

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: TSUNAMI & EARTHQUAKE

Appeal No. MDRSB001
Operations Update no. 5
26 September 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. 05; Period covered: 15 June to 28 August 2007; Appeal target: CHF 1,691,977 (USD 1,405,645 or EUR 1,035,011); Appeal coverage: 102%

[\(Click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report with latest income and expenditure\)](#)

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 people.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 65,000.**
- **Revised Emergency Appeal launched on 18 April 2007 for CHF 1,691,977 (USD 1,405,645 or EUR 1,035,011) for nine months to assist 9,000 people.**
- **Operations Update 5 further revises the plan of action and budget to include water and sanitation, in light of the increase in funds available and information gathered during field operations.**

Operational Summary: Led by the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS), Red Cross partners successfully conducted relief distribution activities, with over 37,000 items distributed to more than 1,800 families. Further to this, focus has now been redirected to shelter recovery initiatives that support government plans for permanent shelter. The provincial government has assumed responsibility for all food aid distribution and its assessment of the situation suggests that extensive food aid is no longer needed. In line with the government's development of a rehabilitation strategy for permanent housing, the Red Cross plan of action is being further revised to meet the changing needs that are being identified. The Red Cross is supporting the interim period of shelter construction by providing affected families with essential building tools, technical advice and assistance to communities in procuring local building materials. Since the last update, the appeal has received further financial support. The New Zealand government's donation of over CHF 400,000 has increased funds available significantly, and has allowed for the plan of action to be revised to further incorporate activities including water and sanitation and extended assessment works.



In July the first deliveries of construction tools were dispatched to the western region of Vella La Vella, the most severely affected area on the island.

Background

On 2 April at about 07:40 hour's local time, an earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale struck the Western and Choiseul provinces of the Solomon Islands, just off the coast of Gizo, 350 kilometres northwest of the capital Honiara, causing a localized tsunami. The combined effect of the earthquake and tsunami resulted in significant damage and loss of life. According to the national disaster council (NDC), affected areas include Shortlands, Munda, Noro, Vella la Vella and Kolombangara, with the worst hit being Gizo, Simbo, the western coast of Ranonga and the central-southern coast of Choiseul. The unconfirmed death toll remains at 52, with the number of displaced people remaining at 9,000.

Operational developments

On 5 May 2007, the Solomon Islands minister of home affairs revoked the order made on 3 April 2007 declaring certain areas in the Western and Choiseul provinces to be in a state of disaster¹. Since then, many stakeholders have scaled down their activities. Funds received in June have allowed SIRCS to continue consolidating its plans, and allow it to focus on the medium to longer-term needs.

The national disaster management office (NDMO), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has drafted a permanent shelter strategy which has received Cabinet approval. Shelter and water and sanitation support to the three islands of Choiseul, Vella La Vella and Kolombangara remains as SIRCS's priority. SIRCS has undertaken to ensure that its shelter activities for the medium-term emergency response are tailored for flexibility and to complement the government shelter policy.

Since the completion of the relief distribution stage, it has become apparent that the initial need for a delegation presence in the capitol has been diminished. However, it is noted that a strengthened field office in Gizo would result in considerable benefits to the implementation of activities, through increased resources and proximity with both beneficiaries and the SIRCS teams delivering support.

The Movement is currently represented by a Federation shelter delegate based in Gizo and a French Red Cross programme manager and water and sanitation specialist based in Honiara and Choiseul respectively.

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

1. Overview

The emergency phase saw the distribution of some 37,300 food and non-food items to a total of 1,857 families: Choiseul 499, Kolombangara 297 and Vella La Vella 655. The rest of the targeted families were located on Rendova island and in the Gizo region.

The Federation shelter activities on Kolombangara and Vela La Vella are now fully underway and are expected to be completed by late November 2007. The French Red Cross has joined the SIRCS and the Federation in a coordinated response, focusing on shelter-related activities for central Choiseul island, where they have completed the distribution of tools. Their activities addressing water and sanitation needs within the same communities are expected to be completed by the end of September 2007.

The Federation has devised an assessment and ranking system for damaged houses. This allows for a more accurate comprehension of community needs and the provision of assistance that is directly proportional to the extent of damage. In essence, the damage to houses is categorized as (a) total loss, where the building has been washed away or smashed, (b) collapsed, where the building remains but requires reconstruction or re-stumping, or (c) damaged, where the building can be repaired in situ. A total 'weighted' loss value is then calculated. As a result of such an assessment, the need for materials and tools for the different categories can be more accurately assessed. Furthermore, the data gathered by this assessment method assists the government in designing its shelter rehabilitation response.

¹ NDMO Sitrep 38, 14th May 2007.

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2. Further revisions to the plan of action

Since the last update, the appeal coverage has reached approximately 102 per cent, which has allowed the Federation to review its plan of action and budget. The focus of the appeal for the medium-term continues to be shelter, and as mentioned in the previous update, water and sanitation components are being included, taking into account information gained from assessment works and the activities of other partners in the affected areas. An increased Federation presence in Gizo is planned, with the intention to place an experienced water and sanitation delegate in the office from November 2007.

3. Overall objective:

Targeted beneficiaries have the necessary immediate support to meet their basic needs of non-food items; and recovery support through the provision of shelter.

Number of families targeted for assistance: 1,500 families on Vella Lavella, Kolombangara and Choiseul.

4. Non-food relief items

Objective: Basic household kits composed of tarpaulin, hygiene kit, kitchen set, family kit and water containers for targeted 1,500 households, is provided.

This objective was completed by the end of May as reported in Operations Update no. 04. (List of distribution is reproduced from the update below)

Final distribution phase

	Kitchen sets	Tarps	H/lamps	Hygiene Kits	Bush knives	Water containers	Shampoo	Clothes	Kerosene	Tents
Choiseul	765	407	612	1899	547	84	455	234	37	15
Vella Lavella	940	1155	876	54	371	576	39	9	94	8
Kolombangara	256	145	213		81	17			1	
Rendova	87	0	88	0	57	152	0	0	110	47
Gizo	4	21	8	0	5	0	0	12	16	90
Total	2052	1728	1797	1953	1061	829	494	255	258	160

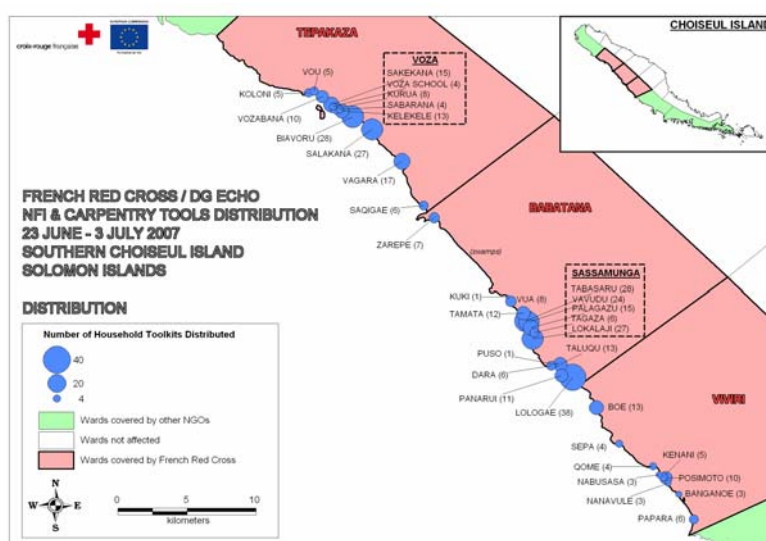
*Gizo and Rendova were added after the completion of distribution activities to the three islands and in consultation with other stakeholders through regular coordination meetings.

5. Shelter

Objective: Selected local construction materials and tools with safer/disaster resilient building knowledge to build 1,500 houses are provided.

The French Red Cross has distributed tools to 35 villages from Koloni to Papara (see map attached), in wards 4, 5 & 6 on Choiseul island. This includes the most affected sectors of the island, (see map insert) using the criteria of eligibility that a village must have at least one destroyed house to be eligible to receive a "Community" toolkit. Chain saws have also been distributed to selected communities.

The Federation shelter response on Kolombangara and Vella La Vella islands has been to design and conduct a detailed damage assessment in every disaster-affected community. This will be followed by the distribution of suitably sized community tools kits and nails, as well as assistance with community timber procurement by training and deploying milling teams.



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At the time of assessment, a memorandum of understanding was signed with community representatives, establishing community ownership of tools, the responsible community caretaker, the extent and limits of milling, etc.

In the initial stages of the process, the community members were consulted extensively in regards to the most suitable tools. A clear trend was established, and this formula has been adopted across all communities.

The Federation has completed the shelter damage assessment on both Kolombangara and Vella La Vella, visiting over 200 communities and assessing more than 1,200 damaged dwellings (See table A). Many communities act as groups and these 'clusters' have been identified as the beneficiary groups.



Sample of hand tools distributed to the affected communities on Vella la Vella.

The distribution of over 5,000 hand tools and approximately 3000 kilogrammes of nails are well under way, with all affected communities on Vella la Vella concluded and completion on Kolombangara anticipated by mid-September 2007 (See table for B).

Milling operations are expected to be completed on both islands by the end of October 2007.

Table A: Communities assessed and damage totals by classification

Island	Total Communities	Total Clusters	Total Loss Dwellings	Collapsed Dwellings	Damaged Dwellings	Total Affected
Vella La Vella	139	50	83	215	740	1038
Kolombangara	74	32	21	70	203	249
					Total	1287

Table B: Total distributions of tool kits and nails, Kolombangara and Vella La Vella

Carpentry Kits	Digging Kits	Demolition Kits	Lifting Kits	Wheelbarrows	Nails
564 (3948 items)	143 (429 items)	95 (380 items)	72 (288 items)	44	2985 kg

Disseminating safer and disaster-resilient building knowledge has the potential to make significant inroads in assisting communities to be better prepared for disasters. The Federation's shelter delegate estimates that as many as 80 per cent of assessed buildings damaged by the earthquake would not have sustained such substantial damages had they had sufficient bracing.

The Federation is supporting a volunteer building team to travel to the majority of community clusters to demonstrate the method of straightening a damaged house and lifting a collapsed house safely. Further to this, the voluntary building team is to also stress the absolute necessity for sub-structures to be adequately braced.

6. Capacity Building of SIRCS

Objective: Capacity building of SIRCS including its branches and volunteers to further enhance the national society's capacity to respond to future disasters.

Capacity-building efforts continue to focus in Gizo in both repairs to the Gizo branch and increasing the skills of staff and volunteers. Efforts include essential repairs to the water and sanitation facilities.

With the regular involvement of up to 30 volunteers forming assessment, supply, milling and distribution teams, training and methods are being developed to manage, schedule and support the field work. Branch staff and

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volunteers are taking on increasing responsibility. The rehabilitation of the old SIRCS headquarters in Honiara into a temporary operations centre for the Federation and French Red Cross during the recovery stage has been completed. The building, no longer required by the international Movement members, has been returned to SIRCS and is expected to become an income generation project for the national society.

Some minor upgrade works to support the accounting department of the SIRCS national office continue.

Capacity of the National Society

The lessons learnt process reported in the previous update stated that scale of the disaster severely stretched the resources of the national society. The commendable role that the SIRCS held during the emergency phase has been recognized by the government agencies and other stakeholders with which it interacted. It has been established that its human resource capacity exceeded its capacity to provide relief items in the first weeks of response and the national society has identified the need to review the amount of pre-positioned stock held in-country. It must be noted that the identification of further assessment of disaster preparedness stock in lieu of such occasions is due to the Pacific container project in place, supported by the Japanese and Australian Red Cross.

The Gizo branch, staffed by a branch officer and a team of 20 core volunteers, and the epicentre for the affected area and the Red Cross response, operates from a small office. The branch has been the focal point for short-term capacity building as mentioned above. It will continue to receive further support to ensure that, as one of the most vulnerable regions of the Solomon Islands, it has an improved ability to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Federation Coordination and Support

SIRCS is supported by the Federation and French Red Cross in facilitating Movement operations in the affected areas. A Federation technical shelter delegate is based in the field at Gizo. The revised plan of action will see the presence of the Federation in the Honiara downgraded and refocused to the field operation office in Gizo. The Gizo operations office will be strengthened by the deployment of an additional delegate with water and sanitation capacity. To date, a total of 13 staff from various national societies have worked in the operation at different times, including those from the Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Tonga and Vanuatu. Areas of activity include field assessment and coordination, disaster management, health, logistics, media, relief, shelter and water and sanitation. The field teams have been further supported by the Federation secretariat, regional delegation and Asia Pacific service centre. These human resources have been acknowledged by SIRCS as significant value, seeing as the disaster created its own set of human resource capacity issues for the national society.

The Federation and SIRCS also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the French Red Cross who has stationed a two-member team to supervise their ECHO-supported response activities as detailed above.

As mentioned, the government's national disaster council had initially placed the Solomon Islands Red Cross in charge of distribution to all affected areas. This was later revised to include all stakeholders who agreed to focus on the following geographical areas: World Vision would be responsible for Simbo and Ranonga, Caritas for Shortlands and the northern tip of Choiseul and Oxfam for Gizo. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement will serve the communities in Vella La Vella, Kolombangara and Choiseul. The NDMO, supported with UNDP technical assistance, established a shelter stakeholders group in Honiara who met regularly until mid-June. The group was made up of World Vision, Oxfam, Caritas, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), French Red Cross, SIRCS and the Federation. With the information forum dismantled, the Red Cross is continuing to ensure that communication lines are kept open, especially at the provincial level, with a weekly stakeholders meeting chaired by the provincial secretary in his capacity as chair of the national disaster committee.

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: Frank Kennedy (head of delegation), Martin Blackgrove (disaster management coordinator), phone: +679 3311855; fax: +679 3311406; email: frank.kennedy@ifrc.org or martin.blackgrove@ifrc.org
- Federation secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Jae Ryul Kim (Pacific regional officer), phone: +4122 730 4260; email: jr.kim@ifrc.org.

[*Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page.*](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSB001 - SOLOMON ISLANDS - EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/8
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRSB001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		1,691,977				1,691,977
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross		60,800				60,800
Australian Red Cross		263,622				263,622
Australia - Private Donors		4,926				4,926
Canadian Red Cross		210,000				210,000
Finnish Red Cross		81,000				81,000
Hong Kong Red Cross		3,696				3,696
Icelandic Red Cross		18,979				18,979
Japanese Government		242,000				242,000
Japanese Red Cross		86,353				86,353
Kuwait - Private Donors		1,321				1,321
Liechtenstein Red Cross		500				500
Monaco Red Cross		27,880				27,880
New Zealand Government		419,369				419,369
New Zealand Red Cross		57,357				57,357
On Line donations		12,620				12,620
Swedish Red Cross		88,650				88,650
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent		12,142				12,142
C1. Cash contributions		1,591,213				1,591,213
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross		0				0
Austrian Government		82,200				82,200
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		82,200				82,200
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Other		47,647				47,647
C5. Inkind Personnel		47,647				47,647
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		1,721,060				1,721,060
D. Total Funding = B + C		1,721,060				1,721,060

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		1,721,060				1,721,060
E. Expenditure		-860,814				-860,814
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		860,246				860,246

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MDRSB001 - SOLOMON ISLANDS - EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/8
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRSB001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,691,977					1,691,977	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	473,000		26,626			26,626	446,374	
Shelter - Transitional			341			341	-341	
Construction - Housing			60,733			60,733	-60,733	
Construction Materials	184,900		4,790			4,790	180,110	
Clothing & textiles	1,537		2,440			2,440	-903	
Food	93,050		3,819			3,819	89,231	
Medical & First Aid			493			493	-493	
Utensils & Tools	17,000		96,448			96,448	-79,448	
Other Supplies & Services	149,000		54,743			54,743	94,257	
Total Supplies	918,487		250,432			250,432	668,055	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	6,000						6,000	
Computers & Telecom	9,000		1,499			1,499	7,501	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	10,000						10,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	25,000		1,499			1,499	23,501	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,300		1,218			1,218	82	
Distribution & Monitoring	299,290		282,549			282,549	16,741	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,700		17,648			17,648	-8,948	
Total Transport & Storage	309,290		301,416			301,416	7,874	
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	216,000		61,824			61,824	154,176	
National Staff	15,000		7,483			7,483	7,517	
National Society Staff	63,500		17,062			17,062	46,438	
Consultants			2,454			2,454	-2,454	
Total Personnel Expenditures	294,500		88,822			88,822	205,678	
General Expenditure								
Travel	8,740		58,674			58,674	-49,934	
Information & Public Relation			310			310	-310	
Office Costs	13,000		13,615			13,615	-615	
Communications	12,982		16,659			16,659	-3,678	
Professional Fees			3			3	-3	
Financial Charges			4,125			4,125	-4,125	
Total General Expenditure	34,722		93,386			93,386	-58,664	
Program Support								
Program Support	109,979		55,752			55,752	54,227	
Total Program Support	109,979		55,752			55,752	54,227	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			69,508			69,508	-69,508	
Total Operational Provisions			69,508			69,508	-69,508	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,691,977		860,814			860,814	831,163	
VARIANCE (C - D)			831,163			831,163		