

# INITIAL SITUATION OVERVIEW (ISO)

**HAZARD TYPE:** Tropical Depression

**PROVINCES AFFECTED:** All Provinces



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE  
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

**Expected Impact**



**Purpose of ISO:** The Initial Situation Overview (ISO) is focused on the systematic collation and analysis of **secondary information**. The ISO is designed to determine the extent of the disaster and the number of affected people and to sketch out the **strategic humanitarian priorities**. The ISO should be produced within the first **72 hours** following a disaster in order to inform initial **response planning and funding appeal**.

## Crises Overview

A tropical depression moved over the Solomon Island on Wednesday 24 January, causing high winds and heavy rain throughout the weekend. The highest cumulative rainfall (estimated to be between 450mm-670mm) occurred between the 24-28 January in 29 wards, across Central, Western, Malaita, Isabel and Guadalcanal provinces. The overall impacts of the event are minimal. The most commonly reported damaged was that of detached roofs due to strong winds, specifically in Renn-bell, Guadalcanal, Makira and Malaita. Heavy rain also has impacts on food gardens, water systems and critical infrastructures through flooding and landslides.

## Anticipated scope and scale

The current impacts have been limited and within the coping capacity of the local provinces. Communication and information flow have proved to be a challenge and as such information on the impacts has been slow to be reported. Across the country damage to homes and food gardens has been reported but the total numbers of those affected is still unclear. As such the number of those in need is also unclear. There is a high probability of further tropical depression forming in the coming days and weeks which could slowly exacerbate the situation.

## Priority Needs



**Shelter**



**Food**



**WASH**

## Access Constrains

The current challenges to the flow of information due to Telekom tower and HF radio not functioning is the greatest constraint. Roads and bridges have also been reportedly affected across the country by flash flooding, temporarily restricting movement and in the long-term worsening road conditions on some roads by creating/worsening potholes.

## Limitations

There is very limited information from the provinces on the specific number of those in need. The baseline data from 2009/2015 and might not truly reflect the characteristics of the affected population. The information provided is based on early reports and secondary data assessments, as such these numbers of affected and in need can be expected to change following primary data collection. The exposed population is a calculated projection of the population for the exposed wards based on the 2009 census projections.

## Crises Impact

### Overview

The highest cumulative rainfall (estimated to be between 450mm-670mm) occurred between the 24-28 January in 29 wards, across Central, Western, Malaita, Isabel and Guadalcanal provinces (See Map on page 7). The estimated population that was exposed to this rainfall was over 120,000 (Met Service, 30/01/2018). The overall impacts of the event are minimal. The most commonly reported damaged was that of detached roofs due to strong winds, specifically in Ren-bel, Guadalcanal, Makira and Malaita. Heavy rain also has impacts on food gardens, water systems and critical infrastructures through flooding and landslides.

### Health

Currently there is no available information about the direct health impact of the event. However contaminated drinking water is expected to lead to waterborne disease outbreaks. In Renn-bell it was reported that medical supplies are running out and there is lack of space for inpatient treatment. Likewise, there are also issues with regards to understaffing of the clinics. Source: NEOC SITREP 01, Renbel SITUP01, NEOC Brief Note for N-DOC Education

### Education

There are no reported impacts to school's facilities and infrastructures; however, due to the event most schools prolonged the resumption of the school term.

### Livelihoods

Reports of damages to food gardens due to landslides and flooding in five of Malaita's wards (Adua, Folutana, Binaa, Foondo and Sinaragu) and three of Isabel's wards (Holokama, Garanga and Garanga plains). Lake Tegano in Renn-Bell has overflowed due to the excessive rainfall causing waterlogged that damage food gardens. Strong wind is also reportedly blown down fruit trees and coconuts that people depend on for food. Report indicates 29 house and 36 Kitchens have had partial damage across 22 vilages in Renn-Bell (Source Renn-bell detailed impact report, 30/01/2018).

Incident of flooding are also reported in Choiseul provinces, Saranamola in the Northeast. These communities suffered the impacts of the December 2017 flood, which damaged food gardens and shelter. The current flooding will further stress these community's food supplies. Source: NEOC SITREP 01, Renbel SITUP01, NEOC Brief Note for N-DOC, NEOC Comms Unit, Choiseul SITUP01

### Infrastructure

Reports of damages to buildings due to strong winds and flooding are minimal across the priority provinces. An unconfirmed number house are reported damage in Bellona, 10 houses were destroyed in Kamavasu village in Guadalcanal, one in Henderson Area. Five staff houses at Solomon Islands National University and two houses were destroyed at Panatina ridge in Honiara. It was also reported that a house in Tawaraha in Makira was also destroyed by flood. One house is also destroyed in Vurago Village, Choiseul province. Most of the houses damaged are due to weak structure build from traditional materials. Source: NEOC SITREP 01, Renbel SITUP01, NEOC Brief Note for N-DOC, Choiseul SITUP01

### Impact on critical infrastructure

There were also isolated Impacts on critical infrastructure. Waimasi bridge in Makira is reported damage. Electricity line at the Solomon Islands National University is also reported broken in Honiara. Telekom tower in Tingoa is not functioning which leads to communication hiccups. Tailing storage facility (TSF) is also been closely monitored and a process of de-watered to avoid any spillover and heavy water contamination is ongoing. Source: NEOC SITREP 01, Renbel SITUP01, NEOC Brief Note for N-DOC

### Humanitarian and operational constraints

Most of the impact reports received are minimal and therefore the priority provinces that are exposed should can conduct the operation unassisted. The current challenges to the flow of information due Telekom tower and HF radio not functioning is the greatest constraint (esp. Renbel). Source: Renbel SITUP01

## Aggravating Factors

### Risk of related disaster

Risk of further flooding and landslides as rain continues throughout the coming weeks. The already

saturated ground will exacerbate any further rainfall in the affected areas.

### Weather:

Heavy rain and strong wind gust to continue throughout the week. (Met Service, 29/01/2018). Moving into February the formation of tropical lows can be expected to be highly active around the Solomon Islands. As a result, high rainfall should be expected in the coming weeks for all provinces (Na drak, 30/01/2018).

### Population density

The national average for population density is 17 people per km<sup>2</sup>. The population density of the affected provinces is as follows; Honiara, 2,953 people per km<sup>2</sup>; Malaita, 33 people per km<sup>2</sup>; Guadalcanal, 18 people per km<sup>2</sup>; Ren-Bell, 17 people per km<sup>2</sup>; Makira, 13 people per km<sup>2</sup>; Isabel, 6 people per km<sup>2</sup>, and Western 10 people per km<sup>2</sup> (Solomon Islands NSO, 2009).

### Location and type of housing/infrastructure

The majority (56%) of households across provinces, except for Honiara and Ren-Bell, have roofs constructed from traditional thatch. In Ren-Bell, 98% of household dwellings have roofs with tin (roofing metal) material, followed by Honiara, where 76% of dwellings have tin roofs. In terms of materials for walls, the majority of provinces, excluding Western, Honiara and Ren-Bell reported traditional materials as their main material for walls. The excluded provinces recorded wooden materials as their main material. Wooden materials are most common materials for floors across the majority of provinces.

Apart from Honiara, the majority of provinces show between 78% and 95% of their dwellings with a detached kitchen. In Honiara, the capital city, close to half of the dwellings have a kitchen that is not attached to the dwelling, while 20% of dwellings have an inside kitchen, and 31% have an inside and outside kitchen (Solomon island HIES, 2015).

### Key characteristics

**Demographic profile:** More detail is provided on in the Key characteristics table below. It is clear from the table that those exposed will be predominately in rural communities, with high age dependency ratios. The dominate age group across all provinces,

excluding Honiara, are under 15 year olds (Solomon island HIES, 2015).

**Nutrition** levels: almost half of children under 5 across the country are anaemic. Among women aged 15–49, 44% are reportedly anaemic, and prevalence is highest among pregnant women (60%). Stunting was reported in 33% of children under 5 and 9% reported severe stunting. The prevalence of severe wasting in children is less than 2%. (Solomon Islands DHS, 2007)

**WASH:** Main drinking sources varies between the affected provinces. Communal standpipes are the main source in Isabel (78%), Malaita (60%) and Makira (51%). When the main source in Ren-Bell (98%) and Western (35%) provinces is Household tanks. Guadalcanal main water source is split between Communal standpipes (27%) and Rivers (38%). Main drinking water in Honiara is Metered SIWA (76%) (Solomon island HIES, 2015).

The majority of households across the provinces, except for Rennell-Bellona, Guadalcanal and Honiara, recorded sea/river, as their main toilet facility. In Rennell-Bellona Province, the majority (68%) of households reported latrine (private), as their main toilet facility. In Guadalcanal, a higher proportion (40%) of households reported 'other', suggesting unspecified facilities. In Honiara, the private flush toilet is the main facility (Solomon island HIES, 2015).

**Health:** The Primary healthcare care (PHC) facilities for Isabel (55%), Ren-Bell (58%), Guadalcanal (36%), Malaita (43%) and Makira (52%) are rural aid centres. In Honiara the PHC facility is the HTC Clinic (82%). In western provinces Aid posts (41%) where the PHC facility. Across all provinces, 'walking' is the main mode of transport (land) to the PHC facility (Solomon island HIES, 2015).

### Communication Networks:

Less than 1% of the population have telephone landline connections at their dwellings. Honiara recorded the highest percent (4%) of dwellings with landline connections. In addition, less than a third of total population own a mobile phone. In Honiara, slightly more than half the population own a mobile phone.

Only 4% of the population have access to internet while 3% of all households have access to internet from their household dwellings. Ren-Bell have no access to internet from their home dwellings, although there is limited access through other facilities. Across all provinces, with the exception of Honiara, 1% to 4% of population access the internet. In Honiara, 17% of the population frequently access internet (Solomon island HIES, 2015).

## Response capacity

**National:** National Disaster Management Agency (NDMO) is on standby activation and is monitoring the situation. Regularly situation updates and reporting to the National Disaster committee is ongoing. In partnership with telecom provides several nationwide advisory and safety information text blast have been sent to the public.

**International:** No request for international support has been made. No international partners have reported any actions taken.

## Population coping mechanisms

Rural communities regularly experience heavy rain and tropic depressions.

## Information gaps and needs:

- Detailed information on impacts in the affected provinces. Specifically, regarding shelter damages.
- Information on the specific WASH, Shelter and food needs of those affected.
- An estimated total people in need (PIN) is still to be established.
- Information collected form partner agencies and government departments regarding the situation.

## Contact details:

**National Disaster Management Office**  
Ministry Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology  
P.O. Box 21 Honiara Solomon Islands  
Telephones: (677) 27936/27937/30011  
Facsimile: (677) 27060/24293  
Email: neocndc@ndmo.gov.sb



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,  
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL  
NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE  
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

## Key characteristics

Key indicators	Isabel		Ren-Bell		Guadalcanal		Malatia		Makira		Honiara		Western		
Total population	27,000		4,600		109,000		171,000		53,000		68,000		91,000		
% pop. in rural areas	96%		100%		83%		96%		95%		0%		83%		
Gender distribution of population	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
	49%	51%	49%	51%	48%	52%	50%	50%	49%	51%	47%	53%	48%	52%	
age distribution	<15 years	19%	21%	20%	20%	20%	21%	20%	22%	20%	23%	15%	17%	19%	20%
	15-24	8%	8%	8%	8%	10%	10%	9%	9%	8%	8%	12%	12%	9%	9%
	25-59	19%	19%	16%	18%	17%	18%	17%	16%	18%	18%	18%	22%	17%	19%
	>60	3%	3%	4%	6%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	3%	3%
	Median	21	20	21	20	19	19	19	18	20	18	22	23	20	20
Age dependency Ratio	82		93		89		92		94		53		84		
Avr. House hold size	4.5		5.7		5.4		5.9		6.2		6.5		5.6		
Main lighting sources	kerosene lamp 74%		solar panels 75%		kerosene lamp 83%		kerosene lamp 79%		kerosene lamp 80%		electricity grid 60%		kerosene lamp 76%		
Main cooking sources	wood/coconut		wood/coconut		wood/coconut		wood/coconut		wood/coconut		wood/coconut		wood/coconut		
Improved drinking water source	87%		94%		52%		61%		63%		91%		82%		
improved sanitation facilities	42%		98%		44%		53%		14%		97%		31%		
Infant Mortality	23 (per 1,000)		26 (per 1,000)		22 (per 1,000)		26 (per 1,000)		20 (per 1,000)		19 (per 1,000)		23 (per 1,000)		
U5 Mortality rate	29 (per 1,000)		34 (per 1,000)		27 (per 1,000)		33 (per 1,000)		25 (per 1,000)		23 (per 1,000)		29 (per 1,000)		
% pop. severe disability	2%		2%		1.5%		2%		1.5%		>1%		2%		
% HH subsistence farming	31%		73%		41%		40%		49%		35%		35%		
% HH raising livestock	72%		55%		54%		68%		68%		8%		48%		
Literacy rates (15-24)	89%		98%		89%		80%		94%		96%		96%		
% HH access mobile phones	17%		19%		19%		11%		8%		77%		22%		

Sourced from: Solomon island HIES, 2015 & Solomon Islands Census, 2009

# Map: Cumulative rainfall between 24 – 28 January

