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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Samoa – Tsunami

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

October 27, 2009

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 29, a magnitude 8.0 earthquake occurred off the coast of Samoa, 120 miles south of the capital of Apia, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The earthquake generated a tsunami surge that resulted in waves approximately 20 feet high, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- On October 1, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Arnold H. Campbell issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the tsunami. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed \$100,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Apia to the Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS) for the purchase and distribution of relief commodities.
- A USAID/OFDA field officer arrived in Samoa on October 9 to assess needs and facilitate U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance, in consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Apia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	4,500	OCHA – October 22, 2009
Deaths	143	OCHA – October 22, 2009

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Samoa.....\$1,421,010

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of October 24, Government of Samoa (GoS) agencies had assumed responsibility for the health, logistics, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) clusters as part of the transition from emergency response to early recovery activities.
- On October 26, a U.N. Development Program (UNDP)-led multidisciplinary team presented the final Early Recovery Framework to the GoS.

Shelter and Settlements

- GoS and humanitarian agencies agreed on a shelter design, and an initial shelter-building phase to construct houses for 425 extended families that commenced on October 23. A U.N. Human Settlements Program senior advisor on recovery and reconstruction traveled to Samoa during the week of October 26 to monitor and provide recommendations on reconstruction and resettlement.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- On October 22, OCHA reported that sanitation and provision of sufficient clean drinking water to displaced individuals remained a priority. As of October 22, the Samoa Water Authority was delivering water using six 5,000-liter capacity trucks, and Oxfam/New Zealand and the SRCS were preparing a plan to position additional water trucks serving the displaced population. The Samoan Ministry of Health and SRCS were conducting a household education program, which promotes hygiene activities, water conservation, and construction of pit latrines.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$519,000 to non-governmental organization (NGO) partner Samaritan’s Purse to support tsunami relief and recovery efforts. The assistance has provided hand tools, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and water containers to affected populations, as well as community-based tsunami warning systems. USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 under the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society’s (IFRC) emergency appeal for Samoa and a further \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Apia to the GoS for operation of the National Emergency Operations Center, transportation of relief supplies, and disaster risk reduction programming in tsunami-affected villages.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SAMOA FOR TSUNAMI IN FY 2010

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
GoS	Emergency Relief Supplies, Disaster Risk Reduction, Logistics and Transportation	Affected Areas	\$250,000
IFRC	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$250,000
Samaritan's Purse	Emergency Relief Supplies, Disaster Risk Reduction	Upolo Island	\$518,510
SRCS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
Logistics and Transport	Emergency Relief Supplies, including transport	Affected Areas	\$302,500
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,421,010

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 27, 2009.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Samoa may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/