

## **MISSION NOTES**

Location : Koro Island  
Date : 14 March 2016  
Purpose : **Assessment for Debris Clearing**

### **GENERAL**

The community of Koro wants to prioritize the debris clearance activity on their dwelling area, so they can start building houses. In the meetings with community, we were informed that the farming land was not affected by the cyclone, although they have totally lost their crops. The access road to some farm lands have been cleared by Forestry department, so people can start planting very soon.



*Pic.1 Nasau village*

### **FOLLOW UP**

The people in Koro are very enthusiastic and ready to work immediately. The district officer of Koro will have a meeting with all 14 village leaders on Tuesday (15/3) and will decide the four villages that will start the debris clearing. To be able to start the works, several things need to be prepared:

1. The Tools and PPEs must be received by the groups before the kick start of work, including:
  - Wheelbarrows
  - Shovels
  - Gloves
  - Boots
  - Socks
2. UNDP will do the training to the workers before the work commenced. The main issue that needs to be addressed is the safety awareness, considering the massive amount of dangerous material are scattering all over the place such as; roof sheeting, corroded rebar, damage concrete, etc. Also, while doing the debris clean-up, there is a need to also demolish many of the damaged buildings/houses.
3. At the same time, UNDP will also brief the group leaders on the supervision and record keeping.

4. Areas for material dumping must be identified before debris start piling up. The current practice which placing the debris just next to the sea is considered risky both for health and environment issue. The high tide may bring the leachate produce by waste pile into the village, as well as polluting the sea in front.



*Pic.2 Debris being piled next to the sea*

### **HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

The manual work done by the youth/community will have a maximum impact if it is combined with heavy equipment work. The workers should just pile the material just next to their working area and heavy machines will come and collect/dispose it later. It will be very inefficient if people are trying to pile the debris manually.

Currently, the Australian Defense Force (ADF) is putting several heavy machineries in the island to help people clearing the debris and repair the damaged roads. However, the ADF will finish their mission by the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. To speed up the debris clearing process and dispose the rubble/debris in a safe and environmental friendly way, several type of heavy equipment is needed. The ideal machines to do this work are:

- a front loader (950 or similar),
- an excavator (PC 200) and
- 3 – 4 units of dump trucks (6 – 8 m3).

### **FALLEN TREES/LOGS**

It has become apparent that the natural environment in Koro island has been affected greatly by TC Winston. A huge number of trees have fallen. As a result a new issue has risen of fire hazard if people are not aware of the risk of burning. These fallen trees are also inhibiting the replanting of crops as they lay like giant obelisk in all direction. There is a worry that if farmers start burning for clearing of lands. This means not only is the timber being wasted, but it is also a great danger of getting fire out of control.

UNDP will look for partners on turning the massive fallen trees as debris to timber which is urgently needed for construction material. This can be a big resource to help people with rebuilding their houses and at the same time reducing the amount of vegetative debris. This can also be a good opportunity to train local people on the operation of the machines/sawmill and basic carpentry training. This will give additional skill to local people as well as increase opportunity for their livelihood.



*Pic.3 Fallen trees*