

# Tonga



<b>Population<sup>1</sup></b>	98,775
<b>Prevalence of Blindness (Projection)<sup>2</sup></b>	0.47%
<b>Prevalence of Diabetes (Projection)<sup>3</sup></b>	15%
<b>Most common causes of vision impairment<sup>4</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cataract</li> <li>• Diabetic retinopathy</li> <li>• Refractive error</li> </ul>
<b>Health expenditure<sup>5</sup></b>	US \$279 per capita (6% of GDP)
<b>Key stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Health</li> <li>• Clinical Services Division</li> <li>• Vaiola Hospital</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Pacific Community, Pacific Data Hub, Mid-Year Population Estimate, <https://pacificdata.org/>

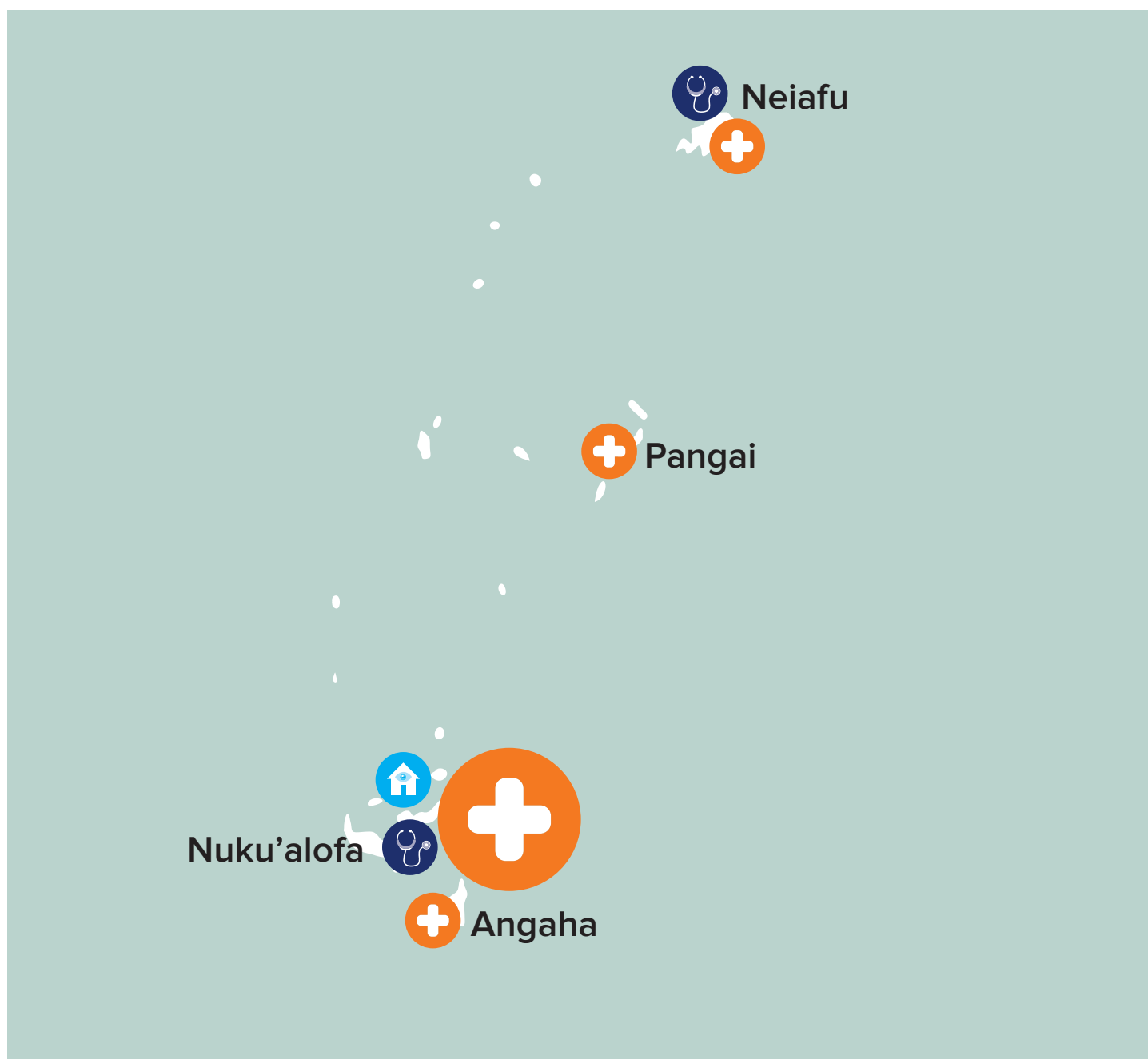
<sup>2</sup> Newland HS, Woodward AJ, Taumoepeau LA, Karunaratne NS, Duguid IG. Epidemiology of blindness and visual impairment in the kingdom of Tonga. Br J Ophthalmol. 1994 May;78(5):344-8. doi: 10.1136/bjo.78.5.344. PMID: 8025066; PMCID: PMC504784. This was a RAAB survey on the 20+ population.

<sup>3</sup> Diabetes Federation Atlas, <https://diabetesatlas.org/data/en/>

<sup>4</sup> IAPB World Vision Atlas, <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas>

<sup>5</sup> WHO Global Health Expenditure Database, [https://apps.who.int/nha/database/country\\_profile/Index/en](https://apps.who.int/nha/database/country_profile/Index/en)

# Eye care workforce



## 2 active eye doctors\*

(both eye doctors are Foundation-sponsored graduates)

Neiafu: 1 / Nuku'alofa: 1



## 13 active eye nurses\*

(all 13 eye nurses are Foundation-sponsored graduates)

Angaha: 1 / Neiafu: 2 / Nuku'alofa: 9 / Pangai: 1



## 1 eye clinic supported by The Foundation

Vaiola Hospital Eye Clinic, Nuku'alofa

\* This number can fluctuate annually and does include private practitioners.

## Eye care training outcomes

### In total

**2** Foundation-sponsored eye doctor graduates<sup>6</sup>.

**14** Foundation-sponsored eye nurse graduates<sup>7</sup>.

### In 2023

The Tonga eye screening van conducted 4,738 consultations on school children.

## 2023 Key Highlights

**10,976**  
consultations provided.

**508**  
sight-saving surgeries performed.

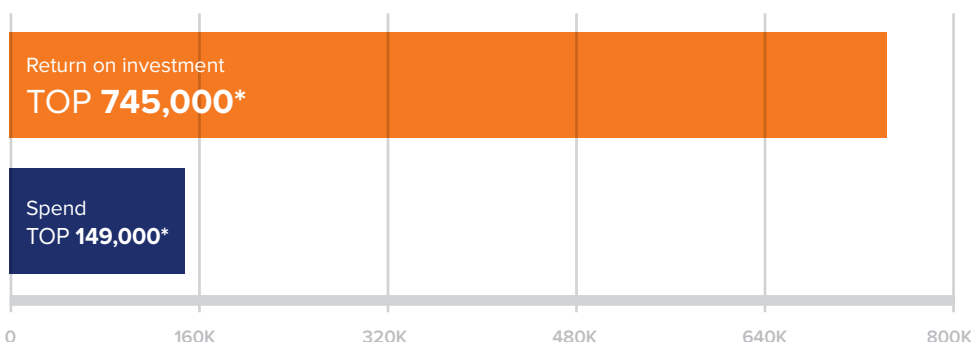
**1,881**  
diabetic retinopathy screenings conducted.

**183**  
diabetic retinopathy treatments provided.

**2,075**  
spectacles were dispensed.

**23**  
outreaches made eye care services accessible to remote communities in Tonga.

## Return on investment 2023



Programme funding in NZD was \$102,000\* with a return on investment of \$509,000\*.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust funded a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)<sup>8</sup> that measured the economic benefit of investing in vision. The study demonstrated that for every \$1 invested in tackling avoidable blindness in the Commonwealth, \$5 is returned in economic value.



<sup>6</sup> Completed Masters of Medicine in Ophthalmology. First eye doctor trained in 2018.

<sup>7</sup> First eye nurse trained in 2008.

\* These figures are approximate.

<sup>8</sup> PriceWaterhouseCoopers 2018: Investing in vision making a difference across the Commonwealth, [www.hollows.org.nz](http://www.hollows.org.nz)