

Solomon Islands: Earthquake and Tsunami

Situation Report No. 1 (as of 6 February 2013)



This report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific. It covers preliminary information received on 6 February 2013. The next report will be issued when more information becomes available.

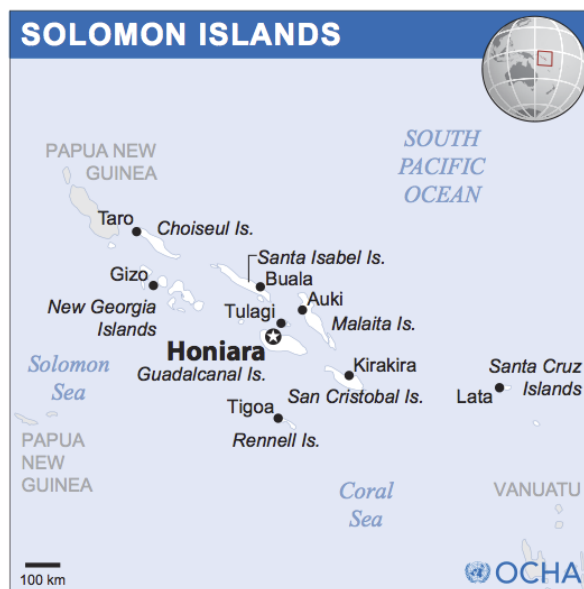
Highlights

- 8.0 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Santa Cruz Islands, Temotu Province in the Solomon Islands
- Tsunami Watch and Tsunami Warning issued for a number of Pacific Island Countries
- Initial reports of a 0.9 to 1.0 meter wave affecting parts of Temotu Province
- Four people are reported dead and two are reported as missing
- Initial information suggests that the tsunami wave travelled 500 meters inland and flattened many traditional houses

8.0 M
earthquake

4 people
reported dead

2 people
reported missing



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Aug 2012.

Situation Overview

An 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of the Santa Cruz Islands in the southeast Solomon Islands archipelago at 1:12 PM Fiji time today, 6 February.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that the earthquake had a depth of 28.7 kilometers. The USGS has reported a further 19 aftershocks, ranging from 4.9 to 6.6 magnitude.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a Tsunami Watch for Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, New Caledonia, Kosrae, Fiji, Kiribati and Wallis and Futuna.

A Tsunami Watch was issued for Marshall Islands, Howland and Baker, Pohnpei, Tokelau, Samoa, Kermadec Islands, New Zealand, American Samoa, Tonga, Australia, Niue, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Wake Island, Chuukjarvis Island, Guam, Northern Marianas, Palmyra Islands, Yap, Johnson Island, Minamitorishima and Belau.

All Tsunami Warnings and Tsunami Watches have now been cancelled, however there have been reports of damages in the Solomon Islands.

Impact

Initial reports from the Solomon Islands suggest that a tsunami wave of approximately 0.9 to 1.0 meters reached the Santa Cruz Islands in Temotu Province (Population 21,362) and a tsunami wave of 8 centimeters reached the capital, Honiara.

The Prime Minister's Office reported that the tsunami wave travelled 500 meters inland and inundated the airstrip at Lata, the capital of Temotu Province as well as surrounding villages, flattening many traditional houses. As a priority, the Government of the Solomon Islands is working to reopen the airport and is planning aerial assessments from Honiara tomorrow.

The Police Commander from Temotu Province reported that access to roads was blocked due to flooding, limiting access to nearby villages.

Other areas reported as affected include the communities of Venga, Nangu and Bamoe which are located along coast of the Santa Cruz Islands.

Initial reports indicate four people have lost their lives and two people remain missing.

There have been no damages reported in Malaita, Makira and East Guadalcanal.

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