

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

SOLOMON ISLANDS

DONOR UPDATE

27 APRIL 2007

UNICEF NEEDS \$ 1,300,000 TO ADDRESS THE HUMANITARIAN AND EARLY RECOVERY NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN AFFECTED BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC TSUNAMI

- Half of all health clinics have been destroyed
- Education infrastructures have been heavily damaged affecting thousands of children;
- UNICEF is grateful to those donors who have provided early funding allowing UNICEF to meet the immediate needs of affected children and women



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Following the Earthquake and Tsunami in the Solomon Islands on 2 April 2007 UNICEF Pacific has mobilized staff and resources for the emergency response and early recovery. This response has focused on health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and child protection and has been guided by UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies and the immediate needs of children and women, as identified through a number of assessments on the ground.

Overall an estimated 10,276¹ people, including approximately 5,200 children below 18, have been directly affected by the crisis, in the islands of Gizo, Ranonnga, Vella la Vella, parts of southern coast of Choiseul, Simbo, Shortlands, Munda, and Kolombangra. Many of these families have lost their homes and livelihoods (fishing and vegetable gardens) and have become internally displaced in at least 130 different locations or camps in the interior of the islands. They have lost their personal possessions other than the clothes they were dressed in at the time of the tsunami. Many thousands more have lost access to primary health care services, with many clinics destroyed or damaged by the earthquake or subsequent tsunami. Schools have also been severely affected, with at least 36 schools having been totally destroyed or washed away, leaving at least 5,000 children without access to schooling, and affecting the lives of many more thousands of children.

The temporary camps that have been established for the internally displaced are in rugged hill and jungle terrain. Water sources are generally in the valleys below, so access to clean water is very limited and the current lack of sanitation poses an extreme danger for the safety of the water sources they are currently using.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF has responded to the humanitarian needs of the Solomon Islands population affected by the earthquake and tsunami. UNICEF has mainly focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and child protection. However, access to the affected populations in the extremely remote area remains challenging. Supporting UNICEF's humanitarian response is further challenged by the difficulties in transporting supplies in a timely manner to the Solomon Islands and then further distributing them. The affected area has very few roads, one short grass airstrip and the main means of transportation is small canoes with outboard motors.

The activities listed described below are the result of consultations with the Government of the Solomon Islands, the Provincial Authorities, other UN Agencies and NGO partners. These activities form the basis of an emergency management plan that looks beyond the initial phases bridging humanitarian interventions to early recovery and rehabilitation.

In the area of health and nutrition, a measles immunization campaign is underway targeting 15,000 children under 5. In addition children will be given vitamin A, and children less than 1 year who have lost their immunisation record will be given new cards and catch up immunisations will also be provided. Multivitamins will be distributed to pregnant women and the multi-micronutrient powder "Vitaliata" is now also being distributed to children 6 months to 59 months. UNICEF has also distributed emergency health kits with essential medical supplies for more than 30,000 people. Over the coming weeks, UNICEF will be assisting the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) and other partners to restore primary health care services, including routine immunization, promote home based care for children in displaced persons camp; and take measures to promote the nutritional status of children and expectant mothers.

UNICEF is supporting the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department to assess and re-establish water and sanitation services to the affected populations and provide water and sanitation services to up to 3,000 IDPs. UNICEF has helped design and initiate construction of latrines for IDP camps, producing around ten new latrine slabs per day. UNICEF is also providing soap, water containers, water purification tablets, and construction materials (timber, tools and plastic) to RWSS in Western and Choiseul provinces. Providing adequate and safe water to the IDP camps will be challenging. These camps are being established on hills, above water sources, requiring the use of pumps. With sanitation facilities also being built on the hills above these water sources there is need to carefully manage the risk of water source contamination.

¹ Final numbers yet to be confirmed

In Education and Child Protection UNICEF is supporting a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD), the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs (MWYCA) and the Social Welfare Division (SWD) (in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services), Save the Children (SCA) and NZAID to establish safe play and learning areas. UNICEF is also providing technical assistance to the Education Sector Working Group to conduct an assessment on learning spaces and resources, involving staff from MWYCA and SWD, help them to create temporary spaces for play, recreation and learning; to receive psychosocial support and develop a child-centred recovery plan and back to school campaign. UNICEF has already provided supplies to support recreation and learning including recreation kits, school-in-a-box kits, other play materials including puppets and musical instruments. More than 1,000 children a day are using the safe play spaces established and School in a Box kits distributed so far provide education resources for more than 3,000 children. Tarpaulins have already been provided as temporary shelters for safe play and learning spaces and UNICEF is also working to source large tents for this purpose. Sensitisation of communities to the increased risk of exploitation and abuse is also important to protect children.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Within 72 hours after the onset of this emergency, UNICEF Pacific issued an Immediate Needs document, requesting US\$ 500,000 for UNICEF's immediate response. Within a further 72 hours US\$ 500,000 had been mobilized, which allowed UNICEF to meet the most urgent needs of children and women in the areas of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education and protection. UNICEF would like to express its gratitude to the Government of Japan, the Japan Committee for UNICEF and the US Fund for UNICEF for their generous support.

Table 1: Funds Received against Immediate Needs Document

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)
Health and Nutrition	220,000	220,000
Water and Environmental Sanitation	120,000	120,000
Education	120,000	120,000
Child Protection	40,000	40,000
Total*	500,000	500,000

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Table 2: Funds received by Donor

Donor	Funds Received (US\$)
Japan Committee for UNICEF	100,000
Government of Japan	300,000
US Fund for UNICEF	100,000
Total	500,000

Due to the remoteness of the affected areas and the need to mobilize supplies quickly, all UNICEF supplies have had to be transported by air. The cost of delivering essential supplies to the most affected areas is therefore much higher than for more easily accessible areas, closer to major population centres.

For the recovery and rehabilitation phases of this emergency response (May-October 2007) UNICEF Pacific requires an additional US\$ 1,300,000, which includes logistics costs.

Table 3: Additional Funds Required from May-October 2007

Appeal Sector	Beneficiaries/coverage	Requirements by Sector (US\$)
Health and Nutrition	50,000 people	220,000
Water and Environmental Sanitation	3,000 internally displaced persons and up to 40,000 residents in affected areas	340,000
Education	Up to 30,000 children	400,000
Child Protection	Up to 30,000 children	340,000
Total*		1,300,000

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Details of the Solomon Islands emergency programme can be obtained from:

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