

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Australia:Floods

Information bulletin n° 1
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7 January 2011

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 at this time.

Recent torrential rain along the Queensland east coast has caused widespread flooding in Southern and Central areas of the state, with 22 regional centres inundated by water or isolated. The Queensland government believes that approximately 200,000 people have been affected by the floods.

Up to 150 Australian Red Cross staff and volunteers were mobilized from across the country to support response and recovery efforts since 26 December 2010. In Queensland, Australian Red Cross has established evacuation centres in Rockhampton, Theodore, Dalby, Warwick and Emerald.

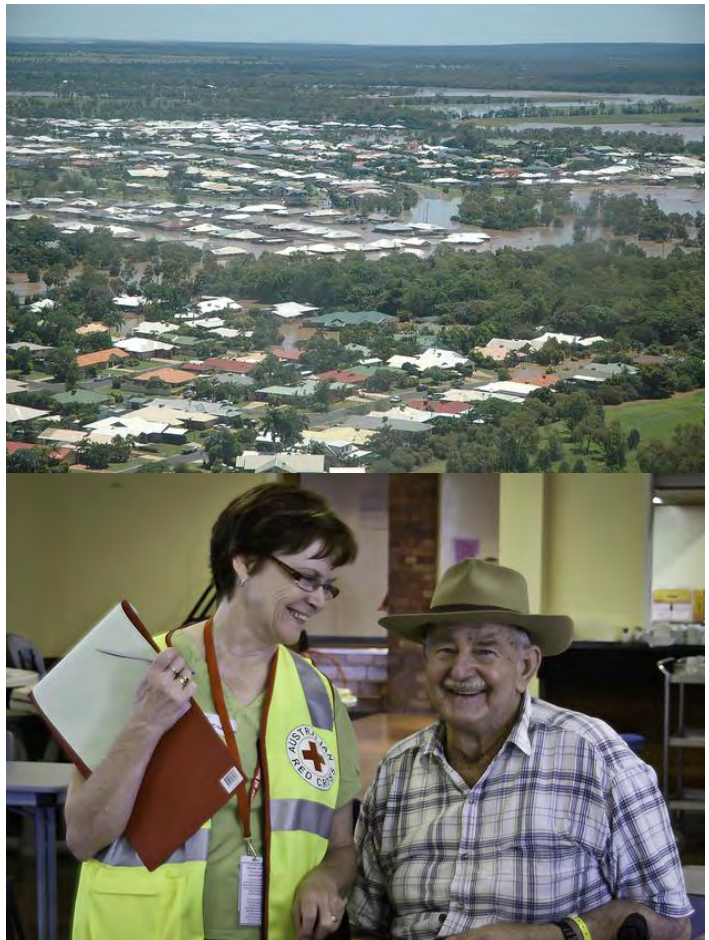
Australian Red Cross has not launched a Red Cross appeal and instead encourages donations to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal via www.qld.gov.au. Red Cross has agreed to manage the distribution of the donated funds on behalf of the Queensland government. Australian Red Cross is not calling for additional volunteers or for donations of clothing, food or other goods at this time.

[<click here for a map of the affected areas,](#)
[or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Tropical Cyclone Tasha crossed the east coast of Queensland on the 25 December 2010, causing widespread rain and flooding in southern and central areas of the state. Reports indicate that 22 regional centres are now inundated by water or have become isolated. The Queensland government believes that over 200,000 people have been affected by the floods, and launched an appeal on 29 December. Floodwaters are expected to continue to rise to record levels in some areas.

Other recently affected states include Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. In New South Wales, approximately 100 residents were evacuated in Kyogle, while the Carnarvon recovery centre in Western Australia



Major floods in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia impact up to 22 regional centres in the country. In Queensland alone, the state government estimates that over 200,000 people are affected. Australian Red Cross responds to the disaster with up to 150 staff and volunteers deployed to support communities in relief and recovery.
Photos: Australian Red Cross.

remains open to visitors.

The Australian government recently announced that the Federal Government will provide financial assistance affected communities in New South Wales and Queensland through the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). Assistance through these funds includes the restoration of essential public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and schools.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Australian Red Cross staff and volunteers have been mobilized from across the country to aid with response and recovery efforts. Personnel have been working with people affected by the floods since 26 December 2010 and up to 150 staff and volunteers have been deployed across the state daily to continue managing evacuation centres and assisting those who have not yet been evacuated. Personal support volunteers continue to work with communities in emergency-affected areas, visiting homes, attending events and supporting community activities to provide emotional support, information and referrals to recovery.

In **Queensland**, the National Society established ten evacuation centres in Rockhampton, Theodore, Dalby, Warwick and Emerald, with staff and volunteers in place to help affected families get settled, ensuring they have everything they need and providing as much practical and psychosocial support as possible. The total number of people who stayed at evacuation centres is expected to exceed 5,000, while the evacuation centre in Rockhampton is prepared to accommodate up to 2,500 people if required.

In **Victoria**, the National Society is supporting government response and liaising with the State Coordination Centre and the DHS State Emergency Management Centre, while Red Cross volunteers were activated to provide assistance in evacuation centres in **New South Wales** and **Western Australia**. The response in Western Australia has been extensive over the past several weeks.

A variety of support materials including multimedia resources for young people, children's activity booklet and booklets on coping in the aftermath of a disaster as well as precautions in cleaning up were developed by Australian Red Cross and are being distributed to affected individuals, families and communities. Based on previous experiences in emergency or traumatic situations, the materials provide advice and support to help healing occur.

Additional information, updates and resources, as well as registration to the National Registration & Inquiry System are also available on the Australian Red Cross website; click [here](#) for access.



Australian Red Cross staff and volunteers provide support to affected communities in evacuation centres in the country, including Emerald, Queensland. Photos: Australian Red Cross (above)/ Jodie Richter/ The Courier Mail (below).

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 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.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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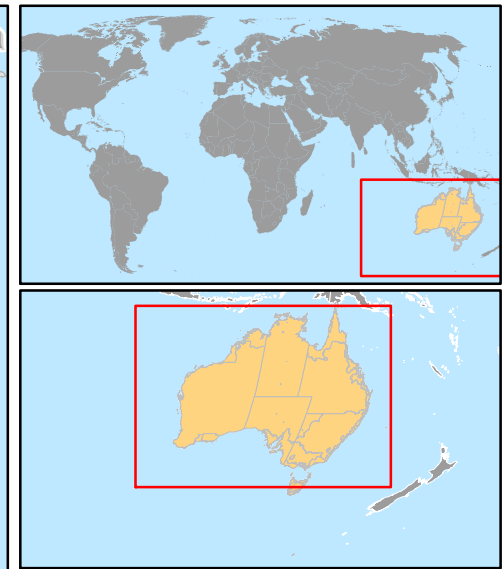
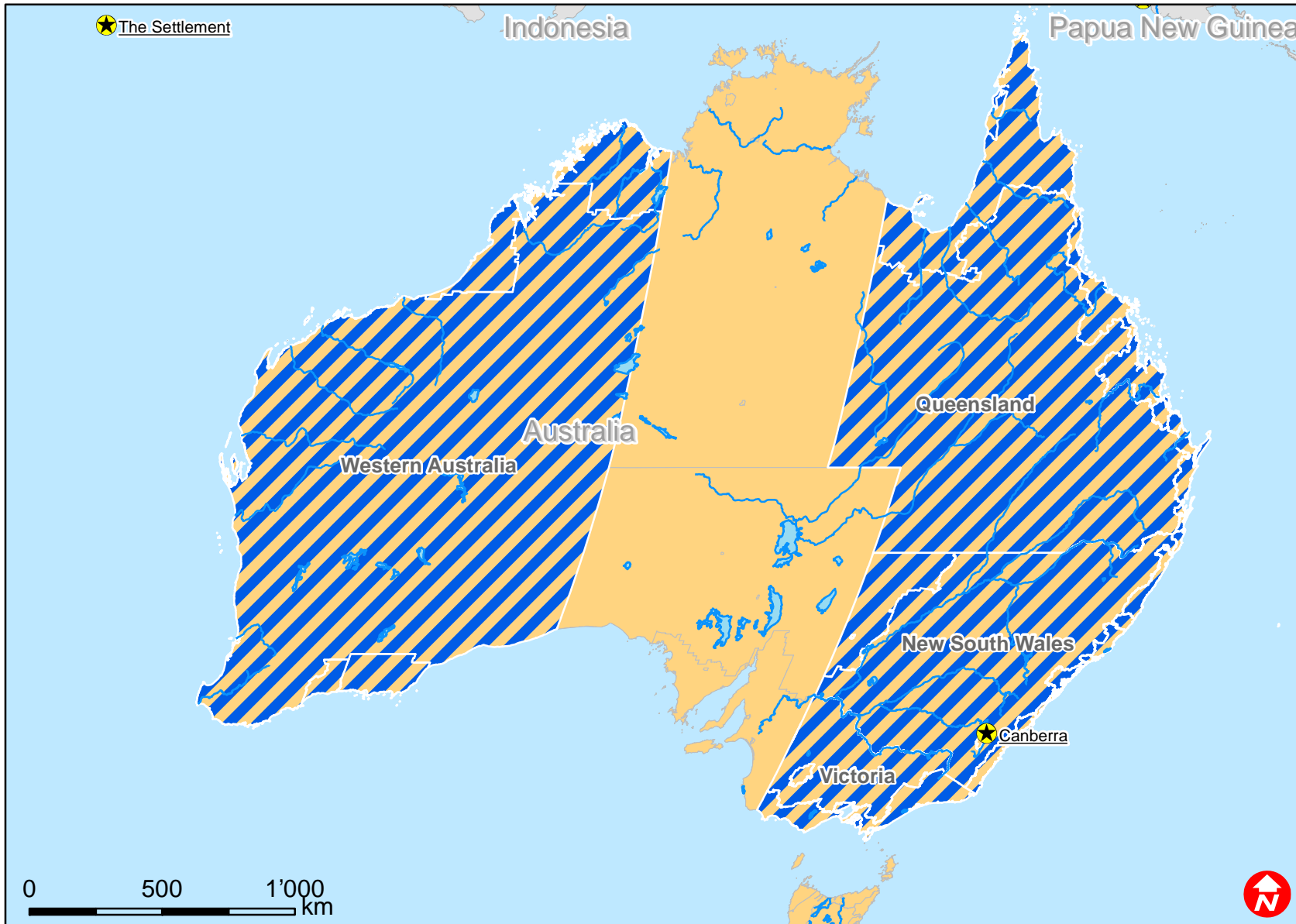
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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 Affected states