

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOLOMON ISLANDS: EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

Preliminary Appeal
No. MDRSB001
10 April 2007
GLIDE no. [TS-2007-000042-SLB](#)

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 5 to 10 April 2007; Appeal target: CHF 1,118,250 (USD 819,673 or EUR 615,385); Appeal coverage: 48%¹; Outstanding needs: CHF 582,788 (EUR 359,745, USD 479,266) ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Preliminary Emergency Appeal launched on 3 April 2007 for CHF 1,118,250 (USD 819,673 or EUR 615,385) for four months to assist 5,000 beneficiaries. A Final Report is expected by 3 November 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 65,000.



The earthquake and tsunami has affected both young and old alike.

Operational Summary:

Numbers of displaced have reduced to 9,000 people, out of which 1,500 are especially vulnerable. A large portion of the displaced population is still living in the hills in fear of future tsunamis, making access to and communication with them difficult. This population is scattered across an estimated 400 communities. The health and food security situation is reportedly stable, however the livelihoods of surviving families have been severely affected through destroyed fishing boats and some damaged vegetable gardens.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) is taking the lead in the operation, reaching out to remote communities spread out across the affected islands. It has conducted tracing activities and managed to link some people in Gizo to family members in New Zealand. The national society further has successfully distributed 13,500 non-food relief items to recipient communities, providing them with basic supplies needed for survival. Assessments are ongoing and data being analyzed to formulate a revised plan of action and budget that takes into account recovery needs.

¹ The appeal coverage in the attached contributions list has yet to be updated to match actual contributions to the appeal, which is more appropriately placed at 48 percent.

Background

On 2 April at approximately 07:40 hours local time, an earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale struck the western provinces of the Solomon Islands, just off the coast of the mainland of Gizo province, 350 km northwest of the capital Honiara². A succession of aftershocks followed, generating a localized tsunami and several landslides that have been also attributed to heavy rainfall. The combined effect of these disasters has resulted in significant damage and loss of life. According to the national disaster council (NDC), affected areas include Gizo, Simbo, Ranogga, Shortlands, Munda, Noro, Vella la Vella, Kolombangarra and parts of the southern coast of Choiseu. Red Cross sources state that confirmed deaths stand at 35, though unconfirmed reports may raise the death toll to 43.

Operational developments

Aerial surveys have identified the southern coast of Gizo, Simbo island and the central southern coast of Choiseul as the worst hit, according to the national disaster management office. Some villages in the low-lying areas have suffered from the impact of the localized tsunami wave, while villages on more mountainous islands have sustained damages from some landslides (source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report no.8). Frequency of aftershocks has reduced. Ongoing Red Cross assessments however show the extent of the earthquake's impact is lower than initially estimated.



Families are living in makeshift shelters.

Numbers of displaced have reduced to 9,000 people, out of which 1,500 are especially vulnerable. A large portion of the displaced population is still living in the hills in fear of future tsunamis, making access to and communication with them difficult. This population is scattered across an estimated 400 communities.

In the current emergency stage, the health situation is under control. Some reports of diarrhea are emerging, but the scale is not critical enough to raise concerns of mass disease outbreaks. Government surveillance teams are actively monitoring the health situation in camps. The provision of medical services is also manageable, although an influx of patients may arise when the displaced return from the hills. Based on new assessments as reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), it is revealed the Gizo hospital is not as badly damaged as initially expected and may reopen soon.

There are no food shortages at present. With 50 percent of vegetable gardens intact, fresh supplies of vegetables and fruit are available. Sufficient rice is also in store in Gizo. There are some concerns over the lack of protein in the nutritional intake of affected communities however.

However, livelihoods of many have been affected. Significant loss of boats, mostly in the form of dugout canoes, means fishing opportunities are severely reduced, leading to a loss of income for families. In a country that traditionally relies on the export of fish and fish products, other than agriculture and copra/cocoa exports, this has a negative impact on the affected populace. There are some damages to vegetable gardens as a result of landslides.

Needs as identified by the national disaster management office is as follows:

- Priority needs: food, shelter, clothes, medicines, mosquito nets, water tanks, water, trauma counseling, repair and re-supply of damaged clinics, assistance to schools to re-start classes, water and sanitation remote islands.
- Medium to long-term needs:
 - Establish assistance programme to reconstruct houses in destroyed villages

² [Click here](#) for a map on the disaster from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Solomon Islands: Earthquake and Tsunami; Appeal no. MDRSB001; Operations Update no. 2

- Repair Gizo hospital
- Assist communities to obtain materials for making fishing canoes
- Planned transition from response to recovery
- Capacity building for post-disaster communities

Role of government

The government's national disaster management office (NDMO) has been established in Gizo and is working with the United Nations disaster assessment and coordination team to strengthen coordination, assessment and information management through meetings with all stakeholders held twice daily. The NDMO has outlined that the focus of the emergency operation is on stabilizing the situation of survivors, and is advocating for the sharing of resources to optimize available capacities of all agencies involved. To facilitate this process, the NDMO has outlined a management structure for the operation that would address immediate as well as recovery and reconstruction needs of the disaster affected. It is also developing a service delivery plan.

In addition, the NDMO will focus on awareness to inform the public and affected communities that there are no longer risks of further tsunamis and it is safe for them to return from the hills. It will also disseminate information on public sanitation, emergency relief and other appropriate messages.

Federation coordination

Coordination with other agencies is critical to ensure all needs of the affected are covered through the optimization of available resources, facilitated by regular NDMO meetings. Discussions are underway to involve OXFAM and World Vision in relief activities to relieve operational pressure on SIRC. The Federation is sharing information with the UNDAC team, who will undertake a gap analysis over the next two days. Based on current needs, the WFP has decided not to intervene in the emergency. Apart from the national government and the Red Cross, other agencies involved in the operation include the World Vision, OXFAM, UNICEF, NZAID and Global Medics. The French/Casa/Caribou plane is now in Honiara, freighting items three times a day for the next five days. Please refer to [OCHA situation report no.8](#) for details of action taken by other agencies.



The Red Cross provides water containers that assist families in collecting water.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Immediate emergency response phase

Overall Objective: To provide immediate and subsequent short-term recovery support to 1,000 households (5,000 people) in the Solomon Islands through the provision of psycho-social support, health and hygiene promotion, clean well water facility, emergency shelter (tarpaulin including building tools, materials and safer house promotion), food, and basic non-food supplies (hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and water containers).

As mentioned in the Preliminary Appeal (MDRSB001), the operation commits to working in **relief, health and water sanitation, emergency shelter** and **capacity building** sectors in order to reach the objective.

The SIRC is taking the lead in the operation, reaching out to remote communities spread out across the affected islands through its network of branches and volunteers, while the Federation and partner national societies are providing needed assistance, resources and technical support. Significantly, it has been agreed with the UNDAC team that the Red Cross is responsible in overseeing distributions to all affected islands. A SIRC emergency response team has deployed to Gizo to support existing staff.



Solomon Islands Red Cross volunteers talk to communities about their needs.

food items. Distribution of non-food items will be coordinated with other agencies, such as OXFAM, World Vision and Caritas, according to geographical location.

Logistics

To transport and distribute items from Gizo to the remote communities in the outer islands, the SIRC has chartered a large boat for at least the coming week. In support of the SIRC operation, two logisticians seconded from the Australian Red Cross have arrived in Honiara and have set up a logistics hub. The operation is now using the existing logistics set up of the SIRC, with assessments ongoing to determine the need for additional logistics structures.

A plane carrying relief supplies from Malaysia is leaving for Honiara on 11 April, carrying 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 hygiene kits, 1,000 kitchen sets and 20 large family tents. The hygiene kits will be uplifted from the Federation/PMI sub-regional warehouse in Surabaya, Indonesia, which will be replaced at a later date.

Human resources

There are currently ten delegates in Solomon Islands supporting the SIRC in its emergency operation, who are from the Federation secretariat and partner national societies. Seven of them are based in Gizo and three in Honiara. This team support the SIRC in relief distribution, media/information, assessment and coordination. The team is also assisting in the formulation of a detailed plan of action for the operation.

The first start-up team will complete their immediate tasks in Gizo around 15 April, and will leave Solomon Islands by 21 April. A replacement team is urgently needed. Longer-term delegates will be placed in the field according to the needs of the recovery operation.

Appeal revision

The Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) has conducted tracing activities and managed to restore some family links between Gizo and New Zealand. The national society further has successfully distributed 13,500 non-food relief items to recipient communities, providing them with basic supplies needed for survival. All of these items came from SIRC disaster preparedness containers or were procured locally from Honiara. It highlights the value of the disaster preparedness container project supported by the Pacific Appeal 2006-2007 (the latest revised version is [available here](#)), which aims to maintain a level of pre-positioned stock across the region for fast emergency response.

First aid kits are also being despatched to disaster areas from Gizo. Among the non-food items planned for distribution are tools, which the Federation and SIRC are purchasing from Honiara. If items are not available in country, the regional delegation will source the shortfall from local markets in Suva, Fiji.

The SIRC is also distributing food to camps in Gizo to meet the needs, but will hand over this component to the government, which has put in place sufficient structures in the affected locations. The Red Cross will then refocus on ensuring the most vulnerable communities receive basic non-

Solomon Islands: Earthquake and Tsunami; Appeal no. MDRSB001; Operations Update no. 2

Based on ongoing assessments and data, the Federation team is working with the Solomon Islands Red Cross to produce a draft plan of action and budget that considers both emergency and recovery needs. In particular, the longer-term recovery phase will cover the sectors of health, water and sanitation, shelter and capacity building for the national society. The procurement of building tools is also being investigated, as rebuilding is emerging as a priority need that will enable surviving families to recover quickly from the disaster.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Solomon Islands Red Cross: Charles Kelly (secretary general), satellite phone: 8816 3185 0301, email: ckelly_sirc@solomon.com.sb
- Pacific regional delegation in Fiji: Adrienne Gravatt (acting head of delegation), phone: Martin Blackgrove (regional disaster management coordinator), phone (mobile): +679 999 2487; email: Martin.Blackgrove@ifrc.org
- Asia Pacific service centre in Malaysia: Naoki Kokawa (head of the disaster management unit); phone (mobile): +60123751635, email: Naoki.Kokawa@ifrc.org; Igor Dmitryuk (head of the regional logistics unit); phone (mobile): +60122122407, email: Igor.Dmitryuk@ifrc.org.
- Federation secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Jae Ryul Kim (Pacific regional officer), phone: +4122 730 4260; email: JR.Kim@ifrc.org.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Solomon Islands: Earthquake & tsunami

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRSB001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

05/04/2007

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 1,118,250 | | TOTAL COVERAGE |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | | 15.7% |
| CANADIAN - RC | | 100,000 | CAD | 105,000 | 03.04.07 | |
| JAPANESE - RC | | 41,000 | USD | 49,856 | 05.04.07 | |
| NEW ZEALAND - RC | | 10,000 | NZD | 8,700 | 01.04.07 | |
| UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC | | 10,000 | USD | 12,160 | 04.04.07 | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 175,716 | CHF | 15.7% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 0 | CHF | 0.0% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 0 | CHF | |