

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency Plan of Action operation update

Solomon Islands: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF: MDRSB006	GLIDE n° EQ-2016-000128-SLB
EPoA update n° 1 Issued on: 21 April 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: 9 December 2016 to 31 March 2017
Operation start date: 9 December 2017	Operation timeframe: Less than six months (9 December 2016 to 31 May 2017)
Overall operation budget: CHF 161,298	
N° of people being assisted: 10,033 (original target 5,004)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:	
The Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) has been working collaboratively with the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In-country partners, the Australian Red Cross (ARC) and Croix-Rouge Française (CRF) have also been engaged and provided support through their existing long-term programmes.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:	
The Government of the Solomon Islands through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) activated National Disaster Risk Management arrangements with various Ministries (Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management and Meteorology, and Ministry of Infrastructure Development) who are tasked with leading the major committees. Other partners actively involved in the operation have included: UNICEF, WHO, OXFAM, Save the Children and World Vision.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This update details progress of the operation from its commencement on 9 December 2016 until 31 March 2017. Due to a lower actual number of non-food item (NFI) distributions and therefore reduced replenishment requirements than anticipated at the time of the DREF request, and further reconciliation of the stock up to early April, this update extends the operation timeframe to 31 May 2017 to allow:

1. NFI stocks in Honiara and Makira (where there is no SIRC branch presence for the moment) that were not distributed as part of the response to be pre-positioned.
2. Learning activities, i.e. capturing of field response activities and stories of best practices by the SIRC staff and volunteers and dissemination to public media and RCRC Movement to be finalized.

Currently, the DREF response is reaching the end of its implementation however, some revisions have been made due to the lessening in the number of affected households following verification of the initial disaster assessment (IDA) data and self-recovery of the affected communities who very quickly began to repair and rebuild their homes. Response activities during the reporting period have made good progress in accessing communities in hard to reach places within a difficult operating environment of under-developed infrastructure and unpredicted weather patterns in addition to the limited logistics capability of the National Society in Makira and Malaita. The detailed reasons for the revisions are explained in this Operations Update under the *revised* Needs Analysis, *revised* Strategy and Detailed Operational Plan (progress towards outcomes).

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

At 0439 hours on 9 December 2016 an earthquake of magnitude 7.8 occurred approximately 62km west-southwest of Kirakira in the Makira province of the Solomon Islands. Since then aftershocks have continued to be felt through parts of the Solomon Islands.

Following initial assessments, the National Emergency Operation Centre, in collaboration with the Provincial Emergency Operation Centres of the impacted provinces, narrowed the scope and scale of the disaster to Makira and south Malaita where the most significant impacts were felt. Impacts in the Guadalcanal province were considered minimal.

Immediate action taken by the Solomon Islands government, its stakeholders and partners was to deploy relief items to the impacted communities of Makira and Malaita.

Makira

An official request for national support from the Makira province was made to the National Disaster Operations Committee (N-DOC) and relevant sectors/organisations. N-DOC Committees including those for Health, Education, Livelihood, Protection, Infrastructure (shelter), and Camp Management activated mechanisms and actions in support of these requests, and a National Emergency Response Team (NERT) led by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and consisting of representatives from government technical agencies, SIRC and other NGOs was deployed by Police patrol boat to the Makira Province and to Auki, the provincial capital of the Malaita province, on 11 December 2016 to support with:

- needs assessment;
- distribution of emergency supplies;
- water purification and distribution; and
- coordination of relief assistance at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre.

Following a joint briefing with provincial authorities, the Police patrol boat deployed the NERT to the southern part of the province covering Tetere, Apaoro, Apamatawa, Mwaniworo, Parigina, Aruraha, Marogu and Waigaga. Assessment in the northern part of the province was commenced immediately following a joint briefing by other agencies.

With the support of the NERT, five Provincial Emergency Response Teams (PERT) conducted initial disaster assessments (IDA) in the southern and western parts of the Makira province.

Malaita

On 12 December 2016, the Malaita Provincial Disaster Committee deployed a PERT to Afio together with three NERT members and the SIRC Dissemination Officer to conduct IDAs. From 13 December 2016, the on-site coordination for the Malaita response was done from Afio (a substation of south Malaita).

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society – Solomon Islands Red Cross Society

In responding to this disaster in Makira, the SIRC mobilised 22 volunteers and four staff from SIRC headquarters in Honiara and five volunteers from Makira to:

- Distribute WASH items;
- Provide health and hygiene messaging to 1,509 households (9,055 people: 3,922 men; 5,133 women);
- Transport and operate the NOMAD water purification unit;
- Distribute safe drinking water (using the NOMAD) to 260 households (1,557 people);
- Conduct needs assessments;
- Distribute NFIs to 241 households (1,446 people) with significantly damaged or destroyed houses and 36 with partially damaged houses, and disseminate build back safer messages to 39 communities.

In responding to this disaster in Malaita, the SIRC mobilised three volunteers and one staff from SIRC headquarters in Honiara plus three volunteers and one staff from Malaita to:

- Conduct needs assessments;
- Distribute NFIs to 163 households (978 people) with significantly damaged or destroyed houses and 325 with partially damaged houses.

SIRC has also:

- Participated in N-DOC committee meetings (Health, Education, Livelihood, Protection, Infrastructure (shelter), and Camp Management) with the Solomon Islands Government through the NDMO, also attended by UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and bilateral partners. These meetings were designed to assist inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination and planning.
- Been part of the Solomon Islands disaster risk management arrangements and an active member of the N-DOC Committee (represented by the SIRC Secretary General).
- Collaborated with UNICEF and MoHMS on health and hygiene promotion in Makira and the distribution of WASH items in Makira and Malaita;
- Collaborated with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MoEHRD) to set up temporary learning spaces for schools in Makira (tents for 14 temporary classrooms enabling 1,950 school students, 1031 boys and 919 girls, to start school on time on 30 January 2017).
- Collaborated with WHO and MoHMS to set up 5 temporary health clinics in Makira.
- Participated in a detailed sector assessment (DSA) of the affected communities in Makira led by NDMO with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in late February / early March 2017.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Throughout the operation, the IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) in Suva has provided technical support and guidance to the SIRC in the form of operations management, logistics, finance, and PMER surge support, as well as remote technical support for shelter. The SIRC has also received support through the IFRC's and International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) regional structures as well as SIRC's in-country partners, the Australian Red Cross (ARC) and Croix-Rouge Française (CRF), who are supporting long-term programmes in WASH, disaster risk reduction (DRR), disaster preparedness (DP) and volunteer blood donation programme. Further details on the support provided by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC) communications officer is provided in Section B below.

Movement coordination

Throughout the operation, the SIRC has continued to work with the IFRC, ARC and CRF to collate situation reports, plan and coordinate the response. CRF also released their fleet to assist with the deployment of personnel and resources in the first week of the response.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

In addition to the NDMO who has led the response as part of the national disaster risk management arrangements; SIRC and World Vision have been the primary responding actors, with some further operational support provided by Oxfam and Save the Children.

SIRC has worked in collaboration with the Solomon Islands government as the lead agency supporting relief and recovery efforts through the NDMO and its various ministries (MoHMS, MoEHRD, MID); Oxfam who provided tarpaulins to complement SIRC shelter toolkits being distributed in Malaita; WHO in setting up five temporary emergency clinics for clinics in Makira that had been significantly damaged or destroyed in the earthquake; and UNICEF in setting up temporary learning spaces for destroyed or damaged schools in Makira and for WASH activities in Makira and Malaita.

Coordinating with the authorities

The SIRC has been working with the NDMO at national and provincial level throughout the operation and attended all relevant coordination meetings called by the different government departments. SIRC was provided with space for six staff/volunteers and NFIs on the very first Police boat that was used for the multi-sectoral IDA in Makira and was part of the NERT, consisting also of representatives from government technical agencies and local NGOs. This was deployed to Makira to support the province with the IDA, distribution of emergency supplies, and disaster management and coordination at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC). In coordination with the NDMO and other partners, SIRC has also supported the provision of NFIs to south Malaita. Logistics in Makira and Malaita have been supported through the Logistics Cluster and NDMO.

Distribution assistance

To assist with the response, the Solomon Islands government provided SIRC with free access to four local banana boats for a one-week period to distribute NFI from Kirakira to the affected communities. These banana boats were contracted by the government to be used for assessments and relief distribution.

Financial support

Financial support to the government response has been made available by several authorities including the:

- Solomon Islands government: SBD 3,000,000 (approximately CHF 373,758)
- Government of Japan and Government of Papua New Guinea: pledge of support for assistance through the Solomon Islands Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.

Inter-agency coordination

The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), in coordination with the six N-DOC Committees and the PEOC in Makira, Malaita and Guadalcanal has continued to lead the operation, and the monitoring and deployment of assessment teams and humanitarian assistance.

The UN Joint Presence Office has also been in close coordination with the NEOC and with other in-country UN agencies such as OCHA (who have provided information management support to the NEOC), UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

Various agencies have provided sector-specific support per the six N-DOC Committees (Health, Education, Protection, Infrastructure (Shelter), Camp Management and WASH) and WASH and Protection clusters were activated in coordination with these. The last N-DOC meeting was a lessons learned workshop held on 3 March 2017.

Civil Military Coordination has been carried out through the NEOC/PEOC Operations Function Teams with the support of the RSIPF (Police). As part of this the multi-agency assessment team were provided access to use the Police patrol boat for two weeks during the initial response.

At country level SIRC has been part of the Solomon Islands disaster risk management arrangements and is an active member of the National Disaster Operations Committee (represented by the SIRC secretary general). As a member of this committee SIRC has supported partner and stakeholder coordination throughout the response.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

In determining the number of affected households, it has been necessary to do several assessments to properly identify the number and level of houses affected.

The preliminary indication of damage was made available via an NEOC situation report of 12 December 2016. This report indicated the number of houses destroyed or damaged to be approximately 137 in Makira, 149 in Malaita and 19 in Guadalcanal.

Ten days later, as at 21 December 2016, initial Government and SIRC assessment data from assessments carried out by multi-agency teams¹ over 11-21 December, indicated a difference in the number of affected households. The results of initial needs assessments undertaken in Makira and Malaita and used to inform the DREF request indicated a total of 485 houses (265 in Makira and 220 in Malaita) in the significantly damaged or destroyed category (category 3 and 4) as shown in the table below.

Provinces	Affected wards	Total population	# of houses destroyed / significantly damaged	# of houses partially damaged	# of HH reached with RC NFIs	RC target # of HH (persons) (using in-country stocks)
Makira	6	40,419	265	24	50 (92 water distribution)	289 (1734)
Malaita	7	137,596	220	325	220	545 (3270)
Guadalcanal	1	93,613	0	0	n/a	0
Total	14	271,628	485¹	349²	270	834³ (5,004)

¹Total number of houses assessed as either category 3 or 4

²Total number of houses assessed as category 2

³Total number of houses (all categories) to be reached by awareness messaging

¹ In Makira, SIRC teams were allocated 5 wards to assess; other wards were assessed by teams comprised of NDMO and other agency representatives. In Malaita the IDA was conducted for all affected wards by teams comprised of SIRC, NDMO and other agency representatives.

Revised needs analysis

Makira

In conducting the IDA, the provincial government of Makira allocated five (5) affected wards to SIRC for assessment. The remaining affected wards were assessed by teams made up of government and NGO representatives. However, these teams were not familiar with KoBo, a mobile data collection tool, which was being used for the first time as a trial. In addition, the assessment teams had not received formal shelter damage assessment training and did not have an illustrated guidance note to assist with categorization of damages, as mentioned above. Teams relied solely upon a text description when carrying out the assessment which can provide some subjectivity in the results. At the time, there were no shelter trained volunteers in proximity and available for deployment.

As part of the initial distribution of NFIs between 2 to 9 January 2017, SIRC sent a team of one staff and three volunteers joined by two personnel from the NDMO to verify the IDA data and plan the distribution. During this verification, the damage was assessed to be less than that initially indicated in the early IDA data and the target distribution revised accordingly.

The final revised data in respect of the number of affected households became available on 12 January 2017 once the SIRC/NDMO team had completed the verification process.

Malaita

In Malaita, SIRC were involved in the IDA for all the affected wards. The teams - comprised of SIRC, government and NGO representatives, utilized SIRC and World Vision assessment forms to complete the assessments. However, there was some difference in the categorization of housing damage. The total number of houses destroyed was later revised when the team went back to the SIRC branch EOC in the last week of December 2016.

Revised assessment data

The IDA data was later revised and the number of significantly damaged or destroyed houses reduced to 404 (241 in Makira and 163 in Malaita) at the time of distribution when SIRC/NDMO technical teams had the opportunity to verify the IDA data at a steadier pace. Based on the revised assessment data, the affected population and houses were updated as follows:

Provinces	Affected wards	Total population	# of houses destroyed / significantly damaged	# of houses partially damaged	# of HH / population reached with RC NFIs	# of HH / population reached with hygiene and health promotion	# of HH / population reached with clean water distribution
Makira	11	40,419	241	36	241 (1446)	1509 (9055)	260 (1557)
Malaita	5	137,596	163	325	163 (978)	0	0
Guadalcanal	1	93,613	0	0	0	0	0
Total	17	271,628	404	361	404 (2424)	1509* (9055)	260 (1557)

* Houses damaged or destroyed plus additional households reached by awareness messaging.

Of note:

- The above table has been updated to reflect the actual assistance delivered to the affected communities based on the revised needs assessment.
 - In Makira - 241 houses were assessed as significantly damaged or destroyed and received a combination of NFIs.
 - In Malaita - shelter toolkits, 10L collapsible water containers, and some household NFIs were distributed to 163 households.
 - Community meetings for health and hygiene promotion were held in 46 communities of Makira between 17 January 2017 to 1 February 2017. This included community members with damaged and destroyed houses. The meetings were held in collaboration with the MoHMS and included the distribution of hygiene promotion posters, collapsible water containers and soaps donated by UNICEF. A total of 3,922 males and 5,133 females attended these meetings (9,055 total).
 - Between 19 December 2016 and 13 January 2017, NOMAD treated clean water was distributed to 10 communities of Makira with an estimated total population of 1,557.

- The total number of households/population reached is not cumulative. Some households have received NFIs, hygiene and health messaging, and clean water distribution. Others have received only clean water distribution or health and hygiene messaging.
- Based on the data collected throughout the operation there are no unmet needs in the affected communities within the scope of the response.

Criteria for the categorization of housing damage and distribution of NFIs

In categorizing the level of housing damage and planned distribution of NFIs, SIRC has used the following criteria:

Category	House	Planned NFI distribution
4	Destroyed	Full package: shelter toolkit, tarpaulins (x2), hygiene kit, kitchen set, blankets (x2), solar lights, mosquito nets (x2), 10L water container ¹
3	Significant damage	Partial package: dependent on needs (usually kitchen sets, hygiene kits, buckets and/or water containers)
2	Minor damage	Water containers only
1	No damage	Water containers only ²

¹ The package available to occupants of destroyed or significantly damaged houses may still be adjusted based on actual household size and needs at the time of distribution

² Water containers may still be provided to households whose houses incurred no damage as often communities are living in situations where the available water source is located far from the community

Health

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, some community members in low lying areas displayed signs of trauma with several hesitant to return to their homes for fear of a tsunami occurring amidst continuing aftershocks. Communities supported each other and there was prompt support from provincial health clinics. However, there was no capacity within the responding agencies to provide official psychosocial first aid services.

Presently, most of the affected population has moved back to their communities or are staying with relatives in cases where their homes have been destroyed or severely damaged. Particularly women and children continue to be nervous about aftershocks and where available, affected individuals are encouraged to access existing community and cultural support.

In the immediate weeks following the earthquake, secondary impacts on the health of the affected population including conditions such as diarrhoea and 'red eye' related to a lack of proper hygiene raised some concern. In January, the MoHMS, joined by SIRC volunteers, visited 46 affected communities of Makira. These visits were used by SIRC to deliver health and hygiene awareness messaging and distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials.

Due to concerns that a dengue outbreak in other parts of the Solomon Islands might spread to the earthquake affected areas, additional mosquito nets were dispatched to Makira as an anticipatory action. Dengue awareness messaging was also incorporated into health and hygiene promotion activities conducted by SIRC volunteers.

Hygiene

Due to housing damage and a fear of returning indoors among some community members amidst continuing aftershocks and in case of a tsunami, hundreds of families were initially at risk from weather phenomena and unsafe water.

A need to promote safe water handling, household water treatment, and provide hygienic items to reinforce health and hygiene practices was identified; and health and hygiene community meetings, including tippy tap demonstrations, were held in 46 communities of Makira in collaboration with the MoHMS. Health and hygiene messages were presented at these meetings along with a range of promotional posters provided by UNICEF.

Shelter

In collaboration with the NDMO, SIRC is one of the few agencies who could provide NFIs to the affected communities in the early stage of the response. This has included the distribution of:

Makira: shelter toolkits, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, blankets, 10L collapsible water containers, buckets, mosquito nets and solar lamps.

Malaita: shelter toolkits (including tarpaulins from Oxfam), 10L collapsible water containers, and some household NFIs (north Malaita only).

The distribution of shelter toolkits has also been supplemented with the demonstration of kit items and explanation on the purpose and good use of kit contents.

Further details of health and hygiene activities; and, shelter activities and distributions completed in this operation are provided in Section C of this report.

Access to safe water

Following the earthquake, disruption to services reliant upon water infrastructure, including damage to reservoirs and water distribution lines, was evident in some affected areas due to landslides and continuing aftershocks; and there was a need identified for communities to have access to safe water in areas of temporary settlement. SIRC deployed a NOMAD² and technical team to the Makira province for treating and distributing water and jerry cans to 92 households. A second NOMAD unit was also put on standby for dispatch to Guadalcanal however, was not required.

Other actions taken by SIRC have included the:

- distribution of jerry cans (held by SIRC in local partnership with UNICEF) for clean drinking water storage to the affected communities;
- dispatch of a local banana boat (owned by SIRC) to south Makira to enable the distribution of clean water to 10 communities (total 95,000 litres); during this visit SIRC volunteers also helped some communities to rehabilitate gravity fed systems and dams;
- treatment of each water container distributed via the NOMAD with aqua tabs provided by UNICEF.

The team operating the NOMAD used pre-positioned water testing kits to test the treated water for e-coli and aqua tabs to treat the water produced by the NOMAD. This operation finished on 20 January 2017. The NOMAD is expected to be returned to SIRC headquarters in Honiara in early April 2017.

In total, SIRC efforts have enabled an estimated 1,557 people in Makira to receive access to clean water.

Beneficiary selection

In responding to the disaster, SIRC has worked to ensure that its response strategies and plan align with SIRC organisational documents as well as the IFRC's commitment to principles of gender and diversity. This has included meeting the needs of the most vulnerable such as single headed households, the elderly and those that have been unequivocally affected: those with diarrhoea, pregnant or lactating women and children under five years of age.

NFIs have been distributed in accordance with the level of damage of the houses. Additional WASH NFI items (water containers and hygiene kits) have also been provided to those beneficiaries identified with special needs, including during health and hygiene promotion activities. For example, additional hygiene kits were provided to the very sick, disabled and/or elderly people.



Beneficiaries receiving WASH NFI distributions in Makira (photo credit: SIRC)

² Portable water purification system

Risk assessment

As the earthquake occurred during the Pacific cyclone season and at a time when the Solomon Islands was also experiencing a dengue outbreak, the SIRC has kept its branch network activated beyond the central capital areas.

Throughout February numerous heavy rain alerts were issued for the earthquake affected areas of the Solomon Islands; however, most activities covered by this reporting period were completed in January. Rain has at times prevented the river crossings required to reach or return from affected communities in Makira. Where possible, distributions that could not be made by truck have been completed by boat, but limited to the loading capacity of the SIRC boat.

B. Operational strategy and plan (revised)

Overall Objective

The DREF operation has aimed to address the immediate needs of 2,424 (*revised*) people through the mobilization of surge support from the SIRC (headquarters and branches), suppliers and relief items. It has sought to mobilise and assist communities in preparing for transition into a recovery phase in close coordination with public authorities, other stakeholders and partners, and with technical and funding support from the IFRC. This has included ensuring that WASH and Build Back Safer messaging to a total of 9,055 (*revised*) people are an integral component of the response.

Revision to strategy

The focus of the operation has been on 11 wards in Makira (Wards 5-10, Ward 14, Wards 17-20) and five wards in Malaita (Wards 19-22, Ward 25). Originally the operation was to focus on six wards in Makira and seven wards in Malaita however, this was revised following SIRC/NDMO verification of the IDA data.

The response has been focused on the emergency phase only and has addressed two primary sectors: water, sanitation, hygiene and health promotion; and shelter and settlements. The revision to strategy refers to pre-positioning of the NFIs that were not distributed as part of the response as explained below.

NFI distribution

The distribution of NFIs in Makira (from Kirakira) and Malaita (from Auki) was conducted in late December and early January. One government boat and one government-chartered boat were used to transport NFIs to a provincial warehouse in Makira where SIRC rented space to receive and dispatch the NFIs to the affected communities. The first boat on 11 December delivered the NOMAD, shelter toolkits, tarpaulins and some collapsible water containers to Makira. The second boat on 12 December delivered shelter toolkits and collapsible water containers to Malaita. This was the only NFI distribution to Malaita and was overseen by the SIRC Communications Officer and a team of 4 volunteers.

On 30 December, the household NFIs planned for distribution in Makira (mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, solar lights, buckets and tarpaulins) based on the original IDA data were sent by commercial boat (accompanied by SIRC volunteers).

Makira

In planning the response for Makira, it was determined to dispatch all the NFI for Makira to Kirakira, the provincial capital, where further arrangements would be made for the distribution of the NFIs to all communities. However, it was found during the response that it would have been preferable to have two staging sites, one in Kirakira (northern side of Makira) and one in Marogu (directly opposite side on the southern side of the island) to facilitate a more rapid response. From Kirakira only the northern side of the island could be reached by road access; these distributions were completed first. Distributions to the southern side of Makira had to be made by boat however, the boat could only travel around the northern side of Makira and as far as Anuta Island on the upper southeast coast. This was due to the loading capacity of the boat which could only carry sufficient NFI, people and fuel to reach this point and return to Kirakira before nightfall in accordance with SIRC standard operating procedures.

Distribution of the household NFI's which arrived in Kirakira on 1 January (boat that departed Honiara on 30 December) was prioritized for those communities on the northern coast of Makira which were accessible by road. This meant that it was a further two weeks before distributions could commence to the first communities on the southern coast which could only be accessed by boat. Due to loading factors, the affected communities along the southern coast between Anuta Island and Marunga could only be reached at the rate of one community per trip/day in good weather conditions.

For this and the following reasons a decision was made not to distribute further NFI to these communities:

- The time delay in reaching these communities meant that some families had already begun repairing their houses in the days and weeks after the earthquake / tsunami;
- SIRC received no further requests from the affected communities;
- WASH and shelter volunteers travelled along the southern coast of the island and visited these communities at the end of January and there were no complaints received from the community about the distribution of NFIs.

In northern Makira and in Malaita it was also found that some households did not require a full household kit as they had started rebuilding their homes, had a kitchen separate to the house that was not damaged or had previously received mosquito nets through a MoHMS distribution carried out prior to the earthquake.

As a result of the verification process carried out during the NFI distributions and finding that some households did not require a full household kit, some NFIs (kitchen sets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets and blankets) were not distributed as part of the response and are presently stored in Makira.



A destroyed house in Makira (photo credit: SIRC)



Solomon Islands Red Cross Volunteers unloading NFI in Makira (photo credit: SIRC)

Malaita

In South Malaita only shelter toolkits and collapsible water containers were distributed as part of the initial response as at the time SIRC had insufficient household NFIs in the store in Honiara to send on the first boat which departed Honiara for Malaita on 12 December and Makira was the higher priority for response based on the initial situational overview undertaken by the Solomon Islands Government. In addition, support was being provided to south Malaita by other agencies. Family kits comprised of kitchen sets, hygiene kits, solar lights and sleeping mats were provided to 130 affected households by Save the Children (70) and World Vision (60); and tarpaulins were provided by Oxfam (200) and Save the Children (30). In north Malaita some household items were provided by the Auki Branch to significantly damaged or destroyed houses from their own pre-positioned stock.

Actual assistance

The target figure of 485 houses was updated to 404 houses to reflect the total number of houses which received assistance following the verification of the IDA data immediately prior to the distribution of NFIs, and included:

Makira: 241 households with significantly destroyed or damaged houses and 36 households with partially damaged houses.

Malaita: 163 households with significantly destroyed or damaged houses and 325 households with partially damaged houses.

Operational support services

Human resources

The operation has been implemented by:

Makira: 22 volunteers and four staff from Honiara and five volunteers from Makira

Malaita: Three volunteers and one staff from Honiara and three volunteers and one staff from Malaita

The IFRC CCST Pacific has provided technical support and guidance as well as support in logistics, finance and PMER.

Peer support for communications and media was requested by the SIRC to raise the profile of the SIRC response and collect beneficiary stories; and was provided by the Communications Officer from the Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC) with deployment costs supported by the DREF allocation and ICRC. In addition, a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was put on standby to support the response in accordance with DREF requirements. This decision was made following discussion between SIRC and the CCST in January 2017, where a decision was made that the SIRC disaster risk manager would be deployed to the field with the SIRC WASH team and it was determined that there was no longer a requirement for WASH RDRT support.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities have aimed to effectively manage the supply chain including the procurement, customs clearance, storage and transport of NFIs to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and IFRC logistics standards, processes and procedures. In the initial phase of the response, SIRC had a full-time logistics coordinator available to support the relief operation. The IFRC Logistics delegate based in Suva was also deployed for one week to support immediate relief planning.

Since early in the response there were some staffing changes within SIRC and no permanent Logistics coordinator in place. In early February 2017, the IFRC Logistics delegate based in Suva was deployed for three weeks to assist with addressing this gap and support SIRC to oversee customs clearances for receiving international shipments, stock planning and storage in Honiara. This mission was supported by Australian Red Cross. Technical support has also been available from the IFRC regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur.

Throughout the operation there have been significant logistics challenges in reaching the affected populations due to the remote locations of many of the affected communities and limited pre-existing infrastructure. In the immediate phase of the response, SIRC dispatched existing stocks via sea freight from its warehouse in Honiara, and staff have utilised taxis and transport sharing options with partners to support operations where needed.

Makira

For the affected communities of Makira, the SIRC utilised its own 23ft fibreglass boat with an outboard motor to ship fuel supplies and a 500-litre bladder for SIRC volunteers to distribute water. The Solomon Islands government also granted SIRC the use of four local banana boats based in Kirakira for one week to assist with NFI distributions. NFIs were dispatched by boat to a SIRC rented storage facility in Kirakira where they were then organised and distributed to the affected communities.

Malaita

For the affected communities of Malaita, the SIRC communications officer joined a government-funded boat travelling around Malaita and distributed the NFIs to the affected communities from this boat.

NFI procurement

Due to the capacity constraints of in-country suppliers, the procurement to replenish distributed NFI stocks was undertaken by the Asia Pacific RLU in Kuala Lumpur as per standard IFRC procurement procedures. The replenishment has been completed and goods received by the NS. UNICEF was supporting SIRC by donating IEC materials and New Zealand Red Cross donated the first aid kits for deployed teams.

Information technologies (IT)

As branches do not have access to the internet and communication via HF radios has been challenging, volunteers were reliant upon finding health clinics in the communities or travelling great distances (up to half a day) to relay assessment information to the SIRC headquarters. For this reason, the cost of telephone communications was included in the operational support budget.

Communications

In the absence of the SIRC communications officer who was deployed to the Malaita province as part of the initial response, a peer support in communications and media was requested by SIRC and provided by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross.

During his two-week deployment in Honiara, the PNGRC communications officer provided cover for the SIRC communications officer who was deployed to the field and supported the operation with:

- two media releases – one each in the Solomons Star and the Island Sun (local newspapers) for the earthquake response (also a media release for the concurrent dengue response);
- information for the Barava FM radio station to broadcast during their news bulletin;
- an article prepared in collaboration with the IFRC CCST Pacific communications delegate and published on the IFRC website – see [link to article](#);
- setting up an official Facebook page for SIRC (prior to this SIRC only had a group page);
- four Facebook posts;
- photographs of staff and volunteers preparing for the response and loading the vehicles and boat;
- the design of consent forms to enable SIRC to use photographs taken of the public during the response;
- the design of a media monitoring template and media monitoring;
- general communications peer-to-peer support and knowledge exchange for the SIRC communications officer.

During his field deployment, the SIRC communications officer took photos of the affected communities in Makira and Malaita to post on the SIRC Facebook page and prepared media releases for local newspapers. To date it has not been possible for the SIRC communications officer to revisit the affected communities to gather beneficiary stories however, there is a plan to receive beneficiary stories by way of feedback forms and questionnaires in early April.

It is noted that communication with beneficiaries has been very challenging throughout the operation due to the remote location of many of the affected communities and lack of internet/telephone services. For this reason, beneficiary feedback and the results of further beneficiary questionnaires to be sent out in April will be incorporated into the final operational report.

Security

There have been no security issues identified during the operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

Monitoring visits have been conducted by SIRC staff in Makira and Malaita during March 2017. In addition, SIRC volunteers informed communities that they could provide feedback by contacting SIRC staff and volunteers stationed in Kirakira and the SIRC headquarters in Honiara. These enabled communities to inform SIRC of villages and communities in need of assistance and helped to ensure that all communities in need could access the assistance they required.

Beneficiary surveys were completed in Makira and Malaita in March 2017. In addition, lessons learned workshops were conducted in Honiara and Makira for deployed staff and volunteers in March 2017; and one is planned for Malaita in early April 2017.

The results of the beneficiary surveys and lessons learned workshops will be incorporated into the final operational report which is expected to be completed by August 2017.

Administration and Finance

The IFRC finance team has continued to provide operational support and assistance to SIRC, including the deployment of the IFRC CCST Pacific finance manager to the Solomon Islands for two weeks in early 2017, with the review and validation of budgets, bank transfers and invoices; and procedures for the justification of expenditures in accordance with DREF guidelines.

C. Detailed Operational Plan: Progress towards outcomes

Progress against the outcomes of the DREF operation emergency plan of action for the reporting period is detailed in the tables that follow:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Shelter and settlements
- Quality programming

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion			
Outcome 1 Targeted populations have access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene practices in Makira Province	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.1 Access to safe drinking water is available for those affected communities in Makira Province Output 1.2 Hygiene, knowledge and practices are improved amongst affected population.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.1.1 Assessment of water sources that can be used for water production in Makira	x		100%
1.1.2 Deployment of NOMAD water purification unit to Makira Province and Guadalcanal for treating water	x		50%
1.1.3 Carry out detailed needs assessment in support of Rural Water and Sanitation (RWASH) of affected communities in Makira Province and Guadalcanal	x		50%
1.1.4 Water quality testing and monitoring	x		100%
1.1.5 Distribute treated water to the affected communities	x		100%
1.1.6 Demobilisation of NOMAD from the affected communities back to HQ	x		10%
1.1.7 Maintenance of deployed NOMAD unit and replenishment of filters and accessories	x		0%
1.1.8 In coordination with MoHMS, mobilise community volunteers for cleaning campaigns of debris in target areas affected by the earthquake	x		100%
1.1.9 Procure equipment/tools (including PPE for SIRC staff and volunteers) for assessment and distribution and other response		x	0%
1.1.10 Procurement of first aid kits for deployed teams	x		100%
1.2.1 Meetings with WASH committees to ensure better coordination and information sharing occurs in relation to any health threats from the EQ affected communities	x		100%
1.2.2 Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns in targeted communities	x		100%
1.2.3 Safe household water treatment and WASH in emergencies is demonstrated and disseminated by the volunteers (boiling and flocculation methods/tippy tap installation)	x		100%
1.2.4 Print and distribute hygiene promotion pamphlets and IEC materials to targeted households	x		100%
1.2.5 Construct localised hand washing facilities (tippy taps) near communal sanitation facilities in the targeted communities	x		50%
1.2.6 Continue to support Provincial RWASH in detailed assessment findings and advocating for intervention by local authorities	x		100%
1.2.7 In collaboration with other humanitarian actors (UNICEF, RWASH), distribute WASH NFIs (including jerry cans, hygiene kits and mosquito nets) to affected communities	x		100%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>Activities relating to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion were planned to reach a total of six wards and 290 households with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. However, the actual number of households and population reached in Makira has been greater amounting to:</p> <p>Hygiene and health promotion: 1,509 households (9,055 people: 3,922 men; 5,133 women)</p> <p>Clean water distribution: 260 households (1,557 people)</p> <p>The initial assessment of water sources that could be used for water production and detailed needs assessment of the affected communities in Makira following the earthquake was undertaken by the Rural Water and Sanitation (RWASH) team within the MoHMS. SIRC then deployed the NOMAD water purification unit, accompanied by the</p>			

SIRC WASH team, to the sites identified by the RWASH team in Makira. Although a request for water treatment was earlier received from the provincial government and NDMO of Guadalcanal, this was never confirmed. In Malaita water was not identified as a need or priority therefore only water containers were distributed. The NOMAD has now been demobilised and is presently in storage in Kirakira awaiting transport back to Honiara in April 2017 where it will undergo routine maintenance.

Meetings with WASH committees were held at both national and provincial level throughout the operation and attended by SIRC staff. At provincial level, volunteers (especially team leaders) also accompanied SIRC staff to these meetings. In addition, the SIRC NOMAD team, in coordination with the MoHMS, mobilised community volunteers for cleaning campaigns of debris in target affected areas of Makira. This was not required in Malaita.

In January 2017, SIRC volunteers joined the MoHMS to visit 46 communities in Makira. SIRC used these visits to promote health and hygiene awareness and to distribute IEC materials (gifted in-kind by UNICEF) covering safe food handling, household water treatment, handwashing and nutrition; and present a range of UNICEF promotion posters for display in each community. The meetings were attended by a total of 3,922 men and 5,133 women (9,055 total) including children.

Health and hygiene promotion was also carried out in five damaged health clinics where SIRC volunteers helped to set up tents. Prior to the earthquake there had been reported cases of diarrhoea and conjunctivitis in areas of Makira that were not affected by the earthquake. For this reason, there was some concern that cases may spread to the earthquake affected areas where health and hygiene practices could be impacted. Presently, there continue to be some reported cases of diarrhoea and conjunctivitis in Makira however, these are in line with expected levels for the province and have not increased because of the earthquake. These cases are managed and monitored by the provincial health authorities.

Low confidence among team members to construct functional tippy taps and a lack of local materials prevented the installation of tippy taps (a low/no cost device for hand washing with running water) however, demonstrations and instruction on how to install the tippy taps was included in the health and hygiene promotion community meetings.

Over the course of the operation, the following WASH NFIs have been distributed to the affected communities:

NFI	SIRC total planned distribution	DREF planned distribution	Revised distribution	Actual distribution MAKIRA	Actual distribution MALAITA	Total distribution	Not distributed per original target
Hygiene kits	485	485	404	176	5	181	304
10L water containers	0	0	n/a	322	525	847	n/a
14L buckets	0	0	n/a	172	5	177	n/a
Mosquito nets	970	800	808	309	10	319	481

Note: Further explanation on the distribution of hygiene kits and mosquito nets is provided in the "progress towards outcomes" section of the "Shelter and Settlements" table

Of note in respect of the distribution of household NFIs:

- The replenishment of the 10L water containers and 14L plastic buckets was not requested as part of the DREF.
- The water containers were provided by UNICEF for distribution by SIRC.
- Buckets distributed by SIRC were from SIRC stock but did not form part of the DREF as they were not initially identified to form part of the household kit for distribution

The procurement of first aid kits for the deployed teams was not required as these were gifted in-kind by the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC).

Shelter and settlements

Outcome 2

Contribute to the improvement of sheltering conditions of the target population on Makira and Malaita Provinces through provision of adequate emergency shelter support in accordance with local practices within the next 3 months

Outputs

Output 2.1 Emergency shelter assistance (including related NFIs and technical support) is provided to affected households

% of achievement

65%

Activities

Is implementation on time?

% progress (estimate)

Yes (x)

No (x)

2.1.1 Conduct rapid emergency needs assessments, and analysis of shelter needs to inform adequate NFI distribution

x

100%

2.1.2 Distribution of shelter NFIs and household items to assist with emergency needs of affected communities

x

100%

2.1.3 Awareness of appropriate use of Shelter kits (shelter toolkit + 2 Tarps) to affected households through community visits by trained volunteers

x

100%

2.1.4 Conduct 'Tips on Timber Framed Shelter Construction' Workshop – awareness on Building Back Safer construction techniques – for the affected households

x

50%

2.1.5 Representation and advocacy of community needs to local authorities

x

50%

2.1.6 Provision of local support to National Shelter Sub-Committee (Under the Infrastructure Committee, Ministry of Infrastructure Development)

x

50%

2.1.7 Replenishment of shelter NFIs and sourcing local items to compliment standardised kits

x

10%

Progress towards outcomes

Initial assessments indicated a total of 485 houses (265 in Makira and 220 in Malaita) significantly damaged or destroyed (category 3 and 4) to be assisted with NFI distributions; and 834 households (5,004 people) to be assisted through Build Back Safer awareness raising in approximately 13 affected wards of Makira and Malaita provinces.

These figures were later revised during the verification of the IDA data carried out at the time of distribution to 404 households (241 in Makira and 163 in Malaita). The target number of households for Build Back Safer awareness raising was not revised.

NFI	SIRC total planned distribution	DREF planned distribution	Revised distribution	Actual distribution MAKIRA	Actual distribution MALAITA	Total distribution	Not distributed per original target
Shelter toolkits	485	485	404	213	220	433	52
Tarpaulins	275	275	n/a	396	10	406	0
Kitchen sets	485	485	404	64	5	69	416
Blankets	970	970	808	432	10	442	528
Mosquito nets	970	800	808	309	10	319	481
Solar lamps	0	0	n/a	143	5	148	n/a

Of note in respect of the distribution of household NFIs:

- An additional 200 tarpaulins from Oxfam were distributed by SIRC in Malaita; these were given out with the shelter toolkits.
- Additional tarpaulins from UNICEF were also used to supplement the distribution of shelter toolkits in Makira however, one bale of tarpaulins (5) and one shelter toolkit went missing during the initial dispatch of these items to Makira. It is not clear from the distribution records which households received Red Cross tarpaulins and which UNICEF tarpaulins.
- Shelter toolkits were distributed to all households whose houses were destroyed (in accordance with the revised needs assessment data which was verified during the distribution process). This occurred during the first distribution to Makira (by boat on 11 December) and the sole distribution to Malaita.

- Kitchen sets (99) held by SIRC in Honiara were dispatched to Makira and Malaita with an expectation that additional kitchen sets would be sourced from other agencies. However, during the distribution it was found that some households did not need a kitchen set as part of their household kit and only 41 kitchen sets were required for distribution. Many of the houses have a kitchen in a separate building which was not damaged.
- Due to miscommunication in the beneficiary selection process, mosquito nets were only provided to 319 households. In addition, during the distribution some households reported that they did not require a mosquito net as part of their household kit as the items had very recently been distributed by the MoHMS (prior to the earthquake). As part of an on-going vector-borne disease prevention programme, the MoHMS have targeted a population of 10,877 people in Makira for the distribution of mosquito nets over 2016/2017. In early February 2017, the MoHMS reported having distributed mosquito nets to 5,215 people within this target population.
- Additional mosquito nets were also dispatched to Makira as an anticipatory action due to a dengue outbreak in the Honiara, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Malaita and Western (Gizo city) provinces. Although there were no reported dengue cases in Makira at the time there was some concern that residents may be at higher risk following the earthquake and some had reported experiencing malaria type symptoms. A total of 1,500 mosquito nets were dispatched to Makira, 800 of which formed part of the DREF replenishment plan.
- Although a distribution of 970 blankets was planned, 1500 blankets were dispatched to Makira with the intention that the additional blankets (which are extra thick) would be distributed as mats. Funding in the DREF budget was identified to locally purchase 900 sleeping mats however, blankets were distributed instead. Due to the evolving situation on the ground and a lack of information from communities requesting support, it was determined that there were no further unmet needs for mats.
- Solar lanterns were not requested as part of the DREF and were distributed from existing SIRC stock.
- The distribution of shelter toolkits in each province has also been supplemented with demonstrations in the use of kit items and explanation on the purpose and good use of kit contents.

In Makira, Build Back Safer messaging was undertaken by SIRC staff and volunteers during the detailed sector assessment (DSA) in late February / early March 2017. Double-sided A4 fliers were handed out in 39 communities, and the images explained one-by-one. The messages were illustrated by pointing at real-life examples in the communities, i.e. houses which survived the earthquake due to cross bracing, deep foundations, and good connections between the various building elements. In Malaita, Build Back Safer messaging will be undertaken by the Auki Branch, NDMO, and Ministry of Infrastructure Development as part of a DSA expected to occur in the second half of 2017.

The requisition of the DREF occurred prior to the opportunity to verify the IDA data because of long sea freight lead times from Kuala Lumpur to Honiara (42 days in this instance, excluding loading/unloading and dispatching) and the requirement to complete the replenishment within the initial DREF timeframe. A decrease in the number of affected households following verification of the IDA data and lower community level requirements than anticipated has resulted in a lesser NFI replenishment requirement than expected at the time of the DREF request. Presently there is some NFI replenishment stock remaining in storage in Honiara and Makira.

In addition, several items that were due to be sourced locally were not procured as outlined below:

Six tonne of chain blocks:

Originally planned for purchase by SIRC the chain blocks were not purchased during the initial response as some communities took the initiative to hire locally available chain blocks. SIRC has found during the DSA that the chain blocks have been very useful in the communities and has received requests from communities for them. For this reason, chain blocks will be considered for any future disaster response.

900 sleeping mats

The purchase of 900 sleeping mats could not be procured locally in a rapid manner in time for the government organized sea freight dispatches and was determined not to be needed at a later date.

40 pallets

Pallets were planned to be procured to assist with loading and unloading the NFIs on to the boats and for storing the NFIs slightly raised from the ground, especially the hygiene kits. However, the procurement was not conducted as the ports authority of Honiara who SIRC had planned to purchase the pallets from did not have any in stock. For this reason, SIRC used timber they collected to raise the NFIs off the ground in storage in Honiara, and were unable to provide any pallets to accompany the NFIs to Makira and Malaita. Pallets later arrived with emergency relief supply stocks from the Australian Government and Australian Red Cross (ARC) and were used for the storage in Honiara.

Detailed sector assessment (DSA) – late February / early March 2017

Presently, SIRC observe that houses which have suffered damage or been destroyed are likely to need further assistance with reconstruction. In late February / early March 2017, SIRC (funded by the Solomon Islands government and the UNDP) and the Solomon Islands government joined a UNDP led technical team to undertake a detailed sector assessment of the affected communities in Makira³ with a view to informing the Recovery Action Plan. They determined the major impacts of the disaster to be on small village communities in Central and West Makira with semi-permanent and permanent houses; and identified a significant reduction in the number of affected houses from that reported in the IDA data.

There are several reasons why differences in the housing damage data from the initial and revised IDA and the DSA conducted two months later may have occurred. Firstly, the IDA teams did not have an illustrated guidance note to assist them in categorizing the level of housing damage (i.e. destroyed, damaged) as one does not exist. This meant that the teams were reliant solely upon a text description when carrying out the assessment which can provide some subjectivity in the results. Secondly, the IDA was done by multi agency teams with the support of the community whereas the DSA was done by technical teams and carried out at a steadier pace. Thirdly, communities typically begin repairing and rebuilding their houses from day one so the second assessment might reasonably indicate less damaged houses. This is particularly true in the Pacific and has been witnessed during the response as families quickly began repairing their houses in the days and weeks after the earthquake/tsunami, some even hiring chain blocks to realign the foundations of their houses.

Led by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, the shelter recovery and reconstruction strategy is expected to deliver a package of assistance focused on supporting vulnerable earthquake and tsunami-affected families to achieve safe and resilient shelter in Makira and South Malaita; and capacity building including strengthening coordination structures at provincial and national level, and provision of carpentry training at provincial and local level.

SIRC staff and shelter committee members have advocated at provincial and national level on the findings of the DSA and plan of action for the recovery transition. SIRC has also supported the National Shelter Committee as a co-chair and provided data from the earthquake needs assessments which was used as the basis for the DSA. In Malaita, the DSA process is expected to be undertaken in April 2017.



Solomon Islands Red Cross volunteers promoting health and hygiene in Makira (photo credit: SIRC)

³ In Malaita this process will be undertaken by the Shelter sub-cluster chair, SIRC and the Provincial Disaster Officer in Auki

Quality programming			
Outcome 3 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system	Outputs		% of achievement
		<p>Output 3.1 Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate.</p> <p>Output 3.2 Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with existing branches and ensure accountability to affected and at-high-risk people.</p> <p>Output 3.3 Mechanisms are established with Makira Province to ensure accountability to affected and high risk people in the absence of a local branch.</p>	32%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
3.1.1 Monitor and assess implementation of activities	x		50%
3.1.2 Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring visit	x		50%
3.1.3 Conduct lessons learned workshops with Malaita Branch and HQ	x		50%
3.2.4 Field response activities and stories of best practices by the SIRCS volunteers and staff are captured and disseminated to public media and FedNet	x		0%
3.2.1 Support NDMO with radio spot campaign- Information sharing on current weather situation & response updates	x		0%
3.2.2 Update and print Beneficiary communication survey forms	x		50%
3.2.3 Conduct beneficiary satisfaction surveys in all targeted communities as follow up of distributions carried out	x		50%
3.2.4 Field response activities and stories of best practices by the SIRCS volunteers and staff are captured and disseminated to public	x		0%
3.3.1 Provincial authorities and Community leader's consultation to become monitoring mechanisms for Red Cross response activities	x		40%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>The monitoring and assessment of the implementation of activities including a post distribution monitoring visit and lessons learned workshop was completed with partners and volunteers in the Makira province in March 2017. A total of 20 people comprised of representatives from the NDMO, MoHMS, MoEHRD, MID, World Vision and affected communities attended the lessons learned workshop the findings of which will be included in the operation's final report. A lessons learned workshop was also held at the SIRC headquarters in March 2017 for Honiara based staff and volunteers involved in the response. The post distribution and monitoring visit and lessons learned workshop for Malaita will be completed in April 2017.</p> <p>Beneficiary satisfaction surveys were undertaken in Makira in March 2017 and identified shelter as the primary need in the earthquake response. Overall, beneficiaries appreciated the on-going presence and assistance of SIRC who have remained active in the response since the earthquake first occurred. Appreciation was also shown for SIRC's community-based approach and sharing of information. Beneficiary communications were identified as an area for improvement with beneficiaries seeking clearer information on the timing of needs assessments and distributions. In addition, there is a need for better understanding of the role of SIRC in Makira where SIRC does not currently have a branch presence. Beneficiary satisfaction surveys are being completed for Malaita in April 2017.</p> <p>Due to a lower actual number of NFI distributions, and therefore reduced replenishment requirements than anticipated at the time of the DREF request, and further reconciliation of the stock up to early April as part of the monitoring and assessment of the implementation activities, a strategy will be put in place within April/May 2017 based on the reconciliation of stock:</p>			

1. Pre-position remaining NFI in SIRC storage in Honiara to be distributed by SIRC in future disasters;
2. Pre-position remaining NFI in Makira with the Provincial Disaster Management Office to be distributed by local SIRC volunteers in future disasters.

The current storage arrangements for the NFI in Honiara and Makira are:

Honiara

NFI in Honiara are held in the SIRC storage rooms at SIRC headquarters. The rooms are triple-locked and there is an on-site security guard from 6pm until 6am every night seven days a week. To access the storage requires the signed authority of the Disaster Risk Manager. All stocks are reconciled monthly.

Makira

NFI presently stored in Makira are being held in the PEOC building in Kirakira. This building is secured as is the room within the building in which the NFI are stored, and only two staff from the N/PDMO have access to the building. There are security lights and the building is located next to the Kirakira Police Station. A full stocktake of the NFI in storage was completed in April 2017 by the SIRC disaster preparedness officer.

The Pacific CCST Logistics manager has provided support to SIRC in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise these storage arrangements with the provincial government of Kirakira, in Makira. These arrangements will be finalised by SIRC in May 2017 This incorporates safeguards to ensure the on-going security of the stock, clarify access arrangements and responsibility for record-keeping. In addition, there are four SIRC volunteers in Kirakira who will be provided with basic logistics training to manage the stock.

Presently, the field response activities and stories of best practices by the SIRC staff and volunteers have not yet been captured however, these activities are planned for April / May 2017 and will be disseminated to public media and on FedNet. Although, it was initially planned to support the NDMO with a radio spot campaign sharing information on the current weather situation and response, this was not required as SIRC have had an ongoing radio spot (every two weeks since 2016) with the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Cooperation. These radio spots have been used by the disaster management team in its ongoing efforts to support the dissemination of information to communities on disaster preparedness and response in conjunction with the NDMO programmes.

During monitoring visits, SIRC have been discussing a cycle of feedback with community leaders in the affected communities to assist them in monitoring the impact of SIRC activities carried out as part of the response. Most of the communities have indicated that they are happy to support SIRC, the challenge will be to keep this process going once the operation moves to the recovery phase.

Variance in budget versus expenditure to date

Presently there is a variance in the budget group relating to *Output 2.1: Emergency Shelter assistance (including related NFI and Technical support)* is provided to affected population. This is primarily due to:

Travel costs for assessment teams - boat fare for volunteers from HQ to Makira

The travel costs for assessment teams was increased as although the passage of the six SIRC volunteers travelling to Makira on the Police patrol boat that departed Honiara on 11 December was provided free of charge by the Solomon Islands government; the return passage of five of these volunteers was by plane (paid for by SIRC) to enable them to return to Honiara rather than wait five days for a return boat. This was not factored in at the time the budget was prepared.

Transport - community vehicle hire for NFIs distribution for north Makira

The hire of transport to distribute NFIs by road in northern Makira was initially estimated to be required for 21 days. However, in the early days of the response it was found that they truck being used was not able to reach some of the affected communities and it was necessary to hire a second more expensive vehicle (land cruiser) from 2-4 January 2017. In addition, where weather conditions prevented travel, there was no refund on the cost of the vehicle hire. This also meant that it took longer than expected to cover all communities and the truck was required for a period of 29 days from 2 January to 3 February.

Overall, expenditure remains within budget for *Outcome 2: Shelter and settlements* as well as Travel and Transport budget groups



Click here for

[DREF EPOA](#)

[Financial report as at 31 March 2017](#)

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

Solomon Islands Red Cross; phone: +677 22682:

- Thomas Bebeu, secretary general: secgen@redcross.org.sb
- Cameron Vudi, disaster risk manager: disastermgr@redcross.org.sb

IFRC country cluster support team (CCST), Suva; phone: +679 331 1855:

- Kathryn Clarkson, head of the CCST: kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org
- Stephanie Zoll, disaster risk management coordinator: mobile: +679 998 0561; stephanie.zoll@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur; phone: +603 9207 5700:

- Martin Faller, deputy director: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Sanna Salmela-Eckstein, operations coordinator: +601 2207 6534 or sanna.salmela@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, regional logistics coordinator: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org
- Diana Ongiti, relationship manager, emergencies: diana.ongiti@ifrc.org
- Clarence Sim, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) coordinator: clarence.sim@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva:

- Cristina Estrada, response and recovery lead: +412 2730 4260 or cristina.estrada@ifrc.org
- Susil Perera, senior officer, response and recovery: +412 2730 4947 or susil.perera@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRSB006 - Solomon Island - Earthquake

Timeframe: 23 Dec 16 to 23 Apr 17

Appeal Launch Date: 23 Dec 16

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/12-2017/3	Programme	MDRSB006
Budget Timeframe	2016/12-2017/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		161,163				161,163	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Other Income							
DREF Allocations		161,163				161,163	
C4. Other Income		161,163				161,163	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		161,163				161,163	
D. Total Funding = B + C		161,163				161,163	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		161,163				161,163	
E. Expenditure		-133,030				-133,030	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		28,133				28,133	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRSB006 - Solomon Island - Earthquake

Timeframe: 23 Dec 16 to 23 Apr 17

Appeal Launch Date: 23 Dec 16

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/12-2017/3	Programme	MDRSB006
Budget Timeframe	2016/12-2017/4	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			161,163			161,163		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	19,090		14,328			14,328	4,762	
Clothing & Textiles	6,118		5,924			5,924	194	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,034		4,734			4,734	3,301	
Medical & First Aid	1,013						1,013	
Utensils & Tools	10,670		9,066			9,066	1,604	
Other Supplies & Services	5,696						5,696	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	50,621		34,052			34,052	16,569	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,013						1,013	
Distribution & Monitoring	21,980		12,289			12,289	9,691	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	17,791		18,417			18,417	-626	
Logistics Services			5,039			5,039	-5,039	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	40,784		35,745			35,745	5,039	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	6,084		715			715	5,369	
Volunteers	27,784		23,980			23,980	3,804	
Total Personnel	33,868		24,695			24,695	9,173	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,291		170			170	3,121	
Total Workshops & Training	3,291		170			170	3,121	
General Expenditure								
Travel	18,244		6,355			6,355	11,889	
Information & Public Relations	2,152		4			4	2,148	
Office Costs	1,266		1,242			1,242	23	
Communications	633		334			334	299	
Financial Charges	316		168			168	149	
Other General Expenses	152						152	
Total General Expenditure	22,763		8,103			8,103	14,661	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			22,145			22,145	-22,145	
Total Operational Provisions			22,145			22,145	-22,145	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	9,836		8,119			8,119	1,717	
Total Indirect Costs	9,836		8,119			8,119	1,717	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	161,163		133,030			133,030	28,134	
VARIANCE (C - D)			28,134			28,134		