



## Media Release

### **UNDP engages with partners to increase delivery of results**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Apia** – The United Nations Development Programme’s Multi Country Office (MCO) in Samoa, met with a wide cross section of development partners on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in an active engagement to better familiarise partners with its work in Samoa. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- i) To enhance accountability and transparency to their constituents,
- ii) To inform development partners of the work of UNDP in the four Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa & Tokelau),
- iii) To obtain feedback from development partners on how UNDP can further improve its performance in both programmatic and operational areas and
- iv) To identify possible areas for closer collaboration and partnerships.

“This initiative is the start of a systematic process to engage and dialogue with various UNDP partners,” states Nileema Noble, UNDP Resident Representative. “Our office has gone through a reform phase to ensure that the way we do our work is more inclusive and that we focus on the poorest and the vulnerable through the human rights based approach.”

The meeting featured the four main areas of focus for UNDP’s work in Samoa viz. 1) Millennium Development Goals; 2) Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); 3) Gender Equality; and 4) Supporting the transition of Samoa to Middle Income Status.

Presentations by senior UNDP personnel on programmes, budgets, human resources and partnerships were all linked to UNDP’s commitment to be more transparent and accountable.

The opportunity was also provided to clients of UNDP projects from communities, civil society organisations and the private sector to provide insights into how UNDP’s work was impacting on communities across the nation. Students from the Vaiala Beach School who were recently involved in a photo and writing project entitled “*Potraits of Resilience*” presented essays which highlighted their perspective on issues of climate change in Samoa. As eleven year old Piliopo Wallwork stated “Even though Samoa is a little dot on the map, I wonder if the bigger countries realise that their pollution is affecting my Samoa.”

The meeting which provided a forum for the UNDP to critically assess the impact its interventions were having on various development sectors was a success for the UNDP as well as for the participants who had the opportunity to articulate comments and recommendations to improve UNDP's delivery of results.

Ms. Nileema Noble remarked that "The meeting highlights that in order to deliver results on the ground, we need to work together with all our partners from community level up to the strategic and policy levels, and together we can make a difference."

The meeting was well attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, non government organisations (NGO), civil society organisations (CSO), Private sector and members of the communities involved in the UNDP projects.

### Images from the UNDP Meeting with Development Partners



Ms Nileema Noble, UNDP Resident Representative / UN Resident Coordinator



Piliopo Wallwork of Vaiala Beach School presenting her story on the effects of Cyclones.



Mr Eddie Wilson of Wilex Packaging, presenting on how the impacts of the UNDP funded Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF) to his box manufacturing business.



Members of the Non Government Organisations, Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners and Clients of UNDP projects



Mr Armstrong Alexis (UNDP Coordinator for Programme & Operations) and Ms Nileema Noble during plenary discussions.