

The EU supports the Civil Society in Samoa

Today the European Union has granted €3 000 000 for the support of civil society in Samoa. .

"Through the empowerment of civil society, this programme will significantly contribute in eradicating poverty and hardship in Samoa," said Wiepke Van der Groot, Head of the EU Delegation to Fiji.

The Government of Samoa and NGO's together with EU, have developed the "Civil Society Support Programme". This joint programme takes a holistic approach based on small grants, capacity building and strengthening the voice of civil society organizations in the development process. It is expected that the programme will contribute to empower civil society to improve social and economic situation of communities.

The programme will run for a period of 4 years with a total budget of over EUR 6 000 000, of which the EU will contribute approximately half of the funding

The present programme builds on the past support of the EU to civil society in Samoa, and in particular, on the Micro Project Programme. The central objective of the cooperation between Samoa and the European Union is to reduce and ultimately to eradicate poverty and hardship through sustainable development. Implemented since 1995, the Micro Project Programme has made a major contribution to developing local infrastructure including schools, water supplies, community centres and health facilities in villages throughout Samoa. It has also supported a wide variety of income generation initiatives and has targeted projects which help those less well off in society. Capacity building support included small business training for income generation actions and project management for building community infrastructure.

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