

Earthquake Response

December 2016

World Vision



Contents

<u>Executive Summary</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>World Vision in the Solomon Islands.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Impacted population.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Infrastructure Damage.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>World Vision’s Response.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Assessments.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Summary of World Vision’s Activities</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>World Vision Partnerships</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Challenges & Learnings.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Thank You</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Contact Us</u>	<u>10</u>



Cover Photo: Angeline and Susie’s family were among those affected by earthquake in Makira Province. Photo: Mike Puia/World Vision

Above: World Vision staff member in Makira Gray Nako and Provincial Disaster Management Office member Donald Marahora distribute shelter kits in Makira following the December 9, 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Photo: Mike Puia/World Vision

Executive Summary

In the early hours of Friday 9 December 2016, a magnitude 7.8 undersea earthquake struck 62 km south-west of Kirakira, the provincial capital of Makira-Ulwara Province, resulting in the widespread destruction of homes, community kitchens, food sources and livelihoods in Makira, South Malaita and Guadalcanal Provinces.

World Vision declared an internal *Category 1 National Office Response* the following day, targeting **3000 of the most severely affected people** (approximately 30% of the estimated impacted population based on initial data), and in coordination with the National Disaster Management Office immediately began assessments and distributions.

Since this time, World Vision, with support from the Australian and New Zealand Governments, World Vision New Zealand and World Vision Australia, has **reached over 4,180 people** with essential aid to provide relief in the days following the earthquake and enable communities to begin rebuilding their lives.

In partnership with the Government of Solomon Islands, World Vision launched response efforts in Makira, South Malaita and later in Guadalcanal Provinces and the Shortland Islands in the form of non-food item distributions and initial assessment activities.

The response also provided World Vision with an opportunity to strengthen its own staff capacity with a number of team members redeployed into positions of management in the response. Steps were taken to ensure staff wellbeing was also prioritised with WVSI drawing on additional resources from World Vision's internal network in Australia and the Pacific to ensure local staff were adequately supported.

World Vision in the Solomon Islands

Currently the largest INGO operating in the Solomon Islands, World Vision has been working in the archipelago since **1980**, and we currently implement **15 community-based development projects** across Guadalcanal, Makira, Malaita, Central Islands and Temotu Provinces. We operate at the **community level** employing a **gender conscious approach** to activities that includes opportunities for men and women to openly discuss and address any potential project outcomes.

The majority of our **120 staff members** in Solomon Islands are nationals, many who live in the remote communities where we work in full-time community mobilisation roles.

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) has four active projects across the three provinces impacted by the earthquake, working with 32 villages in South Malaita and East Malaita, 16 villages in Makira and 15 villages in Guadalcanal. Over half of WVSI's program areas were affected by the earthquake, subsequent landslides and tidal surges.

“World Vision had an important advantage in responding in Makira, Malaita and Guadalcanal as we had worked in many communities across these provinces for years before the disaster and had established good relationships with them and were therefore able to consult them effectively about their needs.”

Janes Ginting, WVSI Country Director

Impacted population



Makira
30,176



Malaita
3,060



Guadalcanal
1,237

Initial data released by the Solomon Islands National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) shortly after the disaster suggested at least **4052 people** were directly affected across the two provinces of Makira and Malaita. As more detailed information came to hand, these early estimates increased to over **34,400 people affected¹** across three provinces including Guadalcanal. Results from initial data assessments also highlighted the following infrastructure damage and destruction:

Infrastructure Damage

Makira



1,197 houses damaged/destroyed



230 kitchens damaged/destroyed



20 schools damaged/destroyed



4 clinics damaged/destroyed

Malaita



149 houses damaged/destroyed



102 kitchens damaged/destroyed



1 school damaged/destroyed

Guadalcanal



19 houses damaged/destroyed



Zinnia and her one-year old baby narrowly missed being hit by falling bricks when the December 9, earthquake damaged their home in Kirakira. Photo: Mike Puia/World Vision

Footnote:

1 SIG Sit Rep #6 issued on 24 Dec 2016

World Vision Response

The National Disaster Management Sector Committees formally requested World Vision's support to provide urgently needed relief supplies as well as logistical, technological and staff resources to assist with the initial data assessments and distributions in Makira, South Malaita and Guadalcanal. A subsequent request was also received for support with providing relief items for those impacted by the earthquake on 17 December in the Shortland Islands, the most north-westerly of the Solomon Islands.

World Vision's Country Office in Honiara was tasked with co-ordinating World Vision's overall response and liaising with other agencies. Utilising prepositioned supplies in our warehouses in Honiara, Makira, Malaita and the Weather Coast enabled World Vision to respond quickly to requests for support from NDMO, PDMO and other agencies.



World Vision staff members and DFAT First Secretary Justice & Governance, Grant Follet load relief supplies for earthquake affected communities in South Malaita. Photo: Evan Wasuka/World Vision

WVSI's emergency distribution of **372 Shelter Kits** containing a bush knife, nails, hand saw, hammer, rope, wire and cutters, 2 x tarpaulins, hoe, sharpening file, crow bar, axe, shovel packed in a copra bag were distributed across 54 communities in the most severely impacted areas of Makira and South Malaita. Benefitting **2,374 people** (1,093 females/1,281 males), these Shelter Kits addressed the immediate shelter needs quickly and cost effectively, providing temporary protection for people whose houses had been damaged or destroyed. Once more permanent shelters have been constructed, the life cycle of the tarpaulin can be extended through recycling as it can be used as second hand raw materials for other products such as bags for waste collection, ground cover, privacy screens, raincoats, etc.

182 Hygiene Kits were distributed in Makira across 15 communities, benefitting 1,076 people. In

Guadalcanal **30 kits** were distributed **benefitting 376 people**, and an additional **16 Hygiene Kits** were distributed across 6 communities in the Shortland Islands **benefitting 95 people** (44 females/51 males). The kits contain a number of practical personal hygiene and household items such as razors, toothbrushes, cotton cloth, baby diaper, hair combs, candles, toothpaste, bars of soap, sanitary pads, toilet papers, women's underwear, towels, gauze, dishwashing powder/paste, clothes washing powder, laundry soap bars, and a plastic tub in a large zip bag which can be reused. These items play an important role in maintaining cleanliness, preventing disease outbreaks and assisting those affected by the earthquake carry out everyday tasks such as washing clothes and dishes. Other items in the hygiene kits also contribute to people's sense of dignity in difficult circumstance, e.g. underwear, razors, combs and toothbrushes.

18 Tarpaulins were distributed across 12 communities in Guadalcanal **benefitting 100 people** (56 females/44 males). Simultaneous distributions and assessments were carried out in the north-easterly and eastern parts of Guadalcanal by teams made up of Guadalcanal Provincial Emergency Response Team members and World Vision staff.

73 collapsible jerry cans were distributed on Guadalcanal, and **60 water containers** were distributed to communities in the Shortlands Islands impacted by the subsequent PNG earthquake on 17 December 2016. These water containers enabled people to collect and carry water from available sources back to their



World Vision staff work with the Provincial Disaster Management Office to distribute relief supplies in South Malaita. Photo: William Ekotani/World Vision

communities ensuring an adequate supply of water in the household for drinking, washing and cooking.

30 Kitchen Sets containing cooking pots, stainless plates, stainless cups, spoons, serving spoon and a cutting knife were distributed in the worst affected areas of Guadalcanal and the Shortland Islands. **Benefitting 171 people** (89 females/82 male), these items have provided families with essential cooking implements enabling them to prepare and serve meals. Assessment reports increasingly highlighted the damage caused to communal kitchens, which are not only used for cooking but also store many household items such as cooking and eating utensils.

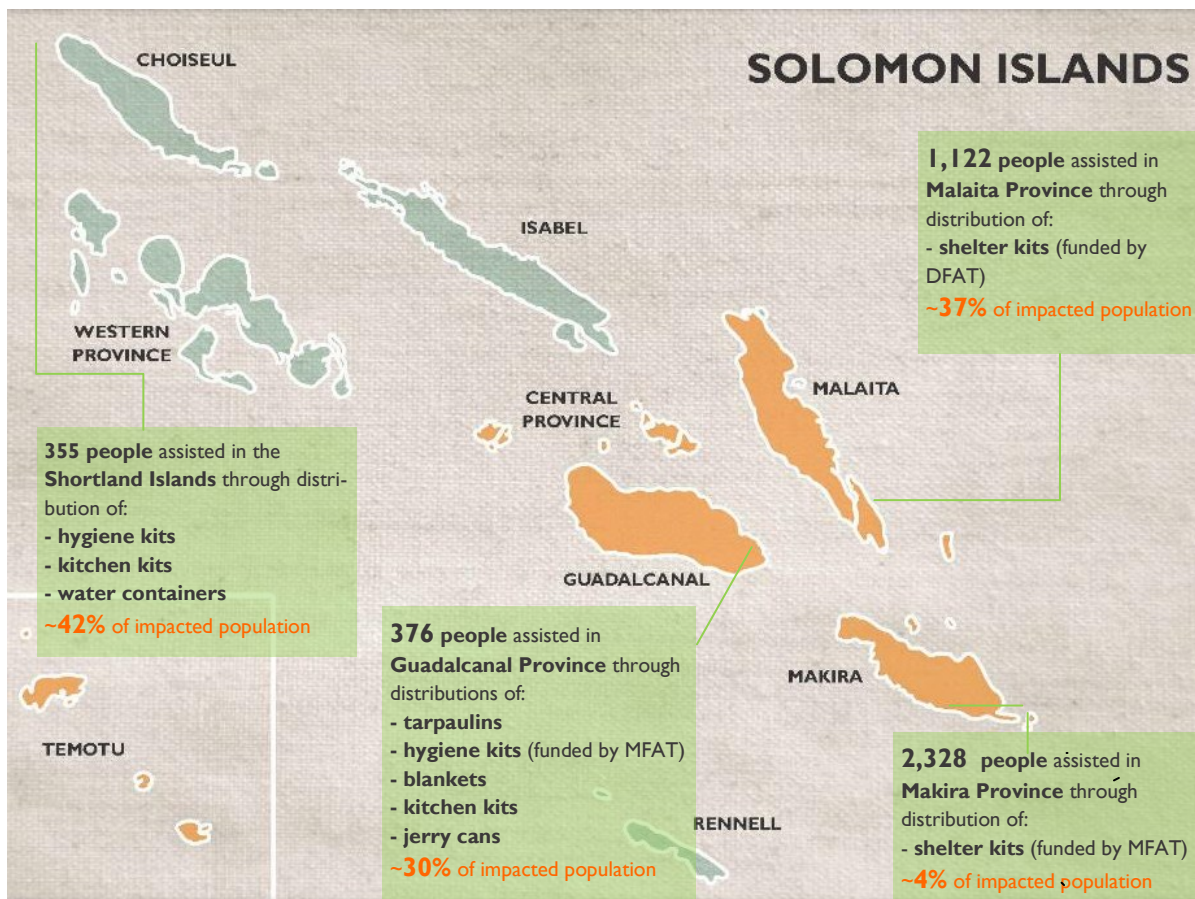
World Vision **staff** and resources such as **smartphones, outboard motor boats** and **fuel** were also made available to support the government-led rapid assessment teams in Makira, South Malaita and Guadalcanal.

Assessments

Initial Disaster Assessments (IDA) were conducted using the official Solomon Islands Government Assessment Tool called the Kobo Toolkit. Beneficiaries were identified via the IDA data in consultation with community leaders. Standard distribution practices were followed, including informing beneficiaries about eligibility for receiving items and providing logistical details for timing and location of distributions, coordinating with other organisations to ensure equitable distribution coverage, tracking items distributed via appropriate beneficiary lists, and reconciling stock balances.

Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) coordinated by National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) and Provincial Emergency Operation Centre (PEOC) with the support of Disaster Management Stakeholders and Partners officially ended on 21st December 2016. Consolidated IDA results are currently being analysed by Sector Committee Leads to inform recovery programming and ensure a coordinated and effective approach to supporting the communities most in need.

Building on results of the IDAs, detailed sectoral assessments are currently underway to look more closely at how the earthquake affected specific aspects of peoples' lives, more accurately targeting impacted people and providing a more efficient allocation of valuable resources.



Summary of World Vision's Activities



SHELTER KITS

372

Thanks to the Governments of New Zealand and Australia



TARPAULINS

18

Thanks to the Government of



KITCHEN SETS

30

World Vision contribution



SMART PHONES

16

World Vision contribution



BANANA BOATS & FUEL

2

World Vision contribution



HYGIENE KITS

212

Thanks to the Government of New Zealand



WATER CONTAINERS

133

World Vision contribution



BLANKETS

376

World Vision contribution



PERSONNEL

10

World Vision contribution

World Vision Partnerships

World Vision Solomon Islands has collaborated and consulted with the National Disaster Management Office, the Provincial Disaster Management Offices, and National Disaster Management Sector Committees which include other Non-Government Organisations (FAO, Oxfam, Solomon Islands Red Cross, Save the Children, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, WFP); the Ministry of Health and Medical Services; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to ensure coordinated planning and maximise an effective response across all sectors and geographical areas. World Vision is an active member of the Health (including WASH), Protection, Infrastructure, Livelihoods, and Education National Disaster Management Sector Committees.

Assessments and distributions were carried out in partnership with the National Disaster Management Office, the Provincial Disaster Management Offices, Oxfam, Solomon Islands Red Cross and Save the Children, ensuring relief supplies reached children and families most severely affected as quickly as possible.

Challenges & Learnings

World Vision has gained considerable experience responding to natural disasters in the Solomon Islands through the years; however, we continue to acknowledge the opportunities for further learning and growth. Some of our recent challenges and how we intend to respond to these are noted below:

Challenges and observations

Logistical challenges securing immediate sea freight for NFI distributions directly after the earthquake.

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Items in hygiene kits not used by communities in Solomon Islands.

Limited acceptance of oral water purification tablets (aqua tabs) by communities.

Future Actions

At the suggestion of the PDMO, World Vision has committed to increase our supplies of pre-positioned items in the Provinces to expedite future distributions and minimise delays caused by sea freighting from Honiara.

World Vision has adapted future hygiene kits to better meet the needs of Solomon Islanders.

WV also plans to include more first aid training to better explain wound care in our future health and disaster risk, reduction projects.

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World Vision is in discussions with UNICEF regarding emergency Partnership Coordination Agreement (PCA) for WASH – an information and education component has been included in this PCA to better inform communities about the benefits of aqua tabs during disaster response situations.

Thank You

World Vision acknowledges our partners and donors who made this emergency response possible. Thank you for your support and generosity for the people of the Solomon Islands. In particular, special thanks goes to:

Government of New Zealand: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Government of Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

World Vision Australia

World Vision New Zealand

UNICEF and other UN agencies

Solomon Islands Red Cross

Solomon Islands Humanitarian NGO Alliances (SIAHN) comprised of Oxfam, Save the Children, Live and Learn, ADRA, Development Service Exchange

Our sincere thanks to the Government of Solomon Islands and the respective Provincial Governments for their ongoing partnership and support. World Vision acknowledges the leadership and coordination by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the speed with which response plans were activated and Sector Committees mobilised. Provincial Disaster Management Offices (PDMOs) quickly assumed the lead role in coordinating data collection and distributions in the provinces resulting in streamlined information flows and accurate and regular situational reporting. Appropriate mandate was provided for INGO and Community-based Organisations to support and empower NDMO and PDMOs during the response, providing a strong platform from which to build a coordinated and inclusive recovery strategy.



World Vision Humanitarian Emergency Assistance Lead, Osbert Lalahu distributes relief supplies to affected community members in Aola, Guadalcanal. Photo: Langi Pitia/World Vision

Significant improvements over recent years in the Solomon Islands' ability to respond rapidly and effectively to an emergency were evident during this response, and World Vision looks forward to continued engagement with the Government of the Solomon Islands to work together to improve the lives of Solomon Islanders.

Contact Us

World Vision's presence in the three most severely impacted provinces of Makira, Malaita and Guadalcanal, well-established before the earthquake, continues long after the immediate disaster relief needs are met. If you would like to find out more about our activities in these areas or elsewhere please contact us at:

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