

Disaster Response Experience: TROPICAL CYCLONE EVAN December 2012

Filomena Nelson
ACEO – Disaster Management Office
Government of Samoa



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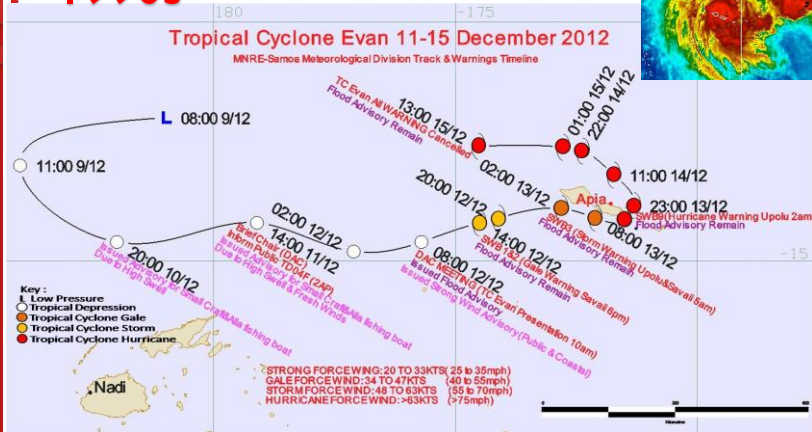
Outline

- Impact
- Response
- Post disaster needs assessment and recovery
- Effects of Evan
- Lessons learnt



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TC Evan.... considered to be the worst since TC Ofa and Val in the 1990s



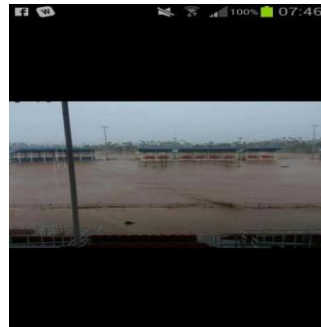
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Flash flood on Dec 13, 2012, as a result of Evan....



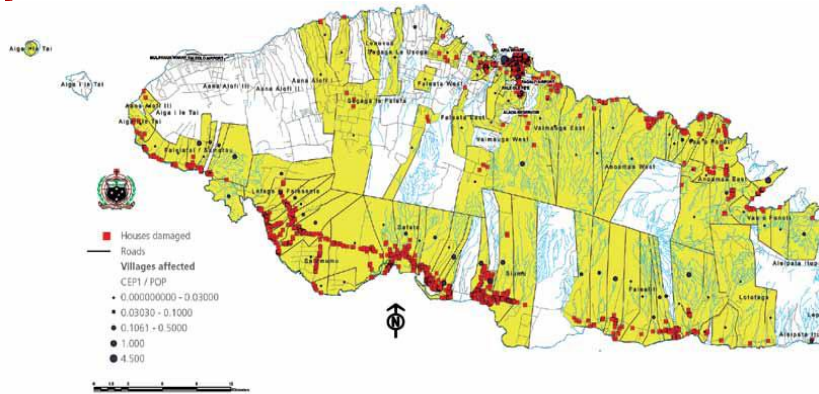
1 day rainfall of 467 mm, with rainfall intensity of 85mm/h, damming of water due to logs, debris, silt etc from landslides,



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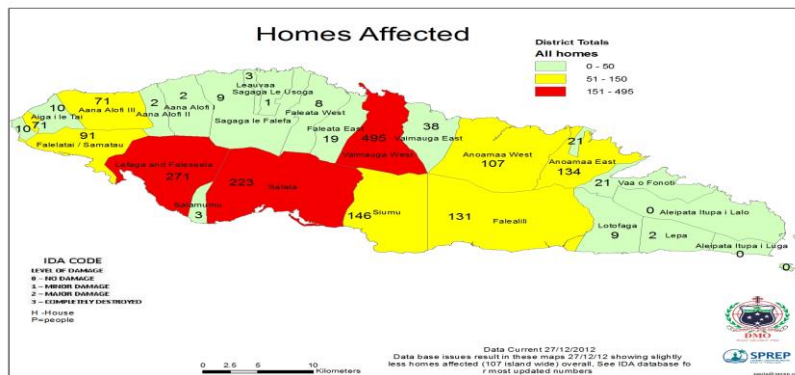
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Affected 22 Districts and 164 villages on Upolu Island, 4 confirmed dead and 10 still missing to date



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Caused damages to residential houses belonging to 2088 households with a total of 14777 individuals



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Response:

- 12 Dec 2012
 - Briefings for response agencies, disaster advisory committee and the national disaster council;
 - Media interviews to explain the system and potential impacts (Meteorology Office)
 - Coordinate tree cutting assistance as requested by families
- 13 Dec 2012
 - National Emergency Operation Centre – activated since 7am, 13 Dec 2012
 - Evacuation of flash flood affected areas
 - Search and rescue in the flood zones and throughout Upolu including travelling public who go stuck in between power polls and live electrical wires
 - DAC meeting
 - Declaration of Disaster for 48 hours
 - Evacuation centre management
 - Update on TC Evan via social media



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Response:

- 14 Dec 2012
 - Evacuation centre management
 - Update on TC Evan via social media
 - Requested PCRAFI to estimate cost of damages and losses
- 15 Dec 2012
 - Initial overview of the impact
 - NDC meeting
 - Proclamation of the State of Emergency for 30 days
 - Initial damage assessment
 - Relief distribution
 - Restoration works begins – water, power, access, communication
 - Coordination of requests for international assistance and communication with international agencies/overseas countries
 - Search and rescue continues to look for the missing



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Response:

- Clearing of debris – 16 contractors to clear the debris from the flood affected area
- Distribution of water to communal tanks, hotels, schools and community halls that were used as evacuation centres
- Activate the use of the NEOC ALERTS system for the affected families to text in their requests for assistance and to report damages
- Activate international volunteers to assist the NEOC in analyzing the information in ALERTS and the social media
- Preparations for the post disaster needs assessment begins (20 Dec 2012)



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Aerial surveillance



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Post disaster needs assessment

- Coordinated by the DAC recovery sub-committee chaired by MoF in collaboration with the Donors including World Bank, ADB, SPC/SOPAC, AusAID, NZAid, EU, US, UN, and others
- Training on PDNA, Damage and Loss Assessment & Social Impact Assessments (SIA)
- Sector focused
- Development of Recovery Framework and Plan



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Effects of TC Evan

- Total effects of Evan = SAT\$465 million (US\$203.9 million)
- Damages – SAT\$235.7 million (US\$103.0 million)
- Losses – SAT\$229.4 million (US\$100.6 million)
- Financial requirements of recovery – SAT\$470 million (US\$206 million)
 - 21% - socioeconomic recovery
 - 60% - infrastructure recovery
 - 19% - disaster risk reduction recovery



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Lessons learned

- Debriefings were undertaken
 - Agency level
 - Sub-committee level
 - First response and initial overview
 - Community welfare and internal displaced persons
 - Early recovery and recovery needs assessment
 - Housing and settlement
 - Donors
 - Disaster Advisory Committee



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Lessons learned

- Initial assessment and detailed assessment forms
- All response agencies, sectors and sub-committees must have disaster plans and SOPs in place
- Proper identification of personnel and vehicles
- SOPs for international assistance to improve coordination
- Strengthen disaster risk management through recovery by enforcing building back better
- Pre-identify representatives from each member agency of sub-committees as focal points and include donors
- Having Statistics as a core member of the NEOC operation
- Shelter management capability
 - Government
 - Villages



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Lessons learned

- Training on NEOC System ALERTS
- Back up power and water supply systems for all government agencies
- Training and capacity building
 - Shelter management
 - Sphere standards
 - PDNA, DaLA & SIA
 - Search and rescue
 - Chainsaw operators
 - Use and maintenance of emergency water supply systems
 - etc



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Lessons learned

- More simulations
- Communication
 - Back up telephone and internet connection for critical services
 - Radio communication
- Working and camping facilities for critical services
- Staff welfare and protection during response
- Community disaster planning
- Relief and financial systems
- Standard rates for hire of services including heavy machinery
- Pre-positioned relief supplies



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Lessons learned

- As a “Disaster Manager”
 - Different disasters bring different challenges
 - Got to be able to make decisions on the spot
 - Provide the right advice at the right time
 - Continuous awareness and public information during and after a disaster event , therefore it is very important to have a media liaison at the NEOC at all times during response is very important
 - Regular liaison with official warning focal point such as Meteorology Office is critical
 - Effective coordination requires regular communication with all response agencies, international organizations/donors, affected communities
 - Ability to deal with different kinds of people
 - Ability to control the situation and any potential situation that may arise from a disaster event



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Perspective on Future Role for NDMOs

- Strengthen disaster risk reduction capability and capacity of NDMOs
- Continue to strengthen disaster management at all levels
- Focus on strengthening the capacity of village communities by replicating the preparedness and response institutional setup at national level but a more simpler version for village communities



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Thank you



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