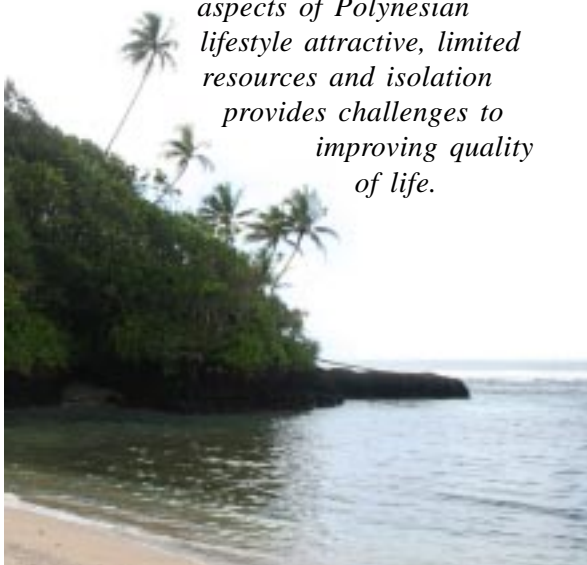


*The UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa is committed to working with Governments in the region and their development partners to increase peoples choices to improve their quality of life.*

Towards A Legacy of Achievement, Versatility and Opportunity through Unity (TALAVOU) is a new UN joint programme focusing on youth development in Samoa. In this joint initiative with the Government of Samoa, UNDP supports youth development through income generation initiatives, capacity building and skills training, and by increasing self-esteem.

Limited employment, high youth suicide, rising incidences of sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancies, and growing crime provide compelling reasons to approach issues affecting young people in a multidisciplinary way. TALAVOU provides the UN with an opportunity to test its capacity to coordinate its development agenda on common concerns with the ultimate goal of achieving the MDGs. Activities sponsored by UNDP and ILO in employment generation will soon be implemented including business incubators in food processing and arts and crafts. This initiative aims to foster entrepreneurship by promoting the efforts of young people.

*While many visitors to the region find aspects of Polynesian lifestyle attractive, limited resources and isolation provides challenges to improving quality of life.*



## MDG 1

*Eradication of extreme poverty: Halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and who live below the national poverty line.*



*Fostering a strong sense of identity and increasing self-esteem are among the aims of the TALAVOU Cultural Group*

The UNDP Country Office will also provide advice to the Government of Samoa on the development of macroeconomic policies aimed at reducing hardship and poverty. National experts, together with advisers from the Regional Centre in Colombo and the Pacific Sub Regional Centre, will provide Samoa with its suggestions and evidenced-based recommendations for sound poverty reduction macroeconomic policy. *The Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction Case Study for Samoa Report* will be launched towards the end of 2006.

Samoa's accession to WTO is expected to result in a more liberalized trading system. UNDP, in partnership with other donors, seeks to build up the capacity of the private sector, particularly those in the rural areas, to live up to its name as the 'engine of growth' for Samoa's economy as stated in its development plan.



*People-centred development*

Promoting the establishment of village enterprises, including training for micro finance and savings, will be one of the main projects for Tokelau. Of interest will be how village enterprises operate in the atoll environment in Tokelau where waste management and sustaining access to limited natural resources are particular concerns. The UNDP supports development initiatives within the parameters of an integrated environment programme.

**UN Volunteers**

Reaching one of the most marginalised groups in society, the UN Volunteers Programme has been undertaking the Empowerment of Rural People with Disabilities (ERPD) project in Samoa funded by the Japan Trust Fund. The project was implemented in 2002-2004 to deliver effective special needs services and to increase the capabilities of people with disabilities to earn income and raise awareness about their needs and potential contributions to society. This programme mobilized 9 international and national United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) to reach parents, teachers and community leaders to improve education and training, home care and livelihoods.



*Agriculture in rural Samoa is still largely subsistence farming although it is common to see stalls on the side of the road selling excess produce to boost family income.*

In 2006, the ERPD project second phase continues its support by extending the activities to include school-age kids with hearing disabilities. Three national UNV special needs teachers and teaching aids have been placed in two pilot schools. This support is important as it provides an ongoing impetus for further assistance to people with disabilities. The project also empowers the hearing impaired with the development of a sign language toolkit.



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