

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Solomon Islands: Tsunami & Earthquake

Emergency appeal n° MDRSB001
GLIDE n° TS-2007-000042-SLB
Operations update n° 6
24 January 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 29 August 2007 to 18 January 2008;

Appeal target: CHF 1,691,977 (USD 1.4 million or EUR 1.04 million);

Appeal coverage: 102%; [click here to go directly to the interim financial report](#), or [here to link to contact details](#)>

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis 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 Fund (DREF):** CHF 65,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.
- A Revised Emergency Appeal was 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 no. 5 further revised the plan of action and budget to include water and sanitation, in light of funds available and information gathered during field operations.
- This update seeks to extend the operations timeframe till the end of June 2008, due to a delay in the arrival of the water and sanitation delegate. The shelter component was completed with spending below projected costs. As such, this allowed for a more comprehensive water and sanitation component to be included in the operations. In line with Federation reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) will be made available 90 days after the end of the operation.



Community consultations were led by the Solomon Islands Red Cross to monitor and evaluate progress on shelter works on Vella La Vella.

Summary: Led by the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS), the Federation and Red Cross partners successfully conducted relief distribution activities, with over 37,000 items distributed to more than 1,800 families. Further to this, shelter works have now been completed, including the distribution of over 8,700 tools and 5,500 kilos of nails to 2,546 affected families in 327 communities. In addition, milling operations have been conducted in 82 clusters of communities. In line with the government's development of a rehabilitation strategy for permanent housing, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has assisted in detailed assessment of damage over the entire disaster area.

Activities to be conducted in 2008 by the SIRCS will be focused on water rehabilitation and some sanitation works on the islands of Vella La Vella and Kolombangara. The plan is to select ten communities on Kolombangara and ten others on Vella La Vella, based on those most affected by the disaster according to detailed assessments, to carry out water system rehabilitation activities. In light of this and funds available, the Federation seeks to extend the period of operations till the end of June 2008.

The situation

On 2 April 2007 at about 07:40 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 north-west 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 included 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 death toll was in excess of 50 people, with an estimated 9,000 people displaced. While no accurate figures of those still displaced are currently available, it is estimated that up to 3,000 people continue to occupy temporary shelter.

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 the announcement, many stakeholders have scaled down their activities.

Early in the disaster response phase, implementing agencies were allocated specific islands on which to focus activities. The French Red Cross has worked exclusively on central Choiseul while the SIRCS and the Federation have worked primarily on the Islands of Vella La Vella and Kolombangara.

Appeal funds have allowed the SIRCS to complete shelter works and shift focus to water and sanitation needs.

The national disaster management office (NDMO), with support from the the United Nations Development Agency (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) drafted a permanent shelter strategy to help form the foundation for long term shelter rehabilitation. Donor and implementing agencies (other than the Red Cross) are working with government to achieve these goals.

The SIRCS has completed shelter support activities on a number of islands in the disaster area, and the Federation shelter delegate concluded his deployment in early December 2007. The national society's focus in the first half of 2008 will be on water rehabilitation and sanitation works on Vella La Vella and Kolombangara, supported by a Federation water and sanitation delegate who arrived in mid-January 2008. It is anticipated that water and sanitation works will be completed by the end of June 2008, with operations conducted primarily from the Federation and SIRCS offices in Gizo.

Coordination and partnerships

SIRCS has been supported by the Federation and French Red Cross in facilitating Movement operations in the affected areas. A Federation technical water and sanitation delegate has replaced the shelter delegate based in the field at Gizo. Under the revised plan of action, the Federation shares facilities and resources in the Honiara office. However, most activities are conducted from the field operation office in Gizo. To date, a total of 13 staff from various national societies have worked in the operation at different times, including those from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Tonga and Vanuatu. Areas of activity have included 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 in Suva and the Asia Pacific Zone office in Kuala Lumpur. These human resources have been acknowledged by the SIRCS as of significant value, seeing as the disaster created its own set of human resource capacity issues for the national society.

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

As mentioned, the government's NDC had initially placed SIRCS 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 French Red Cross assisted the people of central Choiseul while the SIRCS and Federation continue to support the communities in Vella La Vella and Kolombangara.. 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, French Red Cross, SIRCS and the Federation. With the information forum dismantled, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is continuing to ensure that communication lines are kept open, especially at the provincial level, with a

¹ NDMO Sitrep 38, 14 May 2007.

weekly stakeholders meeting chaired by the Provincial Secretary in his capacity as chair of the National Disaster Committee.

World Vision will resume shelter activities in the Western Province in early 2008, while Oxfam and Caritas continue to deliver aid in Gizo and Shortlands respectively.

National Society Capacity Building:

The lessons learnt process reported in an earlier update stated that the 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 government agencies and other stakeholders with which it interacted. It has been established that the national society's human resource capacity exceeded its capacity to provide relief items in the first weeks of response, and SIRCS has identified the need to review the amount of pre-positioned stock held in-country. The identification and importance of further assessments of disaster preparedness stock for future emergencies is due to the regional Pacific container project that is currently supported by the Japanese and Australian Red Cross through the Federation's regional office in Suva.

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 the improved ability to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The emergency phase included the distribution of some 37,300 food and non-food items to a total of 1,857 families, with 499 in Choiseul, 297 Kolombangara and 655 in Vella La Vella. The remaining identified families assisted with distributions are on Rendova Island and in the Gizo region.

The Federation shelter activities on Kolombangara and Vela La Vella, including the distribution of 5,089 tools and 2,985 kilos of nails to 1,287 affected families in 213 communities, are fully completed. In addition, milling operations have been carried out successfully in 82 clusters of communities.

The four islands of Parara, Kohigo, Rendova and Roviana Lagoon were also identified by the Federation as not having received any shelter support. As such, 3,630 tools and 2,520 kilos of nails were procured and have been distributed to the 1,214 affected families in 114 communities in the islands mentioned.

The French Red Cross has concluded its work on central Choiseul Island, where they have completed water and sanitation works and the distribution of tools.

As previously reported, the Federation devised an assessment and priority system for damaged houses. This assessment methodology was initially developed for use on the islands Vella La Vella and Kolombangara. At the request of the government and other agencies was extended to cover the entire disaster area. This data is being used by all stakeholders to assist and support ongoing shelter rehabilitation works.

Further revisions to the plan of action

The appeal coverage has reached approximately 102 per cent, and the Federation has reviewed its original plan of action and budget.

The shelter works have been completed, and the next step is a detailed assessment of water and sanitation needs to be conducted on the islands that are the Federation's principal responsibility, mainly Vella La Vella and Kolombangara. This work has been undertaken in close cooperation with Solomon Islands rural water and sanitation (SIRWS).

Communities whose water supply has been affected by the earthquake and tsunami have been identified and detailed plans for water supply rehabilitation have been produced. Information sessions will also be held for communities to address appropriate sanitation infrastructure by SIRCS staff and volunteers.

A revision of plan priorities is needed due to insufficient funding to support all of the identified projects. Communities that have been most severely affected by the disaster and those with the most substantial dwelling

loss will be given higher priority. The initial plan of action will include 20 communities that will be selected for rehabilitation, with 10 on each of the islands that have been the sites of Red Cross Red Crescent activities.

Progress towards objectives

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

1,500 families in the islands of Vella La Vella, Kolombangara and Choiseul have been identified as those in need of assistance.

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](#). A detailed list of distributions is reproduced from the update, below.

Final distribution phase:

	Kitchen sets	Tarps	H/lamps	Hygiene kits	Bush knives	W/containers	Shampoo	Clothes	Kerosene	Tents
Choiseul	765	407	612	1,899	547	84	455	234	37	15
Vella Lavella	940	1,155	876	54	371	576	39	9	94	8
Kolombangara	256	145	213		81	17	0	0	1	0
Rendova ²	87	0	88	0	57	152	0	0	110	47
Gizo ³	4	21	8	0	5	0	0	12	16	90
Total	2,052	1,728	1,797	1,953	1,061	829	494	255	258	160

Shelter

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

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 has been 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. 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 and other relevant issues.

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

The Federation has completed the shelter damage assessment, tools distribution and milling on both Kolombangara and Vella La Vella, as per the following tables.



The Federation-supplied tools and equipment are used to realign earthquake-affected houses.

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	1,038
Kolombangara	74	32	21	70	203	249
					Total	1,287

² Gizo and Rendova were added after distributions to the three Islands were completed, and in consultation with other stakeholders through regular coordination meetings.

³ Ibid.

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 (3,948 items)	143 (429 items)	95 (380 items)	72 (288 items)	44	2,985 kg

In addition to these activities, tools and equipment and nails have been distributed in four additional areas as per the two tables below.

Table C: Total distributions of tool kits and nails, Rendova, Roviana Lagoon, Kohigo and Parara

Carpentry kits	Digging kits	Demolition kits	Lifting kits	Wheelbarrows	Nails
465 (3255 items)	61 (183 items)	47 (188 items)	39 (156 items)	11	2,200 kg

In the area of disseminating safer and disaster-resilient building knowledge, communities have been advised of the critical need for stump bracing at every available opportunity. Also, a SIRCS volunteer building team travelled to the majority of community clusters to demonstrate the methods of straightening a damaged house and lifting a collapsed house safely. Further to this, the volunteer building team has also stressed the absolute necessity for sub-structures to be adequately braced.

Capacity Building of SIRCS

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

Capacity building efforts will continue to focus in the Gizo branch, increasing the skills of both staff and volunteers. Essential repairs to the branch office including upgrading the building and repairs to the water and sanitation facilities that have now been completed.

With the regular involvement of up to 30 volunteers forming assessment, supply, milling and distribution teams, training and methods have been developed to manage, schedule and support field work. Branch staff and volunteers are taking on increased responsibility and demonstrating their capacity through shelter assessments and distribution of tools conducted, which was completed entirely by the SIRCS.

Methodologies developed in the disaster response are being incorporated into SIRCS disaster preparedness training and manuals.

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 International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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: sec_gen@solomon.com.sb
- Pacific regional office in Fiji: Frank Kennedy (head of regional office), Martin Blackgrove (disaster management coordinator), phone: +679 3311855; fax: +679 3311406; email: frank.kennedy@ifrc.org or martin.blackgrove@ifrc.org
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Kuala Lumpur: Amy Gaver (Disaster management delegate), mobile: +6012 220 1174, fax: +603 2161 0670, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org
- Federation secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Christine South (Operations coordinator), phone: +4122 730 4529, fax: +4122 733 0395; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

[<Interim financial report attached 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	2007/1-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
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		1,691,976				1,691,976
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
American Red Cross		60,800				60,800
Australian Red Cross		263,622				263,622
Australia - Private Donors		4,926				4,926
Austrian Government		83,000				83,000
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 York Office		9,272				9,272
New Zealand Red Cross		57,357				57,357
New Zealand Government		419,369				419,369
On Line donations		12,777				12,777
Other		-458				-458
Swedish Red Cross		88,650				88,650
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent		12,142				12,142
C1. Cash contributions		1,683,185				1,683,185
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
Australian Red Cross		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or from/to)		0				0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Australian Red Cross		58,207				58,207
Japanese Red Cross		7,040				7,040
C5. Inkind Personnel		65,247				65,247
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		1,748,432				1,748,432
D. Total Funding = B + C		1,748,432				1,748,432

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		1,748,432				1,748,432
E. Expenditure		-1,030,012				-1,030,012
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		718,420				718,420

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSB001 - Solomon Islands - Earthquake & Tsunami

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
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)		1,691,976					1,691,976	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	230,756		26,626				26,626	204,130
Shelter - Transitional			341				341	-341
Construction - Housing			73,384				73,384	-73,384
Construction Materials	3,278		14,373				14,373	-11,095
Clothing & textiles	2,440		2,440				2,440	0
Food	3,819		3,819				3,819	0
Water & Sanitation	314,000							314,000
Medical & First Aid	1,354		493				493	861
Utensils & Tools	111,199		124,988				124,988	-13,789
Other Supplies & Services	97,365		57,454				57,454	39,912
Total Supplies	764,210		303,916				303,916	460,294
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	4,595							4,595
Others Machinery & Equipment	9,600							9,600
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	14,195							14,195
Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,152		3,821				3,821	-2,669
Distribution & Monitoring	299,829		300,116				300,116	-287
Transport & Vehicle Costs	102,434		70,741				70,741	31,693
Total Transport & Storage	403,416		374,678				374,678	28,738
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	136,687		88,405				88,405	48,282
Delegate Benefits	48,311							48,311
National Staff	8,616		2,111				2,111	6,505
National Society Staff	35,714		46,065				46,065	-10,351
Consultants	2,454		2,454				2,454	0
Total Personnel	231,781		139,035				139,035	92,746
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training			657				657	-657
Total Workshops & Training			657				657	-657
General Expenditure								
Travel	91,100		82,654				82,654	8,445
Information & Public Relation			310				310	-310
Office Costs	30,287		21,895				21,895	8,391
Communications	35,885		27,343				27,343	8,542
Professional Fees			3				3	-3
Financial Charges	11,124		4,647				4,647	6,477
Total General Expenditure	168,396		136,853				136,853	31,543
Programme Support								
Program Support	109,978		66,675				66,675	43,303
Total Programme Support	109,978		66,675				66,675	43,303
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			8,197				8,197	-8,197
Total Operational Provisions			8,197				8,197	-8,197
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,691,976		1,030,012				1,030,012	661,964
VARIANCE (C - D)			661,964				661,964	