



15TH SOUTH PACIFIC NURSES FORUM.

***“ NURSES AT THE HELM:
Steering health across the Pacific”***

**MONDAY 8TH - THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2010
AOTEA CENTRE, AUCKLAND. NEW ZEALAND**

***THE RESPONSE OF THE SAMOAN NURSES OF NEW
ZEALAND
TO THE TSUNAMI DISASTER IN SAMOA. 2009***



***by Vai Naseri-Moepogai
South Pacific Nurses Forum
Monday 8th November 2010***

SPECIAL TRIBUTES

- to the Samoan Nursing & Midwifery Leaders
- to all the Unsung Nursing Heroes of Samoa .
- to all Samoa Nurses of New Zealand, Australia, & United States, who responded to the Tsunami Disaster in Samoa Sept.2009
- to the NZNO who have donated to support the Samoan nurses of NZ who travelled over as volunteers.
- And to all our Nursing colleagues here in NZ who have supported us in this course by allowing us to go to Samoa while they held the fort at work, the donations & contributions, but mostly your prayers and thoughts which gave us the strength while we attended to our calling.
- Last but not least, to our Families & friends who have committed to give their all to support us while we were in Samoa.





Samoa

worldatlas.com





***‘Tala e, ua alu ile ea salalau atu ile vateatea,’
‘Fa’alologo, tu ma savali se’i momoli mai se
lavea’i.’***

Quote: Matamua I.Enoka (composer)

Literally means

***This news hit the media airwaves & flashed this
throughout the Globe,
“You heard, you listened, you
yearned, you stood up and left... to give a
helping hand.”***



Communication with Samoa

Aim – To provide the Nursing workforce capacity to relieve the nursing staff

Was Nursing capacity needed ?

“ We need your help.. To provide relief for the nurses at the district hospital. Lalomanu & Poutasi. Nurses have been working nonstop since the tsunami happened, they continued to turn up for work work even when their own homes have been destroyed have been destroyed, families affected and one lost a son ”

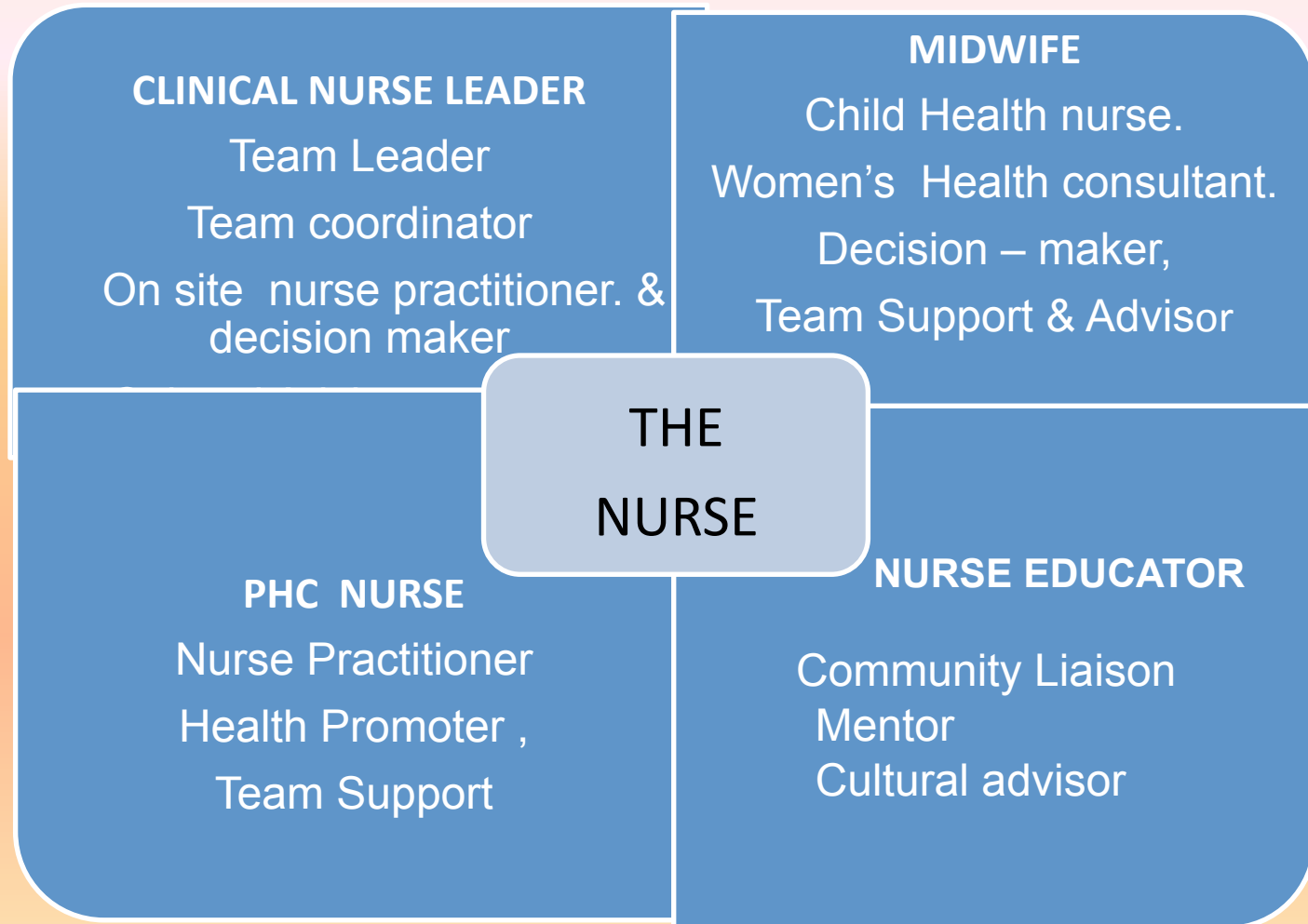
***Professor Pelenatete Stowers. Chief Nursing Director .
SMOH. (Sept.2009)***



OBJECTIVES

- To provide the needed Nursing capacity to relieve the local Nursing staff
- To assist and provide moral support & care for local nursing staff of TTM, Lalomanu and Poutasi Hospital
- To provide and create opportunities for learning & sharing of expertise and skills
- To maintain collaboration with Samoa Nursing Leaders & the multidisciplinary Team

Multi Roles & Responsibilities of the Nurse during the Disaster.



Coordination of Volunteer Nurses

- Communication with Samoa through Pelenatete Stowers.
- Coordinating of Nurses – communicating & making the list of those who have offered to go & are paying for their own airfares
- Ongoing discussion amongst Senior Samoan Nurses who have pulled together to see this through
- Ongoing link with Samoa
- At end of first day 11 nurses were listed. Including 2 Samoan nurses from Australia.
- Nurses were given instruction to be prepared, take all that is necessary for her work, plus her *practicing certificate*
- After much discussion with the team, it was decided that nurses who had volunteered will be rostered to go in teams of 3 or 4 at a time so that there is continuous coverage post tsunami for 6 months.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At this point, I would like to acknowledged my colleagues for the time , effort and commitment to see this thru over & above the call of duty for the coordination of this project in particular, Anna Bailey. Taiivao Siniva for holding the fort and ensuring that our own work commitment is not being compromised by keeping on top of things, thus allowing Anna and myself to get on with this as well as covering for me while I go to lead the first Team of Volunteer nurses to Samoa. Also the support of Siloma Masina (Capital coast DHB) who coordinated the nurses from Wellington. To Christina Tapu who provided the advise & counselling for all of us.



First Samoa nurse of the Team from Australia on duty at day 3, OT @ TTM



Nurses from Wellington at TTM Outpatient



Team at TTM Paediatric Ward





First Team - ready to go to Lalomanu

**Met with coordinating Team & Nurse Leaders –
Briefing with Pele & Ma’atasesa .at Lalomanu Hospital**



Snapshots of Lalomanu village post tsunami












First Team at Lalomanu



At Lalomanu Hospital- with all volunteers from NZ & Australia, Army & Medic personnel



A photograph showing an emergency medical transport scene. A person is lying on a stretcher, being moved by several individuals. One person in a light blue shirt is in the foreground, pushing the stretcher. Another person in a dark uniform is visible on the right. The scene is outdoors, possibly on a porch or under a covered area. The text "Emergency – transport to helicopter to transfer to TTM with volunteer nurse & army medic" is overlaid on the image.

**Emergency – transport to helicopter to transfer to TTM
with volunteer nurse & army medic**

Live birth post Tsunami. Vai with local Nurses.



Local team & Volunteer nurses at work .
RN Ululima @ Lalomanu Hosp.



**Collaboration with Samoa NZ clinician on volunteer –
Dr. Kuinileti Leung Wai (Lalomanu Hosp.)**





Nurses on the move inland to reach the injured & the dislocated population & continue with Immunisation catch up.

Never give up !





**Having a pause under the coconut trees
@ new settlement areas**

Watch out for the barbed wire fence!



Home-visiting & changing dressings!





Cont'd homevisitng & changing dressings



Checking B/P & assessing children



Taking a break under a tree!



Outcomes of the Disaster Relief Work

- Immediate response – Day 3 O.Theatre nurse on duty
- Local Nursing staff were relieved for breaks & to attend to their families
- Shared workload & responsibilities
- Effective team work & Leadership
- Shared learnings, skills & experiences between nurses
- Effective communications & good relationships between volunteer overseas Samoan nurses & local nursing colleagues because of the cultural linkages, ie same language, same culture & same calling
- The volunteer commitment continued for 6months post- tsunami . This has led to a formal partnership with the Samoa Ministry of Health . Formalised in September 2010, a year after the Tsunami.
- The BIRTH of Samoa Health Mission. - a group of health volunteers which the nurses initiated & led.

Formalising the Partnership between the Samoa Ministry of Health & SHM Sept.2010



First Team of nurses under the formal partnership



Lessons Learnt for Disaster Awareness

- **Engaging nursing workforce of Samoan descent based overseas for disaster response**
- **Effective service delivery because of the cultural understanding and speaking the language .**
- **Efficient & less time spent on interpreting & cultural mentoring, explaining situations but get on with the work**
- **Common understanding with regards to the psycho-socio make-up of the population served**
- **For individual nurses , it's an experience she will never forget**
- **Its a privilege felt by every nurse to give something back to her / his people and mother country**



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‘ Volunteer nurses turn tsunami tide ‘

Sunday Star article – 15th November 2009



A group of NZ based Samoan nurses responded immediately

Quote; "It was hard and emotional work, especially seeing the injuries and hearing people's moving stories. It was a very satisfying experience, satisfying in the way you have given and done something for your own people and own profession. Its an experience we will never forget' But it was also rewarding." said Vaifagaloa Naseri

To the NURSES OF SAMOA..

**YOU WERE THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THIS CRISIS.
WE SALUTE YOU...!**

To the NURSES OF THE PACIFIC ...

***'YOU HAVE 'THE POWER TO SERVE' & 'THE POWER
TO HELP' IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE YOU SERVE !***

SOIFUA MA IA MANUIA

**O LE PESE – SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION 2010
(fatuina e Matamua Iokapeta Sina Enoka)**

- 1. Ua segia lo ta maui ina ua fa'afuase'i mai le tala,
Falealili ma Aleipata, ua fa'amanupo'i'a i ofaga,
Talofa e, i le Malaga ua lutia i peau laga,
E moni na momoe i manū, ae ua ati'aina e mala.**

**Tali: Ae leai se tu ma tete'e lai,
O Iē maui o le Foafoaga e gaoioi i le fogātai,
Sa lagona le vaivai, a'o lau tautoga e, ua fai,
E fa'atino aga-tausili o le tausiga ia talafeagai.**

- 2. Le tiute ua fa'atulaga ina ia vave maua se mapusaga,
Fai sa'ili'iliga, tu'u vaega mai e tigaina,
O nai fafine totō, olomatutua, nai toea'iina,
Faapea le to'atele o tamaiti, e mana'omia togafitiga.**

- 3. Tala e, ua alu i le ea salalau atu i le vateatea,
Fa'alologo, tu ma savali se'i momoli mai se lavea'i,
E! ua ou mapuea ina ua tatala mai sou finagalo,
Le Misiona a Samoa ua fa'afetai lau fa'aaloalo.**

**Tali: Ae sagai ane ia, ua moni ai lava upu tusia,
Ua se togi le seulagatila fa'amalo fai o le faiva,
O outou mamā na, tali i lagi tou manuia,
Ieova i lo ta va, e pipi'i tia mamao ala.**


21 October 2010