

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **Cyclone Percy: UNDP emergency aid and recovery assistance to Tokelau**

Cyclone Percy caused widespread damages on Tokelau's 3 low lying atolls on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Nukunono, Fakaofu and Atafu endured storm surges, which caused damages to many houses. Some residents needed to be evacuated; and a few injuries have been reported. In addition, schools, bridges and other infrastructures have been damaged. Electrical lines and telephone lines are down. All food crops were destroyed. Equipment and possessions, including shop supplies, have been washed out of sea. A considerable amount of rubbish is waiting to be cleared.

Immediately following the cyclone, Joyce Yu -Resident Representative for UNDP and UN Resident Coordinator for Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau- announced an emergency grant for the most affected atolls. Ms. Yu issued the grant of USD 50,000 on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, February. The grant is intended for humanitarian relief, food, temporary shelters and rebuilding of houses, water supplies, and communications.



In addition to the emergency aid, UNDP announced a long-term assistance to Tokelau in disaster prevention and recovery. In this regard, Ms. Yu announced an additional substantial grant to assist Tokelau with a comprehensive assessment of existing seawalls including the recent damages; and to rehabilitate existing seawalls and build new ones. The grant amounts to USD 310,000.

“This emergency grant and the grant for disaster reduction for the seawalls are a concrete expression of UNDP’s commitment to Tokelau. It is an expanded area of focus for UNDP and we play a central role in the UN system in long-term solutions to disaster.” said Ms. Yu.

In addition to UNDP, other members of the international community have pledged their support to help Tokelau’s most affected areas. In particular, New Zealand’s quick response and interventions have been most welcome.