

**Multi-Country UN Consultation workshop and Samoa National Consultation**  
**11-13 December & 14 December 2006**  
**Aggie Grey's Lagoon Beach Resort & Spa, Samoa**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Government and Civil Society representatives from Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as well as UN staff and facilitators packed the Aggie Grey's Lagoon Beach Resort & Spa conference room to attend the UN Multi Country Orientation workshop and Samoa Consultations from December 11-14. The workshop marked a milestone for the UN system in the Pacific and its respective affiliated countries as they come together to discuss areas of national development priorities that the UN can best intervene in terms of its expertise, technical assistance and comparative advantage. Dr. Vili Fuavao, Acting Resident Coordinator for the UN based system in Samoa stated in his opening remarks ... *"This workshop is not meant for us to lecture or teach you" on how to facilitate and to develop your UN country programme (as you know better about your own development). Rather it is an attempt to bring you and us all together as a team to facilitate the development of priorities and how you see the UN could contribute to realizing your priorities need*". The workshop was focused on training the Government focal points and UN Core Team to facilitate and manage their respective national country consultations on the UN country Programmes for 2008-2012 as well as revisiting the UN Pacific Framework for Action with the Government focal points and determining national priorities for UN intervention. National consultations on Samoa's UN Country Programme were held immediately thereafter on December 14 after the 3-day orientation workshop.

## **BACKGROUND**

The UN Pacific Framework for Action has been the product of a series of joint collaboration between the UN System based in Fiji and Samoa covering 14 Pacific Islands Countries<sup>1</sup> after they agreed to jointly develop the Regional United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008-2012 with specific focus on development priorities at the regional level and of the five Pacific Least Developed Countries; Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The preparation of the UN White Paper represented the first stage in a process of consultations with governments, civil societies and development partners on the scope and direction of the Regional Pacific UNDAF 2008-2012.

Comments received on the White Paper were reflected in the UN Pacific Framework for Action, which has been the core document used in the joint UN national consultations with the various Pacific Island countries starting with Samoa in December and continuing with the other countries in early 2007. This is focused at ensuring the alignment of national priorities and development plans of these countries to the UNDAF. It is intended that the feedback from all these consultations will be integrated into the final UNDAF by June 2007.

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<sup>1</sup> Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

Specific expected outcomes / outputs from the workshop included:

- Government focal points and UN Core Team trained and able to facilitate and manage National Country Consultations on the UN Country Programmes for 2008 – 2012
- Clear linkages made between National Sustainable Development Strategies and the UN Pacific Framework for Action
- “Indicative” draft country development strategic framework for UN programme to support national development, focusing on UN areas of comparative advantage and mandate
- Draft Programmes for National Country Consultations on UN programmes for 2008 – 2012
- Draft action plans for National Country Consultations, which are organised and led by the Government focal points with support from the UN Core Team

## **WORKSHOP ACTION**

The workshop started with each country being tasked to present their country’s national development plans and / or priorities, as well as to explore linkages between them and UN goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Framework for Action’s Outcomes. This exercise, which was followed by a presentation on understanding the UN Pacific Framework for Action (UNPFA) showed that most of the development priorities for participating countries were located within the four thematic areas of the UNPFA. It also served to focus attention on the country development priorities that the UN can feasibly support.

Other presentations included UN Reforms and Results based management for the participants’ further information and understanding. Results-based management is a management strategy that focuses on achieving results, and is a key approach used by the UN in order to enhance performance, promote transparency and accountability, and focus on activities and measurements. This was followed by a presentation on Gender as a cross cutting theme as well as a presentation on the programmatic context of the United Nations Pacific Framework for Action aimed to ensure that the participants understand the UN Regional Results Matrix and how it fits with national planning, able to ascertain the logical transition from the Regional Results Matrix to formulating the Country Results Matrices, as well as increasing their capacity for developing Country Results Matrices.

The second day of the workshop focused on programming and facilitation practice, which put into practice the information and tools discussed the previous day. Participants developed draft Country Results Matrices and practiced facilitation in small groups, and further tools were given on mainstreaming gender and on developing indicators for country outputs. This allowed the participants to start small group work on National Country Matrices as well as a enabling a marketplace to share group work as one member of each country-based group remained to present their country’s outputs, while the rest rotated around the room reviewing and giving feedback on the outputs of other groups, posting their comments on sticky notes.

Other presentations for the day conducted by UN specialists included one on Further Development of UNDAF Results Matrices: indicators. The purpose of this session was to build understanding of and the capacity to develop indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the Framework for Action. An indicator is a tool to measure evidence of progress towards or achievement of a result. In UN planning, it is used to track progress towards outputs and outcomes. Indicators can be qualitative or quantitative, as long as they satisfy the criteria for effectiveness.

This was followed by more facilitation practice and more action planning for the countries, and rounding off with final sessions on managing country UN programme consultations as well as country group discussions on “Developing the Country Consultation Programme & Formulating the Plan of Action”. Ms Naheed Haque, Resident Coordinator for the Samoa based UN system officially ended the workshop while participants filled out evaluation forms of the workshop which illustrated the fun-filled atmosphere and success of the workshop.

## **SAMOA NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON UN PROGRAMME 2008-2012**

Immediately after the UN Multi country orientation workshop, which trained government representatives to lead National Consultations for input into UN programming from 2008 – 2012, Samoa held its first national consultations with their respective key partners and stakeholders for this historical event. Since Samoa was the first country to hold its National Consultation, there were many UN and other Pacific Island Government observers attending the consultation to learn from it for their own consultation. The main objectives of the this consultation was:

- **To provide participants with an update on the UN planning process:** until now, governments in the Pacific discussed planning with UN agencies bilaterally; this is now changing due to UN reforms and the need for greater aid effectiveness. This consultation will explain the changing framework for UN assistance.
- **To develop some preliminary National Outputs for the United Nations’ programming in Samoa.**

The Samoa National Consultations kicked off with a presentation on “Realignment & Integration of National priorities. The purpose of this presentation was to present the draft National Outputs that align national priorities with the focus areas of the UN Pacific Framework for Action. The presentation illustrated the process of developing national outputs for United Nations focus that align with regional UN priorities by first identifying where national and regional priorities overlapped or were related, and then mapping the commitments of other donors to identify gaps that could be filled by the United Nations.

Keeping in mind that the UN has limited resources, and focuses mainly on capacity-building and policy development in this region, national outputs were drafted in key areas of overlap that were not already covered by another donor. The next step is for the draft outputs to be validated, altered or entirely revamped by the Government and NGO stakeholders at the consultation meeting and in another planned meeting for late February 2007. A forum by which some very interesting comments arose in the Q&A session:

- **Sport** is very important to the people of Samoa, and can be a valuable tool in development and should be considered in the Framework for Action and the proposed Samoa UN Outputs. For example, sport can be used in combating non-communicable diseases, both directly and through training trainers about disease risk.
- Samoa has surpassed several of the targets set by the **Millennium Development Goals**, but still faces several challenges that are both specified by the MDGs and in other areas not covered by the MDGs, including compulsory education and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases.
- **Non-communicable diseases**, though a pressing issue in Samoa, are targeted by other development partners, and thus the team that drafted the outputs felt it was not necessary for the UN to address it.
- The Government of Samoa is working on building development indicators, with 2005 as a baseline, to measure progress towards its development goals. **Gender is mainstreamed into the indicators** as a cross-cutting issue, and therefore progress towards gender equity will be measured across all the development sectors.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES	OUTPUTS
HEALTH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revised National Policy / Strategy for HIV/AIDS by incorporating in a larger scale STI prevention and treatment.</li> <li>2. Design /implementation of Awareness &amp; Prevention programmes (HIV/AIDS-STI)</li> <li>3. Health Emergencies Preparedness &amp; Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Plan</li> <li>• Supporting systems</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
EDUCATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inclusion of Sexual /Reproductive health in the Education Curriculum</li> <li>2. Reviewed (and enforced?) legislation and policy framework for compulsory primary education up to year 8 (and yr 9-13?)</li> </ol>
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disaster preparedness response at all levels</li> <li>2. Enhanced employment opportunities</li> <li>3. Communities conserving environment for continuing livelihood</li> <li>4. Enhanced access of rural communities to the use of ICT</li> </ol>
PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Established Private Sector Support Facility</li> </ol>
TOURISM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two World Heritage Sites established with Tourism &amp; Cultural Infrastructure Developed</li> <li>2. Community based Eco-tourism promoted</li> </ol>

This was followed by a session where the participants were divided into three groups to discuss and edit, revise, scrap or add to the draft National Outputs. Given the clear need for further discussion and refinement of the draft National Outputs, it was proposed that the consultation process continue in a series of internal consultations early in the new year. The aim would be to present a finalized list of National Outputs to the UN at a high-level consultation on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This timeline would allow for the

UN Country Programme and the Framework for Action to be developed to meet the UN's deadline for submission by the end of March 2007.

The consultation was closed with a word of thanks to all participants, facilitators and organizers, and a recognition of the good discussion that had started and the need to continue the dialogue in January and first quarter of 2007. For evaluation purposes, participants were asked to write one word on a notepad about the way they are feeling, how they felt the day went, or how well they were informed. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, boding well for the next steps in the Samoa National Consultation.