How did Samoa recover from the 2009 Tsunami?

After the tsunami Samoa had a huge job to recover and then rehabilitate.

Whole villages had been wiped out, silt covered everything, there were dead people who needed to be buried and others who were hurt and needed hospital attention.

Septic tanks needed to be repaired to reduce pollution and possible increase of diseases. Camps were set up for survivors who needed shelter mostly on higher ground as people were too afraid to go down near the coast.

The government declared a state of emergency so emergency services began work to help. Schools and businesses were closed and many islanders began the job of rebuilding.

Other countries such as New Zealand and Australia sent help. Medical staff were flown over, fresh water was delivered by NZ army helicopters, individuals flew over to help with the clean up, $2 million was given for the clean up by NZ, search and rescue teams were sent over, water pipelines were repaired, money, food and clothes were donated. Tradespeople such as builders, plumbers and electricians flew over to help rebuild homes.

Over time the emphasis changed from immediate help to rehabilitation. Money was sent to build roads, water pipelines and power lines. New areas for agriculture were established in highland areas and new tourist resorts were built with better emergency escape routes.

Better facilities for hospitals were identified and debris was cleared from villages and beaches.

Overall the island recovered but it took many years to fully rebuild and return to a normal life for local Samoans.