



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL



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6 February Temotu Earthquake and Tsunami SI NDMO/NEOC SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 04

Event

8.0 Earthquake and tsunami near Santa Cruz Islands, Temotu Province.

SITREP No. 04

Date: 9/2/2013

Time Issued: 2100 Hrs

Next Update: 2100hrs - 10/2/2013

From: NEOC/NDMO

To: N-DOC & NDC Chairs and Members, P-DOC and PDC Chairs and Members, PEOCs

Copies: NDMO Stakeholders, Donor Partners, Local & International NGOs, UN Agencies, Diplomatic Agencies, SIRPF, SIRC and SI Government Ministries

Situation

New information highlighted in red.

At 12.12pm on Tuesday 6 February 2013, a magnitude 8.0 undersea earthquake occurred 33km west-southwest of Santa Cruz (Nendo) Island. It generated a destructive tsunami. Damage appears to be confined to Santa Cruz (Nendo) Islands.

More than 130 aftershocks have occurred since the initial event. There was also a loud explosion from a volcano that occurred at around 2am on Wednesday 7 February 2013. There have been 7 earthquakes over 6.0 and two earthquakes of magnitude 7 or above.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) was activated on Wednesday and has been staffed continuously since the event occurred.

A disaster was declared on Santa Cruz island by the Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology at around 11am on 8 February 2013 on the advice from the National

Disaster Council. *The National Disaster Council has been meeting at 8pm every day since 6 February 2013.*

Following an aerial assessment, the worst damage appears to be the west of Santa Cruz. People in this area have reportedly lost everything except the clothes they were wearing when the wave struck. *However, two large earthquakes about 6 km off the south coast of Santa Cruz island on the night of 8 February 2013 mean that there is new damage on Santa Cruz island (information below).*

One of these earthquakes was a magnitude 6.8 earthquake that occurred at 10:12pm on 8 February 2013. This earthquake damaged the wharf in Lata. It is not currently possible to drive vehicles onto the wharf and all unloading of ships must be done by hand. The wharf is a key piece of infrastructure, essential to the delivery of heavy relief supplies to Lata. The condition of the wharf needs to be assessed by an engineer.

A second earthquake (magnitude 7.0) occurred at approximately 2:30am on the morning of 9 February 2013 in a similar location to the magnitude 6.8 earthquake mentioned above. It also caused damage to the coast and led to the evacuation of the Lata Hospital at 2:45am. Patients were evacuated to the football field located up hill from the hospital next to the church offices.

At 5am, people from Lord Howe Island (166.06E, 10.80S) note that a hole has formed near the lagoon and the area is covered in smoke. People from Nagu village in Santa Cruz report that three cracks opened up in the village after one of the 7.0 earthquakes that occurred on 8/9 February 2013. The people report hot, soapy (foamy) water is seeping out. The water is steaming and smells 'volcanic' according to the citizens of the village. New Zealand volcanological and seismic experts advise that it is not possible to know the meaning of these events without further information. The Solomon Islands Government seismologist and geologist however, assessed the Tenakula Volcano and the reports of smoke and gasses emission. In fact, it is just liquefaction on areas close to the lagoon on Nanggu. On Tenakula, they said that the seismic activity has possessed no threat for any volcanic eruption and that the threat of it erupting is very low. Five (5) massive landslides were also been sighted on the North and Eastern side of Santa Cruz. It is worth noting that because the rocks are clearly visible, there is high chance of it falling. Assessment should be considered on river head to see if there were similar situation that could pose threat of damming upstream that can poses threat to communities downstream.

There was also a magnitude 6.0 earthquake in the Bismarck Islands in Papua New Guinea at approximately 4:45am on 9 February 2013. People from Shortland Islands and Choiseul report that they felt a strong earthquake at about the same time. No damage has been reported from these islands.

The Provincial Disaster Officer for Temotu advises that water quality and availability is of significant concern for Lata and the surrounding areas. *This is because the main water source for Lata town has been contaminated (with mud, logs etc).*

Commercial flights to Lata have resumed.

Areas Affected

The west of Santa Cruz Island appears to be the worst affected area with loss of life, damage to buildings and food crops also reported from Lord Howe island (Nibanga Noi) a small island to the South East of Santa Cruz and Malo slightly to the North of the larger island.

A detailed assessment has been carried out in Santa Cruz island. Key points are:

25 communities in West Santa Cruz island have been affected
 594 households or 3329 people affected
 10 confirmed deaths
 Injuries are yet to be confirmed

Please note that continuing earthquake and wave events mean that these numbers may increase in the coming days.

Status

	Sectors	Details
1	Number of households affected	594
2	Population affected	3329
3	Areas most severely affected	The western coast of Santa Cruz Island, Malo Island and Lord Howe (Nibanga Noi) Island.
4	Confirmed deaths	10
5	Infrastructure	<i>The Lata Wharf is damaged. It is not currently possible to drive vehicles onto the wharf and all unloading of ships must be done by hand. The wharf is a key piece of infrastructure, essential to the delivery of heavy relief supplies to Lata. The condition of the wharf needs to be assessed by an engineer.</i>
6	Education	Venga Primary School (4 buildings destroyed) + ECE classroom destroyed School closed.
7	Water Supply Sanitation	Water source that supplies water to villages in Graciosa Bay and to the whole of Lata station has been cut off. Debris and logs have flooded into the water source Pipes to all parts of entire communities have been destroyed. Salt water has inundated water sources. Widespread contamination and destruction to wells. Many water tanks have been destroyed or displaced. Bore holes have been covered or contaminated. Toilets destroyed
8	Road	Access roads to communities around Lata have been cleared of debris. Holes, cracks and gullies will need to be repaired.
9	Communications	Network coverage is inconsistent. Internet access down.
10	Economics	Gardens near the coast have been destroyed. Fruit trees near the coast have been destroyed.
11	Health Services	Services disrupted, patients have been moved to higher ground Coastal clinics could be damaged; unconfirmed damage reported to Manoputi clinic.

Breakdown of Damage and Loss by Township [NEW SECTION]

Location	Information
Lata Township (Area 4) 12 households, 67 people	9 houses destroyed 51 people effected Food gardens destroyed Water source destroyed 1 dead (infant)
Baenga 17 households, 73 people	17 houses destroyed Food gardens and water sources destroyed
Bamoi 122 households, 600 people	122 houses destroyed Water source and food gardens destroyed
Bania 17 households, 100 people	17 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed 1 death
Banoiba 17 households, 85 people	5 households affected by gardens and property loss
Bonate 29 households, 145 people	29 houses destroyed water source destroyed kindergarten and church damaged
Bwang 10 households, 37 people	10 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water sources destroyed
Dedu RHC Population 55	No damage.
Leumaonda Population 500	No damage.
Lord Howe Island Population 210	17 households affected by destruction of gardens including property loss
Louva 15 households, 77 people	13 houses destroyed 60 people effected food gardens destroyed Water source destroyed 1 injury
Lunelo 2 Households, 10 people	Fruit Trees damaged
Malo 62 households, 315 people	12 houses destroyed 49 people effected 90% of water source destroyed 1 death 11 injuries
Manoputi 49 households, 150 people	49 households destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed
Masoko 20 people	19 houses destroyed. Food gardens and water sources destroyed.
Metemi 14 households, 78 people	14 houses damaged or destroyed Food gardens destroyed
Nabalue 7 households, 39 people	4 houses destroyed 18 people affected

	Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed
Nangu Population 353	Food gardens and water sources destroyed
Nea 19 households, 118 people	19 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed 1 death
Nela 42 households, 209 people	42 houses destroyed water sources destroyed 5 deaths
Nemba 65 households, 300 people	65 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed
Nemboi 44 households, 372 people	44 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed
Owa 11 households, 56 people	11 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed 2 injuries
Patel 19 households, 57 people	19 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed
Urongo 40 people	No damage.
Venga • 77 households, 400 people	77 houses destroyed Coastal food gardens and breadfruit trees destroyed Water source destroyed 1 death 2 injuries

Provincial Assistance

The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) has been activated and the Provincial Disaster Officer (PDO) is providing updates to the NEOC.

6 teams have *completed* initial assessments. They were deployed to North East Santa Cruz, Nea, Nela/Venga, Luava/Malo/Neo, Nemba/Manoputi & Bania. *The information above is based on their assessments.*

National Assistance

NEOC remains activated and is coordinating relief supplies and assessment teams to go to Temotu by boat.

A Police Patrol boat carrying 40 personnel and some supplies arrived in Lata at 11:00pm on 8 February 2013. It unloaded at first light (6am) on 9 February 2013. It successfully unloaded its supplies but unloading was delayed due to damage to the wharf that was caused by magnitude 6.8 earthquake that occurred at 10:12pm on 8 February 2013.

The MV Anavon cargo ship left Honiara at 11:45pm on 8 February 2013 with food, water, clothing and shelter kits. A full manifest is being collated and should be ready on 10 February 2013. The ship is expected to arrive in Lata on Sunday 10 February at about noon (12:00pm). It should be able to dock at the wharf but unloading is likely to be slow as it will have to be by hand.

A SIG geologist and seismologist arrived in Lata this afternoon (9 February 2013). They are assessing the ongoing seismic activity in Temotu.

NDMO Director briefed donors and partners on 7 February 2013 on the current situation and requested their support for the following:

NGOs and SI Red Cross were asked to support the provision and distribution of non-food items (clothing, shelter kits, hygiene kits, kitchen kits etc)

Donors were requested to support aerial assessments, shipping of relief supplies and replenishment of NGO in-country relief stocks.

NDMO met again with donor partners yesterday (08 February 2013) to discuss logistical support.

It was highlighted that getting supplies to Lata is not the only concern; it may be necessary to station a helicopter in Lata or send trucks/vehicles to support delivery of relief supplies to communities. There is a small supply of aviation fuel available in Lata, but more is being shipped there on the MV Arnavon. *As mentioned above, the condition of the wharf is now also a concern. The current condition of the wharf is likely to prevent unloading of heavy items, such as vehicles.*

It is not clear at this stage how badly damaged the roads are or the extent to which they are accessible. The team that left this afternoon included an engineer who will be able to judge this better.

International Assistance

On 8 February 2013, Australia announced support for the Red Cross (approx. \$1.8 million) to deliver immediate relief supplies, and for the Solomon Islands Government (approx. \$0.35 million) to support logistics.

On 9 February 2013, the UK has also offered support, and is coordinating with Australia and New Zealand. Their support will be in the area of emergency water and sanitation and emergency shelter.

New Zealand, the EU, and the UN have also offered support. What form this may take will become clearer in the next day or two when information from assessments becomes available.

UNOCHA's information management specialist *arrived today (9 February 2013)*. Her role will be to support mapping and coordination efforts at the NEOC.

A World Vision *logistics* specialist is supporting NEOC operations.

UNICEF has provided 300 sachets of water purification tablets.

SIRC's Nomad Water Module left with the MV Arnavon today. Additional parts, required for the operation of the module to run, were urgently flown in from Australia by Australian Red Cross today (9 February 2013) and will be delivered to Lata by Oxfam and World Vision staff on commercial flights over the next three days. When operational, the Module can produce up to 5000 litres of water per hour.

Future Operations

The coordination and assessment support teams that arrived in Lata yesterday (8 February 2013) will help to provide regular and comprehensive information to Honiara. The NDMO focus over the next few days will be to support the NDOC Clusters to fulfil their roles and obligations. It will also ensure this information is conveyed to partners systematically.

Recommendations

Coordination of N-DOC Clusters needs to be monitored. Now that N-DOC has been activated, all N-DOC Cluster Chairs should convene their clusters so that members of their clusters could organisation themselves and not intervening with NEOC daily operations at the NEOC.

It is recommended that a helicopter be made available for the Geologist and Seismologist to conduct an aerial assessment along the rivers just to determine whether the landslides sighted are close to rivers and that they form dam is some points along the rivers.

NEOC and PEOC should communicate safety messages to the affected communities in terms of the current tremors being felt.

Exchange and sharing of up to date (latest) data/information between the PEOC and NEOC needs to be more frequent.

Evaluation

Based on the analysis of the available data, it is now clear that from the results of the rapid assessment, the population we are looking at is around 3329, which is pretty close to the baseline estimation used in the preliminary planning on the initial response phase.

It is also worth noting that eliminating any existing threats is a must, therefore, the advises of the Geologist and the Seismologists on the current seismic and the reports of boiling mud and emitting of gasses needs to be reported back to the community to eliminate any more doubts on the villagers.

NEOC Activation

NEOC has been activated on full-on activation since Wednesday and that it is now operating in three (3) shifts in a 24 hour stand.

Assessment

Provincial assessment teams have been mobilized and now nearly completing the Initial Damaged and Needs Assessment (Rapid Assessment), and that the PEOC has now compiling the data. The Detail Sector Assessment will shortly be conducted by appropriate sectors and we will be able to get their reports in the next week or so.

Feedback to Original Station

[Insert a statement if any feedback is required]

SENDER DETAILS		RECEIVER DETAILS	
Name:	George Baragamu	Name:	N-DOC & NDC Chairs
Contact:	7449741	Contact:	NDMO & MECDM
Time:	2100Hrs	Time:	2100 Hrs
Signature:	GB	Signature:	LY & CI

Solomon Islands: Impact Map of Santa Cruz Islands - 9 Feb 2013



TEMOTU PROVINCE (SANTA CRUZ ISLAND GROUP)

