



Minako Kakuma
<Minako_Ocha@undp.org>

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02:41

To

cc Minako Kakuma <Minako_Ocha@undp.org>

bcc

Subject UNOCHA Update No. 1 on Solomon Islands Earthquake on 4
January 2010

Dear humanitarian partners,

UNOCHA would like to provide a brief update on the situation in Solomon Islands caused by two earthquakes which occurred yesterday, 4 January 2010. A general map of Solomon Islands is attached.

- Two earthquakes hit the Solomon Islands yesterday morning (4 January 2010), one at 08:48 (Magnitude 6.5, depth 10km, 89km SSE of Gizo, Western Province) and another one at 09:36 (Magnitude 7.2, depth 30km, 103 SSE of Gizo, Western Province), Solomon time.
- The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre reported that tsunami wave activities of 0.06M were observed in Honiara SB.
- An assessment team consisting of police, NDMO, Oxfam, Solomon Islands Red Cross Society, UNDP and other sectors has been dispatched to the reportedly affected areas in Western Province at 01:00 am on 5 January with the Patrol Boat "Lata" with some relief items.
- RAMSI, Police and NDMO conducted an aerial survey on 4 January. We are awaiting results.
- Population data shows Rendova island has a population of around 3,700 among of whom 2,200 live on South Rendova and 1,500 on North Rendova. The population may have increased since the population data based on population census 1999 has been created.
- Attached map (which is a very first draft) shows the location of villages on Rendova island. Those villages with black dots do not have population data while the yellow ones do. Population statistics do not indicate inhabitation on Tetepare island, but it is reported that it is a touristic area and there were 10 tourists, who were evacuated. 2 of them were reported to have injuries of some kind.
- UNICEF is considering sending out an assessment team (of the UNICEF staff based in Gizo office).

NDMO situational report No. 1 issued 4 January (attached) is attached. It is reported that:

- 1 injury was reported at Baniata village, one house at Rano has been lost, 500 homes in the Marovo lagoon were reportedly damaged by waves.
- 2 big waves hit Tetepare Island damaging some canoes and houses. Some tourists there also got injured, as mentioned above.

UNOCHA is in contact with Solomon Islands NDMO and other partners and will send a second update as soon as more information is available.

Best regards,
Minako
UNOCHA

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"solomon_islands_pol89.jpg" deleted by David STEVENS/VIENNA/UNO]