



OFFICE OF THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The United Nations, International and National development community unite to support Government of Samoa's response to Tsunami

Apia, Samoa – One week on from the tragic and devastating impact of the Samoan Tsunami, two things are clear: the lives of those affected will never be the same; and that, despite the massive destruction, efforts to provide relief are taking effect.

Nileema Noble, United Nations Resident Coordinator/Head of the UN System in Samoa said, “I commend the leadership of the Government for the rapidity and effectiveness with which it has coordinated and delivered relief and humanitarian services on the ground. An important measure of this success is the focus of the Government and its partners now to move simultaneously into Early Recovery/Recovery mode”.

An Early Recovery team, under the aegis of the Government and the UN led Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), has since been mobilized and has commenced its work in the field today. It focuses on identifying actions that will shift from life saving interventions to life sustaining ones, and restoring the basic foundations that will allow people to rebuild their lives. A first draft of the Early Recovery Framework, an important output of the mission, is expected to be ready in the week of 12 October.

Under the leadership of Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, the teams are working closely with the local communities and their leaders, to identify opportunities for livelihoods and income generating activities as well as support for earliest delivery of social services, such as health, education water and sanitation that have been disrupted due to the Tsunami. Longer-term food security along with infrastructure development will be key in longer-term recovery efforts. Capacity development of communities and local level institutions will form the basis of ensuring sustainability, spontaneous recovery and strengthening of self-help capacities.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee was set up under the leadership of the United Nations and is comprised of humanitarian and development partners – both national and international - to ensure a co-ordinated support to the Government. Under the aegis of this body, relief goods and supplies such as, water, food, tarpaulins, water tanks, seeds, farming implements, medical kits, female sanitary provisions, tents etc have been provided to the NDMO for distribution. Many of the relief goods have been secured from the local markets ensuring support to the local economy. Government's co-ordination efforts at NDMO have been supported by an UN Disaster Assistance Coordination team comprised of IT, logistics and cartographers, allowing for effective monitoring, utilization and targeting of relief and humanitarian resources coming into Samoa.

Technical resources of the IASC members have been made available to the government ministries to assist with rapid assessments and the early recovery framework, covering a range of specialties that include: public health, food security, agriculture, fisheries, nutrition, livelihoods, water and sanitation, shelter, education, GIS, protection, disaster management and emergency preparedness, governance, infrastructure, damage assessment and environment. These have been drawn from the government and a range of National and International development partners that include National Disaster Management Office, Asian Development Bank, ADRA, AusAid, Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, Care Australia, Caritas Pacific, Conservation International, EU, FAASAO SAVAII, Habitat for Humanity, NZ, IFRC, MSF, New Zealand Aid,



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Oxfam, Peace Corps, Plan Australia, Red Cross, Rotary, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, Samoa Hotel Association, School Aid, SPPD, SOPAC, SPC, SPREP, SUNGO, TSF, WIBDI, World Vision, World Bank and the United Nations funds and agencies.

United Nations appreciates the leadership of the Government of Samoa and the outstanding collaboration with its partners in responding to the Tsunami Disaster in Samoa.

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