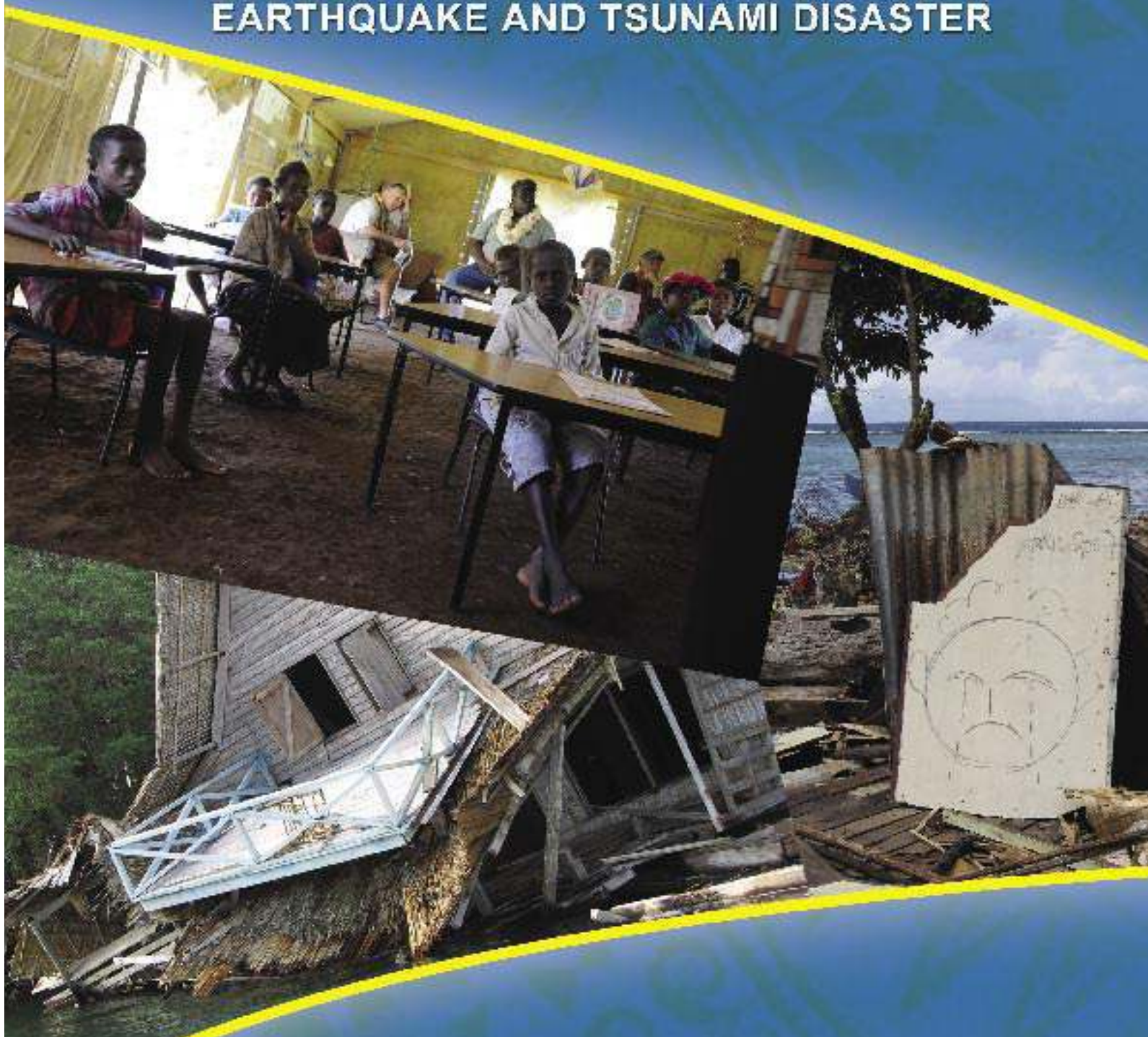


# SOLOMON ISLANDS

APRIL 2nd 2007

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI DISASTER



AN EVALUATION OF UNICEF'S RESPONSE  
IN THE EMERGENCY AND INITIAL  
RECOVERY PHASES  
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The Solomon Islands April 2nd 2007 Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster  
An Evaluation of UNICEF's Response in the Emergency and Initial Recovery Phases

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Copies of this publication are available from  
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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infections
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CAG	Cash Assistance to Government and Coordination Action Group
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CEO	Chief Education Officer
CFS	Child Friendly Schools
CO	Country Office
CWV	Community Welfare Volunteer
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHR	Division Human Resources
DMT	Disaster Management Team (UN Suva)
EAPRO	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EFP	Emergency Focal Point
EMOPS	Office of Emergency Programmes
EMP	Emergency Management Plan
EPF	Emergency Programme Fund
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
EWARN	Early Warning and Response Network
FT	Fixed Term contract
GIS	Global Information System
HEA	Health Education Adviser
HIS	Health Information System
HR	Human Resources
HRBAP	Human Rights Based Approach to Programming
IASC	UN Interagency Standing Committee
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IECD	Integrated Childhood Health and Development
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMEP	Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IT	Information Technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MOSS	Minimum Operating Safety Standards
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWYCA	Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs
NDC	National Disaster Council
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NFI	Non-food items (relief goods)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NYHQ	New York Headquarters
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
OIC	Officer in Charge
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
OSM	Operational Staffing Matrix
PDC	Provincial Disaster Council
PEA	Provincial Education Authorities
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RBM	Results Based Management

RO	Regional Office
RWSS	Rural Water and Sanitation Services
SCA	Save the Children Australia
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SIB	School in a box
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPA	Safe Play Area
SSA	Special Services Agreement
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TFT	Temporary Fixed Term contract
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assistance and Coordination
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VCCT	Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing for HIV/AIDS
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WVSI	World Vision Solomon Islands



# FOREWORD

The Mauritius Strategy for Small Island Developing States underscores that Pacific Island Countries are located in one of the most vulnerable regions of the world in terms of the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters, and face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences when such emergencies occur. There is no doubt that disasters in the region are becoming more intense and probably more frequent. Since 1950, natural disasters have directly affected more than 3.4 million people and led to more than 1,700 reported deaths in the Pacific (not including Papua New Guinea). In the 1990's, reported natural disasters cost the region US\$2.8 billion (in real 2004 figures).

Children and women are severely affected by disasters. Usually the majority of deaths occur among children under 15 years and often more women than men die. The very young, old and women are often the first to have their rights violated in the days that immediately follow natural disasters. For example, children may suffer acute morbidity, malnutrition, psychological trauma, become separated from their family, have basic services such as safe water, education and health diminished, and become vulnerable to sexual abuse and trafficking. Women may suffer rights violations such as reduced personal security, sexual abuse, violence, trafficking, and compromised access to food supplies, temporary shelter, water, sanitation, and medical treatment. After any natural disaster, women and girls often assume the primary burden of caring for their families and obtaining food and other survival basics. These and other unique vulnerabilities of children and women are often overlooked in immediate relief and recovery planning.

On April 2nd 2007 at 0740 local time (2040 GMT 1st April), an 8.1 magnitude earthquake occurred 345km north-west of Honiara, triggering a tsunami that struck the Western and Choiseul Provinces of Solomon Islands. The quake was the largest experienced in Solomon Islands since 1900. The disaster caused 52 deaths, displaced an estimated 10,000 people and kept approximately 18,000 children from school for most of the remainder of 2007. Approximately 6,500 homes and 140 schools in 304 villages were affected. Infrastructure damage was estimated at SI\$645 million (USD91 million).

Alongside other Humanitarian Emergency Response and Development Partners, UNICEF acted swiftly in support of the Solomon Islands Government. The effort represented UNICEF's first large scale emergency response in the Pacific. After deploying emergency staff immediately to the country and initiating an international funding appeal, UNICEF consulted with government and drew up a detailed Emergency Management Plan (EMP) based on UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs). The EMP set out key results for children at the eight week mark and by the end of six months. An Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was developed as part of the EMP and outlined a series of monitoring and evaluation activities to track, measure and document results for children. One process scheduled in the IMEP was an independent outcome evaluation of UNICEF's response to be conducted at the end of the six month mark (October 2007) to identify major achievements, to take note of any constraints and gaps, and to recommend how to provide a better response to similar situations in the future. A follow-up, impact evaluation is planned for 2010.

This report represents the first detailed evaluation of UNICEF's response to the Solomon Islands emergency. It is the first external evaluation of UNICEF Pacific's performance in the context of its response to an emergency in the Pacific and also the first detailed participatory evaluation of a humanitarian agency's response in the emergency and initial recovery phases of the Solomon Islands disaster.

The independent evaluation team found that UNICEF's overall response to the Solomon Islands disaster appears to have been relevant, appropriate, somewhat effective (intervention coverage was variable, especially in Choiseul Province) and relatively efficient with some major impacts against several Core Commitments for Children. There was strong coherence between programmes and there are good prospects for the sustainability of several key interventions. Given the lack of experience working in a large-scale emergency context, UNICEF Pacific has done well overall and in some areas it has excelled. We have learned, however, that there are significant weaknesses in terms of UNICEF Pacific's existing capacity to respond to large-scale emergencies in the Pacific. UNICEF Pacific can be justifiably satisfied with its hard work and achievements to date but needs to act swiftly to address gaps – both in terms of its preparedness for future disasters and its on going response following the disaster in Solomon Islands.

I wish to thank the external evaluation team – Michelle Legu, Daniel McAvoy, and Augustine Elogu – for their integrity and industry in gathering insights and crafting this valuable report. UNICEF Pacific is grateful also to the exemplary support we received from UNICEF Headquarters, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (who co-funded this evaluation), and Country Offices including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and Philippines. I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the various Solomon Island Government Ministries, both national and provincial, and to the Non-Government humanitarian agencies that have all worked closely alongside UNICEF to date. UNICEF sincerely thanks those funding organizations that have supported our work with the Government of Solomon Islands: the Mercury Fund; the US Committee for UNICEF; the Japanese National Committee for UNICEF; the Australian National Committee for UNICEF; the New Zealand National Committee for UNICEF; the Government of Japan; and the

Government of Spain. Last but by no means least, I acknowledge the many stakeholders – community, non-government, government, and UN – who contributed their perspectives and suggestions during the evaluation. UNICEF Pacific will surely learn from this experience during our continued efforts to assist the Western and Choiseul Provinces, and in our support to children in future emergencies.

Dr Isiye Ndombi  
UNICEF Pacific Representative

April 2008



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Michelle Legu  
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