

## Samoa Tsunami SITREP

<b>EVENT NAME:</b> Samoa Tsunami	<b>SITREP No:</b> 6
<b>From:</b> National Emergency Operation Centre	<b>Date/time:</b> 1600 hrs, 9 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 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 is 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
- 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 is now 143 confirmed deaths.

#### Missing:

- 5 people are missing. Search and recovery is continuing today to search for the remaining missing people.

#### Injuries:

- 310 injuries.

### Weather

The weather forecast for the next five days is mainly fine with light winds.

## Response activities

### Samoa 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.

### Relief supplies/Financial assistance

- New Zealand's contribution to the Pacific disaster relief operation continues with the Navy's multi-purpose vessel HMNZS Canterbury, (including a Seasprite helicopter embarked), setting sail from the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland at 10am Samoa time today [Friday 9 October], loaded with supplies and equipment for Samoa and Tonga.
- The shipment includes 10 containers of donated goods from the Samoan and Tongan communities in Auckland, some of which will go to specific villages affected by the tsunami.
- The Samoan Consul-General in Auckland, Faolotoi Reupena Pogi, has chaired a group of community leaders co-ordinating the donations for Samoa. They included Maungakiekie MP Peseta Sam Lotu-iiga and former All Black Laauli Michael Jones. The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has provided administrative support and liaison with NZAID.
- The Government is looking at the draft assessment by the Early Recovery Cluster that will provide additional information on unmet needs for shelter, livelihoods and environment. The final assessment report will be available early next week.

**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

**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 Saturday 10 October 2009.

**National Controller**

Taule'ale'ausumai Laavasa Malua