



Medical Services Pacific

Review
2010 - 2012



Increasing access to reproductive, maternal and child health services
www.msp.org.fj

Increasing access to reproductive, maternal and child health services



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Who we are

Medical Services Pacific (MSP) is a Fijian registered non-government organisation (NGO) established in 2010 to enable Pacific women and adolescents to have greater access to quality health care services, and to build resilience in vulnerable groups to cope with emerging environmental, economic and human security challenges.

The organisation works in partnership with key stakeholders and local government to maximise resources and strengthen local capacity. We value the collaborative nature of traditional communities and have a rights-based approach to encourage equity, empowerment and sustainable behaviour change.

Our Vision

MSP exists to enable women and youth to have greater access to quality reproductive health care for successful family planning, and to support vulnerable populations in the Pacific.

Our Aims

MSP's health program was designed to assist governments to reach key Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Working with our partners in the Pacific, we aim to:

- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Support disaster relief/response



Message from the Chief Executive

MSP is committed to strengthening access to quality health services for women, youth and disadvantaged groups across the Pacific. The first two years of operation have brought significant achievements, new experiences and growth, along with many challenges. Without question, our success and the underlying strength of our role in Fiji is due to the confidence and support received from our donors and the national and community partners with whom we work so closely.

The activities and results outlined here in MSP's first published Review reflect the combined contributions and efforts of our extended network of supporters – donors, national governments, international NGOs and local community partners, as well as our team of dedicated staff and volunteers who assisted in the foundation of the organisation. We are grateful to you all.

MSP's commitment to quality and evidence-based practice leads us to carefully assess needs to ensure that services are responsive to the specific requirements of the country and the women, men and youth we serve. An important highlight of the past two years was the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Fiji Government's Ministry of Health, providing the structure for the expansion of MSP's flagship Community Outreach Program across Fiji and regionally.

We were also honoured to have the President of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, become our Patron.

Looking ahead to 2013 and beyond, we strive to increase our efforts to improve access among the large number of women, youth and men in immediate and urgent need of family planning and reproductive health care services and information.

MSP endorses gender equality, recognising that violence against women and girls has significant impact on their reproductive health.

We have developed an effective human rights component which engages youth to strive to end

violence against women and girls, particularly for those in high risk groups and in remote and rural communities in the Pacific. We are proud of our partnerships with our fellow civil society organisations that form the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Referral Group and thank them for their participation to improve service delivery for women and girls impacted by violence, abuse, poverty or neglect. Together our work is strengthened by our formal partnerships with our government partners who share similar goals for gender equality and the sustainable development of Fiji and the Pacific.

MSP understands that population and climate change are interlinked and we are committed to working with our donors, local communities, and key stakeholders throughout the Pacific to bring resources, skills and assistance to vulnerable and at risk populations. It is only by working together, and focusing our efforts in

strengthened partnerships, that we will see lasting improvements and sustainable development outcomes.

Jennifer Poole



Message from the Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for the provision of quality health services throughout Fiji and for developing and implementing policies and initiatives that are designed to reverse the impact of HIV and AIDS.

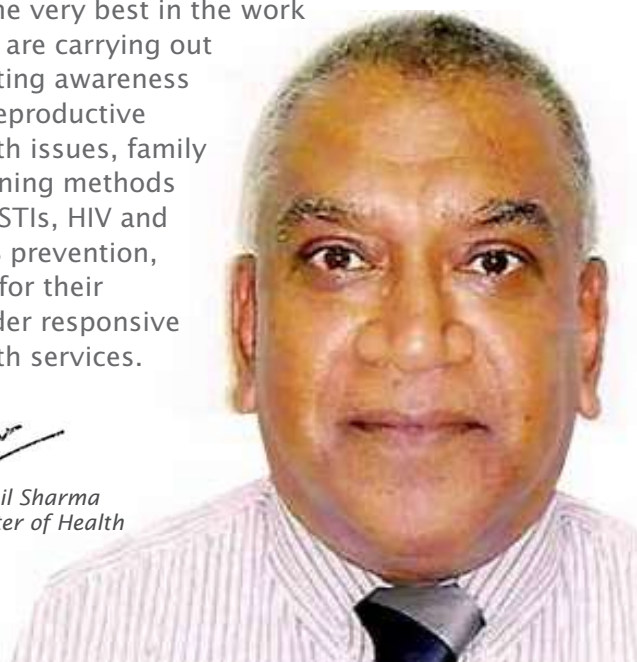
The MOH and Medical Services Pacific are mutually committed to the provision of the highest quality of family health care services through a three-year memorandum of understanding signed in 2010.

MSP is a valuable service provider of sexual reproductive health, maternal and child health, confidential counselling and STI testing services to our population in Fiji, through the work of its clinical outreach team and static drop-in clinic. We also enable our zone nurses to work collaboratively with MSP's mobile clinical outreach team for the provision of family planning services, awareness and information, and prevention of violence against women and girls for remote and rural communities.

The MOH will continue to strive for improvement in its delivery of health care services by the up-scaling of universal access through further strengthening its partnerships with organisations like MSP. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the hardworking team of MSP all the very best in the work they are carrying out creating awareness on reproductive health issues, family planning methods and STIs, HIV and AIDS prevention, and for their gender responsive health services.



Dr Neil Sharma
Minister of Health



Working in partnership...

Ministry of Health

MSP has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Health to work in partnership to provide reproductive health care, maternal and child health care services in Fiji. Working in close collaboration with MOH medical officers, MSP health teams provide a range of free family planning services, (ie. Pap smears, pregnancy tests, STI testing, contraceptive products, prenatal and postnatal care etc.) as well as information and training as required. MSP mobile clinical outreach teams travel to communities and settlements in Fiji to provide services and information. The agency also provides a static clinic in Suva that offers confidential services for 'walk in' clients and those referred by our MOU partners.

Fiji Police Force

In November 2012, MSP became the first NGO in Fiji to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Fiji Police Force to provide health services to victims of sexual assault and gender violence. At the official signing, Commissioner of Police Brigadier General Ioane Naivalurua said: "MSP is providing a service that will fill the gap in the provision of confidential health services for victims/survivors of domestic violence and abuse. I believe that NGO partnerships are important and welcome the collaboration in service delivery between our two agencies."

United Nations Population Fund

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has funded MSP's Mobile Clinical Outreach Project (MCOP), which aims to improve access to health care including prenatal, maternal and reproductive health care and family planning services, and to target the prevention of HIV infection.

MSP also distributes male and female condoms to vulnerable and at-risk groups, including young people, under a MOU with UNFPA to implement and achieve the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the area of reproductive health commodity security.

Looking back at 2010-2011

In brief

In our first year of operation, MSP provided a comprehensive range of health services in the Central and Western Divisions of Viti Levu. These included medical checks, family planning, STI and HIV/AIDS testing and awareness, counselling, adolescent health and youth-focussed awareness, general information and awareness sessions, corporate and private health outreach and general consultations. The activity was carried out through the MSP outreach team comprising a doctor, registered nurse, community educator and program assistant/driver.

In keeping with our commitment to improving health service delivery through increased collaboration and networking, we partnered with Fiji National University College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Rotary Club of Suva, Rotaract Club of Suva, Fiji Women's Rights Movement and UNFPA, among others, to achieve our objectives. The team also overcame barriers in delivering sexual reproductive health services to female community members through engaging with chiefs and male local leaders.

Our services were predominately delivered through the following two projects:



1. Suva clinic

(funded by European Union and co-funded by SCA-Libra and UNFPA)

MSP established a 'walk-in' clinic in Suva to provide medical services for women and those impacted by sexual assault. Clinical services include sexual reproductive health examinations and Pap smear tests, voluntary confidential counselling and testing, STI support, and services to prevent unplanned pregnancy. Additional services include maternal health care (prenatal and postnatal), family planning, sexual reproductive health, HIV counselling and testing, and sexual assault/gender based violence (GBV) support services and referrals (in partnership with MOH and Fiji Police Force).



2. Mobile Clinical Outreach Project

(funded by UNFPA)

The Mobile Clinical Outreach Project (MCOP) aimed to improve access to health care, including maternal and reproductive health and family planning services for youth and women in Central and Western Divisions of Viti Levu. It also provided information and awareness on reproductive health and HIV/STI prevention and quality services for confidential counselling and HIV/STI testing.

"Doctor, I want to thank you and your team for the magnificent job you are doing in this needy area. I have already felt the impact... your advice to the community has really helped. Thank you once again."
Nurse Practitioner for Mokani



Disaster response

(in collaboration with Rotary International)

MSP also works in partnership with local and national governments and partner civil society organisations such as Rotary International and UN agencies, to assist in natural disasters in Fiji.

After tropical Cyclone Evan tore through the northwestern side of Viti Levu, MSP's nurse and programme staff teamed up with Rotary to disseminate disaster relief assistance to Navutu village. The team distributed relief packs and temporary shelter to the villagers, carried out a needs assessment and reported back to base to inform follow-up action.



Achievements

- MCOP resulted in improved service delivery for STI and HIV/AIDs prevention, diagnosis, testing and counselling.
- The MSP clinic and outreach team provided reproductive health information and awareness, and clinical services to over 6,000 clients (50% were under 24).
- 20,000 people were reached through public education and media coverage (including radio broadcasts).

2010-2011 in numbers



2,476

people directly accessed MSP services



10,224

condoms distributed



785

medical check-ups carried out



54

family planning services/ methods accessed



13

communities and groups accessed our services

Making a difference in 2011-2012

MSP reached out to communities in rural and urban areas and to groups and individuals in the Central and Western Divisions of Viti Levu during 2011-2012, tailoring health services to benefit those most in need. In close partnership with the MOH and the Department of Community Police, our outreach team provided clinical and information awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, STI and HIV, gender based violence and human rights and also worked with vulnerable groups across the region to increase awareness and access to key services and resources.



Clinical Outreach Services for Youth in Fiji project

(funded by UNFPA)

Clinical Outreach Services for Youth (COSY) was a key project, funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), that was designed to improve the sexual and reproductive health of young people in Fiji. It also included advocacy and awareness raising of violence against women and girls.

COSY targeted issues such as teenage pregnancy, the unmet need of contraception for young people, the need for youth friendly information and services to prevent STIs, HIV/AIDS and reproductive tract infections, and access to clinical services for those impacted by sexual violence.

It aimed to improve access to sexual reproductive health care for women and youth in Fiji through mobile clinical outreach focussed on women and youth market vendors, and by providing broad access to information and awareness on reproductive health and HIV and STI prevention.

Under an MOA with the Fiji Police Force, the project also provided clinical care and social services to individuals impacted by sexual assault and domestic violence.



"I am a 70 year old retired school teacher and I have been a market vendor since retiring from teaching. Although I was a teacher and a mother I have never had a Pap smear test done because I never knew the importance of it. But after listening to the information that was imparted by the Medical Services Pacific team I am intrigued by the importance of undergoing Pap smear test and how it can save lives. So that is why I am going to do my Pap smear test now that the medical team is here in Ba."

"They are talking about something we don't discuss in our communities but they are also providing clinical services that make it easy for us women in the market to access. We are so glad they are here."

Market vendor at Ba market

COSY project achievements

- We directly assisted **5,000 clinical clients**, including youth, women and children at risk. This incorporated 570 women and youth market vendors at Suva, Nausori, Ba and Rakiraki markets.
- We delivered information and awareness on reproductive health and HIV/STI prevention to **23,577 people** through direct community outreach. This included the Hibiscus Festival and village and settlement visits. We also worked with community groups like Fiji Women's Muslim League and youth groups, and continued to train and work with MOH staff.
- We reached a further **50,000 people** through radio sessions delivered on Fiji Broadcasting Corporation's Gold FM 'Speak Your Mind' talkback show.
- We provided **19,035 family planning services** and distributed **18,710 condoms**.

"I am a single 27 year old who is working and earning a good salary. After the MSP team came to our youth gathering and talked to us about family planning and the risks involved, I realised that I have been taking a big risk of getting my girlfriend pregnant, as we have unprotected sex regularly. I spoke to my girlfriend about the choices and we have decided that she will take Depo to prevent pregnancy until we are both ready."





Making a difference in 2011-2012 cont...

COSY project achievements

- We increased the availability of contraception; provided youth friendly counselling, information and clinical services to prevent STIs, HIV/AIDS, reproductive tract infections and unplanned pregnancy; and provided access to clinical services for those impacted by sexual violence across rural and poorer urban areas of Central and Western Divisions.
- The project directly assisted **4,704 clinical clients** including youth, women and children.
- The team reached **1,000 women and youth market vendors** at Suva, Nausori, Ba, Rakiraki, Sigatoka, Lautoka and Nadi markets.
- Over a six-month period COSY **deterred 106 pregnancies, 71 births, one infant mortality, one under-five mortality and 34 abortions**, using the international impact calculation based on the global ratio of Couple Years of Protection (CYP) generated.

Project review

Through the COSY project, MSP provided a programme that fully encompassed young people and survivors of sexual assault and violence against women and girls. The project responded to an unmet need for sexual reproductive health services in rural and poorer urban areas, as well as building the capacity of MOH and Fiji Police Force staff in sexual reproductive health. It met the need for contraception in target areas and provided health care services to women and young people in their workplaces, social spaces and community groups, thus reduced the cost and burden of accessing quality information and health services and achieved a sustainable impact.



Integrating and strengthening services for those affected by gender based violence in Fiji project

(funded by European Union and UNFPA)

This project aimed to reduce incidences of violence against women and girls through education; to increase access to safe, confidential and integrated health care and social services for victims of gender based violence and sexual assault; and to increase access to confidential clinical care for women, youth and girls.

Project achievements

- **5,904 people**, including vulnerable groups, women and youth, were directly educated through our mobile community outreach team's violence against women and girls information and awareness sessions in the Central and Western Divisions of Fiji.
- **3,907 people** from poor, vulnerable and at risk groups directly accessed our mobile clinical and health services including family planning, maternal child health, sexual reproductive health, STI and HIV/AIDS awareness and treatment, and general information and awareness services.
- MSP's Suva clinic was equipped to handle sensitive caseloads. During one month alone it provided specialised care and support for 12 clients under the age of 16 years from the Fiji Police Force Sexual Offence Unit. This demonstrates the high level of need in the community for health care services for women and children who have experienced gender based violence.

"I am very grateful to this team...It is amazing how you integrate wellness, personal hygiene, women's health and other gender sexual violence issues into the reproductive health presentation, and how the participants interact openly with you and the rest of the participants."

Zone nurse Waikete

Responding to the threat of HIV and AIDS

MSP works to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS in a number of ways, including providing STI and HIV/AIDS awareness and education to a range of targeted audiences through consultancy and via referrals to MOH Hub centres. Our staff also works closely with the MOH STI clinic and undertakes specialised training to enable them to assist STI and HIV/AIDS clients.

Through our outreach projects in 2011-2012 over **20,000 people** received access to information and awareness on reproductive health and STI and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Health fairs

MSP organised a number of educational and interactive health fairs during the year to improve access to a range of free services for communities in remote areas.

The health fair at the Wailea Settlement – one of the largest squatter settlements in Suva with corresponding social and health issues – was organised in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Suva, Department of Oral Health at Fiji National University and the MOH.

The outreach team provided family planning, women's health and pregnancy advice, counselling, medical examinations, contraception, awareness for prevention and treatment of STIs and infectious diseases and the prevention of violence against women and children to almost 100 people in Wailea. Forty five per cent of the women seen had not been using family planning and a high number of young pregnant mothers accessed the services.





2011-2012 in numbers



7,335

people directly
accessed MSP services



124

Pap smear tests
carried out



22,790

condoms distributed



6,051

family planning services/
methods accessed



663

medical check-ups
carried out



42

communities and groups
accessed our services


Impact of family planning services

(Aug 2010 – Dec 2012)

Pregnancies averted	230.74
Unplanned births averted	154.52
Infant mortalities averted	2.23
Under 5 mortalities averted	2.76
Maternal mortalities averted	0.32
Abortions averted	61.89
Unsafe abortions averted	11.25

The above figures are derived from the total family planning methods that MSP distributed and performed between August 2010 and October 2012. The International Impact Calculation used is based on the global ratio of CYPs to impact. It is, therefore, an estimate based upon global conversation of CYPs generated, and the actual impact MSP provides in Fiji may be higher or lower.

Looking ahead to 2013



MSP will continue to support poor, vulnerable and at risk groups, along with women and youth, through its mobile clinical outreach team and static clinic. Services will be provided to lower economic areas, to settlements in and around Suva and to remote rural communities in Central, Western and Northern Divisions and the Islands.

We will also undertake a range of special projects including All Women and Children Empowered Now (AWACEN), which aims to strengthen the rights of women and children and is funded by the British High Commission and EU.

AWACEN's two key objectives will be to:

- 1.** Empower women, youth and vulnerable groups by increasing their access to information and clinical reproductive health services designed to address and respond to gender violence in Fiji.
- 2.** Strengthen the rights of the child by providing access to confidential clinical services, support and referral services for survivors and others at risk of gender violence.

We are grateful to the EU and the British High Commission for their timely support of this important project which will allow us to respond to the high numbers of child clients we are receiving in our clinic.

Our partners and supporters

MSP works in partnership and collaboration with a range of stakeholders including community groups, government, NGOs, and local and regional companies, to maximize resources and strengthen local capacity.

We appreciate the generous support and ongoing commitment of all our partners and supporters, our staff and volunteers.

A special thanks to Corona Club of Suva and SCA-Libra who were our first donors in 2010 and to UNFPA, the EU and AusAID who came on board in 2011. We are also especially grateful for the support of the MOH and Fiji Police Force, and to Julie Barron Design and Quality Print Limited who respectively designed and printed this publication pro gratis.



Special acknowledgements

Unfortunately, we don't have room to individually credit each of our wonderful supporters, but we do wish to take this opportunity to highlight some of the volunteers who contributed to the foundation of MSP through voluntary support and donations.

Firstly, we are indebted to Mr Suluo Daunivalu, our first Board Chairman, who kindly donated his vehicle and time to support our administrative needs and transport our medical team to the field during the early days.

We are also grateful for the support of Mr and Mrs Frank and Yvonne Jackson for their early donations and assistance to the clinic, and extend a special thanks to Ms Natalie Craig-Vassiliadis for assisting with our first large successful proposal.

The contributions of friends of MSP such as Ms Sharna Nolan and Meses Veronica and Claire Thoms must also be mentioned. And, finally, a very special thanks to Ms Rachael Scotland for voluntary management of the Fiji programme and other support when MSP's resources were stretched.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers and friends who have provided support at critical times to ensure women and youth in Fiji have access to vital health services. We couldn't impact these lives without you!

Our Board

The MSP Board and Senior Management Team are focused on ensuring our organisation is well managed, financially secure and remains committed to our vision.

Executive Director

Jennifer Poole

Chair

Suluo Daunivalu (2010-2011)
Joshila Lal

Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Ken Brown

Secretary

Dr Bernadette Pushpaangaeli

Patron

His Excellency, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of Fiji

Management Collective Members

Suluo Daunivalu
Marie Koroi
Dr Temalesi Mccaig
Teresa Sivan
Janice Stewart
Veronica Thoms

Trustees

Juris Gulbis
Janita Prasad
Alicia Sahib Shankar

Legal Advisor – Child Protection

Ms Barbara Malimali

We thank our Board and Senior Management Team for their continued dedication and support.

Our finances in brief

Summary statement of Medical Services Pacific's financial activities for year ended 31st July 2011

	2011 FJ\$
INCOME	
Project specific grant income	169,199
Unrestricted grant income	45,835
Other income	985
TOTAL INCOME	216,018
EXPENDITURE	
Staff costs	44,231
Depreciation	1,032
Repairs and maintenance	3,685
Rent expense	13,675
Training and workshops	4,558
Administrative and other costs	18,361
Total Expenditure	85,542
Surplus	\$ 130,476

MSP has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers and its financial statement approved on 16 November 2012.

**Our income for year ended
31st July 2012 increased to \$ 297,500**





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