



**DISASTER MANAGEMENT
OFFICE**

Newsletter 2017

“Equipping the people with information”

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CONTACT DETAILS

TATTE Tel: (685) 67200
Tuana'imato Tel: (685) 997 or 27307
Mulimuu Tel: (685) 20855
Ext. 418, 419
Fax: (685) 23176
Email: dmosamoa@gmail.com

Community Disaster and Climate Risk management Program (CDCRM) July - August



Images of facilitators engaging in training the VRT's. Lepale (lead facilitator) from Disaster Management Office (Top image) Peni from Red Cross (bottom left) Fetalai from DMO (bottom right)

The CDCRM program is designed to strengthen the capacity of communities to better prepare themselves to address and respond to adverse impacts of climate change and disasters. The program encourages communities to take responsibility for their own protection through a process of identifying risks the communities are exposed to, and then formulate appropriate actions which must be implemented in order to mitigate these risks.

Part of the program involves the organizing of each community into Village Response Teams (VRT's) which are then trained by Disaster and Emergency Response Agencies in response actions that are required in times of Disasters.

In the past two months, the Disaster Management Office in collaboration with the Samoa Meteorological Service, Samoa Red Cross Society, Fa'ataua Le Ola, Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Ministry of Health and Samoa Police have carried out the CDCRM program to the villages of:

- Lalovi Mulifanua - 13-14 July
- Fuailoloo Mulifanua- 27-28 July
- Satuimalufilufi Mulifanua- 10-11 August

Implementation of the CDCRM program for these three villages were funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Management (MCDEM).

The program is held for 2 days in each village. On the first day, the village is organized into 10 VRT's which are then trained separately and individually by each relevant Agency (e.g. the First Aid Response Team is trained by the Red Cross while the Rescue/Evacuation Team is trained by the Fire and Emergency Authority). The training is continued through to the second day in the morning, while in the afternoon the Agencies arrange and coordinate a Disaster drill/Simulation so to practice the response of the village in times of Disasters such as Tsunami or Tropical Cyclones.

An evaluation session is held afterwards to address improvements as well as additional response actions needed as part of Lessons learned from the Simulation.

5th UNESCO IOC ICG PTWS Regional Working Group for PICTS for TWS & Pacific Sub Regional Workshop: Reducing the Loss of Lives of School Children from Tsunamis in Asia Pacific



Muliagatele Filomena Nelson (ACEO DMO), Molly Faamanatu Nielsen (Principal DM Officer) with participants of the Pacific Sub- Regional Workshop- Reducing the loss of Lives of Children from Tsunamis in Asia- Pacific through Better Awareness and Preparedness

Muliagatele Filomena Nelson, ACEO-DMO and Molly Faamanatu Nielsen, Principal Disaster Management Officer attended the 5th UNESCO IOC ICG PTWS Regional Working Group for PICTS for TWS meeting and the Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop - Reducing the Loss of Lives of School Children from Tsunamis in Asia-Pacific through Better Awareness and Preparedness in August held at Honiara, Solomon Islands. A series of meetings were held during this period prior to the 4th Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) and the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology.

The 5th UNESCO IOC ICG PTWS Regional Working Group for PICTS for TWS discussed and considered recommendations for improvements to countries in the PICT region for providing end to end tsunami warning and mitigation services.

Report and update on activities implemented to promote and facilitate the tsunami hazard and risk studies, facilitation of training and capacity building, open exchange of data and tsunami awareness and programs within schools and communities.

The Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop - Reducing the Loss of Lives of School Children from Tsunamis in Asia-Pacific through Better Awareness and Preparedness meeting discussed the project designed to help mitigate the impact of tsunamis by enhancing school preparedness in high risk communities in the Asia Pacific region. The envisaged outputs included tsunami evacuation drills based on existing plans are prepared with engagement of schools and local authorities, tsunami evacuation drills for high risk schools are conducted and documented and lessons learnt from tsunami evacuation drills and guidelines for replicating and scaling up are made available and disseminated.

PARTneR & PREP Project Data Management System Training – ‘Implementation of National Management System’ 21st – 22nd August 2017

Following on from the PARTneR Basic Intro to Disaster Risk Management (DRM) & Risk Tools Training and the PARTneR Risk Assessment Data Management Meeting that were held on May 2017, the PARTneR project, in collaboration with the PREP project, conducted a two-day training on the 21st – 22nd August, which focused on introducing tools and systems that can be used to collect, collate and manage all spatial and no-spatial related data sets.

The first day of the training involved a basic introduction for participants to the use of the Quantum Geographical Information System (QGIS) which is a cross-platform free and open-source desktop GIS application that supports viewing, editing, and analysis of geospatial data. Amongst other useful functions, QGIS also enables users to compose and export geographical maps and georeferenced images.



Participants during the first day of training learning how to use the QGIS program.

On the second day of the training, participants were introduced to the Pacific Risk Information System (PacRIS), which is a data repository and one of the largest collections of geospatial information for the PICs. This system was initially developed by SPC and its partners to provide a tool that can improve resilience of Pacific Island Countries by providing technical information needed to make informed decisions about risk of disasters to communities and their assets.

In conjunction with the core objectives of the PARTneR project, the training was designed to equip the participants, whom are stakeholders of the PARTneR project, with the skills and tools to manage, share, and utilize vital data efficiently and effectively to better inform decision-making for present and future development planning DRM projects. The training was attended by several

participants from ten different Ministries and Agencies, whom expressed great appreciation for their newly acquired tools from the training. The training was conducted by colleagues from SPC Fiji and GNS Science NZ.



Participants and trainers for the two-day training pose for a group photo.

Regional Review of Post Disaster Needs Assessment

The Regional Review of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment took place in Suva, Fiji on the 6th – 7th September 2017. Representing Samoa was Iloauala Aumua from the Ministry of Finance and Toai Bartley - Lee from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The workshop brought together all Pacific island members who have had experiences in compiling a post disaster needs assessment in previous disasters and as well as individuals who have done trainings in PDNA, mainly to share experiences, lessons learnt and way forward on how to improve on future PDNA for their respective countries. The review identified, the scope of future activities that may be suitable for Pacific SIDSs, whether they be subject to a PDNA, damage and loss assessment, or a combination of both and more so the issues to be considered in training, awareness, communication and coordination activities needed for assessment purposes.

The workshop outcome presented that there is always a need for continuous fresher trainings on PDNA within government sectors more importantly so that sector members are well versed with what's required in compiling these assessments and as well as the methodology in verifying data, having these continuous trainings will eliminate any misunderstanding during the process will also allow for less time consuming when compiling these assessments.



Participants of the PDNA Review workshop pose for a group photo

DMO joins Samoa Family Health Association for Minimum Initial Services Package training (MISP)

The Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA), in collaboration with IPPF Humanitarian, MOH and DMO delivered a four-day training course on the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises for Service Providers as part of the SPRINT III initiative. Continuing on with our Disaster Risk Management mainstreaming works, the DMO was fortunate to be part of this great activity and gave a presentation on the structure and

processes stipulated in the National Disaster Management Plan which helped steer the course of the workshop throughout the week.

This workshop was aimed at building capacity of the health service providers in delivering lifesaving sexual and reproductive health interventions in the emergency setting. It is a globally recognized course that was developed in collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Inter Agency Working Group.



Participants of the MISP Training group photo

A table top simulation was also conducted on the last day of the workshop to test the participant's knowledge on response processes as well as the communication within their sector and with the National Emergency Operations Centre.

Overall, the workshop proved to be a success with the participants gaining a more in-depth knowledge on the response mechanisms in place for them to utilize in times of disasters.

Lalomauga Rockwall Consultation Phase

September 28th 2017



Toa'i Bartley Lee from DMO presenting to the Lalomauga community

The Ministry through the Water Resources Division and the Disaster Management Office together with the Task team from the Tinai, Gordon & Associates who have successfully been awarded the "Design and Supervision Contract" for Lalomauga River wall conducted a consultation on Thursday 28th September at Lalomauga village bringing together all subject residents residing along the riverbank and all residents of Lalomauga.

The ultimate purpose of this consultation was to discuss with village residents environmental impacts associated with the proposed works when constructing the wall and mainly to overcome any potential issues from the village when the construction phase resumes. The task team included: Asuaso Malaki Iakopo (ACEO – WRD), Toai Bartley – Lee (Principal – DRR), Margaret Rimoni Yoshida and Suluimalo Amataga Penaia (Environmental & Social Scientists), Tuputa Uliate (Civil Engineer TGA), Pelo Posala (Enokati Surveyor) .

DMO FAREWELL ACEO

Colleagues of the Disaster Management Office bid their Farewells to one of the longest serving members of the Ministry on Friday 22nd September.

Muliagatele Filomena Nelson who was the Assistant CEO of the Disaster Management Division has been working for the Ministry for 17 years. She is well known for her excellent



contribution to the Ministry especially her involvement in the establishment of the DMO before it became a separate division within the Ministry.

The Office hosted a gathering to commend the hard work she has contributed and shared within the Ministry. She was given an opportunity for her final remarks and shared one last laugh with the office before she leaves to her new post.

DMO wishes you all the very best on your new post and remembers the impact you have made to our Ministry.

Photo: Muliagatele Filomena Nelson

NEW RECRUIT



NAME: Leasiolagi Faulalo Tupua

DESIGNATION: Disaster Management Officer

Mr. Leasiolagi Faulalo Tupua is currently working as a Disaster Management Officer within the Disaster Management Section. He is responsible for Maintenance of ERN Network and repair, ESN maintenance and repair and will be looking after all electronic equipment's owned by DMO.

Message from the DMO Newsletter Team:

This newsletter is compiled and distributed with the intention to create a channel of communication to keep our readers informed of vital issues concerning the Disaster Management Office and to provide an avenue for your invaluable feedback whether it be queries or suggestions on the information provided and/or required from us. Any feedback that would improve this service is welcomed.

Thank you,

DMO Newsletter Team