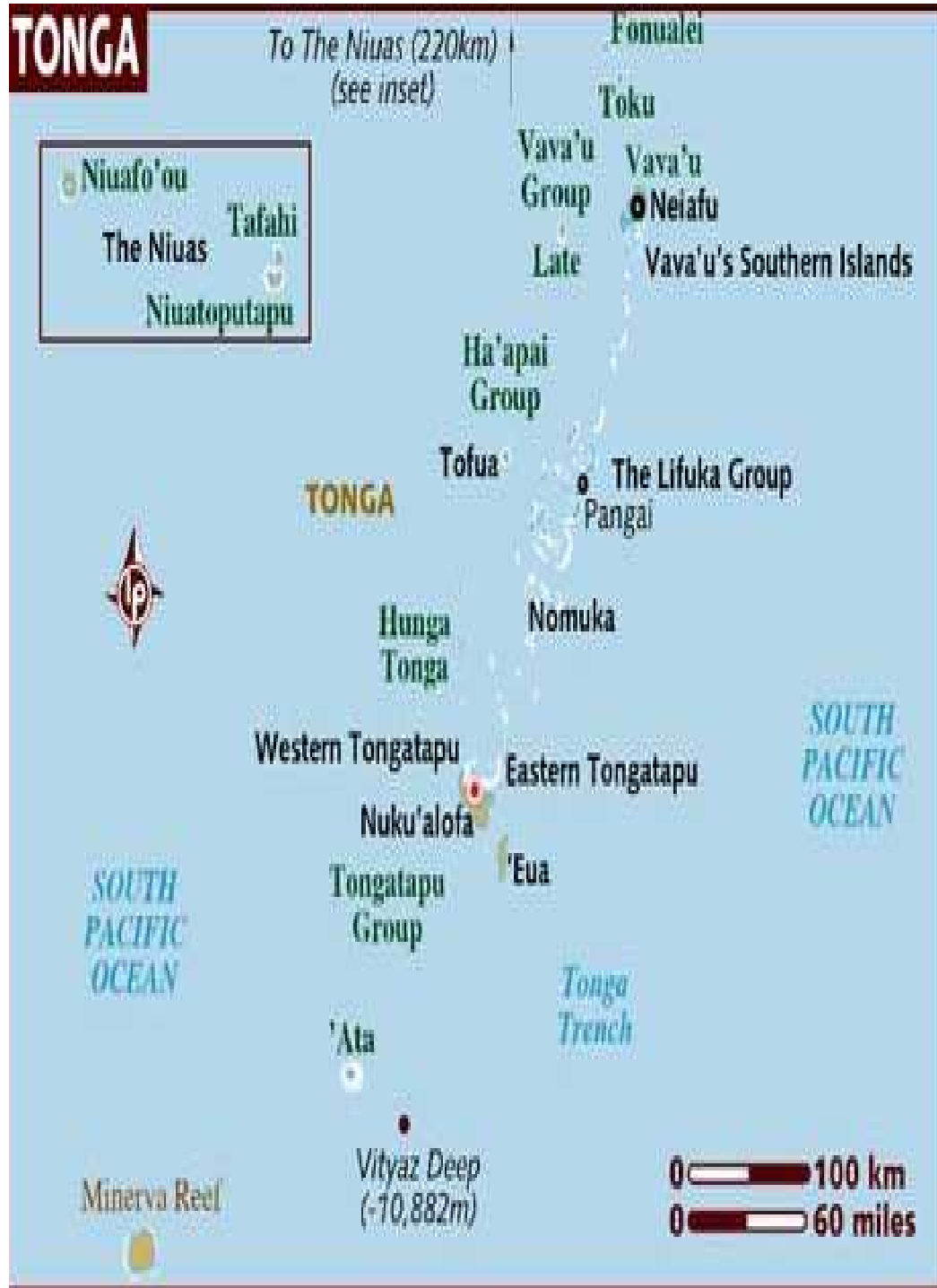


# ROAD SAFETY: TONGA'S EXPERIENCE



- Population 103,036

- Tongatapu 70%
- Vava'u 15%
- Other islands 15%

## Constitutional Monarchy

- Political Reform 2010

## Gross National Income per Capita

- 2320

# UN DECADE OF ACTION

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- ✘ Launched in Tonga, May 4 – 15<sup>th</sup> 2011
- ✘ Tonga had already commenced its action on road safety prior to this.

# TRAFFIC INFORMATION

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- ✘ > 2200 Registered Vehicles
- ✘ Driver's License at 18 years of age
- ✘ No traffic lights in Tonga
  
- ✘ Speed Limit
  - + 40 (50) km/hr in villages
  - + 65 (70) km/hr other
  
- ✘ Lead Agency: Ministry of Police

# NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS

- ✘ National Speed Limits
- ✘ Drink Driving Law
- ✘ Motorcycle Helmet Law

## WE DO NOT HAVE

- ✘ Seat-belt Law
  - + Seatbelt wearing rate  
<1%
- ✘ Child Restraint Law



# MINISTRY OF HEALTH

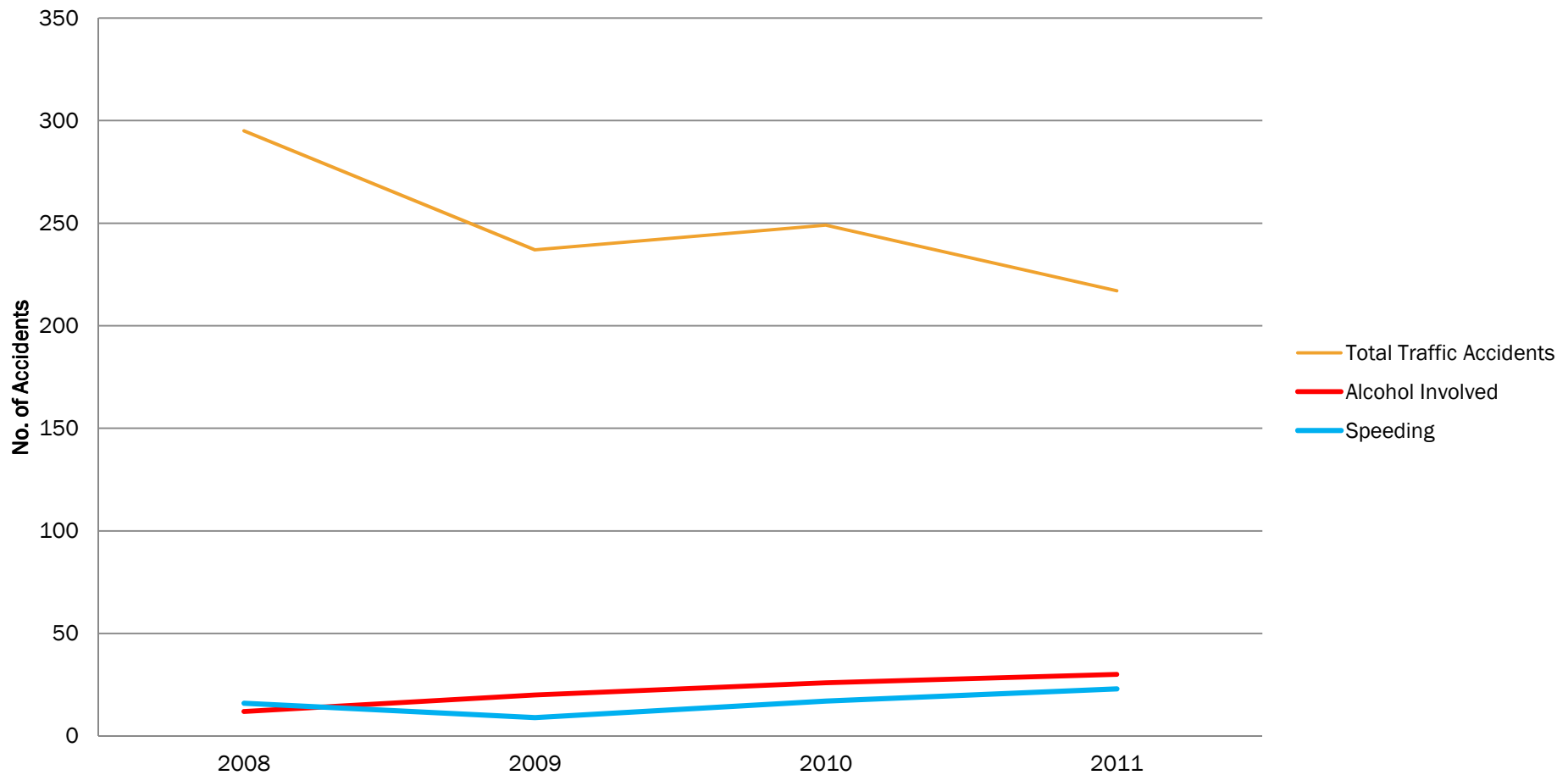
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- ✘ No formal pre-hospital care system for crash victims
  - + AUSAID: Ambulance Officer Training in process
- ✘ Health Information System 2009/2010

# ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

## Tonga Road Traffic Accidents 2008 - 2011

Source: Ministry of Police



# ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES

Traffic Injuries, Source: MOP





# ROAD TRAFFIC DEATHS

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Fatal Accidents	18	11	6	12
Alcohol		6	1	6

# ISSUES

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- ✘ Improvement Data Collection within the Ministry of Health
  - + Non-specific diagnosis
    - ✘ MVA/RTA
    - ✘ Type of Injury
    - ✘ Complications

# WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN TONGA?

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- ✘ NZAID/AUSAID jointly funded Tonga Police Development Program 2009
  - + Provision of new equipment and vehicles
  - + Building capacity through training
  - + Development of new positions
  - + New Police Commissioner
  
- ✘ RESULTING IN...
  - + Increased enforcement of road safety legislations including the amendment in traffic/alcohol acts

# WHAT HAS TONGA DONE?

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Amended old Laws

- + Traffic Amendment Act 2010
- + Intoxicating Liquor Amendment Act 2010

Passed in Parliament and implemented 2011

# AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATIONS

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## Liquor Act

- + put in place a new Liquor Licensing Authority that oversaw all aspects of liquor licensing including applications and renewal. (Fees were also increased)
- + Chaired by the Police Commander with representatives from the areas of health, labour and commerce and police.
- + There would also be change in times for selling of alcohol by licence holders as well as closing times for bars and nightclubs, which would be moved up to 1:00 am

# AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATIONS

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## TRAFFIC ACT

- + Random breath testing was introduced under amendments to the Traffic Act. It gave the police power to breath test all motorists on any road at any time.

# WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN TONGA?

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## ✘ TONGA ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

- + Ministry of Works (Infrastructure)
- + Ministry of Health
- + Ministry of Police
- + Solicitor General
- + Ministry of Education

# WHAT HAS TONGA DONE?

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- ✘ **Tonga Health Promotion Foundation 2009**
  - + Development of “Advocate for Healthy Public” Policy
    - ✘ Every road being built in Tonga must now include a footpath for safe walking
- ✘ **Community Awareness Programs**
  - + Ministry of Police (Traffic Dept)
  - + Ministry of Health
- ✘ **Stakeholder Workshop on Drivers’ Attitude in Tonga 2009**



**WAY FORWARD**

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# WAY FORWARD

- ✘ Enforcement of legislation to control and change driver behavior
- ✘ Mandating the use of seatbelts/helmets
- ✘ Commitment by government and political decision makers



# WAY FORWARD

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## TRAFFIC ACT 2010

- ✘ “ while under the influence of drink or a drug to such extent as to be incapable of having proper control of the motor vehicle, drives or attempts to drive any motor vehicle on any road, commits an offence against this Act, and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$100 or to imprisonment for not more than 2 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.”

# WAY FORWARD (MINISTRY OF HEALTH)

- ✘ Advocacy on a regular basis
- ✘ Improvement in Data Collection system
  - + Costing Study etc
- ✘ Development of an appropriate pre-hospital and hospital care system post-crash
- ✘ Contribute to policies



**THANK YOU**