

Emergency Medicine in Tuvalu

Dr Aloima Taufilo Teatu
MBBS, PGD EM

Objectives

- Tuvalu on the world map
- EM in Tuvalu
- Challenges
- Way forward



Tuvalu on the World Map





Tuvalu

- Situated in the Pacific Ocean, Polynesian heritage.
- Population over 11,000. Funafuti has over 6,000 inhabitants (0.00015% World Population)
- Land area: 26sq km (Hobart >65x bigger)
- British Colony until 1978
- Language, Cultures, Food



Princess Margaret Hosp

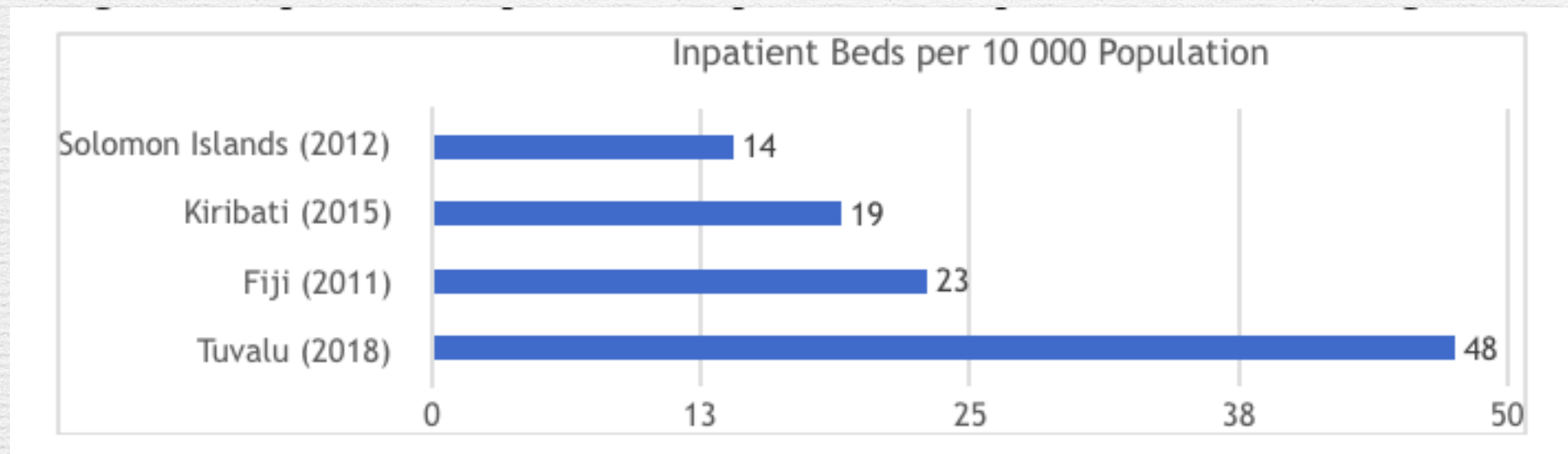
- 50 Beds Referral Hospital
- 4 wards, *ICU, OT, OPD, ED
- Emergency Department: 1 bed with partial monitoring



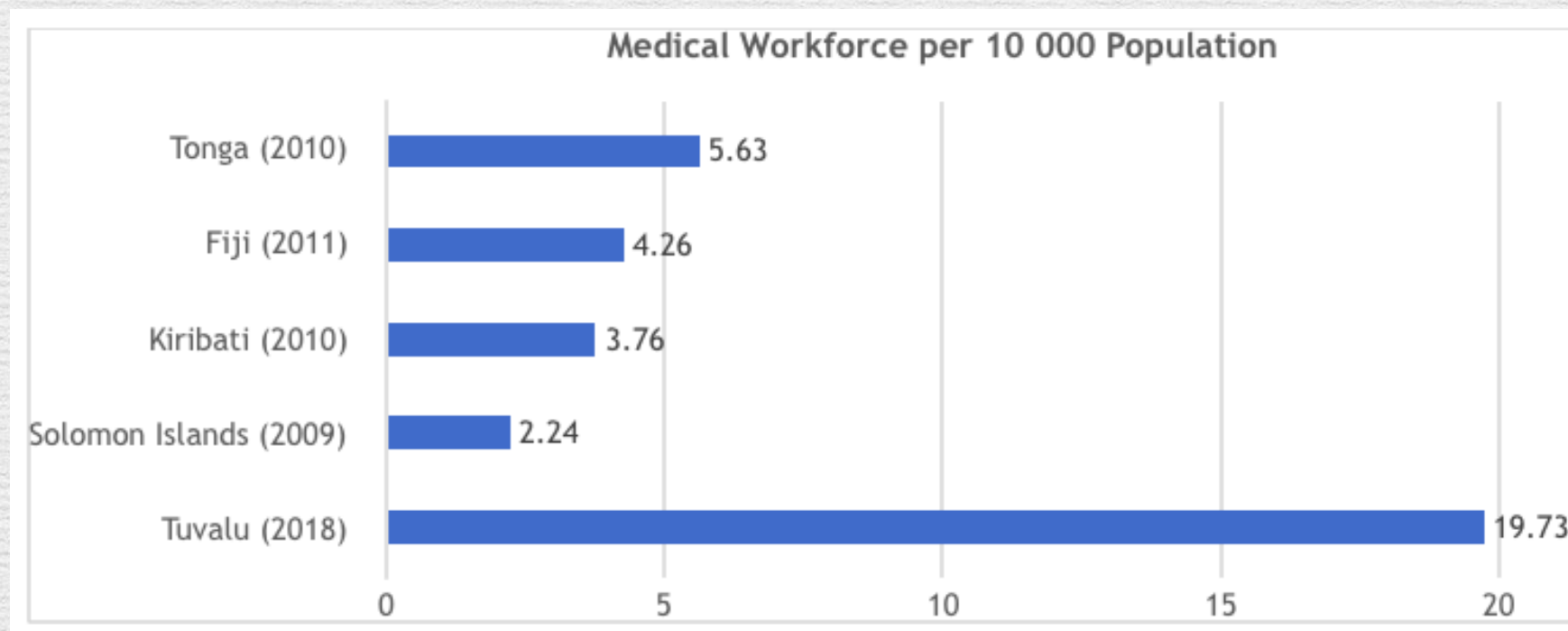
Princess Margaret Hospital

Health System

- Inpatient beds per 10,000 population - Comparison with Pacific Neighbours



- Medical Workforce per 10,000 population - Comparison with Pacific Neighbours



OPD / ED in Tuvalu

- 2018 data: 31,587 visits for OPD/Specialist clinic ~ 86pt/day
- ED visits??
- Common ED presentations:
 - Diabetic/Hypertensive emergencies
 - Sepsis



Triage Nurse



OPD Waiting Area

Emergency Department

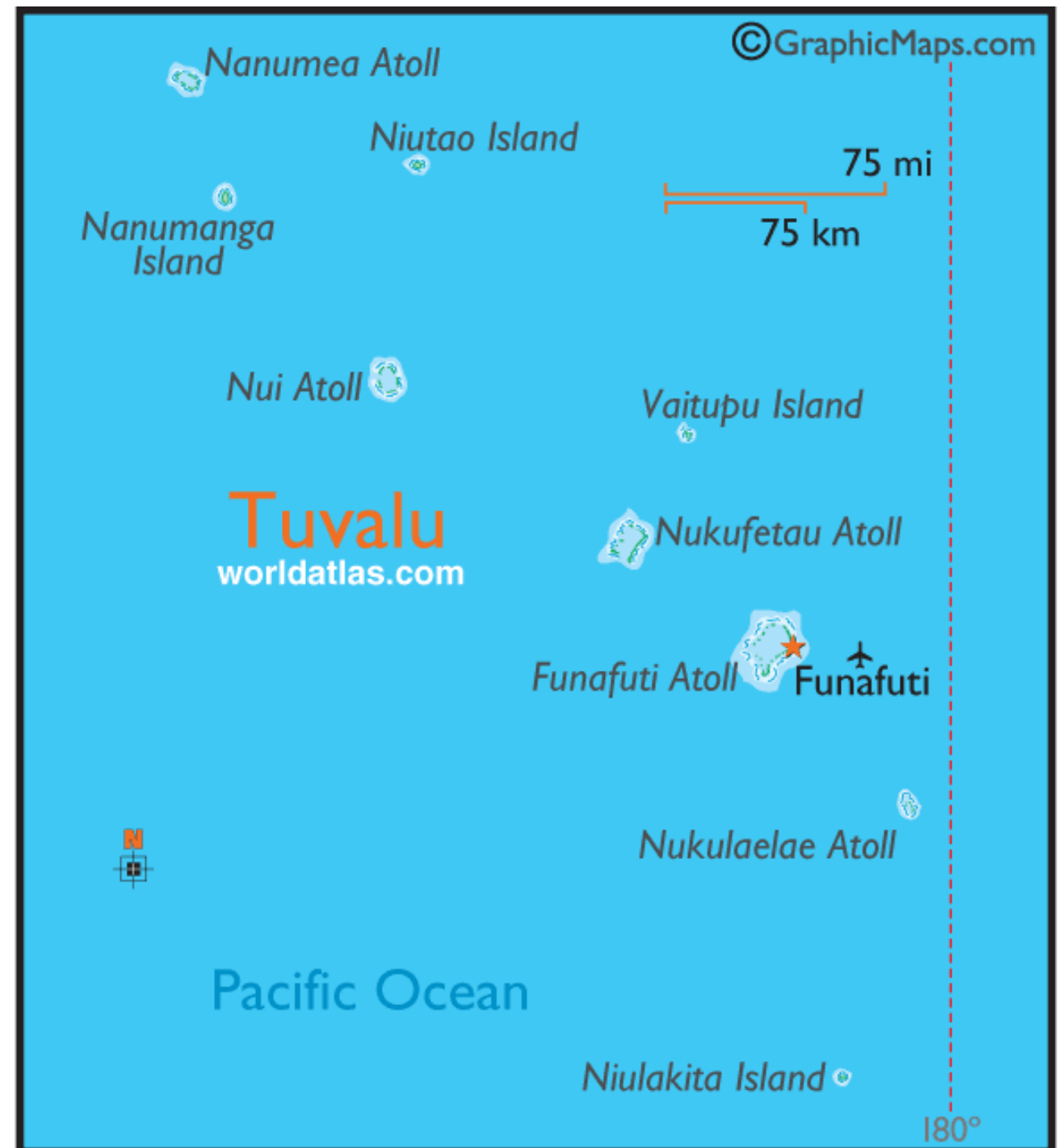


Emergency Healthcare services in Tuvalu

- Trained EM staffs
- Staffs: 12 GPs (ED/OPD: 3Drs & 2SNs per rotation 8-4pm)
- After hours: 4pm-8am on-call 1GP / 3 SNs - Whole Hospital
- Pre-hospital care services
- Specialists - Surgeon, ObGyn, Anaesthetist
- Limitations: Ventilators, USS machine, Lab tests (ABG, Trop), O2 (oxygen concentrators)

Challenges: Prehospital Care

- Demographic spread of 9 islands
- Inter-island Med-evacs



Challenges: Prehospital Care

2016



2016

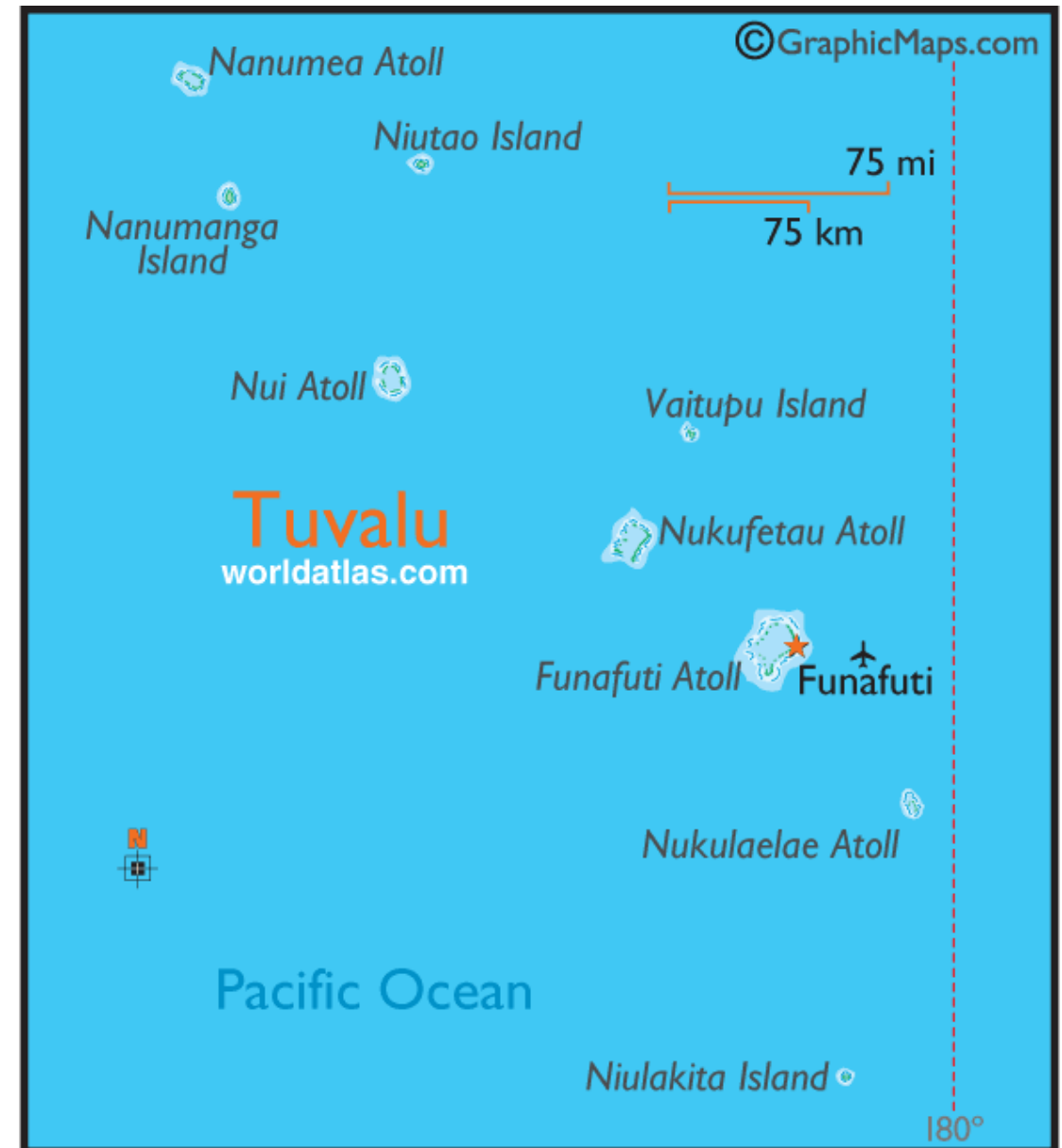


2018



Challenges

- Lack of Equipments
- Referral / Retrieval systems long process delaying emergency care interventions
- Need to establish & implement a Standardised Protocol for any emergency situation, applicable to Tuvalu context



Future Plans..

- Building capacity amongst ED staff & outer island Staffs
- Continue Emergency Training in Tuvalu - Nurses/Doctors: PTC, BLS, ACLS etc
- Develop Standardised Emergency Protocol
- Quality Improvement for ED



Fafetai Lasi



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