

## Samoa Tsunami SITREP

<b>EVENT NAME:</b> Samoa Tsunami	<b>SITREP No:</b> 7
<b>From:</b> National Emergency Operation Centre	<b>Date/time:</b> 1300 hrs, 14 October 2009

### Summary

#### Overview

A magnitude 8.3 earthquake occurred at 0648 hours on Tuesday 29 September 2009 190 km south of Apia. The earthquake triggered tsunami waves which impacted Samoa, American Samoa and the small northern island of Niauatoputapu in Tonga. The tsunami waves, some of which are said to have been as high as six metres, caused fatalities, casualties and serious damage to the affected Pacific Island countries.

The parameters of the earthquake are:

Origin time	—	Tuesday 29 September 2009 at 0648 hours
Coordinates	—	15.3°S, 171.0°@W
Focal depth	—	33 km
Location	—	Samoa Islands Region
Richter Magnitude	—	8.3

#### Proclamation status

A Proclamation was signed by his Highness the Head of State declaring Samoa as a State of Emergency on 2 October 2009. The Proclamation will remain in force for 30 days. This is intended to make it easier for donor assistance as well as transport services rules to be waived to ensure that all types of assistance and needs are provided for immediately.

#### Summary of response

The response effort is still continuing with early recovery planning now well underway. Key infrastructure and lifeline utilities such as communications, roading, water, and power have been restored.

Government agencies, NGO's, emergency services, international agencies and lifeline utility operators have responded both on the ground and via their Emergency Operations Centres. The National Emergency Operations Centre established at the Faleata Fire Station remains the central control point for the response operation.

#### Summary of relief priorities

Items still urgently needed in the relief effort are:

- Building and gardening tools
- Food and water storage containers/ water tanks
- Hurricane lamps
- Mosquito nets
- Building materials
- Cooking utensils (pots and teapots)
- Cooking stoves (kerosene)
- Transistor radios and batteries
- Dining room tables and chairs
- Desks and chairs (for schools)
- Bedding

## Event Status

### Tsunami

The coastal areas of Samoa sustained damages with extensive destruction mainly to the south eastern coast of Upolu Island. Damages were to resorts, family homes and community buildings, roads, power lines and water supply located along the coastline of the affected areas.

### People

#### Deaths:

- The death toll remains at 143 confirmed deaths.

#### Missing:

- 5 people are missing. The official search has stopped and Police Officers are now helping to clear debris from the affected areas.

#### Injuries:

- 310 injuries.

### Weather

The weather forecast for the next five days is for mostly warm conditions with scattered showers, however some heavy rain is expected tonight.

## Response activities

### Samoan Government and responding agencies

- Distribution of relief assistance donated by overseas governments, international organizations, local church organizations, NGOs and IGOs such as food, water and water storage facilities, clothing, tarpaulins/tents, building tools, sanitation facilities, medical and primary health care supplies to victims of the tsunami are continuing with the support of the New Zealand Defence Force and international organizations.
- Twenty three international scientists from many countries have joined the ATRC and USP, SOPAC and government officials in Apia as members of the team. The team will conduct assessments including measuring maximum inundation and maximum flood run-up, type and severity of damage, survivor experiences, collect geological samples of sediments left by the tsunami, and map their various findings.
- The Education, Logistics and WASH clusters will meet today.

### Relief supplies/Financial assistance

- 54 water tanks are on order from the International Federation for Red Cross. International Federation for Red Cross met with Samoa Water Authority and Oxfam yesterday to finalise a plan for where additional water tanks should be distributed. The plan is to focus on the area from Lalomanu to Saleamua (inland families), and provide communal drinking water with the 1000L tanks for individual households that are positioned away from the communal supply.
- World Vision are providing another consignment of non food items (400 Solar Powered Lamps and 120 Solar Powered Radios) this coming Saturday for distribution.
- New Zealand's Navy multi-purpose vessel HMNZS Canterbury is now due to arrive in Samoa on Friday 16 October) loaded with supplies and equipment. The shipment includes donated goods from Samoan communities in Auckland, some of which will go to specific villages affected by the tsunami. It also includes fale poles, supplies for the Samoa Water Authority and the Electric Power Corporation.

- Japan will hand over its relief donations to the National Emergency Operations Centre today.
- The United States is sending relief donations by air and includes donations from the Samoan Community in the United States.
- The Chairman of the National Disaster Council expressed his gratitude the governments of Australia and New Zealand for their joint contribution of SAT\$10million which will go towards the rehabilitation phase of the recovery. This assistance will form part of the budgetary support intended to be tabled into Parliament early December. In the meantime, the Chairman said that the current expenditures continue to come from the unforeseen budget as authorized under the Constitution should the relief funds be insufficient.

#### Financial assistance

- The Chairman of the National Disaster Council advises that the ACC Board yesterday approved the entitlements to pay out to the victims of tsunami.

#### **Donations**

Two bank accounts have been established by the Ministry of Finance for lodgement of financial donations.

Financial donations by existing Samoa Government partners may make contributions to the following account:

#### **Company donations – existing Samoa Government partners**

Bank name: ANZ (Samoa) Ltd  
 Bank account name: Treasury Direct Transfer Account  
 Account number: 1200033  
 Bank swift code: ANZBWSWW  
 Bank address: ANZ (Samoa) Ltd, Apia, Samoa

#### **Individual donations – private individuals and businesses**

2009 Samoa Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Account  
 Account number: 3826921  
 ANZ

### **Joint rapid assessment**

- The Ministry of Finance advises that the joint rapid assessment will be completed by Thursday this week with the intention of making a formal presentation before Cabinet. The Chairman of the National Disaster Council stressed the importance of such assessment with the planning of the recovery phase of this disaster and in particular with the requests to be made for international assistance apart from the current assistance received.

### **Early recovery activities**

#### Electricity:

- As of Wednesday last week, EPC has completed the restoration and repair works at the affected areas. On Saturday, EPC commissioned and completed a high voltage circuit power supply to most of the homes at Saleapaga, Lepa and other families that have moved inland. Lighting has been provided to the affected areas for the time being however, this week they are working on installing a 9km line of high voltage for families clustered around the affected areas and would welcome all requests to come directly to EPC.

#### Telecommunications

- The Ministry of Communications Information Technology reports that work is underway to repair the fibre optic cables at Lepa and Aleipata

Buildings

- The Ministry of Finance report the temporary housing project for recovery phase that the Subcommittee is preparing a paper for Cabinet consideration.
- Masiofo Filifilia, on behalf of CARITAS, presented a proposal on the type of housing that CARITAS intends to build. They have announced they are going to build at least 50 houses at the cost of \$20,000 average each. The structures will be simple (a cemented floor, poles and then the tinned roof [fale talimalo]).
- Families that opt for this type of housing assistance (whether its from NGOs or government) are encourage to assist where possible to add walls, amenities, rooms and others should they please rather than paying for the full costs of building an expensive house. The priority is for the families to have a house and then they can continue with other parts themselves.

Sanitation

- Samoa Water Authority has provided pit latrines with the assistance of IPES which has helped to relieve the pressure on the portable toilets. They have discovered a new water source from Mt. Lanutolo which they are investigating

Water

- Samoa Water Authority report that all areas affected along the coastal area from Lepa to Saleaumua are reconnected to water supply again. SWA is now concentrating on providing water to schools as some schools have been relocated to other schools putting pressure on the water supply system. SWA has allocated about 6 water trucks to fill the water tanks for the schools. The water tanks of about 3,000 litres will also be provided to the families at the affected areas whilst more tanks are needed and due to arrive on the NZ Naval Ship Canterbury.

Hospitals/Medical Care Facilities:

- The Ministry of Health is working on prevention programs around outbreaks of diseases.

Education

- The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture reports that schools such as Ulutogia have been transferred to Falealili Secondary School whilst students from Saleapaga have been transferred to the Lepa Primary School. On a vist on Saturday, they discovered that they would still require water tanks and tarpaulins for the schools. These are being delivered today to cope with increased demand.

**Transport**Roads:

- The Land Transport Authority reports that the affected roads have been cleared and repaired with the support of 12 contracting companies.

**NEOC Status****NEOC Contacts**

The Disaster Management Office has been activated in support of the event. Contact details for the DMO are:

Disaster Management Office  
National Emergency Operation Center, Faleata Fire Station  
Telephone: 27577 or 20459  
Email: [dmosamoa@gmail.com](mailto:dmosamoa@gmail.com)  
Fax: 32077

The next Situation Report will be issued on Thursday 15 October 2009.

**National Controller**

Taule'ale'ausumai Laavasa Malua