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Date: 09 Dec 1991

Samoa Cyclones Val and Wasa Dec 1991 UNDR0 Situation Reports 1-8

UNDR0 91/1841

Samoa Cyclones Val and Wasa Information Report No. 1 9 December 1991

Situation

1. UNDP/UNDR0 resident representative in Apia, Samoa, as well as Chief of UNDR0 South Pacific Programme Office in Suva, Fiji, and Australian Overseas Disaster Response Organization (AODRO) have reported two cyclones moving in Tandem through Central South Pacific over weekend 7/8 December.
2. Tropical cyclone Val hit Western Samoa and remained almost stationary for last 24 hours. Eye of cyclone passed over Savaii and whole Western Samoa has had very destructive winds averaging 90 knots with gusts up to 130 knots.
3. Heavy rain and rough seas, with severe flooding of low-lying areas expected as well as large amount of destruction. Communications limited. Telephone lines and electricity supplies cut off. No deaths reported so far. Faleolo international airport flooded and property damage already reported. Full report to follow.
4. TC Wasa reportedly hit Northern Cook Islands Saturday 7 Dec with sustained winds up to 85 knots near its centre. It is also stationary but intensifying to south of northern coasts and to east of TC Val.

International Assistance

5. New Zealand and Australian govts ready to fly in plastic sheets for temporary shelters and other emergency material.
6. International donor community is requested to be prepared for eventual assistance to affected countries in region.
7. For co-ordination purposes, please inform UNDR0 immediately as indicated below of pledges/contributions (specifying value by item).

= ESSAAFI UNDR0 Geneva +
UNDR0 Telephone No: +41-22-731.02.11

UNDRO Emergency Tel.No. (Outside Working Hours): +41-22-733.20.10

UNDRO Desk Officer: J. Kraml, Ext. 3275

UNDRO Telex: 414242 DRO CH

UNDRO Fax: +41-22.733-56.23

UNDRO Electronic Mail: UNIENET ID UNX008

UNDRO 91/1845

Samoa
Cyclones Val and Wasa
Information Report No. 2
10 December 1991

Situation

1. UNDRO representative reports that tropical Cyclone Val, moving slowly eastward at 5 knots or less, has maintained intensity of 90 knots average wind speed, gusting to 130 knots, with storm-force winds expected within 80 miles of its centre. It was predicted to pass directly over American Samoa at 0600 hours GMT today. It is also likely to affect southern Cook Islands within next 48 hours.
2. All communications with Western and American Samoa are cut.
3. Reports from Canberra confirm serious damage in Western Samoa as far worse than that caused by TC Ofa. In addition to damage to buildings and communications/electricity networks, water available only in certain areas. Only one death reported so far but many injuries.
4. No updated info available on Cyclone Wasa.

International Assistance

5. In addition to info of yesterday, USAID Suva reports that OFDA has established administrative reserve of USD 25,000 for immediate local use and is on stand by to fly in relief supplies.
6. For co-ordination purposes, please inform UNDRO immediately as indicated below of pledges/contributions (specifying value by item).

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UNDRO Telex: 414242 DRO CH

UNDRO Fax: +41-22-733.56.23

UNDRO 91/1855

Samoa
Cyclones Val and Wasa
Information Report No. 3
13 December 1991

Situation

1. All communications with western and American Samoa still cut. UNDRO representative arriving Apia 13 Dec to assist UNDP/UNDRO resident representative assess damage and co-ordinate emergency relief. All following info is based on reports from AODRO and New Zealand Embassy/Suva and Permanent Mission/Geneva.

2. At 19:30 GMT on 11 Dec, TC Val was located at 18.5 s and 165.1 w, or 110 miles West of Palmerston Island.

3. New Zealand Air Force conducted aerial survey on 11 Dec and reports extensive damage on Northern side of Savaii with 90 percent of vegetation stripped, 50 percent of coconut trees flattened, many sections of road washed away, power lines down and housing of all types severely damaged. In Apia many public buildings damaged, post office and library completely destroyed.

4. Number of people killed has risen to 4.

5. Communication links should be restored within few days, but it might take 4 weeks to restore power to Apia. Faleolo Airport now open to military and commercial flights.

National Response

6. Samoan Head of State has declared State of Emergency. National disaster committee met yesterday to assess needs and brief diplomatic representatives. No request for international assistance so far.

International Response

7.

- Australia has provided A.Dlrs 300,000 in initial relief assistance
- British govt pledged 50,000 pds
- French Naval Vessel and New Zealand Fregate with relief supplies on way to W. Samoa.

8. For co-ordination purposes, please inform UNDRO immediately as indicated below of pledges/contributions (specifying value by item).

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UNDRO 91/1869

**Samoa
Cyclones Val and Wasa
Situation Report No. 4
17 December 1991**

Appeal

1. After re-establishing contact with UNDP/UNDRO resident representative in Apia, UNDRO was informed 16 Dec that govt of Western Samoa has officially launched international appeal for Emergency Relief Assistance.

Situation

2. Precise information on damage/needs not yet available but expected to be at our disposal soon with improved internal/ external communications.

3. In 11-13 December Meetings, Various Govt Departments Reported

Following:

- Health:

Twelve (12) deaths confirmed. Water supply very low or non-existent in some areas, incl. Most populated. Concern about water pollution and possible outbreak of disease. Sanitation problems could cause hookworm. Also, threat of pneumonia because of lack of shelter. WHO representative/Apia working closely with MOH.

- Food:

Food supply likely to become major problem within 2 weeks when available fresh food will be consumed. Food relief should be given priority.

- Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry:

Preliminary survey indicates that Val caused serious damage to all crops and agriculture generally. About 60 percent communal fishing boats reported damaged. Preliminary estimates show that TC Val devastated also more than 60 percent of native forest. FAO forestry expert requested to assist govt assess damage and identify remedial action.

- Housing:

95 Percent of Houses on Savaii and 70-80 percent on Upolu damaged. Approx. WS dlr\$ 1 million damage incurred on 46 govt-owned houses. Emergency roof repairs under way.

- Transport:

Damage by sea not so great as by wind. Port facilities therefore not badly affected and operational. Inter-island Ferries working. Shipping service operating normally. Therefore, shipping relief supplies to Samoa and internal transportation not a problem.

- Electricity:

Restoring power to vital areas such as hospital, water supply, commercial centre, fuel depots, etc., in process. However it is estimated that it will take 3-5 months to restore all power lines in country. List of urgently needed material for repair work available.

- Post and Telecommunications:

repairs being carried out. Some telecommunications with Western Samoa expected to be operating 16/17 Dec. Satellite communications will be operational beginning next week. Telephone link (only one line) established between Apia and Salelologa (main port on Savaii). Otherwise, internal telephone links not yet working. PTT estimates total damage at WS dlr\$ 6 million (us dlr\$ 1.12 million)

- Broadcasting:

Considerable damage reported to radio station building and equipment.

National Response

4. National Disaster Committee holding daily meetings with International Donor Community and NGO's. Disaster support organization (DSO) co-ordinating NGO disaster response.

5. Relief supplies being distributed by helicopter to hard-hit areas of Savaii.

United Nations Response

6. UN Disaster Management Team co-ordinating its activity with govt authorities. Also, internal co-ordination between UNDP, UNDRO, FAO and WFP in full swing.

7. UNDRO has allocated USD 25,000 from its emergency fund for provision of temporary shelter and immediate food needs.

International Response

8. United Kingdom: a VC-10 is on standby in Hong Kong with personnel and relief material.
9. International Federation Of Red Cross And Red Crescent (Former League) has allocated SFR 36,000 through its regional delegation and launched appeal to its national societies for material/funds worth SFR 150,000.
10. Medecins Sans Frontieres (Belgique) sending medical team.

Urgent Needs

11. Urgent needs are now for temporary shelter, repairs to utilities, especially water supply, followed by electricity and telecommunications, food and emergency medical assistance.
12. DSO has identified major community needs and has requested following assistance:
 - temporary shelter material
 - water containers (20 litters)
 - lanterns (kero)
 - staple foods (rice, flour, sugar, dried and canned food)
13. For co-ordination purposes, please inform UNDRO immediately as indicated below of pledges/contributions (specifying value by item).

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Samoa
Cyclones Val And Wasa
Situation Report No. 5
20 December 1991

Situation

Following information is based on reports from UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative in Apia and from AODRO:

1. Telecommunications with Western Samoa now much better although lines still congested.
2. Preliminary govt assessment estimates damage at USD 278 million, excluding cost of private property (other than housing) and losses to business/tourism.
3. Survey on Savaii Island (population approx. 45,000) carried out by 5-member donor team incl. UNDR0 representative, indicates that northwest of island was most badly affected, with 90 percent damage to dwellings/buildings. Eastern part sustained 40-50 percent damage. Power, roads, water supply system, telecommunications, forestry and agriculture badly damaged.
4. Damage to other parts of country estimated at 30 percent.

National Response

5. Western Samoan govt working hard to restore services. Most roads on both islands open to all vehicles. Electricity and water gradually being restored in critical areas and generally throughout country. Govt has stopped all exports of taro (country's most important staple root crop) and purchasing it for Samoan Red Cross distribution to most needy.

United Nations Response

6. UNDP has allocated USD 50,000 for local purchase emergency supplies.
7. UN Disaster Management Team (DMT) composed of representatives of UNDP, UNDR0, WHO, UNESCO AND FAO, met 18 Dec and recommended use USD 75,000 (UNDP AND UNDR0 emergency grants) for purchasing rice to replace destroyed high-carbohydrate staples.

International response (since UNDR0 situation report no. 4 of 17 December)

8.
 - Australian govt reports total emergency relief (a. Dlrs 518,510)
 - U.S.A (OFDA) reports further donation in kind and services at USD 64,500
 - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent increased its appeal to S.F. 288,000

Unmet Needs

9. Disaster support organization says building materials will be required in large quantities.
10. Current need for nails, hammers, hand saws, machetes and chain saws.
11. Indications are that emergency situation will be mostly alleviated within next 4 weeks if major donors fulfil their pledges.
12. For co-ordination purposes, please inform UNDRO immediately as indicated below of pledges/contributions (specifying value by item).

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UNDRO 91/1911

Samoa

Cyclones Val and Wasa

27 December 1991

General Situation

Following is based on UNDRO delegate's report on Mission to Samoa and on U.S. AID/OFDA information.

1. Much of Apia business district now has electric power, and untreated water available in parts of capital. Restoration of power/water/telephone service to rest of country expected to take 3-4 months.
2. Roads suffered substantial damage, but road access possible throughout most of Savaii and to all but small area of southeast Upolu.
3. Health experts do not expect outbreak serious disease but foresee possible spread respiratory illness due overcrowding in temporary shelters during current rainy season.

Food

4. TC Val greatly damaged food/commercial crops, particularly taro (main carbohydrate staple and important export crop), banana, breadfruit, and other minor root crops such as yam and taamu.

Damage to bananas and breadfruit estimated over 90 percent. New banana crop will require 6-9 mos. And new breadfruit crop will take 1 year or more.

5. Mature taro being salvaged for local use. Immature taro (1-5 mos. Old) will recover quickly because present weather conditions are excellent and because usual optimum growth period will occur over next 4-5 mos. These taros will mature after 3-4 mos.

6. Some livestock have been lost, but not enough to cause immediate protein imbalance. Present main concern is carbohydrates.

7. Main staple foods (taro, bananas and breadfruit) are heavily supplemented by imports of rice and wheat flour (w. Samoa is a net importer of food, despite its strong subsistence economy).

8. There has been extensive loss of property/belongings. Thus, despite likely increase in food imports by merchants to fill gap, income of local population may not be adequate to meet food needs.

Report of Subcommittee on Food

9. There will be general shortage of fresh foods from now until mid-1992. Hard-hit areas will need great quantities of food supplements for 4-6 mos. Disadvantaged families requiring food supplements over longer period should be identified and tended to by Red Cross and NGO's.

National Response

10. W. Samoa govt has asked UNDP for emergency food relief from WFP, and UNDP/UNDRO concurs with this request. It is proposed that real victims be identified, that criteria for food be clearly stated and that food be provided in an orderly way and first to those most in need.

UN Response

11. As soon as available from NDC food subcommittee, UNDP Apia will communicate food requirements as well as FAO Forester's recommendations to govt re fallen native trees.

12. Donor meeting tentatively decided that UN (through WFP) will provide food while others attend to utilities/infrastructure. With UNDRO/UNDP, donors are also providing food (and temporary shelter) now until WFP aid arrives.

13. In consultation with FAO Apia, UNDP/UNDRO is using its entire USD 75,000 emergency contribution to purchase damaged but mature taro (which could rot if not rapidly utilized) and rice from local/nearby sources. (local purchase fills needs quickly and provides money for circulation in economy.)

International Response

14. List of contributions will be provided in next situation report.

15. For co-ordination purposes, please inform UNDRO immediately as indicated below of pledges/contributions (specifying value by item).

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UNDRO 92/0054

Samoa

Cyclones Val and Wasa

Situation Report No. 7

17 January 1992

General Situation

1. More than a month after cyclone Val, UNDP/UNDRO representative reports repair/restoration essential services continuing unabated on both Upolu and Savaii islands.
2. Water supplies restored. All roads now open although some sections still damaged. Electricity and telephone services restored in many areas.
3. Over 99 percent of school buildings reported damaged, with 70 percent badly affected. Total damage estimated around W.S. tala 30 million (USD 12.7 million).
4. Health conditions satisfactory throughout country.
5. Food considered greatest pressing need. Govt predicts need of supplementary food supplies for next 6 months.

National Response

6. Govt has extended state of emergency another 30 days.
7. Parliament has passed supplementary budget W.S. tala 10.9 million (USD 4.6 million) for restoration essential services and infrastructures.
8. Measures have been introduced to facilitate access to financial resources.

9. UN Response	US DLRS
- FAO allocated funds for rehabilitation agriculture (seeds, small equipment, supplies).	100,000
- UNDP/FAO Regional Forestry Programme assessed devastation forestry sector to	N.S.
- UNDP/FAO Regional Fisheries Programme for South Pacific (in cooperation with Forum Fisheries Agencies and govt) carried out survey on damage to fishing vessels.	N.S.

International Assistance

Recapitulation Of Total Assistance Reported By Donors To UNDRO Since Disaster Occurred		
10. Governments		US Dlr
Australia	Emergency relief (AUS.DLRS. 518,510) 1600 MT Rice (Value AUS.Dlrs. 1 MILLION)	395,800 763,300
Canada	Relief items through W.S Red Cross (value CAN.Dlrs. 30,000)	26,100
Fiji	Funds for relief (WST 77,000)	32,600
Japan	Funds for relief relief goods (value YEN 10,800,000)	100,000 85,700
New Zealand	-Funds for relief (NZ.Dlrs 5 million)	1,476,800
U.K	Equipment (value 100,000 pds) services (value 100,000 pds)	188,000 188,000
U.S.A	TOTAL ASSISTANCE	614,500
11. International And National Organizations		

Australian Catholic Relief	Funds for relief (value AUS.DLRS. 25,000)	19,100
Caritas Germany	Funds for relief (DM 50,000)	32,900
Corps Mondial De Secours	Medical Team	N.S.
IFRC	SFR 100,000 through its regional delegate in Sydney	74,100
South Pacific Forum	WST 31,000 for relief	13,100
United Church Australia	AUS.Dlrs. 20,000 for relief	15,300
World Vision Australia	AUS.Dlrs. 20,000 for relief	15,300
N.S. = not specified uncovered needs		

12. Food and supplementary food still needed in large quantities.

13. Total damage to Tokelau estimated NZ.Dlrs. 725,000 (USD 394,000). Office of Tokelau affairs seeking USD 45,000 to repair its damaged office in Apia.

14. Total damage to Cook Islands infrastructure/crops estimated NZ.Dlrs 1 million (USD 543,500). Cook Islands govt seeking funds for sea-wall repairs.

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UNDRO 92/0213

**Samoa
Cyclones Val and Wasa
Situation Report No. 8
9 March 1992**

1. UNDP/UNDRO representative reports that govt of Western Samoa withdrew emergency status after cyclone Val as of 10 February 92.
2. Contributions reported to UNDRO (Since Sitrep No.7 of 17 Jan92)

		US DLRS
WFP	3,500 MT Emergency Food	1,556,158
Netherlands	Dfl 400,000 For Emergency Assistance	235,300
New Zealand	Total Funds For Relief (Update) NZ Dfls 6 Million	3,384,000

3. Total emergency assistance in cash, kind and services reported to UNDRO has reached US Dfls 7,940,958.

4. This is the last situation report on the emergency caused by cyclone Val.

= Department Of Humanitarian Affairs-UNDRO/Geneva +

DPR 310 SAM '91 (1)

Desk Officer: Jiri Kraml (Ext. 3275)

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