Relationships and health impact assessment: the Samoan initiative

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on behalf of Apinelu Poutasi
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This paper:

- Describes some of the challenges and how they were overcome in the delivery of the training;
- describes the model of health used in the initiative; and
- elaborates on the evaluation.....
About the initiative

- Funded through NZAID’s Government Agency Fund; led by the New Zealand Ministry of Health
- to raise awareness of HIA and build capacity
- Working with the Samoan Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance
- Training partnership with the University of Otago HIA Research Unit
Challenges

- Incorporating cultural elements
- Ensuring relevance to the Samoan context
- Involving other sectors

And solutions…
the scenarios

Two scenarios used:
- Tourist Development in Palauli Bay, Savai’I
- Reconstruction of District Hospital in Poutasi
the relationships
The next steps

four areas for further action to strengthen HIA methods and approaches in Samoa:

- strengthening the policy framework for HIA
- developing guidance on how to apply HIA
- building HIA capacity
- increasing the evidence base about the benefits of applying HIA methods and approaches.
The lessons learnt

Three lessons from the project:

- Importance of Government to Government partnership
- Importance of on-the-ground capacity and leadership
- Importance of ensuring the training was fit-for-purpose
The HIA Support Unit

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