

Location of Outreach: Chuuk, FSM

Dates: 17-28 March 2014

Organising Base: FHFNZ Outreach Team, based at PEI.

Report Compiled By: Dr Mundi Qalo and Kirti Permal.



FHFNZ Outreach team with local team

Team Members and Position:

No	Name	Role
1	Dr Mundi Qalo	Consultant Ophthalmologist/ Team Leader
2	Dr David Pahau	PacEYES Consultant Ophthalmologist
3	Dr Abhishek Sharma	FHF Fellow
4	Kirti Permal	Outreach Coordinator
5	Ashreeta Lingam	Outreach Nurse
6	Viniana Vulawalu	Outreach Nurse
Participating Local Staff		
1	Valelia Antalea	PGDEC Graduate- MT2 Hospital

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2	Line Aunese	PGDEC Graduate- TTM Hospital
3	Oge Soonafai	PGDEC Graduate- TTM Hospital
4	Carole	PGDEC Graduate- TTM Hospital
5	Tasi Leo	PGDEC Graduate- MT2 Hospital
6	Logomai Lualua	Registered Nurse

Brief Outline of the Outreach and Planning:

The outreach was first of a kind where we had a pre-screening visit by VOSO to accumulate a OT list for the PEI team. The pre-screening was a success and approximately 117 patients were booked for the PEI team for further consultation and surgery. Five (6.4%) of screened cataract patients had to be deferred for surgery due to conjunctivitis. There was a big outbreak in conjunctivitis in Samoa, to the extent that some of the schools in Savaii had to be closed for a week to control the spread of conjunctivitis. The eye clinic in this district had also run out of antibiotics making it difficult to treat the eye conditions. Another seven (9.0%) cataract patients did not turn up for OT due to flooding on Tuesday.

Three of our team members from Solomon Islands could not join the team due to flooding in Honiara - Senior Outreach Nurse, PacEYES senior ophthalmic nurse and a ophthalmology registrar could not join the team. This team was to bring a portable microscope to use also but unfortunately this could not happen. Alternative arrangements were made so that additional nurses from Apia joined our team and they brought an additional portable microscope from Apia to assist our outreach team, even though this microscope only worked for two days it was of great assistance.

The outreach team was also joined by the media team from FHFNZ, we were glad that they managed to get good stories from the patients. The media team was well organised and did not hinder the outreach teams day to day routine. Samoa also has some bad weather on Tuesday which resulted in a mini flooding, cutting off the other half of the island from the hospital. A total of 7 patients called in to cancel their booking. One of the operated patients also failed to turn up for post op on Wednesday but luckily turned up on Thursday when the water receded.

Would also like to mention that the VOSO team had done a pre-screening in this location. Pre-screening was done very well but the patient turn up during the week of operation was affected by the conjunctivitis outbreak and flooding

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The team preparing OT room.

Activities by Day:-

6/04/2014	The team arrived at 4.35am in Apia. They travelled onward to Savaii by the midday ferry. Once in Savaii the team went straight to the MT2 Hospital. Without the assistance of a senior outreach nurse the outreach nurses were able to successfully set up the OT. The ability of these outreach nurses to work efficiently without supervision was commendable.
7/04/2014	The day began with all three doctors in OPD to screen patients. At 9.00am after 10 people were booked on the OT list Dr David started operating while Dr Mundi and Abhishek continued seeing OPD patients. At 11.00am Dr Abhishek joined the OT team while Dr Mundi continued to see Out patients. A Total of 43 outpatients were seen and 24 patients were operated on. A total of 5 patients had to be deferred from OT due to conjunctivitis.

8/04/2014	Dr Mundi started seeing OPD patients while Dr David and Abhishek saw the post op patients. Dr David later took over the OPD while Dr Mundi and Abhishek started OT. Dr Mau from Apia also joined the team. A total of 51 out patients were seen and 21 surgeries were conducted 2 patients' operation was differed due to conjunctivitis
9/04/2014	Due to the bad weather that occurred the night before 5 patients called in to inform the team that they could not keep their appointment due to flooding in their area. The doctors started seeing OPD and post-op patients. Unfortunately one post op patient was affected by the flooding and could not make it to the hospital. Dr Mundi saw the OPD patients till 2.00pm and joined Dr Abhishek and David in OT thereafter. Unfortunately the microscope from Apia had a fault with the transmitter hence the team only had two microscope left.
10/04/2014	All three doctors started the day by seeing Post op patients and OPD. Dr Mundi and David started OT and Dr Abhishek saw patients at OPD. At 10am after Dr Mundi did a few cases , he came back to OPD while Dr Abhishek went to OT. Unfortunately one of the outreach nurse fell sick on this day but was well looked after by the local team hence she recovered the following day.
11/04/2014	All doctors saw the post op patients while the nurses did the final packing. The team completed the packing and had a debriefing meeting with the Savaiian team. The team left for Apia in the 2pm ferry and reached Apia at 4.00pm. Dr Mundi, Abhishek, David and Kirti met with the General Manager of National Health Services for a formal debrief. The meeting finished at 5pm. The team then made their way to their accommodation and departed for their flight to Fiji at 2am on 11/04/2014.

Screening and surgical statistics

Date:	7/04	8/04	9/04	10/04	11/04	GT
No. of patients screened	43	51	60	59	17	230
No. of cataract diagnosed	24	15	22	17	0	78
No. of pterygium diagnosed	6	6	9	6	0	27
No. of diabetic retinopathy diagnosed	1	0	0	1	0	2
No. of other conditions	12	30	29	35	17	123
No. of spectacles or prescriptions dispensed	3	1	2	1	0	7
Total no. of surgeries	24	22	24	17	1	88
No. of cataract surgeries	20	16	18	11	0	65
No. of pterygium surgeries	3	6	5	6	0	19
No. of other surgeries	1	0	1	0	1	3
Surgeries male	12	7	10	8	0	37
Surgeries female	12	15	14	9	1	51

Comments: A total of 78 cataracts were screened from the booked patients. 18 (23%) patients from the total diagnosed cataract cases have dense bilateral cataracts. 5 (6.4%) cataract patients were cancelled due to conjunctivitis. Another 7 (8.9%) cataract patients who were booked for OT did not turn up on Tuesday due to flooding river. One child with congenital cataract was referred to Apia for surgery in September later this year. 3 (4.6%) of the operated cataract patients were not included in the cataract outcome due to predisposed posterior complications. 2 (3%) of the operated cataracts have PCR with vitreous loss and ACIOL implantation.

Outreach Report



Pre-op patients awaiting their eyes to be dilated before going in for surgery

Presenting Visual Acuity Trends on this Outreach

Insert the number of patients screened who present with visual acuity in these ranges

	Good (6/6 – 6/18)	Borderline (6/24-6/60)	Poor (< 6/60)
Male:			
Female:			

Pre-op Visual Acuity for Cataract patients

Good (6/6 – 6/18)	Borderline (6/24-6/60)	Poor (< 6/60)	Count fingers (CF)	Hand motion (HM)	Light perception (LP)	No light perception (NLP)
0	13		15	17	20	0

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Post-op Visual Acuity of Cataract Operations for 3 days post-op

Good (6/6 – 6/18)	Borderline (6/24-6/60)	Poor (< 6/60)
56%(35)	26%(16)	18%(11)
<p>Comments: Table shows that only 56% (35) of the operated cataract patients have good post-op VA of 6/6-6/18. This could be due to one of our surgeon is a FHF Fellow who is still training on MSICS. The post-op 1 week VA should improve.</p>		

Post-op Visual Acuity of Cataract Operations for 7 days post-op

Good (6/6 – 6/18)	Borderline (6/24-6/60)	Poor (< 6/60)
?	?	?

Budget

Was the budget under or over spent?	Underspent.
By how much and why?	Underspend by FJ\$20,000. Three participants from Solomon could not make it to the outreach due to the flooding there. Two of these members were on TOR hence the budget was under spent.
What could be done differently in the future?	

Accommodation

Price	\$137/night/person
Security	Level set at 1
Comfort	Good
Location	15 minutes' drive from the hospital

Transport

Safety	Transport was provided by the hospital.
Timeliness	15 minutes' drive from the Hotel to the Hospital
Comfort	Good

Security

Staffs were together all most of the time, even when going out to shop. No issues were encountered.

Team Composition

Due to the flooding in Solomon the team consisted of 3 doctors, 2 nurses and one administrator in our team. Despite a senior nurse in our team the two junior outreach nurses performed superbly. The ground team were very supportive and gladly got three nurses from Apia to help the two outreach nurses and the Savaii nurses.

Equipment

List the equipment that was brought with the team.	List the equipment provided by the hospital.	List any equipment that wasn't available (include consumables).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One portable microscope Portable Keratometer Portable Ascan Portable Vitrectomy Machine Trial lens set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two operating microscopes Two slit-lamps 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retinoscope • Ophthalmoscope • Portable Slit Lamp • Bipolar machine 		
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Comment on Any Issues or Problems Encountered;

- Faulty microscope.
- Bad weather in Solomon and Samoa affected the team directly.
- One team member fell sick on the last day of operation.
- Gloves that are available in Savaii is not good for microsurgery as it is very slippery

Recommendations for Future Outreaches;

- Team to operate for 5 days instead of 4 days.
- Recommended to the local team to start purchasing equipment for the hospital since their human resource is growing slowly.
- Potential second hospital was assessed for operation for outreach visit in 2015.
- Recommended to send a doctor for training at PEI as there are sufficient nurses trained in Apia and Savaii but only one doctor is doing MMed. The General Manager pointed out that the priority for NHS is getting the National Strategic Plan endorsed so human resource training can be monitored according to the plan. Dr Mau to quickly facilitate the National Eye Strategic Plan for Samoa
- Advised MT 2 Hospital management to stock up on surgical gloves.
- Local nurses were also advised on doing better pre-op for patients as many times the surgeons noticed that the patients eye were not sufficiently dilated.
- Recommendation for the team to consider doing outreach to another hospital on the other side of Savaii Island in the near future.
- DR Mau recommended that Samoa need to do the RAAB survey as soon possible.



Happy Patient, Happy Surgeon!!