



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL



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SITUATION

1. Two earthquakes occurred this morning in the Western Province, the first at 0848 and the second at 0936. USGS reported the first as measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale and the second, 7.2. The depth of the first was 36km (22.4 miles) South South East of Gizo or island (264km (164 miles) West North West of Honiara. And the second struck at 143km (89 miles) South South East of Gizo Island or 210km (130 miles) West North West of Honiara.

At Baniata village, Rendova Island, 16 houses were destroyed; 60 damaged.

At Tetepari Island, a jetty got washed out; some boats were damaged; a petrol shed damaged; 10 expats living on the Tetepari were OK and no one was injured as previous reports claimed.

No deaths reported.

A. Reports

The helicopter Initial Situation Overview assessment team reported 16 houses destroyed at Baniata village and 60 houses damaged. There were landslides on Rendova Island and one village about 2km from Baniata village was washed away.

The team's report also said the main areas of concern are Rendova and Tetepare Islands. In this case, the total population affected would be just over 300 to 500.

B. National Response

- a. The assessment team which travelled by helicopter at 1400 is now in Munda waiting for a multi-sectoral team travelling by Patrol Boat Lata.
- b. Patrol Boat Lata, PV 03, was scheduled to leave at 1800 today with some food, water and tarpaulins along with a multi-sectoral assessment team.

Sitrep 03 will be issued tomorrow Tuesday 05 January 2009.