



Tropical Cyclone Evan in Samoa

Assessing non-economic losses following extreme events

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Tropical Cyclone Evan in Samoa

- Category 3 cyclone - struck Samoa on 13th December 2012
- Wind speeds of 230 km/hour
- At least five lives lost
- 7,500 people displaced
- Economic loss and damage estimated to be US 210 million
 - approximately 30% of Samoa's GDP in 2011



Response to TC Evan



- Government of Samoa declared a State of Emergency
- Humanitarian assistance sought from development partners
- Post-Disaster Needs Assessment undertaken
- Loss and damage was quantified using the Disaster Loss and Damage (DALA) Methodology



Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

- Focused on economic losses and damages
- Attempted to quantify some non-economic losses and damages such as
 - Cultural heritage
 - Environmental services
 - Psycho-social health
- The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) formed the basis of the Recovery Plan



TC Evan Recovery Plan



- Recovery plan provided medium to long term recovery and rehabilitation support
- Funding for the recovery plan was contributed by bilateral and multilateral donors
- Modalities included budget support and programmatic approaches
- The recovery plan emphasized a 'Build back better' approach



Relocation following TC Evan

- People expressed interest in relocating to less disaster-prone locations during the PDNA
 - “Yes, I would like to relocate, but I am not sure where to go” - Male resident, Falefa
 - “We can’t relocate—this is our land from our ancestors” - Male resident, Siumu West
- Funding for relocation was not included in the recovery plan –the complex social challenge of relocation may contribute to the difficulty to secure funding



Gaps highlighted by TC Evan response



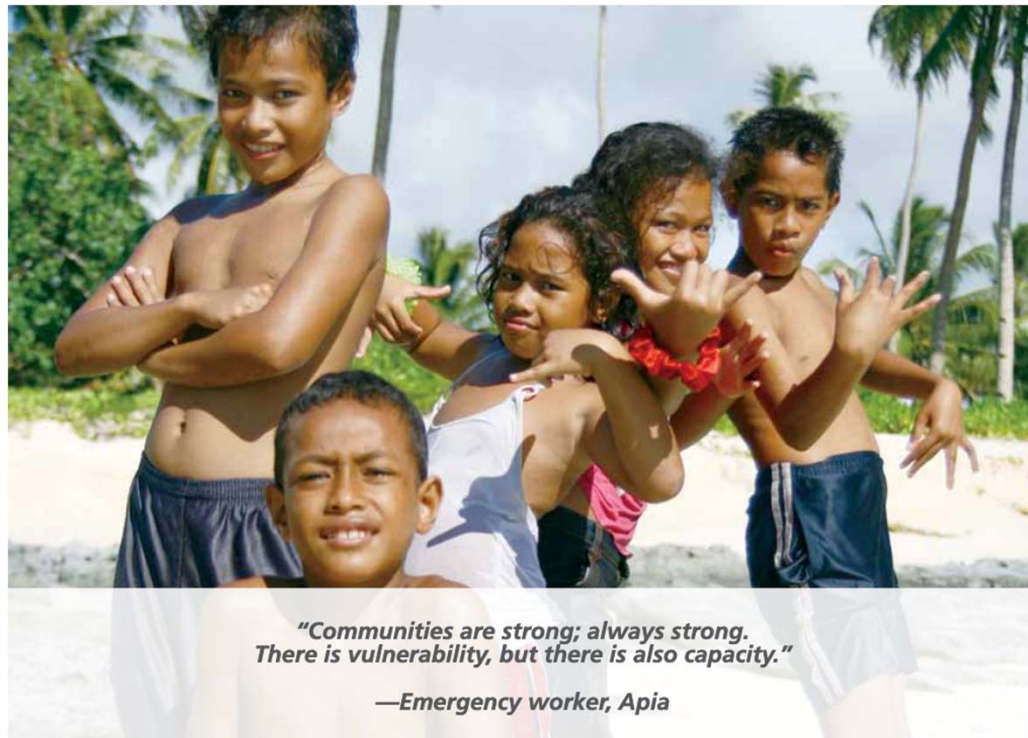
- The recovery funding focused only on physical assets
 - intangible losses or non-economic damages and losses were not funded under the recovery plan
- Policies and funding were not available for communities interested in relocation to reduce future vulnerability
- The compounding impact of slow onset events and extreme events are not captured in a PDNA



Lessons from TC Evan response

- A PDNA is an important process to understand the extent of economic damages
 - integral to the coordination of recovery financing
- More flexible tools are required to capture non-economic losses and damages
- Complex challenges, such as relocation, are difficult to secure funding for after extreme events





*"Communities are strong; always strong.
There is vulnerability, but there is also capacity."*

—Emergency worker, Apia



Thank you

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