



For immediate release  
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### **Oxfam buckets on street corners**

International agency Oxfam has launched an appeal for NZ\$250,000 to assist with the urgent needs of people affected by this week's tsunami in Samoa. After the devastation from the waves, survivors are now faced with dehydration, lack of shelter and there is a risk of spreading disease.

Today, Oxfam volunteers will be on the street with collection buckets to support the Samoa Tsunami Appeal. Initially, the effort will be in Auckland at three Westfield shopping centres – Downtown, Newmarket and St Lukes – as well as on the streets of the city centre and North Shore. Collections will expand across the country in the coming days.

Oxfam's assessment team landed in Apia, Samoa, yesterday where they are working alongside our Samoan partner organisation, Women in Business Development Inc. (WIBDI), on the emergency response. Oxfam aid worker Janna Hamilton said the scene was chaotic and people were reeling from the human loss.

"I was here two years ago working with our partners at WIBDI. It's tragic to see such amazing women, who have transformed their communities for the better, now grieving over the loss of family members. Everyone in the country has similar stories," said Hamilton. "What is crucial right now is ensuring that their most urgent needs are met. Most likely, that means people need clean drinking water and basic sanitation so that they don't get dehydrated and sickness does not spread," she added.

After the short-term needs of the survivors have been assessed and met, Oxfam will focus on rebuilding livelihoods and making communities more resilient to future disasters.

Donations can also be made to the Samoa Tsunami Appeal on [www.oxfam.org.nz](http://www.oxfam.org.nz); by calling 0800 600 700; or to make an automatic \$20 donation, call or 0900 600 20. Donations can also be made at The Body Shop or Levis stores nationwide.

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### **EDITORS NOTES:**

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