

SUNGO Newsletter

July - September 2010

The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations Inc.

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VISION

SUNGO - working in partnership with civil society and government to promote sustainable development and quality of life for the people of Samoa.

MISSION

The Umbrella Organisation for Samoan NGOs providing information, programs, opportunities, and advocacy for civil society in Samoa

Have you visited our SUNGO Website? Go to **www.sungo.ws** to keep up to date with the latest news, events and training schedules!

TSUNAMI ANNIVERSARY

The 29th of September, 2010 marked the first anniversary of the tsunami which devastated the south coast of Samoa. It was a day of remembrance and healing, as the whole of Samoa stopped to mourn the loss of lives and homes and to move forward in rebuilding the affected communities. SUNGO National President Vaasilifiti Moelagi Jackson reflected on the events of the day, SUNGO's role in helping Samoa since the tsunami and the lessons which came out of the tragedy.

Ms Jackson spent the day with the affected villages, at ceremonies in the villages of Saleapaga "We were very fortunate to be there." She said. She explained that the day was very emotional, saying, "The general feeling was that they were so thankful, those people who are alive and there are some people who were still traumatised and needed help at the time."

It has been a difficult journey for the families and loved ones of those who passed away in the tragedy, but the past year has seen the physical and spiritual healing of the affected communities. Ms Jackson said, "It was nice to see a lot of smiles, in comparison to 12 months before."

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ASO FAAMANATUINA MO LE TSUNAMI

O le aso 29 Setema /10 sa faamanatuina uma e Samoa le atoaga o le tausaga talu mai le tsunami 29:09:2009. O se aso e toe manatua ai le motusia faafuasei o Mafutaga ma e pele sa toesea ona o lenei mala faalenatura. I lea faamoemoe sa auai atu iai le tamaitai peresitene le susuga ia Vaasilifiti Moelagi Jackson I nisi o nuu sa faapea ona aafia, sa ia molimauina ai e ui lava ina faanoanoa pea nisi ona o le maliu ma le oti, ea sa faapea ona vaaia pea le tausagisagi fiafia ane o ona tagata ma latou faafeiloai faatusatusa atu I le tausaga au tuana'i atu.

FAAAUAU ITULAU 4



Message from the National President

Talofa Lava!

The tsunami anniversary in September was a very moving and emotional event. When I attended the ceremony on the day, I was touched to see people from overseas and from all over Samoa coming to celebrate and share warmth through remembrance of loss. Looking back on this disaster also raised the issue of the Government's response and when John Campbell came to Samoa, this was still fresh in our minds. Yet despite the gaps in some areas of the aid response, Samoa managed to come together with help from overseas and rebuild the country and the spirits of the Samoan people. SUNGO contributed significantly to the relief effort especially through distributing containers from HELP Samoa of the USA. This is a great period for everyone to look back at how they came together and organised long term recovery. SUNGO continues to keep in close touch with MNRE and the government in planning the review of our national disaster plan.

Fa'afetai, manuia le palemene fou soifua!

SUNGO News

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A Visit From Maire Bopp

In August, Pacific Ambassador and campaigner for HIV/Aids, Maire Bopp came to Samoa to present a short film entitled 'Maiinga'. A function was held at Manumea hotel to officially release the film and was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister Misa Telefoni Retzlaff and representatives from various organisations including SUNGO CEO Roina Faatauva'a-Vavatau. The film was a story of two HIV positive individuals who were aware of their diagnosis and decided to start a family. The film raised issues surrounding living with HIV and showed that by taking certain precautions it is possible for HIV positive parents to have children with little to no risk and have a happy, fulfilling life. Maire explains the importance of the film saying, "The issue that they raised, that of having a child – the right to have a child, the ability to have a child that would be safe of HIV today, with all treatment and precautions and the knowledge that we have of this today, was an important piece of information that we needed to be able to share with a wider public."



Maire Bopp with her daughter at Manumea hotel.

Awareness and prevention of HIV/Aids has been a focus for Maire since she herself was diagnosed HIV positive in 1998. She says, "When I was first diagnosed, being 23 and thinking you've got a whole life ahead of you ... all of a sudden, with the HIV diagnosis, it was the opposite. That was it, that was the end right there. When you were ready to fly on your own, you were told that you can't fly anymore."

But activism doesn't take up all of Maire's time; she also has a loving family to think about. Maire's decision to have a child brought with it many fears. She says, "The main one was the risk of passing the virus, the second one is, what would people say of me trying to have a child? The third one would be – what if I am actually not fit and not live long enough and I am leaving her behind." But armed with the right knowledge and the courage to overcome these fears, Maire started a healthy and loving family. She says, "There's nothing better than having a child when you are ready to have one and being able to have one that's healthy and growing well in a caring environment with a partner who has really played a huge role in making sure everything was going to be alright." Maire is proof that a HIV positive person has the ability and the right to lead a normal and fulfilling life, just like any other human being.

In Samoa HIV is an issue we need to address. While there has already been a lot of good work done around the Pacific by campaigners such as Maire, there is still a long way to go. Maire says "I think everyone knows the word HIV/Aids, how much they know of it is where it changes from one place to another... I don't think the information has been received properly many times, which is why people don't have a comprehensive understanding of it." She adds "The challenge for Samoa now is to go back to what are the basics of an HIV response and establish those basics."

ASIASIGA A LE TAMAITAI O MAIRE BOPP

O Aukuso sa faapea ona asiasi mai ai se tasi o tamaitai suafa ia Maire Bopp I le faalauiloaina o se ata tifaga e faaigoa "MAIINGA" o lea ata faapitoa e faatatau I le Aia Tatau o I latou o loo faapea ona aafia I le faamai o le HIV/Aids e ola fiafia ai ma atinae o latou aiga i se siosiomaga mama ma le maloloina. O lea faamoemoe sa faapea ona faataunuuna I le maota talimalo o le Manumea. Sa auai le susuga ia Misa Telefoni sui palemia aemaise le pule sili o le SUNGO le susuga ia Roina Faatauva'a Vavatau.

Samoa First Country To Receive Communication and Advocacy Training

Samoa was the first of 22 country members to receive Communication and Advocacy training from The Pacific Islands Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO). The training, lead by PIANGO communications consultant Debbie Singh, took place on the 7th-8th of September 2010 at the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO) office in Motootua.

The course was designed to up-skill the SUNGO executive committee and senior management and help them to develop a stronger focus for their organisation. It also complemented the organisation's vision of "working in partnership with Government to promote and facilitate unified sustainable development and quality of life for the people of Samoa."

The course was introduced after a needs analysis conducted two years ago identified 22 countries with needs for such training, with Tonga next in line.

SUNGO board member Papalii Dr Viopapa Annandale said, "I think this is such an exciting issue because we tend to ignore the voice of the people ... I don't think we hear enough in the media about the impact of all this development on ordinary people."

SUNGO members were invited to attend a second training session which was held on Thursday the 9th of September 2010. This training will equip SUNGO with the skills needed to provide a strong voice for the Samoan people.



SUNGO members with trainer Debbie Singh and co-trainer Ofusina Toamua-Ieremia.



Board members discussing issues raised in the Advocacy Training.

AVEA SAMOA MA SE ATUNUU UA MUAMUA IAI AOAOGA AUA LE FAALEOINA O MANATU FAAPEA FESOOTAIGA

O lea aoaoga sa faatinoina I ofisa tuai o le Faa-faamalu o Samoa mo faalapopotoga tumaoti (SUNGO) o lea aoaoga sa amataina lea I le aso 7 seia oo atu I lona aso 8 o Setema 2010 ma o le susuga ia Debbie Singh mai le ofisa o le Sosaite mo Faalapopotoga Tumaoti o le Pasefika(PIANGO)sa taitaia lenei aoaoga. O se taimi muamua lea ua faia ai ia aoaoga ma o Samoa foi le atunuu mai le 22 o atunuu ua muamua ona faatino ai nei aoaoga taua.

O le auga o lea aoaoga ina ia faaleleia atili tapenaga o sui o le pulega o le SUNGO ia malosi le leo mo faalapopotoga tumaoti I totonu o si o tatou atunuu aua le faaleoina o manatu, faapea manaoga aua le gasolosolo lelei pea o tiute tauave I totonu o faalapopotoga taitoatasi. Sa auai uma sui o le fono faatonu o le SUNGO. O le aso 9 o Setema sa faapea na valaaulia aloaia ai sui uma o le SUNGO e auai I lea aoaoga aua lava lea sini autu. O lea aoaoga ua tapenaina e le ofisa o le PIANGO ina ia avea I tatou ma leo malosi mo o tatou nuu aemaise tagata taitoatasi.

TSUNAMI ANNIVERSARY

Cont. from front page

One year ago SUNGO was called upon to lead some of the relief efforts. Ms Jackson recalls, “We had a shock when we got asked to take the containers because we didn’t have an organised volunteer service... But I think it was a blessing when we had that mission, the boat that came from the states and asked us for volunteers, that was the first time we organised volunteers and became very successful.”

In total SUNGO helped to distribute seven containers of clothes, food and household items to the affected villages. The staff, board and volunteers worked tirelessly to get the aid to those in need as fast as possible.



SUNGO President, staff and volunteers unpacking the Tsunami relief containers.

Yet even after months of relief efforts, there was still work to be done. The last container in SUNGO’s care was distributed in September 2010 with the help of volunteers. With less pressure to distribute goods hastily SUNGO was able to take the time to collect data in the form of a needs analysis, to ensure families received the things they were still lacking. Ms Jackson said, “We went with the list of what was in the containers and asked them: ‘These are the things that are there, what do you need?’ So when we brought a family, we were able to pack a pack according to their details – their two babies, their two 12 year olds...”

SUNGO also devoted time to working on psycho-social aspects of the relief effort. Ms Jackson explained that after identifying the gaps in that area,

“we started mapping the whole area and then of course the psycho-social was rolled out with very minimum money especially with SUNGO within their budget. But thank god the board met on the same evening and we decided to take \$5000 of the reserve put aside for any emergency.”

It has been a long and difficult year for SUNGO and everyone involved in the tsunami and the relief efforts, yet looking back there is a lot to be proud of. After every tragedy, there are lessons to be learnt from the response to the emergency. Ms Jackson said, “I think what we learnt is the timing of the response should be fast and there should be better planning. There was a lack of well-preparedness, there were some drills, but it was poorly done... One of the requests that I gave on behalf of SUNGO was please change the ad on the television to say – if there is a shake... run! Grab whatever you can and run. Don’t wait for the siren. And ring anything you can or shout.”

ASO FAAMANATUINA MO LE TSUNAMI

I le 12 masina talu ai sa faapea ona valaauina le Ofisa o le SUNGO e ta’ita’ia galuega laveai sa faapea ona latou tufatufaina ai pusa oloa e 7 I aiga na aafia. O ia pusa oloa faamomoli sa faapea ona maua ai lavalava, o meataumafa faapea foi meaafale, ma na galulue ai foi le matou ofisa I le faasoasoina, sa leai se tasi na nonofo lelei I lea aso ona o le fia fesoasoani.

E ui lava ona ua atoa le tausaga talu ona tupu lea faalavelave ma o loo feagai foi Samoa ma nisi o faafitauli faigata ae le mafai ona galo lenei aso I le tala faasolopito o Samoa. I se faatalatalanoaga ma le tamaitai pule sa ia I sana saunoaga “Ia aveia mea e tutupu e toe tepataulai ai Samoa mo le lumanai aua e le gata ai faafitauli o le a aafia ai Samoa ae ia fai ma aoaoga I o tatou tagata, aua lava nei toe ma’umauina se taimi. I taimi o faalavelave pau lava le mea e tataua ona e faamuamua o lou aiga ia saogalemu ma ia tulimatai le taimi, ia e muamua I le taimi ae aua nei e tuai iai. Avea ia mea e tutupu e aoaoina ai tatou uma.

GOOD GOVERNANCE TRAINING



Members working hard at the Good Governance training with trainer Falanika Salevao

The improvement of an organisation or society depends on a great manner of governing. This was the purpose behind the Good Governance training workshop that was held on the 30th August to the 3rd September.

The training was held at the Oloamanu Training Centre at the National University of Samoa and was led by trainer Falanika Salevao. There were a total of 13 participants, 6 females 7 males, made up of a mixture of both staff and board members from different organisations.

The workshop was coordinated by SUNGO and was made possible through funding by AusAID, NZAid and the Government of Samoa.

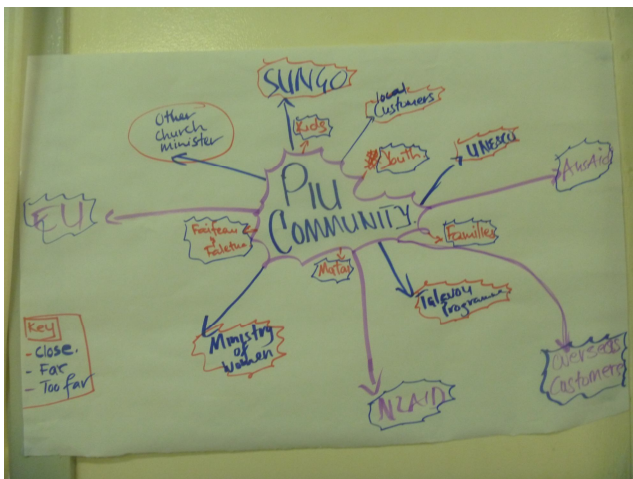
The goal of the training was to improve participants' understanding of the difference between board and management roles so they could transfer that knowledge to their selected NGOs and CBOs.

The main areas covered in this workshop included: principles of organisational governance, accountability and transparency, the specific responsibilities of governing bodies and analysis of board performance.

SUNGO coordinated this training workshop to help develop the governance skills of its member NGOs and CBOs so they could transfer this knowledge to communities around Samoa.

PULEGA LELEI O FAALAPOTOPOTOGA TUMAOTI

O le lelei ose faalapotopotoga e faalagolago lea I le lelei o ona pulega. O lenei aoaoga sa amataliaina I le aso 30 o Aukuso I le aso 3 o Setema 2010. O lenei faamoemoe sa faapea ona faataunuuna I le Oloamanu-Training Center I le Univesete Aoao o Samoa, ma e 13 ona sui auai, 6 tamaitai ae 7 alii. O le susuga ia Falanika Salevao na Avea ma faiaoga o lenei aoaoga.



A mindmap created by participants.

O lenei aoaoga sa faapea ona agalelei mai ai le ofisa o le NZAid faapea le ofisa o le AusAID faapea le Malo o Samoa I le faatupeina o lenei aoaoga taua ae faatautaia lea e le Ofisa o le SUNGO. O le auga ma le faamoemoe na faatu ai lenei aoaoga, ina ia faatumau pea le malosi o pulega lelei o faau-luuluga o faalapotopotoga tumaoti I Samoa aua le alualu I luma ma ia sologa lelei pea pulega ma ia tamaoaiga I manatu ma tomai eseese aua le faatinoina o ona tiute tauave I le lumanai.

*SUNGO would like
to thank our Donors:*

*Faafetai tele i Paaga
a le SUNGO:*



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For
funding
ACT
and
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project

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SUNGO TRAINING WORKSHOPS

July—September

JULY 2010

12 - 16 Jul Title: NSA - Managing a Project MP1 Upolu

Designed to help; develop project proposals, manage and monitor projects, handle and report on finances.

AUGUST 2010

2 - 6 Aug Title: ICTP - Basic Beekeeping

Beekeeping is the cheapest form of livestock farming; this workshop taught the benefits of beekeeping and bee products; how to handle bees, manage hives, extract honey, storage and packaging of honey and processing wax and propolis.

**16 - 20 Aug Title: NSA-Managing Organisations MO2-
Upolu**

This course covered: how committees operate and how to run effective meetings, planning for organisations and effective communications, financial management and accounting financial reports.

SEPTEMBER 2010

30 Aug - 3 Sept Title: ICTP - Good Governance

This course discussed principles of Organisational governance, accountability and transparency. It covered roles and responsibilities of the board and governing bodies, effective meetings and performance analysis.

13 - 17 Sept Title: ICTP - Report Writing

The elements of Report Writing were covered in this course, including styles and structures, audience, planning, and back-up and storage of reports.

20 - 24 Sept Title: NSA - Managing a Project MP2 Upolu

This course taught participants about developing the management capacity and skills of organisations so that they are able to better manage their organisations responsibilities and small projects.

The course was designed and taught in Samoan language with a respect for cultural aspects.



Members at Managing Organisations training.



Basic Beekeeping workshop.