

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Joint Program of Events
on Disaster Management
and Resilience
Fiji
Pg2**

**FINPAC Project supports
the Community Disaster
and Climate Risk Manage-
ment (CDCRM) Program
Pg3**

**Expert Group Meeting on
Regional strategies to-
wards Building Resilience
to disasters in Asia and the
Pacific
Pg4**

**29 schools assessed as
Evacuation Centre under
IDP and Welfare DAC Sub
-committee
Pg5**

**PDaLo experience &
future perspectives
Pg6**

*More articles from the team In-
side...*

CONTACT DETAILS

Disaster Management Office
Apia, Samoa
TATTE Tel: (685) 67200
Tuana'imato Tel: (685) 997 or
27307
Mulimuu Tel: (685) 20855
Ext. 418, 419
Fax: (685) 23176
Email: dmosamoa@gmail.com

Tsunami Evacuation Drill in Savaii for Environment Week 2015



Villagers evacuating to safe locations



Tsunami signs being installed in Lelepa

As part of the annual commemoration of the National Environment Week that was held from October 31st to November 6th 2015, the DMO staff led and coordinated the Tsunami Evacuation Drill for nine villages from the districts of Gagaemauga I, II and III in Savaii. This effort was carried out with the support of other key response agencies such as the Samoa Red Cross, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Ministry of Police who were all on board to play out their respective roles and responsibilities as required in the event of a tsunami.

The drill was carried out in the early morning of Monday 2nd November, with the roar of loud sirens from Fire trucks and Police vehicles signaling the beginning of the exercise while at the same time sending out a warning to the villages. 'Tsunami Warning' text messages were also sent out to key response actors of the communities such as the Village Mayors and their committees who swung into action directing people safely towards evacuation routes marked with newly installed tsunami signs leading up to designated safe locations upland. Once all the villagers were assembled at the safe locations, response agencies were disbursed to these locations to carry out their respective tasks.

The evaluation of the exercise concluded that the awareness and understanding of the communities on 'Preparedness and Response' in the event of such a disaster is adequately comprehensive, indicating the success of preliminary awareness workshops that were conducted by DMO in the preceding weeks. This was further corroborated by the positive feedback *Continued on next page.*

...from members of the communities who expressed their great appreciation of the whole exercise and their newly acquired understanding of the operations and actions involved with 'Disaster Preparedness and Response'.

Joint Program of Events on Disaster Management and Resilience Fiji October 2015



Ms. Molly F Nielsen with Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom (middle) UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction with Cecilia Aipira (far right) of the UNWomen and Ms. Tomoko Minowa (far left) of the UNISDR with Jewel L Tuitama representing Tokelau at the Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting.

Principal Management Officer, Ms. Molly Faamanatu Nielsen attended a series of joint meetings in Fiji from the 23 – 30 October, 2015. First was a consultation on strengthening disaster laws in the Pacific (23-24 October), a Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting (26-27 October), a Pacific Humanitarian Partnership Meeting (28-29 October) and the ACP-EU/SPC Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Projects Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting (30 October).

This is the first time the four events have been streamlined into a single program jointly coordinated and facilitated by UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), UNISDR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Commission) and the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross).

Samoa received Water, Sanitation & Hygiene and Education in Emergency supplies from UNICEF.

As part of a sub-regional proposal for procurement of emergency supplies, the Disaster Management Office (DMO) received WASH supplies for Samoa through the Pacific WASH Programme from UNICEF's supplies division in December 2015.

These supplies are currently stored at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). In this regard DMO on behalf of Samoa would like to acknowledge the assistance of the UNICEF staff in Fiji for making this request possible.

Tsunami signs installed in Apia town area in partnership with ILO and Samoa Red Cross volunteers.

The Ministry through its Disaster Management Division in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) worked together with volunteers from the Samoa Red Cross for a duration of 14 days to install Tsunami signs in Apia. Areas covered are villages between Lepea and Fagalii including Mulinuu peninsula. The signs serve to provide information and direct people in these low lying areas to safe locations when a Tsunami warning is in effect for Samoa.

The Tsunami signs were designed and procured by the Ministry in partnership with the GNS Science from New Zealand as part of the Building Safety & Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) EDF10 ACP-EU Project.

After the installation of the Tsunami signs in Apia the Red Cross volunteers continued for another two weeks cleaning up of major rivers in Upolu as part of their activities under the same agreement. This was an excellent activity and contribution to the Environment Week Awareness programme in 2015.

Continued on next page.



Moata'a



Lotopa



Volunteers at the Vaisigano River



Nansen Initiative Intergovernmental Global Consultation on the Protection Agenda. Geneva, Switzerland

In October 2015, the Governments of the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Norway hosted the Nansen Initiative Global Consultation, a high-level intergovernmental meeting bringing together Ministers and senior civil servants from more than 75 countries to discuss opportunities for not only resolving today's disaster displacement related challenges, but also to anticipate and prepare for new challenges in the future.

The expected outcome of the Nansen Initiative process was a non-binding Protection Agenda that includes key principles and examples of effective practices to present a comprehensive approach to cross-border disaster-displacement, and to help set the agenda for future action at domestic, (sub-) regional and international levels.

During the consultation, nations were given opportunities to state their agreement and support for this initiative. Other than Russia, Samoa, Fiji and Cook Islands from the Pacific region together with most of the nations stated their agreement and support for this initiative and its agenda.

Representing Samoa were Senior Disaster Management

Officer, Malia Pisi and a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Other Pacific countries attending the consultation included Tuvalu and Kiribati.



Participants of the Meeting

FINPAC Project supports the Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) Program

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) through the Meteorology Division and the Disaster Management Office in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Samoa Red Cross Society supported the Lefagaoalii community to better understand how to respond to weather, climate and geo-hazard information during extreme events and disasters within the context of the CDCRM Program.

The official handover of the FINPAC pilot project was conducted at Lefagaoalii on Thursday 26 November 2015. A second disaster drill was also conducted at the village before the official handover program using a controlled tsunami scenario. The FINPAC project as well financially assisted with the procuring of Tsunami Signs installed around the village.



Lefagaoalii residents with DMO, Red Cross and SPREP

Community Drill at Falease'ela

Faleaseela village conducted a village disaster response exercise called “Exercise Faleaseela” on 11th December 2015 using a controlled and set tropical cyclone scenario.

The purpose of the exercise or village drill is to test and evaluate their Village Response Plan developed through the Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) Program. The exercise allowed the established village response teams to simulate the activation of their response teams in responding to Faleaseela's own residents when a disaster strikes.

Representatives from the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) such as the Red Cross, Fire & Emergency Services, Ministry of Police were also be present and act as evaluators through the coordination of the Disaster Management Office (DMO) in collaboration with the CDCRM Program Implementing Agency (IA) ADRA Samoa in partnership with the USAid-PACAM Project.

The DAC Response Agencies are responsible to conduct trainings to the Village Response Teams such as the Ministry of Police, FESA, Samoa Red Cross, Ministry of Health, Nuanua o le Alofa and DMO.



Village Response teams before the drill

Expert Group Meeting on Regional strategies towards Building Resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26th—28th October 2015. The main objectives were to provide a platform for policymakers and experts from member States to share knowledge, methods, principles and good practices in disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters through regional cooperation, and discuss how to operationalize aspects of resolution 71/12 on strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific, which was adopted by member States at the 71st Session of the Commission on 29 May 2015.

The meeting was attended by country representatives from 19 member-states as well as representatives from various UN entities as well as intergovernmental organizations. The representative from Samoa was the Senior Disaster Risk Reduction Officer of DMO; Mr. Titimanu Simi who gave a presentation on ‘Disaster Risk Reduction and the Pacific’ outlining the current situation with Disaster Risk Management efforts in the Pacific region and some of the major gaps and challenges with the ongoing efforts.

Some of the major outcomes from the meeting highlighted the importance of practicing approaches that promote collaboration and mutual assistance that benefitted government officials and experts from countries in Asia and the Pacific. The meeting also recognized the role of ESCAP in supporting regional cooperation mechanisms for effective implementation of disaster risk reduction in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sendai Framework for disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The outcomes and recommendations of the meeting were considered and supported by the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction during their ‘Fourth Session Meeting which followed on the 29th October 2015.

29 schools assessed as Evacuation Centre under IDP and Welfare DAC Sub-committee

The Inspection team under the DAC Sub-Committee for Welfare and Internal Displaced Persons managed to assess a total number of 29 schools in Savaii. One out of these schools is owned by the Catholic Church and the rest by the Government. Criteria used for this assessment included the followings;

- Building Location (Site)- whether it is in a safe location and not on hazardous zones and safe from all type of common hazards to Samoa
- Building Design & Layout- whether it complies with the building code for Samoa
- Building Structure- safe, sturdy and strong
- Amenities & Services – whether electricity, water, communication systems etc are functional and adequate
- Building Settlement- current use of the building during the inspection

On behalf of the Inspection team and DAC Sub-Committee for IDP and Welfare, DMO would like to convey their gratitude to the school committees, principals and staff for their great support and assistance during the inspection.



*Fagasavaii
Primary School*



*Paia Primary
School*

DMO engages in PUMAs World Bank funded Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Project:- Ground-Truthing Consultations

Savaii

7th -9th Dec 2015

Gagaifomauga III and Gagaemauga I were 2 Savaii districts out of the 6 to have the first round of the PPCR Ground truthing consultations start with from the 7th to 9th of December, 2015 in fulfillment of the overarching project objective, which is to support the review, update and implementation of CIM Plans developed in 2007 for 16 beneficiary districts. These CIM plans 2007 highlights the infrastructure and assets to be upgraded and developed (actions and solutions) and it is apparent that such information are now outdated which led to the kick start of the first round of the ‘Ground-Truthing’ Consultations.

The consultations aimed to identify and re-confirm from the selected districts priority areas for project implementations as stated in their respective CIM Plans 2007. Such infrastructural areas should be aligned with their CIM Plans and should support the development objective of the PPCR Project. A project funded by the World Bank and implemented by PUMA on behalf of MNRE that aims to reduce the vulnerability of Samoa’s population and natural environment to climate risks, and enhance the capacity of natural systems and coastal communities to recover from impacts (chronic and acute) associated with climate change and extreme weather events.

The districts were selected based on their vulnerability to climate change risks and are comprised of the least number of villages that in turn makes it easier to pilot the project activities. A total of 16 districts from Samoa are beneficiaries of the project however, 6 were selected for the Ground Truthing to kick start off with before moving on to the next round of districts.

Continued on next page.

DMOs engagement in the entire Ground-Truth Consultations was required as many of the district's proposed priorities being identified in CIM Plans 2007 and are to be considered for funding are related to Emergency Management through developing District Emergency Response Plans, identification of schools and churches outside hazard zones as safe havens, as well as preparing of signs to be erected throughout districts identifying actions in the event of emergencies (disasters).

Overall, the consultations with the target villages were a success with greater emphasis on assets and infrastructure to be upgraded for resilience building towards climatic changes that were even complied with what was mentioned in their CIM Plans. These infrastructures included the upgrading and identification of school buildings to be used for safe havens in the course of disasters which DMO was assigned to provide inputs where necessary.



Ground-truthing Consultations Team, led by PUMA with supporting line ministries members from DMO and DEC of MNRE and MWTL.

UNISDR and the Global Disaster Loss Collection Initiative: PDaLo experience & future perspectives

*Suva, Fiji
26th – 27th Nov 2015*

Two participants from the Ministry – Mr. Fata Eti Malolo of Water Resource Division and Miss Josephina Chan Ting from the Disaster Management Office attended a two-day workshop which was aimed to support the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) as one of its outcomes by utilizing it as a means for monitoring the frameworks within the national con

text in terms of using disaster loss data to develop baseline information for reporting functionalities. UNISDR is the focal point in the United Nations system which ensures that a development of a national disaster database represents a low-cost, high impact strategy to systematically account for disaster losses.

This workshop focused on the attributes of the PDaLo (Pacific Damage and Loss Data) assessment tool and how it can assist with national planning and monitoring. Participants from around the Pacific engaged in a series of scenario exercises testing the tool and it was proven to be an effective analytical and display tool.

DMO Joins Samoa Tourism Authority Post Disaster Needs Assessment Training *19th-23rd Oct, 2015*

A Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Training scheduled particularly for the Samoa Tourism Authority and Samoa Hotels Association from the 19th to the 23rd of October, 2015 was joined by Disaster Management Officer Ms Fetalai Gagaeolo. As part of the Tourism Cyclone Recovery Programme supported by New Zealand Aid and implemented by the Samoa Tourism Authority, a proposal was made through the Disaster Management Office (DMO) to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to provide training in Post Disaster Needs Assessment.

The training aimed to build the capacity of the tourism sector to lead PDNAs in the future. It was a successful and constructive training facilitated by Dr Kirstie Méheux, the Senior Adviser for Disaster Risk Management Training and professional Development from SPC utilizing standard universal training resources prepared by the Global Fund for Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction (GFDRR), and resources developed by Disaster Risk Reduction Expert and PDNA Trainer Dr Asha Kam-bon.

The training focused on boosting the capacity of STA personnel's so that they are able to take the leading role in conducting PDNAs for future disasters whenever and

Continued on next page.

wherever required, hence to enhance the knowledge and skills required for PDNA across the tourism sector operations. Like in many countries, the (PDNA) methodology is ideal and very useful for Samoa as it ensures the accuracy of economical costs of disasters and puts in place recommendations for recovery strategies. Tourism is one of the industries supporting the economy of Samoa unfortunately cannot be discriminated by impacts posed by disasters which consequently leads to far-reaching economical problems hence the essence of the PDNA training.

It is without a doubt that Samoa can effectively lead her own PDNA for future disasters if key sectors' and ministries personnel's are trained. The training was helpful for DM officer as well although the agenda and context was formulated around the Tourism sector needs. It provided her with general information and background on the value of PDNA overall. The training was executed through lectures, mini group work exercises and presentations. Participants' learning was put into practice using a major case study exercise that they had to apply the various stages of a PDNA process.



Some of the PDNA trainees with facilitator Dr Kirstie Meheux from SPC, New Zealand High Commission representative and DMO ACEO Muliagatele Filomena Nelson.

Message from the DMO Newsletter Team:

This newsletter is compiled and distributed with the intention to create a channel of communication to keep our readers informed of vital issues concerning the Disaster Management Office and to provide an avenue for your invaluable feedback whether it be queries or suggestions on the information provided and/or required from us. Any feedback that would improve this service is welcomed.

**Give us your views about our articles!
Contact us for more information on anything you would like to know.**

Email: dmosamoa@gmail.com

Or visit us on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DMOSamoa>

Follow us on Twitter:

[@DMO_Samoa](https://twitter.com/DMO_Samoa)