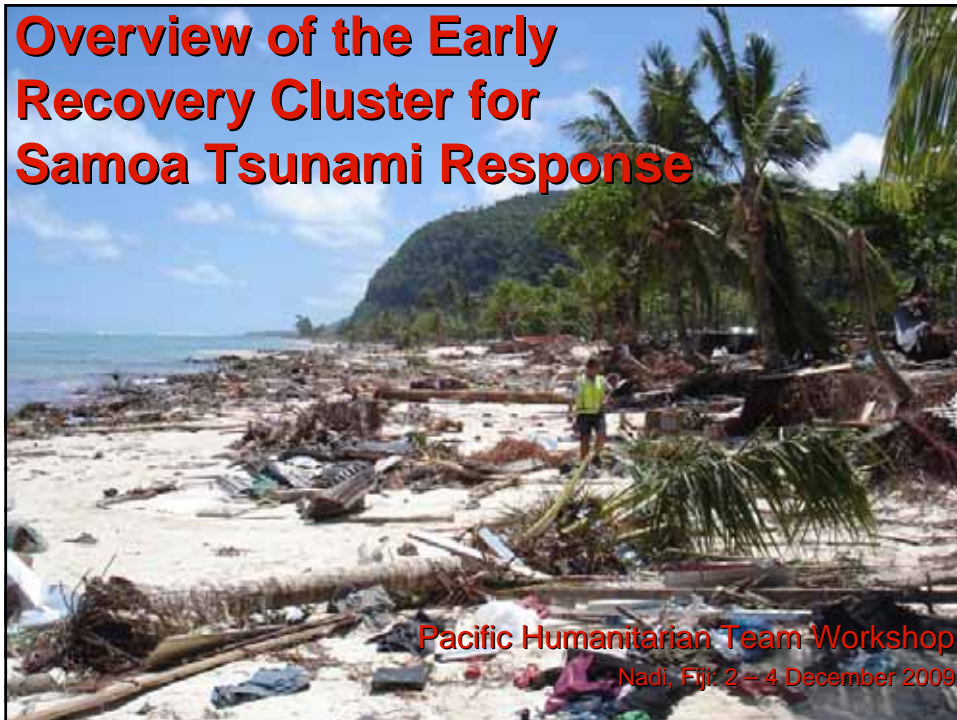
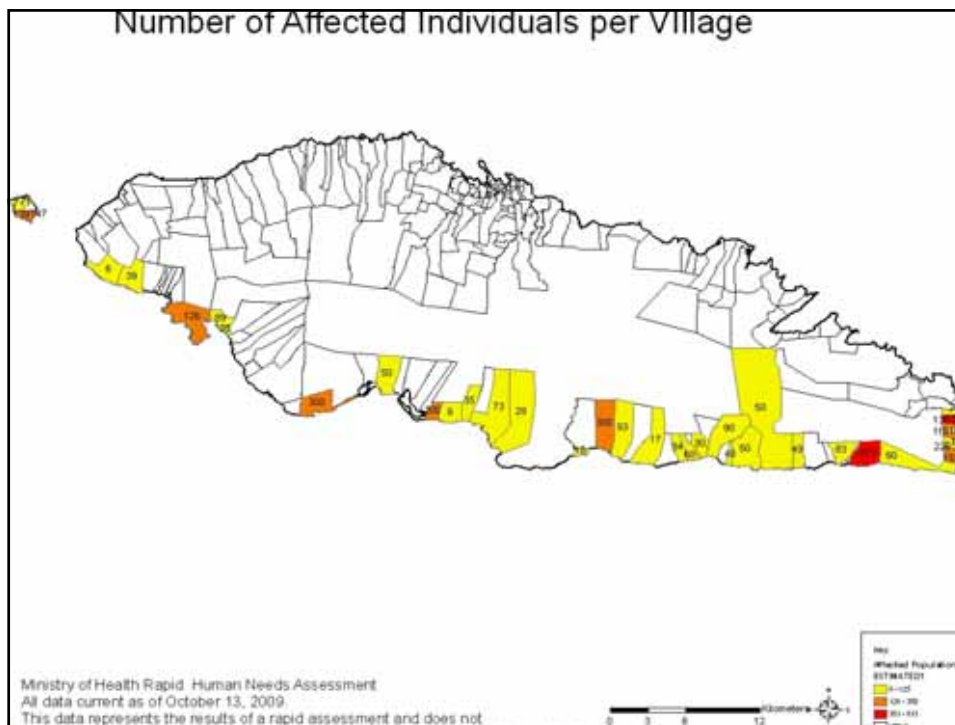


Overview of the Early Recovery Cluster for Samoa Tsunami Response



Background

- At 6.48am on 29 September 2009, an 8.3 earthquake struck south of Samoa and generated tsunami waves that impacted the southern coast of Samoa
- 143 deaths (10 tourists) and 5 missing
- 5,274 people were directly affected from a resident population in 19 villages in the affected areas of 12,406



Early Recovery Framework Process

- Joint assessments carried out under the aegis of the IASC/PHT and DAC from 7-9 October and used as the basis for the Early Recovery Framework. Led and coordinated by the Early Recovery Cluster under oversight of the RC.
- Day 10 (Oct 9th) – Draft ER Framework was presented to the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Oct 29th – Revised ERF was submitted & Final revised version submitted on Nov. 9th
- Reporting to the Disaster Advisory Committee (DAC) on a daily basis
- Regular reporting to the Cabinet level National Disaster Council chaired by the Prime Minister

Key Lessons Learnt

1. Coordination
2. Communication
3. Information Management
4. Implementation

Lessons Learnt: Coordination

- The IASC was coordinated exceptionally well by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator/RC, Mrs Nileema Noble enabling the Cluster system to function efficiently and effectively.
- Coordination of the Early Recovery Cluster was considered to be quite satisfactory.
- Need more familiarity with some critical formal procedures of the IASC system as it relates to the ERC.
- Although critical information was transmitted from the NDC/DAC/NDMO to the ERC, it was felt that government presence in the Cluster would be beneficial, if not essential in future.
- Coordination with other major humanitarian partners/donors such as ADB, WB, etc., was very good.
- ERC members demonstrated a high degree of cooperation and professionalism in a time of great mobility and stress and this was an indispensable factor in getting the job done quickly and to a high standard.
- Inter – Cluster coordination could be strengthened.

Lessons Learnt: Communication in ERC

- Communication was good and mostly through email so the availability of email connectivity was essential. This was difficult for some field-based members.
- Pre-designed forms for tracking in-coming and departing ERC members is suggested for future to make it easier for dissemination of information (& security) purposes.
- Use of radio communication was not fully utilized.
- Regular communication was maintained with the NDMO and rest of the Clusters through the IASC.

Lessons Learnt: Information Management

The availability of base information on demographics, maps, photographs, socio-economic data, household data, etc., of affected areas would have been very helpful at the start.

The raw data collected from the 4 field assessments (environment; agriculture & fisheries; and socio-economic; and DaLA) should be made available to public;

Pre-designed assessment templates useful for future;

People did not refer readily to the PDN and UNDAC sites for information – greater familiarity needed;

Generally though information flow in the ERC was satisfactory and UNDP did a good job in maintaining regular contact with its members;

Lessons Learnt: Implementation

The early integration of early recovery terminology and concepts during the response phase paved the way for the ERF and allowed early recovery/recovery efforts to kick in sooner than later – leads to more sustainable recovery that take into account DRR/DRM concepts.

Coordination of a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary ERF drafting team was managed very well by UNDP resulting in the ERF being presented to the Prime Minister and NDC on 9th October, a record 10 days after the disaster.

Both the ERC and IASC members were afforded the opportunity to review the drafts and comment – comments were incorporated where appropriate & bearing in mind the principles highlighted in the ERF.

The government and development partners were also consulted at key stages during the drafting process for verification and to seek further information, data, etc.

The final revised edition was submitted to the government on 29th Oct. & 9th Nov.

As reported by the RCO, the government was fully and deeply appreciative of the efforts and contributions of all humanitarian partners and which enabled the government to develop the government Recovery Plan quickly based on the ERC & DaLA in time for supplementary budget session in first week of December 2009 and resource mobilization.

