

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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 RESPONSE

Preliminary Appeal
no. MDRSB001
(GLIDE no. TS-2007-00042-
SLB)
3 April 2007

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

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL, ISSUED ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, SEEKS CHF 1,118,250 (USD 819,673 OR EUR 615,385) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 5,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR FOUR MONTHS

[<click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

CHF 65,000 (USD 53,000/EUR 40,000) WAS ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS IN THIS OPERATION, OR TO REPLENISH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS STOCKS DISTRIBUTED TO THE AFFECTED POPULATION.

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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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The situation

On 2 April 2007 at approximately 07:40 hours local time, an earthquake measuring 8.2 on the Richter scale struck the Western Provinces of the Solomon Islands, just off the coast of the main island of Gizo Province and 350 km northwest of the capital Honiara. One quarter of an hour later, to the north of the initial quake site, eight more earthquakes of slightly smaller magnitude occurred, resulting in a localized tsunami. Several islands in the Solomon chain thus suffered both quake and tsunami damage (particularly those in low lying seaside areas). In Gizo town, the province capital, the local Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) branch indicated that at least 13 people had been reported dead on Gizo, and 2,000 people (about 10% of the population) were made homeless, and there was widespread damage to infrastructure. OXFAM reports that more than 500 houses were damaged in Gizo town and other infrastructure affected included the town hospital. OXFAM also reported that that it is likely that large parts of South West Choiseul were affected, with 15 houses reportedly swept away in Simbo. Agence France Presse (AFP) published unconfirmed reports of a death toll of 24, with 916 houses destroyed and 5,409 people affected by the disaster. Reports from OCHA indicated that the tsunami also hit parts of Papua New Guinea, including Rossel Island (Milne Bay Province), Kang Wharf in South Bougainville. However no fatalities or injuries were reported.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 65,000 (USD 53,000/EUR 40,000) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the immediate response to the tsunami, particularly focusing on assessments, and purchasing and shipping relief supplies.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC), with the help of trained volunteers, responded immediately after the disaster struck by carrying out early assessments and distributing relief goods to people made homeless by the disaster on the island of Gizo. Emergency supplies, including hurricane lamps, blankets, tarpaulins and cooking sets, which were stored in a small Red Cross warehouse in Gizo, have now been exhausted. The SIRC headquarters in Honiara has sent additional supplies to Gizo via a government patrol boat.

The SIRC has identified that fresh water is in short supply in some areas, while temporary, localized food shortages have also been reported. Some of the affected areas are very isolated, and can only be reached by boat. Gizo's airfield is reportedly still functioning, but debris needed to be cleared from the runway before it became fully operational. An aerial assessment was planned to be carried out by government officials, as well as a Red Cross expert, late on Monday to examine the damage.

The International Federation is sending a team of disaster management experts to the Solomon Islands to assist the SIRC in meeting the immediate and longer term needs of the survivors. The five-person team is due to arrive on Wednesday, 4 April.

The New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) is sending 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 water containers of 20 litres capacity and 100 kitchen kits with the help of a C130 military aircraft. In addition they are prepared to release further relief supplies from their emergency stocks if required.

In Papua New Guinea, the local Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) is also following up reports on damage in seaside areas of Bougainville, which borders the northern islands of the Solomons. The aerial survey of disaster areas has been completed, and updates are expected shortly.

The SIRC is the only humanitarian organization in the country's western provinces that has the capacity to simultaneously carry out detailed assessments and distribute relief assistance. Red Cross national societies in the region have pre-positioned satellite phones in case of emergencies such as this. Red Cross headquarters has been using the system to relay information to the International Federation's regional office in Suva. They have also been using the local HF radio network to keep in touch with their Red Cross branches, although some affected places are so remote that no communication has been possible. Based on initial reports and assessments, the Federation anticipates the need to immediately respond to massive relief requirements for approximately 3 months, with considerable longer-term rehabilitation needs thereafter.

The needs

Immediate needs: Based on the latest information from the field, the immediate needs are for food, emergency shelter, and the provision of basic relief items, including clean water. Considerable amounts of these supplies are either located in pre-position stocks or can be procured locally or regionally.

Longer-term needs: Subject to the results of detailed assessments being carried out, it is expected that the needs will include:

- psycho-social support to the affected population.
- support to clean water wells, including hygiene promotion.
- building tools and materials including safer house promotion to support shelter rehabilitation; and
- livelihood provision (i.e. providing fishing nets) at the post-emergency and the early stage of recovery.

Coordination: The International Federation, and the Partner National Societies (PNSs) are providing support to strengthen the emergency response/ preparedness capabilities of the Solomon Red Cross, and is collaborating with governmental, UN and other humanitarian agencies in this emergency response operation.

The proposed operation

Objectives and activities planned

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).

Relief (food and non-food items) activities planned to reach the objective:

- Door-to-door assessment.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Mobilize relief supplies from pre-positioned stocks.
- Additional local / regional procurement, transport, and emergency storage.
- Distribution, with follow-up monitoring and coordination.

Health and watsan activities planned to reach the objective:

- Psychological support programme (PSP) to the traumatized population.
- Mass awareness on health hygiene promotion.
- To provide emergency health care to those affected.
- Cleaning water wells.
- Door-to-door assessment; beneficiary registration and procurement of cleaning tools.
- Distribution, with follow-up monitoring and coordination.

Emergency shelter activities planned to reach the objective:

- Door-to-door assessment.
- Beneficiary registration.
- Local / regional procurement, transport, and emergency storage of building tools and materials (shelter kit).
- Distribution, with follow-up monitoring and coordination.
- Promotion of safer housing (this will form part of the ongoing assessment phase).

Activities planned to reach the capacity building objective for the SIRC's Gizo branch, and the national society in general.

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- Assessment and SWOT analysis.
- Human resource development including volunteer management.
- Office equipment and supply as necessary to re-strengthen well functional and well prepared initiatives.
- Replenishment of pre-position stock.
- Contingency planning including risk mapping.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. Communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and the cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Communications activities undertaken in this appeal are aimed at supporting the SIRC to improve their communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. An initial communications budget of CHF 10,000 is sought to fund these activities. A detailed communications plan of action is forthcoming.

Capacity of the National Society

The SIRC has some of the best DM staff in the Pacific, with one United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) trained staff, one RDRT trained staff, and an excellent disaster management officer. In addition, there is a strong core of First Aid trainers and volunteers who have received branch level emergency assessment/response training. The SIRC has also benefited from the presence of three technical advisors from the Australian Red Cross in the past 5 years. In addition, the SIRC has strong senior leadership and a supportive Board of Directors. It is a well-respected organisation within the Solomon Islands. While this disaster has stretched their resources to the limit, they have responded quickly and efficiently. With additional external support, it is expected that the SIRC will have the capacity to expand and improve on their current support and services to the affected population.

Capacity of the Federation

While the Federation's Pacific Regional Delegation in Suva, Fiji, has undergone significant staff changes in the last few months and the departure of external staff from the country Delegation in Papua New Guinea, the current team in the Regional Delegation remains strong with experienced local staff, and can, in the short term, manage the support to SIRC. In addition, the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) for Asia Pacific, based in Kuala Lumpur, is providing full support in terms of overall operational direction including assessment, planning, implementation and coordination/ follow – up and monitoring aspects.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring will be accomplished through regular reporting and daily work of the delegates and their counterparts. The operation will be regularly monitored by the national societies and the Federation delegation's in the field. Operational activities will be reflected in the standard Federation operation updates and a final report, including a financial chart, will be produced by the Federation within 90 days of the appeal's conclusion. No separate evaluation is planned at this time.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Preliminary Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

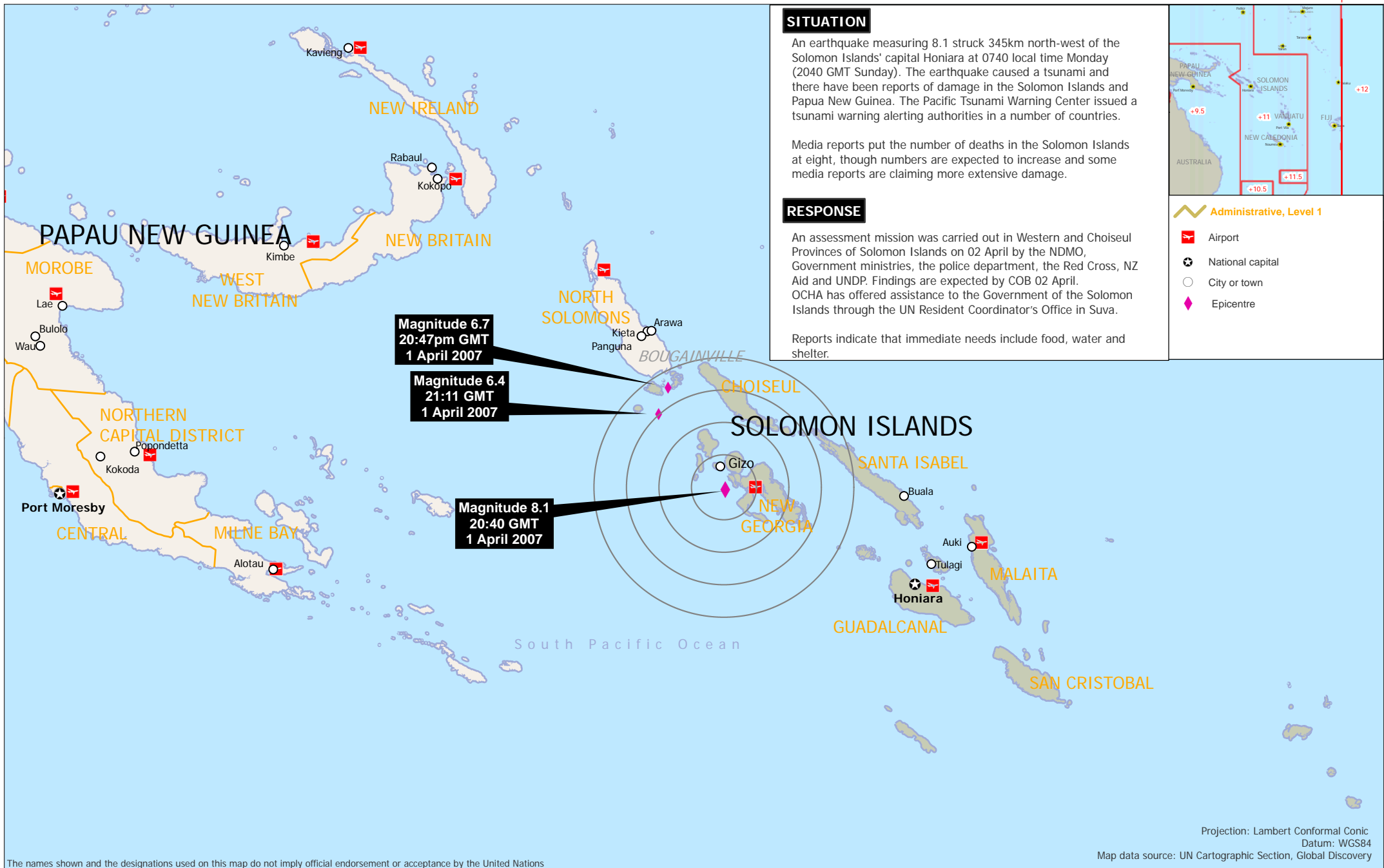
APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY
Solomon Islands: Earthquake and Tsunami

<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>	<u>IN CHF</u>
Shelter & construction	350,000
Food	100,000
Water & sanitation	100,000
Medical & first aid	50,000
<u>Other relief supplies</u>	<u>210,000</u>
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	810,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Computer & telecom equipment	20,000
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Warehousing and distribution	40,000
Transport and vehicle costs	80,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International staff	40,000
National staff	20,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
Travel & communications	10,000
Information & Public Relations	10,000
Administration & general expenses	20,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	68,250
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	308,250
<u>TOTAL APPEAL BUDGET (CASH, KIND & SERVICES)</u>	<u>1,118,250</u>



South Pacific Tsunami - 2 April 2007

Based upon OCHA Situation Report No. 1



The names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations