



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, 04 April, 2007

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UPDATE : SAVE THE CHILDREN IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Appeal info: Tel: 1800 76 00 11 or visit www.savethechildren.org.au

Wed. 04 April 2007; 15:00: Save the Children Australia has reacted quickly to the recent tsunami in Gizo in the Solomon Islands.

- Twenty-four confirmed dead, 5,400 displaced (lost homes), 900 houses damaged. People are still missing
- Save the Children Australia has a staff of 45 in the Solomon Islands, and a Youth Outreach Project office in Gizo
- In partnership with Global Medic supplying:
 - Water purification tablets and portable water purification systems
 - Specialist personnel (5 paramedics)
 - Personal items (soap, toothpaste, etc.)
 - Medical supplies (antibiotics, rehydrating salts, etc.)
- Christina Mitini – Child Protection Manager, Save the Children Australia, Solomon Islands will co-ordinate logistics and NGO response on behalf of the National Disaster Council
- Save the Children is committed to the region. During civil unrest, the agency has continued to maintain a strong presence
- Short term – assist with logistical support including distribution and co-ordination of equipment and personnel
- Long term – Save the Children Australia will address issues of reconstruction and focus on Child Protection (providing a safe and protected environment in a crisis situation to address trauma and separation).

Karen Hill, General Manager – Development from Save the Children Australia has arrived in Honiara to co-ordinate the relief effort and support field assessments. She is available for interview this afternoon, prior to leaving for Gizo.

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In the Solomon Islands, Save the Children Australia programs include:

- HIV and AIDS Prevention Project
- Child Advocacy Project
- Youth Outreach Project
- Children and Young People in Conflict with Law Project.

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Save the Children Australia is part of the International Save the Children Alliance, made up of 27 member countries. Working in over 100 countries, Save the Children is the world's largest independent child rights development organisation.