



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

SOLOMON ISLANDS - Cyclone

Date: March 14-16, 1985

Location: Utupua, Vanikolo, and Tikopia Islands

No. Dead: None reported

No. Affected: Approximately 650 persons homeless.

Damage: 131 houses, one clinic, and 12 classrooms were destroyed;
numerous other structures sustained severe damage.

The Disaster

The small islands of Utupua, Vanikolo, and Tikopia in the southeastern Solomon Islands were seriously affected by the strong winds and rains of Cyclone Hina from March 14 through March 16. Because of the remoteness of the islands and poor communications, the government did not receive a damage assessment until April 9. Although no casualties were reported, there was considerable damage to dwellings, health clinics, and schools.

Action Taken by the Government of the Solomon Islands (SIG)

As a result of a damage survey conducted by the National Disaster Council, the SIG declared the islands a disaster area and appealed to the diplomatic community to provide financial and material assistance. The aid requested was used to obtain vital supplies for the islands' inhabitants until gardens and distribution systems could be re-established.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

U.S. Ambassador Paul F. Gardner (resident in Papua New Guinea) determined on April 15 that the cyclone disaster in the Solomon Islands was beyond the ability of the SIG to address adequately and, therefore, warranted USG assistance. Under

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his disaster assistance authority, Ambassador Gardner obligated a total of \$2,220 to the SIG emergency relief fund.

TOTAL \$2,220

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

Australia - provided a grant of \$2,152 in addition to unspecified material support.

China, Rep. of - gave \$2,152 in cash.

Japan - donated unspecified assistance.

United Kingdom - provided \$2,152 in cash.

TOTAL \$6,456