

The Strengthening Disaster Management and Preparedness (SDMP) project will provide assistance to Tokelau in the preparation of its natural disaster management strategy and plan, including local capacity building at all levels. Additional resources have also been approved by UNDP / Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery for Tokelau to strengthen its seawall structures as a mitigatory action against the destructive forces of storm surges during cyclones. The project includes capacity building for the three atolls and improvement to the communication networks for efficient dissemination of key meteorological information.

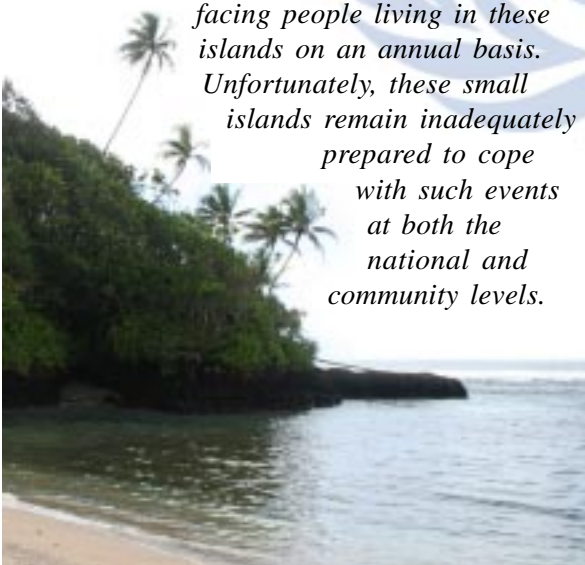
The UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa covers three Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in the South Pacific Polynesian sub-region- the Cook Islands, Niue, and Samoa, and one dependency- Tokelau.

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into National Development Plans in Niue aims at incorporating disaster risk management into national development plans through institutional capacity building activities and policy review. This project provides an enabling environment for Niue to address disaster risk management in an integrated and holistic manner following the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Heta in January 2004.

Funding for Niue is also in the pipeline for strengthening national planning and coordination for natural disaster reduction following the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Heta in January 2004.

In Samoa, cyclone damage and continuing land clearance are major threats to water catchments areas, as well as affecting the ability of remaining rivers to provide quality water. Sustaining the ability of catchment areas to provide adequate quality water will increasingly be a challenge with growing population pressures on water use and the development of land for agriculture.

Mitigating the negative impacts of natural disasters and climate change is of major concern for small and isolated low-lying atolls in the Pacific Region. Winds, heavy rains, flooding, and storm surges brought on by tropical cyclones are some of the most destructive and life-threatening forces facing people living in these islands on an annual basis. Unfortunately, these small islands remain inadequately prepared to cope with such events at both the national and community levels.



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