

Samoa

This document is a compilation of all questions, justifications, and sources used to determine the 2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Samoa. For a category and indicator-level summary, please see the Country Profile for Samoa.

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Category 1: Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern

1.1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

1.1.1 AMR surveillance, detection, and reporting

1.1.1a

Is there a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens?

Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, and it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 2, Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 1, No evidence of an AMR plan = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is public evidence that Samoa has a national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) plan but insufficient evidence that this includes surveillance, detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Country Self Assessments survey report (2016-17) provides the information that Samoa has developed a national AMR action plan. [1] World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) lists - 'to implement the National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance' - as one of the strategic priorities. [2] On the question of 'National Surveillance System for AMR in humans' in the WHO AMR Country Self Assessment survey report (2016-17), Samoa answered "National AMR surveillance activities are in place for common bacterial pathogens that link patient information with susceptibility testing, with a national reference laboratory that participates in external quality assurance". [1] There is no information on the detection and reporting dimensions in the Country Self Assessment survey report.

It is reported that, in Samoa, the National Action Plan on AMR was launched during the World Antibiotic Awareness Week (2016) held in November 2016. [3] However, this plan is not available on a public website. The plan is not available on the websites of the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the WHO library of national action plans for AMR does not list an entry for Samoa. As such, there is no evidence of for its coverage of surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens (in line with the WHO Global Action Plan). [4, 5,6,7]

There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self Assessments". [<http://amrcountryprogress.org/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[3] "Antibiotic Awareness Week activities in the Pacific Island countries November 2016". [<http://www.haiasiapacific.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/WAAW-Pacific-Island-Countries-2016-Red.pdf>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[4] World Health Organisation. 2015. "Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance". [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/193736/9789241509763_eng.pdf?sequence=1] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[6] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 15 September 2020.

[7] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

1.1.1b

Is there a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens?

All 7 + 1 priority pathogens = 2 , Yes, but not all 7+1 pathogens = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Samoa has a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Country Self Assessments survey report (2016-17) mentions some bacterial species on which data is systematically collected involving a 'national reference laboratory'. [1] However, no information is provided in the report to ascertain whether the identified bacterial species are tested in humans or not, and whether are they included in the 7+1 priority AMR pathogens identified by the WHO. There are also no details on the mentioned national reference laboratory. While the report also provides the information that Samoa has developed a national AMR action plan, the plan is not available publicly.

A report titled "Enhanced surveillance for the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, Samoa, September 2014" gives some evidence on the existence of sentinel sites which conduct syndromic surveillance and a national laboratory in the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (TTMH) in Samoa. However, no further details are provided to ascertain the type of tests that the lab can conduct. [2]

A 2013 document titled "Climate Adaptation Strategy for Health" published by the Ministry of Health Samoa mentions that the National Health Service of Samoa can test E.coli, S.typhi, Dengue (Rapid Test) and Leptospirosis (Rapid Test). [3] There is no further information on a national laboratory on the websites of the Ministry of Health of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, nor is there any evidence that the laboratory mentioned in different sources has its own stand-alone website, making it impossible to verify its organization and functions. [4,5]

The WHO library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Samoa [6].

There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self Assessments". [<http://amrcountryprogress.org/>] Accessed 18 September 2020.

[2] White, Paul et al. 2017. "Enhanced surveillance for the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, Samoa, September 2014." Western Pacific surveillance and response journal : WPSAR vol. 8,1 15-21. 6 Feb. 2017. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5375095/>] Accessed 21 October 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Climate Adaptation Strategy for Health". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Climate-Adapation-Strategy-for-Health-.pdf>] Accessed 21 October 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 18 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 18 September 2020.

[6] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>] Accessed 18 September 2020.

1.1.1c

Does the government conduct environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the Samoan government conducts environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Country Self Assessments survey report (2016-17) mentions that no national plan for a system of monitoring of AMR is available for bacteria found in 'Environment'. The report also mentions that the country has 'a functioning system for monitoring regulatory compliance of discharge to the environment for some types of waste (sewage, health facilities, agriculture, manure and/or industrial effluent)' in order to prevent contamination of the environment with antimicrobials. However, there is no evidence to show that the country also conducts environmental testing for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms. The report also provides the information that Samoa has developed a national AMR action plan, however the plan is not available publicly. [1]

There is no other relevant information shared via public websites by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. [2,3,4]

The WHO library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Samoa. [5]

There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self Assessments". [<http://amrcountryprogress.org/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

[5] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>] Accessed 15 September 2020.

1.1.2 Antimicrobial control

1.1.2a

Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Samoa has national legislation or a regulation in place that specifically requires prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans with evidence of serious gaps in enforcement.

There is no publicly available evidence of regulation on antibiotic usage through official acts or policy documents. Samoa's Pharmacy Act (2007), Health Ordinance (1959) and Pharmacy Regulations Act (2012) makes no specific mention of antibiotics or the regulation of prescriptions of other medicines or controlled substances. [1,2,3] There is evidence of a National Medicines Policy (2008) however the same is not available publicly and its contents are unknown. [4]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" talks about incidence of AMR organisms in human infections and "over-prescribing of antibiotics in clinical settings", however there is no mention of antibiotic regulations in the report. [5]

Official documents published by, and the website of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - makes no mention of antibiotic regulations existing in Samoa. [6,7,8]

The WHO library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Samoa. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry of Health. [9, 10]

An academic paper published in Pharmacy Practice from 2007 does mention that "antibiotics are not legally available (in Samoa) without prescription from pharmacies, although in practice they are available". However, the paper does not reference the claim about antibiotic regulations to any official law or regulation and there is no publicly available evidence to verify the same. The paper, through its own study, also claims that antibiotic usage without a prescription is prevalent in Samoa to the extent that "a quarter of antibiotic sales in pharmacies were without a prescription". [11]

A 2017 report titled "Review of the Narcotics Act 1967 (Drugs Reform)" mentions in one of the footnotes, "according to MHU (Mental Health Unit) ever since the Continuing Medical Education (CME) and the regulation of antibiotics, there has been a big improvement with doctors not prescribing antibiotics like lollies". [12] This government report also makes no mention of any official regulation or law prohibiting the sale of antibiotics without a prescription.

A document titled "National Action for Global Change on Antimicrobial Resistance" published by the World Health Organization in 2016 mentions that "in Samoa, improper antibiotic use is pervasive, with patients often treating antibiotics as painkillers and taking them for common aches and pains". [13]

[1] Government of Samoa, Act No. 6 of 2007. "Pharmacy Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam128241.pdf>]. Accessed 21 September 2020

[2] Government of Samoa, Ordinance No. 19 of 1959. "Health Ordinance". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam88406.pdf>]. Accessed 21 September 2020

[3] Government of Samoa, S.R. 2012/20, "Pharmacy Regulations Act 2012". [https://www.palemene.ws/wp-content/uploads//02.Regulations/Regulations%202012/S.R._2012-20_Pharmacy_Regulations_2012_-_Eng.pdf] Accessed 21 September 2020.

[4] Government of Samoa, "NATIONAL SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY 2011-2016". [https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/external/ebooks/Samoa_2014/Health_Policies/Final_SRH_Policy.pdf] Accessed 21 September 2020

[5] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT". [<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[6] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, "Infection Prevention and Guidelines, 2010". [<https://spccpstore1.blob.core.windows.net/digitalibrary-docs/files/02/0249f009fc03341d8f1cc0753cb173dc.pdf?sv=2015-12-11&sr=b&sig=tqaZxzX52FG0kLZ%2F%2BktPw3fkV%2FZDzBpJgE%2BQqIDNU4%3D&se=2021-02-03T09%3A54%3A37Z&sp=r&rsc=public%2C%20max-age%3D864000%2C%20max-stale%3D86400&rsct=application%2Fpdf&rscd=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22PPHSN-infection-prevention-control-guidelines-2010-rev.pdf%22>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

- [7] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Pacific Outbreak Manual".
[https://www.pphsn.net/Publications/Pacific_Outbreak_Manual_Mar_2016.pdf] Accessed 22 September 2020.
- [8] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). [<https://www.pphsn.net/>] Accessed 22 September 2020.
- [9] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>] Accessed 21 September 2020.
- [10] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 21 September 2020.
- [11] Norris, Pauline and Hong Anh Nguyen. 2007. "Consumption of Antibiotics in a Small Pacific Island Nation: Samoa". Pharmacy Practice 5[1] : 36-41.
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/28156831_Consumption_of_antibiotics_in_a_small_Pacific_island_nation_Samoa] Accessed 21 September 2020.
- [6] Government of Samoa, "NATIONAL SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY 2011-2016".
[https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/external/ebooks/Samoa_2014/Health_Policies/Final_SRH_Policy.pdf] Accessed 21 September 2020
- [12] Government of Samoa, "Review of the Narcotics Act 1967 (Drugs Reform) (2017)".
[<https://www.samoalawreform.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Drugs-Final-Report-English.pdf>] Accessed 21 September 2020
- [13] World Health Organization, "National Action for Global Change on Antimicrobial Resistance (2016)".
[<https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1247313/retrieve>] Accessed 21 September 2020.

1.1.2b

Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has national legislation or a regulation in place that specifically requires prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals.

An academic paper published in Pharmacy Practice from 2007 does mention that "antibiotics are not legally available (in Samoa) without prescription from pharmacies, although in practice they are available". However, the paper deals only with antibiotic usage in humans and makes no mention of antibiotic usage for animals.[1]

There is no publicly available evidence of regulation on antibiotic usage in animals through official acts or policy documents. Samoa's Pharmacy Act (2007), Health Ordinance (1959) and Pharmacy Regulations Act (2012) makes no specific mention of antibiotics or the regulation of prescriptions of other medicines or controlled substances. [2,3, 4] There is evidence of a National Medicines Policy (2008) however the same is not available publicly and its contents are unknown. [5]

The WHO library of national action plans for antimicrobial resistance does not list an entry for Samoa [6].

No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [7,8]

[1] Norris, Pauline and Hong Anh Nguyen. 2007. "Consumption of Antibiotics in a Small Pacific Island Nation: Samoa". Pharmacy Practice 5[1] : 36-41.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/28156831_Consumption_of_antibiotics_in_a_small_Pacific_island_nation_Samoa] Accessed 21 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa, Act No. 6 of 2007. "Pharmacy Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam128241.pdf>].

Accessed 21 September 2020

[3] Government of Samoa, Ordinance No. 19 of 1959. "Health Ordinance".

[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam88406.pdf>]. Accessed 21 September 2020

[4] Government of Samoa, S.R. 2012/20, "Pharmacy Regulations Act 2012". [https://www.palemene.ws/wp-content/uploads//02.Regulations/Regulations%202012/S.R._2012-20_Pharmacy_Regulations_2012_-_Eng.pdf] Accessed 21 September 2020.

[5] Government of Samoa, "NATIONAL SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY 2011-2016".

[https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/external/ebooks/Samoa_2014/Health_Policies/Final_SRH_Policy.pdf] Accessed 21 September 2020

[6] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>] Accessed 21 September 2020.

[7] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 21 September 2020.

[8] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 21 September 2020.

1.2 ZOO NOTIC DISEASE

1.2.1 National planning for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

1.2.1a

Is there national legislation, plans, or equivalent strategy documents on zoonotic disease?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Samoa has a national plan on one zoonotic disease, avian influenza. The Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, a 2008 document, provides a planning framework for responding to its titular diseases. [1]

There is no evidence of other relevant plans, laws, or equivalent strategy documents on other zoonotic diseases. A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions in regards to 'Zoonoses' that a an Animal Health Response Plan is in place, however the plan is not available publicly. [2]

A COVID-19 Emergency Response Project report from May 2020 by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank mention about a 'draft National Epidemic and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan FY2020/21 to FY2024/25'. However, no further information is available in this regard. [3]

Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, nor the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF) shares additional relevant information via a public website. [4,5,6,7]

There is no information about zoonoses in the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005). [8]

[1] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT".

[<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20->

Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [http://www.maf.gov.ws/]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

[7] Samoa Quarantine Service. [http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

[8] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act".

[http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

1.2.1b

Is there national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Samoa has a national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans. Although there is a national biosecurity act which addresses disease risk, this is primarily geared toward plant and animal pathogens and does not specifically address zoonotic disease spillover risks. The Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 concerns the prevention of the importation into Samoa of pests and diseases affecting animals and plants and more in general the avoidance of risks related to diseases or pests affecting human beings, animal, plants or other aspects of the environment or economic activities. The Act makes provision for the control of "regulated articles" i.e. soil, garbage, litter, fodder, animals, animal products, plants and plant material, genetically modified organisms, etc. The Act provides for inspection, quarantine, treatment and other pest and disease control measures regarding regulated articles. The Act also mention that cleansing, disinfection, fumigation and other treatments can be carried out for the purpose of preventing the introduction or spread of diseases or pests. It also provides for national biosecurity coordination by the responsible minister and international cooperation in the field of biosecurity. [1] The Agriculture Sector Plan 2016-2020 also talks about strengthening biosecurity control including quarantine border controls and developing contingency response plans for invasive pest and disease incursions through imported plants and animals. [2] There is no further information in this regard on the websites of Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [3,4]

[1] Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 [http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf] Accessed 06 April.

[2] Agriculture Sector Plan 2016-2020 [https://brusselsbriefings.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/samoa-agriculture-sector-plan-2016-2020.pdf] Accessed 06 April.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 06 April.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [http://www.maf.gov.ws/]. Accessed 06 April.

1.2.1c

Is there national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Samoa has national plans, guidelines, or laws that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern. The Ministry of Health's 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan deals with the control and surveillance of its titular disease in human populations, but only for influenza. [1]

No relevant plan is shared via a public website by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, nor the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). Neither do these entities share any other relevant information via a public website. [2,3,4,5]

- [1] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#1217ede0f60f485b994833adfb95ec]. Accessed 22 September2020.
- [2] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 22 September2020.
- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [http://www.maf.gov.ws/]. Accessed 22 September2020.
- [4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development]. Accessed 22 September2020.
- [5] Samoa Quarantine Service. [http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/]. Accessed 22 September2020.

1.2.1d

Is there a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a Samoan department, agency, or similar unit dedicated zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, nor the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF) share information via a public website indicating they have a mandate to deal with zoonotic disease in a way that functions across ministries. [1,2,3,4]

However, the 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan mentions an Avian and Pandemic taskforce (APT) which was formed during the 2008 Avian influenza in Samoa. The APT operated across sectors and ministries which including but not limited to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance. However, the APT is a temporary unit mandated to convene during outbreaks and pandemics. [5]

There is no evidence of studies or media reports that share relevant information.

- [1] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/] Accessed 22 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [http://www.maf.gov.ws/] Accessed 22 September 2020
- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development] Accessed 22 September 2020.
- [4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/] Accessed 22 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3

ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 22 September 2020.

1.2.2 Surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

1.2.2a

Does the country have a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient public evidence that Samoa has a national mechanism for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency.

The Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, 2008 mentions establishing a hotline to report on animal deaths, however it does not mention reporting animal diseases by livestock owners and there is no evidence of such a hotline being established. The plan also mentions "Communities are highly advised not to touch dead birds/poultry but to report to animal health authority as soon as such situation arises". Once again, no evidence of such reporting requirement on animal disease available in the plan. [1]

There is no mention of such a mechanism on the websites of the Ministry of Health, or the Animal Health and Regulatory Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) which is responsible for disease surveillance in animals. [2,3]

There is also no information of such mechanism in the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005) or the Animals Ordinance (1960). [4,5] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. [6]

[1] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[4] Government of Samoa, Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[5] Government of Samoa, Ordinance No. 12 of 1960 (revised 2015). "Animals Ordinance". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam88397.pdf>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[6] Taulealo, S.F and McKenzie, J.S. "Animal Disease Surveillance in Samoa". [http://www.sciquest.org.nz/elibrary/download/63761/T5-2.3.2_-_Animal_disease_surveillance_in_Samoa.pdf?%22] Accessed 22 September 2020.

1.2.2b

Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has laws or guidelines that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals.

Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries shares relevant information via public websites. [1,2]

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Worldwide Database of Data Protection and Privacy Legislation show that Samoa does not have any legislation on Data Protection and Privacy. There is no evidence of such information in relevant academic studies or media reports. [3]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 22 September 2020.

[3] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Data Protection and Privacy Legislation Worldwide. [https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/STI_and_ICTs/ICT4D-Legislation/eCom-Data-Protection-Laws.aspx] Accessed 22 September 2020.

1.2.2c

Does the country conduct surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa conducts surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan mentions about implementing animal surveillance and establishing a hotline for reporting animal deaths. However, the plan makes no mention of conducting active surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife. [1]

There is no evidence of such activities on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF), or the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. [2,3,4,5,6]

The Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005) or the Animals Ordinance (1960) contains no relevant information. [7,8] There is no other evidence of other studies or articles that provide relevant information.

[1] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9.840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 22 September 2020

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[5] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[6] Samoa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act".

[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[8] Government of Samoa. Ordinance No. 12 of 1960 (revised 2015). "Animals Ordinance".

[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam88397.pdf>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

1.2.3 International reporting of animal disease outbreaks

1.2.3a

Has the country submitted a report to OIE on the incidence of human cases of zoonotic disease for the last calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2019

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.4 Animal health workforce

1.2.4a

Number of veterinarians per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 3.04

2018

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.4b

Number of veterinary para-professionals per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 3.04

2018

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.5 Private sector and zoonotic

1.2.5a

Does the national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of a national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans which include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses.

A 2013 document titled "Climate Adaptation Strategy for Health" by the Ministry of Health Samoa mentions that there is potential for the health sector to engage with private telecommunication providers to disseminate information during a disaster. The 2013 document includes vector borne diseases as a potential disaster for Samoa. The document also includes provisions for using 'private clinics data' on vector-, and water-borne diseases for vulnerability and adaptation assessments. [1] However, there is no evidence of already existing mechanisms to include the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses.

Samoa National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 also includes the private sector as a key stakeholder in different planning and response mechanisms during a disaster situation in Samoa. The plan mentions that a private sector representative be a part of the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) which is responsible for developing policies and plans (during a disaster). The plan includes epidemics in Samoa's disaster hazard profile. [2]

A 2017 document by the Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector" and The Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, 2008 also include the 'private sector' as a stakeholder along with government departments, NGOs and community organizations. [3,4] However, none of the documents outline any established mechanisms on how the private sector will be engaged in controlling or responding to zoonoses in Samoa.

There is no further information available in this regard on the websites of Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [5,6] There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Climate Adaptation Strategy for Health". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Climate-Adapation-Strategy-for-Health-.pdf>] Accessed 22 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3 BIOSECURITY

1.3.1 Whole-of- government biosecurity systems

1.3.1a

Does the country have in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities.

There is no mention of such a record on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such facilities in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles. .

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[10] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [11]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>].Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>].Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018".

[http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act".

[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa".

[<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.1b

Does the country have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence the Samoa have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed.

There is no mention of such legislation and/or regulations on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such legislation and/or regulations in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[9] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [10]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018".

[http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

- [7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act".
[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa".
[<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [9] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [10] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.
[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.1c

Is there an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to conclude that Samoa has in place legislation or regulations related to biosecurity, or that it has designated any agency responsible for biosecurity.

Samoa Quarantine Service (SQS), which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, is mandated to carry out the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005). [1,2] However, most of the activities detailed on the public website of the SQS are geared toward the control of pests and imports, and not the control of high-consequence biological agents and toxins. [1]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [3] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles. .

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source. [4] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [5]

There is no relevant information on such capacities on the websites of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). [6,7]

[1] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act".
[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.
[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23

September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 16 October 2020.

[7] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 16 October 2020.

1.3.1d

Is there public evidence that shows that the country has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that shows that Samoa has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities

There is no mention of such a record on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such facilities in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles. .

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[10] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [11]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018". [http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa".

[<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.1e

Is there public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)–based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen.

There is no mention of such a record on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such facilities in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8] The Ministry of Health's Annual Report (2015-2016) does mention Serology tests conducted by the National Health Service Laboratory for Chikangunya, Dengue and Zika. No further information is available. [5]

LabNet portal of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has a catalogue of laboratory facilities in the region which lists a National Health Laboratory and its testing capacities for Samoa. The catalogue mentions that Samoa National Laboratory refers 'PCR' testing for Influenza to a lab based in Wellington, New Zealand. No information is available in the catalogue on the capacity to conduct PCR testing for anthrax and/or Ebola. [9,10]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [11] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

- [6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018".
[http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act".
[<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa".
[<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [9] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, LabNet. [<https://www.pphsn.net/Services/LabNet/intro.htm>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [10] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, "PPHSN LabNet Catalogue 2015 Edition".
[https://www.pphsn.net/Services/LabNet/PPHSN_LabNet_catalogL1L2L3_July2015-.pdf] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [11] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.2 Biosecurity training and practices

1.3.2a

Does the country require biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa requires biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential.

There is no mention of such a legislation on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such trainings on the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

There is, however, evidence of a training workshop with Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment conducted in 2010 by the Pacific Invasive Initiatives on Biosecurity but the content of the training workshop report refers largely to biosafety. [9]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [10] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[11] There is no

information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [12]

- [1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018". [http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [9] Pacific Invasive Initiatives, 2010, "Report Island biosecurity training for Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands (Aleipata Island Groups), Apia, Samoa". [http://www.pacificinvasivesinitiative.org/site/pii/files/services/2010_Samoa_IslandBiosecurity_Report.pdf] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [10] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [11] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [12] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.3 Personnel vetting: regulating access to sensitive locations

1.3.3a

Do regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks?

Personnel are subject to all three of these checks = 3, Personnel are subject to two of these checks = 2, Personnel are subject to one of these checks = 1, Personnel are not subject to any of these checks = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks.

There is no mention of such checks on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such checks in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan

2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[10] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [11]

- [1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018". [http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.4 Transportation security

1.3.4a

Does the country have publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to conclude that Samoa has publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (Categories A and B).

There is no public evidence that Samoa has general policies or regulations on the transport of infectious substances. The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 assigns to the "Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing" sector the responsibility of ensuring "that transportation, storage, handling and usage of chemicals and other hazardous raw materials does not pose a threat to the nearby areas and environment". However, the Plan does not provide any more specific information, nor is any contained in the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007, under which the Plan was created. [1,2]

Neither the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MTWI), the Samoa Land Transport Authority, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), or Samoa Quarantine Services (which is part of MAF) shares via a public website any information on national regulations on the transport of infectious substances. [3,4,5,6,7]

There is no evidence that there are laws that govern such transport. There is no mention of the transport of infectious substances in the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), the Waste Management Act (2010), the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, or the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa 2018-2022 [8,9,10,11,12]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[13] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[14] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [15]

[1] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure (MWTI). [<http://www.mwti.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Land Transport Authority. [<https://www.lta.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[8] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[9] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2010. "Waste Management Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam110362.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[10] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[11] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018".

[http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020..

[12] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa".

[<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[13] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[14] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[15] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.3.5 Cross-border transfer and end-user screening

1.3.5a

Is there legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has a legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential.

There is no mention of such a regulation on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no mention of such regulations in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, its Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005), or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [5,6,7,8] The Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act (2005) has regulations for import and export of biosecurity sensitive articles in the act but it does not deal with overseeing or end-user screening of disease samples. [7]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[10] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [11]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

- [4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018". [http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [7] Government of Samoa. Act No. 22 of 2005. "Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act". [<http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam78879.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [8] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.4 BIOSAFETY

1.4.1 Whole-of-government biosafety systems

1.4.1a

Does the country have in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of national biosafety legislation and/or regulations in Samoa. Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Samoa Quarantine Services (which is part of MAF), or the Ministry of Education shares relevant information via public websites. [1,2,3,4]

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) Annual Report for 2015-2016 states that Samoa has completed a National Report on Biosafety. However, the MNRE Annual Report also states that the National Report on Biosafety was completed under the Cartagena Protocol, which deals with biosafety exclusively in the sense of threats to biodiversity and the regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and not pathogens, toxins, or pandemics. [5,6]

A review of Samoa's 5th National Report 2014 to the Convention on Biological Diversity confirms this limited definition of biosafety. [7] Samoa's National Biosafety Framework 2004 also deals with "handling and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology". [8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

A COVID-19 Emergency Response Project report from May 2020 by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank observes that "laboratory support for disease detection and response as well as biosafety capacity and regulations is limited (in Samoa)". The project includes a component for enhancing Samoa's laboratory capacity with proper biosafety protocols which can also be used during future outbreaks. [10]

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[11] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database or the FAOLEX database of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. [12,13]

- [1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [3] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/en/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. "Annual Report 2015-2016". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MNRE-AR-2015-2016-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [6] Convention on Biological Diversity. "Cartagena Protocol". [<https://bch.cbd.int/protocol>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "5th National Report 2014 to the Convention on Biological Diversity". [<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ws/ws-nr-05-en.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020..
- [8] Samoa, "Samoa's National Biosafety Framework". [<https://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/12.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [10] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [11] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [12] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.
- [13] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Samoa". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=WSM>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.4.1b

Is there an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations in Samoa. Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Samoa Quarantine Services (which is part of MAF), or the Ministry of Education shares relevant information via public websites. [1,2,3,4]

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) Annual Report for 2015-2016 states that Samoa has completed a National Report on Biosafety. However, the MNRE Annual Report also states that the National Report on Biosafety was completed under the Cartagena Protocol, which deals with biosafety exclusively in the sense of threats to

biodiversity and the regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and not pathogens, toxins, or pandemics. [5,6]

Samoa's 5th National Report 2014 to the Convention on Biological Diversity confirms this limited definition of biosafety. [7] Samoa's National Biosafety Framework 2004 also deals with "handling and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology". [8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[10] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database or the FAOLEX database of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. [11,12]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/en/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. "Annual Report 2015-2016". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MNRE-AR-2015-2016-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Convention on Biological Diversity. "Cartagena Protocol". [<https://bch.cbd.int/protocol>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "5th National Report 2014 to the Convention on Biological Diversity". [<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ws/ws-nr-05-en.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[8] Samoa, "Samoa's National Biosafety Framework". [<https://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/12.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[12] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Samoa". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=WSM>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.4.2 Biosafety training and practices

1.4.2a

Does the country require biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa requires biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Samoa Quarantine Services (which is part of MAF), or the Ministry of Education shares relevant information via public websites. [1,2,3,4]

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) Annual Report for 2015-2016 states that Samoa has completed a National Report on Biosafety. However, the MNRE Annual Report also states that the National Report on Biosafety was completed under the Cartagena Protocol, which deals with biosafety exclusively in the sense of threats to biodiversity and the regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and not pathogens, toxins, or pandemics. [5,6]

A review of Samoa's 5th National Report 2014 to the Convention on Biological Diversity confirms this limited definition of biosafety. [7] Samoa's National Biosafety Framework 2004 also deals with "handling and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology". [8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[9] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[10] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database or the FAOLEX database of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. [11,12]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/en/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. "Annual Report 2015-2016". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MNRE-AR-2015-2016-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] Convention on Biological Diversity. "Cartagena Protocol". [<https://bch.cbd.int/protocol>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "5th National Report 2014 to the Convention on Biological Diversity". [<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ws/ws-nr-05-en.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[8] Samoa, "Samoa's National Biosafety Framework". [<https://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/12.pdf>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[9] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[11] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[12] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Samoa". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=WSM>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.5 DUAL-USE RESEARCH AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

1.5.1 Oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research

1.5.1a

Is there publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research.

There is no mention of such assessments on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[5] There is also no information on this topic in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[6] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [7]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.5.1b

Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has a legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research.

There is no mention of legislation requiring dual use research oversight on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[5] There is also no information on legislation requiring dual use research oversight in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[6] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [7]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.5.1c

Is there an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research.

There is no mention of such a record on the websites of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[5] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[6] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database. [7]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[5] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[6] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.5.2 Screening guidance for providers of genetic material

1.5.2a

Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Samoa has a legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold.

Samoa's National Biosafety Framework 2004 which deals with "handling and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology" mentions "normally commercial products that involve genetic modifications go through stringent screening before permission is granted". There are other provisions as well in the Framework dealing with the monitoring and regulation of DNA, gene sequence etc. However, there is no direct mention of screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins. [1]

There is no information available in this regard on the websites of the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MTWI), the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [2,3,4,5,6]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Neither is there any other public evidence of articles or studies on the subject.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research, a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service.[7] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

Although Samoa is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention, it has not submitted Confidence Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention, and therefore does not make information available through this source.[8] There is no information available in this regard for Samoa on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database or the FAOLEX database of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. [9,10]

[1] Samoa, "Samoa's National Biosafety Framework". [<https://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/12.pdf>] Accessed 23 September 2020

[2] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020

[3] Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure (MWTI). [<http://www.mwti.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020

[5] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020

[6] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/>]. Accessed 23 September 2020

[7] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[8] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures: Samoa". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/samoa>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

[9] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), BWC Legislation Database.

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/s/>] Accessed 23 September 2020.

[10] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Samoa". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=WSM>]. Accessed 23 September 2020.

1.6 IMMUNIZATION

1.6.1 Vaccination rates

1.6.1a

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2)

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2), 95% or greater = 2, 80-94.9% = 1, Less than 80%, or no data = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2019

World Health Organization

1.6.1b

Are official foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination figures for livestock publicly available through the OIE database?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

OIE WAHIS database

Category 2: Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern

2.1 LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTH AND QUALITY

2.1.1 Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases

2.1.1a

Does the national laboratory system have the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests?

Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and these tests are named = 2, Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and the tests are not named = 1, No evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient public evidence to confirm that Samoa's national laboratory system has the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 core tests defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Ministry of Health's Annual Report (2015-2016) does mention Serology tests conducted by the National Health Service (NHS) Laboratory for Chikangunya, Dengue and Zika but does not list other tests for which there is capacity. The Annual Report also mentions that the NHS Laboratory Services are supporting "heightened public health surveillance activities especially for influenza and typhoid response", but does not explain what form this support takes. [1]

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan does not shed light on which tests are currently available in the country; there is no evidence of a more recent plan. It does, however, mention that influenza diagnostics would likely be supported by facilities in New Zealand and Australia when H5N1 influenza is suspected.[2]

The Ministry of Health's Samoa Global AIDS Monitoring Report 2018 states that "the NHS laboratory is responsible for all diagnostic procedures to ensure quality of HIV testing", and also describes tuberculosis screening activities, but does not provide specifics about what kind of diagnostic tests are available. [3]

LabNet portal of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has a catalogue of laboratory facilities in the region which lists a National Health Laboratory and its testing capacities for Samoa. It mentions that out of the six common tests, Samoa National Health Laboratory can conduct 'Culture/ID' test for typhoid, while it refers 'PCR' for Influenza and 'viral load for HIV to labs in neighbouring countries. No further information on other six common tests is available in the catalogue. [4]

Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), the Samoa Quarantine Services (which is part of MAF), the Ministry of Education shares via a public website any information on diagnostic testing. [5,6,7,8]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research. There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. "Samoa Global AIDS Monitoring Report 2018". [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/WSM_2018_countryreport.pdf]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, "PPHSN LabNet Catalogue 2015 Edition". [https://www.pphsn.net/Services/LabNet/PPHSN_LabNet_catalogL1L2L3_July2015-.pdf] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[7] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[8] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.1.1b

Is there a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing?

Yes, there is evidence of a plan, and it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 2, Yes, there is evidence of a plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 1, No evidence of a plan = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of a testing plan that includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan includes planning for pandemic scenarios with novel virus and mentions about mechanisms for liaising "closely with New Zealand or WHO-cc laboratory in Melbourne, to set up mechanism for Samoa to be able to send specimens for confirmation of the presence of the novel virus in Samoa". The plan's objective statement mentions that the scope of the plan can be extended and adapted to provide a response to other disease outbreaks for example, seasonal flu outbreak, dengue, measles. [1] The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic

Influenza Preparedness Plan does not address scaling capacity and defining goals for testing.

The Covid-19 Emergency Response Project introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank aims to address the immediate needs of emergency response to Covid-19. It observes that "laboratory support for disease detection and response as well as biosafety capacity and regulations is limited (in Samoa)", The country does not have the capacity to carry out in-country laboratory testing for COVID-19. Samples collected are sent to New Zealand or Australia. The lack of in-country lab testing capability impacts Samoa's ability to undertake early detection and close contacts tracing of suspected cases. However, the project includes a component for enhancing Samoa's laboratory capacity which can also be used during future outbreaks [2]

There is no further information on such capacities on the websites of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). [3,4]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research. There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

- [1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".
[<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e>] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".
[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

2.1.2 Laboratory quality systems

2.1.2a

Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA])?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to confirm that Samoa has a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA]).

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

LabNet portal of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has a catalogue of laboratory facilities in the region which lists a National Health Laboratory and its testing capacities for Samoa. However, no information of its accreditation is available

in the catalogue. [1]

The Ministry of Health's Annual Report (2015-2016) contains information on the services offered by the laboratory under the National Health Service, however it contains no information on its accreditation. [2]

Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) shares relevant information via a public website. [3,4] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or articles.

[1] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, "PPHSN LabNet Catalogue 2015 Edition".

[https://www.pphsn.net/Services/LabNet/PPHSN_LabNet_catalogL1L2L3_July2015-.pdf] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.1.2b

Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence there is a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review.

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

LabNet portal of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has a catalogue of laboratory facilities in the region which lists a National Health Laboratory and its testing capacities for Samoa. However, no information of its quality assurance review is available in the catalogue. [1]

The Ministry of Health's Annual Report (2015-2016) contains information on the services offered by the laboratory under the National Health Service, however it contains no information on external quality assurance. [2]

Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) shares relevant information via a public website. [3,4] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or articles.

[1] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, "PPHSN LabNet Catalogue 2015 Edition".

[https://www.pphsn.net/Services/LabNet/PPHSN_LabNet_catalogL1L2L3_July2015-.pdf] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.2 LABORATORY SUPPLY CHAINS

2.2.1 Specimen referral and transport system

2.2.1a

Is there a nationwide specimen transport system?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has a nationwide specimen transport system. This is the case both nationally and as part of its participation in the Pacific Animal Health Laboratory Network (PAHLNet) or the Laboratory Network (LabNet) of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). There is no mention of such a system on the websites of the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF); its Animal Health and Regulatory Section, the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [1,2,3,4]

PAHLNet provides guidance on the best referral routes and practices for specimens of animal disease from Samoa to regional laboratories, but does not provide information indicating that there is a single courier system in use. [5,6]

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Kiribati - has no information about specimen transport system. [7]

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan and the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank do mention about specimen transport but there is no evidence in the two sources to claim that there is a national specimen transport system. [8,9]

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[5] Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division. "PAHLNet Shipping Mechanism Fact Sheet". [<https://lrd.spc.int/our-work/animal-health-and-production/103/the-pahlNet-shipping-mechanism-factsheet>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[6] Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division. "PAHLNet: Documents". [<https://lrd.spc.int/ahp-network/pahlNet/pahlNet-resources>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[7] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. [<https://www.pphsn.net/>] Accessed 16 October 2020.

[8] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[[https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-](https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e)

[desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e](https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e)] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[9] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.2.2 Laboratory cooperation and coordination

2.2.2a

Is there a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak.

There is no information on such provisions in the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, the 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan or the Ministry of Health's Annual Report (2015-2016). [1,2,3]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) shares relevant information via a public website. [3,4] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or articles.

[1] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.pdfillor.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.3 REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

2.3.1 Indicator and event-based surveillance and reporting systems

2.3.1a

Is there evidence that the country is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease?

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and evidence that the data is being analyzed on a daily basis = 2,

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance, but no evidence that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious diseases in Samoa.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan encourages investigation based on rumors, both for human and animal health, which may "include stories of many poultry were found to be dead of unknown

causes, or there was an observed increase in the incidence of ILI (influenza like illness) in a specific area or in neighboring areas in comparison to the same period of previous year". [1] The plan also mentions that existing surveillance systems during the time were identified as a weak link and realized that this is a crucial tool for preparedness and respond to the threat/event of an influenza, be it seasonal or pandemic. However, it is not clear from the plan whether event-based surveillance is conducted on an ongoing basis or that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis.

The South Pacific Community, a regional organisation of which Samoa is a member, has developed a regional Epidemic Intelligence system for epidemic and emerging disease alerts. The system comprises an Event-Based Surveillance component which involves unstructured data and information usually gathered from informal sources (e.g. printed and online media, personal communication). However, there is no evidence to establish that the national government of Samoa conducts regular event-based surveillance in the country.[2]

The National Emergency Operations Center established under the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007 has no information on this. [3]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

The Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) does not share any other relevant information via a public website. [4,5] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or articles.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] SPC Public Health Division, Epidemic Intelligence [https://phs.spc.int/programmes/surveillance-preparedness-and-response/epidemic-intelligence]. Accessed 06 August 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [http://www.maf.gov.ws/]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.3.1b

Is there publicly available evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is publicly available evidence that Samoa reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years.

The World Health Organization's Disease Outbreak News page mentions a measles outbreak reported by Samoa in December 2019: "on 16 October 2019, the Samoa Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a measles outbreak with a state of emergency being declared on 15 November 2019". [1]

As of May 2021, Samoa has reported only one COVID-19 cases on World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. However, these cases were all reported after COVID-19 was declared a PHEIC by the WHO in January 2020.[2]

There is no further information in this regard on the websites of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). [3,4]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research. There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] World Health Organizations (WHO), Disease Outbreak News page. [<https://www.who.int/csr/don/15-december-2019-measles-pacific-island-countries-and-areas/en/>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] World Health Organisation, WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [<https://covid19.who.int/table>]. Accessed 12 May 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

2.3.2 Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting systems

2.3.2a

Does the government operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Samoa operates an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and sub-national level.

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [1]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "National surveillance systems (of Samoa) are approaching a point of transition with the installation of an electronic health information system (referred to as e-Health). The first stage will establish an electronic medical records management system. The future evolution of e-Health to include a full electronic health records system and an interface with public health surveillance (e.g. through modules for notifiable communicable diseases) has not yet been defined or planned". [2]

There is no relevant information shared via public websites on this or other electronic reporting surveillance mechanisms by the Ministry of Health . [3]

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa- has no specific evidence of operating an electronic reporting surveillance system. [4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT". [<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. [https://www.pphsn.net/What_is_PPHSN.htm] Accessed 24 September 2020.

2.3.2b

Does the electronic reporting surveillance system collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has an electronic reporting surveillance system which collects ongoing or real-time laboratory data.

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [1]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "National surveillance systems (of Samoa) are approaching a point of transition with the installation of an electronic health information system (referred to as e-Health). The first stage will establish an electronic medical records management system. The future evolution of e-Health to include a full electronic health records system and an interface with public health surveillance (e.g. through modules for notifiable communicable diseases) has not yet been defined or planned". [2]

There is no relevant information shared via public websites on this or other electronic reporting surveillance mechanisms by the Ministry of Health. [3]

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has no specific evidence of operating an electronic reporting surveillance system which collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data.[4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. . There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT".

[<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. [https://www.pphsn.net/What_is_PPHSN.htm] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4 SURVEILLANCE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

2.4.1 Coverage and use of electronic health records

2.4.1a

Are electronic health records commonly in use?

Electronic health records are commonly in use = 2, Electronic health records are not commonly in use, but there is evidence they are used = 1, No evidence electronic health records are in use = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that electronic health records are commonly in use in Samoa.

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [1]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "National surveillance systems (of Samoa) are approaching a point of transition with the installation of an electronic health information system (referred to as e-Health). The first stage will establish an electronic medical records management system. The future evolution of e-Health to include a full electronic health records system and an interface with public health surveillance (e.g. through modules for notifiable communicable diseases) has not yet been defined or planned". [2]

World Health Organization's Global Observatory for eHealth does not list any profile for Samoa. [3]

There is no relevant information shared via the Ministry of Health . [4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. . There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT". [<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Global Observatory for eHealth. [<https://www.who.int/goe/policies/en/>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.1b

Does the national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the national public health system of Samoa have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country.

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [1]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "National surveillance systems (of Samoa) are approaching a point of transition with the installation of an electronic health information system (referred to as e-Health). The first stage will establish an electronic medical records management system. The future evolution of e-Health to include a full electronic health records system and an interface with public health surveillance (e.g. through modules for notifiable communicable diseases) has not yet been defined or planned". [2]

World Health Organization's Global Observatory for eHealth does not list any profile for Samoa. [3]

There is no relevant information shared via the Ministry of Health . [4]

A document on an agenda item for the 7th Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH) Meeting held from 3 to 5 April 2019 in Nadi Fiji, identifies as a challenge around eHealth in the Pacific that "Many PICs still lack "good" eHealth policies and strategies with a clear understanding of the legal boundaries, regulatory frameworks and standards to support the national health system". [5]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT". [<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Global Observatory for eHealth. [<https://www.who.int/goe/policies/en/>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[5] 7th Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH) Meeting. "Agenda Item 5.2 - Update on eHealth and Health Information Systems in the Pacific". [https://spccfpstore1.blob.core.windows.net/digitallibrary-docs/files/a1/a1680ae4598e9c066384b5e44f3d41b8.pdf?sv=2015-12-11&sr=b&sig=ww1I9W4CthnfgqxFIGNYUm4OvLWtqNAOyHMz%2BIOHjTI%3D&se=2021-03-03T10%3A25%3A47Z&sp=r&rsc=public%2C%20max-age%3D864000%2C%20max-stale%3D864000&rsct=application%2Fpdf&rscd=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22WP4_Item5.2_Add_eHealth_HIS.pdf%22] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.1c

Are there data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa has data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards).

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [1]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "National surveillance systems (of Samoa) are approaching a point of transition with the installation of an electronic health information system (referred to as e-Health). The first stage will establish an electronic medical records management system. The future evolution of e-Health to include a full electronic health records system and an interface with public health surveillance (e.g. through modules for notifiable communicable diseases) has not yet been defined or planned". [2]

World Health Organization's Global Observatory for eHealth does not list any profile for Samoa. [3]

There is no relevant information shared via the Ministry of Health. [4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT". [<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Global Observatory for eHealth. [<https://www.who.int/goe/policies/en/>] Accessed 24 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.2 Data integration between human, animal, and environmental health sectors

2.4.2a

Is there evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to confirm the existence of a mechanism to share data between the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human and wildlife surveillance.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan under the section on 'Routine Data Collection' for surveillance purposes mentions that "it is very important that information from both human health (HH) and animal health (AH) surveillance are shared and evaluated, and informs the higher authority of the outcome". Further, the plan also mentions that "In such (influenza or pandemic) a situation, relevant authorities from the human health (HH) and animal health (AH) should be notified as soon as possible. The Ministry of Agriculture have identified processes when a threat of a pandemic arises in collaboration with Ministry of Health (Public Health). The collaborative exercise is to led by the National Disaster Council. However, the mentioned activities are in terms of best practices which needs to be adopted for better surveillance and not as functioning mechanisms. The plan mentions in the following passages about the necessity of operationlising syndromic surveillance for influenza like illness (ILI) as soon as possible". [1]

There is no further information about such mechanisms shared via a public website by Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF); its Animal Health and Regulatory Section or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [2,3,4,5]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of such a mechanism in other media reports and studies.

- [1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 25 September 2020.
- [2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 25 September 2020.
- [3] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [http://www.maf.gov.ws/]. Accessed 25 September 2020.
- [4] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Animal Health and Regulatory Section". [https://www.maf.gov.ws/index.php/about-aphd/development]. Accessed 25 September 2020.
- [5] Samoa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.3 Transparency of surveillance data

2.4.3a

Does the country make de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Samoa makes de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on the website of Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health shares such reports on its "Publications and Media" webpage.[1] The page lists a section called 'HIV, STI & TB BULLETIN' which contains reports on HIV, STI and TB cases detected in Samoa. However, the most recent bulletin available is from February 2019. [2] There is also evidence of a similar update on Measles outbreak through a press release from October 2019. [3] There is no evidence of de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases which is updated on, at least, a weekly basis. [1]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in

Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Publications and Media". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/publications-n-media/>]. Accessed 05 April

[2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. "HIV, STI& TB BULLETIN Vol.2 Issue. 2, February 2019". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/MOH-STI-Bulletin-Vol-2-Iss-2-2019.pdf>] Accessed 05 April.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health. "PRESS RELEASE- MEASLES EPIDEMIC". 30 October 2019. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/press-release-measle-epidemic/>] Accessed 05 April.

2.4.3b

Does the country make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar).

There is no information available for COVID-19 surveillance data on Ministry of Health website. [1]

Samoa has not reported any COVID-19 cases on World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [2] The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also mentions that 'Samoa has not reported data on COVID-19 cases to the World Health Organization'. [3]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Publications and Media". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/publications-n-media/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation, WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [<https://covid19.who.int/table>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "COVID-19 in Samoa". [<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-samoa>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.4 Ethical considerations during surveillance

2.4.4a

Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities.

There is no evidence of such regulations or legislation on the website of the Ministry of Health. [1]

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Worldwide Database of Data Protection and Privacy Legislation show that Samoa does not have any legislation on Data Protection and Privacy. [2]

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has no information on safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health surveillance data. [3,4,5]

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [6]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Data Protection and Privacy Legislation Worldwide. [<https://unctad.org/page/data-protection-and-privacy-legislation-worldwide>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Strategic Framework".

[<https://www.pphsn.net/ENGLISH/Publications/InformACTION/SupplementIA16-ENG.pdf>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Pacific Outbreak Manual".

[https://www.pphsn.net/Publications/Pacific_Outbreak_Manual_Mar_2016.pdf] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[5] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Pacific Syndromic Surveillance

[<https://www.pphsn.net/Surveillance/Syndromic.htm>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[6] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.4b

Is there legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware).

There is no evidence of such regulations or legislation on the website of the Ministry of Health. [1]

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Worldwide Database of Data Protection and Privacy

Legislation show that Samoa does not have any legislation on Data Protection and Privacy. [2]

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has no information on safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health surveillance data. [3,4,5]

There is evidence of a Health Sector eHealth Policy and Strategy 2017-2022, however the strategy document is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown. [6]

Samoa National Cybersecurity Strategy 2016-2021 has a goal to "establish relevant technical measures (Entities and Standards) to eliminate Cyber Threats and Attacks, enhance Cybersecurity and promote Cyber Safety". No specific mention of health information is given in the strategy document. [7] A follow up document "CYBERSECURITY CAPACITY REVIEW" from December 2018 also has no relevant information in this regard. [8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. . There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Data Protection and Privacy Legislation Worldwide. [<https://unctad.org/page/data-protection-and-privacy-legislation-worldwide>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Strategic Framework". [<https://www.pphsn.net/ENGLISH/Publications/InformACTION/SupplementIA16-ENG.pdf>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). "Pacific Outbreak Manual". [https://www.pphsn.net/Publications/Pacific_Outbreak_Manual_Mar_2016.pdf] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[5] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). Pacific Syndromic Surveillance [<https://www.pphsn.net/Surveillance/Syndromic.htm>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[6] Samoa Observer, 05 July 2018. "Pushing for better health care". [<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/18396>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[7] Samoa, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, "Samoa National Cybersecurity Strategy 2016-2021". [<https://www.samoagovt.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/MCIT-Samoa-National-Cybersecurity-Strategy-2016-2021.pdf>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[8] Samoa, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. "CYBERSECURITY CAPACITY REVIEW". [<https://mcit.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/20190402-CMM-Samoa-Report.pdf>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.4.5 International data sharing

2.4.5a

Has the government made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region?

Yes, commitments have been made to share data for more than one disease = 2, Yes, commitments have been made to share data only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that the government of Samoa has made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region.

There is no mention of surveillance data sharing on the websites of the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [1,2]

The PacNet portal of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a regional network under the South Pacific Community - is an alert and communication platform which connects more than 1000 professionals in the region for information sharing on epidemic threats. [3] However, there is no evidence is available of a commitment by the government to participate in PacNet data sharing.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan encourages information sharing with other countries in the region, but does not outline a specific plan for this to occur, let alone one that deals specifically with surveillance. [4] There is no mention of surveillance information sharing in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020, the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007, or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. [5,6,7]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. . There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] SPC Public Health Division, Alerts and Information Sharing. [<https://phs.spc.int/programmes/surveillance-preparedness-and-response/alerts-information-sharing>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[5] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[6] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act".

[http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[7] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021".

[<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

2.5 CASE-BASED INVESTIGATION

2.5.1 Case investigation and contact tracing

2.5.1a

Is there a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency?

Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems, but only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan includes guidance for contact tracing and investigation during a pandemic situation, however the plan does not mention how the national government will support sub-national contact tracing activities. [1]

Samoa has reported only one Covid-19 case as of May 2021. [2]The Samoa Covid-19 Emergency Response Project was introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank with the purpose of addressing some of the immediate needs of emergency response to Covid-19. It mentions about strengthening Samoa's surveillance and laboratory systems with taking contact tracing into consideration but there is no evidence that suggests that contact tracing was conducted. [3]

The website of the Ministry of Health does not share any other information. [4] There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e] Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, World Health Organisation [https://www.who.int/countries/wsm/] Accessed 12 May 2021

[3] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

2.5.1b

Does the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention?

Yes, both economic support and medical attention are provided = 2, Yes, but only economic support or medical attention is provided = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan contains no information on such services. [1] Additionally, the Samoa Covid-19 Emergency Response Project introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank with the purpose of addressing some of the immediate needs of emergency response to Covid-19 contains no such information.[2]

As of May 2021, Samoa has only one reported Covid-19 cases on WHO's Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [3]

Sick patients were advised to remain in home isolation during the Measles outbreak in 2019, however there is no publicly available information on wraparound services provided to those patients. [4]

There is no information available in this regard on the website of the Ministry of Health. [5]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. . There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

- [1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [3] World Health Organisation, WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [https://covid19.who.int/table] Accessed 12 May 2021.
- [4] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "INFORMATION FOR HOME BASED CARE". [https://www.health.gov.ws/information-for-home-based-care-2/] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [5] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

2.5.1c

Does the country make de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country makes de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar). There is no information about contact tracing data sharing on the Ministry of Health website. [1]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively, and there is no other information available on contact tracing data sharing.

Samoa has no reported COVID-19 cases on World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [2]

The Public Health Division of South Pacific Community - a regional organization of which Samoa is a member, which is also the parent organization for the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - issues regular updates on COVID-19 in the Pacific Community region. The updates page has no information on de-identified data on contact tracing for COVID-19.

[3]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation, WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [<https://covid19.who.int/table>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] SPC Public Health Division, "COVID-19: Pacific Community Updates". [<https://phs.spc.int/covid-19#technical-information>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.5.2 Point of entry management

2.5.2a

Is there a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency?

Yes, plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, but plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of an active or a future public health emergency.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan includes measures such as 'plan possible quarantine measures in terms of isolation of travelers, crews [planes & ships etc.]' as a Healthcare and Emergency Response under a pandemic scenario. Another section on surveillance activities to be conducted during a health emergency mentions, "Implement data collection and epidemiological analysis on suspect(s) [history of travel; source of exposure including trade possibilities; incubation period; infection of contacts (clinical/ sub-clinical), period of communicability". The plan established an Avian and Pandemic Taskforce in which the responsibility of "Border Control and Quarantine of Affected Areas" was allotted to the Ministry of Health. [1] The response plan includes different scenarios for different stages of a pandemic and enlists different actions to be undertaken during each of them. The plan also mentions that 'some of the components of the plan can be adapted and tailored to provide a well co-ordinated and timely response to other threats or events that pose potential national emergency situations, eg, seasonal flu outbreak, dengue, or measles'. However there is insufficient evidence of a 'border control plan' which involves both the public health system and border control authorities to coordinate during a public health emergency.

The COVID-19 health travel advisory on the Ministry of Health website has guidelines for 14 days quarantine of international travellers but no information on contact tracing or their quarantine. Screening of all arriving passengers to Samoa is compulsory at all ports of entry [2]. However, there is no evidence of a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities regarding the same.

There is no information in this regard on the website of Maritime Unit of Samoa Police. [3]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-

desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e] Accessed 05 April 2021..

[2] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 12 February 2021. "HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-Ncov) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY". Government Of Samoa. [https://www.samoagovt.ws/2020/02/health-travel-advisory-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-effective-immediately-3/.] Accessed 5 April 2021.

[3] Samoa Police Service, Maritime Unit. [https://www.samoapolice.ws/maritime-unit/] Accessed 05 April 2021.

2.6 EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKFORCE

2.6.1 Applied epidemiology training program, such as the field epidemiology training program, for public health professionals and veterinarians (e.g., Field Epidemiology Training Program [FETP] and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians [FETPV])

2.6.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in country

- Resources are provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP)

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that an applied epidemiology training program is available in Samoa, or that its government provides resources to send citizens to another country to participate in such programs. Samoa is not among the countries where programs are offered by Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) or by South East Asia Field and Epidemiology and Technology Network (SafetyNet), the closest regional network for such trainings. [1,2]

There is no evidence that the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) conducts an applied epidemiology training program in Samoa. [3]

There is no information about applied epidemiology training programs shared via a public website by Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF); or the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [4,5,6]

The South Pacific Community Public Health Division in collaboration with Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), a regional health network of which Samoa is a member, offers programmes in field epidemiology and applied epidemiology. However, there is no evidence to show that Samoa government provides resources to send its citizens to pursue this training.[7]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET). "Training Programs". [https://www.tephinet.org/training-programs]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] South East Asia Field and Epidemiology and Technology Network (SafetyNet). [https://www.safetynet-web.org/]. Accessed

25 September 2020.

[3] Centres for Disease Control. "Global Health Protection and Security: Field Epidemiology Training Program".

[<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/fetp/index.htm>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[6] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[7] SPC Public Health Division, Epidemiology Training. [<https://phs.spc.int/programmes/surveillance-preparedness-and-response/epidemiology-training>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.6.1b

Are the available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV).

Samoa is not among the countries where programs are offered by Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) or by South East Asia Field and Epidemiology and Technology Network (SafetyNet), the closest regional network for such trainings. [1,2]

There is no evidence that the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) conducts an applied epidemiology training program in Samoa. [3]

There is no information about applied epidemiology training programs shared via a public website by Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF); or the Samoa Quarantine Service (which is part of MAF). [4,5,6]

The South Pacific Community Public Health Division in collaboration with Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), a regional health network of which Samoa is a member, offers programmes in field epidemiology and applied epidemiology. However, there is no evidence to show that Samoa government provides resources to send its citizens to pursue this training.[8]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET). "Training Programs".

[<https://www.tephinet.org/training-programs>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[2] South East Asia Field and Epidemiology and Technology Network (SafetyNet). [<https://www.safetynet-web.org/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[3] Centres for Disease Control. "Global Health Protection and Security: Field Epidemiology Training Program".

[<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/fetp/index.htm>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[6] Samoa Quarantine Service. [<http://www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 25 September 2020.

[7] SPC Public Health Division, Epidemiology Training. [<https://phs.spc.int/programmes/surveillance-preparedness-and-response/epidemiology-training>] Accessed 25 September 2020.

2.6.2 Epidemiology workforce capacity

2.6.2a

Is there public evidence that the country has at least 1 trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

Completed JEE assessments; Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

Category 3: Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic

3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

3.1.1 National public health emergency preparedness and response plan

3.1.1a

Does the country have an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential?

Evidence that there is a plan in place, and the plan is publicly available = 2, Evidence that the plan is in place, but the plan is not publicly available OR, Disease-specific plans are in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan = 1, No evidence that such a plan or plans are in place = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence of disease-specific national public health emergency response plan which addresses planning for specific diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential but there is no evidence of an overarching plan.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan "provides an outline for relevant policies and procedures to guide and guard relevant and appropriate activities in order to achieve the most efficient response to an avian and/or pandemic influenza event". The response plan includes different scenarios for different stages of a pandemic and enlists different actions to be undertaken during each of them. The plan also mentions that 'some of the components of the plan can be adapted and tailored to provide a well co-ordinated and timely response to other threats or events that pose potential national emergency situations, eg, seasonal flu outbreak, dengue, or measles'. However the other disease scenarios are not addressed in detail in the plan. [1]

The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank mentions about a draft National Epidemic and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan FY2020/21 to FY2024/25 for Samoa. The

draft plan is not available publicly and there is no evidence to confirm if the draft plan has been activated or not. The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project notes that Samoa's response to COVID-19 is being led by "the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is the focal point providing collaboration and operational coordination amongst all stakeholders, with advice and technical guidance from the MOH. The activation of NEOC is part of Samoa's National Emergency Response Plan as per the National Disaster Management Plan under the National Disaster and Emergency Act 2007".[2]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 or the Disaster and Emergency Management Act (2007) do mention disease epidemics as a disaster risk for Samoa, but they do not provide specific response plans to be undertaken during a public health emergency. [3,4]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)— do not share any information indicating that such a plan exists. [5,6].

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, "Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.1.1b

If an overarching plan is in place, has it been updated in the last 3 years?

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of an overarching plan in place which has been updated in the last 3 years.

Samoa has a disease-specific national public health emergency response plan which addresses planning for specific diseases

with epidemic or pandemic potential.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan "provides an outline for relevant policies and procedures to guide and guard relevant and appropriate activities in order to achieve the most efficient response to an avian and/or pandemic influenza event". The response plan includes different scenarios for different stages of a pandemic and enlists different actions to be undertaken during each of them. The plan also mentions that 'some of the components of the plan can be adapted and tailored to provide a well co-ordinated and timely response to other threats or events that pose potential national emergency situations, eg, seasonal flu outbreak, dengue, or measles". However the other disease scenarios are not addressed in detail in the plan. [1]

The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank mentions about a draft National Epidemic and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan FY2020/21 to FY2024/25 for Samoa. The draft plan is not available publicly and there is no evidence to confirm if the draft plan has been activated or not. The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project notes that Samoa's response to COVID-19 is being led by "the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is the focal point providing collaboration and operational coordination amongst all stakeholders, with advice and technical guidance from the MOH. The activation of NEOC is part of Samoa's National Emergency Response Plan as per the National Disaster Management Plan under the National Disaster and Emergency Act 2007".[2]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 or the Disaster and Emergency Management Act (2007) do mention disease epidemics as a disaster risk for Samoa, but they do not provide specific response plans to be undertaken during a public health emergency. [3,4]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)— do not share any information indicating that such a plan exists. [5,6].

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, "Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.1.1c

If an overarching plan is in place, does it include considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations?

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that an overarching health emergency plan is in place and includes considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations.

Samoa has a disease-specific national public health emergency response plan which addresses planning for specific diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan "provides an outline for relevant policies and procedures to guide and guard relevant and appropriate activities in order to achieve the most efficient response to an avian and/or pandemic influenza event". The response plan includes different scenarios for different stages of a pandemic and enlists different actions to be undertaken during each of them. The plan also mentions that 'some of the components of the plan can be adapted and tailored to provide a well co-ordinated and timely response to other threats or events that pose potential national emergency situations, eg, seasonal flu outbreak, dengue, or measles". However the other disease scenarios are not addressed in detail in the plan. [1]

The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank mentions about a draft National Epidemic and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan FY2020/21 to FY2024/25 for Samoa. The draft plan is not available publicly and there is no evidence to confirm if the draft plan has been activated or not. The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project notes that Samoa's response to COVID-19 is being led by "the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is the focal point providing collaboration and operational coordination amongst all stakeholders, with advice and technical guidance from the MOH. The activation of NEOC is part of Samoa's National Emergency Response Plan as per the National Disaster Management Plan under the National Disaster and Emergency Act 2007". The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project does identify vulnerable groups in Samoa which includes women, children, older people etc.[2]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 or the Disaster and Emergency Management Act (2007) do mention disease epidemics as a disaster risk for Samoa, but they do not provide specific response plans to be undertaken during a public health emergency. [3,4]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)— do not share any information indicating that such a plan exists. [5,6].

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

- [1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [3] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [4] Samoa, "Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.1.1d

Does the country have a publicly available plan in place specifically for pandemic influenza preparedness that has been updated since 2009?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH)

3.1.2 Private sector involvement in response planning

3.1.2a

Does the country have a specific mechanism(s) for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of a national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans which include mechanisms for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response.

A 2013 document titled "Climate Adaptation Strategy for Health" by the Ministry of Health Samoa mentions that there is potential for the health sector to engage with private telecommunication providers to disseminate information during a disaster. The 2013 document includes vector borne diseases as a potential disaster for Samoa. The document also includes provisions for using 'private clinics data' on vector-, and water-borne diseases for vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

[1] However, there is no evidence of already existing mechanisms to include the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response.

Samoa National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 also includes the private sector as a key stakeholder in different planning and response mechanisms during a disaster situation in Samoa. The plan mentions that a private sector representative be a part of the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) which is responsible for developing policies and plans (during a disaster). The plan includes epidemics in Samoa's disaster hazard profile. [2]

A 2017 document by the Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector" and The Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, 2008 also include the 'private sector' as a stakeholder along with government departments, NGOs and community organizations. [3,4] However, none of the documents outline any established mechanisms on how the private sector will be engaged to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response in Samoa.

There is no further information available in this regard on the websites of Ministry of Health. [5] There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Climate Adaptation Strategy for Health". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Climate-Adapation-Strategy-for-Health-.pdf>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ff75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.1.3 Non-pharmaceutical interventions planning

3.1.3a

Does the country have a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic?

Yes, a policy, plan and/or guidelines are in place for more than one disease = 2, Yes, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is evidence that the country has a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic. The country has such guidelines in place for more than one disease.

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan includes a provision to consider 'social-distancing measures' in affected communities as a prevention and containment measure 'if cases are occurring in Samoa or in Fiji/Tonga'. The provision is mentioned under a pandemic scenario and defined as Pandemic Alert Period Phase 3 - "Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human to human transmission or at the most rare instances of spread to a close contact". According to the plan "social-distancing refers to avoidance of usual events that draws people to congregate in an

area(s) in which spread of respiratory pathogens is encouraged to spread of infectious disease from one person to another. This could include measures such as school closures, banning of mass gatherings, staying at home when sick". The plan's objective statement mentions that the scope of the plan can be extended and adapted to provide a response to other disease outbreaks for example, seasonal flu outbreak, dengue, measles.[1]

Furthermore, sick patients were advised to remain in home isolation' during the Measles outbreak in 2019. [2] The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank with the purpose of addressing the immediate needs of emergency response to COVID-19 includes measures for social-distancing, cough etiquettes and maintaining hand-hygiene. [3]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)— do not share any further information. [4,5].

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

- [1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "INFORMATION FOR HOME BASED CARE". [https://www.health.gov.ws/information-for-home-based-care-2/] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [3] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 05 April 2021.
- [5] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

3.2 EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

3.2.1 Activating response plans

3.2.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year?
- Is there evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. However, there is no evidence on completion of a national-level biological threat-focused exercise.

The Samoa Covid-19 Emergency Response Project was introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank with the purpose of addressing the immediate needs of emergency response to Covid-19. It mentions that the country had declared a state of national emergency on March 20, 2020 in response to the pandemic. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is the focal point providing collaboration and operational coordination amongst all stakeholders was activated. The activation of NEOC is part of Samoa's National Emergency Response Plan as per the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) under the National Disaster and Emergency Act 2007. [1]

World Health Organizations (WHO) Disease Outbreak News page also mentions about a Measles outbreak reported by Samoa in December 2019, "on 16 October 2019, the Samoa Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a measles outbreak with a state of emergency being declared on 15 November 2019". However, there is no evidence to verify whether the NEOC was activated during the measles outbreak or not". [2]

Samoa's NDMP 2017 - 2020 defines "Declaration of Disaster (or emergency)" as "the activation of the disaster response provisions of the National Disaster Management Plan by the Chairperson of the National Disaster Council in accordance with section 19 of the Act." [3]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the NEOC—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment — do not share any additional information. [4,5]. There is no evidence of a national-level biological threat-focused exercise conducted in Samoa on the WHO Simulation Exercise Database. [6]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organizations (WHO), Disease Outbreak News page. [https://www.who.int/csr/don/15-december-2019-measles-pacific-island-countries-and-areas/en/] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] World Health Organisation (WHO), Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). [https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise] Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.2.1b

Is there evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities?

Yes, the country has developed and published a plan to improve response capacity = 2 , Yes, the country has developed a plan to improve response capacity, but has not published the plan = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities, but has not published the plan.

The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic the "draft National Epidemic and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan FY2020/21 to FY2024/25" was quickly developed which identified "the critical gaps and support priorities" to prepare Samoa's health system for future public health threats. [1] The plan document is not publicly available.

The WHO Strategic Partnerships Portal for After Action Review shows that an After Action Review activity on Measles was conducted in Samoa in 2020 .[2] There is no available evidence to show that the activity was followed by a plan.

The World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) mentions as one of the national strategic priorities to "review and test disaster risk management plans through simulation exercises". No further information is available in this regard. [3]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)— do not share any additional information. [4,5].

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation. "Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH)," [https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.2.2 Private sector engagement in exercises

3.2.2a

Is there evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representative.

The WHO Strategic Partnerships Portal for After Action Review shows that an After Action Review activity on Measles was conducted in Samoa from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020.[1] However, there is no evidence to confirm if the exercise included private sector representatives.

The World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) mentions as one of the national strategic priorities to "review and test disaster risk management plans through simulation exercises". No further information is available in this regard. [2,3]

The website of the Ministry of Health or the webpage describing the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)—which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)— do not share any additional information. [4,5].

There is no evidence of a national-level biological threat-focused exercised conducted in Samoa on the WHO Simulation Exercise Database. [6]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] World Health Organisation. "Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH)," [https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organisation (WHO). Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). [https://extranet.who.int/sph/samoa-american-samoa-tonga-fiji-kiribati-measles-outbreaks-pacific-island-countries-2020] Accessed 28 October 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] World Health Organisation (WHO), Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). [https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise] Accessed 16 October 2020.

3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATION

3.3.1 Emergency response operation

3.3.1a

Does the country have in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Samoa has a National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The NEOC does not have a website, but is briefly described in the webpage of the Disaster Management Office, on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). Although the MNRE does not include details on whether the NEOC covers public health emergencies, there is evidence in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 that the NEOC's responsibilities include pandemic emergencies. [1,2]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 outlines the responsibilities of the NEOC as a coordinating body for many disaster-response related activities, and multiple hazards including "public health crisis." The plan notes that "Samoa is vulnerable to a public health crisis. There is potential for communicable and non-communicable disease outbreaks." The plan also includes avian influenza as an example as a type of public health crisis and discusses disease surveillance as an action subsidiary to natural disaster response. [2]

Most recently, there is evidence that the NEOC has been activated to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Samoa. [3]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.3.1b

Is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year or is there evidence that they conduct a drill at least once per year?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient public evidence to confirm that Samoa's National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is required to conduct a drill at least once a year. There is also no evidence of any such drill being conducted annually.

The NEOC does not have a website, but is briefly described in the webpage of the Disaster Management Office (DMO), on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). [1]

There is no requirement or provision for an NEOC drill described in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020; the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007; or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. [2,3,4]

There is no information about such drills shared by the Ministry of Health or by the MNRE, either via public websites or in their most recent annual reports. [5,6,7,8]

The Sendai Framework National Progress Report on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013) states that tsunami drills are conducted yearly in Samoa, with the involvement of the DMO, but does not mention whether the NEOC is involved or required to participate. Further, it is not possible to confirm that this information is up to date, because a more recent report does not exist. [9]

No other relevant information is shared via a public website by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). [10] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[6] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[7] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[8] Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. "Annual Report 2016-2017". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/MNRE-AR-English.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[9] Sendai Framework, Hyogo Framework for Action. "National Progress Report on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)". [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/28739_wsm_NationalHFAprogress_2011-13.pdf]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[10] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). "Samoa". [<https://www.unisdr.org/partners/countries/wsm>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

3.3.1c

Is there public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario.

The NEOC does not have a website, but is briefly described in the webpage of the Disaster Management Office (DMO), on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). [1]

Most recently, there is evidence that the NEOC has been activated to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Samoa, however there is no evidence to confirm if the same was done within 120 minutes of the identification of the health emergency. [2]

There is no requirement or provision for an NEOC drill described in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020; the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007; or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. [3,4,5]

There is no information about such drills shared by the Ministry of Health or by the MNRE, either via public websites or in their most recent annual reports. [6,7,8,9]

The Sendai Framework National Progress Report on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013) states that tsunami drills are conducted yearly in Samoa, with the involvement of the DMO, but does not mention whether the NEOC is involved or required to participate. Further, it is not possible to confirm that this information is up to date, because a more recent report does not exist. [10]

No other relevant information is shared via a public website by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). [11] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports

[1] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[7] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[8] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[9] Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. "Annual Report 2016-2017". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

content/uploads/2017/08/MNRE-AR-English.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[10] Sendai Framework, Hyogo Framework for Action. "National Progress Report on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)". [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/28739_wsm_NationalHFAprogress_2011-13.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[11] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). "Samoa". [<https://www.unisdr.org/partners/countries/wsm>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.4 LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

3.4.1 Public health and security authorities are linked for rapid response during a biological event

3.4.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there public evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?
- Are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa's public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event, nor are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, or agreements between those entities regarding such events. Neither the Ministry of Health or the Disaster Management Office shares relevant information via public websites [1,2].

There is no relevant information shared in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP); the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007; or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. [3,4,5]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that a "National Security Policy (NSP) is currently under development and is due for completion by mid-year. The NSP will address border security and transnational crime, national disaster, management, a broad framework for health security, cyber-security and some aspects of human security".[6] There is no publicly available evidence to verify if the NSP has been completed or not.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Defence or similar agency. [7] The Department of Police, which the NDMP designates as being responsible for responding to terrorism, does not have any relevant information on its website. [8] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

- [4] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act".
[http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf].
Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [5] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021".
[<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>].
Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [6] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT".
[<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [7] Government of Samoa. "Government Ministries". [<http://www.samoagovt.ws/directories/government-ministries/>].
Accessed 28 September 2020.
- [8] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

3.5 RISK COMMUNICATIONS

3.5.1 Public communication

3.5.1b

Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (eg different languages, location within the country, media reach)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence Samoa has in place a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency and which outlines how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs.

Both the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) and the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 discuss intended features of a communications plan. The NDMP states a special intent to develop communications plans that address the needs of vulnerable communities, but does not go into greater detail about how this will be accomplished. Further, these plans do not contain detailed discussions of the communications channels that will be used to reach different audiences, and as such, they apply to emergency and risk communication generally and do not deal specifically with public health emergencies. [1,2]

Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Disaster Management Office shares other relevant information via public websites [3,4].

[1] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021".
[<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>].
Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about->

us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.5.1 Risk communication planning

3.5.1a

Does the country have in place, either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation, or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Samoa has in place a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency.

The Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 does not contain a section on public health, and has little information about communications plans. [1]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) contains more details on communications during a disaster, but not for risk communication or communication during a public health emergency. [2]

The Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007 does not share relevant information. [3]

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan contains a section on risk communication strategy for the plans titular diseases. The only concrete prescriptions are for the appointment of an official communication officer in the event of an outbreak, and to develop a plan for risk communication among health workers. [4]

Neither the Ministry of Health or the Disaster Management Office shares additional relevant information via public websites. [5,6]

[1] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.health.gov.ws/images/uploadPDFs/HealthPlans/SAMOANATIONALAVIANANDPANDMICINFLUENZACTIONPLAN.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.5.1c

Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency.

The Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 does not contain a section on public health, and has little information about communications plans. [1]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) contains more details on communications during a disaster, but not for risk communication or communication during a public health emergency. [2]

The Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007 does not share relevant information. [3]

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan contains a section on risk communication strategy for the plans titular diseases. The plan recommends "appointing an official communication officer who should liaise closely and regularly with the media", however, there is no official appointment. [4]

Neither the Ministry of Health or the Disaster Management Office shares additional relevant information via public websites. [5,6]

[1] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [https://www.health.gov.ws/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.5.2 Public communication

3.5.2a

In the past year, is there evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation?

Public health system regularly shares information on health concerns = 2, Public health system shares information only during active emergencies, but does not regularly utilize online media platforms = 1, Public health system does not regularly utilize online media platforms, either during emergencies or otherwise = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) operates a Facebook page where it regularly shares information related to latest health issues including public health emergencies in Samoa. Some of the recent posts are related to updates on COVID-19 pandemic preparations, a notice on a temporary import ban on meat, and informational videos on COVID-19. The page also contains regular posts on health topics other than active emergencies, which recently concerned with MoH activities and information campaigns around mental health awareness and child and maternal health. [1] The Disaster Management Office also has its own Facebook page on which it shares information related to all kinds of disaster emergencies in Samoa including tsunamis and earthquake. [2]

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health's website hosts a page named "Myths and Facts" which provided "key facts about measles and vaccination, given by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization" during the 2019 Measles outbreak in Samoa. [3]

Both the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) and the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 describe social media use as part of their communications objectives, but do not make it clear that it is already in use. [4,5]

[1] Facebook. "Public Health, Ministry of Health Samoa". [<https://www.facebook.com/publichealthsamoa/?ref=bookmarks>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Facebook. "Disaster Management Office — Samoa". [<https://www.facebook.com/DMOSamoa/>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health, "MYTHS & FACTS". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/myths-facts/>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

[5] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.5.2b

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years?

No = 1, Yes = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years.

No such information is to be found on international and national/regional news outlets. [1,2] No such information is shared on social media handles of Samoan leadership. [3,4]

[1] The New York Times. [<https://www.nytimes.com/>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[2] Radio New Zealand. [<https://www.rnz.co.nz/>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[3] Facebook. "Government of Samoa". [<https://www.facebook.com/samoagovt/>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

[4] Facebook. "Public Health, Ministry of Health Samoa". [<https://www.facebook.com/publichealthsamoa/?ref=bookmarks>] Accessed 28 September 2020.

3.6 ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

3.6.1 Internet users

3.6.1a

Percentage of households with Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 33.61

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

3.6.2 Mobile subscribers

3.6.2a

Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

Input number

Current Year Score: 63.58

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

3.6.3 Female access to a mobile phone

3.6.3a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to a mobile phone

Input number

Current Year Score: 2.87

2018-2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

3.6.4 Female access to the Internet

3.6.4a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to the Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 4.44

2018-2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

3.7 TRADE AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

3.7.1 Trade restrictions

3.7.1a

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that Samoa issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak.

World Trade Organization's page on COVID related trade measures shows that Samoa adopted 'no trade measures' during the the pandemic period. [1] The "COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures" page of the International Trade Centre shows that Samoa reduced tarrifs on import of daily food products starting from 07 April 2020.[2]

There is no further information available on the websites of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.[3,4,5] The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is under construction. [6]

The World Integrated Trade Solution database of the World Bank has information on tariffs applied on imports of Medical Test kits from Samoa latest in the year 2018. [7] However, there is no information to ascertain the reason and duration of the applied tariff.

There is no evidence of such restrictions on media outlets.

[1] World Trade Organization, "COVID-19 and trade - Samoa".

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid_details_by_country_e.htm?country=WSM] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] International Trade Centre, "COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures". [<https://www.macmap.org/covid19>] Accessed 29

September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[6] Samoa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. [<https://www.mfat.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[7] World Integrated Trade Solution.

[<https://wits.worldbank.org/tariff/trains/en/country/ALL/partner/WSM/nomen/h5/product/300215>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

3.7.1b

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that Samoa issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak.

World Trade Organization's page on COVID related trade measures shows that Samoa adopted 'no trade measures' during the the pandemic period. [1] The "COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures" page of the International Trade Centre shows that Samoa reduced tariffs on import of daily food products starting from 07 April 2020.[2]

There is no further information available on the websites of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.[3,4,5] The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is under construction. [6]

The World Integrated Trade Solution database of the World Bank has information on tariffs applied on imports of Medical Test kits from Samoa latest in the year 2018. [7] However, there is no information to ascertain the reason and duration of the applied tariff or if there were any such restrictions ever applied/faced on the trade of non-medical goods.

There is no evidence of such restrictions on media outlets.

[1] World Trade Organization, "COVID-19 and trade - Samoa".

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid_details_by_country_e.htm?country=WSM] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] International Trade Centre, "COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures". [<https://www.macmap.org/covid19>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[6] Samoa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. [<https://www.mfat.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[7] World Integrated Trade Solution.

[<https://wits.worldbank.org/tariff/trains/en/country/ALL/partner/WSM/nomen/h5/product/300215>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

3.7.2 Travel restrictions

3.7.2a

In the past year, has the country implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

There is evidence that in the past year the country has implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak.

The latest "EMERGENCY ORDER 28" - effective from 11th September 2020 - issued by the government of Samoa in light of the COVID-19 pandemic mentions "all international travel to and from Samoa by plane are suspended except as provided in exceptional circumstances approved by Cabinet". The emergency order bans the entry of boats and ships as well. Samoa declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19 in early 2020 which has kept on extending (and still continuing) till the mentioned Emergency Order 28. [1,2] Incoming travellers under exceptional circumstances are required to observe a 14-day quarantine after entering Samoa. [3,4]

There is no other evidence of any travel restrictions implemented by Samoa during the 2019 Measles outbreak or before. [5]

[1] Government of Samoa, "EMERGENCY ORDER 28", September 10 2020. [<https://www.samoagovt.ws/2020/09/emergency-order-28/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] US Embassy in Samoa, "COVID-19 Information". [<https://ws.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Special Travel Advice and Information Paper for Travellers Entering Samoa". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Special-Travel-Advise-modified-28-September-2020.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Special Travel Advice for Travellers from American Samoa". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Special-Travel-Advisory-American-Samoa-page-001.jpg>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[5] World Health Organizations (WHO), Disease Outbreak News page. [<https://www.who.int/csr/don/15-december-2019-measles-pacific-island-countries-and-areas/en/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

Category 4: Sufficient and robust health sector to treat the sick and protect health workers

4.1 HEALTH CAPACITY IN CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTERS

4.1.1 Available human resources for the broader healthcare system

4.1.1a

Doctors per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 34.45

2016

WHO; national sources

4.1.1b

Nurses and midwives per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 248.85

2018

WHO; national sources

4.1.1c

Does the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to claim that the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings.

The Health Sector Plan 2008 - 2018 mentions about a Human Resources for Health Plan 2008 - 2015 to help achieve the goal of increased availability of appropriately qualified and skilled health workforce in Samoa. [1] However, the plan is not publicly available and its contents remain unknown.

A Program Information Document from 2018 by the World Bank for Samoa mentions that there is a "lack of longterm workforce planning in Samoa". [2]

The Public Service Commission Samoa Workforce Plan 2013;-2016 gives some information about the profile of the public workforce, but does not provide specific information about gaps in the public health workforce and how to address them. [3]

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour does not share such a plan via a public website; most of its publications deal with the private sector and none focus on the health sector. [4]

The National Health Service (NHS) Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016 describes the workforce profile of public hospitals, but not public health sector in general; it also does not contain a strategy for the workforce. [5]

No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education. [6,7]

There is no Human Resource for Health Country Profile shared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Samoa.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018". [http://www.ilo.int/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---ilo_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms_117794.pdf] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] World Bank, "Program Information Document (PID)".

[<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/691981524060200384/pdf/Concept-Stage-Program-Information-Documents-PID-Samoa-Health-System-Strengthening-Program-P164382.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Public Service Commission. "Samoa Public Service Workforce Plan 20132016". [https://www.psc.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SPS-WFP-2013_2016.pdf]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL). [<https://www.mcil.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[5] National Health Service. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[7] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.1.2 Facilities capacity

4.1.2a

Hospital beds per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 100

2007

WHO/World Bank; national sources

4.1.2b

Does the country have the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that the country has the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country.

The Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank mentions that "there only 10 isolation beds currently available at the Faleolo District Hospital". The document also notes that "Samoa's clinical management capacity for COVID-19 is severely limited". [1] A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "the children's and adult medical and surgical wards (of Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital) each have three two-bed isolation rooms and the ICU has one. The design of all isolation areas is inappropriate for managing risks to staff associated with highly infectious patients, with inadequate hand-washing and ante room facilities and no separate laundry disposal or patient bathrooms".[2] However, there is insufficient evidence that any of the aforementioned isolation rooms is indeed a permanent biocontainment patient care unit and/or advanced patient isolation facility for patients with highly communicable diseases.

There is no additional information shared on the website of the Ministry of Health. [3] There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".
[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT".
[<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.1.2c

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?
- Is there evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years. There is also no evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years.

The Samoa Covid-19 Emergency Response Project was introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank to address the immediate needs of emergency response to Covid-19. It mentions collaborating with UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF) following the WHO guidelines to finance the expansion of the country's limited isolation capacity. [1] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$20 million grant to help the Government of Samoa for upgrading isolation rooms in hospitals, strengthening quarantine areas, and procuring medical supplies. [2] However, there is insufficient evidence that the country has upgraded the isolation capacity or has demonstrated capacity that they can expand their isolation units if needed. Samoa has reported only one positive case as of May 2021. [3]

Under the Samoa-National Measles Response and Recover Appeal 2019, there is mention of Identification of Isolation Wards at TTM Hospital (Upolu) and MTII Hospital (Savaii). However, there is no plan to expand the isolation capacity [3]

There is no additional information shared on the website of the Ministry of Health. [4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

[1] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 06 April 2021.

[2] Asian Development Bank, "ADB Provides \$20 Million Grant To Help Samoa Respond To COVID-19"

[<https://www.adb.org/news/adb-provides-20-million-grant-help-samoa-respond-covid-19#:~:text=ADB's%20Health%20Expenditure%20and%20Livelihoods,frontline%20workers%20to%20prevent%20infections.>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3]

[2] Samoa, World Health Organisation [<https://www.who.int/countries/wsm/>] Accessed 12 May 2021

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 06 April 2021.

4.2 SUPPLY CHAIN FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

4.2.1 Routine health care and laboratory system supply

4.2.1a

Is there a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs?

Yes for both laboratory and medical supply needs = 2, Yes, but only for one = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Samoa has national procurement protocols in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs.

The Ministry of Health's Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016 lists 'PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES' which is responsible for the procurement or manufacture, storage and distribution of drugs and disposable pharmaceutical goods to public and private health facilities as well as provision of expert pharmaceutical information. The Service goes beyond essential medicines and caters to almost 100% of national diagnostic service needs (laboratory and xray/medical imaging), dental and oral health needs and pharmaceuticals and medicine supplies. [1] The Health Sector Plan 2008-2018 also mentions about a Drugs and Therapeutic Goods and Devices Procurement Program under the National Health Service. [2]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" further mentions that "a new national pharmaceutical stores is in place. PSM (Procurement and Supply Management) processes are being put in place to ensure effective inventory control, management, distribution and monitoring of pharmaceutical supplies throughout the NHS. An electronic pharmaceutical inventory and PSM system that is compatible with the anticipated installation of e-Health (see paragraph 13) is being implemented. Current challenges relating to 'stock

outs' of important specialised items such as reagents needed by the laboratory is expected to improve with the implementation of the electronic pharmaceutical inventory and PSM system".[3] There is also evidence of a position of a Procurement Specialist within the Ministry of Health.[4]

Furthermore, the Public Finance Management Act (2001) and the Guidelines for Procurement and Contracting: Goods, Works and General Services (GWGS) are, respectively, the guiding legislation and regulations in this matter, and apply across ministries. [5,6]

The Ministry of Finance's Procurement Division shares additional instructions for procurement on a webpage hosted by the Ministry of Finance. [7,8]

While the Guidelines for Procurement and Contracting do not mention laboratory supplies in particular, or specific ministries (aside from the Ministry of Finance, which issues the regulations), they provide guidance for all ministries the procurement of goods and services; laboratory supplies, by definition, fall under the former category. [9] Bid documents of any kind, including for laboratory reagents or equipment, are not shared through the publicly available portions of the websites of the Ministry of Health or the National Health Service.

[1] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[2] Ministry of Health. "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018".

[http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/samoa_nationalhealthplan.pdf]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[3] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT".

[<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 06 April 2021.

[4] Australian Agency for International Development, "Evaluation of Samoa Health Sector Management Programme (Health SWAp)". [https://www.oecd.org/derec/australia/AUSTRALIA_health_swap_independent_evaluation.pdf] Accessed 06 April 2021.

[5] Government of Samoa. Act No. 10 of 2001. "Public Finance Management Act".

[http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol_act/pfma2001206/]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[6] Ministry of Finance. 2016. "Guidelines for Procurement and Contracting: Goods, Works and General Services (GWGS)".

[<https://www.mof.gov.ws/Portals/195/Procurement%202017/Amended%20Procurement%20Guidelines%20for%20GWGS.pdf>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[7] Ministry of Finance. "Procurement: Legal Framework".

[<https://www.mof.gov.ws/Services/Procurement/Framework/tabid/8807/Default.aspx>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[8] Ministry of Finance. "Procurement Division".

[<https://www.mof.gov.ws/Services/Procurement/tabid/5587/Default.aspx>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[9] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

4.2.2 Stockpiling for emergencies

4.2.2a

Does the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency.

Samoa received protective equipment from the US government ("including nearly 100,000 pairs of gloves, tens of thousands of masks, hundreds of surgical gowns, and huge volumes of hand sanitiser") to help the country in maintaining a stockpile to tackle the pandemic. [1]

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "gloves and operating theatre masks are the only PPE that is readily available in front line clinical areas of the Hospital. The available PPE stock (including overalls, full length gowns and N95 masks) appears to have been pre-positioned at the new Airport; it is not clear why the entire stock is held there and none is available at the TTMH (Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital)".[2]

There is no other information available in this regard in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. The NDMP discusses the need for medicines in general, but does not indicate that a stockpile is being maintained. [3,4] Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Disaster Management Office shares other relevant information via public websites. [5,6,7]

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan mentions the existence of a Tamiflu stockpile with a shelf-life of five years, and also describes the need to stockpile other medicines, such as antibiotics and paracetamol. However, it is unclear because of the age of the plan whether the Tamiflu stockpile is still extant and viable, and whether action was taken on the other recommendations for stockpiling.[8] There is no evidence of media reports or academic studies with additional relevant information.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. The Ministry of Police does not have a public website. There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] US-Funded PPE Supplies Ship To Samoa. 2021. RNZ. [<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/426406/us-funded-ppe-supplies-ship-to-samoa>] Accessed 06 April 2021.

[2] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT". [<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20-Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 06 April 2021.

[3] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[4] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[5] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[7] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[8] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 06 April 2021.

4.2.2b

Does the country have a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country has a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency.

A 2018 report of the Australian Government titled "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission - SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT" mentions that "gloves and operating theatre masks are the only PPE that is readily available in front line clinical areas of the Hospital. The available PPE stock (including overalls, full length gowns and N95 masks) appears to have been pre-positioned at the new Airport; it is not clear why the entire stock is held there and none is available at the TTMH (Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital)". [1] However, there is no information in the report on stockpile of laboratory supplies.

There is no other information available in this regard in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. The NDMP discusses the need for medicines in general, but does not indicate that a stockpile is being maintained. [2,3] Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Disaster Management Office shares other relevant information via public websites. [4,5,6]

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan mentions the existence of a Tamiflu stockpile with a shelf-life of five years, and also describes the need to stockpile other medicines, such as antibiotics and paracetamol. However, it is unclear because of the age of the plan whether the Tamiflu stockpile is still extant and viable, and whether action was taken on the other recommendations for stockpiling. [7] There is no evidence of media reports or academic studies with additional relevant information.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [8] There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] Government of Australia, "Pacific Health Security Scoping Mission SAMOA COUNTRY REPORT".

[<https://indopacifichealthsecurity.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/Samoa%20Report%20Scoping%20Mission.pdf?v=1540363081>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[6] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[7]

[7] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3>]

ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[8] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.2.2c

Is there evidence that the country conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that the country has a national stockpile of medical supplies. As there is insufficient evidence of a stockpile, the country does not conduct or requires an annual review to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency.

There is no other information available in this regard in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. The NDMP discusses the need for medicines in general, but does not mention that an annual review of stockpile is conducted. [1,2] Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Disaster Management Office shares other relevant information via public websites. [3,4,5]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Defence, or similar agencies. The Ministry of Police does not have a public website. There is also no information on this in academic studies or articles.

[1] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[2] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

[5] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 06 April 2021.

4.2.3 Manufacturing and procurement for emergencies

4.2.3a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?
- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country have a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency or a

plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency.

There is no evidence of such a plan/mechanism in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017 - 2020, Samoa National Action Plan For Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021, the Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017, the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project or the Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank [1,2,3,4,5]

There is also no information in this regard on the website of the Ministry of Health or the Police Department.[6,7] There is no Ministry of Defence.

[1] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[5] The World Bank. "Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan" [<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/900511587137018080/pdf/Stakeholder-Engagement-Plan-SEP-Samoa-COVID-19-Emergency-Response-Project-P173920.pdf>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[6] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[7] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

4.2.3b

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country have a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency or a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency.

There is no evidence of such a plan/mechanism in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017 - 2020, Samoa National Action Plan For Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 or the Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017. [1,2,3]

There is also no information in this regard on the website of the Ministry of Health or the Police Department.[4,5] There is no

Ministry of Defence.

[1] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020

[5] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.3 MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

4.3.1 System for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) during a public health emergency

4.3.1a

Does the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics).

The 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan does include detailed planning for the use of antibiotics, vaccines and antibiotics during an influenza pandemic situation in Samoa, however the plan does not give much details about plans or mechanisms on dispensing the same to individuals during a public health emergency. The 2008 plan only mentions dispensing as part of the role of community-based response centre (CBRC), which can be used for dispensing antivirals and antibiotics if available. [1]

There is no evidence of such a plan/mechanism in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017 - 2020, Samoa National Action Plan For Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 or the Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017. [2,3,4]

There is also no information in this regard on the website of the Ministry of Health or the Police Department.[5,6] There is no Ministry of Defence.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020

[6] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.3.2 System for receiving foreign health personnel during a public health emergency

4.3.2a

Is there a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence of a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to specifically respond to a public health emergency.

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) includes plans for the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to lead the reception of foreign personnel as needed in a disaster. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also listed as a body in charge of oversight. [1]

Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, nor the Disaster Management Office shares other relevant information via public websites. [2,3,4]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Defence or similar agency. [5] There is no relevant information available on the website of the Samoa Police Service. [6]

There is no information on this plan after searching the website of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa. A briefing paper issued by the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network concerns deployment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) between Pacific countries during the COVID-19 pandemic but there is no evidence available of a Samoa national plan on receiving health personnels. [7,8]

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.
- [5] Government of Samoa. "Government Ministries". [<http://www.samoagovt.ws/directories/government-ministries/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.
- [6] Samoa Police Service. [<https://www.samoapolice.ws/>] Accessed 29 September 2020.
- [7] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). [<https://www.pphsn.net/index.htm>] Accessed 29 September 2020.
- [8] PPHSN, "Briefing paper (Supplementary to other EMT briefing paper on current state of preparedness)". <https://phs.spc.int/sites/default/files/eventfiles/2020-07/2020%20PHoH%20WP1%20Item%205.3%20Pacific%20Emergency%20Teams%20for%20Preparedness%20and%20Response%20Brief.pdf>] Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.4 HEALTHCARE ACCESS

4.4.1 Access to healthcare

4.4.1a

Does the constitution explicitly guarantee citizens' right to medical care?

Guaranteed free = 4, Guaranteed right = 3, Aspirational or subject to progressive realization = 2, Guaranteed for some groups, not universally = 1, No specific provision = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

4.4.1b

Access to skilled birth attendants (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 82.5

2014

WHO/World Bank/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

4.4.1c

Out-of-pocket health expenditures per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP; current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 43.15

2017

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

4.4.2 Paid medical leave

4.4.2a

Are workers guaranteed paid sick leave?

Paid sick leave = 2, Unpaid sick leave = 1, No sick leave = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

4.4.3 Healthcare worker access to healthcare

4.4.3a

Has the government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of legislation, policies, or public statements regarding prioritised health care services to healthcare workers, let alone those who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency. There is no evidence of such a measure shared via public websites by the Ministry of Health. [1]

There is no mention of such a measure in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020, the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007, or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. [2,3,4]

The Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, a 2008 document, suggests that if it is decided that a priority population is identified for receiving antiviral medications, this population should include front-line healthcare workers. [5]

There is also no such information available in the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project May 2020, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank. [6]

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[2] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[4] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[<https://www.health.gov.ws/images/uploadPDFs/HealthPlans/SAMOANATIONALAVIANANDPANDMICINFLUENZACTIONPLAN.pdf>]. Accessed 29 September 2020.

[6] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 29 September 2020.

4.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

4.5.1 Communication with healthcare workers

4.5.1a

Is there a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry of Health, or on the webpage describing the Disaster Management Office and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). [1,2]

Both the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) and the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 discuss intended features of a communications plan. Further, these plans do not contain detailed discussions of the communications channels that will be used. In any case, they apply to emergency and risk communication generally and do not deal specifically with public health emergencies. (Samoa lacks a plan dedicated specifically to public health emergencies.) [3,4]

There is also no evidence of a relevant system in the 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project or the Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank. [5,6,7]

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan".

[[https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-](https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3)

[desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3](https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk11/?requestHash=9b3d29d6b836adf88e53eb1d896b8fdd0cf7701579ff039ecf7ffe012e4c8369&projectId=542888441#3)]

ffd75bcd26e5f9840ef2791a9dff08e] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[6] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920".

[https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[7] The World Bank. "Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan"

[<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/900511587137018080/pdf/Stakeholder-Engagement-Plan-SEP-Samoa-COVID-19-Emergency-Response-Project-P173920.pdf>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

4.5.1b

Does the system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry of Health, or on the webpage describing the Disaster Management Office and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), which is hosted on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). [1,2]

Both the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP) and the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 discuss intended features of a communications plan. Further, these plans do not contain detailed discussions of the communications channels that will be used. In any case, they apply to emergency and risk communication generally and do not deal specifically with public health emergencies. (Samoa lacks a plan dedicated specifically to public health emergencies.) [3,4]

There is also no evidence of a relevant system in the 2008 Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project or the Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan, by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank. [5,6,7]

There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Health. 2008. "Samoa National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan". [<https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk10/?projectId=606d5c65a08e960f241d25c1&lp=true#b755cac550014da79ba97e2b019bb16e>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[6] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[7] The World Bank. "Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan"
[<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/900511587137018080/pdf/Stakeholder-Engagement-Plan-SEP-Samoa-COVID-19-Emergency-Response-Project-P173920.pdf>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

4.6 INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

4.6.1 Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and control programs

4.6.1a

Is there evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Samoa's public health system monitors for and tracks the number of health care associated infections (HCAIs) that take place in healthcare facilities. There is no relevant information shared via public websites by the Ministry of Health. [1]

Similarly, there is no mention of HCAIs in either the Ministry of Health's Annual Report for Financial Year 2015-2016. [2] No relevant information is mentioned in the Covid-19 Emergency Response Project (introduced by the Ministry of Health and the World Bank with the purpose of addressing the immediate needs of emergency response to Covid-19). [3]

The Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) - a voluntary network of countries and organisations under the South Pacific Community (SPC) dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of the Pacific islands including Samoa - has its stated objective "to provide healthcare administrators and HCWs (healthcare workers) with a framework to prevent and control the transmission of infectious pathogens within, from, or to the healthcare setting, to patients, HCWs ((healthcare workers)) and the community alike". There is also evidence of monitoring of healthcare associated infections in the guidelines, but there is no evidence that the guidelines are followed in Samoa. [4]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or studies.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[2] Samoa, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, "Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Project World Bank: P173920". [https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Samoa-COVID-19-ESMF_May-22-Final.pdf] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] Ministry of Health. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2021.

[4] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, "Infection Prevention and Guidelines, 2010". [<https://www-test.pphsn.net/resources1/guidelines/>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

4.7 CAPACITY TO TEST AND APPROVE NEW MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

4.7.1 Regulatory process for conducting clinical trials of unregistered interventions

4.7.1a

Is there a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a national requirement for ethical review before beginning a clinical trial in Samoa.

No relevant information is shared by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Education. [1,2,3] World Health Organization reports that there is no website identified for a medicines regulatory authority in Samoa.[4] There is no other evidence of a medicines regulatory authority or an ethical review committee existing in Samoa. There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research or a similar agency. There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[4] World Health Organization, "List of Globally identified Websites of Medicines Regulatory Authorities*".

[who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/regulation_legislation/list_mra_websites_nov2012.pdf?ua=1] Accessed 30 September 2020.

4.7.1b

Is there an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics.

No relevant information is shared by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Education. [1,2,3]

World Health Organization reports that there is no website identified for a medicines regulatory authority in Samoa.[4] There is no other evidence of a medicines regulatory authority which oversees clinical trials existing in Samoa.

There is no mention of such a process in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020; the Samoa National Action Plan

for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 or the Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017. [5,6,7]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research or a similar agency. There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[4] World Health Organization, "List of Globally identified Websites of Medicines Regulatory Authorities*".

[who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/regulation_legislation/list_mra_websites_nov2012.pdf?ua=1] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[6] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021".

[<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

[7] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)".

[<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

4.7.2 Regulatory process for approving medical countermeasures

4.7.2a

Is there a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures (MCM) for humans?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Samoa has a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. The Food and Drug Act (1967) empowers the Ministry of Health to approve or prohibit the sale and distribution of "new drugs". The Food and Drugs Act (1967) mandatorily requires every person who wish to import or manufacture a new drug in Samoa to submit information like ingredients of the new drug and its intended uses to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health. [1]

There is no further information in this regard shared by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Education, the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020; the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 or the Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017. [2,3,4,5,6,7]

[1] Government of Samoa. 1967. "Food and Drug Act". [<https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/7802>]. Accessed 05 April 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<https://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2020.

[4] Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. [<https://mesc.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 05 April 2020.

[5] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 05 April 2020.

[6] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 05 April 2020.

[7] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 05 April 2020.

4.7.2b

Is there an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence if there is an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies.

No relevant information is shared by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, or the Ministry of Education. [1,2,3]

World Health Organization reports that there is no website identified for a medicines regulatory authority in Samoa.[4] There is no other evidence of an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies.

There is no mention of such a process in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020; the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 or the Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017. [5,6,7]

There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively.

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research or a similar agency. There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[3] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[4] World Health Organization, "List of Globally identified Websites of Medicines Regulatory Authorities*". [http://who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/regulation_legislation/list_mra_websites_nov2012.pdf?ua=1] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[5] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[6] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[7] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)".
[<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

Category 5: Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms

5.1 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) REPORTING COMPLIANCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

5.1.1 Official IHR reporting

5.1.1a

Has the country submitted IHR reports to the WHO for the previous calendar year?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

World Health Organization

5.1.2 Integration of health into disaster risk reduction

5.1.2a

Are epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or is there a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy of Samoa but there is no publicly available evidence for a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics.

The 'Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017' and the 'National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020' mention epidemics in Samoa's disaster hazard profile. The Disaster Management Act 2007 defines 'Disaster risk management' as "all activities undertaken in accordance with the Act in relation to disaster risk reduction and for preparedness for disasters and response to and recovery from disaster". [1,2,3]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 mentions about the need of an all-hazard approach in risk assessment which includes all types of major risks from epidemics, to natural disasters to technological accidents, well known risks to new or emerging threats. Broadly, the plan includes measures such as 'risk mapping to identify high risk areas', 'public

awareness programs', 'developing legislative and policy framework' etc. to reduce the risk of disasters in Samoa.

The 'Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector 2017' document includes the following functions for the Health Sector to prevent and reduce the risk of disasters - "Strengthen disease surveillance and early warning system"; "Prevent and control communicable diseases, including strengthening immunisation and the systems for notification of notifiable diseases, syndromic surveillance and sentinel sites, quarantine and isolation facilities"; "Conduct vulnerability assessment and risk analysis of health related potential disasters, including gender analysis, identifying crucial needs for vulnerable groups during disaster occurrences, and the collection of data disaggregated by age and gender"; "Conduct environmental health surveys to determine the likelihood of risks to the health of the public", "Protect livelihoods from hazard risks.", "Strengthen the multi-sectoral approach to health and partnerships". [2]

The National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 further includes similar functions for all the sectors involved to reduce disaster risk.

Samoa National Action Plan (NAP) for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021 mentions that it "is an operational document that should be read in conjunction with the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2017-2020". [4] The NAP does not give any specific strategies for disaster risk reduction.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Disaster Risk Management: A Strategy for the Health Sector (2017)".

[<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Disaster-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-the-Health-Sector-2017.pdf>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[2] Samoa, "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]

Accessed 30 September 2020.

[3] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act".

[http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf].

Accessed 30 September 2020.

[4] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021".

[<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>].

Accessed 30 September 2020.

5.2 CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

5.2.1 Cross-border agreements

5.2.1a

Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is evidence that Samoa have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies.

Samoa is a member of the South Pacific Community, a regional network, which serves as the focal point of Pacific Public

Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). PPHSN includes six services to prevent and respond to epidemics. These include coordination of laboratory services, surveillance systems, infection control, alert and communication, knowledge exchange and capacity building. [1,2,3] SPC has been supporting its member countries deal with the current COVID-19 pandemic through public health surveillance, infection prevention and control, risk communication, disaster management, humanitarian response, statistics, educational assessment. [1]

Pacific Islands Forum, another regional network of which Samoa is a member, recently established a Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C), invoking the Biketawa Declaration, to collectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic as a major crisis to The Blue Pacific - its peoples, wellbeing and economies. The Biketawa Declaration provides the regional framework for responding to Member states' request for assistance in times of crisis. [4,5] Since PPHSN and the Pacific Islands Forum came into action as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it is evident that the agreements are implemented and function as required, there is no evidence to claim the contrary.

[1] South Pacific Community, "COVID-19: Pacific Community Updates". [<https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2020/07/covid-19-pacific-community-updates>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[2] South Pacific Community, "Public Health Division". [<https://beta.phd.spc.int/>] Accessed 21 October 2020.

[3] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). [<https://www.pphsn.net/>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[4] Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, "Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Agree to Establish a Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID -19". [<https://www.forumsec.org/2020/04/08/pacific-islands-forum-foreign-ministers-agree-to-establish-a-pacific-humanitarian-pathway-on-covid-19/>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

[5] United Nations, "A Message from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat". [<https://www.un.int/tuvalu/news/message-pacific-islands-forum-secretariat>] Accessed 30 September 2020.

5.2.1b

Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is not enough public evidence to confirm that Samoa has cross-border agreements as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies. There is no information about such an agreement shared via public websites by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Disaster Management Office, or other Samoan government agencies. [1,2,3]

There is no mention of such an agreement in the National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020 (NDMP), the Disaster Management Act (2007), or the Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021. (Neither do these items have sections on managing animal health emergencies.) [4,5,6]

Although Samoa has a historic relationship with New Zealand, a search of media articles and studies could not uncover the existence of an MOU or similar agreement between the two countries for animal health emergencies. Further, although Samoa participates in the Pacific Animal Health Laboratory Network (PAHLNet), organised through the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP); and in the Laboratory Network (LabNet) of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), there is no evidence that these networks have agreements to specifically mobilise resources or cooperate during animal health emergencies. [7,8,9,10,11,12]

- [1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. "Disaster Management Office". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/about-us/divisions/disaster-management-office/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [4] Government of Samoa. "National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-disaster-management-plan-2017-2020-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [5] Government of Samoa. Act No. 13 of 2007. "Disaster Emergency Management Act". [http://www.vertic.org/media/National%20Legislation/Samoa/WS_Disaster_Emergency_Management_Act_2007.pdf]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [6] Government of Samoa. "Samoa National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2017-2021". [<https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Samoa-national-action-plan-for-DRM-2017-2021-final-web.pdf>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [7] Pacific Community (SPC). "SPC Members". [<http://www.spc.int/our-members/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [8] Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division. "Pacific Animal Health Laboratory Network (PAHLNet)". [<https://lrd.spc.int/information-and-networks/pahlnet>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [9] World Health Organisation (WHO), Western Pacific Region. "Health Technology and Laboratories". [http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific/programmes/health_sector/health_technology/page/en/]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [10] World Health Organisation, Western Pacific Region. "The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN)". [http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific/programmes/pacific_initiatives/pphsn/en/]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [11] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). [<https://www.pphsn.net/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.
- [12] World Health Organisation (WHO), Western Pacific Region. "New Strategies to Better Prepare the Pacific to Deal with Emerging Diseases, Including Pandemic Influenza". [<http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific/mediacentre/releases/2007/20070313a/en/>]. Accessed 30 September 2020.

5.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

5.3.1 Participation in international agreements

5.3.1a

Does the county have signatory and ratification (or same legal effect) status to the Biological Weapons Convention?

Signed and ratified (or action having the same legal effect) = 2, Signed = 1, Non-compliant or not a member = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1b

Has the country submitted confidence building measures for the Biological Weapons Convention in the past three years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1c

Has the state provided the required United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1d

Extent of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 implementation related to legal frameworks and enforcement for countering biological weapons:

Very good (60+ points) = 4, Good (45–59 points) = 3, Moderate (30–44 points) = 2, Weak (15–29 points) = 1, Very weak (0–14 points) or no matrix exists/country is not party to the BWC = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.2 Voluntary memberships

5.3.2a

Does the country meet at least 2 of the following criteria?

- Membership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- Membership in the Alliance for Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation (JEE Alliance)
- Membership in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)
- Membership in the Australia Group (AG)
- Membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Needs to meet at least two of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for five = 1 , Yes for four = 1 , Yes for three = 1 , Yes for two = 1 , Yes for one = 0 , No for all = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

Global Health Security Agenda; JE Alliance; Global Partnership; Australia Group; PSI

5.4 JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (JEE) AND PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES PATHWAY (PVS)

5.4.1 Completion and publication of a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment and gap analysis

5.4.1a

Has the country completed a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) or precursor external evaluation (e.g., GHSA pilot external assessment) and published a full public report in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.4.1b

Has the country completed and published, within the last five years, either a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified through the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment or a national GHSA roadmap that sets milestones for achieving each of the GHSA targets?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.4.2 Completion and publication of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment and gap analysis

5.4.2a

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.4.2b

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.5 FINANCING

5.5.1 National financing for epidemic preparedness

5.5.1a

Is there evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years.

Samoa's budget document for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2021 (Budget 2020) in the section allocating funds to the Ministry of Health mentions that among the goals of the Ministry of Health are key outcomes such as "Improved prevention, control and management of communicable and neglected tropical diseases"; "Improved Risk Management and Response to Disasters, Public Health Emergencies"; "Improved resilience and adaptive capacity, integrated climate change measures into health policies and strategies, improved public health and climate emergencies response". The budget allocated a total of \$1.227million tala (approx. US\$469,300) under the head 'National Disease Surveillance and International Health Regulations'. The funds allocated under this head are to be used for performance indicators such as "Timely response to events exceeding threshold levels as detected from the weekly syndromic surveillance report" ; and "Timely Response to Public Health Emergency at Points of Entry (PoE)". Samoa's budget document for the financial year ending 30th June 2020 (Budget 2019) had similar allocations under the same heads. [1,2]

[1] Samoa, "APPROVED ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2021". [<https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Approved-Budget-20-21-Eng-Final-for-Printing.pdf>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[2] Samoa, "APPROVED ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2020". [<https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Approved-Budget-FY19-20-English.pdf>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

5.5.2 Financing under Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports and gap analyses

5.5.2a

Does the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and/or national GHSA roadmap allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a JEE = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.5.2b

Does the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis and/or PVS assessment allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a PVS = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.5.3 Financing for emergency response

5.5.3a

Is there a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act).

Samoa is an International Development Association (IDA) eligible borrower, according to the World Bank and therefore is eligible for a World Bank pandemic financing facility. [1]

Samoa received a total funding of approximately US\$8.5m from the World Bank to support Samoa's COVID-19 response. [2]

[1] International Development Association (IDA), World Bank. "Borrowing Countries"

[<http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[2] World Bank, "World Bank Provides Additional \$3.4 Million for Samoa's Fight Against COVID-19".

[<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/24/world-bank-provides-additional-3-4-million-for-samoas-fight-against-covid-19#:~:text=APIA%2C%20April%2024%2C%202020%20%E2%80%93,the%20end%20of%20March%202020.>] Accessed 01

October 2020.

5.5.4 Accountability for commitments made at the international stage for addressing epidemic threats

5.5.4a

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment either to:

- Support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support?
- Improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity, or support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support.

Commenting on the World Bank's health funding to Samoa for COVID-19 response, Samoa's Minister of Finance, the Hon. Sili Epa Tuioti said "Given the nature of COVID-19, this support will be vital in helping the country respond quickly and confidently to any outbreak; help protect our frontline health workers; and will further strengthen our health system for the months and years ahead." [1] World Bank also provided funding to Samoa during the 2019 Measles outbreak, commenting on which, Dr. Take Naseri, Director General Ministry for Health, Samoa said "this measles outbreak has dramatically and tragically demonstrated the importance of sustained health promotion and risk reduction. We are pleased to be working with the World Bank to strengthen Samoa's health services and improve the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases." [2] However, the mentioned instances are in the nature of responding to an emergency and not a commitment to improve capacity for future threats.

There is no evidence that Samoa has made commitments to support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support.

[1] World Bank. "World Bank Provides Additional \$3.4 Million for Samoa's Fight Against COVID-19".

[<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/24/world-bank-provides-additional-3-4-million-for-samoas-fight-against-covid-19#:~:text=APIA%2C%20April%2024%2C%202020%20%E2%80%93,the%20end%20of%20March%202020>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[2] World Bank. "World Bank commits support to fight Samoa measles outbreak".

[<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/12/09/world-bank-commits-support-to-fight-samoa-measles-outbreak>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

5.5.4b

Is there evidence that the country has, in the past three years, either:

- Provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats?
- Requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Samoa has requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats. However, there is no evidence that Samoa has provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats.

According to the Global Health Security Funding Tracking Dashboard (accessed 12 May 2021), during the period 2017-2020 a total amount of US\$18.20million has been disbursed to Samoa and an additional US\$26.77million has been committed by different countries or organizations. The highest amount of funds have gone towards improving Real Time Surveillance, followed by National Laboratory System. New Zealand is the largest funder for Samoa. Other major funders include the International Development Association, Asian Development Bank, World Health Organization, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation among others.[1]

In December 2020, Samoa received a total funding of approximately US\$25m in grants from the World Bank to support the country's social and economic response and recovery from COVID-19 and boost efforts to build resilience to climate change, natural disasters and health-related risks. [2] In 2019 Samoa also received US\$3.5 million to support measles emergency response (for 2019 Measles outbreak in Samoa), with further \$9.3m program to address key health system challenges. [3]

[1] Global Health Security Funding Tracker. [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/details/251/recipient>]. Accessed 12 May 2021.

[2] World Bank. "Support for a stronger Samoa in the wake of Covid-19". [<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/07/support-for-a-stronger-samoa-in-the-wake-of-covid-19>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

[3] World Bank. "World Bank commits support to fight Samoa measles outbreak".

[<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/12/09/world-bank-commits-support-to-fight-samoa-measles-outbreak>] Accessed 05 April 2021.

5.5.4c

Is there evidence that the country has fulfilled its full contribution to the WHO within the past two years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

5.6 COMMITMENT TO SHARING OF GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND SPECIMENS

5.6.1 Commitment to sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) in both emergency and nonemergency research

5.6.1a

Is there a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, epidemiological data, clinical specimens, or isolated specimens (biological materials) with international organisations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza.

There is no mention of such a plan in the Ministry of Health's Health Sector Plan 2008-2018, the National Health Service (NHS) Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016, or the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Country Cooperation Strategy for Samoa (2018-2022) . [1,2,3]

Neither the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries shares relevant information via public websites. [4,5,6]

A report of the 2017 Regional Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) Meeting mentions about facilitating sharing of specimen and information on influenza viruses with national and regional authorities. [1] However there is no further information available in this regard to ascertain whether member countries have a plan or policy for sharing specimen or not. [7]

Samoa does not have a Ministry of Research or similar agency. There is no website for the two main identified health facilities and national laboratory of the National Health Service in Samoa, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital and the Savaii Health Services & MT2 Hospital and the National Health Laboratory respectively. There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Samoa, Ministry of Health, "Health Sector Plan 2008-2018". [http://www.ilo.int/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---ilo_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms_117794.pdf] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[2] National Health Service. "Annual Report Financial Year 2015-2016". [<https://www.health.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NHS-AnnualReport20152016.pdf>]. Accessed 01 October 2020.

[3] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022, Samoa". [<https://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13954/WPRO-2017-DPM-020-wsm-eng.pdf>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 01 October 2020.

[5] Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. [<http://www.maf.gov.ws/>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[6] Ministry of Education. [<http://www.mesc.gov.ws/index.php/>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[7] Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), "2017 Regional Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) Meeting Report". [https://spccfpstore1.blob.core.windows.net/digitallibrary-docs/files/e7/e722da96ecdbb0bb9f8eeba34f5a94ba.pdf?sv=2015-12-11&sr=b&sig=tVrbPM9%2Fs7%2FFUP8a5s%2F46RQEzUs101foROKCs3T%2Bjs%3D&se=2021-03-07T08%3A30%3A27Z&sp=r&rsc=public%2C%20max-age%3D864000%2C%20max-stale%3D86400&rsct=application%2Fpdf&rscd=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22PPHSN_Meeting_Report_2017.pdf%22] Accessed 01 October 2020.

5.6.1b

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years?

Yes = 0 , No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no public evidence that Samoa has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past year.

There is no reference to sharing influenza data on the Ministry of Health website and there has not been any reports of Samoa not sharing samples in either national and international media. [1]

WHO's latest External Evaluation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Partnership Contribution, published in 2016, does not refer to Samoa not sharing samples, nor does it list Samoa as a priority country for improving the "national ability to detect, monitor and share novel influenza viruses". [2]

[1] Ministry of Health. [<https://www.health.gov.ws/>]. Accessed 01 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). 2016. "External Evaluation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Partnership Contribution—High-Level Implementation Plan 2013-2016".

[http://www.who.int/about/evaluation/pip_evaluation_report.pdf]. Accessed 01 October 2020.

5.6.1c

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 0 , No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that Samoa has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years.

There is no such evidence via the local media or through the World Health Organisation (WHO) reports.[1]

Samoa has no reported cases of COVID-19 as per WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [2] There is also no evidence of withholding of samples during the 2019 Measles outbreak in Samoa.

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO), "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework" [<https://www.who.int/influenza/pip/en/>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO), WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. [<https://covid19.who.int/table>] Accessed 01 October 2020.

Category 6: Overall risk environment and vulnerability to biological threats

6.1 POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK

6.1.1 Government effectiveness

6.1.1a

Policy formation (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1b

Quality of bureaucracy (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1c

Excessive bureaucracy/red tape (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1d

Vested interests/cronyism (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1e

Country score on Corruption Perception Index (0-100, where 100=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 43

2020

Transparency International

6.1.1f

Accountability of public officials (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1g

Human rights risk (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.2 Orderly transfers of power

6.1.2a

How clear, established, and accepted are constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power from one government to another?

Very clear, established and accepted = 4, Clear, established and accepted = 3, One of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) is missing = 2, Two of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) are missing = 1, Not clear, not established, not accepted = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.3 Risk of social unrest

6.1.3a

What is the risk of disruptive social unrest?

Very low: Social unrest is very unlikely = 4, Low: There is some prospect of social unrest, but disruption would be very limited = 3, Moderate: There is a considerable chance of social unrest, but disruption would be limited = 2, High: Major social unrest is likely, and would cause considerable disruption = 1, Very high: Large-scale social unrest on such a level as to seriously challenge government control of the country is very likely = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.4 Illicit activities by non-state actors

6.1.4a

How likely is it that domestic or foreign terrorists will attack with a frequency or severity that causes substantial disruption?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.4b

What is the level of illicit arms flows within the country?

4 = Very high, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Low, 0 = Very low

Current Year Score: 4

2020

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

6.1.4c

How high is the risk of organized criminal activity to the government or businesses in the country?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.5 Armed conflict

6.1.5a

Is this country presently subject to an armed conflict, or is there at least a moderate risk of such conflict in the future?

No armed conflict exists = 4, Yes; sporadic conflict = 3, Yes; incursional conflict = 2, Yes, low-level insurgency = 1, Yes; territorial conflict = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.6 Government territorial control

6.1.6a

Does the government's authority extend over the full territory of the country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.7 International tensions

6.1.7a

Is there a threat that international disputes/tensions could have a negative effect?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

6.2.1 Literacy

6.2.1a

Adult literacy rate, population 15+ years, both sexes (%)

Input number

Current Year Score: 99.1

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
The Economist Intelligence Unit

6.2.2 Gender equality

6.2.2a

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index score

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.64

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Economist Intelligence Unit

6.2.3 Social inclusion

6.2.3a

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.1

2013

World Bank; Economist Impact

6.2.3b

Share of employment in the informal sector

Greater than 50% = 2, Between 25-50% = 1, Less than 25% = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Informal sector employment in Samoa is between 25% and 50%. According to the International Labour Organization's ILOSTAT explorer, the 'Informal employment and informal sector as a percent of employment by sex -- Harmonized series (% -- Annual' in Samoa is estimated at 37.3% based on Labour Force Survey year 2017. [1] Further, the data for the series 'Informal employment (% of total non-agricultural employment)' is at 21.3% for the survey year 2017 as provided in ILOSTAT and World Bank Database. [2] More recent information on the country's employment in the informal sector is not available.

Separately, the ILO Decent Work Country Programme for Samoa (2017-2020) states that, "workers in the informal economy (estimated at around 60 per cent of the labour force) are largely protected under the Village Fono Act 1980." [3] However, this is not substantiated by supporting statistics.

[1] International Labour Organization, "ILOSTAT Data Explorer".

[https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer23/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=IFL_4IEM_SEX_ECO_IFL_NB_A] Accessed 19 October 2020.

[2] World Bank. [<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.ISV.IFRM.ZS>] Accessed 19 October 2020.

[3] International Labour Organization, "DECENT WORK COUNTRY PROGRAMME, Samoa (2017-2020)".
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_667363.pdf]
Accessed 19 October 2020.

6.2.3c

Coverage of social insurance programs (% of population)

Scored in quartiles (0-3, where 3=best)

Current Year Score: 2

2016, or latest available

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

6.2.4 Public confidence in government

6.2.4a

Level of confidence in public institutions

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

6.2.5 Local media and reporting

6.2.5a

Is media coverage robust? Is there open and free discussion of public issues, with a reasonable diversity of opinions?

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

6.2.6 Inequality

6.2.6a

Gini coefficient

Scored 0-1, where 0=best

Current Year Score: 0.39

Latest available.

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

6.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUACY

6.3.1 Adequacy of road network

6.3.1a

What is the risk that the road network will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.3.2 Adequacy of airports

6.3.2a

What is the risk that air transport will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.3.3 Adequacy of power network

6.3.3a

What is the risk that power shortages could be disruptive?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

6.4.1 Urbanization

6.4.1a

Urban population (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 18.06

2019

World Bank

6.4.2 Land use

6.4.2a

Percentage point change in forest area between 2006–2016

Input number

Current Year Score: -1.7

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

6.4.3 Natural disaster risk

6.4.3a

What is the risk that the economy will suffer a major disruption owing to a natural disaster?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.5 PUBLIC HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

6.5.1 Access to quality healthcare

6.5.1a

Total life expectancy (years)

Input number

Current Year Score: 73.19

2018

United Nations; World Bank, UNICEF; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
World Factbook

6.5.1b

Age-standardized NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 765.7

2019

WHO

6.5.1c

Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 4.93

2019

World Bank

6.5.1d

Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)

Input number

Current Year Score: 28.9

2018

World Bank

6.5.1e

Prevalence of obesity among adults

Input number

Current Year Score: 47.3

2016

WHO

6.5.2 Access to potable water and sanitation

6.5.2a

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic water infrastructure

Input number

Current Year Score: 97.38

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

6.5.2b

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic sanitation facilities

Input number

Current Year Score: 98.17

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

6.5.3 Public healthcare spending levels per capita

6.5.3a

Domestic general government health expenditure per capita, PPP (current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 256.46

2018

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

6.5.4 Trust in medical and health advice

6.5.4a

Trust medical and health advice from the government

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from the government , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018

6.5.4b

Trust medical and health advice from medical workers

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from health professionals , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018