



This report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA ROP and covers the period from 13 to 18 April 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 23 April 2014.

## Highlights

- The Government is encouraging people to voluntarily leave evacuation centres and return home, with return assistance packages ready for distribution.
- Joint assessment of damaged Honiara households is underway, and initial reports indicate 253 houses destroyed and 30 damaged.
- 10 schools are being used as evacuation centres and a total of 78 schools are affected in Honiara and Guadalcanal.
- Schools are due to reopen on 22 April.
- A draft Humanitarian Action Plan has been developed by national clusters and partners for endorsement by the National Disaster Council.
- A UNDAC team is being deployed to conduct an environmental assessment on a flooded and abandoned tailings dam.

22

Fatalities

253

Houses destroyed  
in Honiara

78

schools affected

Source: Solomon Islands NDMO, OCHA ROP



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS, FAO.  
Reference: OCHA. OCHA Flash Update 1: Solomon Islands Flash Floods, 4 April 2014.  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 4 Apr 2014.

## Situation Overview

Two weeks after floods impacted Honiara and Guadalcanal Province (GP), over 50,000 people remain affected. There are 22 confirmed fatalities, including eight in Honiara, two in GP and two in Isabel Province.

The Government is encouraging voluntary returns to reduce the thousands of people still displaced in evacuation centres. Provincial authorities in Honiara City Council (HCC) are unable to provide long term assistance and are scaling down food distributions. The Government has food and non-food items available for return assistance packages and is seeking support from the multi-agency committee to coordinate distributions. Planning and clear communication is needed to manage the return process as there are concerns tensions will rise if evacuees are forcibly removed or food relief is withheld. Aid organizations are reluctant to support returns until assessments are conducted and water sources are restored in communities.

Sectoral assessments are continuing across health, protection, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Multi-sector household damage assessments have begun along the Mataniko River in Honiara, with initial reports indicating 253 houses destroyed and 30 damaged. A drone or unmanned aerial vehicle has begun aerial assessments of flooded areas along the Mataniko and Lungga Rivers. The drone was provided by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to support assessments of flooded areas and proposed relocation sites.

A draft Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) has been developed by Government and humanitarian partners to identify activities and funding requirements across national clusters for a three-month period, and is expected to be presented to the National Disaster Council after the Easter weekend for endorsement. Three specialists as part of a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team will arrive from 21 April to assess the stability and integrity of the Gold Ridge Mine tailing dam following flooding and abandonment by mine operators.

Earthquakes continue to shake the Solomon Islands, with a 6.0 magnitude earthquake registering 122 kilometres west-southwest of Lata on 18 April. There were no reports of damage and no tsunami warning issued.

[+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report](#)

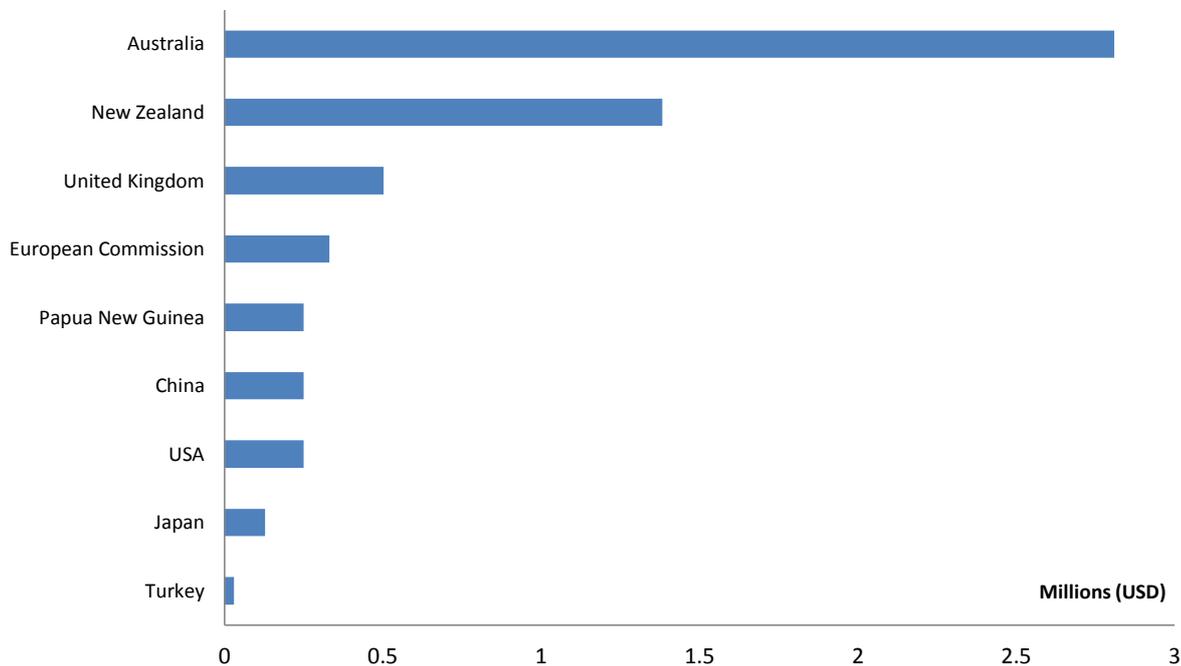
[www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

**Coordination Saves Lives**

## Funding

Donor countries have deployed personnel, non-food items and financial support packages to assist relief efforts, including Australia, New Zealand, China, Turkey, Papua New Guinea, Japan, United Kingdom, European Union and the United States of America.



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [arunga@un.org](mailto:arunga@un.org).

## Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government is leading response efforts across all clusters supported by humanitarian partners.



### Logistics

#### Response:

- The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) continues to distribute food to evacuation centres.
- A shared warehouse and hard stand for storage of shipping containers has been donated by the Solomon Islands Marine Authority and operating procedures are being finalised.
- Oxfam and Save the Children have offered to staff the shared warehouse.
- Non-governmental partners are preparing non-food items for Family Kits and Livelihood Kits for distribution.
- A system has been developed to track commodities through the logistics pipeline.
- The New Zealand Government is supplying a temporary Bailey bridge in May to replace the old Mataniko Bridge, until Japan can reconstruct a new bridge next year.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Finalised assessment data to begin distribution of non-food items.
- Mapping products to assist distribution planning.
- Additional personnel to manage data entry and ongoing maintenance of the commodities tracking system.
- Traffic remains congested in Honiara and a number of rural roads across Guadalcanal are impassable.
- Identification of a central wharf or port where containers can be placed for smaller boats to transport relief items to isolated communities in Guadalcanal.
- Some people in rural areas of Guadalcanal are charging vehicles for access as part of road repair costs, however Police are working with communities to stop this practice.



## Shelter

### Needs:

- 10,653 people remain displaced in evacuation centres in both HCC and GP.
- 21 evacuation centres remain open in Honiara.
- Early assessment report findings indicate 253 houses have been destroyed or severely damaged along the Mataniko River in Honiara.
- Finalised assessments of housing in affected communities.
- Voluntary return of displaced people in evacuation centres.
- Repair and reconstruction of homes.
- Transitional shelter and relocation.

# 21

Evacuation centres  
open in Honiara

### Response:

- Joint household level assessments have commenced in Honiara.
- Return assistance packages are ready to be distributed to displaced people in Honiara evacuation centres who voluntarily return home.
- A Geohazard survey team has commenced surveys of affected areas and relocation sites to assess whether they are safe for habitation.
- Ministry of Lands, Housing and Surveys (MLHS) has begun assessment of flood-affected areas along the Mataniko River in Honiara and early reports have identified 253 houses either destroyed or damaged beyond repair.
- Sites for transitional shelter are being identified.
- Sites for permanent housing relocation have been identified.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Joint household level assessments have not begun in Guadalcanal Province outside Honiara.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs:

- Assessments of water sources in Honiara and Guadalcanal, particularly for those in areas of return.
- Safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are available for all affected people.
- Basic hygiene supplies and awareness.

# 60

Water tanks at  
evacuation centres

### Response:

- Approximately 60 water tanks at evacuation sites in Honiara, 40 of which were provided by Australia.
- Rapid assessments have commenced in Burns Creek, White River and along the Mataniko River in Honiara.
- WASH cluster has approval from local authorities to construct pit latrines at evacuation centres, with two built at the Festival of Pacific Arts (FOPA) evacuation centre as an initial learning process for other sites.
- UNICEF will be working on the construction of pit latrines together with Red Cross and RWSS at four large evacuation.
- 2,000 jerry cans were distributed last week through RWSS to Eastern GP.
- 50,000 soaps have been locally procured and are ready for distribution.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- New Zealand water quality team has departed the country and is now managed by the National Public Health Laboratory which has limited capacity.
- Additional WASH assessments are needed in greater Guadalcanal Province.



## Health & Nutrition

### Needs:

- Restoration of access to health care services for affected communities.
- Strengthening of early warning and response systems, particularly syndromic surveillance for early diagnosis of disease outbreaks.
- Child health and nutrition services.
- Emergency sexual reproductive health services.

# 125

Communities  
assessed for health  
needs

- Mental health and psychosocial support.
- Address public health risks associated with water and sanitation.
- Urgent waste management at the flooded Ranadi Landfill site, particularly for infectious medical waste.

#### Response:

- Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) continues to operate its Health Emergency Operations Centre.
- Health teams have carried out initial rapid assessments in 125 communities in GP, covering approximately 50 per cent of the affected population, and also conducted health awareness programs in HCC and GP.
- Assessments were conducted at 19 health facilities in GP, with seven of the health facilities partially damaged, and most unable to deliver health services in affected communities. In HCC, three health facilities are badly damaged and non-functional.
- There are five mobile teams providing health and nutrition care services in GP.
- Six clinics are providing services in HCC and three mobile clinics are operating in east, west and central Honiara.
- Médecins Sans Frontières has deployed a team to Honiara, including a medical doctor, a psychologist and locally recruited nurses to visit evacuation centres.
- Primary precautionary vector control measures have been completed within all major Honiara evacuation centres, including ultra-low volume fogging at King George VI School, Burns Creek, Festival of Pacific Arts (FOPA) and Panatina Pavilion.
- Insecticide spraying and mosquito net distribution in GP is ongoing.
- Assessment of vaccines and cold storage facilities is underway.
- Assessment of needs to improve medical waste services at the National Referral Hospital and eight urban clinics has been carried out, with a list of immediate intervention equipment and supplies being prepared.
- Health awareness information and education material is being distributed by MHMS within Honiara evacuation centres.
- New Zealand-led medical team has deployed with doctors and nurses from NZ and Australia.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Detailed response plan to restore health services to affected communities in GP and HCC is required.
- Health services through mobile clinics is needed until health facilities can be rehabilitated.



## Food Security & Livelihoods

#### Needs:

- Provision of food aid to affected people in evacuation centres in Honiara and in Guadalcanal.
- Planting materials and seeds to reestablish food gardens.
- Fencing material, feed and support for re-stocking of animals.
- Livelihood support for affected businesses and people facing relocation.

**USD100,000**

To support ILO cash-for-work programs

#### Response

- Food aid continues to be managed and distributed by the NDMO.
- Initial rapid assessment for agriculture and livestock and fisheries took place from 12 to 15 April in Honiara and from 16 April in Guadalcanal.
- Initial rapid assessment of livelihoods by the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration (MCILI) will start 17 April pending release of funding for logistics.
- ILO is providing USD 100,000 to support cash-for-work activities for household and community level immediate recovery.
- Early livelihood activities are being funded by New Zealand and implemented by Tear Fund (Ola FOU).
- Australia will support livelihood activities through Oxfam and World Vision.
- WSPA has provided SBD 146 000 (USD 20,000) for livestock and livelihoods impacts, with feed and water tanks already distributed to Honiara peri-urban livestock farmers.

#### Gaps & Constraints

- Food and livelihood support to Provinces beyond Guadalcanal.
- Assessment and funding for logistics from MCILI.
- Nutritional requirements distributed in food baskets to comply with international standards.



## Education

### Needs:

- 10 schools are being used as evacuation centres.
- Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) is aiming to reopen all schools on Tuesday 22 April.
- Latest assessment data indicates there are a total of 78 primary, secondary and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) schools affected, including 21 in Honiara and 57 in GP.
- Psychosocial support for teachers and children.

78

Schools affected in Honiara and greater Guadalcanal

### Response:

- Damage assessment of education infrastructure and facilities, school resources and human resources is being collected and is expected to be complete by 22 April.
- MEHRD is working with authorities to move displaced persons from schools currently being used as evacuation centres into community halls and alternative shelters.
- Messages have gone out through media and churches for communities to clean and prepare schools for opening day.
- Tents provided to HCC to be erected at FOPA (3 x 80 square metres) and Holy Cross (2 x 24 square metres) for shelter and learning spaces.
- UNICEF has made available school in a box kits, recreation kits and early childhood development kits, as well as training under the Protection Cluster for children's activities in select evacuation centres.
- Working in collaboration with Protection Cluster to build capacity of teachers to provide basic psychosocial support for affected children and communities.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Potential delay in transferring displaced people from 10 schools being used as evacuation centres.



## Protection

### Needs:

- Information on affected populations in GP and Honiara, including sex, age and vulnerability disaggregated data.
- Comprehensive protection needs assessment in areas of return, relocation and displacement.
- Information dissemination and consultation with affected communities, particularly on return and relocation policies, plans and timelines.
- Advocacy, technical assistance and promotion of the fundamental principles surrounding informed, voluntary, safe and dignified return and relocation.
- Safety and security within the centres, particularly for women and children.
- Psychosocial support for affected populations
- Specific capacity building to relevant stakeholders on gender-based violence and child protection.

### Response:

- Multi-agency needs assessments are underway in Honiara evacuation centres, with six centres complete.
- Protection representatives have been involved in joint assessments for areas of return in Honiara.
- Psychosocial capacity building by Red Cross, UN and non-governmental organizations.
- Three technical advisors deployed from the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster to assist the National IDP and Welfare Cluster, including general protection support from OHCHR/UNHCR, Child Protection from UNICEF and Gender/GBV from UN Women and UNFPA.
- UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and other agencies have conducted Child Protection Training for national authorities, civil society actors and other stakeholders on setting-up child-friendly spaces.
- UNFPA has distributed flashlights and radios, and raised awareness on violence against women and sexual reproductive health with 188 secondary students evacuated from a boarding school.
- UNFPA has distributed 58 dignity kits at focus group discussions with pregnant and lactating women.
- GBV briefing and action planning to activate the Safenet community of practice with UNFPA and MHMS.
- Advocacy for protection principles in voluntary returns processes.
- Ongoing communication between Protection and Shelter Clusters with view to harmonise approach for return and relocation.
- Additional police have been brought into the country as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

## Gaps & Constraints

- Protection mainstreaming for humanitarian assistance is an immediate and critical need to ensure equal distributions and targeting of assistance.
- Protective, learning, recreational and psychosocial activities for children, young people and women have been identified as areas of urgent need.
- Ongoing distribution of dignity kits, as well as special needs items (such as mobility aids).
- Capacity building on protection is necessary for government and non-governmental actors to ensure protection is consistently monitored in the coming months.

## General Coordination

The National Disaster Council continues to lead response efforts through the National Disaster Operations Centre (NEOC) and provincial operations centres in HCC, GP, Isabel and Malaita.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team cluster coordinators have been aligned with national coordination arrangements and are supporting cluster leadership. Clusters have been meeting on a regular basis, and analysing and sharing assessment data, in addition to developing response activities for the Humanitarian Action Plan.

The multi-agency committee, made up of Red Cross, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and other partners, continue to support the Government in distributing relief supplies and conducting assessments.

OCHA will deploy an additional regional coordination specialist from Papua New Guinea on 21 April. The UNDAC team will begin the environmental and integrity assessment on the tailings dam on 22 April.

Information management specialists from OCHA and SPC are working with the NEOC to analyse data received from sectoral and joint assessments.

More information can be found at <https://pht.humanitarianresponse.info>

### Background on the crisis

Three days of heavy rain from a tropical depression (Tropical Cyclone Ita) caused severe flooding in the Solomon Islands. There are 21 people confirmed dead and two people missing, with over 50,000 people affected. The worst affected area is the capital, Honiara, after the Mataniko River burst its banks on 3 April, washing away houses and damaging infrastructure, affecting an estimated 12,000 people. At the peak of the crisis, there were around 10,000 people displaced in nearly 30 evacuation centres. Other affected provinces include Malaita and Isabel, with reports of damage to infrastructure, food gardens and water sources. On 3 April, the Government declared Honiara and Guadalcanal a disaster zone and on 5 April, the Government requested the regional support of the Pacific Humanitarian Team. Aid personnel and supplies began arriving from 6 April after Honiara International Airport reopened. The Government is leading the response with the support of Red Cross, national and international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and donor partners.

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