

WORKSHOP REPORT

FINAL DRAFT

A workshop on the *Protection of Persons Affected by Natural Disasters* was organised Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th January 2010 by the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Pacific and the United Nations Development Programme Multi Country Office in Samoa. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in Apia. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on key principles and international standards on protecting persons affected by natural disasters as they apply to the Samoan context.

Contents

The first day of the workshop focused on providing participants with a basic understanding of what *protection* means, who needs protection, who is responsible for providing protection and how protection is provided. In particular the facilitators focused on the response and early recovery phase. The afternoon session was dedicated to small groups work to analyze through a protection angle the response to the 2009 earthquake and tsunami in Samoa and to identify the main gaps. Each group reported during a plenary discussion and their inputs were compiled into a matrix (see annex 1) which highlights main protection concerns, needs, actors, response and gaps.

The morning session of the second day built upon the knowledge acquired by the participants on the first day, and focused more particularly on the protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In the afternoon, the facilitators introduced the OHCHR project on monitoring post-disaster displacement and durable solutions in Samoa, in which a number of participants are involved as partners and/or interviewers. Throughout the session, participants further familiarized themselves with the project household questionnaire and the conduct of interviews (with key informants and focus group discussions) through role play / simulations.

Methodology: the facilitators used a participatory approach throughout the workshop and encouraged active contribution of all the participants through role plays and group discussions.

Toolkit

At the workshop, the facilitators introduced the following protection tools and frameworks:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- IASC Guidelines on Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disaster
- The Checklists on Integrating Human Rights in Natural Disaster Management in the Pacific
- The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- The Durable Solutions Framework (return, relocation and local integration)

The participants received a toolkit comprising hard and soft copies of the above listed documents and of all the presentations, as well as reports from group work and pictures.

Participation

The workshop was well attended with an average of 30 participants over the two days. The participation at the workshop reflected the group of key stakeholders who were involved in the relief response to the 2009 earthquake and tsunami in Samoa, and who are currently providing early recovery assistance to the persons affected by the disaster and/or engaged in preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Participants included high level officials from the Samoan Police and the MWCSO, experienced grassroots practitioners, Red Cross staff and volunteers, the NDMO, MNRE, UN partners UNDP and UNICEF and representatives of a number of Samoan NGOs (see annex 3 - list of participants).

Discussion

All the participants engaged in an open-hearted and lively discussion around critical aspects of the response to the 2009 earthquake and tsunami in Samoa. One key discussion topic was the impact on vulnerable groups on lack of coordination among humanitarian actors and the need and means to enhance coordination of all actors involved in the response. The participants acknowledged that the workshop was their first opportunity to all sit at the same table and share their views and experiences. They underlined the importance of finding ways to work better together at the ground/technical level but they also recognised the need for better political leadership at a higher level.

Outcomes

The workshop has produced three important outcomes. First, the participants have acquired a basic understanding of protection and human rights in situation of natural disasters, as well as more specific knowledge of the protection tools introduced by the facilitators (see 'toolkit' section above). Second, it provided a platform on which to develop further protection activities, i.e. identification of national focal points for the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster and possible establishment of an informal protection working group in Samoa. Third, workshop participants produced a Protection Matrix which is intended to inform the Government of Samoa and other humanitarian and early recovery actors of key protection concerns and gaps from the 2009 earthquake and tsunami response.

Certification: Participants received individual certificates for their participation at the workshop.

Feedback from participants

At the end of each day, the participants completed a brief feedback form. Overall, the participants found the workshop very well organized and facilitated. They found the contents of the workshop directly relevant to their work and feel more confident in contributing to a better protection response in future emergencies in Samoa. They particularly appreciated the efforts of the facilitators to contextualise /adapt the contents of the workshop to the Samoan context. The participants noted that the terminology was at times complex and they suggested the use of more examples to clarify new concepts. They really enjoyed and asked the facilitators to plan for additional small group work and role plays.

Suggestions for future workshops

A few participants made specific suggestions regarding participation at future workshops. One participant suggested inviting community representatives from affected areas. Another noted that more participation from the management level should be encouraged. A few participants also suggested to increase the duration of the workshop (up to one week) and to hold it outside of the capital. Finally, it was suggested to ensure a follow up of the workshop as a process for strengthening coordination and response.

Recommendations

- 1- Identify national protection focal points to participate in the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster (PHPC). National protection focal point will be included in the list of contacts and will be copied on all general correspondence related to PHPC activities. National level protection focal points will be identified in several priority countries. Samoa is the first country where they have been identified.
- 2- Strengthen protection preparedness and response to natural disasters by establishing a Protection Working Group within the framework of the National Disaster Management Organisation (ref. Samoa National Disaster Management Plan – p.11). The Protection Working Group will comprise national protection focal points. A line ministry will be identified as Lead Agency.
- 3- Take appropriate measures / undertake joint actions to address the protection gaps / issues that were identified in the 2009 tsunami and earthquake response (Annex 1 - Protection Matrix).

FINAL DRAFT Annex 1 – Protection Matrix for Samoa 2009 earthquake and tsunami

EMERGENCY	Concerns	Vulnerable groups	Actors	Activities	Gaps / Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation • Shelter • Identification and registration of all affected persons • Identification of missing persons, deceased and burials • Distribution / Access to aid • Diarrhea outbreak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All families directly affected by the disaster • Displaced persons (who have moved from their habitual place of residence) • Children • Elderly • Disabled • Women • Low income families • Widow(er)s • Tourists / Foreigners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Samoa through Disaster Advisory Council / NDMO with support from line Ministries • Council of Chiefs, Taulele, Aualuma , Komiti Tina / Aiga Manuia • Samoan Red Cross Society • Samoan NGOs • Churches (NCC) • Samoan Police • International partners (UN, NZ, AUS, USA, Japan, EU, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and communities provided the first response to affected population (Fa'a Samoa = Samoan Way) • Temporary shelter • Rapid Needs assessments • Identification and registration of affected persons • Distribution food and water, clothes, etc. • Special assistance to children and women • Psycho-social assistance • National burial and memorial service organized by Govt. • New Zealand Defense Force and Australian Fire Dept Search and Rescue provided support to Samoan Police to search for missing persons and to identify the deceased 	<p><i>Late Declaration of Disaster, thus disaster response provisions could not be quickly activated.</i></p> <p><i>Safety during evacuation – increase police presence to prevent issues of looting etc.</i></p> <p><i>Lack of information on relief assistance to affected persons.</i></p> <p><i>Response teams were poorly equipped to ensure their safety and had little or no training.</i></p> <p><i>Issue of storage at the morgue - need to identify one place where all bodies will be kept.</i></p> <p><i>No clarification on the concept of “household” in the Samoan context which complicated the registration of affected persons and raised child protection issues</i></p> <p><i>Loss of livelihood assets was not taken into account in rapid needs assessments as vulnerability for low income families</i></p>

EARLY RECOVERY	Concerns	Vulnerable groups	Actors	Activities	Gaps / Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and access to basic social services • Loss of livelihood assets (canoes, fishing nets, pigs, etc.) • Loss of personal belongings • Damaged natural resources / impact on environment • Trauma / post traumatic stress • Disruption of social consensus • Disintegration of families due to relocation inland • Loss of identity documents • Durable solutions for affected persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All families directly affected by the disaster • Displaced persons - who have moved from their habitual place of residence and who want to return or relocate elsewhere • Children • Older Persons • Persons with Disabilities • Women • Low income families • Widow(er)s • Tourists / Foreigners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Samoa through Disaster Advisory Council / NDMO with support from line Ministries • Council of Chiefs, Taulele, Aualuma , Komiti Tina / Aiga Manuia • Samoan Red Cross Society • Samoan NGOs • Churches (NCC) • Samoan Police • International partners (UN, NZ, AUS, USA, Japan, EU, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments: Early Recovery needs Socio-economic impact Early Environmental impact • Monitoring Displacement & Durable Solutions project • Relocation / Housing project • Spontaneous return or relocation of families • Cash for work initiative • Income Generating Activities • Family support, remittances • Psycho-social counselling • Community based green eco business development programme for tourism • Coastal planting programme with climate resilient plants 	<p>Slow rehabilitation: despite early recovery needs assessments – almost 6 months delays in distribution of livelihoods assets.</p> <p>No strategy / framework for durable solutions for returning and relocating households.</p> <p>Lack of information on return or relocation to affected persons.</p> <p>Implementation delays for housing / relocation project.</p> <p>No special measures for replacing lost identity documents.</p> <p>Psycho-social assistance for rescue and humanitarian workers.</p> <p>Ambivalent role of the media (provided valuable information on affected persons but very critical to government response while not always based on accurate facts).</p>

	Concerns	Vulnerable groups	Actors	Activities	Gaps / Issues
PREPAREDNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> early warning system Uneven public awareness across the country - not all the villages have been covered by tsunami drills trainings, etc. No escape routes for coastal dwellings No special measures for replacing lost identity documents No ad hoc system for land disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities living in high risk areas) Children Older persons Persons with Disabilities Women Tourists / Foreigners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Samoa through Disaster Advisory Council / NDMO with support from line Ministries Met. office Council of Chiefs, Taulele, Aualuma , Komiti Tina / Aiga Manuia Samoan Red Cross Society Samoan NGOs Churches (NCC) Samoan Police International partners (UN, NZ, AUS, USA, Japan, EU, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Advisory Council / NDMO established Community based disaster preparedness and recovery trainings Village disaster management plans Review of National Disaster Management Plan 	<p>Weaknesses in early warning system (incomplete geographic coverage of alarm / siren system, and insufficient capacity of Digicel communication network).</p> <p>Risk of increasing number of casualties if village chiefs try to follow strictly NDMO directives instead of using common sense.</p> <p>Lack of awareness on National Disaster Management Plan at the community level → produce and distribute a reader friendly summary in Samoan language.</p> <p>Continue to raise awareness of the population though:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information campaign - School Curriculums - Village NDM plans

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

Workshop

26-27 January 2010

Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development Conference Room,
Apia, Samoa

Programme

Tuesday 26 January

Day 1: Protection – The Basics

08:00 Registration

08:30 Opening:

- Welcome by Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, CEO Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago and UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nileema Noble
- Introduction to the Workshop (UNDP and OHCHR)

09:00 Protection – the basics

- What does protection mean?
- When is protection needed?
- Who needs protection?
- Who is responsible for providing protection?
- How do we provide protection?

10:30 TEA/COFFEE

10:50 Protection Tools

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- IASC Guidelines on Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disaster
- OHCHR/UNDP Checklist

12:15 LUNCH

13:15 Group Work

Based on the tsunami in Samoa 29 September 2009:

- Group 1: What were the main protection concerns
- Group 2: Who needed protection?
- Group 3: Who were responsible for providing protection?
- Group 4: How was protection provided?

15:00 TEA/COFFEE

15:20 Plenary – discussion from group work and draft protection matrix for Samoa

16:30 Wrap up and Day 1 evaluation

17:00 Fiafia Hour ☺

18:00 End of Day 1

Wednesday 27 January

Day 2: Monitoring Post-Disaster Displacement and Durable Solutions

08:30 Recap from December Introductory Training

09:00 Protection of Internally Displaced Persons

- Definition of Internally displaced persons
- Difference between a Refugee and IDP
- The Guiding Principles
- The Durable Solutions Framework (return, relocation and local integration)

10:10 TEA/COFFEE

10:30 Protection of Internally Displaced Persons – continued

11:15 Code of Conduct

- Presentation and explanation
- Consent, Privacy, Confidentiality
- Do No Harm

12:15 LUNCH

13:15 Monitoring post-disaster displacement and durable solutions – the tools

- Household Questionnaire
- Interviewing key informants
- Focus Group Discussions

14:30 TEA/COFFEE

14:45 Monitoring post-disaster displacement and durable solutions – role play in groups

15:45 Monitoring post-disaster displacement and durable solutions – feedback in plenary

16:30 Day 2 evaluation and closing remarks (MWCSD and OHCHR)

17:00 End of Workshop

Annex 3 – List of Participants

	Name	Organization
1	Rodney Su	Samoan Red Cross Society
2	Alfred Tautai Sinila	SRCS
3	Flora Tautai Sinila	SRCS
4	Sandy Lati	SRCS
5	Lauso Taupau	SRCS
6	Francisco Fido	SRCS
7	Faleatua Su'a	SRCS
8	Erin Cornish	International Federation of the Red Cross
9	Maulolo Amosa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD) / Division For Internal Affairs (DFIA)
10	Latu Afiosa	MWCSD / DFIA
11	Tevita Simelei	MWCSD / DFIA
12	Mulimu Sua	MWCSD / DFIA
13	Atuaia Michael Luikuey	MWCSD / DFIA
14	Meia Su'a	MWCSD / DFIA
15	Seumanu Douglas L. Ngau Chun	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) / Planning and Urban Management Authority (PUMA)
16	Merina Gae	MNRE / PUMA
17	Rhoda Lee-Chee	MNRE / National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)
18	Nafio T. Ketii	Samoan Police
19	Fa Lautalo	Samoan Police
20	Fuatino Mediaga Ahwai	Women in Business Development Inc.
21	Kenneth Jay-To	South Pacific Business Development (SPBD)
22	Maros Parreno Apostol	SPBD
23	Leiatana Tofaealalu	Independent Water Schemes Association (IWSA)
24	Fadiu Tupma Werelt	Mapusaga o Aiga (MOA)
25	Loudeen Parsons	Afeale o Vaetofega
26	Marleena Chou-Lee	Samoa Observer
27	Roina Faatauvaavavatau	Samoa Umbrella of NGOs (SUNGO)
28	Rev. Maauga Mota	Samoa Council of Churches (SCC)
29	Justin Locke	UNDP
30	Peniami Leavai	UNDP
31	Deepak Tvipathy	UNDP
32	Meapelo Maiai	UNDP
33	Trevor Saaga	UNDP
34	Diara ----	UNDP
35	Susan Faoagali	UNICEF/UNFPA
36	Susanne Pedersen	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) / Protection Stand-by Capacity project (ProCap)
37	Anne Thurin	OHCHR / ProCap
38	Hezekiah Abuya	OHCHR / ProCap