

Temotu Earthquake and Tsunami  
One Year Anniversary Report  
6 February 2014





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## FORWARD

On behalf of World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI), I convey our sincere appreciation to donors and supporters for your deep compassion and support for the children and families of Temotu affected by the earthquake and tsunami of 6 February 2013.

Following the earthquake and tsunami, WVSI staff who were already present on the ground in Temotu, immediately responded by sending a team to the affected areas to help, including cleaning the Lata airport runway so that more assistance could be received by air in the following months.

World Vision provided relief items such as food, water, shelter kits, tarpaulins, kitchen kits and utensils, hygiene and sanitation supplies, baby kit and clothes. World Vision also implemented longer term recovery projects in the areas of early childhood education, emergency communications, nutrition assessment and water supply sanitation and hygiene.

In co-ordination with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), World Vision Solomon Islands and partners including Red Cross Solomon Islands, Oxfam Solomon Islands, Save the Children Australia and the Adventist Relief and Development Agency worked collaboratively with communities affected by the earthquake and tsunami to address their needs.

Now, one year after the disaster, children and families in the affected areas are moving forward and their lives are returning to normal but there is still more to do to help the people of Temotu recover. World Vision is committed to supporting the people of Temotu through its long term projects so that their children can grow up to enjoy life and all its fullness.

We appreciate your partnership on this journey to recovery with the children and their communities of Santa Cruz Island, Temotu Province and hope you enjoy this report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Catford'.

.....  
 Dr Andrew Catford  
 Country Director, World Vision Solomon Islands

2013/02/13

## BACKGROUND

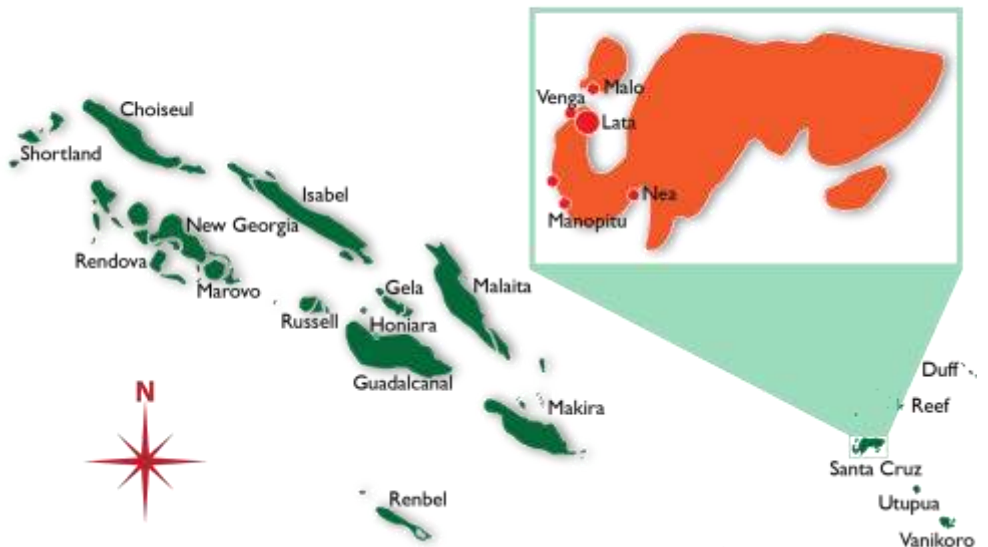
On February 6th 2013, at 12.12pm, an 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck west-southwest of Santa Cruz Island in remote Temotu Province generating seismic waves and a 1.5 metre tsunami and landslides that affected 6,589 people and damaged 23 communities. The earthquake and tsunami damaged housing, water sources and systems, infrastructure (health clinics, roads, wharves, and schools), and food gardens and other means of livelihoods such as fishing equipment (boats, nets and fishing lines).

Temotu Province is the eastern most province in the Solomon Islands. Situated 450km from the national capital, Honiara, it is the most remote province and is particularly vulnerable due to its isolation from the rest of the country. The province is made up of two main island groups with many outlying reef islands. Temotu is home to approximately 20,000 people and has one of the highest levels of poverty in the Solomon Islands.

Most people live in coastal fishing villages and rising sea levels and frequent cyclones adversely affect food security. Temotu communities are vulnerable to natural and man-made hazards due to their isolation, have poor access to health and educational services, and a high dependence on subsistence production.

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## Solomon Islands



Immediately after the disaster, World Vision deployed a rapid assessment team from staff already in the province to the most affected areas of Santa Cruz islands and also assisted clear the airport runway so more assistance could be obtained by air. The 20 World Vision staff based in the province were available to assist. Since that time, World Vision, with partners has been actively involved in the initial distribution of relief supplies to affected communities and also started advocating longer term recovery projects, the **last of which (Temotu WASH project) finishes in nine months' time.**

World Vision Solomon Islands has been working in Temotu Province since 2002. In 2010 World Vision established an long-term development program (Area Program) in Temotu, covering 28 communities with a planned implementation period of 15 years (2011 to 2026) addressing development needs in the areas of education, health, water supply and sanitation, economic development and disaster mitigation.

World Vision has a permanent office based in Lata, the provincial capital and more than 20 permanent staff.



## RESPONSE STAGES

### The Emergency Response Phase (February – April)

World Vision responded quickly to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami by dispatching emergency aid and essential items such as food, water, tarpaulins, shelter kits, kitchen kits and utensils, hygiene and sanitation supplies, baby kits and clothes in coordination with the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and other agencies. Some 6,589 people benefited from the relief items distributed by World Vision. World Vision played a key role in the response to this disaster acting as the co-ordinating body (appointed by NDMO) for relief goods distribution.

World Vision used its existing resources, expertise and relationships with communities, local government and non-government agencies, churches and community to assist in the planning and implementation of the distribution phase of the joint disaster response.

### The Recovery and Rehabilitation Phase (May - October)

Following the successful completion of the initial relief, a Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) was drawn up by the Government of Solomon Islands and its humanitarian and development partners, to outline longer term recovery plans to ensure the people of Temotu get their lives back to normal.

World Vision began implementing longer term tsunami recovery projects following the initial relief phase in the areas of Early Childhood Education with child friendly spaces, providing water supply, sanitation and hygiene, conducting a nutrition assessment and establishing an Emergency Radio project to address the lack of access to information.

### The Rehabilitation and Transition Phase (November – December 2013)

World Vision established 15 Child Friendly Space programs which benefitted more than 300 children. The Emergency Radio Project also successfully broadcast information and awareness messages focusing on recovery information, health, education, good nutrition and proper sanitation and is hoped to continue under partner assistance.

World Vision will continue to work with the communities in maintaining their water supply system and in the area of Maternal and Child Health to assist them to fully recover.

World Vision is committed to working with the communities of Temotu to help children and their families get their lives back to normal.

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## OVERVIEW OF PAST YEAR – ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

Since the earthquake and tsunami last year, World Vision has helped 6,589 people. During the first 90 days of the emergency response, World Vision used its existing resources, skills and relationships with communities, local government and non-government agencies, churches and community to assist in the planning and implementation of the distribution phase of the joint disaster response.

World Vision was appointed by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to co-ordinate the procurement and shipment of food, water and essential items to Temotu and the distribution of relief items to more than 600 households in 85 communities affected by the disaster.

### Emergency Phase (February-April 2013)

- Acted as co-ordinating body (appointed by NDMO) for relief item distribution

Provided:

- Relief items to 6,589 people from 85 communities affected by the tsunami
- Shelter assistance to 691 households – distributed 600 shelter kits and 91 tents and 579 tarpaulins. Training to communities on temporary shelter construction **and 'build back better' techniques**
- Adequate and safe drinking water or means to treat it (Life Straws) to 435 households.
- Household items to 133 households, including:
  - kitchen kits, baby kits, hygiene kits, cooking pot sets, family kits, mosquito nets, carry bags, blankets, towels, soap, sanitary items, clothing, linen, and sleeping mats.
- 5 outboard motor engines and boats to support distributions
- Vehicles to help with relief item distributions (1 x 3 tonne pick-up truck and 2 x double cabin Hilux)

### Recovery and Rehabilitation Phase (May – October 2013)

#### Child Development & Protection

- Established Child Friendly spaces programs in 15 communities benefiting 300 children
- Provided temporary classrooms (Shelter Box tents) at 5 schools that were destroyed during earthquake and tsunami
- Provided toys and other early childhood education resources for the children
- Provided school stationery for the children

### Nutrition Assessment

- Completed a nutritional needs assessment in collaboration with UNICEF for Temotu Province. The results of the nutritional assessment confirmed that there were no major additional nutritional issues as a result of the earthquake and tsunami. The base-line will inform the implementation of a longer term Maternal Child Health and Nutrition project that will commence in 2014 and will run for 4 years

### Water & Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Conducted hygiene and basic health awareness activities to affected communities and temporary camps during relief items distributions. Included awareness and demonstrations such as using tippy taps, hand washing with soap, use of Life Straws (water filtration device).
- Provided WASH awareness training to 29 communities in North and West Santa Cruz as part of the assessment and design phase of the WASH project. This increased resilience by assisting communities to use safe and sustainable means of water and sanitation to minimise the risk of health hazards from the negative impacts on the environment following the tsunami and earthquake, including epidemics of communicable diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and dengue.
- The WASH project aims to deliver clean water and sanitation along with improved hygiene behaviour to 29 affected communities in Santa Cruz Islands
- Over the coming months (9 months) the new WASH systems will be installed in the target communities.

### Emergency Radio

- Established a temporary community-based radio station to provide information to Temotu communities affected by the tsunami
  - Radio project ran for 9 months in collaboration with Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) and Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) until December 2013
  - Set up two deployable transmission units
  - Broadcasts reached an estimated 1,060 households (approx 6,300 people) non-government partners have an enhanced capacity to respond to future disasters
  - Station and equipment has now been handed over to SIBC and SIDT for future operations.
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## WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

### Children in Emergencies

#### Child Friendly Spaces

World Vision established Child Friendly Spaces in 15 communities benefiting 300 children and provided temporary classrooms (Shelter Box tents) at 5 schools that were destroyed during earthquake and tsunami.

World Vision also provided toys and other early childhood education resources for the children.

For children, being at the Child Friendly Space meant playing again, having fun with friends, and having other students and teachers understand what they have been through. Formal and informal education as well as routine helped children regain a sense of normalcy – **essential for children's well-being** after a disaster.

Parents also benefitted from the Child Friendly Spaces which provided them the opportunity to work and rebuild knowing their children were being looked after. This also helped ease the pressure associated with the loss of homes, families, friends and livelihoods.



## WASH

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training helped communities to use safe and sustainable means of water and sanitation. Therefore minimising the risk of health hazards from the negative impacts on the environment following the tsunami and earthquake, including epidemics of communicable diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and dengue.

Families and communities are happy and looking forward to the water supply project which aims to deliver clean water and sanitation, along with improved hygiene behaviour to 29 communities in Santa Cruz Islands affected by the 2013 earthquake and tsunami.

Materials have been distributed to all communities. Over the coming months the new water supply systems will be installed so families can enjoy clean water and sanitation.

### Emergency Radio

The radio project aimed to address the lack of access to information, which was causing fear and hindering the recovery and rehabilitation of affected Temotu communities, particularly those in remote areas beyond road access. The radio project ran for 6 months (until December 2013) in collaboration with Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) and Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT).

The project provided information to 1,060 households affected by the earthquake and **tsunami and increased communities' knowledge on how to recover from the tsunami including messages regarding child protection, "building back better" techniques, health and hygiene.**



## PROGRAM CHALLENGES

### Logistics

Temotu Province is the eastern most province in the Solomon Islands. Situated 450km from the national capital, Honiara, it is the most remote province and is particularly vulnerable due to its isolation from the rest of the country.

The tsunami destroyed the only airport in the province making it hard for relief supplies to get to Temotu in the early days due to debris blocking the runway. The continuous aftershocks also damaged the wharf making it difficult to unload relief supplies that arrived by boat from Honiara.

There were also a limited number of vehicles and boats in Lata to assist with distributing the relief supplies to the affected communities. World Vision brought in resources including two boats and a hi-lux truck from Honiara to assist with the distribution of essential items. World Vision also purchased a 3 tonne truck with tsunami funds to help with distribution of relief items to people who could be reached by road.

### Prepositioned items

There were limited prepositioned relief items available in Temotu, however all pre-positioned items that World Vision and Red Cross had in Temotu were immediately mobilised. World Vision mobilised all prepositioned items in Honiara on the first flight to Lata.

### Procurement of Relief supplies

Procurement of items locally was challenging due to limited supplies and access to storage warehouses in Honiara. All NGO and donor prepositioned supplies were mobilised and sent to Temotu immediately and then additional items purchased from local stores. Companies and business houses in Honiara quickly ran out of stock in-country when organisations started buying relief items for those affected by the tsunami. Additional items were also brought in from Australia and New Zealand.



## FINANCIAL DATA

Total Funding recieved for response as of December 2013: USD \$1,611,195.

### Actual Spending

From February – December 2013, World Vision spent USD \$1, 334,844.41  
Remaining balance of \$276,350.59 will be used on remaining WASH activities.

### Phase 1 (First 90 days)

World Vision spent USD\$ 807, 443.39 during the emergency phase (February – April) on emergency relief items and distribution.

### Phase 2 (May – December)

World Vision spent USD\$ 527,401.02 during the recovery phase for recovery projects including Temotu Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) recovery and assessment and design and Temotu Emergency Radio Project. Balance of the funding World Vision received will be used on the completion of these projects.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO PARTNERS

We thank all major donors and partners including local business houses and organisations in Honiara who contributed in-cash or in-kind to the earthquake and tsunami response.

### Major Donors include:

- Australian Aid
- World Vision Australia
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Program (MFAT)
- World Vision New Zealand
- European Commission of Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)
- World Vision Germany
- UK Aid
- World Vision UK
- Taiwan Aid
- World Vision Taiwan

### Other Business Houses and Organisations:

- The Warehouse New Zealand
- ANZ Bank
- Forum Fisheries Agency
- Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Limited (GPPOL)
- Central Development Limited
- Solomon Tropical Product and Solomon Soap
- Point Cruz Yacht Club
- Woodford International School
- Solomon Islands National Provident Fund
- Solomon Islands National Teachers Association

For more information and stories go to;  
<http://www.wvi.org/solomon-islands>

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