

Pacific Humanitarian Team

Information Management in Disaster
Response 2008-09

Solomon Islands Floods (Feb 09)

- Friday 30 Jan – First reports (day 1)
- Day 4 (Mon): more detailed collated info shared to PHT from NDC and other sitreps
- Day 5 (Tue): arrival OCHA IMO, followed by staff on day 7 and 11.
- Day 19 (Mon): OCHA end of mission (14 days)

Support activities Solomon Islands

- Support establishing EOC
- Support for processing assessment and other info: i) affected areas, ii) affected populations, iii) needs, iv) relief distributions, v) logistics, vi) contacts (3W), vii) stockpiles, viii) coordination meetings
- Produce SitReps and support the writing of SitReps by the NDMO (merged)
- Support the local cluster coordination system (Health, WASH, general), including facilitating meeting and establishing regular reporting from clusters;
- Supported seconded staff from National Statistics Office and Ministry of Lands to NDMO support on data management, assessments, GIS and mapping
- Support the production of an overview of needs for presentation to in-country donors to seek funding for flood response.

Lessons Learned Solomon Islands

- Plan for early deployment despite lack of information
- Support to information collection and analysis provides much added value:
 - Baseline info
 - Maps
 - Assessment teams are out quick! Need to catch up with the process and support it
 - Common use of sat imagery / fly over
- Cluster coordination support by NDC and OCHA in initial stages
 - Briefing & awareness of local stakeholders (govt. & non-govt.) managing the disaster
 - Secretarial support to clusters
 - Need to formalize? Nationally, regionally?
- Support for coordinated funding/appeal to local donors

Fiji Floods (Jan 09)

- Friday 9 Jan – First reports (day 1)
- Day 2-4: continuous rain and flooding, contact with NDMO, first sitreps to PHT
- Day 4: 1st PHT meeting scheduled, postponed to day 5
- Day 6: Rapid field visit UNICEF/OCHA
- Day 6: MFA meeting with international community
- Day 7: PHT meeting to specify assistance (relief items, technical and \$)
- Day 7-12: multi-sector rapid assessment (UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA)
- Further sitreps & coordination meetings

Support activities Fiji

- Support for multi-sector assessment
- Produce SitReps
- Support the local cluster coordination system (Health, WASH, ER, Education, general)
- Support the production of an overview of needs and funding requirements appeal for presentation to in-country donors to seek funding for flood response needs.

Lessons Learned Fiji

- Slow onset: Need to clarify request for international assistance
- Establish information needs and potential (re)sources and collaboration early
 - Assessment process (Govt. and Red Cross)
 - Mapping
 - Catch up!
- Activate International Charter early!
- Use baseline data, GIS to cover info gaps
- Early establishment of coordination mechanisms with government and international partners
- Inventorize available human resources and plan early for additional resources (UNDAC)
- Cluster coordination support by NDMO and OCHA in initial stages
 - Briefing & awareness of local stakeholders managing the disaster
 - Secretarial support to clusters
 - Need to formalize? Nationally, regionally?
- Support for coordinate funding/appeal to local donors – formalize?

Samoa Tsunami (Sept 09)

- Tuesday 29 Sept – EQ and Tsunami (day 1):
- PHT coordination meeting
 - Samoa NDC meeting with UNRC
 - Request for international assistance
 - UNDAC activation
 - Int. Charter activated
 - Sitrep
 - Baseline info shared
- Day 2: Arrival UNDAC team, sitrep
- Day 3: IASC PHT meeting, Clusters activated, rapid field visit
- Daily coordination and cluster meetings, continued sitreps, website

Support activities Samoa

- Close collaboration clusters (incl. govt), UNDAC, EOC, SOPAC, SPREP, FRANZ on collection and collation of assessment and other info: i) affected areas, ii) affected populations, iii) needs, iv) relief distributions, v) logistics, vi) contacts (3W), vii) stockpiles, viii) coordination meetings, ix) minutes, x) maps/photos, etc.
- Produce SitReps
- Support the cluster coordination system
- Public website on PDN
- CivMil coord, logistics support
- Overview of outstanding needs to support coordination

Lessons Learned Samoa

- Plan for early deployment despite lack of information
- Support to information collection and analysis provides much added value:
 - Baseline info
 - Maps
 - Assessment teams are out quick! Need to catch up with the process and verify the quality
- Initial briefing & awareness of local stakeholders managing the disaster
- Make use of PDN standard practice
- Explore IM partnerships with technical agencies (SOPAC, SPREP, etc.) for mapping, etc.
- Support for funding/appeal to donors
- Value of inter-agency contingency planning and data preparedness!
- Activate International Charter immediately