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04:42

To Minako Kakuma <Minako_Ocha@undp.org>

cc

bcc

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

Dear Humanitarian partners,

Here is the brief update on the situation of Solomon Islands earthquakes that occurred between 4 and 5 January.

Please also find attached the map from NASA Earth Observatory (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=42176&src=ea-iotd>).

- A joint assessment was conducted yesterday (6 January) in the reportedly affected villages on Rendova Island, including Retavo, Baniata, Havila, Hopongo, Rano and Lokuru. The assessment was conducted both at the village and at household level. Some difficulties in gathering information are being reported as people left the villages for higher grounds because of fear of another tsunami.
- The preliminary results of the assessment are expected to be available at tomorrow's NDMO stakeholder meeting.
- Informal feedback from the assessments already suggests that:
 - Most urgent needs are covered by the Government and Solomon Islands Red Cross
 - Access to clean water and sanitation could be a concern in affected villages, which requires further assessment information
 - Temporary shelter may be required as certain numbers of houses were destroyed and the evacuees stay at the neighbors houses temporarily.
 - The School building in Baniata is reportedly damaged
 - Risk of landslides hinders the villagers to go to their gardens
 - Livelihood issues need to be thoroughly assessed and addressed as some copra sheds and canoes have been damaged
 - A need for psycho social support is identified (fear to return to the coast areas etc.)
 - A need to urgently rehabilitate destroyed and damaged houses
- Exact number of affected population and displaced population are still to be confirmed. Estimated affected population prior to the assessment is 1,452.
- Damages so far reported prior to the field assessment are:
 - **Tetepare**
4 bungalows damaged, 10 expatriates evacuated, canoes damaged
 - **Rano**
8 houses damaged, 1 person injured, water source damaged by landslide
 - **Baniata**
16 houses totally destroyed, 60 houses damaged
 - **Retavo**
Village washed away. It is reported to have a population of 31 people.
- NDMO will hold a stakeholder meeting at 11:00 on 8 January, where the preliminary results of the multi sectoral assessment are expected to be shared.
- The 2nd earthquake might have caused the damage in the 3 villages of Nggatokae island in Western Province, and an assessment team has been already dispatched.

Non-government response

- Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRC) are deploying another 1000 water containers and 20 Family Kits to the field on 7 January in addition to the 200 containers and 50 family kits already dispatched with the assessment team.
- AusAID reports that Australia will provide up to A\$50,000 in immediate emergency relief assistance in response to the earthquakes that have recently affected the Solomon Islands. This funding will enable the SIRC and Oxfam to distribute and restock emergency supplies such as

- tarpaulins, water containers, clothing, blankets and emergency kits.
- Save the Children has joined the assessment team, and is ready to provide temporary shelter and relief items if required and also looks into early recovery needs.
 - Oxfam and World Vision have also joined the assessment team and plan the response based on the assessment results. Oxfam has relief items available such as tarpaulins and water containers if needed.

The next NDC sit rep, which is expected to include information from the assessment, is to be issued this evening, so hope to share it with OCHA's next update.

Best regards,
Minako Kakuma
UNOCHA

[attachment "solomons_srt_2010004 copy.jpg" deleted by David STEVENS/VIENNA/UNO]