



Initiative on Empowerment
of Civil Society in
Democratic Samoa



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNGO in a collaborative effort with WIBDI delivers the first Consultative Discussion Activity as part of the IOE SAMOA Project.

Lepa Aleipata, Apia, Samoa, 19th July 2024 – Today, the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations – SUNGO in partnership with the Women In Business Development Incorporated – WIBDI, implements the first of eight Consultative Discussion Activities of the IOE Samoa Project, launched in June, through funding from the European Union.

The local community at Lepa and neighbouring villages in the District of Aleipata is the first group of recipients to participate in this consultative discussion to share knowledge and dialogue with WIBDI family networks. Inclusion of youth, equality and people with disabilities is also emphasised. Discussions will focus on the impact of Climate Change, Vulnerabilities and How to engage with government on these issues.

The consultative meeting was officially opened with a word of prayer, by Lepa EFKS Minister, Susuga Reverend Dr. Tavita Maliko.

SUNGO's Chief Executive Officer, Afioga Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia addressed the participants with the significance of the Initiative on Empowerment of Civil Society in Democratic Samoa – IOE Samoa Project, for the communities of Samoa.

SUNGO's Community Trainers, Susuga Lemalu Shirley Auvele Susuga and Saimasi Sootaga will lead the discussions and provide critical information in regards to Climate Change Awareness – defining; What Climate Change is, How it affects our communities, and avenues to link into current government initiatives.

Civil Society Organizations are integral partners of the European Union in the Pacific that work on shared values and visions such as human development, peace and security. IOE Samoa commits to supporting democratic resilience and sustainable development in Samoa.

The IOE SAMOA project focuses on capacity-building workshops, community engagement programs, and policy advocacy. These efforts aim to strengthen the democratic process, enhance transparency, and promote inclusive decision-making at all levels of government in Samoa.

END OF RELEASE

About International IDEA:

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. With a global network, International IDEA provides knowledge, policy development, and advocacy to enhance democratic governance.

About SUNGO:

The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO) is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of NGOs in Samoa, promoting effective governance, and supporting community development initiatives.

About WIBDI:

Women in Business Development Inc. (WIBDI) works to empower women and families in Samoa through sustainable business development, with a focus on organic agriculture and fair-trade practices.

About the European Union:

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU is committed to promoting peace, its values, and the well-being of its citizens. It supports democracy, human rights, and sustainable development worldwide.