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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Solomon Islands: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRSB003	Glide n° FL-2014-000045-SLB
Date of issue: 11 April 2014	Date of disaster: 3 April 2014
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Clement Manures	Point of contact (name and title): Joanne Zovekele, Secretary General
Operation start date: 5 April 2014	Expected timeframe: one month
Overall operation budget: CHF 158,099	
Number of people affected: 52,000	Number of people to be assisted: 10,000
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 120 volunteers, 41 staff, 5 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): French Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: World Vision, Save the Children, Oxfam, Government of Solomon Islands, National Disaster Management Office, UN agencies, Honiara City Council.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Prolonged heavy rainfall associated with a tropical depression passing over the Solomon Islands group on 3 April 2014 has resulted in severe flooding in the capital Honiara, and associated damage in Makira, Malaita and Isabel provinces. As of 8 April, 21 are confirmed death, 25 missing and an estimated 52,000 people affected across the Solomon Islands (population 515,870), around half of which are children.

As of 6 April, the most populated shelters are in east Honiara, with over 3,500 people at Panatina Pavilion and around 1,000 at both the airport terminal and King George VI School. Initial food and water distributions have been organized. There is an urgent need for additional food, water, clothing, blankets, mosquito nets and cooking utensils. Solomon Islands' corrections officers deployed to evacuation centres to assist with maintaining the security situation. On 10th of April, 21 evacuation centres remain open.

River systems across the northwest, central and north of the island have flooded, destroying homes, damaging bridges and displacing families. There are also reports of landslides and loss of food gardens. The Mataniko River burst its banks washing away houses and damaging infrastructure.

Other provinces have been affected by flooding as well; however there is still limited communication to many areas to have a full picture of the impact. In Makira-Ulawa (pop. 40,419), an aerial survey was conducted, as the Waihauru Bridge was damaged. In Malaita (pop. 137,596), floods have destroyed houses and blocked roads. In Isabel (pop. 26,158), a landslide and flooding in Buala has resulted in two deaths, although it is unclear if these fatalities are included in total statistics.

Honiara International Airport has reopened to limited commercial flights as navigation lights are damaged and the domestic terminal is flooded.

The National Referral Hospital is open and accepting new patients. There are concerns flooded areas and contaminated water supplies might lead to increased risks of infection and outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases.

The Solomon Islands government has allocated SBD 5,000,000 (approx. CHF 600,552) in emergency funds to support response efforts.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRC) headquarters has been flooded during the event. As a result SIRC's emergency operations room was based in Honiara Hotel until 10 April. The clean-up of the headquarters has already started and SIRC is aiming to return by the end of the week. Bridges and roads have been cut off by the situation and SIRC has to rent rooms to accommodate their team and volunteers who were not able to return to their homes. Some of the team members and volunteers have lost their homes.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The following non-food items (NFIs) have been distributed by SIRC so far to 21 of the 33 welfare centres (as part of the multi-agency coordinating committee as of 9th April.

- Jerry cans for families (SIRC – 1,220)
- Blankets (SIRC - 45)
- Hygiene kits for families (Oxfam – 554)
- Sleeping mats (SIRC - 122)
- Family kits (World Vision - 300)

SIRC has registered displaced people and handover this information with government and other agencies with disaggregated information by gender, ages and special needs.

On 8 April one NOMAD water purification machines operated by trained SIRC staff and volunteers are being set up on the Mataniko river. These are capable of producing 5,000 litres of clean water per hour under ideal conditions. At this stage SIRC reports they are the only agency involved in water production and treatment.

In Guadalcanal, SIRC started to carry out damage assessments and distributions of water (10 April) and will station a staff member at the government's emergency operation centres (EOC) in Guadalcanal.

SIRC Emergency Response Teams are ready to begin household assessments, awaiting confirmation from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). SIRC volunteers will be briefed about the potential danger of minefield migration/unexploded ordnances being released by flood waters.

With support from Movement partners, SIRC is finalising the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The main sectors include:

- Assessment and distribution of NFIs in evacuation centres.
- Water production and distribution, and hygiene promotion in evacuation centres.
- Emergency shelter – mainly in Guadalcanal- as Honiara urban situation will be difficult to capture in such short time frame.
- Human Resources: Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) Team Leader, FACT communication, Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) logistics member, RDRT relief member, and technical support from IFRC regional office.

Currently SIRC's response is being carried out by 50 volunteers and staff, supported by delegates from French, Australian, and New Zealand Red Cross national societies.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

A partners teleconference was held on 8 April chaired by the IFRC Pacific regional office to coordinate support for the response. SIRC, IFRC Pacific Regional Office (PRO) and Asia Pacific Zone, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), New Zealand, Australian, French and Japanese Red Cross national societies participated in the teleconference.

Already in country SIRC is assisted by an Australian Red Cross Disaster Management Adviser, and French Red Cross team (composed of Head of delegation, disaster risk reduction (DRR) delegate, water and sanitation (WatSan) delegate and initial support of Vanuatu finance delegate).

The IFRC shelter cluster coordinator, supported by Australian Red Cross, arrived in the Solomon Islands on 10 April. His task is to assist the Solomon Islands government in the coordination of shelter activities of the response. On 6 April an operations coordinator was deployed from the Asia Pacific Zone to provide surge capacity at the regional office for an initial period of two weeks.

Australian and New Zealand Red Cross NFIs are being sent on the earliest flights available (military and commercial flights).

Australian Red Cross is supporting the shelter cluster coordinator who is deploying later this week. Australian Red Cross has offered a NOMAD water purification system, and defogging equipment for vector control if required.

New Zealand Red Cross first aid training team (in-country before the disaster occurred for training propose) supported SIRC response in the first week of the response. A New Zealand Red Cross communication delegate was deployed to Solomon Islands on 7 April to support initial communication needs.

The IFRC regional DM coordinator was deployed to support the SIRC to coordinate the response on 7 April. A finance manager will be deployed from the IFRC PRO to help support the SIRC with the implementation of this operation.

An IFRC Emergency Appeal is being considered.

ICRC has offered SIRC support on restoring family links and weapon contamination issues.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government and aid agencies are working together to support 10,000 people in 21 evacuation centres (as of 10 April) in east and west Honiara. Honiara City Council is now managing the evacuation centres and NDMO is collecting food for the centres. The National Disaster Council met on 6 April and instructed partners responsible for welfare and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to establish evacuation centre management teams.

World Vision, Oxfam and Save the Children carry on joint distribution NFIs. SIRC has been supporting the Government of Solomon Islands in food distribution in the early day of the emergency.

Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) personnel and supplies are being deployed to support response efforts. The resident coordinator and the head of OCHA's regional office travelled to Solomon Islands on 7 April to meet with the government, donors and humanitarian partners to confirm PHT and OCHA coordination support. Most of the cluster lead have or are deploying cluster lead support in WASH, health, logistics, protection, and shelter,

Australia and New Zealand military aircraft have delivered supplies and personnel, including engineers to assess infrastructure, in particular the Mataniko bridge. Also, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from the Australian government as well as the Japanese government will be sending personnel to support the Solomon Islands government.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

The SIRC and NDMO identified the following additional support that will be required to assist the displaced, returning and host families:

Assessment and distribution

SIRC volunteers will assist the NDMO on the damage assessments in Honiara and Guadalcanal. They are distributing NFIs such as hygiene kits, water containers, kitchen sets, and buckets.

Occasionally SIRC volunteers assisted the Honiara City Council to deliver food in the evacuation centres. SIRC will continue the joint distribution of NFIs. In the meantime, the team will commence assessment at household level in Honiara and Guadalcanal.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Most of the water sources and community pipelines are either contaminated and/or damaged by debris. The government is trying to support the need for safe water through its public works. However, they have limited resources and the needs are immense. Water has to be treated to ensure that potable and uncontaminated drinking water is provided (using NOMAD unit). SIRC is the only organization in-country to have NOMAD water purification units with trained teams able to operate them.

Even though many temporary sanitation facilities have been set up, there is still a great need to provide more services to accommodate the remaining IDPs in the 26 temporary centres. Thus, repairing and erecting new sanitation facilities is required. Hygiene promotion needs to be conducted and additional hygiene kits are also required.

Prior to the flooding there was an existing dengue outbreak, with WHO reporting more than 50 suspected cases since November 2013. The National Dengue taskforce was activated and surveillance and public health measures were strengthened. SIRC was involved in “early warning early action” activities including dengue awareness and hygiene promotion activities. This work will continue and become increasingly important due to the risk of dengue cases increasing due to the poor hygiene and sanitation conditions as a result of the floods.

Evacuation centres and Emergency shelter

The information is limited and a validation of data on the numbers of people sheltered in evacuation centres is required. According to the NDMO, there are 12,000 families in evacuation centres. SIRC with other NGOs have been tasked to register evacuees and are finalising data compilation.

These families require food and water among others supplies. SIRC, Oxfam, World Vision and Save the Children have carried out a joint non-food Items distribution since 7 April in the evacuation centres. This distribution has been delayed due to low supply of in-country NFIs stock.

At least two of the evacuation centres regrouped more than 1,000 people, with various needs from water, food to NFIs. The SIRC reports that 2,000 families in 26 collective centres require blankets, food and mosquito nets.

Although a damage assessment has not started at this stage, it is estimated that many houses have been damaged and/or destroyed. Temporary shelter items such as tarpaulins and basic family kits are needed.

Beneficiary Selection

The beneficiaries of this operation will be identified from the 33 temporary centres in Honiara town (Western and Eastern Honiara) and from the Guadalcanal area. The operation is prioritizing the most vulnerable population that have been displaced by flooding and who are in critical need of life saving emergency support and who are not targeted by other humanitarian agencies to avoid duplication or exclusion errors.

These also include the most vulnerable groups, i.e. women and children, widows, persons with disabilities, orphans, and the chronically ill, including people living with HIV. Gender strategies will be incorporated in the design and implementation of the operation. Beneficiary registers have been disaggregated by gender and age group to ensure needs of various social groups are identified and met.

Risk Assessment

The affected population that is currently in evacuation centres are at risk of epidemic outbreaks due to contaminated water sources, lack of sanitation facilities, lack of shelter and exposure to element. There is a real fear that dengue fever will increase among the affected population due to those poor conditions and water stagnation.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The disaster-affected population's survival and immediate needs are met through the provision of safe water production and distribution, NFIs distribution and emergency shelters for a total of 2,000 households.

Proposed strategy

The DREF operation will be an immediate emergency response to ensure emergency shelter kits and safe water to the affected population displaced in various evacuation centres. Over the proposed one month period, SIRC aims to provide for the critical needs of safe water production, hygiene promotion and emergency shelters which are urgently required for the survival of the 2,000 households targeted. It will also look at resourcing the operation, support for more assessments as well as expenses incurred prior to the DREF application. Moreover, some other interventions not mentioned below will be considered as time goes on since the quantity and nature of the other agencies is yet to be objectively established.

The key activities planned as part of this operation are:

- Assessments
- Relief distributions
- Water production and hygiene promotion
- Emergency shelter

Continuous needs assessment and analysis:

Over the proposed time frame of the DREF operation, a structured needs assessment will be carried out midway to establish the extent to which the response operation has addressed the current needs. Besides giving insight on the changes on the gaps and needs, this will also inform the plans for the medium and long term interventions in terms of recovery action plan.

Operational support services

Human resources

Two FACT members (Team Leader and communication) and two RDRTs (logistics and relief) will be deployed in order to support the SIRC to implement this operation.

More than 100 trained volunteers are mobilized for the operation to carry out distributions, assessments, loading, offloading, and water and hygiene activities. These will require insurance, travel cost, allowances and refreshments during the operation as stipulated in the SIRC volunteer policy.

Key support services:

Support Service	Function
Team Leader	Coordination and support to the SIRC for the implementation of the overall operation.
Logistics	Procurement, warehousing, supply system, coordination and support to SIRC.
Relief	Response management and support SIRC operational team to develop a daily routine
Communication	Profiling and documentation of the response, public relations.

Logistics and supply chain

The RDRT logistics member that will be deployed under this DREF plan will support the SIRC with local procurement of relief items and warehousing.

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. The SIRC and IFRC in-country logistics teams, supported by Australian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, French Red Cross and the IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU), will carry out the following activities (if and when necessary):

a. Procurement plans

- IFRC logistics will procure in consultation with SIRC and following IFRC standard procurement procedures

b. Warehouse and storage plans

- Procured and received items will be stored at SIRC headquarters' main warehouse.

c. Transport and fleet needs

- One van and two trucks will be needed for assessments and distribution, as well as fuel for those vehicles.

Information technologies (IT)

Communication costs will be covered by the operational budget.

Communication

The communication delegate deployed with the FACT will undertake a variety of tasks. Their primary responsibility will be to ensure that the collective Red Cross response to the disaster is well-profiled amongst domestic and international audiences. He/she will act as spokesperson with the international media while also helping the SIRC in their engagement with the local media. Deliverables will include key messages and talking points that provide coherence to communication efforts by Movement partners. A range of public communication materials will be developed that highlight the flood response operation and draw attention to emerging humanitarian concerns. These will include news stories and audio-visual materials (photographic material and video) that will be shared with the media and promoted across Red Cross' online and social media platforms. The communication delegate will work closely with SIRC senior management to support their communication efforts with different local stakeholders.

Security

Crime is currently at levels similar to prior the disaster. However if humanitarian needs are not met this crime level is expected to increase.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

PMER will be key to the delivery of the planned operation to ensure evidence-based reporting, upholding accountability and compliance to the established standards. In this regard monitoring is required regularly to track the effects and impact of response actions, track progress of activities and the delivery of outputs below, and to track beneficiary perceptions on the assistance being rendered. The country representative will conduct at least three field visits to the project (at the beginning, the middle and the end of the operation), and the SIRC will receive technical support from the regional office and the Asia Pacific Zone. There will be a DREF update within one week, another DREF update bulletin will be published at mid-term of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The SIRC will be responsible for managing the funds in the country in accordance with standard practices for IFRC on operational transfers, based on the requirements and justifications specified in the letter of agreement to be signed between the National Society and IFRC for the execution of the project. It is planned to deploy a surge finance support for ten days to help with the financial recording and reporting.

The IFRC through the department of finance provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

The DREF will also support the rent of the temporary EOC office space and accommodation in a hotel for approximately 10 days since the SIRC office was also affected by the floods.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: A situation and needs assessment is undertaken in the affected areas, including inaccessible locations, to inform the design and implementation of the SIRC response operation.						
Output 1.1: A detailed needs assessment undertaken.						
Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	
Undertake comprehensive needs and situation assessment.						
The emergency plan of action is updated and revised as necessary to reflect needs.						
Identify beneficiaries to ensure effective distribution of assistance.						
Make a communication plan and create key messages.						

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis: The initial assessment indicates that the IDPs in the evacuation centres do not have access to safe water. Also the large number of sheltered affected population is at risk of WatSan related diseases, including diarrhea, dengue and malaria. Sanitation issues will be covered by other partners in country. Hygiene promotion awareness is a critical need for the affected population displaced (in centres and communities), along with access to safe water.

Population to be assisted: 2,000 families in Honiara town and Guadalcanal district.

Outcome 1: Safe water is distributed among 2,000 families in Honiara town and Guadalcanal district.						
Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.						
Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	
Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities and emergency evacuation centres.						
Deploy NOMAD unit from Fiji Red Cross to assist with the operation.						
Deploy NOMAD unit from French Red Cross to assist with production of water in hospital.						
Produce and distribute safe drinking water to 2,000 families in targeted communities/centres through borehole following treatment with NOMAD and chlorination in tankers.						

Outcome 2: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced among 2,000 families in Honiara town and Guadalcanal district.						
Output 2.1: Hygiene promotion activities which meet SPHERE standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.						
Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	
Conduct needs assessment: define hygiene issues and assess capacity to address the problem.						
Train volunteers in emergency hygiene promotion.						

Select target groups, messages, and methods of communicating with beneficiaries.					
Assess progress and evaluate results.					
Construct or encourage construction of hand washing facilities in targeted communities/centres.					

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Needs analysis: Thousands of families lost their houses during the floods and many will be in difficult situations in the following weeks. Those displaced are in need of NFIs. As most of the affected are women, children and elderly, their living situation remains difficult and they are exposed to increased security and health risks due to this vulnerable state. During assessments of damaged and destroyed houses, emergency shelter items (tarpaulins and tools--which are provided by partners) need to be distributed to those affected.

Population to be assisted: 2,000 families in Honiara town and Guadalcanal district.

Outcome 1: Non-food items (NFIs) are distributed to 2,000 families in three districts for one month.						
Output 1.1 NFIs assistance is provided to the target population.						
Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	
Distribute NFIs (provided by partners) to people in Honiara evacuation centres and Guadalcanal province with awareness raising information on the best use of the distributed items.						
Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.						
Monitor and evaluate the activities and provide reporting on NFIs distributions.						

Outcome 2: Start to meet the immediate emergency shelter needs of 100 families in Guadalcanal province.						
Output 2.1 Provide emergency shelter for 100 households as an initial target.						
Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	
Identification and registration of beneficiaries in coordination with others partners.						
Distribute emergency shelter items (provided by partners) to the identified beneficiaries.						
Trained volunteers to assist the population in the erection of emergency shelters.						
Monitor and reporting of the distribution and erection of emergency shelters						

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

DREF OPERATION

09/04/2014

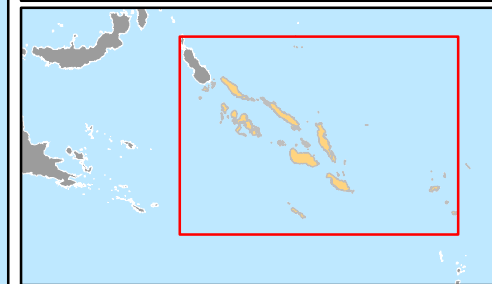
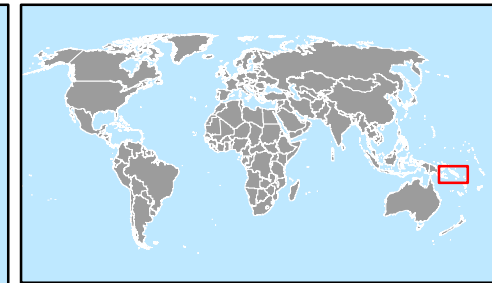
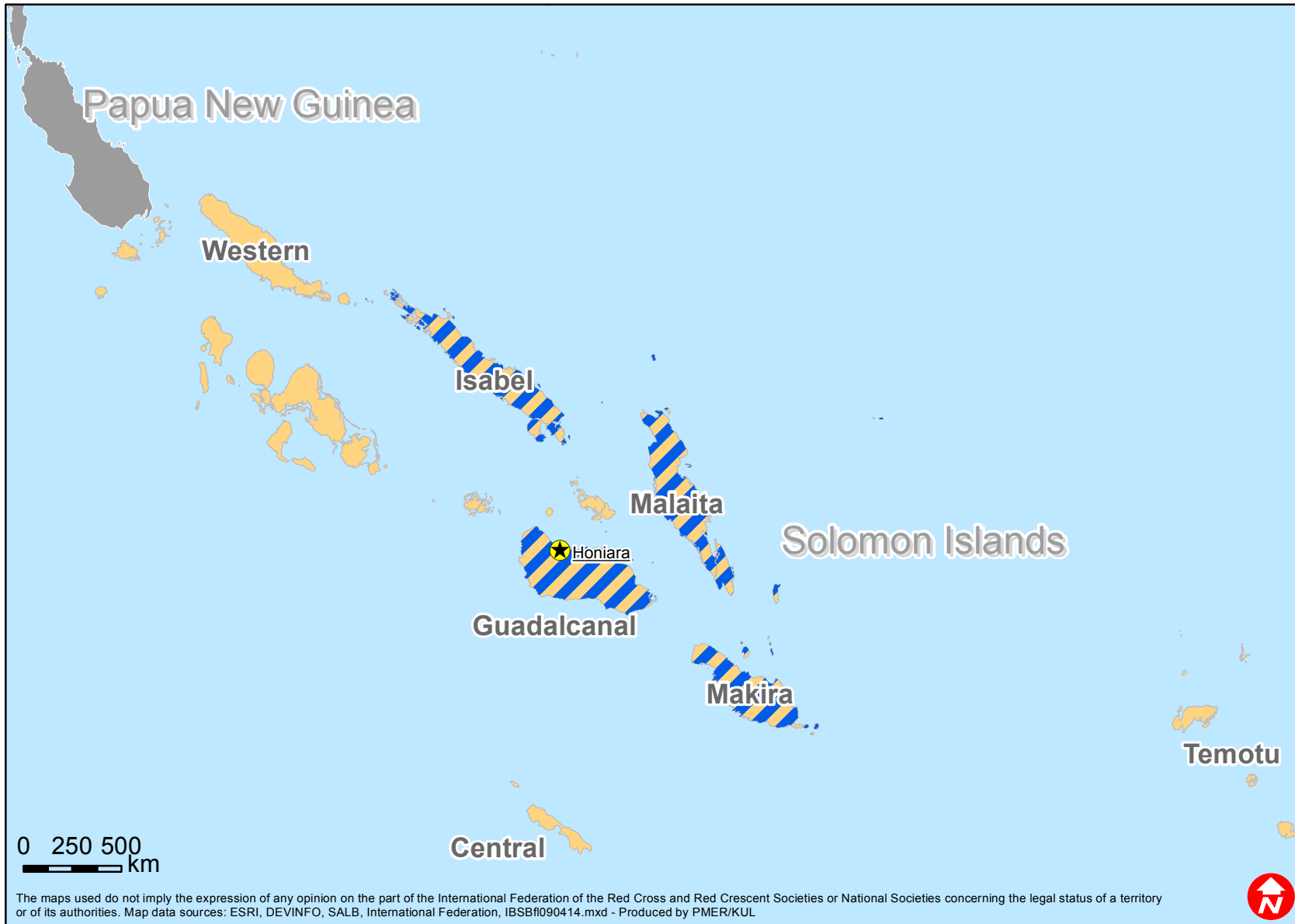
MDRSB003 PACIFIC : SOLOMON ISLAND FLOODS

DREF Grant Budget
CHF

Budget Group	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	70,100
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	70,100
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,700
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	9,700
National Society Staff	10,000
Volunteers	27,800
Total PERSONNEL	37,800
Travel	22,600
Information & Public Relations	1,000
Office Costs	5,300
Communications	1,350
Financial Charges	100
Other General Expenses	500
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	30,850
Programme & Services Support Recovery	9,649
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,649
TOTAL BUDGET	158,099



Solomon Islands: Floods



- ★ Capitals
- ▨ Floods affected provinces

