a resource that can be drawn upon to guard against family violence. If it is true, as Tui Atua says, that "I belong to my family and my family belongs to me," then the well-being of everyone in the family must be safeguarded at all costs. No individual can take advantage of or undermine any other individual in the family and community that is so essential to what it means to be human. This socio-centric understanding of the self, which values the common good, should be a protection against any threat to the safety of any member of the family, especially the most vulnerable.²⁹

Another powerful concept of aiga is founded on Vā tapuia: understanding that self and others, the environment and divinities occupy sacred spaces in relationships that honor each other's existence. The most important of vā tapuia relationships is the covenant between the brother and his sister: o le feagaiga i le vā a le tuagane ma lona tuafafine. The covenant between brother and sister is a reciprocal obligation to each other's well-being, however, the burden of responsibility to ensure that the needs of his sister are met is shouldered by the brother and his family. In the context of 'aiga', brothers and sisters also include close cousins and relatives. The feagaiga covenant lasts the lifetime of the brother and sister.³⁰

²⁸ Tupua Tamasese. Tui Atua, "Fa'asamoa Speaks to My Heart and My Soul," in Su'esu'e Manogi: In Search of Fragrance, ed. l'uogafa Tuagalu Tamasa'ilau Sualii-Sauni, Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai, and Naomi Fuamatu (Lepapaigalagala, Samoa: The Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa, 2008), 80

²⁹ Christian Faith and Family Violence: A Report for Samoan Communities in New Zealand; Dr Mercy AhSiu-Maliko @ Centre for Theology and Public Issues: University of Otago August 2016:9

³⁰ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa 2018 - Fa'asamoa, Human Rights and Faith: 63-65

3.3 The Root Causes of Gender Based Violence in Samoa

Consultation findings were clear, addressing the root causes is a must; and at the same time acknowledging these causes can differentiate from person to person. It is about preventing violence as more distinctive of the response, which remains critical across the different domains. It requires an accentuated focus on who is perpetuating the violence, the social and spiritual context in which it occurs; and what is driving it. This does not discount acknowledging and understanding the different ways women and girls experience violence (including discrimination), but the focus needs to be on structures, norms and practices that drive and condone violence. It also invites an approach that is inclusive, working collaboratively and in partnerships to achieve the common goals of prevention.

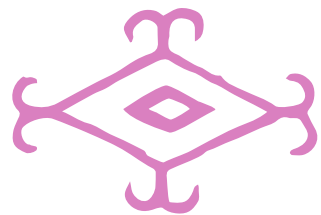
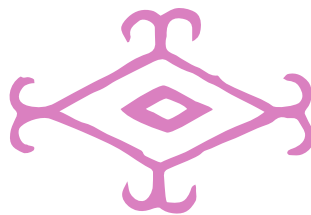
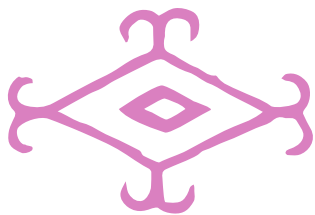
Findings from both the Desktop Review Report and Consultations Report confirmed that it is important that any National Prevention Framework focuses on essential actions that are necessary if we are to prevent Gender Based Violence in Samoa before it occurs. These essential actions are further highlighted in the Outcomes Framework. Also, there are documented similarities in terms of solutions from findings of the Samoa Family Safety Study 2017 and The Ombudsman Public Inquiry 2018. It means looking at essential actions that:

- ✘ Challenge condoning of violence.
- ✘ Promote women's independence and decision making in both the private and public life.
- ✘ Foster positive personal identities and norms, structures and practices that challenge entrenched gender stereotyping and roles.
- ✘ Strengthen positive, equal, and respectful relations between and among women and men, girls, and boys.
- ✘ Afford focus on men and boys.
- ✘ Promote and normalize gender equality across our society.
- ✘ Consider the needs of persons with disabilities.
- ✘ Promote enforcement of legislation.
- ✘ Recognize Christianity and faa'samoa as integral safeguards.

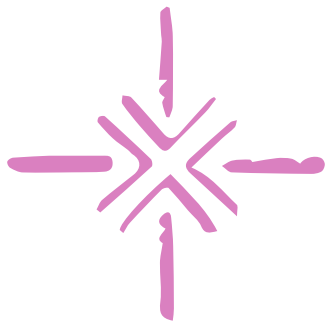
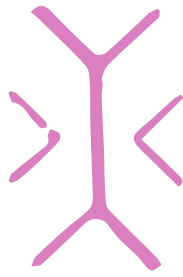
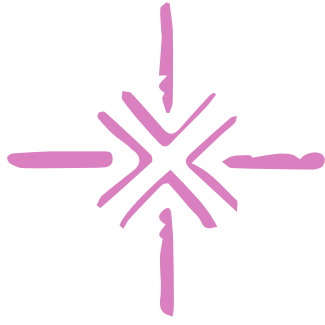
The ideal concept is that through the Pola Puipui Framework we are making a real and meaningful attempt to acknowledge what worked well for us in the past, where women and girls were the center of the family, our treasures; as well as promoting gender equality; and seek to change the reasons women and girls experience violence in the first place; not just to raise awareness about the violence.

It invites an approach that starts with our society promoting gender equality through a strengths-based approach, rather than a negative approach. It reinforces a Malu i Fale approach that looks at Response, Prevention and Recovery in its totality, it calls for leadership from everybody and rests the responsibility on the aiga, the churches, the village, and communities. Important also, is we want to recognize and advocate that gender is not the same thing for all people; and we must work simultaneously to transform other forms of inequality and discrimination, otherwise we will fall short of creating gender equality for all.

This was mentioned several times in the consultation feedback in respect to PWD's, Nofotane and Fa'afafine and Fa'a'fatama. It was also clear in the National Inquiry 2018 that identified vulnerable groups to family violence.³¹




³¹ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence/State of Human Rights Report Samoa 2018:48





Vision and Guiding Principles

**Our Vision is For Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa – So That
Our Families and Communities Are Safe, Well, and Thriving**





4. Vision and Guiding Principles

4.1 Our Vision is for Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa – so that our Families and Communities are Safe, Well, and Thriving

Our vision compliments that also of the Family Safety: Elimination of Violence in the family 2021- 2031 and has also been informed by some recent consultations and lessons from Aotearoa as they explore strengths-based approaches to GBV.

Our ultimate vision is to create a Samoa free from violence, where each one of us:

- ✘ Experiences equality and respect in our relationships, particularly within our families, villages, churches, and communities.
- ✘ Is empowered and respected at home and everywhere.
- ✘ Is supported in our relationships to reach our full potential.

We want to build and harness environments and settings where our women and girls will live free from violence and the fear of violence, at home and everywhere. Our communities, churches, districts, and villages are a centralized venue for many recreational and organized gatherings; as are our places of worship across our society. These settings are well placed to advocate and foster equality, inclusion, and respect. Strong prevention measures can start visibly in our communities and should be encouraged to include our workplaces, schools, sporting clubs, public spaces and in our justice and health sector settings.

In this violence-free Samoa, everyone understands that violence is a result of gender inequality, combined with multiple forms of discrimination, power and control. People have the knowledge and skills to recognize and speak out against controlling behaviors, victim-blaming, sexism, and justifications for violence, with the support of our political leaders, church leaders, youth leaders, public institutions, employers, the media, and peers. Everyone should be active in challenging these inequalities where they exist, and in creating a better, and more equal, Samoa for all.

Achieving this vision will require a multi-layered cross sectorial approach, consisting of multiple strategies to address the complex social conditions that drive Gender Based Violence in Samoa in the first place.

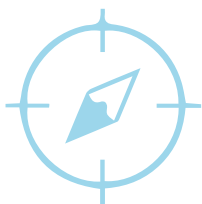
4.2 Guiding Principles

These guiding principles were informed by the existing National Family Safety policy, the findings of the National Inquiry into Family Violence; and the work that immediately preceded this, most notably the consultation findings.

- ✘ Vā tapuia: understanding that self and others, the environment and divinities occupy sacred spaces in relationships that honor each other's existence.
- ✘ O le feagaiga i le vā a le tuagane ma lona tuafafine. The covenant between brother and sister is a reciprocal obligation to each other's wellbeing, however, the burden of responsibility to ensure that the needs of his sister are met is shouldered by the brother and his family.
- ✘ Fa'asinomaga: places and people who provide contexts for an individual's belonging and identity and orients the individual to fulfilling their potential within aiga and community.
- ✘ Our women and all children are entitled to live a life free from violence.

Guiding Principles (Continued..)

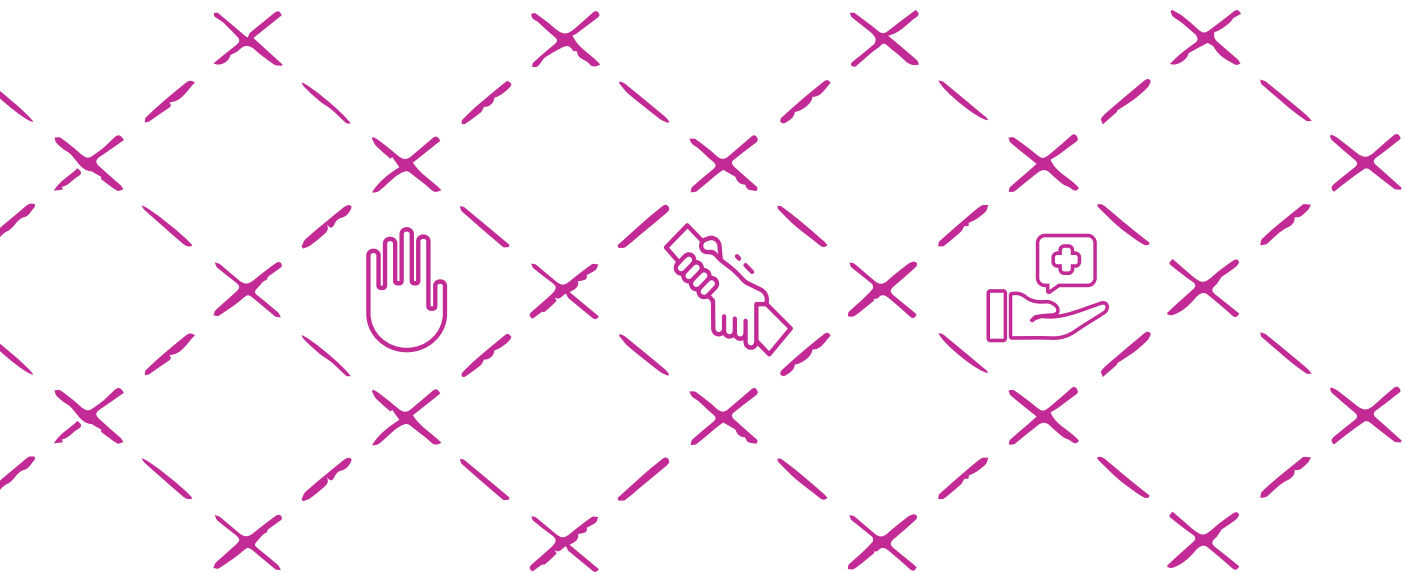
- ✘ Va fealoaloi, Va fetuunai/Tofa fetuunai.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is a violation of human rights.
- ✘ All Samoans deserve to be equally valued and respected.
- ✘ All Samoans have the right to live in respectful, supportive, and safe relationships and to feel safe and secure in their homes and environment.
- ✘ The safety of victims is paramount.
- ✘ Tofa Saili.
- ✘ Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa is everyone's concern and ending it is everyone's responsibility.
- ✘ Education of children and young people is key to achieving generational change in behavior.
- ✘ Community and church leaders and groups can champion and drive change.
- ✘ Family is the core of the problem and the heart of the solution.
- ✘ Practical interventions are required to support victims and perpetrators.
- ✘ Perpetrators need to be held accountable for their actions.
- ✘ Engagement, advocacy, and working collaboratively, between government, non- government organizations, between people and communities is essential.
- ✘ Political leadership, oversight, support, and engagement across all levels of government is critical.
- ✘ Whole-of-government led implementation and governance arrangements are essential.
- ✘ Be inclusive and responsive to diversity recognizing also that men and boys have a role to play.





Key Features of the Framework

Understanding the Continuum of Prevention



5. Key Features of the Framework

5.1 Understanding the Continuum of Prevention

This is not a new concept in terms of Samoa's efforts at addressing Gender Based Violence in Samoa. The National Policy on Family Safety also recognizes a strategic framework that begins with prevention that addresses root causes; and secondly, degrees of response interventions, early intervention, and tertiary response. The main point of difference in terms of the continuum for the Pola Puipui Framework, is that it heavily weighted over a 10-year span to primary prevention and building the prevention infrastructure. The concept of rolling actions plans then prioritizes the activities across the continuum.

Primary Prevention

Working with individuals and women and girls as agents of empowerment; and across communities, organizations, churches, and society in settings where people live, learn, work, socialize and play to stop violence from happening in the first place by challenging or addressing the things that drive violence against women. If work in the ending violence sector does not address one or more of the gendered drivers, then it's more likely to be early intervention or response work. Using the consultation toolkit³² as the primary guide to consultations, these potential initiatives were discussed in consultations as were findings from the Desktop Review Report.³³

³² Consultation Toolkit - Pola Puipui Framework for Gender based Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoain Samoa - Leautuliilagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster - Barlow Schuster Consult - September 2021

³³ Desktop Review Report-Prevention of Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa- Development of a Pola Puipui Framework for GBV - Leautuliilagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster - Barlow Schuster Consult - August 2021

What can this work look like?

- ✘ Delivering Programmes that raise awareness with men and boys about the concept of feagaiga.
- ✘ Working with churches to utilize faith and bible teachings to promote gender equality and shared power.
- ✘ Implementing whole of school initiatives that promote gender equality and respectful relationships.
- ✘ Working with the media to ensure that reporting on violence against women highlights the crime committed, perpetrator's responsibility rather than the victim's behaviour or physical appearance including the clothing.
- ✘ People working in this space (public and private sectors) know and understand Gender Based Violence from a woman/child centred approach.
- ✘ Establishing gender focal points across all public sector Ministries and Agencies.
- ✘ Collaborating in partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and Women's movements are crucial.
- ✘ Developing awareness-raising campaigns that make it clear that sexism and disrespecting women is never acceptable.
- ✘ Delivering training about the gendered drivers of violence against women.
- ✘ Running programs for first-time parents that unpack gendered roles and promote gender equitable parenting and household practices
- ✘ Supporting a local sports club to develop policies and procedures that ensure women and children have equal access to resources and appropriate facilities to support their participation in sport.
- ✘ Implementing workplace initiatives that take a whole of organization approach to addressing the gendered drivers of violence against women, including addressing unequal workplace policies, processes, leadership and workplace culture.



Secondary prevention or Early Intervention



Working with specific groups, in particular Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their members who are most vulnerable to violence and abuse at home and in the community and society as a whole; or individuals because they may be at risk of perpetrating or experiencing violence and to empower them with knowledge and as agents of change. This approach also refers to work that can be undertaken in particular environments because there are strong signs that violence may occur in these settings. It also recognizes the linkages to the Samoa Inter-Agency Essential Services³⁴ to support work across the different response interventions.



What can this work look like?



- ✘ Delivering programs in the homes, churches, and villages.
- ✘ Delivering a general program in schools that highlights and teaches young boys what should and should not be done and learn to understand what it means to learn in terms of treating and respecting girls and women.
- ✘ Collaborating with boys who have shown early signs of or begun using violence to stop them from continuing to use violence as adults
- ✘ Delivering initiative-taking education sessions at a sports club about sexual assault and the legal consequences of sexual harassment.
- ✘ Developing relationship quizzes that encourages screening and supports people to identify if they are in a healthy or abusive relationship.
- ✘ Providing information and training about family violence, legal rights and support services to people who are at higher risk of experiencing violence or professionals collaborating with people who are at a high risk of experiencing violence.
- ✘ Providing information for persons with disabilities who are at higher risk, to be supported with their legal rights and support services they need.
- ✘ Engaging the empowerment of girls as agents of change through the expansion of choice, transformation of power relations; and strengthening of voices to have more control over their lives and futures.

³⁴ Samoa Inter-Agency Essential Services – Guide for Responding to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Child Protection – January 2021

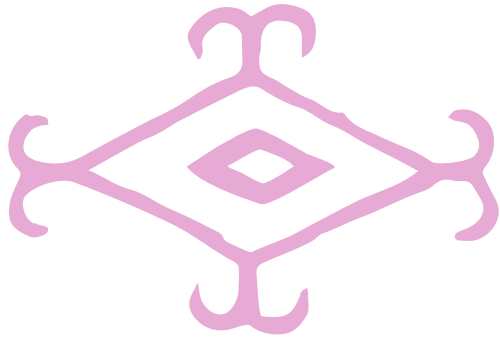


Tertiary prevention or Response

Supporting victims who are living with or have experienced family violence. This work can take a variety of forms, including crisis, therapeutic and recovery support. This approach also refers to work undertaken with perpetrators to prevent further violence by changing attitudes and behavior through a range of strategies, including individual counselling, case management and group work.

What can this work look like?

- ✘ Promoting the codes of ethics and confidentiality measures while responding to and referring people to relevant services following a disclosure.
- ✘ Constant reference and application of the Samoa Inter-Agency Essential Services Guide.
- ✘ Talking to women about their experience of violence and assessing their level of risk.
- ✘ Providing case management support including; arranging crisis accommodation, supporting women to secure housing, advocating for women navigating the legal system, providing referrals and support.
- ✘ Providing Judicial training that promotes a victim-centered approach, throughout the whole case management process, including sentencing practices.
- ✘ Police protection/response (e.g., responding to incidents of family violence).
- ✘ Supporting victims who are women or girls with disabilities will need to be approached with caution, some of them will need supported decision making, counselling, and peer support to cope and deal with the trauma.
- ✘ Establishing and running a support group, therapeutic program or counselling for women and children who have experienced family violence or sexual assault.
- ✘ Developing a workplace policy that provides additional leave for staff who are experiencing family violence.
- ✘ Delivering a men's behavior change program for perpetrators and supporting women whose partners are attending the program.
- ✘ Providing family violence legal advice to victims to help them to manage family court proceedings and/or parenting orders.
- ✘ Providing women and girls responsive Programmes.



5.2 Four Domain Areas

Consultation findings reaffirmed the four key domain areas as the critical focus areas of the Samoa Pola Puipui Framework. These were also the recommendations that came out of the Desktop Review Report. The domain areas are critical linkages to the continuum of prevention; and therefore, the detailed focus of the Outcomes Framework to measure success over the span of the Pola Puipui Framework through its implementation mechanism of rolling action plans. This is explained further in Chapter Nine.

These four key domain areas are:

Domain One

Primary Prevention – Primary prevention means stopping Gender Based Violence in Samoa from occurring in the first place by addressing its underlying drivers. This requires changing the social conditions and settings that give rise to this violence; reforming the institutions and systems that excuse, justify or even promote such violence; and shifting the power imbalances and social norms, structures and practices that drive and normalize it. It is an approach that emphasizes Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Gender Inequality is not tolerated.

Domain Two

Victims -Victims, inclusive of persons with disabilities, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive. It encompasses an ongoing process that enables victims to find safety, health, wellbeing, resilience and to thrive in all areas of their life.

Domain Three

Perpetrators are held accountable, connected, and take responsibility for stopping their violence. The perpetrator must be accountable to the victim, to their families, communities, and to themselves, and anyone from the effected groups can offer valuable input on how a perpetrator can recover from their abusive patterns. Perpetrator accountability emphasizes both individual and system responsibility.

Domain Four

Prevention Infrastructure to create a sustainable prevention platform - Preventing and responding to Family Violence and Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa to ensure the existing structures and the environment are gender transformative.

5.3 Domain One: Primary Prevention – Primary prevention means stopping Gender Based Violence in Samoa from occurring in the first place by addressing its underlying drivers. An approach that emphasizes Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Gender Inequality is not tolerated.

Key Outcomes:

1. Samoa holds attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality and any form of Gender Based Violence in Samoa– we understand the causes and forms of violence, who is affected by violence, and the impact on victims.
2. Samoan core values are reinforced through the inter-connectedness between culture and Christianity, are taken seriously in addressing Gender Based Violence in Samoa and is seen as re-affirmation of the value and dignity of all Samoans.
3. Samoans actively challenge attitudes and behaviors that enable violence – we discuss and condemn violence through challenging rigid gender roles, gender inequality, sexism, and discrimination, to break the cycle of violence.
4. Our homes, organizations and communities are safe and inclusive – the prevalence of violence is significantly reduced for all Samoans equally, and our people live free of fear.
5. Specific attention is given to women and girls with disabilities as they are the most at risk and the stigma associated with the risk.
6. Enforcement measures are equally applied across all the different settings.
7. We live and practice confident and respectful relationships – we are all equipped with the knowledge and skills that inform and shape healthy, safe, equal, and respectful relationships.

5.4 Domain Two: Victims inclusive of persons with disabilities, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive.

Key Outcomes:

1. Early intervention prevents escalation - People, including children and young people, at risk of witnessing or experiencing family violence are identified early and provided with effective early interventions.

2. Families are safe and strong - The system intervenes early to prevent harm to women, all children and young people and enables them to access effective support services when they need them.
3. Victims of violence are safe - The system takes responsibility for managing risk, instead of placing the onus on victims.
4. Victims of violence are heard and empowered.
5. Victims of violence are always listened to, believed, and understood, and supported to take control of their immediate situation and make decisions about their future. Victims of violence rebuild lives and thrive - Disruption is minimized for victims, with safe and secure housing, and recovery from trauma available for as long as they need it.

5.5 Domain Three: Perpetrators are held accountable, connected, and take responsibility for stopping their violence.

Key Outcomes:

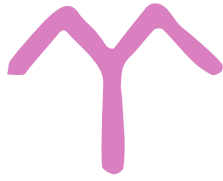
1. Perpetrators stop all forms of violence behavior against women and girls - Perpetrators understand the impact of their violence in all its forms, including all abuse and coercive and controlling behavior. They take responsibility for their violence including the impact of their actions on their children and choose to change their behaviors.
2. Perpetrators are held accountable for their behavior - Perpetrators are supported to take ownership of their actions and behaviors, and thereby receiving the right responses at the right time through a coordinated web of interventions and responses. Perpetrator accountability includes understanding and responding to the needs and experiences of victim victims, and their views about the outcomes they are seeking to achieve.
3. Perpetrators have safe and healthy connections and relationships - Perpetrators are supported to sustain behavior change through a focus on building protective factors, and improving their connections and relationships with their families, communities, church and society. They are taught to control their emotions so as to invite positive behavior change.
4. Enforcement of laws, regulations and legal processes that impose clear consequences and sanctions for perpetrators' violent and abusive behaviour and failure to comply with court orders.
5. Collective responsibility among government and non-government agencies, the community and individuals for denouncing perpetrators' use of violence.

5.6 Domain Four: Prevention Infrastructure to create a sustainable prevention platform - Preventing and responding to family violence and Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa to ensure the existing structures and the environment are gender transformative.

Key Outcomes:

1. A quality prevention infrastructure - Outcomes and outputs based as emphasized in the Outcomes Framework.
2. A quality prevention and enforcement infrastructure that can elevate a system that appreciates the different settings and implementation landscape such as political, sector specific and civil society leadership, mechanisms for coordination and collaboration, mechanisms for reporting, accountability, compliance; and monitoring and evaluation from an outcomes-based lens.
3. A system that is accessible, services and programs are available and equitable- Prevention activities occur across all key settings and the support system is easy to navigate and services are available to people, inclusive of persons with disabilities when and where they need them.
4. A system that promotes working in partnerships – clearly outlines stakeholder roles and responsibilities that bring different skills and knowledge required to implement multiple initiatives.
5. A system that intervenes early to identify and respond to violence - a system that intervenes and responds early to prevent escalation and minimize harm.
6. A system that is person-centered and responsive.
7. A system that is integrated- Services work together and share information to provide a coordinated quality response to women and girls, people, and families, informed by dynamic risk assessment and is sensitive to people’s diverse needs. The system supports effective and evidence-based prevention efforts.
8. A system of a skilled and capable workforce that reflect the communities they serve - A workforce that is supported through new career pathways, fair conditions, and a commitment to enhanced wellbeing and safety, and is skilled to meet people’s diverse needs.







What Needs to be Done

Our Approach





6. What Needs to be Done – Our Approach



6.1 Focus On the Root Causes of Violence

Family violence and Gender Based Violence in Samoa is preventable, but only if direct action is taken to address the drivers of this violence. Acting on the drivers of violence – in all its forms – will sit at the heart of our approach. The following key messages were adopted throughout the consultations to focus discussions on the concepts of prevention, behavior change and the importance of change of social norms that promote zero tolerance to all and any form of violence.



- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is a breach of human rights.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is prevalent.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa can have serious and long-lasting health, social and economic consequences.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is something that Samoans can alleviate on their own.
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa is preventable.³⁵
- ✘ Gender Based Violence in Samoa can be a vicious cycle and working across the cycle and its root causes is key to identifying, addressing, and rehabilitating all parties affected in the cycle.



6.2 Act on the Contributing Factors

Distinguishing the drivers and reinforcing factors is helping our approach to know how to target ‘triggers’ and ‘causes’ while interlinked and influence each other, it also helps in our responses.

Findings from the desk top review report and consultations also confirmed that in addition to drivers there are several reinforcing factors seen in the context of gender inequality that both contribute or exacerbate Gender Based Violence in Samoa.^{36 37} As part of our overall approach, we will apply these supporting actions across multiple settings in Samoa to build a comprehensive approach to the prevention of Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

³⁵ Consultation Toolkit - Pola Puipui Framework for Gender based Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoain Samoa – Leautuililagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster – Barlow Schuster Consult – September 2021

³⁶ Consultation Summary Report and Annexes – Development of a Pola Puipui Framework for Gender based Ending Violence against Women and Girls in Samoain Samoa – Leautuililagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster – Barlow Schuster Consult – November 2021

³⁷ Desktop Review Report–Prevention of Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa- Development of a Pola Puipui Framework for EGBV – Leautuililagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster – Barlow Schuster Consult – August 2021



Our approach looks to supporting initiatives that:

1. Challenge the normalization of violence as an expression of masculinity or male dominance – addresses the often spoken about power imbalance or inequality. We must promote mindset change that must happen to address the power imbalances and to recognize the value of sharing power and control, rather than an expression of masculinity.
2. Prevent exposure to violence and support quickly those affected to reduce its consequences, with a focus on parenting. We need initiatives that support early child development and understand the brain/growth development of both girls and boys and their growth cycle into adulthood and why it's so important to break the cycle now. We need a regulatory environment that prioritizes addressing the illegal sales of alcohol and drugs; and monitors the landscape of alcohol manufacturing.
3. Condemn the promotion of gendered drinking practices that encourage both men and women to behave in certain ways under the influence of alcohol, which in turn often becomes an excuse to minimize the seriousness of related violent behavior. Findings from consultation meetings confirmed that in our communities we are seeing a drinking and drug use culture that is harmful and impacts community and family wellbeing.³⁸
4. Engage men and boys in gender equality conversations and initiatives to build positive relationship skills and social connections. With a focus upon growing from our strengths and our successes, we are more likely to engage those around us. Effective prevention moves beyond simply stopping violence into promoting alternative healthy behaviors. We must encourage men and boys to recruit and educate other boys and men in ways that lift each other up. By focusing on changing men and boys' attitudes and behavior, this can also be linked to skill building and transformational change, enabling them to be agents of change and leaders themselves. By being empathetic, and understanding the drivers behind someone's behavior, and speaking to those issues, is far more effective than just simply calling someone out. If you want people to change, we must give them a reason to change, and that requires being empathetic and kind.

³⁸ Consultation Summary Report and Annexes – Development of a Pola Puihui Framework for Gender based Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoain Samoa – Leautuliilagi Vanessa Barlow Schuster – Barlow Schuster Consult – November 2021

5. There is significant international momentum to use Systems Thinking to address wicked problems.³⁹ Increasingly Systems Thinking (ST) is being utilized by those who deal with ‘wicked’ problems such as climate change, international conflicts, poverty, human rights, and health care. A wicked problem presents as a social or cultural problem that on its surface appears very difficult or impossible to solve—normally because of its complex and interconnected nature. A ST approach to GBV would use systems techniques to understand the connections between prevention and response to generate coherent and complimentary approaches. A ST approach to prevention involves mapping out drivers, influencers and dynamics that are implicated in GBV and family violence and informs possible prevention efforts.⁴⁰ This is in addition to approaches that are wrapped in our Faa’Samoa and Faith which are cornerstone institutions of Samoa. Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Family violence are complex, interwoven, deep-seated and often inter-generational issues. Our government solutions over several decades have not always created sustained and positive impacts. However, a lot has been learnt from the different approaches. What we know now is that through collective focused accountability we can start to build a picture that helps each of us know what roles we all play and what parts of the system are working or need to be improved so we can deliver better services and support to our families and communities; and restore the wellbeing of our people and generations to come.

6.3 Work With Our Communities

Everyone has a role to play in ending violence – not just victims, and not just police and response services. Village councils have a huge role to play as do our faith-based organizations. Men, women, young people, and children in all parts of the community can play an active role in prevention, in both their personal and professional lives. Prevention action is needed in all the places; where people live, work, learn, socialize and play – this includes everyday places such as our homes, our villages, our places of worship, our sports clubs, our workplaces, early learning centers and schools, our higher learning institutions, our community organizations and in the media. Prevention will only be effective when the whole community participates in changing attitudes and mindsets that can lead to violence.

³⁹ Carne, S., Rees, D., Paton, N., & Fanslow, J. (2019). Using Systems Thinking to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse in New Zealand. Auckland, New Zealand: New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of Auckland

⁴⁰ Ibid; 6



There is a particular role for community and organizational leaders, youth, and influencers in championing change. Most importantly are the roles of the Sui o Nu'u, Sui Tamaitai o Nu'u and Sui o Matai as critical role models. We can also include influential leaders in workplaces, sports coaches, faith leaders and peers.

Our approach is as a nation, the Government and through its sectorial approach will lead and co-design solutions with our faith-based organizations, our service providers, and community members; and provide the tools, platforms, and messages for all Samoans to contribute to a society where everyone is respected and empowered

6.4 Reach People in a Range of Key Settings

Consultation findings highlighted key settings in which prevention activity and messages needed to occur to effectively reach the entire population, engage both individuals and organizations, and change attitudes, practices, and systems in relation to gender equality, relationships, and violence.

Together these settings make up the environment where people live, work, learn, socialize, and play, and where social and cultural norms are created and reflected. They therefore present opportunities for noteworthy influence over the social norms, organizational practices and institutional structures that drive individual attitudes and behaviors. It needs to be documented that these settings were also considered vital by Australia and New Zealand when developing respective Strategies and Action Plans in the GBV space.

These settings are:

1. Early childhood education and care settings for children and young people – many village settings have dedicated ECE settings and hall settings for youth gatherings
2. Primary and Secondary Schools.
3. Universities and other higher learning institutions.
4. Workplaces.
5. Sports, recreation, social and leisure spaces – most of the villages in Samoa has a primary school with a large grass space that is used by the village for sporting and recreation events.
6. The arts [expressive arts, fine arts, visual arts, performing arts].
7. Health, maternal and child health, family, and community services –





some of these are centralized through district hospitals or Women’s Committee focal points.

8. Community and village-based settings.
9. Faith-based and cultural contexts—every village in Samoa has a church setting.
10. Media, inclusive of social media.
11. Popular culture, advertising, and entertainment.
12. Public spaces, transport, infrastructure, and facilities.
13. Legal, justice and corrections contexts.
14. Political settings.

It is important also to consider the findings that highlighted devices and the online environment as a critical factor, and this should be approached as a setting of itself. Therefore, our approach invites us to look at digital technologies and online environments as part of each of the above settings. It is about applying the ICT sector lens across the range of settings and establish how best to employ ICT.

6.5 Connect and Coordinate Prevention Efforts - Build Partnerships for Prevention

To ensure Samoa remains on track to achieve its long-term aspirations and vision of the Pola Puihui Framework, we need to continue to build on the most recent momentum we are seeing from various levels and realms of our society. We will continue to build and coordinate partnerships for prevention. Partnerships are critical for addressing the intersection of different drivers leading to violence as well as the reinforcing factors. In working to ensure approaches are relevant across diverse communities, partnerships must also be formed, if not already in existence, with those working on addressing different forms of inequality and discrimination in Samoan society, such as persons with disabilities and others. This is also particularly pertinent for the reinforcing factors of violence, such as drugs and alcohol, where we will integrate the efforts of violence prevention technical specialists and those working across other areas of policy, advocacy, and service delivery. These will be noticeably clear in the rolling action plans where partnerships and implementation

responsibilities are documented; and related activities are identified that

fall out of the proposed initiatives in the outcomes' framework.

Samoa must continue to mobilize and coordinate strategic partners across the various sectors (such as the private sector, public sector, our faith-based organizations, our NGO and CSO sector, our sports settings, and the critical community sector) and make use of established organizations and networks to drive whole-of-community change. This is crucial to an effective prevention strategy because:

- ✘ Partnerships create reach – violence against women and children cannot be eliminated unless the whole community is engaged
- ✘ Consultation, networking and sharing of information, evidence and best practice are critical for ensuring a consistent approach, continuous improvement and collaboration, and the much-needed workforce development.

6.6 Agree that Gender Based Violence in Samoa is Both a Public Health and Human Rights Issue

Women and girls, children and young people who are exposed to, or experience violence suffer a range of short- and long-term consequences. These include, but are not limited to, physical injuries which for many means emergency hospital care; mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide; disabilities; and a higher risk of non-communicable diseases, including hypertensive disorders and cardiovascular disease. In addition, women and girls exposed to violence experience sexual and reproductive health problems, including unintended pregnancies, adverse maternal and new-born health outcomes, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and gynecological problems. Intimate partner violence against women which often persists or starts during pregnancy, can lead to miscarriage, stillbirths, premature birth, and low birth-weight babies.

Exposure to violence, as a victim/victim or a witness, particularly in early childhood, has significant detrimental effects on the development of a child's brain, which can lead to social, emotional, and behavioral problems. Individuals, especially children, who experience violence are also more likely to engage in health-harming behaviors such as smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, and unsafe sex, with lifelong consequences for health. These consequences reinforce that GBV is also a significant social, economic, education, cultural and justice issue.

The health sector and related health systems can play a role in both preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and violence against children, given the hidden nature of such violence.

Samoa has had some remarkable success with our nation-wide COVID-19 mass campaign to both prevent and prepare Samoa in these unprecedented COVID-19 times. Many submissions were documented on the timing of replicating this type of mass campaign to end Gender Based Violence in Samoa with similar messaging. This is about building on what we know works for Samoa from a public health perspective.

The role of the Health Sector is:

- ✘ To address Gender Based Violence in Samoa and all children as a public health problem.
- ✘ To create awareness on the impacts of violence on good health and wellbeing.
- ✘ To identify those who are experiencing violence and provide them with comprehensive and timely health services at all levels of health service delivery such as primary health care and a responsive referral system.
- ✘ To develop comprehensive guidelines of dealing with women, girls and children within the health care system presenting issues of violence in every way.
- ✘ To collect evidence so as it meets the evidential requirements of the law and justice sector.
- ✘ To develop, implement and evaluate violence prevention programmes as part of its population-level prevention and health promotion activities.
- ✘ To play a part in documenting the magnitude of the problem, its causes, and its impact and other consequences, as well as effective interventions and good practices.
- ✘ To work with government, practitioners, and providers to enable the health system to interact and coordinate its own response with a number of other sectors, including police, the law and justice sector, the community sector, the private sector, and the NGO sector.
- ✘ To advocate with other sectors to address the risk factors and determinants of violence.
- ✘ To inform multi-sectoral violence prevention policies and programmes.
- ✘ To engage in the counselling of victims.
- ✘ To support the monitoring and evaluation of interventions across other sectors.

6.7 Build Continuity with the Response System

It is about building on work that has been done as per our national ending violence landscape and be confident in our reform roadmap of the need to be aspirational, strengths based, collaborative. It is also about acknowledging GBV as a cross cutting issue, just like climate change, disaster risk management, and gender mainstreaming to build our Samoa wide response to ending violence. Our primary prevention approach will not replace the current initiatives and activities of those who respond to violence that is already in existence; whether it be accessing crisis- accommodation services, guiding perpetrators through the justice system, or helping victims and their families rebuild. Samoa already has in place a Cabinet endorsed Interagency-Essential Services Guide that needs to be fully linked in and aligned to ongoing response interventions.

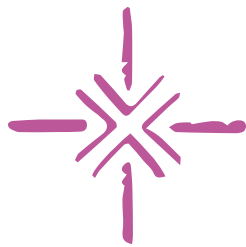
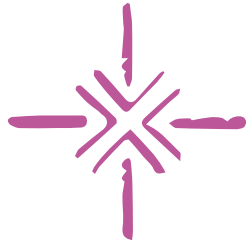
Effective violence prevention approaches should increase our people's recognition of this issue and give them increased confidence to talk about it, and so will increase the number of disclosures, reports, and requests for assistance. While this is a positive step, we acknowledge that, in the short term, it will also increase pressure on our response system.

It is therefore imperative that our response system has the resources and support it needs to provide comprehensive services and responses to all those experiencing or perpetrating violence. It means also having a pool of certified experts in social services. In the medium to longer term, an effective primary prevention approach will reduce the demand for response systems and services.

Addressing the drivers of violence through primary prevention is in fact the only way in which the overall prevalence of violence (and therefore demand for response services) can be reduced. For example, primary prevention work to change workplace cultures, increase gender equality in sporting organizations and spread anti-violence and gender equality media messages all contribute to non-violent and gender- equitable social norms.

This creates a social environment that supports and reinforces the work of individual behavior change programs. Indeed, it is unlikely that individual behavior change programs will be effective without the support of the broader social change approach that is primary prevention.

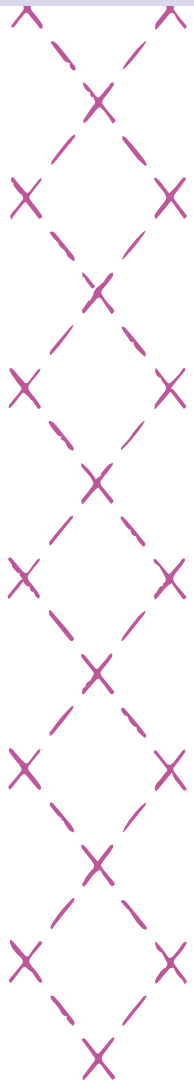






How We Will Do It





7. How we will do it

7.1 By Constant Reference to the Theory of Change

A comprehensive theory of change: MWCSO has identified four key outcome areas that programming should work to strengthen in order to comprehensively address the root causes, drivers and consequences of VAWG:

1. Laws, policies and institutions (including data collection)
2. Prevention (including social norms change and women's economic empowerment)
3. Response (services for survivors and accountability of perpetrators)
4. Support to and partnership with women's movements.

This theory of change provides a framework for stakeholders to select and adapt interventions to their context and the needs of women and girls in targeted areas, including those often left behind.

The Pola Puipei Framework for ending GBV in Samoa is grounded in an approach that focuses on violence prevention, with interventions occurring across multiple levels and settings (individual, family, church, community, institutional/political, and societal). It acknowledges that when working collectively with diverse stakeholders across these levels and settings, changing gendered social norms that perpetuate GBV is possible. While evidence has shown that gender inequality is a key driver of Gender Based Violence in Samoa, it is not always seen or understood as key by individuals and communities who often blame poverty, alcohol, or even cultural practices and biblical misinterpretation.

Change requires an enabling environment where GBV is increasingly unacceptable, and the rights of women and girls are respected. This NPF constitutes an overarching national mechanism and an enabling platform which overtime provides the transformative interventions and ultimate initiatives and related activities through its suite of action plans which:

- ✘ Educates and empowers women and girls to demand change.
- ✘ Engages and commits men and boys to support the change.
- ✘ Acknowledges that boys can also be victims of violence.
- ✘ Influencers promote and model the change.

- ✘ A legal framework exists for all enforcement and compliance measures.
- ✘ Service providers offer quality support to women and girls.
- ✘ Strong organizations promote women and girls' social, economic, and political empowerment and mobilize individuals and communities to hold our leaders to account.

7.2 Through the Application of Concepts of Fa'aSāmoa and Faith⁴¹

Findings re-emphasize that there is nothing in the beliefs and philosophical principles of fa'aSāmoa that condones verbal, physical or emotional acts of violence against members of one's immediate and extended aiga. Concepts to be used in prevention, intervention, and restoration include:

- ✘ **Vā Tapuia:** understanding that self and others, the environment and divinities occupy sacred spaces in relationships that honor each other's existence. The most important of vā tapuia relationships is the covenant between the brother and his sister: o le feagaiga i le vā o le tuagane ma lona tuafafine. The covenant between brother and sister is a reciprocal obligation to each other's wellbeing, however, the burden of responsibility to ensure that the needs of his sister are met is shouldered by the brother and his family. In the context of aiga, brothers and sisters also include close cousins and relatives. The feagaiga covenant lasts the lifetime of the brother and sister.
- ✘ **Gagana Sāmoa:** has two linguistic registers: gagana fa'aaloalo (language of respect), and gagana o aso uma (colloquial, ordinary language). Both registers give expression to the non-secular and secular qualities in vā tapuia relationships, and which inform respectful behaviour – fa'aaloalo. Sāmoan language connects people, and is a vehicle for conveying thoughts and feelings, whether there is suffering, or, a given, to love. Language gives form to aganu'u; without language, there is no aganu'u. Without language, the people are in darkness because awareness and understanding of thoughts and feelings cannot be made known or revealed. Gagana informs appropriate behaviour, and how we should conduct ourselves in a range of complex human encounters. It also informs our role in the Sāmoan world as relational individuals who belong in incredibly significant and specific ways to genealogical continuums and places of identity, which is fa'asinomaga.
- ✘ **Faiā:** establishes vā tapuia relationships within gafa and is a place of strength from which to stand to fulfil duties and responsibilities

⁴¹ National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa 2018 - Fa'asāmoa, Human Rights and Faith: 63-65

within aiga. Gafa is the framework and map by which members of an extended family are able to locate themselves over generations. From the viewpoint of aiga, gafa informs and legitimizes entitlements based on fa'asinomaga. Gafa also orders governance structures within aiga including the accumulation and allocation of familial resources. A critical component of gafa is the narratives that explain and detail the subjective histories of the whole aiga and its multiple branches. Narratives can include accounts of historical services rendered that may have led to the gifting or transference of lands and titles. They may also include accounts of violence and violations, and the repercussions of these on inter-generational relationships, embedded in the beliefs and behaviour of family members.

- ✘ **Fa'asinomaga:** places and people who provide contexts for an individual's belonging and identity and orients the individual to fulfilling their potential within aiga and community. Fa'asinomaga is knowledge that explicates who one is, and how one belongs in the Sāmoan world. Fa'asinomaga comprises two words: fa'asino meaning to direct, to point out, or to indicate. Maga refers to multiple points or places. The key reference points of an individual's fa'asinomaga are aiga, fanua, nu'u, gafa, and suafa matai.
- ✘ **Fa'aaloalo:** respectful fulfilment of responsibilities to the aiga and community based based on knowledge of faiā and fa'asinomaga. The concept of faaaloalo drives fa'aSāmoa. In everything one does, one shows respect. Fa'aaloalo in aiga is face-to-face engagement where conduct, ritual, and language honours relationships through processes of participation and reciprocation.

Freedom of religion is enshrined in Samoa's Constitution. Furthermore, the Constitution declares Samoa to be a Christian nation, meaning Christian faith and values play a fundamental role in everyday life. Christian values are founded on unconditional love, kindness, respect, integrity, peace, and forgiveness, which are invariably inter-linked with the Fa'asamoa in the same mutually reinforcing manner as described between the Fa'asamoa and human.

Moreover, such values denounce all forms of violence. However, this is not universally accepted with many believing that physical discipline of children is necessary. Interpretations of the relationship between man and woman vary significantly having an impact on gender hierarchies, and in turn family violence. Faith is considered as one of the key platforms for any solution, both in terms of its teachings and the significant role the Church can play in Samoan society. Samoa therefore has these comprehensive doctrines to draw upon in the fight against violence, which when deployed effectively can not only achieve that goal but can also reinforce and strengthen each other.

7.3 By Successful Community Mobilization

No single system in Samoa can solve Gender Based Violence in Samoa on its own. Individuals, families, and communities must also have it in their hearts and will to embrace change – we need to own the problem as its prevalence and reach is nationwide, so it makes it everyone’s problem. We need to ensure that there is continuous engagement with community; and to put in place measures that will be sustainable and not something that we implement for today only.

Change, especially for GBV, cannot happen with just one engagement, it needs a long-term investment. This is what was evident from the outcomes of the Malu I Fale Campaign for the 16 days of activism against violence; reporting that there is a need to go back to the village councils and the churches and strengthen the concepts of va tapuia and faaaloalo within the family setting to nurture behavioral and mindset change in order for effective results in the elimination of Gender Based Violence in Samoa. Therefore, we all have a role to play. Champions and advocates do not have to be celebrities, but small acts of responsible citizenship, kindness and help can be more powerful than any system.

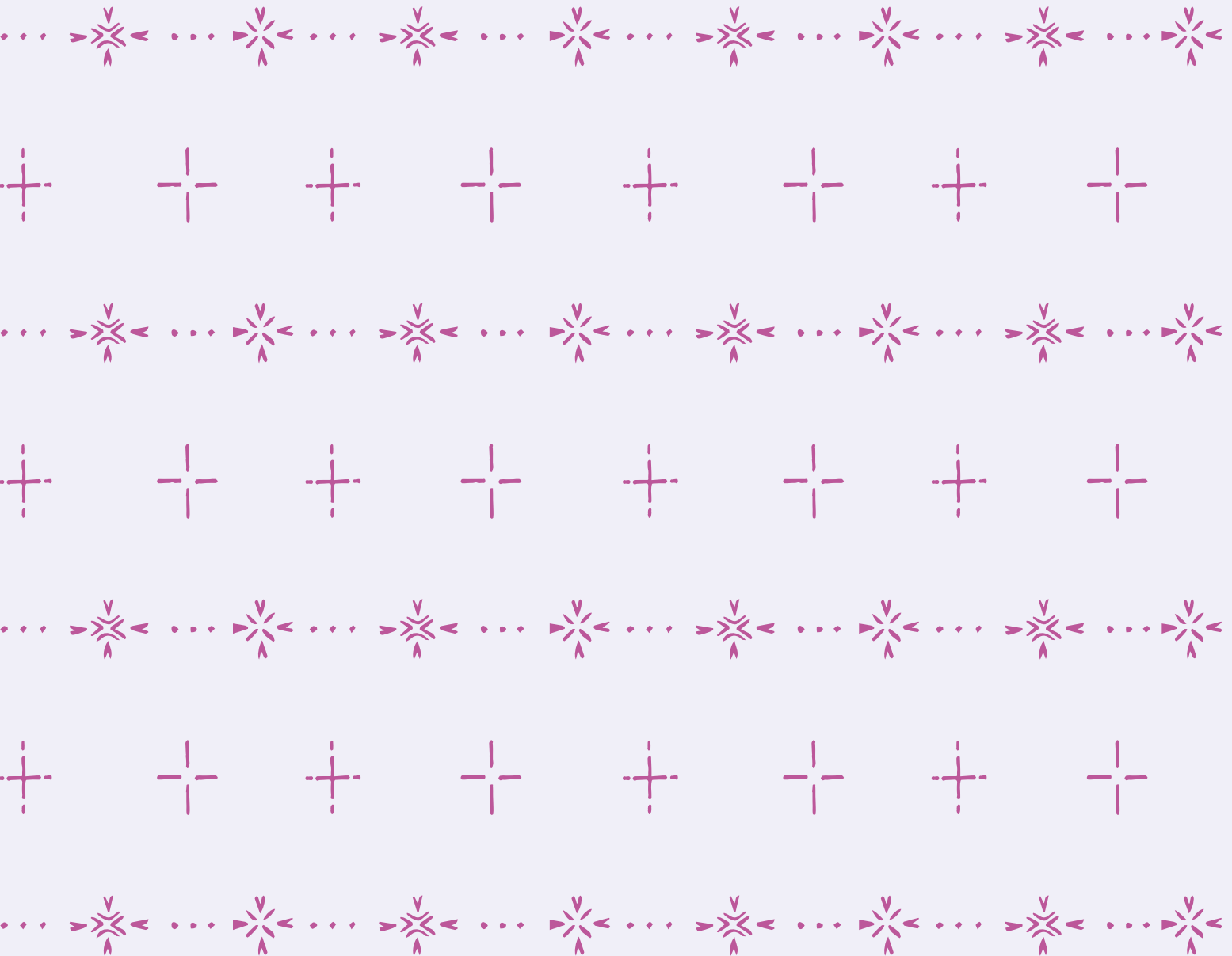
The Malu i Fale Campaign is fundamentally a primary prevention approach because it seeks to change attitudes and behaviors to prevent violence before it occurs. However, it can also include aspects of secondary prevention (addressing early signs or risk of experiencing or using violence) and tertiary prevention (crisis support, and longer-term recovery and change) and emphasizes the role of community members across the prevention continuum. Building safe, respectful, equal, and caring family and community relationships requires engaging within communities, as communities are the places where people’s identities, roles and attitudes are shaped. In communities, we learn what it means to be a parent or partner, and we learn to tolerate or reject violence.

A successful community mobilization approach will enable the Pola Puipui Framework to capture:

- ✧ Intentional, focused, and skilled coordination support.
- ✧ Leadership that is enabling and facilitating rather than controlling, allowing new people to step up – if you are going to make a public stand against family violence, having integrity in the eyes of the community is critical, and goes beyond just not using violence.
- ✧ Important skills of coordinators include community planning, facilitation, research, monitoring, training, relationship building, and communication.



- ✘ Persons who understand this space and the required training and qualifications to work in this area.
- ✘ That national organizations, agencies and funders do not 'step back' to 'let communities get on with it', but rather invest in structural support that enables national ownership.
- ✘ A strong national mandate and leadership for agencies to work collaboratively
- ✘ A competent workforce in the long term.





What Needs to be in Place





8. What Needs to be in Place

8.1 Build Prevention Structures and Systems



The Pola Puipui Framework sets a clear direction for the Government's commitment to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. It has been designed in partnership with key cross sector stakeholders and has also listened to the voices of our communities. This Prevention Framework was developed to strengthen and sustain networks for ongoing structure and system development across the prevention infrastructure; and to ensure stakeholders are clear on their roles in the future system and align their current and future prevention actions with the Frameworks key priorities.



The Desktop Review Report acknowledges key national planning instruments and measures that have enabled the structure and systems to date; and how they can be further consolidated and implemented as prioritized initiatives and activities across the phases of Action Plans to build the Prevention Infrastructure.



Consultation findings confirmed that a Prevention Agency approach presents as the critical Prevention Infrastructure, led out of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development on behalf of the Government of Samoa. A Prevention Agency approach will help hold government to account for making progress via the collection and public reporting on progress to achieving the vision, outcomes, and objectives of the Framework. It can also provide input and advice into other related government social protection priorities especially in terms of child wellbeing.

A prevention agency approach can also be a key tool that ensures current prevention settings are well aligned to any National Development Goals. This sits well with the Ministry's social protection mandate as well as being the key focal point for gender. The Government is committed to reshuffling of resources so that Government spending can be directed to ensuring the social wellbeing of Samoa's citizens. By adopting a Prevention Agency approach, it is enabling a whole cross sectorial prevention agency approach that extends beyond GBV into larger national development priorities that can ensure social harmony and secured shared prosperity for all people of Samoa.⁴²

To implement this Pola Puipui Framework effectively, we will need to ensure prevention activities are overseen and coordinated within and across government, non-state stakeholders, sector specific service providers and most importantly, the broader community. We need clear cut structures and enforcement measures that ensure these structures, and

⁴² Government of Samoa Budget Address 14 September 2021



all related guidelines are equipped to cater for those who need it the most; and the most vulnerable. It will provide a strengthened focus on prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women and will coordinate development of relevant partnerships between the key stakeholders. For prevention activities to be successful in the long term they need sustained and enduring funding. Historically, prevention has been underfunded, and funding has been short term and often only provided for individual projects rather than ongoing Prevention Puipui frameworks.

8.2 Build the Prevention Workforce

We need skilled people and organizations to both meet the existing demand for prevention activity and expand the reach of current primary prevention activities into all our communities. We need to build the skill-base of our health sector workforce and current prevention practitioners, including those of women’s health services, to ensure we are on track to build skilled prevention specialists to deliver this work. The idea being that these specialists will then also have the necessary expertise to support, coordinate and build the skills and capacity of a wider general prevention workforce across the different settings.

The Pola Puipui Framework envisages the prevention workforce having two main roles: directly working to prevent violence and increasing the ability of non-specialists to conduct effective prevention as part of their usual work in everyday settings. It will focus also on influencing public and organizational policy, community engagement and actions, and reorienting ‘mainstream’ services to include prevention.

As part of our effort to embed prevention across mainstream services and community settings, we will build the skills of those who do (or will do) prevention work in our communities and through the community sector governance structure as part of their broader roles and responsibilities within those district governance structures.

Implementation of the Framework must include continuing work to provide comprehensive training for all the interested helping professionals; as well as community leaders who connect with women and girls who have experienced violence. These groups include, but are not limited to, police officers, medical professionals, judges and lawyers, social and health workers, CSOs, women’s groups, trained counselors and mental health professionals, probation and community justice officers, and teachers, amongst others.

Appropriate training is the key to developing an effective approach to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. To provide the necessary number of trainers, it is necessary to look to the tireless work of our NGOs and other key service providers; and entertain the concept of outsourcing because they have the experience and training to help build our prevention workforce. Building the Prevention Workforce also invites us to look at the concept of an Office of Children's Commissioner which is not something new on the global landscape. Working towards our vision, this is an understandable continuum.

It would be a small team whose influence is strengthened by the links they would have with others, especially as against the backdrop of a Prevention Agency approach. The team would work with a diverse range of organizations, groups and individuals who have responsibilities and powers relating to children, as well as young people, parents and the aiga, to ensure children have the services and supports they need to thrive.

They would work across the education, advocacy, youth, health, and social services sectors, with government, non-government, and community organizations. Through this initiative, Samoa would promote a child-centered perspective, advocate for individual and for systemic change, raise awareness of and act in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Children's Convention) and strive to engage children and young people and include their voices and perspectives.

8.3 District-level Partnerships With Engagement at All Levels for the Effective Implementation of Violence Prevention Activities and Programmes

We will help build on the existing district development plans and village safety settings and community partnerships that bring together the right people and resources to coordinate and deliver primary prevention initiatives and activities at the district and village level. These alliances will help ensure that prevention activities are consistent and coherent and support ending violence outcomes across Samoa.

We will ensure to build on any existing and successful district and village level partnerships already in place and promote effective oversight and coordination of prevention activities. The whole idea is to strengthen the existing village councils so they are able to do the groundwork, which will achieve the outcomes set out at both the Village and District Level.

It is also about building partnerships in creating gender equality in the early years of child development. The early years (from birth to age five) are a vital opportunity for preventing violence against women and promoting positive gender relations. Many District and Village Councils and Women's Committees are already active in providing early years support and services across Samoa, especially in terms of early childhood care and education. They are well placed to influence, challenge, and make change, for example through their primary healthcare services, immunization, and maternal and child health services. There is also an opportunity here for District Councils, the different village governance bodies, and women's committees to implement programs that focus on early childhood centers. Government through the Prevention Infrastructure can help create resources for early years educators that promote positive parenting and gender-equitable practices in children's' play and learning.

We will constantly engage and communicate with our communities. We need the communities to play an active role and lead the work to drive change. Direct engagement with and ownership by communities will be the key to the success of this Pola Puipui Framework. We must continue to communicate the messages and changes we are all responsible for so that the community understands the value of this approach.

We must continue to communicate the vision of the Framework. Only with broad, ongoing community support of the vision will it be possible to create lasting change. We will use all the communication methods available, including online and traditional media channels, as well as face-to-face forums, to make sure messages on preventing violence reach everyone in our communities, to draw all our citizens together to act, and to create a Samoa free from all forms of violence.

We will continue to innovate and inform and trial new, innovative approaches for our diverse communities. We will build on any successful programs and approaches to preventing Gender Based Violence in Samoa that have been developed to date. We will also continue to use what we have learned from a wide range of other successful and ongoing public health prevention initiatives (for example, on COVID 19) as well as any other successful social change campaigns.

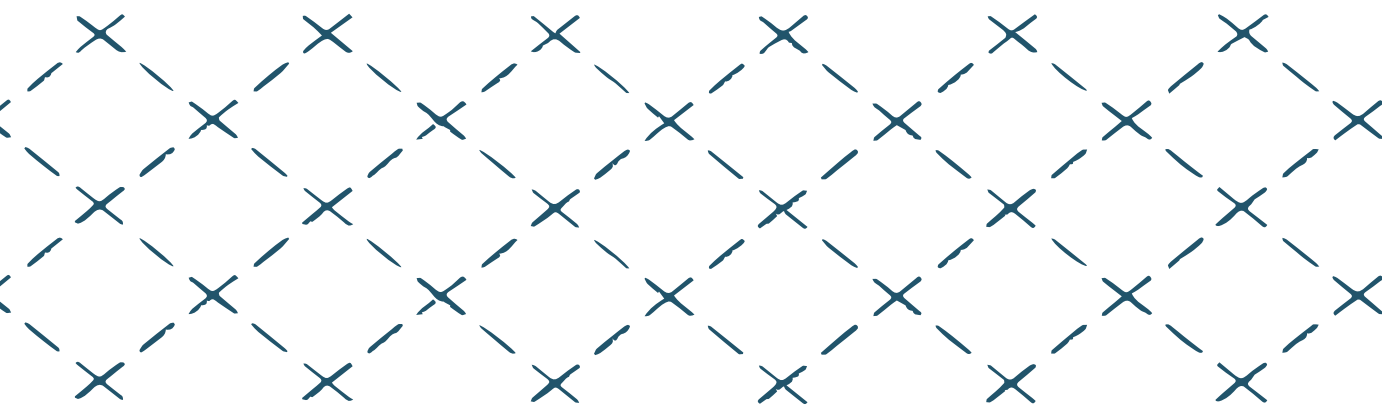


8.4 Research and Evaluate

We will undertake research and evaluation to build our knowledge and inform future practice. While we have a sound rationale and evidence base for the prevention of Gender Based Violence in Samoa, we also need to understand better what causes, and what works to reduce, other forms of family violence including violence against people with a disability, adolescent violence, and violence within diverse sexual orientation communities.

A critical aspect of this prevention framework is an ongoing commitment to and investment in research, monitoring, and evaluation. We need research to inform policies and therefore it is important to engage researchers who can do research in this space high-quality evaluations and a coordinated outcomes and monitoring framework is critical to keeping us on track. Effective monitoring and evaluation ensures that we are constantly learning from our current efforts, and that our approach to prevention is consistent and coordinated across all settings. Consistency of approach is necessary to get quality data that will inform the next phase of effort. By incorporating lessons from each previous phase, we ensure our efforts are always as effective as they can be.

Given that this is the first Pola Puipui Framework of its kind for Samoa, it is vital that we review, learn, and improve as we go. We will review our prevention efforts, incorporate lessons learned and continue to improve our approach over time, including through the development of more sophisticated education and training. To ensure the quality of prevention programs, our rolling action plans will need to be designed to be flexible to incorporate new lessons and evidence. A valuable tool in the monitoring and evaluation process will be the Outcomes Framework. The CSO National Reference Group could also be a key stakeholder in this monitoring and evaluation process.





What We Aim to Achieve and How We Will Know if We are Successful

Outcomes Framework



9. What We Aim to Achieve and How We Will Know if We Are Successful – Outcomes Framework

The Pola Puipui Outcomes Framework is an important accountability tool to ensure we are meeting our long-term goals and achieving genuine progress. Measuring outcomes allows us to see what works – and what does not – in creating lasting change. This will ensure that we focus our efforts on effective ways of influencing individual, community attitudes and behaviors and structures.

This Outcomes Framework will measure:

- ✘ The vision (what we are working towards)
- ✘ The domains (cultural, attitudinal, behavioral, and structural change)
- ✘ The outcomes (the changes we are working towards)
- ✘ The results (how we know whether we are progressing towards the outcomes)



VISION: Our vision is for the end of Gender Based Violence in Samoa – so that our families and communities are safe, well, and thriving. Our ultimate vision is to create a Samoa free from violence, where each one of us:

- ✘ Can experience equality and respect in our relationships, particularly within our families and communities.
- ✘ Are empowered and respected at home and everywhere.
- ✘ Are supported in our relationships to reach our full potential.

Domain Area One: Prevention – Primary prevention means stopping Gender Based Violence in Samoa from occurring in the first place by addressing its underlying drivers. It is an approach that emphasizes Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Gender Inequality is not tolerated.

Outcomes	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>Samoa holds attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality and any form of Gender Based Violence in Samoa– we understand the causes and forms of violence, who is affected by violence, and the impact on victims.</p> <p>Samoans actively challenge attitudes and behaviors that enable violence – we discuss and condemn violence through challenging rigid gender roles, gender inequality, sexism, and discrimination, to break the cycle of violence.</p> <p>Our homes, organizations and communities are safe and inclusive – the prevalence of violence is significantly reduced for all Samoans equally, and our people live free of fear.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of what constitutes violence.</p> <p>Increased awareness of what constitutes violence.</p> <p>Increased recognition of the significant impact of violence on victims.</p> <p>Increased awareness on issues relating to the interests, rights, and welfare of children.</p> <p>Increased awareness and understanding of the extent and impact of gender inequality.</p> <p>Increased culture of challenging gender inequalities, across all settings and across all life stages.</p> <p>Decrease in attitudes that justify, excuse, minimize, hide, or shift blame for violence.</p> <p>Increased feelings of safety for people where they live, work, learn and play.</p> <p>Increase in people feeling able, safe, and willing to report violence.</p>	<p>Adopt the Primary Prevention Model.</p> <p>Develop tools to support healthy, consensual relationships for young people.</p> <p>Deliver a dedicated work programme across multiple sectors, providing strategic advice and raising awareness about children's right towards a dedicated Office of Children's Commissioner.</p> <p>Develop community mobilization infrastructure to lead primary prevention.</p> <p>Deliver a national violence primary prevention campaign.</p> <p>Develop social and emotional learning for children.</p> <p>Strengthen community-led solutions to prevent Gender Based Violence in Samoa.</p> <p>Working with the media to ensure that reporting on violence against women highlights the perpetrator's responsibility rather than the victim's behavior or clothing.</p> <p>Delivering training about the gendered drivers of violence against women.</p>

Outcomes (..Continued)	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>We live and practice confident and respectful relationships – we are all equipped with the knowledge and skills that inform and shape healthy, safe, equal, and respectful relationships.</p> <p>We need to practice what we advocate as a cornerstone of our culture and faith, as a nation founded on God.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of people who feel safe reporting discrimination and bullying.</p> <p>Reduction in people subject to family violence.</p> <p>Reduction in women subject to violence.</p> <p>Increased confidence in the systems and structures dedicated to preventing violence.</p> <p>Increased number of organizations and institutions who model and promote inclusive behavior.</p>	<p>Running programs for first-time parents that unpack gendered roles and promote gender equitable parenting and household practices.</p> <p>Supporting sports clubs to develop policies and procedures that ensure women and girls have equal access to participation in sport.</p> <p>Implementing workplace initiatives that take a whole of organization approach to addressing the gendered drivers of violence against women, including addressing unequal workplace policies, processes, leadership, and workplace culture.</p>

Domain Two: Victims - Victims, inclusive of persons with disabilities, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive. It encompasses an ongoing process that enables victims to find safety, health, wellbeing, resilience and to thrive in all areas of their life.

Outcomes	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>Early intervention prevents escalation - People, including children and young people, at risk of witnessing or experiencing family violence are identified early and provided with effective early interventions.</p>	<p>Increase in people receiving help and support following first disclosure.</p> <p>Reduction in children and young people who experience or witness violence in the home.</p> <p>Decrease in women and girls experiencing violence who were previously in contact with services or police.</p> <p>Reduction in harm because of violence in the home.</p>	<p>Victims and their families, have access to services and support at the right time.</p> <p>Services are transformed to provide support at an earlier stage so that fewer.</p> <p>Victims will reach crisis point and need refuge, or other secure accommodation.</p> <p>Better access to integrated pathways of support to meet the needs of victims experiencing multiple disadvantages.</p>

Outcomes (..Continued)	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>Families are safe and strong - The system intervenes early to prevent harm to women, all children and young people and enables them to access effective support services when they need them.</p> <p>Victims are safe - The system takes responsibility for managing risk, instead of placing the onus on victims</p> <p>Victims are heard and in control.</p> <p>Victims are always listened to, believed, and understood, and supported to take control of their immediate situation and make decisions about their future.</p> <p>Victims rebuild lives and thrive - Disruption is minimized for victims, with safe and secure housing, and recovery from trauma available for as long as they need it.</p>	<p>Reduction in violence amongst women who are pregnant or have a new-born.</p> <p>Reduction in the level of risk for victims.</p> <p>Reduced disruption to positive family connections.</p> <p>Increased feelings of safety for victims.</p> <p>Increase in victims who remain safe.</p> <p>Reduction in medical presentations related to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa.</p> <p>Decrease violence deaths for women.</p> <p>Increased self-referrals to violence support services.</p> <p>Increase in victims' confidence in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Increase in victims feeling supported and understood.</p> <p>Increase in victims who know that the responsibility for the abuse sits with the perpetrator.</p> <p>Reduction in victims who are re- victimized.</p> <p>Reduced disruption to education for children and young people affected by violence.</p> <p>Increased financial stability and independence for victims.</p>	<p>Develop tailored, specialist and aiga- centered healing, recovery, and restoration services to address the intergenerational trauma of childhood exposure to all forms of violence.</p> <p>Implement increased safeguard responses for PWD and other vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Individuals and families are supported to heal and overcome the trauma of violence.</p> <p>Communities are taking targeted actions to prevent violence and support early intervention and reporting.</p> <p>Develop training and resources for parents, caregivers and the aiga for understanding experience of violence, or exposure to it, has negative impacts on children and young people's health, education, social development, personal relationships, and future economic wellbeing.</p> <p>The Health Sector adopts initiatives that addresses Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Violence Against Children as a public health problem.</p> <p>Strong and consistent messages are developed to create awareness on the impacts of violence on good health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Comprehensive health services at all levels of health service delivery such as primary health care and referral levels are in place to identify those who are experiencing violence and provide them with the right interventions at the right time.</p>

Outcomes (..Continued)	Results	Key Initiatives
	<p>Increase in victims who have safe, secure, and stable housing.</p> <p>Increase in victims who maintain strong cultural, family and community connections.</p>	<p>Initiatives are in place so participants in the Justice system are protected, safe and supported.</p>

Domain Three: Perpetrators - Perpetrators are held accountable, connected, and take responsibility for stopping their violence.

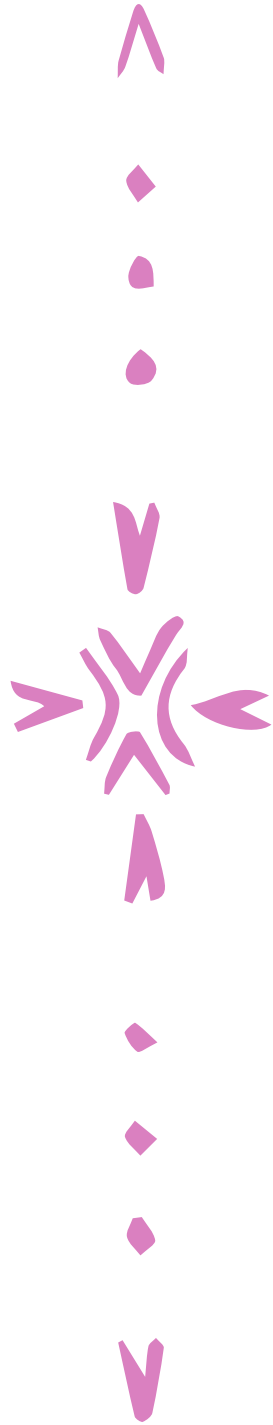
Outcomes	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>Perpetrators stop all forms of violence behavior against women and girls - Perpetrators understand the impact of their violence in all its forms, including all abuse and coercive and controlling behavior.</p> <p>Perpetrators are held accountable for their behavior - Perpetrators are supported to take ownership of their actions and behaviors, and thereby receiving the right responses at the right time through a coordinated web of interventions and responses.</p>	<p>Reduction in all violence behaviors.</p> <p>Increased numbers of perpetrators taking responsibility for changing their actions and behaviors.</p> <p>Increased appropriateness of type and timing of responses.</p> <p>Increased Case management that provides a targeted response to address barriers to behavior change such as drug or alcohol issues, lower literacy, and lack of stable incomes.</p> <p>Increased engagement and retention of perpetrators in programs and interventions.</p> <p>Increased access to Correctional services programs that seek to address risk factors related to family violence offending through a Risk Needs Responsive approach that is informed by a gendered conceptualization of violence.</p>	<p>Developed understanding by perpetrators and responses to the needs and experiences of victims, and their views about the outcomes they are seeking to achieve.</p> <p>Initiatives priorities women and children’s safety through effective and ongoing risk assessment and management.</p> <p>Initiatives are developed that focus on perpetrators accountability and responsibility for their actions, including the impact of their actions on their children.</p> <p>Development of a suite of options to assist perpetrators gain insight into and awareness of their actions and change their behavior.</p> <p>Having in place a strong set of laws and legal processes through the Law and Justice Sector that impose clear consequences and sanctions for perpetrators' violent and abusive behavior and failure to comply with court orders.</p>

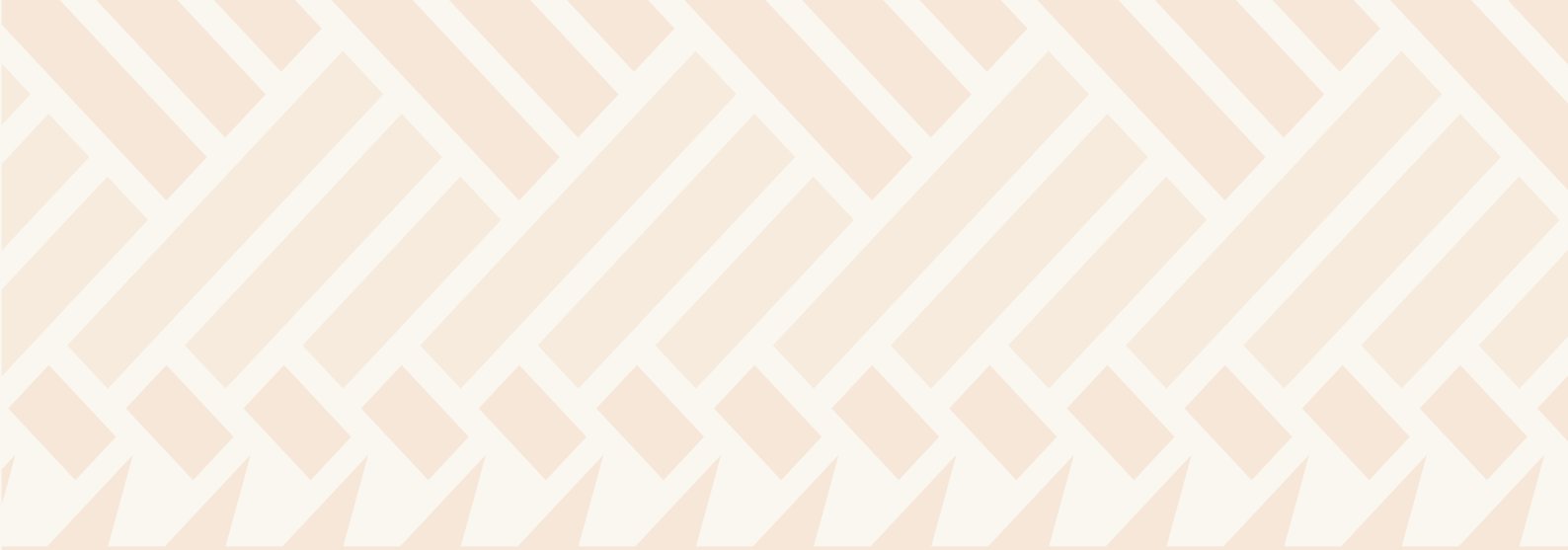
Outcomes (..Continued)	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>Perpetrators have safe and healthy connections and relationships - Perpetrators are supported to sustain behavior change through a focus on building protective factors, and improving their connections and relationships with their families, communities, and society where it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>Increased equity and safety of relationships.</p> <p>Increase perpetrators' overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Improved case management, when combined with integrated risk management strategies, helps to stabilize perpetrators' lives, and improve victim safety and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Initiatives that focus on collective responsibility among government and non-government agencies, the community, and individuals for denouncing perpetrators' use of violence.</p> <p>Delivering men's behavior change program for perpetrators and supporting women whose partners are attending the program.</p> <p>Focused initiatives that aim to reduce reoffending by addressing issues including substance abuse, relationship skills, attitudes, and beliefs supportive of violence.</p>

Domain Four: Prevention Infrastructure - Prevention Infrastructure to create a sustainable prevention platform - Preventing and responding to family violence and Gender Based Violence in Samoa is systemic due to issues inherent in the overall system, therefore a change to the structure, organization or policies in that system could alleviate the systemic problem.

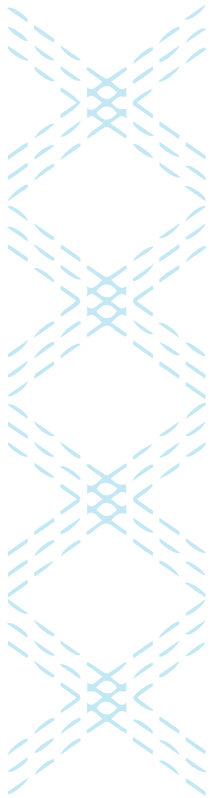
Outcomes	Results	Key Initiatives
<p>A quality prevention infrastructure - Outcomes and outputs based.</p> <p>A system that is accessible, and services and programs are available and equitable- Prevention activities occur across all key settings and the support system is easy to navigate and services are available to people when and where they need them.</p>	<p>Increase in equitable access to services and programs.</p> <p>Increase in availability of services and programs when and where they are needed.</p> <p>Increase early identification and supports for people at risk of Gender Based Violence in Samoa.</p> <p>Increased application of concepts of Fa'aSāmoa and Faith that do not condone any forms of violence.</p> <p>Increased involvement of people with lived experience in the design and delivery of services and programs.</p>	<p>Initiatives that address the social norms and attitudes about alcohol and gender and aims to reduce impact of violence in the context of harmful use of drugs and alcohol.</p> <p>Initiatives that engage men and boys in gender equality conversations and initiatives to build emotional control, positive relationship skills and social connections.</p> <p>Initiatives that focus from a position of wellbeing, safe and thriving families; and that violence and violations create disruptions of relationships and of...</p>
Outcomes (..Continued)	Results	Key Initiatives

<p>A system that promotes working in partnerships – clearly outlines stakeholder roles and responsibilities that bring different skills and knowledge required to implement multiple initiatives.</p> <p>A system that intervenes early to identify and respond to violence - a system that intervenes and responds early to prevent escalation and minimize harm.</p> <p>A system that is person- centered and responsive.</p> <p>A system that is integrated- Services work together and share information to provide a coordinated quality response to women and girls, people, and families, informed by dynamic risk assessment and sensitive to people’s diverse needs. The system supports effective and evidence- based prevention efforts.</p> <p>A system of a skilled and capable workforce that reflects the communities they serve.</p>	<p>Increased responsiveness to the needs and circumstances of individuals and communities.</p> <p>Increased coordination and collaboration across the system.</p> <p>Increased sharing of information to assess and respond to needs and risks.</p> <p>Increased commitment to and investment in research, monitoring, and evaluation.</p> <p>Increased government funding.</p> <p>Increased government collaboration with community led partnerships, governance, and leadership.</p> <p>Increased workforce diversity.</p> <p>Increased workforce skills and capabilities.</p>	<p>...wellbeing within aiga; and processes for healing and reconciliation facilitates and supports the restoration of wellbeing to aiga.</p> <p>Initiatives that build the district and village level prevention plans and community partnerships that bring together the right people and resources to coordinate and deliver primary prevention initiatives at the district and village level.</p> <p>Initiatives that build on targeted community mobilization approaches that will enable the Pola Puipui framework to be implemented at the local and community levels.</p> <p>Initiatives that will build the skills of those who do (or will do) prevention work in our communities and through the community sector governance structure as part of their broader roles and responsibilities within those district governance structures.</p>
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**How Samoa Will
Deliver On and Review This
Pola Puipui Framework**



10. How Samoa will Deliver On and Review This Pola Puipui Framework

10.1 Governance Arrangements

The CEDAW Partnership for the Pola Puipui Framework for Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa is being reinstated to provide the critical oversight for the Pola Puipui Framework; and has the mandate to lead oversight of a whole of nation initiative to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. A cross sector CEDAW Partnership Committee reflects a different mindset and approach that can provide the sustained, cross-agency leadership and commitment necessary to deliver meaningful change. This approach is informed by the understanding that family violence and Gender Based Violence in Samoa are complex social issues that do not fit neatly into the boundaries of agencies and sectors. They are problems that generate demand across a wide range of public services and consequentially, all sectors involved have important insights and services to contribute to significantly reduce the harm caused. The primary scope of the CEDAW Partnership Group is to:

- ✘ Provide strategic policy, design, planning and development advice on behalf of all sectors involved in the response to Gender Based Violence in Samoa.
- ✘ Be accountable to the public and to Parliament for the performance of this whole-of government response – through the development of a Pola Puipui Framework for Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa.
- ✘ Advise the Government on any system or operational changes that may be needed for the implementation of the Pola Puipui Framework; and any first Action Plan.
- ✘ Engage with and provide insights and recommendations about the work underway across the different sectors on achieving meaningful and lasting change towards the prevention of Gender Based Violence in Samoa.

The CEDAW Partnership Group is committed to an approach that:

- I. Works closely with the central agency MWCSO as the critical focal point in Government and be active to any re-prioritizing in their respective Strategic Plan and Community Development Sector Plan which affords a shift to a more urgent focus on social protection.
- II. Advocates a national approach that ensures the consistency of messaging, and address those myths that infiltrate into our communities.

- III. Establishes a platform for more collaboration and partnership communications between NGOs.
- IV. Uses current Village and District Development Plans to implement 'zero tolerance' messages and activities.
- V. Considers advice that comes from any Technical Working Group.
- VI. Promotes focused engagement with both the Health and Education Sectors and where they see their interventions as the most value adding.
- VII. Tables any final framework with the National Policy Coordination Unit that sits in the Office of Prime Minister.
- VIII. Ensures simplicity in the Pola Puihui Framework so that it is easy to understand, and people know about and can commit to changing the story for our women and girls who experience violence.
- IX. Spearheads the Ministry of Women and Community Development taking the lead of a Prevention Agency approach that will help hold government to account for making progress via the collection and public reporting on progress to achieving the vision, outcomes and objectives and the Framework.

CEDAW Partnership Committee Membership

The CEDAW Partnership Committee consists of the Heads of all the member Organizations, including the Chair. Members are approved by the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development following consideration by Cabinet, with the endorsement of the inclusion of the Minister of Justice, Courts and Administration, the Minister of Police, Prisons and Corrections, the Minister of Health and Minister of the Education Sector and the Ombudsman. The Minister of Women, Community and Social Development will also consider a minimum of 4 Community Members, including any members that have experience in advocacy in this Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa Space. It is important we have people in these positions who understand, have the training and will be able to do the work from their respective understanding of this space. Members shall be appointed for a period determined by the Minister for Women, Community and Social Development.

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development will be targeted with the provision of an appropriately resourced Secretariat and targeted with supporting a Technical Working Group and NGO Reference Group, which is already in existence to deliver timely, good quality advice to the CEDAW Partnership Committee. The Secretariat will be led by the CEO of MWCSD who has overarching responsibility for the efficient functioning of the Secretariat and meeting the needs of the Steering Committee. The Secretariat will be made up of officials from the Ministry of Women, Community and Social development and any seconded officials

whose Ministries choose to assist the Secretariat, including an official from the Ministry of Finance. The Secretariat will assist the Steering Committee to complete its work by responding to requests from the Steering Committee, seeking information and advice from the Technical Working Group, and leading the process to brief the Committee members on issues and implementation phases of the Pola Puipui Framework. The Secretariat will also assist the Committee to initiate the important Pola Puipui agency architecture into the overall mandate of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development.

10.2 The Prevention Agency Approach

This approach will need to be embedded as a priority across the Community Development Sector. The need for a single point of system leadership and accountability, supported by integrated national governance for ending violence, is not new. It was explored as part of the solutions in the 2018 National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa Report. Concepts such as Establishing a Family Violence Prevention Act, the creation of a National Family Violence Council, a Stop Violence Taskforce, Samoa Office for Family Violence Prevention, National Family Violence Prevention Strategy, and a National Family Violence Prevention Communication Strategy were all offered up as solutions. Other work as per the Desktop Review Report also offered up recommendations. All the same, it is reassuring that the recommendation in terms of solutions in 2018 remain highly relevant to the design and development of the Pola Puipui Framework and have been navigated as part of the prevention reform agenda with a prioritized focus on primary prevention.

A Prevention Agency approach will provide key stakeholders with common tools, frameworks, advice, and other support to ensure that they are able to perform to their strengths and as part of a wider, systemic approach to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. The agency must facilitate solutions by our communities, for our families and communities and reflect people's experiences of violence. No matter what form the agency takes, it cannot be just another government body. It must work in partnership with the different sectors and settings and learn from the experiences of victims, perpetrators, and children affected by violence. It will continue to be supported by the Steering Committee as it transitions into existence and then the Steering Committee will continue in its critical oversight role.

The Prevention Agency will:

- ✘ Coordinate and oversee activities under this primary prevention framework.
- ✘ Monitor and provide advice on the achievement of prevention outcomes.
- ✘ Commission research and innovative programs into prevention methods and activities, including identifying those that will have the highest level of impact in our families and communities.
- ✘ Fund, coordinate and support Village and District Councils and Women's Committees implement their agreed ending violence activities and programme initiatives.
- ✘ Work with all organizations working in the field of prevention to challenge the drivers of violence, both those that lie at the individual level (attitudes and behaviours) and those that lie in our social systems and structures.
- ✘ Support development of an expert workforce that understands and can embed prevention in our communities.
- ✘ Support ongoing engagement and support for NGO partnerships working in the prevention space.
- ✘ Coordinate, lobby, and secure funding opportunities for priority sectors to use and embed the capability frameworks in their own sector-specific and community-specific contexts. This recognizes that worker training alone will not be the solution to building capability across the system and allows for flexible approaches to practice development and change in our communities.
- ✘ Map the capability frameworks to existing national training package units of competency, to ensure that the training system has products which reflect the skills and knowledge Samoa needs.
- ✘ Align donor partnerships across the prevention outcomes and key initiatives so as to continue the Ending Gender Based Violence reform agenda for Samoa.
- ✘ Work with the tertiary education sector and specialist family violence units and service providers.

10.3 Prevention Actions and Investment in Phased Ending Violence Action Plans

A rolling program of action that builds on previous Plans will occur through four action plans. These action plans will provide a blueprint to guide government and the community to help realize the objectives of the Pola Puihui Framework and achieve the vision of a Samoa free from violence. It will adopt a phased approach to delivering on the four domain areas as the lessons and learnings become more apparent. Each rolling action plan will build on established efforts in violence response and prevention, as well as refine, improve, and develop new and innovative activities in line with new research, evaluations, and evidence. The action plans will establish the solid structures in systems, services, law, policies, and advocacy to guide reform, and will set the timeline for implementation. Detailed initiatives, programs, activities, and actions will be detailed under each of the supporting outcomes outlined in the Outcomes Framework. Budget allocations will be spread across the prioritized outcomes of the four domain areas.

Ideally the First action plan (2024-2027) will establish the foundations for the framework and create the necessary platforms for the projects that will drive change over the longer term. This means an increased focus on Prevention (Domain One) and setting up the Prevention Infrastructure (Domain Four). It will be focused on creating a positive environment for fostering change, actions and initiatives outlined that will provide a powerful base for subsequent action plans and create momentum for change in the community.

The second action plan (2027-2030) will continue to build upon the foundations laid in the first action plan. It will seek to actively move the community towards being a society where fewer people find excuses for violent behavior, fewer people blame victims and where all members of the community are empowered to take action to stop the violence.

The third action plan (2030-2033) will similarly be focused on real action to addressing ending violence. It will continue to evolve the Pola Puihui framework to meet the needs of the community in the prevention of violence and ending of violence in all its forms. It will seek to further embed cultural change and system reform and encourage the move away from government led action to whole of community ownership.

The fourth action plan (2033) will continue delivery of tangible results to prevent violence, foster independence, and demonstrate the need for ongoing change by the community beyond the life of the framework. This

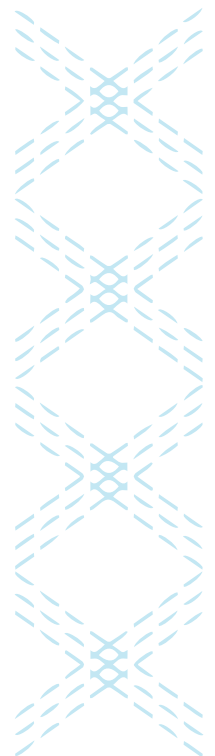
action plan will need to acknowledge that building a Samoa free violence is a multi-generational vision, and this Pola Puipui Framework, whilst a significant achievement, is unlikely to fully realize the vision. Action under this fourth plan will ensure that momentum toward achieving the vision continues in a conscientious, evidence-based and coordinated way.

10.4 Mid-term Review of this Framework

Given we are doing this Pola Puipui work on such a country wide scale in Samoa, we will need to be constantly assessing our actions to see if we are collaboratively working together; and committed to our interventions and initiatives. To be sure this Framework meets its intended outcomes and outputs, we have committed to a formal mid-term review of our approach. In five years, at the end of the second action plan, we will undertake a formal evaluation, not only of the individual initiatives we are implementing to prevent violence, which we will be doing constantly but also to the overall approach outlined in this Pola Puipui Framework. This evaluation will identify any gaps in the Framework and allow us to adapt our approach to any other evidence and keep us on track to realizing our vision.

10.5 District Councils and Women's Committees

These committees are important to support the integration of services at the local community level. The scope of these committees will be expanded to monitor and implement ending violence reforms and initiatives at the district and village level and leverage off existing governance arrangements and implementation systems and processes. They will use existing and any new District Development Plans to integrate all ending violence initiatives and related activities with clear roles and responsibilities. Any revised terms of references and required training will be coordinated through the MWCSO for these committees, as will budget allocations to approved projects or initiatives. This capacity building will eventually transition into a clear oversight responsibility of the Prevention Agency.







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 60. QUEENSLAND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THIRD ACTION PLAN 2019-2020 TO 2021-2022

61. Samoa Education Sector Plan 2019-2024
62. Samoa Family Health Study 2017
63. Samoa Family Health Survey Study 2000
64. Samoa Health Sector Plan 2008–2018
65. Samoa Inter-Agency Essential Services – Guide for Responding to Gender Based Violence in Samoa and Child Protection – January 2021
66. Samoa National Security Policy 2018 – Building a Secure and Resilient Nation Spotlight Program - The Spotlight Initiative in Samoa builds on existing Government commitments to ending domestic and intimate partner violence and cultural institutions in Samoa that support gender based Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. The program contextualizes international best practices in preventing and responding to violence and learns from emerging practices on what works in Samoa. Total cost: \$4,321,897 | Direct beneficiaries: 8,113 | Indirect beneficiaries: 48,273
67. Samoa’s Second National Review Report on the Implementation of the SDGs: July 2020
68. CANADA CASE STUDY -CANADIAN BLUEPRINT FOR A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS – 2015
69. SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SAMOA STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE INQUIRY INTO ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SAMOA IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA BY HON. CHARLES ABEL, CHAIRMAN - 12 August 2021
70. Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender-Based Violence PUBLIC HEARINGS 24 - 25 May 2021 APEC Haus, Port Moresby
71. Statement from Delegates - 2021 National Summit on Women’s Safety: The National Summit on Women’s Safety (Summit) took place on 6 and 7 September 2021, with thematic roundtables held on 2 and 3 September 2021. Almost 400 people, including people with lived experience of gender-based violence, academics and researchers, advocates, business leaders and parliamentarians came together to discuss how we can work together to end violence against women and children
72. Status of Human Rights Report 2015 “For Samoa by Samoa”
73. Status of Human Rights Report 2020 – Pilot Project: Recommendation 20 of the National Public Inquiry into Family Violence Report 2018 – Establishing Village Family Safety Committees
74. Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016/17 – 2019/20 (SDS)
75. SUMMARY of the National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Malawi:2014
76. 2020 Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Private Bag 330, Lilongwe 3; JULY 2014
77. Te-Aorerekura -The Enduring Spirit of Affection Action Plan for the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence December 2021 – December 2023 – Government of NZ



78. Te-Aorerekura -The Enduring Spirit of Affection -The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence – December 2021 – Government of NZ
79. The National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey Are we there yet? Australians’ attitudes towards violence against women & gender equality. The last two national surveys took place in 2009 and 20133 (led by VicHealth). Australia’s National Research Organization for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) is proud to be leading the 2017 NCAS in collaboration with our research partners.
80. Carne, S., Rees, D., Paton, N., & Fanslow, J. (2019). Using Systems Thinking to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse in New Zealand. Auckland, New Zealand: New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of Auckland
81. The Pacific Partnership to Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa(Pacific Partnership) -The five-year programme (2018-2022) targets countries and territories in the Pacific region including, but not limited to, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
82. The Samoan Constitution guarantees certain fundamental human rights to all people such as the right to life (Article 5), to personal liberty (Article 6), freedom from inhumane treatment (Article 7), from forced labour (Article 8), the right to a fair trial (Article 9), freedom of religion (Articles 11, 12), rights regarding freedom of speech, assembly, association, movement, and residence (Article 13), and freedom from discriminatory legislation (Article 15).
83. Tupua Tamasese. Tui Atua, “Fa’asamoa Speaks to My Heart and My Soul,” in Su’esu’e Manogi: In Search of Fragrance, ed. I’uogafa Tuagalu Tamasa’ilau Sualii-Sauni, Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai, and Naomi Fuamatu (Lepapaigalagala, Samoa: The Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa, 2008)
84. United Kingdom 2016 -Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa Strategy 2016 – 2020 -Gender Based Violence in Samoa Strategy 2016 – 2020 - This publication is available for download at www.official-documents.gov.uk
85. Where should we focus? Te wāhi e hiahia ana mātou ā tōna wā; Tools to support your conversations that contribute to the National Strategy and Action Plans to eliminate family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand 2021. Member agencies of the Joint Venture Accident Compensation Corporation Department of Corrections, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health Ministry of Justice, Oranga Tamariki New Zealand Police, Te Puni Kokiri Ministry of Social Development, Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matau (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet) also provide support to the Joint Venture of the Social Wellbeing Board.
86. Young Offenders Act 2007 - Legislation of Samoa
87. Christian Faith and Family Violence: A Report for Samoan Communities in New Zealand; Dr Mercy AhSiu-Maliko; Centre for Theology and Public Issues: University of Otago August 2016:9

