

Overview of the IASC/PHT Samoa Tsunami Response

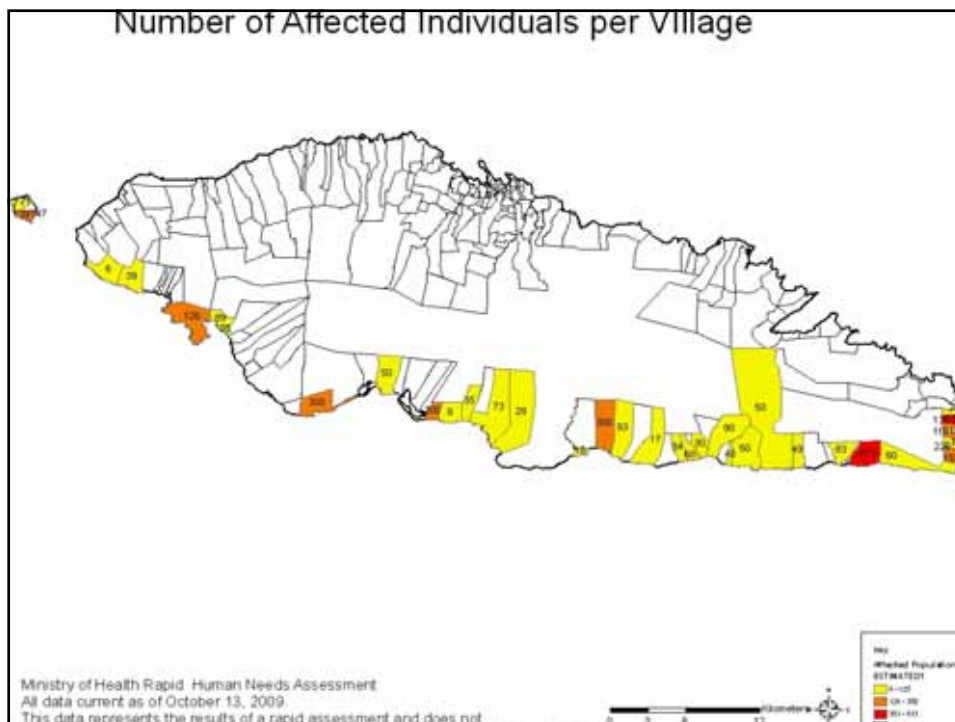


Talk Outline

- Background
- Immediate Response
- Cluster Activation
- Early Recovery Framework
- Lessons Learnt

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



UN Immediate Response

DAY 1: Tuesday 29 Sept 2009

- **7-11am:** UN Designated Official/RC and UNDSS determined the safety of UN staff and their dependants
- **10.30am:** Samoa based UNDAC and UNDSS staff and vehicles were deployed by the RC and DMT to the affected areas to provide support for rescue operations and for transportation of injured and affected to the hospital in Apia
- **1pm:** RC convened the Samoa UN Disaster Management Team (DMT) meeting in the UN Situation Room to determine fully the DMT response/support to the Government
 - Decision to mobilise an UNDAC team to Samoa immediately
 - Consultation on activating the IASC/PHT cluster system in Samoa
- **4pm:** RC and DMT members attended the National Disaster Council Meeting

IASC/PPHT Immediate Response

DAY 2: Wednesday 30 Sept 2009

- UNDAC Team deployed to Samoa
- UN Agencies provided list of resources indicating the type of resources (both technical and immediate) they were able to immediately dispatch.
- A letter from the RC delivered to the Prime Minister of Samoa conveying the UN systems sympathies and offering assistance to the Government's efforts in meeting the immediate and humanitarian needs of the people of Samoa.

IASC/PHT Immediate Response

DAY 3: Thursday 1 Oct 2009

- 3rd Disaster Management Team meeting convened and formally decided to activate the Humanitarian Cluster System. Lead agencies were confirmed for each of the clusters.
- RC letter to the Emergency Relief Coordinator to formally activate the humanitarian cluster system in Samoa
- Disaster response specialists started arriving from FAO, WHO, UNICEF and IASC/PHT members in the region.
- UN staff contributed personal monies, water, clothing to the relief aid through Samoa Red Cross.
- Request from the Prime Minister to the UN system to proceed with a rapid assessment in conjunction with the Government. The Rapid Assessment to cover immediate, medium and some long term effects of the disaster

Samoa Tsunami Cluster Activation

- IASC set up and operationalized on the 1st October comprising of humanitarian and development partners
- Cluster system under the leadership of the UN RC and support of UNDAC/OCHA
- 7 Clusters activated on the 1st October
 - WASH : SWA / UNICEF / OXFAM
 - HEALTH : MOH / WHO (UNICEF for Nutrition)
 - PROTECTION : MWCSO / OHCHR
 - EDUCATION : MESC / UNICEF/ SAVE THE CHILDREN
 - EARLY RECOVERY : MOF / UNDP
 - LOGISTICS : NDMO / WFP
 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT : NDMO / UNOCHA

IASC/PHT operations

- Chaired by the RC in consultation with the NDMO/MOF
- 60 Government, NGO, UN Agencies, Non UN Agencies participated in the cluster system
- RC Office provided secretariat support to the IASC/PHT and UNDAC
- Daily IASC General meetings (telecon with Fiji PHT members) at the UN Situation Rm (Samoa) /UNICEF Conference Rm (Fiji) 8.30am/7.30am from Friday 2nd to Monday 12th October. Minutes of the IASC General Meetings provided same day in the afternoon by RC Office.
- Contact list of IASC updated daily by RCO and UNDAC/OCHA
- Resource Matrix of IASC members' support to the Humanitarian and early recovery efforts provided by Monday 5th October and updated by the RCO every three days.
- Information from the IASC General meeting and clusters uploaded daily onto the Pacific Disaster net website by UNDAC daily from Sunday 4 October 2009

IASC Samoa members

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. ADB | 31. UNEP |
| 2. ADRA | 32. UNESCAP |
| 3. Apitaga mo Tagata Soifua Samoa | 33. UNESCO |
| 4. AUS AID | 34. UNICEF |
| 5. Australian Red Cross | 35. UNFPA |
| 6. AYAD | 36. US Embassy |
| 7. Caritas | 37. OCHA |
| 8. EU | 38. OHCHR |
| 9. Faasao Savaii | 39. Oxfam |
| 10. FAO | 40. Peace Corps |
| 11. Habitat for Humanity | 41. Resident Coordinator |
| 12. IFRC | 42. Rotary NZ |
| 13. ILO | 43. Samoa Hotel Association |
| 14. JICA | 44. Salvation Army |
| 15. Medecins Sans Frontiere | 45. Samaritan's Purse |
| 16. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFF) | 46. Samoa NDMO |
| 17. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) | 47. Samoa Red Cross |
| 18. Ministry of Health (MOH) | 48. Save the Children |
| 19. Ministry of Finance(MOF) | 49. School Aid |
| 20. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) | 50. SOPAC |
| 21. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD) | 51. SPC |
| 22. Samoa Water Authority (SWA) | 52. SPREP |
| 23. Samoa Electric Power Corporation (EPC) | 53. SUNGO |
| 24. Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) | 54. WFP |
| 25. NZ Red Cross | 55. WHO |
| 26. NZ AID | 56. WIB |
| 27. Telecom Sans Frontiere | 57. WMO |
| 28. UNDAC | 58. World Vision |
| 29. UNDP | 59. World Bank |
| 30. UNDSS | 60. National Council for Early Childhood Education |

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
- 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

2 months after the Tsunami

- Cabinet formally approved ER Framework – Option 2 on the 18th November
- Supplementary budget of \$71m to finance the ER Framework will be submitted to Cabinet on 1st week of December.
- ER Framework FULLY capitalized
- Humanitarian Phase over – 30th November 2009
- IASC/PHT Lessons Learnt workshop coordinated by the RC Office and Ministry of Finance completed on 19th November
- M&E system being put in place to monitor the ERF implementation

Key Lessons Learnt

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

Lessons Learnt: Coordination

- Initially, within the first week of the tsunami response, there was lack of knowledge /limited awareness of the IASC/PHT process by government and NGOs in Samoa (especially in the clusters/sectors) and also with some UN staff. This is despite the OCHA / NDMO organised Inter Agency Contingency Planning Workshop in Samoa in April 2009.
- Information/Awareness of the IASC/PHT and the links with the DAC and NDC needs to be clarified and communicated to all disaster management stakeholders in Samoa and in the region.
- IASC to be fully integrated into the Government disaster management system
- Overall,
 - at the strategic level, coordination between IASC/RC and central government ministries was satisfactory
 - coordination within clusters was good
 - coordination between clusters needs improvement
- Despite the good coordination efforts, some stakeholders feel that there were still too many assessments of affected areas/populations taking place
- UN Situation Room too small for the IASC general meetings

Lessons Learnt: Communication

- Terminology/ jargon need clarification to avoid confusion – IASC/PHT/DMT
- Local telecommunications network providers to address issue of server capacity during emergency phase
- Pacific Disaster Net or another dedicated website should be used immediately to upload information on the response and more widely promoted as a tool for accessing tsunami/cluster information
- Media – too many negative stories published. Need daily press releases, press conferences to highlight the positive work on the ground
- Need to develop standard methodology/ templates for disaster damage and needs assessments
- Need to review the PHT Communication Plan and the OCHA Situation Rep Report to ensure more equal representation of IASC members contributions to the humanitarian and early recovery support efforts and ensure public awareness of the IASC/PHT/DMT mechanisms

Lessons Learnt : Information Management

- Limited analysis/collation of raw data for sharing with all clusters and stakeholders. Sharing raw data from initial assessments with subsequent incoming assessment teams is crucial in order to avoid duplication
- Organizations need to be encouraged to use the Pacific Disaster Net (www.pacificdisaster.net/ts2009) to access relevant documents
- A system is needed on how information can be shared between clusters.
- An M&E Framework needs to be developed to monitor how the ERF is being implemented

Lessons Learnt: Implementation

- Next Steps?
- Official closure of the IASC/PHT cluster activation for the Samoa 29 September 2009 Tsunami. IASC disaster preparedness and contingency planning to revert back to the PHT/DMT in close coordination with the Samoa DAC/NDC
- Implementation of recovery plan scheduled to begin in the first week of January 2010.
- IASC/PHT/DMT support requested : technical assistance a high priority of the Government therefore advisory services for the implementation of the ER plan will be required
- Identify a focal point to ensure that recovery work is coordinated and information sharing continues.

Summary

- Considered as one of the most successful emergency response and early recovery processes in the Asia-Pacific region – simultaneous humanitarian and early recovery
 - Strong Government leadership – Ministry of Finance and NDMO
 - Buy in of the ER process by Government and partners
 - Large number of humanitarian and development partners working together to support the Government
- Lessons Learnt
 - Need to improve awareness of the IASC/PHT at the national level
 - Need to improve links between the IASC/PHT and the national disaster management coordination mechanisms such as the UN Disaster Management Team, Samoa National Disaster Council and DAC.
 - Need to improve timely and efficient/effective information management/collation/analysis and dissemination in future disaster response
- Next Steps
 - Careful monitoring and tracking of the needs of the displaced population
 - Lessons learnt to be fed into the national and regional cluster mechanisms to improve IASC/PHT “national” support to countries following future disaster events.
 - Proposed national workshop for Government is required on the ER Framework and areas where partners can assist the affected population
 - Government will inform the IASC and partners of what is requested for implementation of the ERF. For now, priority is technical assistance as most of the resources required has been committed by development partners already.

