



Situation Report No. 1 Wednesday 3rd March 2010

1. Situation

Heavy rain and bad weather caused by two lows in the far southeast and southwest of Solomon Islands over the past two days has again caused bad flooding on northwest Guadalcanal, east Honiara, northeast Guadalcanal and other Provinces. The two lows have since moved away but heavy rain is still persisting due to a convergence over Solomon Islands and affecting the whole of the country. Heavy rains and isolated thunderstorms are still forecast.

2. Scope and scale

Four bridges and two culverts in northwest Guadalcanal had their approaches washed away.

The bridges are Tamboko, Toba, Doma 2 and Paru while the culverts are Tamboko and past Selwyn College high school. Their washing away has again restricted traffic movements between Honiara and those areas and people are instead using outboard motor canoes to travel to and from Honiara.

Selwyn College school is relocating its junior form students to Honiara today. The Church of Melanesia which owns the school is sending its ship MV Southern Cross with some rations for senior formers who will remain at school and take the junior formers back to Honiara.

Aruligo communities have reported the floods this year worse than last year saying their gardens have been flattened by inundation. Immediate priority needs are food, water and mobile medical teams as soon as possible.

More reports are expected from other Provinces. This is the third month in which bad floods spurred by heavy rains due to low pressure systems since January have affected the country. Burns Creek Communities, Mberande in northeast Guadalcanal have also requested assessments and immediate support.

3. Response by different partners:

A three-man team made up of NDMO, Ministry of Infrastructure and SIRC assessed the damages in a helicopter overview flight late yesterday afternoon.

a. Government :

Deploying a multi-agency initial needs assessment team today to northwest Guadalcanal consisting of NDMO, health and agriculture from Guadalcanal Province, SIRC and Ministry of Infrastructure and Development.

b. Police:

Dispatched a helicopter flight on Monday morning to northwest Guadalcanal and continues to monitor the situation, ready to support if and when requested.

c. NDOC:

Prepared to activate, still receiving reports from affected communities.

d. Health:

Prepared to activate and awaiting further reports.

e. SIRC:

- Supported with one staff to be on the overview flight yesterday evening, will send a member in an assessment team being put together now. Standing by to support further.

f. NGOs:

- Awaiting any requests from NEOC.

g. Private Business:

h. International Assistance:

i. Assets deployed:

- Boats.

j. Proposed Plans:

- Conduct Initial damage and Needs assessments to determine priority needs of affected people.

k. Deployed teams:

NDMO, Guadalcanal Province Disaster Officer; health and agriculture; Ministry of Infrastructure and Development; Solomon Islands Red Cross.

l. Update:

Sr Doreen of Catholic church called by phone to report a worker at Aruligo Catholic plantation at Aruligo, Ezekiel called them up yesterday to say the floods this year were worse than last year. Floods have flowed through their

road damaging it and also inundating, damaging their food gardens. He also requested help for San Isidro Centre for the deaf and dumb as soon as possible. It was difficult for them to reach the Centre because of the big floods.

SIRC has five members waiting to join the assessments.

Forecast today:

General situation: a convergence zone is over the Solomon Islands. Heavy rains and isolated thunderstorms for all Provinces.

The following are a recap of reports received on the 2nd of March:

(Flood advisory No. 4 issued by the Met Service spoke of rain at times and expected over most of the

Provinces for the next 24 to 48 hours, warning communities about further flooding.

- 1. Reports made by phone from northwest Guadalcanal say heavy flooding experienced at Selwyn College and surrounding communities. PDO GP has been advised to organize assessments.*
- 2. All PDOs now in Honiara for NDMO's annual program review have been asked to contact their Provinces for updates.*
- 3. Director NDMO requested SIRC, Ministry of Infrastructure and NDMO teams to standby for deployment to northwest Guadalcanal. Held a meeting at 10:45 AM with those he'd requested.*
- 4. A World Vision Officer in northwest Guadalcanal reported the recently fixed Poha to Taneba bridges again had their approaches washed away. (The Poha had its western approach washed away last month and the Tamboko one its eastern approach).*
- 5. A male caller from Mberande area northeast Guadalcanal requested assessments in the areas. He was also requested to advise people to be careful as floods are still high and roads and or bridges may have been badly damaged.*
- 6. Selwyn College reported major flooding at 12A.M. and students evacuated to dining hall. Their food rations ran out today but transport is the problem. There is money but how to get food is the problem. Classes will be delayed. A meeting was held at 1pm today to further decide on whether or not school should continue or stop classes so problems caused by the floods have been fixed. There were no injuries reported. School is still observing the weather. The information was given to George Baragamu, Research and Development officer NDMO by the Principal, Noel Hou.*
- 7. Chief Peter Usi reported floods still inundating Burns Creek areas and requested urgent assessments. Honiara PDO was informed but however advised the Honiara City Council clerk has told her not to work there as it is within the Guadalcanal Province's jurisdiction.*
- 8. Solomon Love and Chief Felix Cheta of Ghorabau village, Aruligo, reported by phone Surveys yesterday and today, found areas between Aruligo and New Mala covered by 4 ft high floods. Water was up to chest level in other words. All bridges have been damaged. Food and water and mobile medical teams to visit the communities are their priorities. The floods now are worse than February last year.*

Estimated population in area is about 1000 (Ghorabau to Pisei and New Savo community along the coast)

Safe areas for boats to land are Doma and Central Bank areas – others are very rough and dangerous. Mr Love also mentioned seeing some Selwyn students and staff going past Aruligo this morning.

- 9. An assessment team will be deployed this afternoon as soon as all necessary matters have been sorted out.*
- 10. An Initial Situation Overview, ISO, was conducted by a three man team (NDMO, SIRC, MID) by helicopter this afternoon results of which are expected tomorrow).*

The next update is expected tomorrow