



World Vision Solomon Islands

World Vision

Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Emergency Response

Who We Are

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

Inspired by our Christian values, World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision has had 30 years experience in community development in Solomon Islands. World Vision partners with children, families, government, communities and other partners to improve lives and combat poverty.



Damaged houses following tsunami on 6 February 2013, Temotu ©WVSI

Our Community-Based Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaption programs are located in:

- Malaita Province
- Temotu Province
- Makira Province

Disasters in Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands are extremely susceptible to natural hazards. Over the past decade, several natural disasters have struck the country including cyclones, floods, king tides, volcanic eruptions, droughts, earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis, resulting in destruction of property, livelihoods and the loss of life.

The largest disaster in the last decade was the Gizo Tsunami on 2 April 2007. The tsunami affected 36,500 people, killed 52 people, and 6,300 houses were damaged or destroyed. More than 300 communities were affected.

Humanitarian relief and response to such disasters is difficult in the Solomon Islands. The logistics, distances and isolation of many of the communities make disaster response slower and more problematic than other areas in the Pacific.

Climate Change in Solomon Islands

With over 1000 islands and atolls, the Solomon Islands are also extremely vulnerable to changes in climate and rising sea levels. In the coming decades, it has been predicted that climate change could lead to increased frequency and severity of climate-related disasters, like drought, flooding and cyclones.

World Vision, through its programs, has noticed that the Solomon Islands are already suffering many of the consequences of climate change including rising sea levels, salt water intrusion into crops and planting fields, contamination of fresh water aquifers, reducing island size due to erosion along shorelines, and changing weather patterns.

Funding Resources

World Vision is a global partnership based on a federated model, with country offices in both the developed and developing world.

Contributions come from private donors, businesses, foundations and government grants. Gifts-in-kind such as food, commodities, clothing and school supplies are also donated by corporations or government agencies to assist resource our projects. Supported by various donors, World Vision Solomon Islands has channeled more than \$3.4 million USD in 2010, \$3.7 million in 2011 and \$4.2 million USD in 2012 into the Solomon Islands. World Vision Solomon Islands has a budget of \$6.5 million USD for 2013.

“Tuwo is exposed to damaging disasters but with the new Disaster Preparedness project, we are now happy to be trained on how to be resilient with disasters.” – John Akeso, Reef Islands



Tuwo village affected by King Tides, Reef Islands, Temotu ©WVSI

Key Partners & Stakeholders

World Vision Solomon Islands partners with a variety of government agencies, NGOs, community groups and churches.

- ◆ National Disaster Management Office
- ◆ Provincial Governments of Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, and Temotu
- ◆ Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
- ◆ Communities in Solomon Islands
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- ◆ Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- ◆ Kastom Garden Association
- ◆ World Fish Centre
- ◆ Solomon Islands Red Cross
- ◆ Church of Melanesia
- ◆ Other NGO's involved in Disaster Management

Our Community Resilience Projects

These projects provide all community members – adults (men & women), youth and children with improved capacities to plan, prepare and mitigate potential disasters. This will have a direct benefit to all, by reducing the impact of disasters on lives and livelihoods. WVSI often combines disaster resilience projects with livelihoods projects because disasters heavily affect agriculture and food production often leading to high rates of malnutrition in times of disasters, especially amongst women and children. In 2013, World Vision began integrating climate change adaptation with its disaster resilience projects to assist communities effectively adapt to changing conditions.

Malaita Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project

The Malaita Community Resilience & Livelihood Project is WVSI's first disaster resilience project and has been designed to target 15 communities in Malaita province to enhance community resilience in the face of regular disaster. The goal of this project is to mitigate disaster effects surrounding food and livelihood security for communities in Malaita province. The project is funded by World Vision Australia and Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). The project started in October 2010 and will end in September 2014. It is currently being adapted to also address the effects of climate change.

Temotu Community Sustainable Livelihoods & Resilience Project

Temotu Province is especially susceptible to the negative effects of climate change and natural disasters due to its isolation, poor access to markets, healthcare and educational services, and high rates of poverty. Over the past decade, an increase in economic and livelihood insecurity has been recorded. In 2005, 2007 and 2009 the National Disaster Management Office provided emergency food aid due to the failure of breadfruit crops. In 2013 Temotu experienced an 8.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami causing widespread damage. Reef islanders also report diminishing fish stocks and increases in soil infertility and pests.

The Temotu Community Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Project aims to strengthen the local economy and livelihood security in order to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters on 942 households (4150 people) in Temotu Pele Constituency, Solomon Islands. This project is funded by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ MFAT) and World Vision New Zealand. The project began in May 2011 and is planned to continue through to April 2014.

Makira Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Project

Makira is one of the most disaster prone provinces in the Solomon Islands and has been affected by cyclones and damaging earthquakes and is vulnerable to other natural hazards including tsunamis and flash flooding. Rural Makira communities are vulnerable to natural and man-made hazards due to their isolation, poor access to health and educational services and high dependence on subsistence production. The project works with five target communities to implement actions to reduce the impact of climate change and other natural hazards. The project began in April 2013 and will continue through April 2017 and is funded by WVA and ANCP.

Emergency Response Projects

World Vision Solomon Islands has responded to various emergencies and disasters during its 30 years operating in the Solomon Islands, World Vision Solomon Islands is a close and trusted partner of the National Disaster Management Office and donors for emergency response.

WVSI has a ten person Rapid Response Team who can be deployed quickly in time of emergency and also pre-positioned relief supplies in its Area Program Offices that can be quickly accessed in times of disaster. It can also request assistance from its Australia, New Zealand and other support offices that can be quickly mobilised.

Temotu Tsunami Response

On 6 February 2013 the remote Temotu Province of Solomon Islands was devastated by a 1.5 metre tsunami following an 8.0 magnitude earthquake. 23 communities were destroyed and at least 4,486 people were impacted by the disaster including 11 people who lost their lives. 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 utensils, hygiene and sanitation supplies and clothes in coordination with the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and other agencies. More than 5000 people benefited from the non food items distributed by World Vision.

World Vision is currently working with the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, the Solomon Islands Development Trust and other agencies on a Temotu Emergency Radio Project to address the lack of access to information. Disseminating educational information to affected communities has been identified as a priority and radio is an ideal way to reach a population with high illiteracy rates and limited accessibility to communities by road. Radios will be distributed to communities and broadcasts will include messages regarding sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and protection. The project is funded by New Zealand Aid and will benefit 12,000 people.

World Vision is also implementing tsunami response projects in the areas of provision of Early Childhood Education child friendly spaces, providing water supply, sanitation and hygiene and providing women friendly spaces and nutrition support.