

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major emergency assistance partners: strategic foci and key activities for flood recovery

1. The Government of Solomon Islands has worked with the international community, civil society, and other stakeholders to meet humanitarian response needs. Various organizations such as bilateral aid agencies, United Nations agencies, and nongovernment organizations provided emergency relief immediately after the flash floods. The government requested the assistance of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN-OCHA) personnel and supplies to support response efforts. The United Nations Development Programme, through the Australian-funded Pacific Risk Resilience Programme, provided early technical advice to the Ministry of Provincial Development and to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The Secretariat of the Pacific Community provided disaster coordination capacity support to the NDMO.

2. About \$7.9 million was donated from development partners, international organizations, local nongovernment organizations, businesses, and individuals for immediate relief in the form of cash grants and in-kind aid, e.g., provision of hygiene kits, tarpaulins, and water purification tablets. The government authorized the release of about \$685,000 from the contingency fund to facilitate initial response and relief activities, and an additional contingency warrant of about \$1.2 million, to which Papua New Guinea contributed about \$822,000. On 16 April 2014, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$200,000 grant from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund for humanitarian and relief efforts.

3. The disaster relief budget allocated to the National Disaster Council (NDC) is about \$260,000 and was quickly exhausted after the floods. This is the second year in a row that a single disaster exhausted not only the relief budget of the NDC but also its operational budget. Both the floods and the Santa Cruz earthquake in 2013 occurred in the first 4 months of the year, leaving the NDMO with only enough funds to cover its fixed costs for the remainder of the year. This poses serious concern if another event were to strike the Solomon Islands in 2014.

4. The total recovery and reconstruction needs of the transport sector are estimated at \$34.66 million. After contributions from the National Transport Fund (\$1.39 million), and the governments of Australia (\$3.76 million), Japan (\$10.00 million) and New Zealand (\$1.22 million), \$18.29 million remains unmet. United Nations and World Bank agencies will focus on other sectors such as housing, health, and education.

5. The table below summarizes contributions to transport sector recovery to date.

Major Development Partners for Transport Sector Reconstruction to Date

Development Partner	Reconstruction focus	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Government of Australia	Restoring connectivity (provided A\$4,000,000 to restore temporary connectivity through the National Transport Fund)		3.76
Government of Japan	Restoring connectivity		10
Government of New Zealand	Restoring connectivity (installed a bailey bridge to reconnect China Town with the capital, Honiara)		1.22

Source: Government of Solomon Islands.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

6. The Solomon Islands National Disaster Risk Management Plan (2009) provides for the establishment of institutional arrangements to guide disaster risk management throughout the country. It includes arrangements for preparing for, managing, and recovering from disaster events, and institutional mechanisms for mitigating disaster risk, including climate change adaptation.

7. The NDC is the strategic decision-making body for mobilizing resources, setting priorities, and advising Cabinet during a disaster. It is also responsible for the overview of disaster events and the management of international, regional, and bilateral support arrangements for disaster risk management through the National Disaster Coordinating Committee's cluster groups. The Recovery and Rehabilitation Committee of the NDC is chaired by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination. The NDMO functions as the secretariat of the NDC and is responsible for the coordination, development, and implementation of disaster risk management.

8. The sector approach of the proposed Transport Sector Flood Recovery Project allows the government to take the lead in identifying, prioritizing, appraising, designing, and implementing subprojects. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) will propose the transport infrastructure reconstruction areas on behalf of the government. As the project will be implemented through the central project implementation unit of MID, the activities will be closely coordinated with the National Transport Fund activities.

C. Achievements and Issues

9. The government has achieved a generally acceptable level of development partner coordination for relief and reconstruction. The rapid assessment of macro and sectoral impacts of the flash floods¹ provides a common framework for immediate and short-term relief, as well as medium- to long-term recovery and reconstruction including building-back-better principles. This is particularly important because reconstruction needs significantly exceed the government's capacity.

10. ADB has supported the government's development and improvement of the transport sector since 2000 and offers a comparative advantage in transport infrastructure reconstruction. Some of the resources of the ongoing ADB Transport Sector Development Project have been redirected to assist the damage assessment and emergency restoration works.

D. Summary and Recommendations

11. Given the number of development partners supporting Solomon Islands in reconstruction after the flash floods, and the cross-cutting nature of the reconstruction work, close coordination and consultation between the development partners and with the government are needed to avoid redundancies and recognize support gaps.

¹ Government of Solomon Islands, 2014. *Rapid Assessment of the Macro and Sectoral Impacts*. Honiara.