

UNICEF Situation Report Solomon Islands - EXTERNAL Tsunami-Earthquake Emergency Programme 7 May 2007

Major Developments

The Government now estimates that 11,322¹ people on the islands of Gizo, Ranonnga, Vella la Vella, parts of southern coast of Choiseul, Simbo, Shortlands, Munda and Kolombangra have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami on 2 April 2007.

The Director of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Chair of the National Disaster Council (NDC) and Officer in Charge of the Technical Advisory Team (TAT) for the recovery provided a briefing on consolidated data and Initial Recovery Strategy Paper for donors today (7 May 2007). Key future action points set out in the paper are:

- Coordination teams to be strengthened at the national and provincial levels including a Coordination Manager, Management Information Assistant and Public Information Assistant by Friday 11 May 2007; and
- The TAT and NDMO to produce a Recovery Action Plans (including a monitoring and evaluation framework) covering Housing and Shelter; Water Supply and Sanitation; IDP camp management; Livelihood Recovery; Information Sharing and Coordination; Health and Education and Transport Infrastructure by the end of the month (31 May 2007).

Needs Assessment

NDC/PDC has been conducting an independent assessment of all affected areas and it is expected to be released on Friday 11 May 2007 in accordance with the timeframe set out in the Initial Recovery Strategy paper.

A detailed water and sanitation assessment form was developed for ongoing assessments and a database of all affected villages is under development, based on previous assessments by UNICEF, Oxfam and ADF, in a form suitable for water and sanitation and other sectors.

The MHMS infrastructure assessment of all clinics in the affected Provinces is expected to start on the 7th of May. As part of UNICEF's collaboration with MHMS, our WASH consultant will accompany the team to assess the WES component of the infrastructure damage.

The assessment teams of the Ministry of Education are now returning to Honiara. As reported in the last sitrep, feedback is that the relocation of communities away from schools, livelihoods and infrastructure is causing complications. Another concern is that some buildings being used for school are unsafe. UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry to quickly plan and act on the priority situations over the coming weeks.

UNICEF Response

WASH

A technical meeting was held with the Provisional Public Works Department (PWD) and Oxfam to determine appropriate methods of restoring the sewage outfall from Gizo Hospital.

¹ Solomon Islands Government, Initial Recovery Strategy Paper, 7 May 2007

The PWD has procured polyethylene piping to establish a deep outfall approximately 150m from shore. A method of anchoring the pipeline with concrete blocks was agreed.

The water supply system for the hospital was also discussed. The system was extended beyond its capacity over the past few years by unauthorized connections and extensions to staff houses. It was agreed that these extensions should be closed off now that staff houses were destroyed by the tsunami. No chlorination is currently being done because the supply from a nearby spring is considered safe and will be discussed with the hospital authorities. Roof water collection at the hospital was also found to be inadequate and in some locations unsanitary. UNICEF proposes to include some additional rainwater tanks and guttering as part of its clinic improvement elements of the WASH program.

All 10L water containers have now been distributed with the exception of 560 containers put aside for delivery to the Shortlands next week as a joint UNICEF/RWSS/Caritas initiative with water system repair materials and personnel. An additional 4,000 containers have been ordered.

Further detailed water system assessments were made at Nusa Cao, Voruku, Vancouver and Sitokava camps on Ghizo. UNICEF also inspected the damaged water source at Rendova Harbour and advised villagers on methods of cleaning out the spring and reinstating supplies and storage tanks. UNICEF is consolidating a number of databases from agencies distributing items in the Western Province. Because some data is missing or is contradictory, it is expected that several weeks may be required before the database can be considered accurate. This is being affected by the relocation of some IDPs between camps.

The villages of Ringi and Kukundu on Kolombabgara were inspected jointly by RWSS and UNICEF. Roof water tanks are planned for the school and clinic at Ringi and the damaged main storage tank at Kukundu can be repaired by RWSS as part of its maintenance program.

Soap continues to be distributed to villages and IDP camps during assessments and the remaining 26 boxes will be distributed over the next 3 or 4 days in anticipation of additional supplies arriving from Honiara.

Shelter

A Shelter working group at the Honiara level has met twice during the past 48 hours to discuss standardization of plans for transitional and permanent housing.

The Government's Ministry of Lands and Survey is currently conducting an assessment in the affected areas and is due back to Honiara this week.

UNICEF's 250 family tents have now been distributed in accordance with the distribution plan. Further emergency shelter needs have been identified for teachers who have lost their homes and additional shelter supplies need to be ordered for temporary play and learning areas.

Health and Nutrition

The measles SIA coverage in Western and Choiseul provinces was completed this weekend and coverage data will be available by next week.

60 UNICEF family tents were distributed to health staff in Gizo.

Following on from the immediate health promotion activities that UNICEF/Oxfam initiated in Gizo camps, a concept paper has been drafted which contemplates extending health promotion activities to the worst affected areas in the outer islands in collaboration Health Promotion Unit Gizo and Honiara and World Vision. With the assistance of the national nutritionist and Gizo Health Promotion Unit, Vitalita and ORS distribution began in the Gizo camps over the weekend and a rapid qualitative assessment of the food security of the camp population in Gizo commenced. Every child (6-59mths) was provided with 1 box of Vitalita (30 sachets) and 4 sachets of ORS and soap.

Thirty Youth Volunteers from 15 IDP camps were in attendance at the first day of a 2 week LS training facilitated by the Adolescent Health and Development Coordinators and Save the Children with support from UNICEF. An assessment tool based on the 3 PSLS modules used (including HIV) will be pre-tested by youth volunteers in IDP camps during the workshop. After the workshop YV will be supported by SCA staff to undertake this assessment and to work with Child Friendly Spaces to deliver Life Skills activities over a three month period. Youth Volunteers will come back together after 6 weeks of work in IDP camps and at the 3 month conclusion of the project for monitoring purposes.

Education

Many broader education decisions are expected to be made by the Government after the current general assessment. The Ministry of Education has requested UNICEF to provide additional human resource support to assist in their recovery planning. A UNICEF EAPRO education officer arrived today (7 May 2007) and a UNICEF consultant (3-6 months) is scheduled to arrive on the 8th of May.

As the assessment teams are returning from the affected areas, the Provincial Education Office in Gizo is currently planning priority areas for the establishment of temporary play and learning areas. This list now includes another 20 schools recognized as locations for immediate roll out. UNICEF now has approximately 50 School-in-a-Box kits on the ground in Gizo (with four now released) and additional recreation kits are due to be sent on the 8th of May. There is a concern that the establishment of temporary learning areas may be delayed while additional temporary shelter from Suva is being manufactured and transported, and options to address this are being explored.

Protection

The Social Welfare Division (SWD), with support from UNICEF, today commenced a five-day training workshop for 70 persons to take part in the Community Welfare Volunteer Network (pilot model). The volunteers taking part in the training are from 40 communities covering 8 out of the 10 affected islands.

As mentioned in the last situation report an emerging issue is that of the vulnerabilities of communities to sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF drafted and has secured support for a commitment statement of humanitarian agencies in line with the UN Code of Conduct to start an initial awareness-raising of the issues. Government members of the Honiara Interagency Working Group, together with UNICEF, also met with the Deputy Commissioner of Police to discuss action to be taken. Plans are being made for the Officer in Charge of the Sexual Assault Unit in Honiara to be deployed to Gizo to make recommendations for preventative action.

As of today (7 May 2007) approximately 20 'play safe' areas have been set up in Gizo (11), Simbo (5) and Vella La Vella (4) through our partnership with Save the Children. On average

140 children in each of these 11 areas are benefiting from play. It is expected that 10 more will commence in Simbo and Vella La Vella locations over this week.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

UNICEF remains the only UN Agency present in Gizo. UNDP is planning to support the NDMO and PDC (Gizo) with technical Recovery Advisors for 6-4 weeks. A temporary UNDP Recovery Advisor is currently based in the NDMO (2 weeks).

The final DMT meeting was held on Friday (04.05.07) to be replaced by a Honiara Coordination mechanism.

Supply and Logistics

Supply and logistics remain a challenge, with a backlog of supplies currently waiting to enter the country at Brisbane airport.

In summary, the following supply items are being distributed to the affected populations:

Item	Quantity	Partner	Distribution
Family tents	250	NDMO, PDC	Distribution: 62 health workers (Western Province); 188 families (Choiseul and Western Province)
School-in-a-box kits	80	Ministry of Education	Distributed: 5 communities Planned: Approx 6,000 children in 36 schools completely destroyed and 37 schools partly damaged
Recreation kits	94 (and further 50 ordered)	Ministry of Education and Save the Children	Planned: Approx 6,000 children in 36 schools completely destroyed and 37 schools partly damaged Distributed: Approx 1600 children in Gizo camps
Tarpaulins	72 (and further 100 ordered)	Ministry of Education and Save the Children	As above for Rec Kits Further Distributed: 9 to Vella La Vella
Collapsible water containers	4400 (and further 50 ordered)	RWSS, Save the Children	Distributed: 3,600 to families affected in Western Province
Water Bladders	5	RWSS	Planned: Western Province
Emergency Health Kits	8	Ministry of Health	Distributed: three kits sent to hospitals (Gizo, Shortlands (Western) and Taro (Choiseul))
Oral Rehydration Salts	30,000 sachets	Ministry of Health	Distributed: 3,000 sent to health centres (Gizo (Western) and Taro (Choiseul)); health promotion teams
Vitalita	90,000 sachets	Ministry of Health	Distributed: 9,000 sachets to Ranonga (Western Province) Planned: through measles campaign (15,000 children)
Soap	6500 bars	Ministry of Health	Planned: through Gizo SIA team, WASH