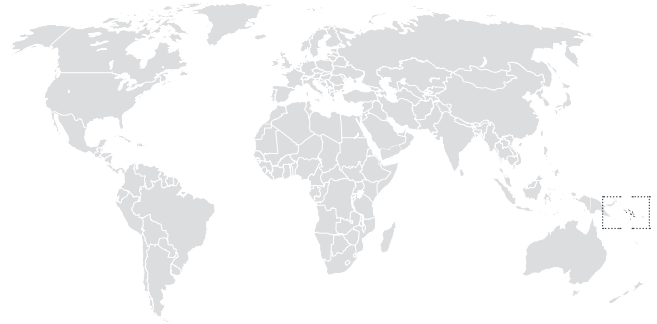


# SOLOMON ISLANDS



## BACKGROUND

The Solomon Islands is vulnerable to floods, tropical storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, droughts and landslides. According to the regional Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) (more information on PCRAFI below), the Solomon Islands is expected to incur an average of US\$20 million per year in losses due to earthquakes and tropical cyclones. The 2007 earthquake and tsunami are estimated to have caused damages equivalent to 80 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) with 52 casualties, 36,000 affected people and 15,000 displaced people. Recently, flash flooding in Guadalcanal Province in April 2014 is estimated to have caused damages and

losses equivalent to nine percent of GDP, with 10,000 displaced people, and 22 fatalities.

Rapid urbanization, growing squatter settlements and complicated land entitlement issues following the 2007 tsunami have forced populations to live in informal settlements built in areas highly vulnerable to natural hazards. While recognizing the damage that larger events cause to the country's economy, the impact of smaller events that occur with more regularity should not be under-estimated due to their effect on resilient development at the community level.

## QUICK FACTS

### COUNTRY INDICATORS<sup>1</sup>

GDP per capita (PPP)	\$2,068
Total Population	561,231
Income Level	Lower middle
Poverty <sup>2</sup>	23%
Urban Population	21%

### RISK PROFILE<sup>3</sup>

Lack of coping capacity	7.2
Vulnerability	6.2
Hazard and exposure	2.6
Overall risk	4.9

### KEY PRIORITIES

1. Understanding of risk
2. Use of risk information
3. Institutional capacity development
4. Emergency communications and monitoring

<sup>1</sup> World Bank: free and open access to development data in countries around the globe. <http://data.worldbank.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Poverty rates at national poverty lines, World Bank Open Data.

<sup>3</sup> INFORM: a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters. INFORM uses a scale from 0-10 (10 is the highest level of risk) <http://www.inform-index.org/>

The country's vulnerability may increase as a result of climate change. In the next 50 years, estimates show a 50 percent chance of experiencing losses exceeding US\$240 million and casualties of more than 1,600 people and a 10 percent chance of experiencing losses exceeding US\$520 million and casualties of more than 4,600 people.

To reduce risks from natural hazards the Solomon Island government's Climate Change Division

developed a Climate Change Policy—formally approved in 2012. The policy guides climate risk management work by identifying the multi-sectoral effects of climate change, and calling for the integration of climate risk management across sectors. The Solomon Islands government also included the undertaking of legislation and institutional reforms in its five-year (2015-2020) Strategic Priorities to create an enabling environment for climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

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## GFDRR PROGRESS TO DATE

Since 2008, GFDRR has provided support to Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI)<sup>4</sup>. Under this initiative, risk information and models were developed which form the basis for applications in risk financing, and risk transfer strategies, urban and infrastructure planning, and the prediction of losses from tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis. Building upon the results, the Solomon Islands took part in the first catastrophe risk insurance pilot which tested the first risk transfer arrangement to address financial risk posed by natural hazards in the Pacific region.

In 2012, GFDRR also supported the development of "Acting Today For Tomorrow: A Policy and Practice Note for Climate- and Disaster-Resilient Development in the Pacific Islands Region"<sup>5</sup> which informs the dialogue and engagement of the World Bank in the Pacific region.

Through the Community Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazard Project (CRISP), GFDRR's support is helping the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) to undertake reforms to strengthen the national institutional arrangements for climate change and disaster risk management. The support enabled MECDM for example to begin to implement resilience investments at the provincial and the community level, and supported NDMO to commence preparatory work on the set up of volcano and seismic monitoring system.

Following the severe flash flooding of April 2014, GFDRR supported the preparation of a post-disaster needs assessment. The PDNA measured the impact of the disaster on society, the economy and the environment, to enable the quantification of the financial needs for economic recovery and reconstruction.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

GFDRR will continue to assist the Solomon Islands to better manage climate and disaster risks by improving the understanding of risk and the use of this information for risk reduction decision making, and the design and implementation of investments at the provincial and community level.





In addition, GFDRR will support institutional capacity development and coordination between disaster and climate divisions, programs and key sectors such as agriculture, health and rural development, roads and infrastructure. GFDRR will also continue to support the Solomon Islands with the completion of the volcano and seismic monitoring system.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://pcrafi.sopac.org/>

<sup>5</sup> [www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/06/04/acting-today-for-tomorrow-a-policy-and-practice-note-for-climate-and-disaster-resilient-development-in-the-pacific-islands-region](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/06/04/acting-today-for-tomorrow-a-policy-and-practice-note-for-climate-and-disaster-resilient-development-in-the-pacific-islands-region)

**PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2015**


Project	Description
<b>PDNA Solomon Islands Floods April 2014</b>  <b>US\$143,585   Start date: 2014 (Ongoing)</b>	The post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) focuses on the disaster areas and examines the damage to physical assets and the immediate repair and rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. Activities include: (i) assessing the socio-economic impact of the floods; (ii) identifying priority needs with a particular focus on resilient recovery and reconstruction; (iii) reviewing government and donor responses and identifying financing gaps.
<b>Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in the Solomon Islands Project (CRISP)</b>  <b>US\$2,000,000   Start date: 2014 (Ongoing)</b>	Increases resilience of select communities against the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. Activities include: (i) introducing climate and disaster risk considerations in planning and investment decision-making at national and sub-national levels; (ii) promoting data-driven decision-making, and planning; and (iii) implementing DRM and climate change adaptation investments at the community level with national and sub-national support.
<b>Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI)*</b>   <b>Start date: 2008 (Ongoing)</b>	Provides 15 Pacific countries with a disaster and climate risk information. Activities include: (i) development of a comprehensive hazard, exposure and vulnerability platform to inform urban and development planning, building codes, rapid disaster impact estimation and risk financing decisions.

\* Multi-country activity

 Pillar 1  
Risk Identification

 Pillar 2  
Risk Reduction

 Pillar 3  
Preparedness

 Pillar 4  
Financial Protection

 Pillar 5  
Resilient Reconstruction

### GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

<b>Australia</b>	As a part of the Pacific Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program (PACCSAP), Australia's Agency for International Development (AusAID) aims to enhance the capacity of partner countries to assess key climate vulnerabilities and risks, formulate adaptation strategies and plans, mainstream adaptation into decision making and inform robust long-term national planning and decision making in partner countries.
<b>SPC/SOPAC</b>	The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC/SOPAC), is implementing the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI, see above).
<b>UNDP</b>	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Australian government (AusAID) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as an implementing partner. The project is: (i) piloting climate change adaptation in food production and food security in low-lying atoll islands (ii) supporting the NDMO for disaster preparedness and (iii) implementing the project Enhancing Resilience of Communities in Solomon Islands to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change in Agriculture and Food Security. In addition, UNDP Pacific Center is preparing a Pacific Risk Resilience Programme that will support governance strengthening in the context of risk management in four Pacific Island countries. The Solomon Islands are one of these countries. Funding for this program is provided by AusAid.
<b>World Bank</b>	<p>The following projects are part of the World Bank's efforts to mainstream DRM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards Project:</b> Integrates climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction across sectors, improves climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction information and communication, and increases the resilience of rural communities to climate change and natural hazards.</li> <li>■ <b>Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands Project:</b> Increases the resilience of selected rural communities to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change.</li> </ul>

### GFDRR STAKEHOLDERS

<b>National Services</b>	Ministry of Development, Planning and Aid Coordination, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA), Rural Development Program
<b>International Organizations</b>	World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
<b>Regional Organizations</b>	Asian Development Bank (ADB), Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC/SOPAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
<b>Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations</b>	Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Act for Peace, CARITAS, Solomon Islands Development Trust, Kastom Gaden Association, World Fish, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Live and Learn, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)