



# SUNGO NEWS

April - June 2021



### VISION:

Samoa has a competent and confident civil society sector that promotes sustainable development and quality of life for the people of Samoa

### MISSION:

To deliver capacity building research, opportunities, information sharing, advocacy and support for civil society in Samoa.

## Brief Update!

## Deputy British High Commissioner to Samoa visits SUNGO.

20th April, 2021 Vaitele - The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations Chief Executive Officer, Afioga Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia meets with the Deputy British High Commissioner to Samoa, His Excellency Ian Richards. The British High Commission Ambassador wanted to further understand roles and responsibilities of SUNGO; the difficulties faced by the civil society as well as further elaborating ways forward for the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations.



His Excellency Ian Richards during discussions with SUNGO CEO, Afioga Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia



His Excellency wanted to see which area of development that SUNGO needs to strengthen; such as capacity building, communications, and others to name a few. According to Mr. Richards' Biography, His Excellency succeeded David Ward, as British Ambassador to Eritrea in 2016. "Improving and investing into SUNGOs future developments, is the British High Commission's Aim." SUNGO hopes to continue its partnership with the British Government in the years to come.

<https://www.facebook.com/SamoaUmbrella/posts/4182554058429555>

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## SUNGO is at the forefront of the fight to eliminate violence against Women and Girls.

16th February, 2021 Taumeasina Island Resort - The **Spotlight National Taskforce** was initiated by the Spotlight Initiative, through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in a joint effort with the European Union (EU). This is a result of the Spotlight Initiative Civil Society Organization Assessment, that was recently implemented by the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO). Participants include NGOs around the country that work in this area of development, such as the Tofasi-



nasina Samoa Association of Counselors, Faataua Le Ola, Soul Talk Samoa, National Human Rights Institution, Samoa Victim Support Group, Matuaileoo Environment Trust Incorporated, Civil Society Support Programme, Women in Business Development Incorporated, SUNGO as well as Representatives from the Spotlight Initiative.



**Spotlight Initiative**  
To eliminate violence against women and girls



Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisations - SUNGO

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## Information and Communications

**Another Edition to be released in September.** We would like to thank you for your support.

SUNGO Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. Physical copies can be uplifted from our office at Vaitele

<https://www.facebook.com/SamoaUmbrella/>

If you would like to get in touch, you can now email us, telephone or message us on Facebook.

We will be publishing these items on our Facebook page as well more regularly. We encourage all members to please visit us on our Facebook page for more information or updates on events and other related matters for your information. We have hit **1,617** likes and **1,664** followers.

## Capacity Building

### Spotlight Initiative conducts Training of Trainers for NGOs.



12 - 14 May, 2021 Millenia Hotel, Sogi - The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) in collaboration with the United Nations Spotlight Team conducts a Training of Trainers on Psychosocial Support & Psychological First Aid, for 3 days. The Training of Trainers is an initiative by SUNGO, under the Spotlight Initiative to enhance the capacity of CSO Trainers, in the areas of Psychosocial Support and Psychological First Aid. It's a skill set that is highly valuable in this time of COVID-19, and its social, economic and mental impact on everyone in particular, the women and girls. The UN Spotlight Team comprises of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds (UNICEF), UNWomen and the Spotlight Initiative CSO-National Reference Group (CSO-NRG). There were close to 50 participants at the Training of Trainers, from more than 15 Civil Society organizations. The Activity will be held for 3 days, with the hope to continue in the coming years, to build the capacity of Civil Society Organizations' Service Providers, working in the area Ending violence against women and girls. The Training Program is funded under the Spotlight Initiative through the United Nations Development Programme.

### Project Design Management & Managing Organizations Trainings for Upolu

22nd - 24th February 2021 Elisa Hotel Sogi - CSO Representatives from around Upolu were lucky to receive training on Managing Organizations, from the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations, through funding from the European Union's 11th



Managing Organizations Training Upolu 2021

European Development Fund. The Managing Organizations Training was held from the 22nd to the 24th of February 2021.

22nd - 25th February 2021 Elisa Hotel Sogi - The Project Design Management Training was also delivered on the same week, for other CSO Representatives who were interested in extending their knowledge and skills on how to design and manage projects. The Training Programs aims to strengthening and building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations in the broad areas of organizations, and project management to improve CSO strength and sustainability. The Participants included representatives from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) around Samoa.



Project Design Management Training Upolu 2021



### Capacity Building

#### MWTI - Consultations on Simplified National Building Codes



March 2021 - The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure prioritizes the importance of the Simplified National Building Codes, for community members who live in the Vaisigano

Catchment Area. Members of the Communities involved had the chance to voice their concerns as well as issues faced, when natural disasters strike, especially within the targeted area; the Vaisigano Catchment Climate Project. The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure through this consultation hopes to gather the communities' feedback, as well as reflecting on how to further address the Sustainability and Safety of all the Building Structures in Samoa.

MWTI Consultation at Tanugamanono



MWTI Consultation at Apia

#### SUNGO Community Trainers receive Training on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

15 February 2021 Vaitele - During SUNGOs Community Trainers Refresher Course, the Samoa Spotlight Initiative lent a helping hand in educating the



Trainers on Supporting an enabling environment for civil society organizations to advocate and share information to communities and in support of their own initiatives to prevent violence against women

and girls. It's a joint partnership activity led by SUNG and UNDP Samoa, in collaboration with the UNWomen, UNRCO, Unicef and Nuanua O Le Alofa.



This partnership is made possible under the joint EU & UN Spotlight Initiative.



### Policy and Advocacy

#### CSO Forum for Women & Girls

4th March 2021 Millenia Hotel, Sogi - SUNGO hosted a Civil Society Organization Forum for women and girls, made possible through kind assistance from the United Nations Development Programme's Spotlight Initiative. The Talanoa ma Fa'asoa Forum for Women and Girls ended on a high note, after an effective brainstorming process on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls. The main objective behind the Forum, it working together for a safer Samoa.



#### IUCN Support Working Group's first meeting.

26th March 2021 Lava Hotel, Sogi - The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Support Working Group (SWG) held its first meeting, with its developing partners namely Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Conservation International, International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations.



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**SUNGO Staff during discussions of the EU DA Year 2 Report.**

24th March 2021 - These are SUNGO Chief Executive Officer, Afioga Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia and Staff, attending a Zoom Meeting with Technical Advisors Mary and John Cretney, during the compilation of the European Union Direct Award Year 2 Report.



(L-R): Leilani Atoa, Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia, Temukisa Sione - Leatua & Agnes Aiono

**Administration Officer & Finance Officer attending their ZERO Training.**

May 2021 - AO Agnes Aiono and FO Leilani Atoa receive Training from the BDO, on the ZERO Finance System, recently introduced to SUNGO.



Agnes Aiono & Leilani Atoa

**SUNGO, IUCN, CI and MNRE meet to finalize their plan for the Consultations.**

18 June 2021 - These are representatives of SUNGO, IUCN, Conservation International and MNRE, attending its meeting to finalize their schedule for the consultations to be rolled out to the communities soon.

