

MEDIA RELEASE

SVSG and MOH Empower Communities with Dengue Fever Awareness and Prevention Trainings

Apia, Samoa – 26 September 2025 --Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH), successfully conducted a series of Dengue Fever Awareness and Prevention Trainings across villages in Savai'i. The initiative reached more than 325 participants, uniting communities in their commitment to protect families and children from the deadly disease.

The trainings focused on the importance of maintaining clean environments, removing mosquito breeding sites such as stagnant water and *fāla* plants, and promoting community-wide responsibility in health and hygiene. Each session included practical discussions, with village leaders, church pastors, and community members expressing their appreciation for the program.

Key highlights from the village trainings included:

- Tafua & Maota (17 September 2025): Pulenu'u emphasized the need to remove mosquito-harboring plants and maintain village cleanliness.
- Tautua & Salelologa (18 Sept 2025): Participants noted the program helped awaken families to the seriousness of dengue fever and the importance of a healthy environment.
- Samata i Tai & Samata i Uta (19 September 2025): Villagers expressed gratitude to SVSG and MOH for prioritizing community safety and awareness.
- Fogatuli, Faiaai & Fagafau (20 September 2025): Religious leaders highlighted the shared responsibility of protecting children and future generations.
- Asau (22 September 2025): Pulenu'u Masoe Lima urged that the same environmental standards be maintained in Apia, while Father Tamaolevea Schuster commended the partnership for inspiring action.
- Auala & Vaisala (23 September 2025): Participants valued the new knowledge gained, especially in safeguarding children against the disease.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang reaffirmed the significance of the trainings, stating:

"The fight against dengue fever requires everyone's effort. By working together with the Ministry of Health and our villages, we are protecting our children and building healthier communities."

SVSG acknowledges the continued support of MOH, village leaders, and community members in ensuring that every village is equipped to fight dengue fever through knowledge, preparedness, and collective action.

END

Ensuring that victims of crime and those in need are well supported to be safe and in control to restore their lives

2016: With and for Girls Award – Star Foundation of London

2017: Innovation & Excellence Team Award – Samoa Public Service

2018: Finalist, International Children's Peace Prize 2018 – Kids Right Foundation of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018: Human Rights Champion in Samoa – UNESCO

2019: Innovation for Sustainable Development Award – Commonwealth Secretary-General

2020: Nominated Person(s) of the Year – Samoa Observer

2021: Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Promotion & Protection – Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI

2023: Healthy Islands Best Proposal Award – World Health Organization