
SUNGO ANNUAL REPORT



1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024

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Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
DFAT	Australian Government - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
CBC	Capacity Building Coordinator
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSSP	Civil Society Support Program
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EU EDF	European Union European Development Fund
EC	Executive Councils
GCCAI	Global Climate Change Alliance Initiative
ICO	Information Officer
IUCN ORO	International Union for Conservation of Nature's Oceania Regional Office
ME	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSP	Marine Spatial Plan
NUS	National University of Samoa
NEOC	National Emergency Operation Centre
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NOLA	Nuanua O le Alofa
OP	Ocean Plan
PANG	Pacific Alliance for Globalisation
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association Non-Governmental Organisation
PCA	Post Cotonou Agreement
PSET	Post School Education Training
SICTP	Samoa In-Country Training Program
SQA	Samoa Qualification Authority
SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisation
SVSG	Samoa Victim Support Groups
SGP	Small Grant Program
SOE	State Of Emergency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TA	Technical Advisor
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
UNDP	
GEF	United Nations Development Program/Global Environment Facilities

Report of the National President

Financial Overview:

For the financial year 2023-2024, SUNGO has experienced a significant improvement in financial results compared to the previous financial year 2022-2023. The financial results for FY 2022-2023 resulted in a loss of \$194,741, whereas for FY 2023-2024, the results show a reduction of loss to \$127,696, representing an improvement of 34%.



Reasons for Improvement:

There has been an improvement in our financial stability due to securing multiple projects for the upcoming years. These projects cover most of our operational costs, including staff salaries.

Ongoing and New Projects:

Despite the financial challenges, SUNGO has been fortunate to secure multiple projects currently being implemented in this financial year. These projects include:

EU Project on Democracy: This project aims to enhance democratic processes and citizen participation.

RERIPA Microgrid Project: In collaboration with NUS and USP, this project focuses on renewable energy and sustainable power solutions for communities.

Good Governance Training Project: Funded by the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development under the District Development Project, this initiative aims to strengthen governance practices at district levels.

Volunteerism Workshops: Funded by the Australian High Commission, these workshops aim to promote volunteerism and prepare for CHOGM in October 2024, where SUNGO will co-chair the People's Forum.

Citizens Budget Guide: Funded by PIANGO, this project involves developing a tool to ensure CSOs' voices are included in the development of the National Budget.

Major Milestone:

A major milestone for SUNGO this financial year was earning the government's trust to co-chair the People's Forum at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in October 2024. SUNGO's preparation for this significant event began in mid-2023, demonstrating our capability and commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and engagement.

Acknowledgments:

I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support we have received from our government, donor partners, and the Executive Council members. Your dedication and commitment have been instrumental in driving our mission forward and ensuring that we continue to make a meaningful impact in our communities.

A special note of gratitude goes to our CEO and the dedicated staff of SUNGO. Your hard work in managing projects, forging partnerships, and securing financial support has been nothing short of exemplary. Your efforts have enabled SUNGO to sustain our operations and advance our goals, even in the face of challenges.

In particular, I would like to highlight the significant contributions of our donor partners. Your financial support has been vital in allowing us to execute our projects and initiatives effectively. Through your assistance, we have been able to address critical issues such as human rights, democracy, and good governance, thereby strengthening the fabric of our society.

The success of our projects, including the EU project on democracy, the RERIPA microgrid project with NUS and USP, the Good Governance Training project funded by the Government of Samoa, and the volunteerism workshops funded by the Australian High Commission, is a testament to the power of collaboration and shared vision.

Moreover, our preparation for CHOGM and the development of the Citizens Budget Guide, funded by PIANGO, are clear examples of our commitment to empowering citizens and enhancing their participation in governance processes.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on these successes and continuing our work to create a more just and equitable society. We are confident that, with the continued support of our government, donor partners, and dedicated team, we will achieve even greater heights in the years to come.

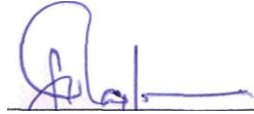
Conclusion:

Despite financial constraints, SUNGO remains committed to its goals and continues to work on projects that positively impact the community. The organisation looks forward to a productive year ahead with ongoing and new projects that aim to strengthen the democratic processes, governance, and overall development of the communities we serve.

Future Outlook:

SUNGO is optimistic about securing additional funding and support to sustain its operations and expand its initiatives. The organization will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with national and international partners to further its mission and objectives.

We wish you all the best in the upcoming CHOGM and may all have a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.



Lavea Peseta Lua Nafo'i
National President, SUNGO

Report of the National Treasurer

The financial performance of SUNGO for the fiscal year 2023-2024 shows a significant improvement compared to the previous year, 2022-2023. This year, we recorded a net loss of \$127,696, representing a 34% improvement from the loss of \$194,741 in the previous year.



Income Analysis

The total income for the fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$150,532, a decrease from the \$403,947 recorded in the previous year. Key components of this year's income include:

Contract Management: \$49,261.07, down from \$68,372.82.

Hire and Project Recovery Costs: \$14,273.22, increased from \$4,338.00.

Membership and Subscriptions: \$4,800.00, increased from \$3,150.00.

New Project Incomes: Including UNDP Spotlight Initiative (\$5,720.76), Samoa Agreement Forum (\$1,296.90), PIANGO PFM Project (\$7,791.25), AVI Workshop (\$1,247.10), IOE Samoa EU Project (\$13,639.39), AVI Impact Fund (\$5,197.11), RERIPA Microgrid Project (\$3,770.00), MWCS D Good Governance Revenue (\$17,749.63).

Expenses Analysis

Total administrative expenses for the fiscal year 2023-2024 were \$208,065, a substantial reduction from the \$303,122 incurred in the previous year. Key expense reductions include:

Salaries SUNGO Administration: Reduced to \$57,331.73 from \$178,253.66.

Executive Council Meeting Expenses: Reduced to \$1,517.50 from \$4,956.40.

Electricity: Increased to \$4,215.43 from \$2,932.44.

Project expenses for the fiscal year 2023-2024 were \$70,162.34 down from \$295,566.09 in the previous year. This is due to major projects completed in the end December 2023.

Key reductions and new expenses include:

Staff Salaries - Project: Reduced to \$1,590.20 from \$84,286.04. The portion of staff salaries funded by projects have been attributed directly to Salaries Account in SUNGO's budget.

New Project Expenses: Including PIANGO PFM Project (\$7,791.25), MWCS D Good Governance Project (\$17,749.63), IOE Samoa EU Project (\$13,639.39), UNDP Spotlight Second Phase (\$5,720.76), and RERIPA Microgrid Project (\$3,770.00).

Net Loss

The net loss for the fiscal year 2023-2024 stands at \$127,696, a significant turnaround from the loss of \$194,741 in the previous year. This positive outcome is attributed to the completion of most projects in the previous year, effective cost management, and the strategic use of savings in the Reserve Account to maintain operations and support ongoing initiatives.

Conclusion

SUNGO has demonstrated resilience and adaptability in the face of financial challenges. The strategic reduction in administrative and project expenses, coupled with the initiation of new revenue-generating projects, has resulted in a much-improved financial position. Continued focus on effective project management and cost control will be crucial for sustaining this positive trend in the coming years.

Faafetai tele,



Faleafaga Toni Tipamaa
National Treasurer, SUNGO

Overview of the Year

SUNGO Annual Financial Overview for the Financial Year 2023-2024

The fiscal year 2023-2024 has been a period of financial recovery and strategic management for the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO). This report provides an overview of our financial performance, highlighting significant improvements and key financial metrics from the Treasurer's report.

The fiscal year 2023-2024 has been a transformative period for SUNGO, marked by prudent financial management and strategic direction by management. The positive result demonstrates our resilience and ability to adapt to changing financial landscapes. Moving forward, SUNGO will continue to focus on sustainable growth, effective project management, and cost efficiency to ensure continued financial stability and support for our mission.

Strategic Objective One: Governance and Management

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:

1. Introduction

The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) continues to play a vital role in enhancing civil society's impact in Samoa. The governance structure is pivotal to SUNGO's effectiveness, ensuring transparency, strategic planning, and robust policy development. This report provides an overview of SUNGO's governance structure, focusing on board meetings, transparency, strategic planning, and policy development during the financial year 2023-2024.

2. Board Meetings

Frequency and Attendance:

The SUNGO Board convened quarterly meetings, ensuring regular oversight and strategic direction. Special meetings were called as necessary to address urgent matters. Attendance remained high, with all board members demonstrating strong commitment to SUNGO's mission.

Key Decisions:

Financial Oversight: The board approved the annual budget and reviewed quarterly financial reports. Decisions were made to utilize savings to maintain operations and support ongoing initiatives.

Project Approvals: The board sanctioned several key projects, including the EU project on democracy, RERIPA microgrid project with NUS and USP, Good Governance Training funded by the Government of Samoa, and volunteerism workshops funded by the Australian High Commission.

Policy Development: The board endorsed new policies and reviewed existing ones to ensure they align with SUNGO's strategic objectives and comply with regulatory requirements.

3. Transparency

Financial Reporting:

Transparency in financial matters was prioritized. The Treasurer's Report for FY 2023-2024 indicated significant improvement, with a positive balance of \$127,696 compared to a loss of \$194,741 in FY 2022-2023. Financial results and project updates were shared with members and stakeholders through the annual general meeting (AGM) and SUNGO's website.

Communication:

SUNGO maintained open communication channels with its members and stakeholders. Regular updates on activities, project progress, and financial status were disseminated via newsletters, social media, and the official website.

4. Strategic Planning

Strategic Goals:

The strategic planning process focused on aligning SUNGO's activities with its mission to support CSOs in Samoa. Key goals included enhancing democratic participation, improving governance, and building capacity within the community.

Initiatives and Outcomes:

Democracy and Governance: The EU-funded project on democracy and the Good Governance Training project were pivotal in educating and empowering community leaders and members.

Environmental Sustainability: The RERIPA microgrid project, in collaboration with NUS and USP, aimed at promoting sustainable energy solutions.

Community Engagement: Volunteerism workshops, funded by the Australian High Commission, enhanced community participation and volunteer engagement.

5. Policy Development

New Policies:

Two new policies were developed to address emerging needs and ensure SUNGO's operations remained effective and compliant. These included:

Gender Equality - SUNGO is dedicated to fostering a culture of gender equality within its organization and through its external engagements. By implementing this policy, SUNGO aims to create a more equitable and inclusive environment for all, contributing to the overall goal of gender equality in Samoa

Climate Change - SUNGO is dedicated to playing an active role in addressing climate change and its impacts on Samoa's communities. Through this policy, SUNGO aims to promote sustainable development, enhance community resilience, and advocate for meaningful climate action, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for Samoa.

6. Conclusion

The governance structure of SUNGO for the financial year 2023-2024 demonstrated a commitment to transparency, strategic planning, and robust policy development. The board's proactive approach in financial oversight, project approvals, and policy endorsements ensured SUNGO's continued impact in supporting civil society in Samoa. Moving forward, SUNGO remains dedicated to its mission, fostering a collaborative and transparent environment for all stakeholders.

MANAGEMENT:

1. Financial Management

SUNGO demonstrated strong financial management during the fiscal year 2023-2024. The organization's financial performance significantly improved, with the Treasurer's report indicating a positive balance of \$127,696, a substantial turnaround from the loss of \$194,741 in the previous fiscal year. Key aspects contributing to this improvement include:

Budgeting and Financial Oversight: The board's diligent review and approval of budgets and financial reports ensured that SUNGO's financial resources were effectively managed.

Project Funding: Successful acquisition of funding for several key projects, such as the EU project on democracy and volunteerism workshops funded by the Australian High Commission, bolstered financial stability.

2. Membership Engagement:

SUNGO's management showed a strong commitment to engaging with its membership base, fostering an inclusive and participatory environment.

Key initiatives included:

Regular Communication: Members were kept informed through regular newsletters, social media updates, and the official website, ensuring transparency and keeping members engaged with SUNGO's activities.

Workshops and Training: The organization facilitated multiple workshops and training sessions, such as those focusing on democracy, good governance, and volunteerism, which not only empowered members but also enhanced their capacity to contribute to SUNGO's mission.

Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing channels for members to provide feedback and suggestions helped SUNGO tailor its programs and initiatives to better meet the needs and expectations of its members.

3. Risk Management

SUNGO's risk management practices were robust and adaptive, ensuring the organization could navigate challenges and mitigate potential risks effectively:

Policy Development: Implementation of key policies, such as the Anti-Corruption Policy, reflected SUNGO's proactive approach to mitigating risks related to governance and ethical standards.

Strategic Planning: Regular strategic planning sessions enabled the organization to anticipate and prepare for potential risks, ensuring continuity and resilience in its operations.

Crisis Management: Effective crisis management strategies were in place, allowing SUNGO to respond swiftly to any unexpected issues, maintaining operational stability and protecting its reputation.

Transparency and Accountability:

Transparency and accountability remained central to SUNGO's operations. We continued to provide stakeholders with detailed financial reports, progress updates on programs, and opportunities for engagement and feedback.

Conclusion:

SUNGO's management performance for FY 2023-2024 was commendable, marked by strong financial management, active membership engagement, effective risk management, and a high level of transparency. These efforts not only stabilized the organization's financial health but also strengthened its community impact and reinforced trust among stakeholders. SUNGO is well-positioned to continue its mission of empowering civil society in Samoa, building on the solid foundation established in this fiscal year.

Strategic Objective Two: Communications

2.1 Communication

There have been continuous improvements in the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations' communications to and from its members, with regular newsletters, Media Releases and social media updates. Since SUNGO's Website reconstruction, its visibility has now been recognized and reached organizations outside of Samoa. The Website is updated more regularly with notices, press releases, newsletters, and information sharing with all member organizations and stakeholders.

SUNGO members organizations which are classified in to three different categories such as the Community Based Organizations, Charitable Trusts, and Non-Governmental Organizations, have been sent information for Meetings or Forums, Calls for Proposals, Newsletters, Media Releases, Notices of SUNGO Meetings or Forums, and recruitment throughout the year. This has generated more regular communication between the office and members. Media Releases detailing SUNGO events, as well as Job Vacancy Advertisements have also been sent out to media, have also increased SUNGO awareness and visibility. In addition to that, SUNGO organizations are also advised about their Annual Subscription Fees especially the outstanding fees. Member organizations are always encouraged to like and follow SUNGO's Facebook page, to ensure they are up to date with news, events and funding opportunities.

2.2 Facebook

Since SUNGO's Facebook Page was set up in March of 2015 with the aim to increase and upgrade its visibility and profile, more organizations both here and abroad have contacted SUNGO for assistance in accordance with its core roles and responsibilities. The Facebook page is updated regularly, sharing posts and happenings involving SUNGO. At SUNGO workshops, meetings, or Training activities, there is always a SUNGO information booth, so that participants that attend could have an idea of what SUNGO is, what it does, and how SUNGO works with its member organizations. Partnership with stakeholders and PIANGO promoting Pacific 2030, Vacancies and SDS's Strategies, are also posted on SUNGO's Facebook Page.

A number of member organizations have also linked successfully to this page and have shared a number of posts, advertisements and updates with their friends and connections on this social media platform. For this financial year, from 1st July 2023 to the 30th of June 2024, the total number of Facebook visits is 9.1 thousand, which is 73.2% of SUNGO Facebook fans.

Visits

Export

Facebook visits

9.1K ↑ 73.2%

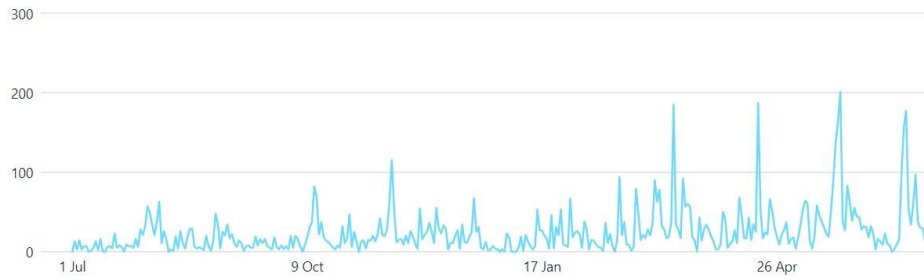


Figure 1: SUNGO Total Page Visits Jul 23 – Jun 24

The Facebook Reach mounted at 29.8 thousand.

Reach

Export

Facebook reach

29.8K ↑ 36.7%

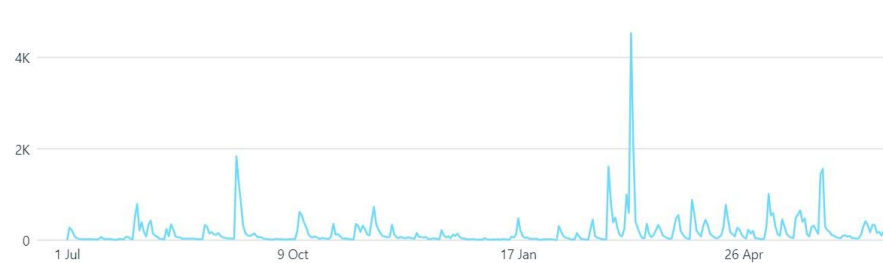


Figure 2: SUNGO Total Page Reach Jul 23 – Jun 24

There are more than two hundred The Facebook followers are 3,232 which is 68.5% women and 31.5% are men that are linked to the SUNGO Facebook page.

See Figure 3 below

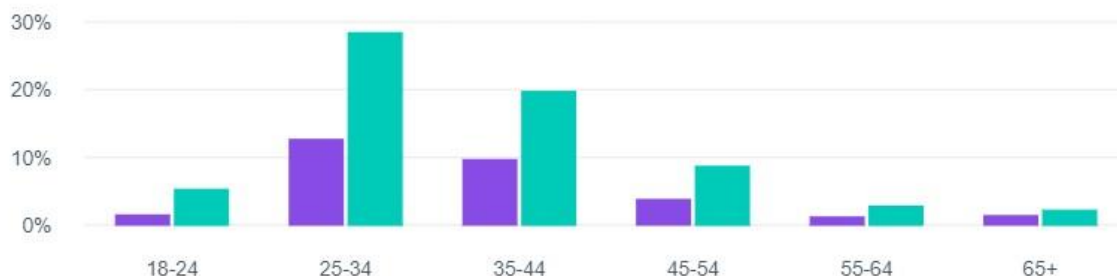
Audience

These values are based on total followers of your Page or profile.

[Create a post](#)

Age and gender

Men 31.40%
Women 68.60%

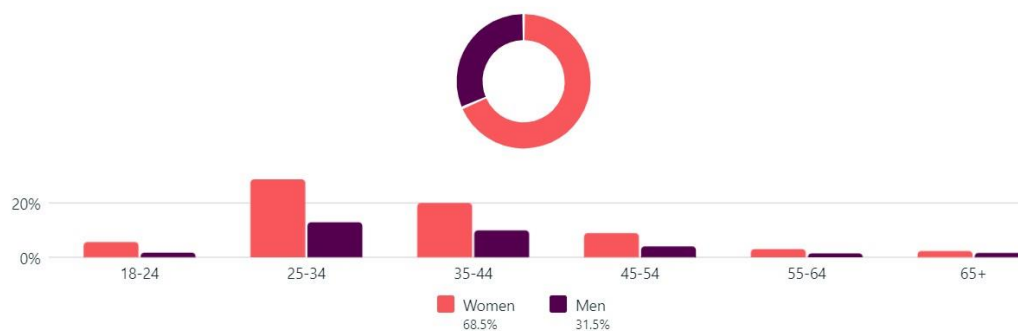


The most users that interact with SUNGO's Facebook Page, are women at the age group of twenty-five to thirty-four years old, and the least interaction are from men at the age group of fifty-five to sixty-four.

Facebook followers ⓘ

3,232

Age & gender ⓘ



2.3 Membership

In the previous Financial Year ended 30 June 2023, the total registered membership for SUNGO was 228. In this Financial Year, six new member organizations joined SUNGO, which resulted in a total number of 234 SUNGO Members. A Monitoring & Evaluation Survey activity was usually conducted on

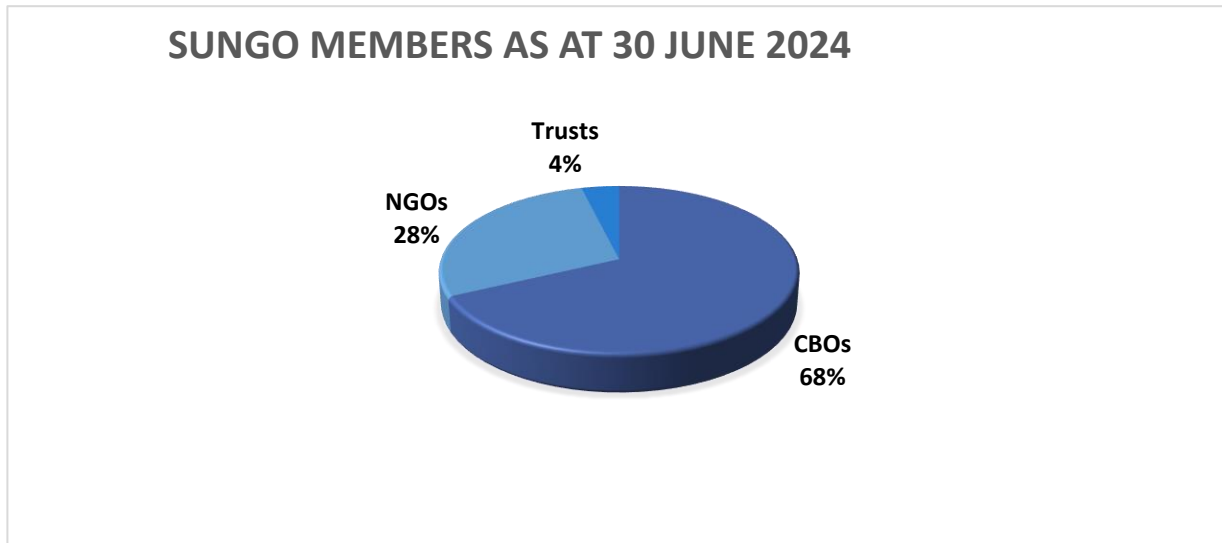
an annual basis, to ensure that SUNGO continues to connect with its members. Unfortunately, there was no M & E Survey this year, due to the lack of funds to implement it. However, the information and communications officer continued to contact our members and interact with them for SUNGO Activities and Happenings.

For the Membership, a list of the current members is attached to this report as **Appendix One**.

SUNGO Membership by Sector

	NGOs	CBOs	Trusts	TOTAL
SUNGO Members	66	159	9	234
Percentage	28%	68%	4%	100%

Figure 5: SUNGO Membership by Sector



2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning

For the Financial Year 2023 – 2024, there was NO Monitoring and Evaluation Survey activity, as mentioned above. SUNGO’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) exercise is a vital part of SUNGO’s annual workplan, unfortunately due to the lack of funding, this activity was not executed in the last two years. However, the staff have always tried to offer mentoring assistance whenever it is required, as well as calling them as a form of invitation to Meetings/Forums or Training Workshops. Another way that the ICO is using to get in touch with SUNGO Members, is through Forums. (update Contact Information and more)

SUNGO wishes to continue with this important activity, because it is significant for strengthening the relations between SUNGO and its members as well as its stakeholders. The Annual Work Plan aims to achieve 75% of members visited at the end of each financial year.

This Report provides an update of the Membership Database from the 1st of July 2023 to the 30th of June 2024.

SUNGO Members by Island & New Members

	NGOs	CBOs	Trusts	TOTAL
SUNGO Members	66	159	9	234
Savaii	1	50	0	51
Upolu	65	109	9	183
New Members	1	5	0	6

2.5 Feedback from Members

The responses indicate overall satisfaction with the services offered by SUNGO.

Through the Meetings and Forums as well as Training activities conducted throughout this Financial Year, SUNGO members praised the umbrella for the continuous communication and information shared regularly.

Other comments made by members, are the need for fundings, and requested for Meeting Resources to always be printed out in the Samoan Language.

2.6 Information and Liaison

SUNGO communication with its members.

SUNGO's interaction and communications improved with its members in terms of reaching out to them with regards to Training Programs, Meetings or Forums, Consultations and more.

Increased number of members actively engaging with SUNGO.

There are also non-members of SUNGO who like and share SUNGO's Facebook posts to their friends and that expand the profiling and introduced SUNGO to new members. There were people that visited the SUNGO office and requested further information regarding SUNGO services for their community, based on receiving news from friends on SUNGO's Facebook page.

Existing members retained and new members recruited.

SUNGO increased its membership with six new members, raising membership from 228 to 234 members. The SUNGO membership database has always been updated and maintained by the ICO. The database divides into five thematic areas where we can easily allocate executive council members to meetings and forums. The list of these thematic areas is on the website for members and the communities to access. It is also attached to the report as **Appendix two**.

The public profile of SUNGO has been strengthened.

SUNGO utilizes communication about the role of civil society to its partners through Facebook, emails, press releases, quarterly newsletters and on its website.

2.7 Stakeholder Engagement

The Australian High Commission in Samoa updates SUNGO on the progress of the Tautua and Tautai Projects.

11th August 2023, SUNGO Office, Vaitele - The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations CEO and the Australian volunteer Ms. Vanessa Morris met with the Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to Samoa, Ms. Claire McGeechan and her Team on Friday, 11th of August 2023, to follow up on the Tautai and Tautua Projects funded under the DFAT funding programmes. Building close partnership between DFAT and SUNGO was also discussed in the meeting.



SUNGO Executive Council Members met with the Honorable Prime Minister.

1st September 2023, Prime Minister's Office – SUNGO's Executive Council Members met with Honorable Prime Minister, discussing Good Governance Trainings that SUNGO will implement for 51 constituencies.

SUNGO Executive Council members were President Lavea Lua Nafoi, Treasurer Faleafaga Tipamaa, and CEO Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia.



SUNGO develops a partnership with International IDEA.



4th September 2023, SUNGO Office, Vaitele Tai - SUNGO met up with representatives from the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Mr Adhy Aman who is the Senior Programme Manager for Asia & the Pacific, and Mr Stephen Sherlock, who is a Visiting Fellow from the Australian National University.

SUNGO developed a partnership with IDEA through a joint proposal for EU Call for funding. SUNGO looks forward to working collaboratively with IDEA.

CSO Engagement with the UN



6th September 2023, SUNGO Office, Vaitele-Tai - SUNGO CEO met with UN Human Rights Adviser – Ms Momoko Nomura to discuss CSO landscape in Samoa, and how UN could better engage with CSOs.

Common Challenges discussed by SUNGO and the UN

20 September 2023 - Capacity building and financing gaps are common challenges hindering effective NGO operations. On the 20th of September 2024, the RC Themba Kalua met and discussed with CEO of The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations Inc - SUNGO Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia, opportunities to support and address these challenges. The RC was joined by the Resident Coordinator's Office Human Rights Adviser Momoko Nomura and staff members of the SUNGO Faapito Opetaia and Onosai Kitiona who were all engaged in an interesting conversation to understand the work of SUNGO in building a well-informed, resourced and strong NGO sector of over 250 members. The UN Samoa anticipates more dialogues and genuine collaborations with the NGOs, Government of Samoa and the UNIC Canberra



Collaboration between SUNGO and Australia strengthened.

18th April 2024 – On this day, the CEO of SUNGO had the honour of meeting with the Australian High Commissioner, H.E Will Robinson, to discuss ways to enhance collaboration between the Australian Government and Civil Society in Samoa.

Key points of discussion included:

- Identifying Opportunities: Exploring avenues for increased cooperation and partnership between the Australian Government and Civil Society organizations in Samoa.
- Capacity Building: Discussing initiatives to strengthen the capacity of local Civil Society organizations, empowering them to play a more active role in driving positive change and development.
- Resource Allocation: Assessing strategies for more effective resource allocation and utilization to address pressing social and development challenges in Samoa.
- Knowledge Sharing: Emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing and mutual learning between the Australian Government and Civil Society organizations to enhance impact and sustainability.

This meeting marked a significant step forward in fostering greater collaboration between stakeholders, with a shared commitment to building a brighter future for Samoa. With CHOGM on the horizon, there's a sense of excitement and anticipation as we work together to ensure that Civil Society in Samoa has a strong voice and meaningful representation on the global stage.



Exciting Collaboration Ahead between SUNGO and China



10 April 2024 – This day marked a significant milestone for SUNGO as the CEO had a productive meeting with Mr. Cheng Jun, the Deputy Head of Mission and Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China at Vailima. The discussion revolved around fostering collaboration between our organizations. The meeting delved into exploring avenues for partnership in various thematic areas within SUNGO's membership, including Health, Agriculture, Education, and more. SUNGO is thrilled about the potential synergies and opportunities

that lie ahead. A huge thank you to Mr. Cheng and the Embassy for their gracious hospitality and for facilitating this productive exchange. Looking forward to a bright future of collaboration and impact together!

SUNGO continues partnership with China through an Open Day event.

26th April 2024, New Chinese Embassy Premises 中国驻萨摩亚使馆 Chinese Embassy in Samoa - A



Day of Collaboration and Dialogue at the Chinese Embassy Open Day. Representatives from SUNGO and other organizations had the opportunity to participate in the Chinese E mbassy Open Day. The primary aim of the open day is to initiate a collaborative dialogue aimed at bolstering support for youth initiatives.

It was an enriching day filled with insightful discussions and exchange of ideas. The event culminated in roundtable discussions on critical topics such as Global Civilization, Global Security Initiative, and Global Development.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration: PIFS Meets with SUNGO Executive Council

4th April 2024, SUNGO Office, Vaitele –

On this day a significant meeting unfolded as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) delegation led by Secretary General Henry Puna, joined by H.E Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia engaged in fruitful discussions with esteemed members of the SUNGO Executive Council. The meeting was imbued with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to progress. At the heart



of the dialogue was the exploration of strategies to bolster collaboration between local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and regional bodies. Recognizing the pivotal role CSOs play in shaping our societies, deliberations were rich with insights on how to harness synergies for greater impact.

The meeting served as a platform to address pressing cross-cutting issues affecting local communities, underscoring the imperative for collective action and innovative solutions. From socioeconomic challenges to environmental concerns, every aspect vital to the well-being of our region was earnestly deliberated upon. The discussions transcended regional boundaries to underscore the significance of pursuing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent on the international stage.

SUNGO President Lavea Peseta Lua Nafoi extended sincere gratitude to the Secretary General and the delegation for the opportunity to convene and address matters relevant to our communities.

SUNGO met with the World Bank

5th March 2024, SUNGO Office, Vaitele - We had the privilege of hosting Mr. Sean Bradley and Ms. Antonia Wong from the World Bank at SUNGO today.



SUNGO CEO had a productive meeting with them, discussing potential support for the Government and Civil Society on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. This is a crucial step towards creating a more inclusive society where everyone has equal opportunities to thrive!

Additionally, the World Bank mission focused on exploring ways to support the District Development Project. Together, we delved into analysis, operational guidelines, and processes to ensure effective and sustainable development at the grassroots level.

Stay tuned for more updates on our collaborative efforts

towards positive change! Together, we can make a difference.

SUNGO develops a relation with the Conservation International Samoa

1st March 2024, SUNGO Office, Vaitele – This day marked a significant step forward in the realm of ocean conservation and sustainable development. The CEO of SUNGO had the pleasure of meeting with Leausalilo Leilani Duffy - Iosefa, the Oceans Director from the @Conservation International Samoa, to explore a collaboration opportunity under the UK Ocean Grant Partnership 2024. At this pivotal meeting, both parties discussed a project aimed at harnessing collective efforts towards preserving our precious marine ecosystems.



Meeting between SUNGO CEO and British High Commissioner to Samoa Strengthens Collaboration for Community Development.

20 February 2024, SUNGO Office, Vaitele - The Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations, Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia, met with the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Gareth Hoar, at the organization's office. The meeting aimed to explore avenues for collaboration and support from the British High Commission to further enhance the organization's impactful work within communities across the region. During the meeting, both parties engaged in fruitful discussions regarding potential areas of cooperation and assistance. His Excellency Gareth Hoar expressed his admiration for SUNGO's dedication to community development through training and capacity building programs.



His Excellency particularly commended the organization's visible presence and active engagement with both governmental initiatives and community activities. Fuimaono expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet with His Excellency Gareth Hoar and welcomed the prospect of future collaboration with the British High Commission. He emphasized SUNGO's commitment to fostering sustainable development and empowering communities to thrive. Both parties look forward to continuing their dialogue and working closely together to achieve shared goals for the betterment of communities in Samoa.

Strategic Objective Three: Institutional Strengthening

3.1 Capacity Building

Improved capacity of SUNGO member organisations and non-member civil society organisations to effectively manage their organisations and services to their communities.

SUNGO provides informal learning activities to its members and civil society organisations at the grassroots level where adult learning is encouraged. SUNGO endeavours to make knowledge and skills required by civil society organisations more accessible through informal training opportunities for our members. The main activity for SUNGO has been to provide institutional strengthening and training opportunities for its members as well as the civil society in Samoa.

Adequate pool of CAT qualified community trainers maintained.

Maintaining a pool of qualified and skilled community trainers is crucial to the delivery of a quality training programme. SUNGO coordinates a pool of registered community trainers. These trainers take responsibility for delivering need-based training for NGOs and communities/villages. SUNGO recruited ten (10) new community trainers early this year. There is a good gender balance and the newly recruited trainers also have a younger age profile which is important for both training balance and retention. SUNGO have expressed the need to up-skill our members, preferably to meet the needs of individuals as well as the needs of communities.

SUNGO requested training for the continuous training and upskilling of community trainers in order to cope with demands for training in the different communities. The planning and delivery of Applied Training Skill short non-formal course is part of this process and a response to the need to equip and up-skill community trainers. There were fourteen (14) attended and completed the course (8 females and 6 males). None of the 14 passed the pre test but at the end of the training week all 12 participants sat the post test passed.

Age Range by Gender

Age Range	Female	Male
20 – 30 years	2	0
30 – 60 years	6	5
>60 years	0	1
Total	8	6

Participant attendance	Attendance rate from day 1 to day 5: Day 1 = 86% Day 2 = 100% Day 3 = 93% Day 4 = 86% 14 people attended and completed the course. Attendance rate for individual participants range from 86% to 100%. Overall individual participant attendance rate is of very good standard.
Pre-course test scores	Minimum (lowest): 0% Maximum (highest): 17% Pass rate: 0% (12 participants sat the pretest, none pass)
Post course test scores	Minimum (lowest): 53% Maximum (highest): 90%

3.2 Training Needs Analysis

For this financial year, SUNGO did not conduct a training need analysis or training assessment due to funding as well as time constraint and completion of other projects. SUNGO will look into other possibilities to collect the training needs from our registered members for next year training programme. SUNGO is in progress of looking for funding to conduct its training programme as usual. SUNGO team will apply for funding when call for proposal is open.

3.3 Training Programmes Delivered

EU Spotlight Initiative:

SUNGO has taken the lead in organizing and implementing Capacity Building activities designed to empower women's movements and CSOs. SUNGO has been able to develop tailored training programs, workshops, and resources aimed at strengthening the skills and knowledge of women's movements and CSOs. These activities are geared towards promoting gender equality, fostering social inclusion, and preventing violence against women and girls.



This direct fund support to CSOs focuses on institutional strengthening support for SUNGO to enhance the core technical and functional capacities of CSOs who play a key role in implementing prevention and response initiatives, advocating with decision makers on positive change in laws and policies, as well as maintaining accountability of right holders on domestic violence issues.

The Capacity Building activities facilitated by SUNGO include:

- Leadership Workshops - Empowering women leaders with effective leadership skills, strategic planning, and decision-making abilities.
- Advocacy Training - Enhancing the advocacy skills of women's movements and CSOs to influence policies and promote gender equality.

The training conducted on 12 – 13 October 2023 at the TATTE Convention Centre attended by eighteen participants from nine (9) NGOs. There were fourteen (14) females and four males.

Pre and Post test Results:

Pre-and Post-Test Summary		
Sum Pre-test scores	Highest 9/30	Lowest 0/30
Sum Post-test scores	Highest 30/30	Lowest 17/30
Pre-test average percentage	15%	
Post-test average percentage	82%	
Average percentage increase in learning	67%	

Pre The summary shows the increase average percentage of 67% which clearly states and increased in learning / improvement. All 18 participants sat the post test passed. The course evaluation was done

at the end of day 2 of the course. All 18 participants completed their evaluation and submitted it to the training team. 73% of the training participants were satisfied with the course overall.

SUNGO expresses its gratitude to the EU and UN Spotlight Initiative for their unwavering support and commitment to creating a safer and more equitable society for women and girls in Samoa. total of 7 Training courses were delivered in the last financial year and 5 training conducted and completed for this financial year ended 30 June 2023. SUNGO remains dedicated to working closely with its local partners, Government agencies, and communities to ensure the successful implementation of these Capacity Building activities.

Child Protection Policy – Australian Volunteer Program (DFAT) :

The Australian Volunteers Program provided funding for SUNGO to host and facilitate the one day child protection workshop as SUNGO is committed to the protection and safeguarding of all children. This one day training helps SUNGO members to formulate and/or revise their organisation’s child protection policies according to National and International standards. The training held at SUNGO conference room on 15 March 2023.

The key objectives of this training are as follows;

- To establish clear guidelines and procedures for preventing and responding to child protection in organisations.
- To raise awareness among staff, volunteers and stakeholders about the importance of child protection and their roles and responsibilities in upholding these principles.
- To ensure compliance with National and International standards for Child Protection, including the Convention of the Rights of the Child and relevant legislation.



There were sixteen (16) participants attended the workshop, 13 females and 3 males. The one-day workshop conducted by the Australian volunteer that helped SUNGO with this activity, Isckra Martines Carbajal and SUNGO programme team leader. In conclusion, the workshop helped our members understand and formulate their Child Protection Policies, which represented a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of children within our organization. We established clear guidelines, raised awareness and built capacity to create a culture of child protection that is embedded in all aspects of our work.

Pilot Volunteer Program - Australian Volunteer International.

This one-day workshop aims to explore and provide participants with a deeper understanding of the strengths and needs of volunteers. The SUNGO AVI volunteer delivered the organisational support structures to propel more engagement from volunteers now and in the future and underlying factors and principles of volunteerism.



The participants hear from AVI volunteer representative who volunteer in Samoa and a local volunteer from Piu Community who shared their experiences of current volunteers, mainly the success and challenges of their work.

With this Australian Volunteers Program Impact fund, this project offered to CSOs / NGOs to improve the inductions and capacity building of volunteers across Samoa and beyond.

The volunteer organisations were Samoa Voyaging Society, Samoa Conservation Society, Light of Hope, Samoa Education Network, Apelu Sports, Komiti o Atinae Vailoa Faleata, and Independent Water Scheme Association.

Secured training contracts:

SUNGO received two training contracts this year through the European Union under sub-contract with IDEA and the Government of Samoa through Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSD). These contracts were aimed at training Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on Project Design Management, Managing Organisations and other various short online sessions and village-based sessions on specific areas of development, as well as the strengthening of Good Governance for District Development Programme particularly for 51 District Councils.

These contracts aimed to be implemented in two years period. The detail information about the IOE SAMOA project is under Project update of this report.

In January 2024, SUNGO signed a contract with MWCSD for \$200,000 for Year 1 delivery of Good Governance training to the 51 District Councils with the full 'Agnes to be completed by the end of 2025. Councils will be paired for the training where practicable to reduce the total number of trainings required and to reduce costs.

The purpose of the course is to improve the good governance skills of Councils and to improve their knowledge in areas such as Council Governance practice, staff appraisal, planning, finances, reporting and project management. The training materials are designed by John Cretney with the support of SUNGO CEO and staff. The training of trainers was conducted by John and the training coordinator. Prior to rollout, it was resolved to run a pilot programme with Faleata II district council to fully test the course material and make any further adjustments. The pilot training was carried out on 27 – 30 May with Faleata II Council held at SUNGO conference room.

Given relatively short notice, there was an excellent response from the Faleata II district council with 9 members completing the course and gaining a certificate. A number were unable to fully complete the course due to a village funeral.

Overall, 93% of the responses rated the course as Good (4) or Excellent (5) on a 5-point scale. All questions asked received a rating of at least 80% on average with very high ratings (100%) for the opportunity to participate, level of language used, trainers' skills, relevance of the course and course organization.

Overall, this pilot course ran well and provided useful information for future improvements.

3.4 SQA recognition secured for community courses.

SUNGO planned to complete all documentation for SQA recognition of its new developed training materials such as Good Governance for District Councils and other approved short training courses. The preparation of these documents has commenced and will be completed over the next 12 months. Each course submission is likely to require up to 40 hours of work. When all documents are ready will be submitted to SQA for their recognition usual process.

3.5 Best practice encouraged through mentoring and training

SUNGO provides a range of support to members organisations; training follow up, assistance with financial systems, assistance to complete forms such as applications for donor funding, Government forms for registration, and SUNGO's own membership registration forms.

Members find completing funding applications forms very difficult as the language and terminology is often complex.

Individual mentoring and training are preferred and valued by members. However, it requires significant resource in terms of staffing and time availability. SUNGO has only two staff members with the skills to undertake this work. SUNGO staff are the first line for assistance through mentoring but often community trainers provide this assistance under the leadership of the Programme Team Leader.

Strategic Objective Four: Advocacy

The Facility Aiding Locally Led Engagement (FALE) – CSO Forum

SUNGO hosts the Facility Aiding Locally-led Engagement (FALE) Pasifika Co-Creation Meeting, supported by the Pacific Islands Association for NGOs (PIANGO).

The forum delivers a Co-Creation meeting for the Samoan Civil Society Organizations, with the aim to gather humanitarian actors in Samoa to collaboratively envision and create FALE Samoa on 3 – 4 August 2023 at Tiafau Fale hotel Millenia, Sogi.

By emphasizing inclusivity, collaboration, and design thinking principles, the meeting seeks to foster an effective and locally led humanitarian initiative to address pressing challenges in Samoa. Through joint



efforts and cooperation, FALE Samoa can pave the way for a resilient and empowered Pacific community. On the first day of the meeting, participants supported the idea of establishing a FALE for Samoa, through a collaborative effort with SUNGO.



Samoa is part of the first six cohort of hubs

for the Pacific Islands Association for Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO), including Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati. PIANGO in partnership with Start Network and Brot für die Welt hopes to establish twenty-four national FALE Pasifika cohorts.

At the end of the forum/meeting, a Steering Committee was formed, to ensure that the FALE Samoa is sustainable. The steering Committee's first meeting will be held on Monday, 7th of August 2023.



Torch of Peace Initiative:

The torch of peace initiative, spearheaded by the Samoa Victim Group, is a beacon of hope and a call to action against the pervasive issue of violence faced by women and girls.



SUNGO as a dedicated advocate for social justice and gender equality is honored to support this vital initiative. By joining forces with the SVSG, SUNGO reaffirm our commitment to creating a world every woman and girl can thrive without the threat of violence. SUNGO staff took part in carrying the torch and making a significant step forward fostering a safer environment for women and girls in our community.

Civil Society and Youth Engagement

The Civil Society and Youth engagement in the OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement forum was held at Taumeasina resort on 14th November 2023. Her Excellency Jutta Urpilainen emphasized the critical need for a robust mechanism to promote youth engagement in dialogues and discussions addressing cross-cutting issues at the National, Regional and International levels. She also encouraged the commitment to ensuring that the voices of youth are not only heard but actively shape the discourse on matters of Global Significance.

There were approximately 60 participants attended both in-person and online from various civil society organisations.



Key points raised during the discussions included:

Inclusive Decision-Making: Participants underscored the importance of inclusive decisionmaking processes, emphasizing the need for mechanisms that ensure the active involvement of diverse stakeholders. This inclusivity, they argued, is vital for the Agreement's success and its ability to address the unique challenges faced by different groups.

Youth Empowerment: Youth representatives expressed their aspirations for increased opportunities and empowerment within the framework of the Partnership Agreement. They highlighted the importance of creating platforms for youth to actively contribute to policy discussions and implementation strategies.

Community Impact: Civil society organizations shared insights on the potential impact of the Agreement at the community level. They stressed the need for localized approaches to implementation, considering the unique needs and contexts of different communities.

Resource Allocation: Stakeholders sought clarification on the allocation of resources, expressing interest in understanding how funds would be distributed among different regions and sectors. The

transparency and equity of resource allocation were identified as critical factors influencing the success and fairness of the Agreement.

Access to Funding for Youth Initiatives: Given the emphasis on youth engagement, participants were keen to know about the specific provisions and mechanisms in place for youth-led initiatives to access funding. Questions revolved around the criteria, application processes, and support available for youth-driven projects.



SUNGO CEO Fuimaono Ofoia expressed gratitude towards all participants, speakers, and organizers for their invaluable contributions to this historic event. The collaborative effort demonstrated the commitment to creating an inclusive platform for dialogue. He particularly acknowledged Siale, Executive Director of PIANGO and Vani (Moderator) for their outstanding support throughout the meeting.

Fuimaono encouraged all participants to carry forward the spirit of collaboration and inclusivity that defined the meeting. He highlighted the significance of diverse perspectives and strengths in ensuring the success of the Partnership Agreement. He remarked, "The success of the Partnership Agreement hinges on our ability to harness the diverse strengths and perspectives of our stakeholders. Together, we can ensure that this agreement becomes a beacon of progress, leaving no one behind." The event not only set the stage for meaningful discussions on youth engagement but also marked a milestone in the ongoing efforts towards inclusive governance and decision-making.

Strengthen collaboration for community development

The British High Commissioner His Excellency Gareth Hoar met with SUNGO CEO afoiga Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia. The meeting aimed to explore avenues for collaborations and supports from British High Commission to further enhance the organisation's impactful work with communities across the region.



The discussion focused on potential areas of cooperation and assistance where British High Commission engage with Civil Societies in future collaboration.

H.E Gareth congratulated SUNGO's work and development through capacity building, advocacy and active partnerships with relevant Government Ministries, other partners and community activities.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration: PIFS Meets with SUNGO Executive Council

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) delegation led by Secretary General Henry Puna, joined by H.E Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia engaged in fruitful discussions with members of the SUNGO Executive Council. The meeting was imbued with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to progress.

The dialogue aimed to the exploration of strategies to bolster collaboration between local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and regional bodies. Recognizing the pivotal role CSOs play in shaping our societies, deliberations were rich with insights on how to harness synergies for greater impact.

The meeting served as a platform to address pressing cross-cutting issues affecting local communities, underscoring the imperative for collective action and innovative solutions. From socioeconomic challenges to environmental concerns, every aspect vital to the well-being of our region.



The discussions transcended regional boundaries to underscore the significance of pursuing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent on the international stage.

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent encapsulates a collective vision for harnessing the vast potential of our shared oceanic domain. From sustainable resource management to climate change adaptation and maritime security, its pillars resonate with the aspirations of Pacific Island nations to secure a prosperous and resilient future for generations to come.

By advocating for international recognition and support of this visionary strategy, the meeting highlighted the imperative of amplifying Pacific voices on the global stage. Embracing the principles of inclusivity and solidarity, participants reaffirmed their commitment to championing the Blue Pacific narrative and driving meaningful action towards its realization.

SUNGO President Lavea Peseta Lua Nafoi extended sincere gratitude to the Secretary General and the delegation for the opportunity to convene and address matters relevant to our communities.

Restoration of NZ Citizenship Forum: A Resounding Success!

SUNGO supported the forum on the Restoration of NZ Citizenship for Samoans born between 1924 and 1949 was a great success, with over 200 attendees participating in the event at Tuutuuleloloto hall, Mulivai on 22 May 2024.



The Chairman and members of the Mau a Samoa i le Sitiseni 2024 from New Zealand and SUNGO

President welcome all citizens and people attended the forum. The Mau members clarifies and responses to people's questions.

This significant gathering highlighted our collective commitment to addressing and resolving the issues faced by our community. SUNGO



extends its sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to this important discussion.

Empowering Civil Society in Samoa: CSO Forum on Citizen Budget Guide and CHOGM Preparation for People's Forum 19 April 2024

One of the core focuses of SUNGO is to strengthen the civil society sector by ensuring that citizens and our communities contributed to the formulation of public policies so it reflected people's realities. These public policies define our National Development Plans and so it's critical that we learn to understand the National Budget process as well because until we have budget allocation, the implementation of public policies is not guaranteed. To complete the cycle is tracking the budget allocations that is delivered according to the public financial standards and procedures and it's made an impact on the lives of people that is tracked by the Audit process. This is 'people-centred development' in its simplest form.

SUNGO hosts a CSO Forum on 19th April 2024 at Hotel Millenia Tiafau Fale to bring our members and partners to articulate on how Citizens can be empowered to participate in the Budget process and use the Citizen Budget Guide as a tool to identify priorities to raise as budget submission to contribute to budget formulations.



The upcoming Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be hosted by the Government of Samoa will be a case in point within the conversation on Public Finance Management and Citizen Budget Guide. On that note and in our commitment to transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment, SUNGO was happy to meet with civil society members who participated in the CSO Forum on Citizen Budget Guide and CHOGM Preparation for People's Forum. This forum aimed to equip the residents of Samoa with accessible and comprehensible insights into the Nation's Financial landscape while also discussing preparations for the People's Forum ahead of CHOGM. The participants were equipped with presentation and information that increased their awareness and



understanding among citizens regarding Samoa's budgetary processes and obligations. Enhanced citizen capacity to monitor and scrutinize Government budgetary decisions. Strengthened dialogue and collaboration between civil society organizations, Government agencies, and citizens in budget-related matters

Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions - PASAI Women Symposium

SUNGO CEO delivered a presentation on the vital role of Accountability and Transparency in Governance at the PASAI Women Symposium held at Taumeasina on February 14th, 2024.

Fuimaono underscored the significance of accountability and transparency as fundamental pillars of good governance. He emphasized that robust public sector accountability, encompassing legal and reporting frameworks, organizational structures, strategies, procedures, and actions of public entities, is essential for ensuring the efficient and effective utilization of public resources. Furthermore, Fuimaono highlighted the transformative impact of transparency in disclosing how public funds and resources are utilized. Transparent practices not only combat corruption but also enhance governance, foster accountability, and bolster public confidence and trust in government institutions. Such transparency, he argued, is indispensable for advancing peace, justice, strong institutions, democracy, economic growth, and development both within nations and across regions.

Fuimaono concluded his address by calling for collective action and sustained commitment to uphold accountability and transparency principles, thereby fostering a culture of integrity, responsibility, and trust in public administration.

SUNGO remains dedicated to championing initiatives that promote sustainable development, social justice, and ethical governance in partnership with stakeholders across the region.



SUNGO's Commitment to The Development of Samoa National Anti-Corruption Policy 2024/2025 – 2028/2029

SUNGO's commitment to the development of the Samoa National Anti-Corruption Policy 2024/2025 – 2028/2029 highlights its proactive role in promoting good governance and transparency in Samoa. By engaging in the policy's formulation, SUNGO demonstrates its dedication to fostering accountability and combating corruption, which are critical for sustaining democratic practices and public trust. The involvement in this national initiative reflects SUNGO's ongoing efforts to collaborate with the Public Service Commission (PSC) and other stakeholders to ensure that civil society voices are integrated into the policy-making process. Through such efforts, SUNGO not only contributes to a more robust policy framework but also enhances the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to hold institutions accountable, further empowering local communities to engage in governance reforms. This commitment aligns with SUNGO's broader mission of strengthening civic participation and promoting human rights and social justice in Samoa.



SUCCESS STORIES:

Empowering Women Farmers: The Success Story of Fuatino and the Mixed Farming Group

Fuatino Moli, President of the Mixed Farming Group in Faleasiu.

In 2018, Fuatino joined SUNGO, seeking to enhance her abilities and take her farming endeavors to new heights. Little did she know, this decision would mark a turning point in her life.



Through SUNGO's training programs, Fuatino delved into project management and basic finance, essential skills that transformed her approach to farming. These programs provided her with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate the complexities of agricultural projects effectively.

Fuatino is a living testament to the power of education and empowerment. She acknowledges that without SUNGO's guidance and support, she wouldn't have been able to develop her skills to the extent she has today. Her dedication and hard work, coupled with the resources provided by donor partners, have propelled her and the Mixed Farming Group to new heights of success.

Today, Fuatino stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for fellow farmers in Faleasiu and beyond. Her story is a reminder that with the right support and resources, anyone can achieve their dreams and make a meaningful impact in their community.

We are incredibly proud of Fuatino's accomplishments, and the strides made by the Mixed Farming Group. Their dedication to sustainable agriculture and continuous learning sets a shining example for us all.

Celebrating Success: Saena Penaia, A Beacon of Achievement!

Saena's journey is a testament to dedication, hard work, and a passion for agriculture. As the largest supplier of cocoa in Samoa, Saena has not only carved a niche for himself but has also become a beacon of inspiration for fellow farmers and industry enthusiasts alike.



One of Saena's noteworthy contributions lies in his pivotal role as a supplier to the Cocoa Nursery of the Ministry of Agriculture at Nu'u. Through this initiative, he has not only supported local agricultural endeavors but has also played a crucial part in fostering sustainable farming practices and nurturing the growth of future crops.

Saena's journey serves as a shining example of what can be achieved through perseverance, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to one's craft. We are immensely proud to have him as a member of our community and eagerly anticipate witnessing his continued success and impact in the years to come. Through SUNGO, Saena has had the opportunity to participate in various training programs, each designed to equip him with the knowledge, skills, and encouragement needed to navigate the challenges of farming and entrepreneurship.

These trainings have served as invaluable resources, providing Saena with the tools and insights necessary to overcome obstacles, adapt to evolving industry trends, and seize new opportunities.

Strategic Objective Five: Research

The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) faced significant challenges in the fiscal year 2023-2024 for its Research Unit, primarily due to a lack of funding. As a result, no new research projects were initiated or completed during this period. This situation impacted SUNGO's ability to contribute to its broader mission of empowering civil society through evidence-based advocacy and informed decision-making.

Impact of No Funding

Stalled Research Initiatives: The absence of funding led to the suspension of research activities. Potential projects that could have provided valuable insights into various social, economic, and environmental issues in Samoa were not pursued especially in the areas of youth, alcohol abuse, violence, and drugs.

Knowledge Gaps: The lack of new research limited SUNGO's ability to generate fresh data and analysis. This affected the organization's capacity to support its advocacy efforts with up-to-date and relevant evidence, potentially weakening its position in policy dialogues.

SUNGO Projects

Initiative on Empowerment of Civil Society in Democratic Samoa (IOE Samoa Project) funded by EU under International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

This two-year contract is a human rights-based project as articulated in the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), in collaboration with project partners Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO) and Women in Business Development Inc. (WIBDI), proudly launched the Initiative on Empowerment of Civil Society in Democratic Samoa (IOE SAMOA project).

The project launch was held on Thursday 20th June. The Director of IDEA Leena Rikkila Tamang and Adhy Aman, Senior Programme Manager from Canberra highlighted the project's aims to support Samoan civil society in advancing human rights, influencing policy and decision-making processes. In attendance were Dignitaries from various consulates including Australia, United States of America, Japan and China. There were also representatives from Government ministries and CSOs and NGOs.

Following the launch, the first Activity for the project was held with a focus on;

1. Human Rights and Civil Liberties Issues
2. Understanding Media Freedom and the Effective Use of Media to Promote Civil Society
3. Advocacy: Understanding and Influencing Government Policy Processes
4. Climate Change

Presentations from representatives of the following organisations provided valuable insight for civil society - JAWS, NOLA, Office of the Electoral Commission, Ministry of Women Community & Social Development and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The project consists of a number of activities aimed at enhancing democratic participation and accountability in Samoa by empowering Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to facilitate the engagement of Samoan citizens with their rights and policymakers. Fostering a culture of inclusivity and active citizenship, the project seeks to establish robust foundations for participatory decision-making processes across various stages of policy development, implementation, monitoring, and accountability. The project intends to contribute to the institutionalization of citizen-state engagement as an integral aspect of the policymaking cycle, thereby fostering a sense of expectation among stakeholders regarding the necessity of consultation.

The project, generously funded by the European Union (EUR 415 000), aims at supporting civil society organisations as actors of development and governance in the Pacific Island Countries. A critical part of this project will see organisations (CSOs) receive financial assistance for projects. SUNGO will provide training and mentoring support to ensure projects are managed and reported accordingly.

Living Lab Decarbonated Energy Production in Samoa Project (Microgrid)

This project aims at creating a living lab that is showcased for decarbonized energy production in the Region. The target is not only to provide clean energy to communities in remote areas but also to provide secure continuity in energy supply in case of power outages. The living lab serves to reduce the CO₂ emissions and mitigate the effects of CCI. This is meant to be repeated in the Pacific region.

SUNGO has partnered with the National University of Samoa and University of the South Pacific in assisting with this project. The key role of SUNGO is facilitating community workshops and stakeholder engagement.

The village of Uafato has been selected as a small community for this project to take place. After visits to Uafato and meeting the village council an agreement that a microgrid will be designed, installed, implemented and assessed to supply electrical energy, heat and refrigeration to Uafato. The use of renewable energy systems, energy storage systems and hydrogen energy systems will see the use of decarbonized distributed energy. Using microgrids will allow the production of 'green' electrical energy by using renewable energy sources, working either connected to the main utility grid or in a stand-alone mode, making the energy quality more resilient and avoid service disruptions.

Further consultations with Uafato will be carried out to ensure everyone involved in the project understands what the project provides and how it benefits people of Uafato.

Acknowledgements

SUNGO extends its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all our valued members, the Executive Council, dedicated staff, and tireless volunteers. Your unwavering commitment and hard work are the foundation of our collective success and continued progress.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to our donor partners for their generous support and trust in our mission. Your contributions have been instrumental in enabling us to undertake and sustain impactful projects.

A special acknowledgment goes to the government ministries and various stakeholders for their collaboration and shared vision. Your partnership has been vital in driving forward our initiatives and achieving meaningful outcomes.

Lastly, we honor and recognize the communities we serve. Your resilience, engagement, and feedback are essential in guiding our efforts to create positive change and build a more inclusive and just society.

Thank you all for your indispensable contributions to SUNGO's journey and achievements.

Appendix 1. SUNGO Membership List as of 30 June 2024

1	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)	14	Atina'e Tauatia'e Samatau Nuufou (Lumana'i Manuia mo a Taea Society)
2	Aiga Atia'e Vailoa Faleata	15	Au Fai Faatoaga, Lafu Manu Tauatia'e, Sosaiete Tauatia'e
3	Aiga Atia'e Vaipu'a	16	Aualofa Falealupo Uta (LDS)
4	Ailao Club Samoa	17	Aufailafumanu Puleono Salafai
5	Alii ma Faipule Faleapuna	18	Aumaga Muagututia/Gagaifo Taulelea
6	Alii ma Faipule Foailalo	19	Australian Pacific Technical College (APTC)
7	Alii ma Faipule Fogatuli	20	Autalavou EFKS Manunu
8	Alii ma Faipule Malae Faga	21	Autalavou EFKS Matautu & Gagaifotai Lefaga
9	Alii ma Faipule Paia	22	Autalavou EFKS Moataa
10	Alii ma Faipule Sa'oa & Tausi Solosolo	23	Autalavou EFKS Togo Lotoso'a Saleimoa
11	Alii ma Faipule Tapueleele	24	Autalavou Metotisi Lefagaoalii
12	Alii ma Faipule Vaitele-tai	25	Autalavou Metotisi Salani
13	Aoaluma, Sa'oa ma Tama'ita'i Salimu, Faga	26	Autalavou Metotisi Tanugamanono
27	Aoga AsoSa Metotisi Vaimoso	48	Autalavou Nasareta Vaitele Fou
28	Aoga Fiamalamalama (The Western Samoa Society for the Intellectually Handicapped Inc.)	49	Au-Uso Fealofani - Salelavalu
29	Apelu Sports	50	Au-Uso Fealofani & Methodist Youth Saleaula
30	Asosi Tama'ita'i Samoa Atina'e (ATSA)	51	Au-Uso Fealofani Methodist Youth Faleolo & Safune
31	Asosi Taulasea Samoa	52	Au-Uso Fealofani Methodist Youth Sapulu & Salelologa
32	Atia'e Aiga ia Manuia (CBO) Vaitele Fou	53	Au-Uso Fealofani/Autalavou - Saletagaloa, Salelologa
33	Atina'e mo le Manuia - Matautu Lefaga	54	Baha'i Charitable Trust

34	Atina'e Tauatia'e (Mix Farming)	55	Beekeepers' Association of Samoa - BAS
35	Children of the Kingdom - Iva	56	Clarence Sebastian Trust Foundation
36	Community Revival Outreach Programme Inc (CROP)	57	Faataua le Ola - FLO
37	Congregational Christian Church Vaipuna	58	Fasitoo-uta Aoga Amata
38	Conservation International Samoa	59	Fathers Association Faleasiu / Satomai
39	Diabetes Association	60	Football Federation of Samoa
40	Discovery Aiga Connection - DAC	61	Fortress of Faith Ministries Trust
41	Education and Science Foundation Incorporated	62	Gagaifolevao EFKS Junior Youth
42	EFKS Faleasi'u Women Fellowship	63	Gataula Primary Health Care
43	EFKS Falevao	64	GOSHEN Trust
44	EFKS Iva Youth	65	Independent Water & Waste Schemes Assn (IWSA)
45	EFKS Leauvaa	66	Kionasina Fishing Club
46	EFKS Lelepa	67	Komiti & Poloketi a le Nuu - Vailoa Faleata
47	EFKS Nuufou	68	Komiti Aoga Tulagalua Fasitoo-tai
69	EFKS Tanugamanono Youth	90	Komiti a Tina & Tama'ita'i o Falealili (I)
70	EFKS Tulaele Youth	91	Komiti o le Vai Nuusuatia
71	EFKS Vaipu'a	92	Komiti o Tina Falefa
72	EFKS Vaitele Uta - Mafutaga Tina	93	Komiti o Tina - Siupapa, Lepa
73	EFKS Vavau Community	94	Komiti o Tina Aelee Fou
74	Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano i Samoa	95	Komiti o Tina Faleapuna
75	Export Taro Growers Group Fatuvalu	96	Komiti Tina ma Tama'ita'i Lano Faasaleleaga Savaii

76	Faalapotopotoga Atiinae o Komiti Tumama o Samoa (Samoa Women Committee Development Org)	97	Komiti o Tina ma Tamaitai Loa - Loimata o Apaula Papauta
77	Faalapotopotoga Aufaifaatoaga Laiti i Aleisa	98	Komiti o Tina ma Tama'ita'i Vineula
78	Faalapotopotoga o Atinae mo le Soifua - Fusi, Saoluafata	99	Komiti o Tina ma Tama'ta'l Sala'ilua
79	Faasao Savaii Society	100	Komiti o Tina ma Tumama Musumusu Fagaloa
80	Komiti o Tina ma Tumama Salimu Fagaloa	101	Mafutaga Tina EFKS Vaisala
81	Komiti o Tina Malae Faga	102	Mafutaga Tina Malotau - St Peter Channell
82	Komiti o Tina Pitonuu Iniini Satupaitea	103	Mafutaga Tina Metotisi Lefagaoalii
83	Komiti o Tina Poutasi	104	Malaemalu Methodist Youth
84	Komiti o Tina Saoluafata (Faletua, Tausi & Aoluma)	105	Malie Assembly of God
85	Komiti o Tina Sapini Faga	106	Manumalo Baptist School - Salelologa Trust
86	Komiti o Tina Siufaga	107	Manumalo Baptist School & Community Center Trust
87	Komiti tumama tina ma tama'ita'i Samamea	108	Matagaluega Autalavou Katoliko Safotu
88	Komiti tumama tina ma tama'ita'i Taelefaga	109	Matagaluega Metotisi Leulumoega Tuai
89	Komiti Vaifoa Lealalii Faleasiu	110	Mata'itoa CBO (Lepale)
111	Lavea'i Samoa Charity Trust	132	Matuaileoo Env't Inc - METI
112	Le Piu Farmers	133	Mauloa Agriculture Development
113	Leadership Samoa	134	Mix Farming Group Co-Operative Society Inc
114	Light of Hope Toe Fuata'iina Association Incorporated	135	Mothers of the Future
115	Loto Taumafai Education	136	Motivational Arts Dance & Drama (MADD) Gallery
116	MAFUTA Organisation	137	Namusigano Development Organisation
117	Mafutaga Tama Katoliko Falepuna	138	National Council of Early Childhood Education - NCECES

118	Mafutaga Tina & Tamaitai Matagaluega Faleata	139	National World Women's Christian Temperance Union
119	Mafutaga Tina Asofitu (SDA) Samalaeulu	140	New Growth Pre- School
120	Mafutaga Tina EFKS Faatoia	141	Nuanua o le Alofa - NOLA
121	Mafutaga Tina EFKS Faleapuna	142	Nuusa Farmers Association-Sasina
122	Mafutaga Tina EFKS Fogatuli	143	O le Pupu Pue National Park (Local Cttee)
123	O le Siosiomaga Society - OLSSI	144	Samoa Assn of Manufacturers & Exporters - SAME
124	Ola Finau	145	Samoa Association of Human Rights & Law Inc
125	Olo o le Alofa Samoa (OLA Samoa)	146	Samoa Business Hub
126	Organic Mothers of the New Earth Association O.M.O.N.E.A	147	Samoa Cancer Society
127	Pa'atala	148	Samoa Conservation Society
128	Pacific Water & Waste Association	149	Samoa Education Network Inc
129	Paia Catholic Youth	150	Samoa Faalapotopotoga Aiga Ma'ale'ale (Samoa FAMA)
130	Pan Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association - PPSEAWA	151	Samoa Family Health Association - SFHA
131	Papaseea Sliding Rock Development	152	Samoa Federated Farmers Incorporated - SFFI
153	Pasefika Mana Samoa Social Work Services Inc	174	Samoa Hotel Association - SHA
154	Paueta Club - Inter Island Group	175	Samoa Independent Seventh Day Adventist Church Autalavou Vaitete Fou (SISDAC)
155	Piu Community Development	176	Samoa Independent Seventh Day Adventist Church Books & Wellness Service Saleufi (SISDAC)
156	Punalei Pool Club	177	Samoa Institute of Directors (SIoD)
157	Return Missionary Sosaiete Solosolo	178	Samoa National Council of Churches.
158	Robert Louis Stevenson Foundation Inc	179	Samoa National Youth Council
159	Rotaract Club of Samoa	180	Samoa Outreach Community Centre (SOCC)

160	Saina Methodist Youth Group	181	Samoa Recycling Waste Management Assn
161	Salani Bright Horizons Incorporated	182	Samoa Registered Nurses Association - SRNA
162	Saleimoa CBO	183	Samoa Returnees Charitable Trust
163	Saloga Methodist Youth Salelologa	184	Samoa Social Welfare Fesoasoani Trust
164	Samalaeulu Worship Centre	185	Samoa United Nations Association Tu ma Aga faamatai
165	Samoa Adventist Lalovaea PTA	186	Samoa Victim Support Group
166	Samoa Aids Foundation - SAF	187	Samoa Voyaging Society
167	Samoa Youth for Christ	188	Tafua Tai Methodist Youth
168	Sa'oa Luua Faga	189	Tagiilima Club Matautu Uta Lefaga
169	Sasina Pre-School	190	Tagiilima Samalaeulu
170	Saumalu Community Pre Sch	191	Tama O le Sami
171	Sei Oriana Trust	192	Tamaitai o le Mauga (Lalovaea)
172	SENESE Preparatory School	193	Tauatina'e Kalapu Lepuia'i
173	Seu le Manu ae tagai le Galu (SMTG) - Muagututia ma le Aualuma	194	Tauilili Club
195	Seven Day Adventist Taga Savaii	215	Tausala o Falefatu
196	Seventh Day Adventist Youth Farming Group Co-operative Society Ltd	216	Tautai Samoa Association Inc
197	Seventh Day Saturday Sabbath Conference Samoa, Salelavalu	217	Tavana Nurses on Wheels
198	Shrine of the Three Hearts (Gausalofa Ministry)	218	Teen Challenge Samoa Inc (NGO) Apia
199	SIARCH (Samoan Institute of Architects)	219	Teine o le 'ofe'ofe
200	Simple Law	220	Tofa Sinasina Samoa Association of Counsellors
201	Siumoo's Faifaatoaga Society co-operative Organizaiton	221	Toomaga o Aiga - TOA
202	Siusega AOG Community Youth	222	Tufa Le Taleni Co-Operative Society Inc

203	Soifua Manuia (Samoa) Inc	223	Tulaele 1st Relief Society Association
204	Sosaiete Aufaifaatoaga Lalomanu (Farmers Assn)	224	Tuna'ula Green Farmers Co-Operative Society
205	Sosaiete Aufaipopo i Samoa	225	Universal Peace Federation Samoa
206	Sosaiete o Aumaga ma Taulelea Salailua/Aualuma Metotisi Salailua	226	Universal Penetecostal Ministry -UPM
207	Sosaiete Tulimatagau	227	Utuloa Methodist Youth
208	South Pacific Business Development	228	Vaa o Manu
209	St Theresa PTA Fusi Salafai	229	Vaiala Development Committee
210	Survival Foundation Society	230	Vaiana Komiti o Tina Tapueleele
211	Vailele Learning Centre	231	VOC Full Gospel Church - Siufaga, Savaii
212	Vainui Committee Co-operative Society Limited	232	VOC Women & Youth Fellowship Vaitele Uta
213	Vaisala EFKS Pre-School	233	Wesley College PTA
214	Vaisilika Organisation	234	Young Women's Christian Association