

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division : PLCO

TA No., Country and Name: TA 4944-SOL: Strengthening Disaster Recovery Planning and Coordination			Amount Approved: \$800,000.00	
			Revised Amount:	
Executing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Treasury		Source of Funding: TASF	Amount Undisbursed: \$56,981.82	Amount Utilized: \$743,018.18
TA Approval Date: 27 June 2007	TA Signing Date: 18 July 2007	Fielding of First Consultant: 29 June 2007	TA Completion Date Original: 31 December 2009	Actual: 30 May 2010
			Account Closing Date Original: 31 December 2009	Actual: 31 August 2010
Description. On 2 April 2007, a massive undersea earthquake triggered a tsunami that struck Western and Choiseul provinces. Islands in these two provinces suffered widespread damage to housing, infrastructure, schools and medical facilities and several villages were destroyed. An estimated 20,000 people out of a total population of 90,000 in both provinces were affected. About 5,000 people were displaced and 52 people died. The disaster revealed a need to improve the Government of Solomon Islands' capacity to manage emergency response, improve infrastructure planning and analysis, and develop an effective framework for mitigating vulnerability to climate change. In response, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the technical assistance (TA) on 27 July 2007 to assist the government in Strengthening Disaster Recovery Planning and Coordination. The TA was approved simultaneously with the Solomon Islands Emergency Assistance Project (EAP). ¹				
Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs. The goals of the TA were to strengthen disaster management, infrastructure planning, and capacity to ensure that infrastructure designs incorporated adaptation and mitigation strategies and were less vulnerable to climate change and potential future disasters. The TA consisted of two components.				
Component 1 - The expected outcome of this component was to strengthen disaster and emergency management by establishing an effective coordination process across relevant ministries to administer current and future recovery response operations. The expected outputs were to improve government's capacity to manage emergency response and an effective response framework through efficiently coordinated networks across relevant ministries.				
Component 2 - The expected outcome of this component was to improve assessment, analysis, and subproject preparation in the affected areas that incorporate climate change adaptation to mitigate the country's vulnerability to adverse weather conditions. The expected outputs were the preparation of subprojects, for engineering, procurement and contract management, environmental monitoring and community development.				
Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities. Component 1 provided technical support to the government's newly-established Finance and Economic Development Unit to develop and maintain the coordination process in Honiara and the affected areas in Western and Choiseul Provinces. Consultant inputs included 4 person-months (p-m) of an international adviser for disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation and 48 p-m of national coordinators for disaster recovery and rehabilitation. However, the national consultant inputs were not utilized, as the government provided coordinators as counterpart staff. The international adviser delivered a total of 3.67 p-m of inputs.				
Component 2 was initially formulated to provide consultant services of 28 p-m (10 p-m of international, 18 p-m of national). An international firm in association with a national firm was engaged through single source selection method. ² The international consultants comprised a road engineer/procurement specialist (6 p-m), a structural engineer (3 p-m) and a civil engineer (1 p-m). The national consultants comprised an environmental specialist (6 p-m), a community development specialist (6 p-m) and provisional technical services (6 p-m). Due to the volume and schedule of existing activities under EAP and the limited technical staff within the executing agency, a minor change in scope was approved in September 2008 to provide additional consulting inputs of an international environmental/social consultant (1 p-m) to support the national social and environment team, and an international hydrologist (1 p-m), to supervise a groundwater production drilling program. In addition to the above, heavy floods in Guadalcanal province in early 2009 caused extensive damage to transport infrastructure including bridge and drainage structures, and disconnected roads at several locations. In response, an additional 9.25 p-m of consultant inputs were approved through minor changes in scope in April and September 2009 to carry out damage assessments as well as feasibility studies for economic, engineering, environment, social and poverty assessments and detailed engineering designs in the affected areas. Actual inputs amounted to 22.44 international p-m and 12 national p-m for a total of 34.44 p-m.				

¹ ADB. 2007. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Asian Development Fund Grant to Solomon Islands for the Emergency Assistance Project*. Manila.

² The same firm that was engaged for the Emergency Assistance Project was engaged under the TA.

Consultants under both components performed satisfactorily and fulfilled their terms of reference. Likewise, the Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, as the implementing and executing agencies respectively, performed satisfactorily and were committed to achieving the TA objectives. ADB provided timely and appropriate support throughout the TA.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome. Component 1 - The international adviser for disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation was fielded soon after the April 2007 tsunami disaster and worked closely with the various task forces established by the government in developing an initial Recovery Action Plan, a Shelter Strategy, and a Rehabilitation Strategy and Program. These were successfully completed by November 2007 and were presented and discussed at a meeting with the government and development partners. However, due to government's financial and capacity constraints, this component was not physically implemented. In The government's debt situation also did not allow it to borrow from multilateral institutions to fully restore the damaged infrastructure.

Component 2 - Comprehensive feasibility studies were carried out to design a framework feasibility document that included engineering requirements, social and poverty framework and an initial environmental examination framework for the tsunami and flood affected areas. These studies were somewhat delayed due to the remote location of the sites. In addition, 10 feasibility reports were submitted between June and October 2009 for the shortlisted subprojects in Western and Choiseul Provinces. The studies were evaluated and approved by MID and ADB, and the subprojects are currently under physical implementation under EAP. In preparing for project implementation, a national contractor capability assessment report was prepared on February 2008. The report recommended the design of the majority of subprojects such that they were within the capacity of national contractors, were smaller in scale, not reliant on specialized equipment and could be procured under the national competitive bidding procurement method. Two international competitive bidding contracts were also designed to encourage international contractors to form joint-venture partnerships with national contractors, in order to build capacity in the national contracting industry. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was also prepared under the TA, to monitor the following output indicators: (i) increase in land and marine traffic; (ii) increase in economic opportunities; (iii) increase in school attendance and access to healthcare facilities; and (iv) increase in water supply meeting government quality criteria to Gizo Island residents. A total of 20 memorandums of understanding were signed between MID and resource owners and provincial government, to provide access to subproject sites, and prevent land disputes. As a result of the 2009 Guadalcanal floods, the feasibility study report which included engineering and economic assessments, initial environmental examinations, social and poverty frameworks and climate change adaptation measures was submitted in June 2009, and approved by MID and ADB. The subproject will be financed under the Second Road Improvement (Sector) Project (SIRIP2)³ and is expected to be awarded in 2010.

Overall Assessment and Rating. The TA is rated successful in achieving its outputs and outcomes. An initial Recovery Action Plan, Shelter Strategy and Rehabilitation Strategy and Program were successfully completed. The subproject feasibility studies in the areas affected by the 2007 tsunami were completed and are under physical implementation under the EAP. Impact and outcome assessments of the subprojects will be undertaken in 2011, upon completion of EAP following the M&E framework developed under the TA. The TA also successfully extended its scope to prepare engineering, economic and climate change adaptation assessments to the infrastructure damaged by the 2009 Guadalcanal floods. Hence, the resources under the TA were effectively utilized.

Major Lessons. Assessment of the appropriate support to the government should have been carried out to ensure that component 1 of the TA could be implemented. Stronger coordination with development partners was required prior to the development of the initial Recovery Action Plan, Shelter Strategy and Rehabilitation Strategy and Program.

It is important to anticipate longer mobilization periods in the contract duration for subprojects in remote locations.

By recognizing that the 2009 Guadalcanal floods required a suitable disaster response, and that formulating such a response was consistent with the TA objectives, the utilization of uncommitted funds allowed the subproject feasibility studies to be completed ahead of schedule, facilitating timely implementation under SIRIP2.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions. The subprojects identified under the framework and feasibility studies are being implemented under EAP and SIRIP2.

Prepared by: David Ling Designation: Project Implementation Officer

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³ ADB. 2009. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Asian Development Fund Grant and Administration of Grants to Solomon Islands for the Second Road Improvement (Sector) Project*. Manila.