

Solomon Islands Earthquake Situation Report 3

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Date: 13 Jan 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

On the morning of 4 January 2010, two earthquakes—magnitude 6.5 and 7.2, with epicentres West South West of the island of Honiara—struck the Solomon Islands within an hour of each other. The earthquakes generated a tsunami that hit the southern and northern coast of the islands of Rendova and Tetepare. The large wave and landslides damaged houses and boats on both islands.

One day later (5 January), an aftershock measured at magnitude 6.9 struck, damaging houses around the Marovo lagoon.

HEALTH IMPACT

Around 4 995 people were living in affected areas. Landslides have occurred and have affected the water supplies in the areas of Sombu, Hopongo, Havila, Mbaniata, Retavo, Rano, Hosuzo, Vanikua, and Bangopipo.

Identified immediate needs include:

- Clean food
- Safe water
- Sanitation
- Hazard analysis
- Provision of health services to affected people

Other current health issues noted in the last situation report are:

- Diarrhoea cases noted in Hopongo, Havila, and Mbaniata
- Red eye cases noted in Rano, Mbaniata, Retavo, Ella Beach, Hosuzo, Vanikua, and Bangopipo
- Cases of trauma, cough, and colds and other flu-like symptoms were noted in all affected villages.
- No specific numbers of affected individuals are currently available.

Casualties

No deaths or serious injuries have been reported as of 12 January 2010.

RESPONSE

Government Response

Assessment results are coming in. The Solomon Islands Government is preparing recovery plans for immediate implementation. The Government continues to coordinate with non-governmental and international partners for response efforts.

International Response

International partners have provided non-food items, water, safe water supplies, sanitation and hygiene items, and assessment support. Concerned governments have also sent financial aid. Several organizations are taking care of health education and trauma counseling.

WHO Response

WHO continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the Solomon Islands for the provision of additional aid and services that may be needed. WHO has provided a surveillance tool for early identification and management of impending health crises. WHO staff members are also participating in the assessment of the daily situation and the prophylactic measures that have been put in place. Health promotion materials and hygiene items have been distributed. WHO is assisting the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the coordination of the health response between the health teams from Gizo and Munda.

Sources

National Disaster Council Situation Report No. 6, 11 January 2010

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