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Information Bulletin

Australia: Tropical Cyclone Oswald/Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

Summary

Tropical Cyclone Oswald crossed the north-east coast of Australia on 21 January 2013, dumping torrential rain on coastal areas of Queensland. The storm moved south during the weekend of 26-28 January, and it brought widespread heavy rain and localized flash flooding to north New South Wales. Flooding in areas of Queensland is the worst the state has ever experienced, devastating thousands of people and claiming six lives.

Australian Red Cross personnel are providing psychosocial support, managing evacuation and recovery centres, and assisting people who have left their homes to be reunited with their friends and family. They have also partnered with the Queensland government to launch a national appeal to directly provide assistance to individuals, families and communities affected by the floods.



Australian Red Cross volunteer, Diane Sanders, organizes a ticket waiting system at Ipswich, Queensland for people seeking help after floods had damaged their homes.

The situation

Tropical Cyclone Oswald caused destruction along the Queensland and New South Wales coasts with damaging winds, heavy rain, flooding, tidal surges and tornados, affecting thousands of people.

As the flood waters recede, the massive extent of the damage is becoming clear with thousands of homes, businesses, roads, bridges and services inundated. Six people have died in the flood crisis.

Many Queensland residents are dealing with catastrophic flooding for the second time in two years. Impact from these floods comes as many people are still recovering and rebuilding their lives after the destructive Queensland floods in 2010/2011.

Bundaberg and the surrounding area in Queensland have been badly hit with flood levels rising devastatingly higher than in 2010/2011 floods. Authorities are estimating more than 7,500 people have been affected and 3,000 homes flooded.

Australians are donating generously to the Queensland Floods Appeal 2013, established in partnership with Queensland government, to provide assistance to individuals, families and communities directly affected by the floods, tornados and storm damage, but more assistance is still needed given the number of people and communities affected.

Red Cross response

Working closely with local councils, Australian Red Cross is mobilizing recovery support for the communities affected by the devastating floods.

“This is a particularly distressing time for the people, as they won’t know the extent of damage to their homes until the floods pass through,” says Matthew Cox, Australian Red Cross Acting Executive Director in Queensland. “Coming so soon after the 2010/11 floods, this is a heavy blow for many communities.”

Trained staff and volunteers are providing personal support, knocking on doors in flood-affected areas to make sure people have the support and resources they need. Volunteers are also providing information and support at recovery centres across Queensland.

More than 100 Australian Red Cross trained staff and volunteers have provided a safe place to stay and personal support to thousands of people in more than 15 evacuation and recovery centres along the Queensland and New South Wales coast.

Australian Red Cross is operating the National Registration and Inquiry System to assist people who have left their homes to reunite with their friends and family. People are encouraged to register with Red Cross volunteers at an evacuation centre or online at www.redcross.org.au.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

Australian Red Cross: NCC Planning Officer, email: nccplanning@redcross.org.au.

IFRC Zone: Operations Coordinator, Christine Strater; office phone: +60 3 9207 5814; mobile phone: +6 012 213 0149; email: christine.strater@ifrc.org.

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How we work

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

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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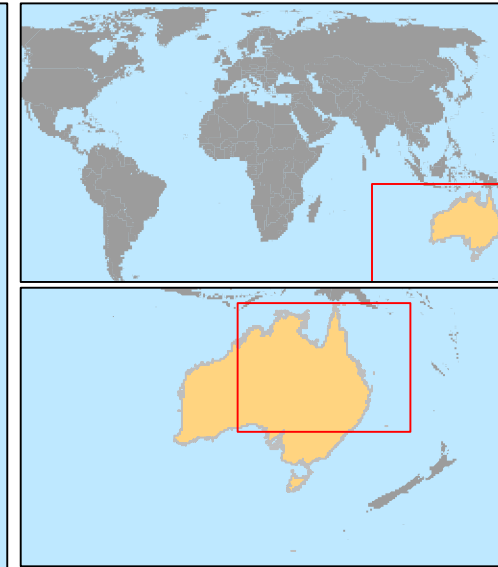
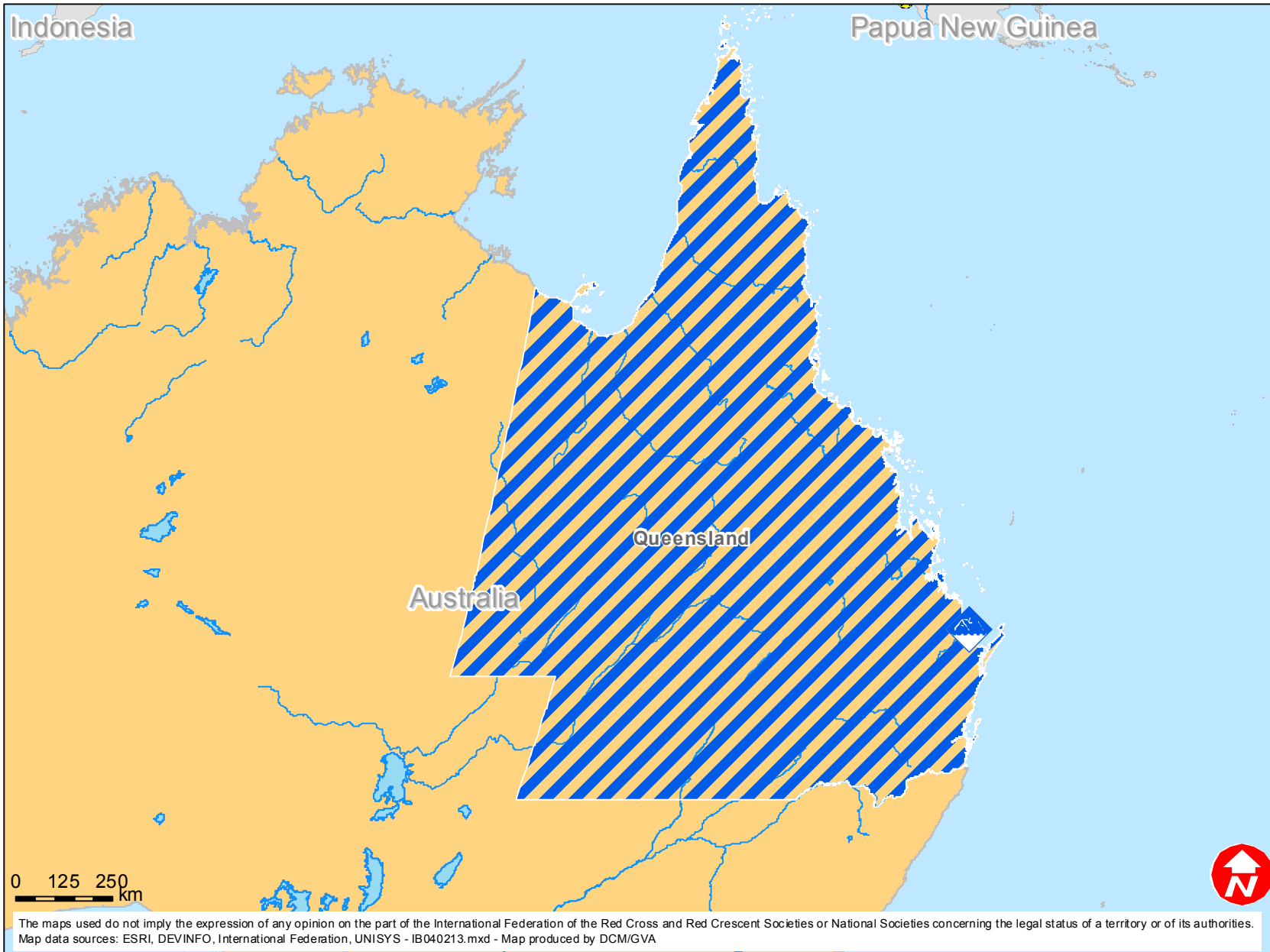


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



Australia: Floods



Bundaberg



Affected State