

Protection Cluster

Samoa Tsunami 2009 Lessons & Recommendations

Partners

Samoa

- Samoan Red Cross
- SUNGO
- Samoan Victim Support
- Mapusaga o Aiga
- Government:
 - Ministry of WCSD
 - MoH, NHS
 - NZ MoH

Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)

- UNICEF
- UNHCR
- OHCHR
- Save the Children
- Indirect agencies
- Pacific Humanitarian Protection Group (PHPG)

Areas of focus

- Displacement - durable solutions
 - Early recovery assesment and planning activities
- Access to services and equal distribution of relief items
 - Varying results depending on displaced location
- Child protection and psycho social support
 - Government led psycho social taskforce
- Mainstreaming
 - Protection guidelines, checklists for work in other sectors

Lessons learned

- Assessment and analysis
 - More detailed exploration of vulnerability and registration with local NGOs and Government
 - Difficulty in establishing protection needs when “main” IASC focus is on early recovery
- Cluster preparedness
 - Protection toolkits, manuals, etc to be available for use across clusters
 - Identification of local counterpart agencies & NGOs is vital
 - Utilising UN agencies with Government links was a plus

Lessons learned

- Cluster capacity (PHT members)
 - Those deployed should remain for 2-4 weeks (typically)
 - Guidance is needed on durability of protection focus beyond the cluster operational period
 - Protection advocacy needed by donors to country recipient (principles of good donorship)
- Partner capacity
 - Establishing links with local NGO's critical to quickly acting on protection needs
 - Protection issues awareness needs strengthening at country level

Protection: Recommendations

- For PHPG
 - Establish preparedness and response plan for region - supported by individual country plans that support National Plans.
 - Preparedness to include engagement with counterpart ministries and NGO's
 - Capacity building scheduled for country focal points including Red Cross
 - Donor engagement: strengthening protection awareness and application of protection principles
- For Government and IASC recommendations, and for Samoa next steps please refer to protection cluster response report

Fa'afatai, vinaka, cheers