

This report was issued by OCHA New York, with inputs from OCHA Fiji and the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. It covers the period from 13 to 15 October. The next report will be issued around 22 October.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **The death toll in Samoa is 143. Five people are still missing.**
- **Nine deaths were reported in Tonga.**
- **An Early Recovery Framework was submitted to the Government of Samoa on 15 October.**
- **As the rainy season will soon begin in Samoa, the need for transitional shelters or semi-permanent housing will become more apparent.**
- **HMNZS Canterbury arrived in Apia, Samoa, from Tonga on 15 October, carrying various relief items and reconstruction equipment.**
- **While distribution of relief items continues, early-recovery activities are well underway.**

II. Situation Overview

Samoa

The official death toll stands at 143, with five missing and 310 injured. The combined data from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Red Cross assessments suggests that approximately 4,500 people have been directly affected by the tsunami, most of who are displaced. However, this figure is assumed to be the lower estimate since the assessment information compilation is still ongoing. According to the draft Early Recovery Framework, the affected population is estimated at 5,275 people, based on the 2006 population census. The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) continues to deliver relief items to the affected population. The New Zealand navy's vessel HMNZS Canterbury arrived in Apia from Tonga on the morning of 15 October with reconstruction and relief materials. The early-recovery cluster team presented a draft Early Recovery Framework to the Government on 15 October.

Tonga

Nine people died and seven were seriously injured as a result of the tsunami that struck the northern island of Niuatoputapu. The Government estimates the total cost of damage as Tonga pa'anga 18.2 million (approximately US\$9.5 million). It was reported that 89 out of 225 houses on the island were totally destroyed and 56 were damaged. Most Government buildings were destroyed with serious damage to the Hihifo primary school. Most students lost books and stationery. Water and sanitation systems are seriously damaged, while eight fishing boats, the Fisheries office and an ice-making plant were destroyed. Two churches and five community halls were seriously damaged.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Initial Assessment

Samoa

- The International Tsunami Survey Team has started its consultation in Apia. Its primary focus is on the run-up and inundation measurement and assessment of building damage type and severity; the impacts and effects on the natural environment, ecosystems and agriculture; the geology of the tsunami; and the tsunami's social and human impacts.
- World Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific are conducting a Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA). This is being carried out with support from partner agencies and working with the Government. The DALA will be completed within two weeks.
- A rapid environmental impact and needs assessment report has been finalized. The technical recommendations for marine and terrestrial habitat recovery have informed the Early Recovery Framework.

Tonga

- Seven New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) engineers, who all travelled on the HMNZS Canterbury, surveyed needs. They focused on water, sanitation, electricity and testing the integrity of the jetty and airstrip. They will remain on Niuatoputapu until HMNZS Canterbury returns from Apia.

Logistics

Samoa

- The Land Transport Authority reports that affected roads have been cleared and repaired with the support of 12 contracting companies.
- HMNZS Canterbury arrived in Apia on the morning of 15 October and unloaded cargo. It is expected to depart at 5 p.m. on Saturday 17 October (Samoa time) to continue with the relief effort in Niuatoputapu. It will return to Samoa several days later to embark the bulk of the NZDF contingent and equipment for their return to New Zealand.
- This week, the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) will install a nine-kilometre line of high voltage for families clustered around the affected areas. All requests should go directly to EPC.
- A shipping schedule was circulated at the logistics cluster meeting. It is available on the Pacific Disaster Net website under 'Cluster Activities – Logistics – Apia Port Schedule'.
- The logistics cluster has advised there is a risk of the large quantities of unsolicited aid creating a bottleneck upon receipt in-country. It was suggested that the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) ask local shipping agents and local companies to assist with a distribution network for the unsolicited aid.

Tonga

- HMNZS Canterbury has been conducting helicopter operations off Niuatoputapu. A Tongan patrol boat has ferried passengers and supplies ashore. Tongan Defense Services has supervised distribution of goods.
- An 11-person New Zealand team cleared large quantities of rubble and wreckage alongside the Tongan Defence Service and with good support from community members.

Emergency Shelter

Samoa

- The Samoa Red Cross Society has distributed 1,147 tarpaulins and 46 tents as of 10 October. They were complemented by building tools.
- There are no significant gaps regarding the provision of emergency shelters in the form of tarpaulins and tents. However, as the rainy season begins late October in Samoa, the need for transitional shelters will become more apparent until semi-permanent/permanent housing is constructed.
- Caritas presented a proposal to the Government on the type of housing it intends to build. Caritas announced it will build at least 50 houses of a simple structure at an average cost of Samoa tala 20,000 per house (approximately \$8,300). To agree upon a standardized housing design, Caritas will urgently consult with other partners involved in semi-permanent/permanent housing.
- As requested by the Government, HMNZS Canterbury delivered 540 housing poles; telephone poles; plumbing; electrical supplies; and water piping. The 13 containers of goods donated by the New Zealand community intended for specific villages will be customs cleared at the port and delivered to villages.

Tonga

- Basic shelter and sanitation requirements on Niuatoputapu appear to have been met.

Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Samoa

- On 17 October, World Vision will provide another consignment of NFIs (400 solar-powered lamps and 120 solar-powered radios).
- Samoa Red Cross continues its NFI distribution, which includes bedding; clothing; WASH items; water; food; and cooking utensils. Distribution up to 11 October includes delivery to 40 locations, including support for families relocated in Apia, Manono Island, and families in damaged villages or supported in neighbouring villages in the affected areas.

- The Disaster Management Office has continued to distribute building and gardening tools; food and water storage containers; water tanks; lamps; mosquito nets; building materials; cooking utensils; cooking stoves; transistor radios; tables and chairs; bedding; and school furniture.
- The United States is sending relief donations by air including donations from the Samoan Community in the United States.

Education

Samoa

- Higher Grade 8 students resumed schooling in the neighbouring host schools on 14 October. It is expected that all lower-grade students will resume schooling on 19 October.
- The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESOC) and the MoH are conducting health, water and sanitation assessments of schools in the affected areas to ensure the environment is safe for children to return.
- The Government has committed education support including tents, water tanks and school supplies to the affected schools. Education cluster members are committed to fill needs gaps such as school furniture, first aid kits, latrines, water tanks and tents. The Disaster Management Office has already provided water tanks and tents to schools that are expanding to accommodate students from schools destroyed by the tsunami. MESOC is providing stationery resources, plumbing and maintenance support, as well as assistance with transportation to relocated students through the use of hired vehicles. Identified gaps in resources include desks and chairs, water tanks, tents, first aid kits and portable sanitation units. MESOC intends to submit a proposal for donor agencies and cluster partners to collectively determine a course of action.

Tonga

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has offered to support the request for school materials for \$5,000, either through cash or in-kind through School in a Box kits. These kits are available for rapid deployment from the UNICEF stockpile in Fiji.
- UNICEF could also provide technical assistance for enhanced, child-friendly classroom designs, which are also more resilient to natural disasters. This is yet to be discussed with the Government.

Emergency Telecommunications

Tonga

- In addition to landlines, cell-phone communications have now been re-established on Niuatoputapu.

Food and Nutrition

Samoa

- MoH is monitoring the nutritional status of the affected population.

Health

Samoa

- MOH is working on prevention programmes around disease outbreaks.
- MOH completed the needs assessments of affected areas. The assessment report will possibly be ready by next week.
- The Government of New Zealand advises that, according to New Zealand medical staff in Samoa, tsunami-related medical cases are decreasing. Most patients are presenting with wounds requiring additional care, or aspiration pneumonia and primary-care injuries associated with displacement and hazardous conditions around affected areas. These include children accidentally stepping on nails; dehydration; lacerations from corrugated iron or debris; and scabies and conditions arising from tent or tarpaulin/shelter dwellings.
- There are currently 20 New Zealand medical personnel working in Samoa. Planning continues to focus on the transition from support being provided by New Zealand to a resumption of normal service by Samoan health providers, supplemented as needed by support from New Zealand.
- Last week, more than 50 community support volunteers were trained by Save the Children and UNICEF on psycho-social support. These volunteers are now providing psycho-social support in affected villages.

Tonga

- A three-person NZDF medical team is still in Niuatoputapu to make house calls, provide health advice and assist the island's senior nurse.
- WHO has offered a vehicle for the MoH in Niuatoputapu.
- The Government of Tonga is working on a recovery plan for the health sector's long-term recovery needs.

Protection

Samoa

- UNICEF and Save the Children are providing psycho-social support through the distribution of recreational kits and early-learning kits, along with briefings to promote the use of structured play and child-friendly activities to promote children's recovery. These kits are provided to the schools and community groups to organize child-friendly activities in buildings such as churches and schools.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Samoa

- Sanitation remains a concern. The Government will hold a meeting specifically on sanitation issues on 15 October. The Samoa Water Authority (SWA) has provided pit latrines, which has helped to relieve the pressure on portable toilets. SWA is investigating a new water source that it has discovered from Mt. Lanutolo.
- SWA reports that all areas affected along the coastal area from Lepa to Saleaumua are reconnected to water supply. However, some quality and quantity issues remain, which SWA is investigating.
- A trucking water distribution operation is in place with a capacity for 5,000 litres per truck to service the affected population's needs, including families and schools. This is being coordinated by SWA and supported by Oxfam New Zealand, IFRC and UNICEF. Five trucks are currently delivering approximately 50 to 60 cubic metres of water per day.
- Engineers Without Borders is assisting SWA with water-supply designs.
- Oxfam has provided two 5,000-litre bladders for the trucking water distribution operation. Oxfam has also allocated Samoan tala 30,000 (approximately \$12,500) for the purchase of pipes and fittings for the distribution networks.
- IFRC ordered 54 water tanks. IFRC met with SWA and Oxfam on 15 October to finalize a plan for additional water tank distribution. The plan will focus on the area from Lalomanu to Saleaumua (inland families), and provide communal drinking water with 1,000-litre tanks for individual households that are positioned away from the communal supply.
- The Government of New Zealand reported that pressure in the submarine water main to Manono Island is inadequate and will need to be repaired.
- UNICEF is exploring the use of engineers from RedR to support SWA in constructing and renovating damaged and new water systems.
- SWA ensures safe drinking water through water trucking operations. If needed, the EU could provide resources for an additional truck. This will provide water for at least six weeks. While doing so, rain-water harvesting options will be integrated into the plan.
- Oxfam and Samoa Red Cross are mobilizing the public for effective water resource management and conservation through house-to-house visits, and the mobilization of media, information and education communication materials.
- Oxfam, UNICEF, EU and Adventist Development and Relief Agency will support ensured access to WASH facilities in affected schools in collaboration and close coordination with MoH.

Tonga

- The water supply is improving with the arrival of the Red Cross desalination unit and an engineer to assist with filling water tanks with drinking water. NZDF is also assisting with transporting water to the various village tanks.
- A 14-person New Zealand team was in Niuatoputapu on 15 October for manual clearance. The team has filled and covered 21 septic tanks in Hihifo where effluent was exposed. Four more tanks will be tackled on 16 October. Spraying to control disease outbreaks has been carried out. The health authorities are preventing people from entering Hihifo.
- UNICEF has offered to provide cash inputs to cover the water supply needs for pump repair (\$20,000) and support the desalination of plant operations (\$2,000).

Early Recovery

Samoa

- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee meeting was held on 14 October to review and receive feedback from other partners on the draft Early Recovery Framework. The final draft was presented to the Government on 15 October.
- The total affected population has been estimated at 5,275 out of a population of 12,403 in the affected districts. The Early Recovery Framework has presented various options to the Government at the Disaster Management Council meeting. These options will focus on the relative costs and benefits of resettling all, some, or none of the affected population in the various affected zones.
- The Government commented on the report's timeliness and will consider the options. The Government will consult further with international development organizations as a next step.

Tonga

- The Government of Tonga has estimated the cost for long-term rehabilitation to be Tonga pa'anga 14,545,000 (approximately \$7.7 million).
- The United Nations Development Programme has donated a fishing boat and two engines.

IV. Coordination

Samoa

- Clusters are operational and planning their response and recovery actions with their Government counterparts.
- The Government has taken the lead on health and WASH clusters, now renamed as Water Sector Post-tsunami Support. The groups are organized and chaired by the Government.
- Cluster/sector information, meeting minutes, maps, assessments and post-disaster aerial imagery are available on the website on Pacific Disaster Net: <http://www.pacificdisaster.net:8080/Plone/samoa-tsunami>
- The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management advisor, who was embedded in the NDMO, has completed the mission and returned home.

Tonga

- An emergency management specialist from the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management is still working closely with the NDMO in Tonga. This arrangement will continue for the next few days.

V. Funding

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int

VI. Contact

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