



**Geological Survey Division  
Solomon Islands Government**



**Solomon Islands  
Meteorological Services**



**National Disaster Management Office  
National Disaster Council**



# UNESCO/IOC TSUNAMI RECOGNITION PROGRAM TRAINING Exercisers – Examples from Solomon Islands

Honiara Hotel  
Mon. 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2023

**Government of Solomon Islands**  
**National Disaster Management Office**  
P.O. Box 21  
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
By Solomon Islands Delegation



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UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme – Examples of Tsunami Ready activities in the Solomon Islands

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**1**

**The Solomon Islands**

**2**

**Hazard Risk Rating**

**3**

**Major Disaster Events in the last 16 years (Tsunami related disasters)**

**4**

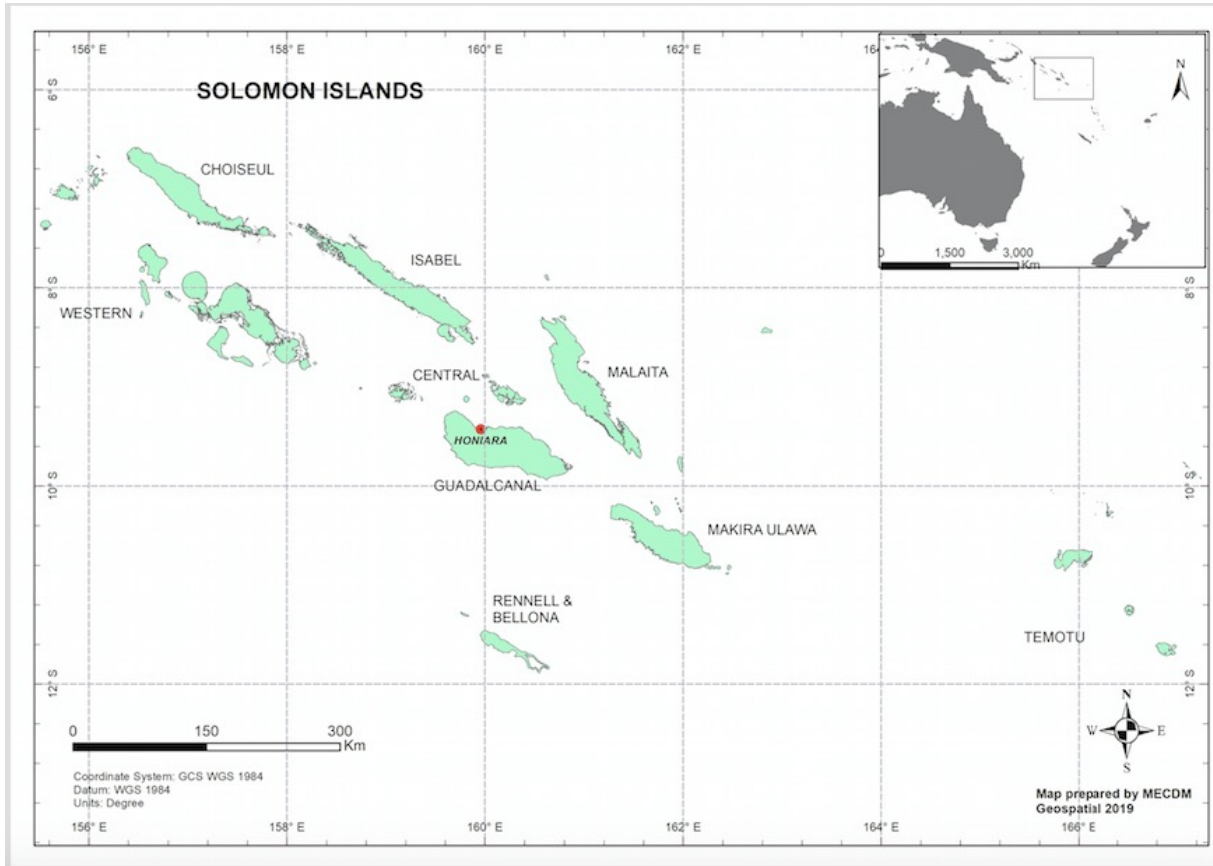
**Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands**



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# 1. The Solomon Islands



## Country Profile

- 8.6457°S,  
160.1562°E
- Land areas  
28,000Km<sup>2</sup>
- Over 992 scattered  
archipelago
- Approx. 700,000  
population

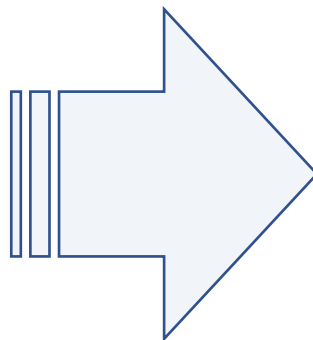


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## 2. Hazard Risk Rating – Solomon Islands

### Pacific Islands Countries Ratings

- 1. Vanuatu
- 2. Solomon Islands
- 3. Tonga
- 9. PNG
- 14. Fiji



Rank	Country	Risk
1.	Vanuatu	47.73
2.	Solomon Islands	31.16
3.	Tonga	30.51
4.	Dominica	27.42
5.	Antigua and Barbuda	27.28
6.	Brunei Darussalam	22.77
7.	Guyana	21.83
8.	Philippines	21.39
9.	Papua New Guinea	20.90
10.	Guatemala	20.23
11.	Cape Verde	17.72
12.	Costa Rica	17.06
13.	Bangladesh	16.23
14.	Fiji	16.06
15.	Cambodia	15.80

Hazard Icon	Hazards	Risk Level	Remarks
	Cyclone	High	Season: Nov to April. Depending on the season, the country experiences at least 2 TCS' per year.
	Sea Level Raise/Coastal Flooding	High	Affects all Coastal Villages in the country. However, small atoll islands have 99%vulnerable to the risk of the hazard.
	River Flooding	High	Mostly associated with prolong heavy rainfall, or bad weather associated with Tropical Cyclone. The most recent worst flood is the Honiara Falsh flood in 2014.
	Volcanic Eruption	High	Savo, Simbo, Kavachi, Tinakula. The most recent eruption was Tinakula in 2017.
	Earthquake	High	Situated on the Seismic belt
	Landslides	High	In the Solomon Islands it is mostly associated with earthquakes, or prolong heavy rainfall.
	Tsunami	High	80 year history - SI experienced 23 events. The most recent is the 2016 Makira tsunami.
	Drought	Low	Associated with the El Nino years. 1986/87 was the worst drought. Drought is also recorded in 1997/98 and in 2016.
	Environmental Hazard (Oil Spill)	Low	Recent enironmental disaster (MV Solomon Trader Maritime Oil Spill on Rennell, 2019 and MV QUBEC Maritime Oil Spill in Santa Cruz, 2021).

Legend

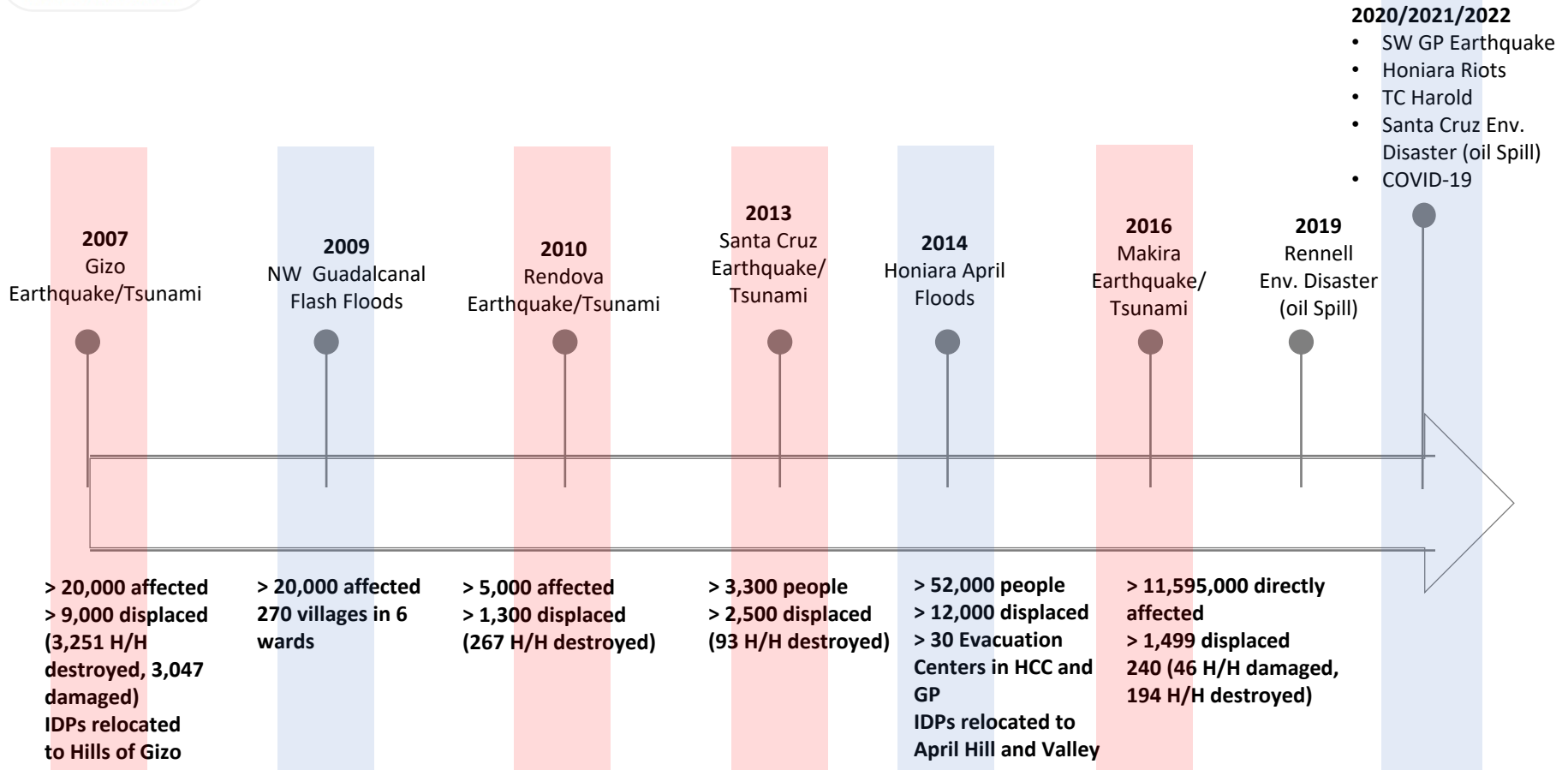
	Low
	Medium
	High

Since 2011, SI remains in the top 10 countries that are at risk of natural disasters globally.  
Extract from World Risk Index 2021



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### 3. Major Disaster Events in the last 16 years (Tsunami related = 4 events)



**NOTE**

**Important Reminders to NDMO, SIMS and GSD**

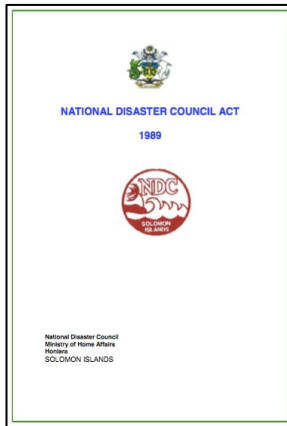
- Sudden on-set disasters are always challenging to effectively issue EW and Coordinate
- Earthquake generating tsunamis – return period approx. every 2 years
- The SI NDM Plan 2018 is the country’s bible to managing disasters
- The good is that since the first Disaster Plan in 1987 to this year 2023, the NDC has a total of 37 years in coordinating and managing disasters in the Solomon Islands



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## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Governance)

### NDC Act 1989



### NDMP 2018

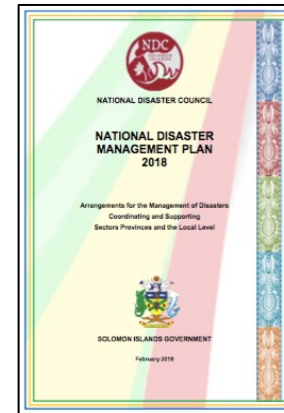
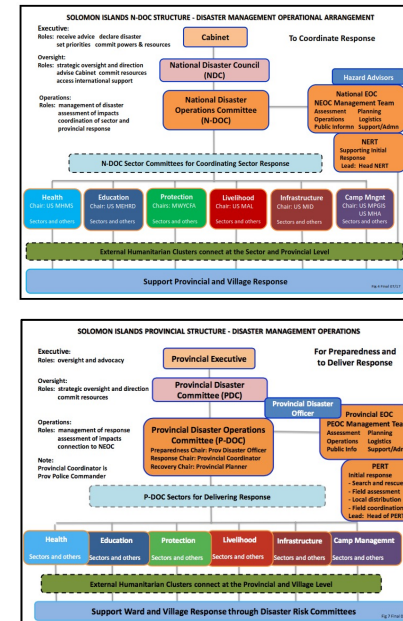


Figure 4. Disaster Management Operational Arrangement



### National Disaster Council Act 1989

- Section 5(b) establish the functions of NDC. Including approve and coordinate the preparedness, response and recovery activities related to disasters.
- Section 7 provides for establishment of NDMO
- Section 8(a) establishment of a National Disaster Plan + Coordination Arrangements

### SI National Disaster Management Plan 2018

- Section 18 provides for a set arrangement for disaster response (preparing for, responding to and recovering from disaster
- Section 22 provides for Hazard Specific Contingency Plans
- PART 3, Section 97 – N-DOC Arrangement
- PART 3, Section 122 – P-DOC Arrangement



## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Governance)

### The Hazard Advisors under the NEOC Arrangement

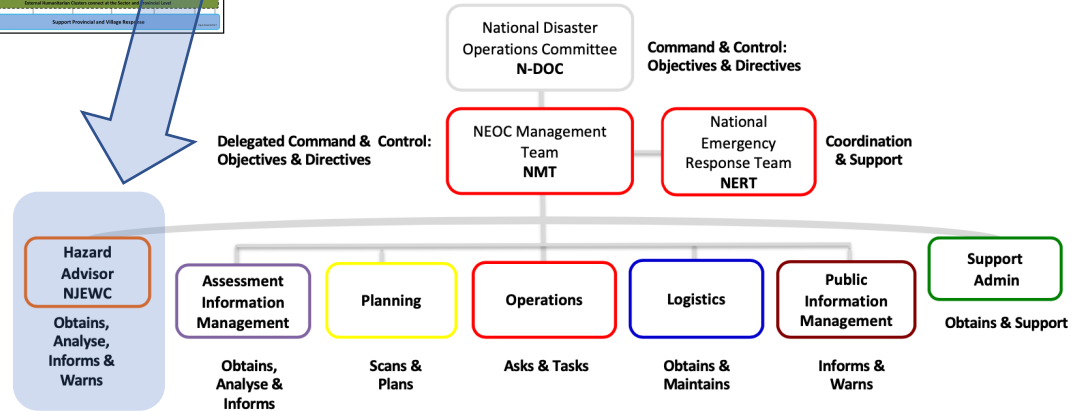
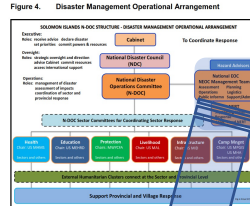
- Maintain Hazard Technical Agencies role within the MDM Plan as per section 89(a) and (b), NDM Plan 2018. p.40

### Section 89(a)

- Establish communications across levels (NDC and PDC, N-DOC and P-DOC, NEOC, PEOCs and Sector EOCs', and NERT and PERTs)
- Establish Early Warning Systems

### Section 89(b)

- Monitor and assess potential disaster situations and issue warnings (SIMS issue warnings and NEOC issue What to do Information)
- Activate arrangements and processes
- Manage communications and public information



NEOC Functional Teams



N-DOC Meeting at the NEOC



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## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Implementation)

**Phase I project duration:** 1 June 2017 to 30 November 2018

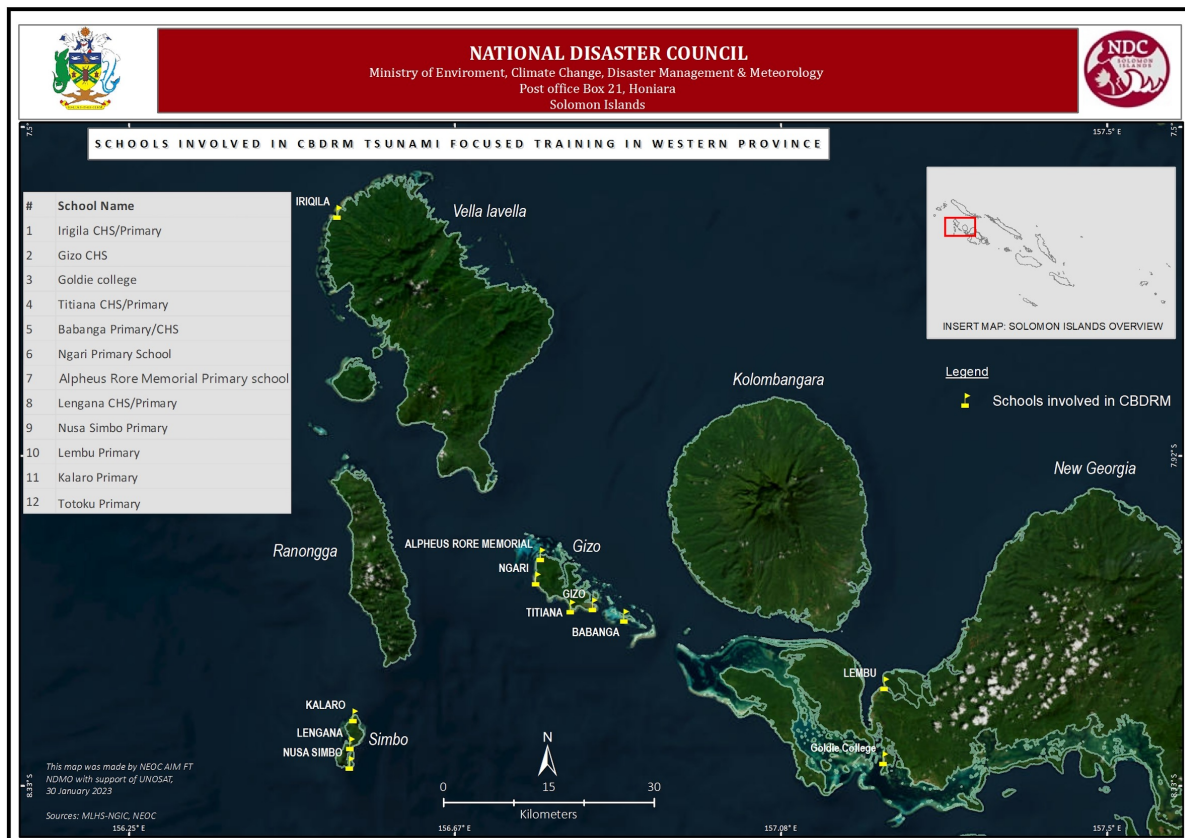
- **Objective:** To mitigate the impact of Tsunami by strengthening school preparedness in 18 disaster prone countries in Asia and Pacific including SI.

- **Key activities:**

- Development of School Disaster Response plans
- emergency evacuation routes and drills
- communication products advocacy during World Tsunami Day.
- Evidence of activities conducted in phase I can be viewed on this [link](#) and <https://youtube.be/lx8vz7MT7f8>

- One of the notable achievements in phase I is the involvement of the Japanese embassy (Solomon Islands) in one of the evacuation drills activities.

- This resulted in NDMO was given a grant from their grassroots program, and the construction of Titiana school evacuation centre was completed.



Project is funded by JICA through UNDP and is implemented by the NDMO, SIMS, GSD through the NDC existing arrangements under the N-DOC and P-DOC





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## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Implementation)



**Phase II project duration:** 1 December 2018 to 28 February 2021

- **Objective:** Scaleup the projects intervention and institutionalize the preparedness and awareness programme to ensure sustainability of the project results.
- **Key activities:**
  - Revisit schools in phase I and expand project activities to Goldie College and communities around Titiana and Mbabanga schools.
  - Teachers Training of Trainers (TOT) was also conducted for whole of Western Province on how to develop 'School Disaster Response Plans.'



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## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Implementation)



### Phase III project duration (current):

1 August 2021 to 31 March 2023

- **Objective:** In considering the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and schools around the global are venturing into virtual learning, this project aim to strengthen school and community preparedness so that they are more resilient to tsunami, pandemic, and other hazards.

The Tsunami project phase III aim to achieve the following three outputs, by engaging 16 tsunami prone countries in Asia and the Pacific (including Solomon Islands);

- I. School and community preparedness plans reviewed and updated to include multi-hazard preparedness (i.e., tsunami, pandemic, and other hazards),
- II. Preparedness programme modules developed as part of efforts to institutionalized multi-hazard preparedness at local or national levels; and
- III. Public awareness of multi-hazards promoted, and World Tsunami Awareness Day marked through events, digital campaigns and awareness raising initiatives.





## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Implementation)



### Identified Challenges

#### 1. Sustainability

- Funding
- Resources
- Maintaining the interest (geographical locations)
- Regular Exercises

#### 2. Turn over

- Posting of teachers to other schools
- New teachers
- New students
- New people to the community



## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Implementation)



### Best Practices

1. Increase community based knowledge on tsunami hazard
2. Community/schools have response plans
3. Partnerships created (capacity and capability sharing) – NDMO, GSD, SIMS, UNDP, UNWOMEN, MEHRD, SIRC, ADRA, Provincial Authorities (P-DOC), Communities, Donors (JICA)
4. Ownership
5. Expansion of activity – teachers move to other schools and students going back to their villages
6. Gradual alignment and integration of stakeholder and community participation to national activities
  1. PacWave
  2. Aelan Weiv
  3. Existing HADR Exercises (ExLongreach, Pacific Partnership)



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## 4. Example of Tsunami Ready Activities in the Solomon Islands (Implementation)



Where from here?

### Upcoming activities

1. February 2023 – Conduct validation and finalization of the school/community Disaster Management/Preparedness Plan and tsunami simulation exercise.
2. March 2023 – Conduct TOT for teachers – on lesson learnt and as part of information sharing.
3. The Tsunami Project phase III will end on March 2023. Current discussion - IDRM project NGO grantees to carry on with the Tsunami project pending activities after March 2023, in Western Province. IDRM Project's Grantee in Western Province are Solomon Islands Red Cross Society and ADRA
4. Explore opportunity to work with UNESCO/IOC for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (including establishing the required mechanisms) with the idea is to start with the current communities with tsunami plans. **ITIC, UNESCO/IOC to assist technically and financially in the initial Recognition Activity.**



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