

Early Recovery Needs Assessment

Cluster Inputs

This reporting template has been prepared by the Early Recovery Cluster to seek inputs from other clusters on the early recovery needs and solutions for preparing the Early Recovery Framework. Please use information collated in your sectoral assessments and report in a concise manner.

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3. Summary of Key Impacts and Vulnerabilities

Food security: agriculture, livestock, and artisanal/subsistence fisheries:

The livelihoods' base for the majority of affected households includes subsistence agriculture, backyard pig and poultry production for self-consumption, and artisanal/subsistence fisheries. In addition to tourism, which was the main source of cash income, these activities represent the main pillars of the family food security strategy.

The main plantations of taro, banana, cassava and other root crops are usually located on higher grounds at a relevant distance from the sea. As a result, the damages caused by the tsunami have been in general limited. However, most of the farming tools and equipment has been lost and affected farmers may not be able to carry out essential farming works in the coming weeks. The home gardens around the houses, where breadfruit trees and other fruit trees, some bananas and taros and vegetables were grown, have been totally destroyed by the direct impact of the waves or by the salt accumulated in the soil. These home gardens have a relevant importance for a nutritionally balanced family diet as most of the nutritious foods use to come from there. Finally, large numbers of pigs and poultry have been lost, as well as fishing gears and canoes, so families lost most of the protein sources for their diets. It is not expected that artisanal/subsistence fishing will be revived soon since the reef areas were severely damaged by the tsunami, with accumulation of large quantities of sediment and debris. It will take time for these areas to recover and be again a healthy environment for fish resources.

The human and material losses have also changed the priorities of affected households. The loss of dear ones, the destruction of the houses and all households' goods, and the scale of the disaster, have caused deep trauma. Many victims are not willing to move back to the coastal areas and when land is available, they are considering the option of resettling on higher ground, near their plantations.

In this context, family food security is extremely fragile. Most victims are at the moment relying on external food assistance or moved to live with relatives and/or friends, putting additional pressure on the limited food availability. Restoring the key lost assets essential for food security and enabling rural households to resume food production is an urgent priority.

Note: *detailed qualitative and quantitative information about losses, including cost estimates, will be provided once the data analysis from the Food Security Survey will be completed, probably by Monday 12 October.*

Small-scale commercial fisheries and mariculture:

The small-scale commercial fisheries sector in Samoa is based on longline tuna fishing, trolling and bottom fishing. Tuna and bottom fishing is a major contributor to Samoa's economy. Out of a total of 54 active Alia fishing vessels, 30 are engaged in longline tuna fishing mostly for export purposes and didn't suffer any damage being based in the Apia Fisheries Warf. The other 24 Alia fishing vessels are engaged in trolling and bottom fishing mostly for the local market and are scattered around the islands of Upolu and Savaii. Of these, 12 vessels (50% of the total fleet) have been damaged or destroyed by the tsunami and therefore currently out of commission. As a result, the current fish supply for the local market in Samoa is reduced by approximately 50% (or more if artisanal/subsistence fishing is considered). The total cost for the repair and/or replacement of damaged/destroyed vessels, engines, fishing gear and equipment is estimated at about WST612,500 (approximately US\$241,000). The 12 vessels not damaged have immediately resumed fishing, because these type of fisheries activities are carried out outside the reef area, where the tsunami have not caused any damage. The repair/replacement of lost vessels is an immediate priority, to restore income generating activities and food availability in Samoa.

The Village Community Fisheries Management (VCFM) has been one of major activities of the MAF Fisheries Division (FD) in the sound management and sustainable development of coastal fisheries and aquaculture resources in Samoa, as a model community-based fisheries management practice in the region. Giant clam nursery has been one of key field activities at village community level under the VCFM as an alternative means of income, livelihood and managing their coastal fisheries. The eye observation from the shore was conducted at the giant clam nursery sites and the fish reserve establishments in the southern and south-eastern part of Upolu Island on Monday, 5 October. Since it was not possible to conduct a free dive survey due to limited conditions (lack of water visibility, many and various debris in the water, on-going search and rescue operations), the FD has planned to conduct the detailed field damage assessment at the sites next week as priority.

4. Summary of Available Capacities

- Existing and well established cooperation networks and channels of aid to vulnerable and food insecure rural households in the communities affected by the tsunami.
- Some financial resources are being made available by FAO from ongoing projects to address the most immediate early recovery needs.
- In depth knowledge and work experience in the affected communities, through MAF network of extension and field workers.
- Availability of labor force for agriculture activities needs to be assessed in detail: in certain cases, the human losses would have reduced the labor

available to some families, however in other cases, the loss of employments in the tourist sector would have made more labor force available to agriculture.

5. Overview of key early recovery needs

The most urgent needs identified for the early recovery of agriculture and fisheries sectors and restore food security are:

Food security, agriculture, livestock, and artisanal/subsistence fisheries:

- Rehabilitation/reestablishment of damaged and lost home gardens and plantations to increase food supply for self consumption and reduce dependency on food assistance.
- Restocking of lost small backyard livestock (poultry and pig) to increase availability of proteins for self-consumption.
- Provision of suitable fishing alternatives to artisanal/subsistence fishers who cannot fish within the reef anymore due to tsunami damages.

Small-scale commercial fisheries and mariculture:

- Rehabilitation of damaged Alia fishing vessel fleet, repair/replacement of lost/damaged engines, fishing gear and other equipment to allow for early resumption of fisheries activities to ensure adequate supply to the local market and minimize risk of price increase.
- Training of mechanics to build capacity of repair and maintenance of out-board engines.
- Rehabilitation of damaged giant clam nurseries.

6. Proposed Solutions or Strategies for early recovery

Food security: agriculture, livestock and artisanal/subsistence fisheries:

- Agriculture inputs such as farming tools, seed and planting materials and some agrochemicals should be provided to affected farmers to enable them to rehabilitate or reestablish lost or damaged plantations and home gardens, and to maintain the ones that have not been damaged. When extra labor force and agricultural land is available, especially in the case of resettlement to higher areas, the establishment of new plantations should be supported. Inputs should be sourced as much as possible on the local market, when available. A system to ensure adequate quality control needs to be established.
- Provision of small livestock such as chickens for egg production and pigs, accompanied by startup kits including supplies for pig and poultry pens, feed for the initial period, training and animal health support. As for the above, small livestock could be sourced locally: as the local livestock market is extremely limited, ad hoc information and awareness campaign might be used to facilitate local procurement.
- Inshore Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) have been deployed for village communities in support of artisanal/subsistence fishing at the areas of Falealili (South of Upolu Island) and Aiga i le Tai (Manono Island). The damage

assessment for FADs will be carried out next week. While the reef areas are not suitable for immediate fishing activities, a small-scale fishing around FADs deployed outside reefs could be encouraged if FADs have not been seriously damaged by the Tsunami. Based on preliminary environmental and socioeconomic analysis, the deployment of additional FADs in villages where tsunami damages do not allow anymore fishing inside reefs could be also considered. In this case, adequate supply of canoes/small boats and fishing gear will be required.

Small-scale commercial fisheries and mariculture:

- Private sector grant / credit mechanisms could be activated (via bilateral channels) to support the rehabilitation / replacement of Alia fishing vessels and provision of lost equipment and fishing gear.
- Inputs and technical assistance for the rehabilitation of mariculture activities.

In parallel with Early Recovery activities and interventions, in depth sub-sector assessment need to be carried out to plan medium and long term rehabilitation strategies.

7. Partners interested in supporting early recovery efforts of the Government
FAO remain available to provide all necessary technical support to MAF in the early recovery and medium to long term rehabilitation process. Financial resources have been allocated to meet immediate needs.