

## Estimated costs for the project

### STAGE ONE:

**2024 (YEAR 1)**

*Operating Theatres upgrade = US\$160,000*

### STAGE TWO:

**2025-26 (YEARS 2 & 3)**

*15 Joint replacements = US\$90,000*

**TOTAL COST: US\$250,000**

*For Further information on the  
Tongan Orthopaedic Surgical Trauma project  
and upgrade of the operating theatres at  
Vaiola Hospital, Nuku'alofa, Tonga visit:*

[www.tongahospitalprojects.com](http://www.tongahospitalprojects.com)



*New Zealand donations can be made to:*  
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Whanganui North  
**Rotary**  
New Zealand



## GLOBAL GRANT

*Proposal*

*for*

# Vaiola Hospital Nuku'alofa Tonga



**THREE YEAR MEDICAL PROJECT  
2024 - 2026**

**Upgrade Operating Theatres 2024  
Hip & Knee Replacements 2025/26**



The operating nurses' team at Vaiola Hospital

**The goal of this appeal is to upgrade the operating theatres at Vaiola Hospital to best practice standards and improve surgical outcomes for the Tongan community.**

Five years ago, Dr John van Dalen, an Orthopaedic Surgeon and member of the Rotary Club of Whanganui North, Whanganui, New Zealand, began regular visits to Tonga to assist the general surgical team with complex fractures. Over the subsequent years the Orthopaedic Surgical Trauma project was instigated with support from Rotary International and the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Trade of New Zealand, allowing for an improved service. Equipment and materials for the service were purchased at considerably less cost through Dr Manju Basappa, Orthopaedic Surgeon from Bangalore, India.

With the increased use of internal fixation for fractures, it became evident that the operating theatres at Vaiola Hospital in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, built in 2005, required upgrading to acceptable current "clean air" standards.

The advantages of upgrading an operating theatre are to achieve a low post operative infection rate and then in the future more invasive surgery could be offered to the Tongan community such as joint replacement surgery.



The devastation 20 metres above sea level as a result of a Tsunami that hit Tongatapu following the volcanic eruption in January 2022



The surgical team at Vaiola Hospital, with from left, Dr Marina Tuinukuafe, Dr John van Dalen, and Dr Bill Tangi



Current operating theatre in Vaiola Hospital, with heat pump to control temperature only.



Proposed operating theatre with clean air ventilation, stainless steel walls and anti-static floor.

## **Benefits for the Tongan community**

- Improved outcomes for surgical procedures
- Hip and knee joint replacement surgery
- Improved Trauma service

## **Sustainability**

- Tongan medical and nursing staff will be up-skilled
- Upgrade allows more complex surgery
- Low post operative infection rate



Outpatient department at Vaiola Hospital