SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

2014 April Flash Floods Damage realities, experiences and lessons learnt

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SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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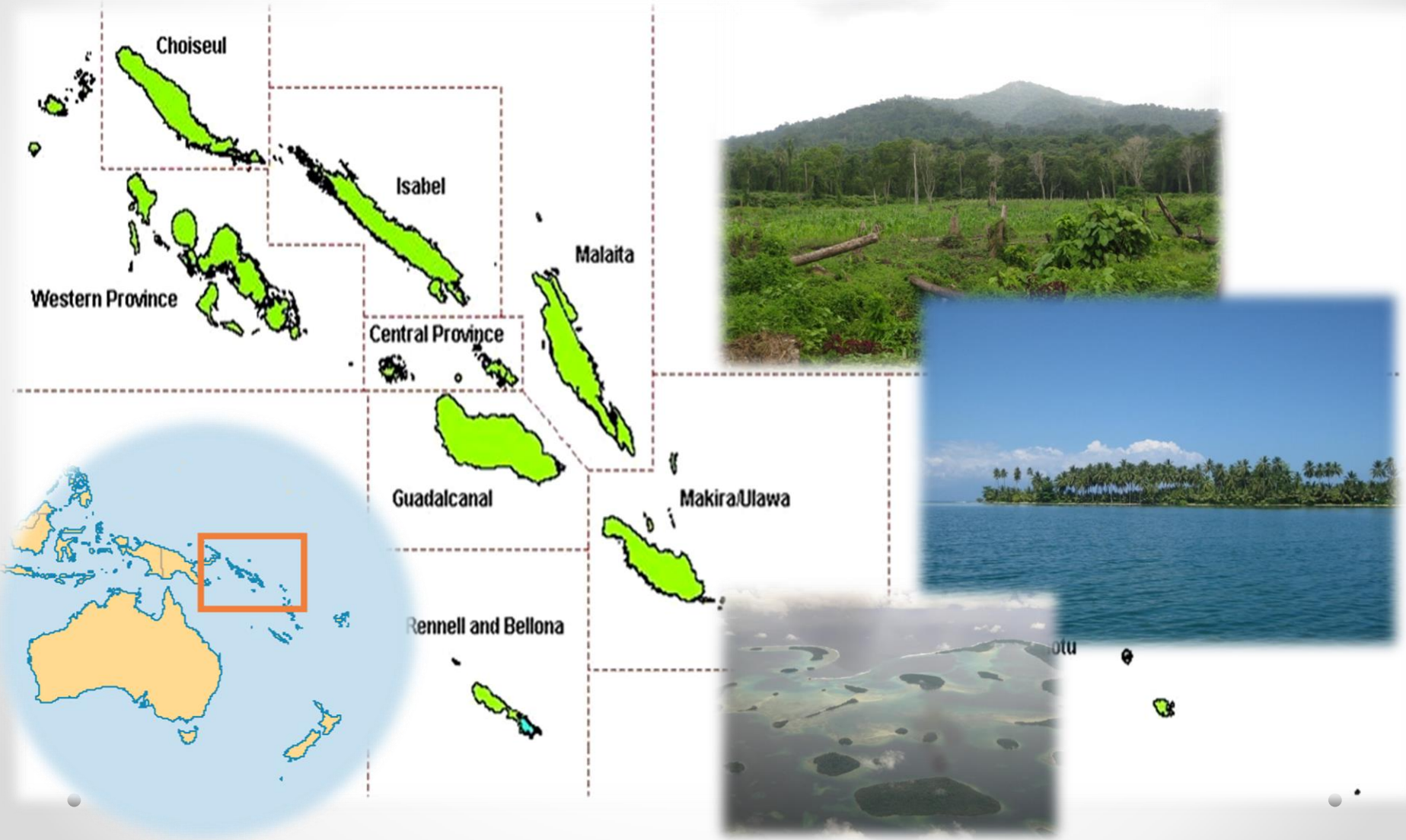
Presentation Outline

1. Brief Introduction to Solomon Islands
2. April 2014 Severe Flash Flood
3. Coordination structure and arrangement during disaster
4. Effects on the agriculture sector
5. Recovery Plan
6. Cross cutting issues

Introduction

- The Solomon Islands is geographically lie to the east of Papua New Guinea and consist of nearly one thousand Islands.
- The Solomon Islands consist of 9 provinces with Population of about 500,000 people
- land area of 27,986 square kilometres in a sea area of approximately 15 million square kilometres.
- The main Islands are characteristically hilly and rugged mountains with tropical rainforests encompassed by flat coastal plains and low lying atolls.
- Prone to natural disasters and affected by climate change.

SOLOMON ISLANDS



April 2014 Severe Flash Flood

- Heavy rain from a tropical depression, later became Tropical Cyclone Ita, caused severe flooding in the Solomon Islands in early April 2014.
- 20+ confirmed fatalities and several people missing presumed dead,
- 12,000 affected in Honiara
- 40,000 on greater Guadalcanal
- Honiara and Guadalcanal were declared disaster zones.
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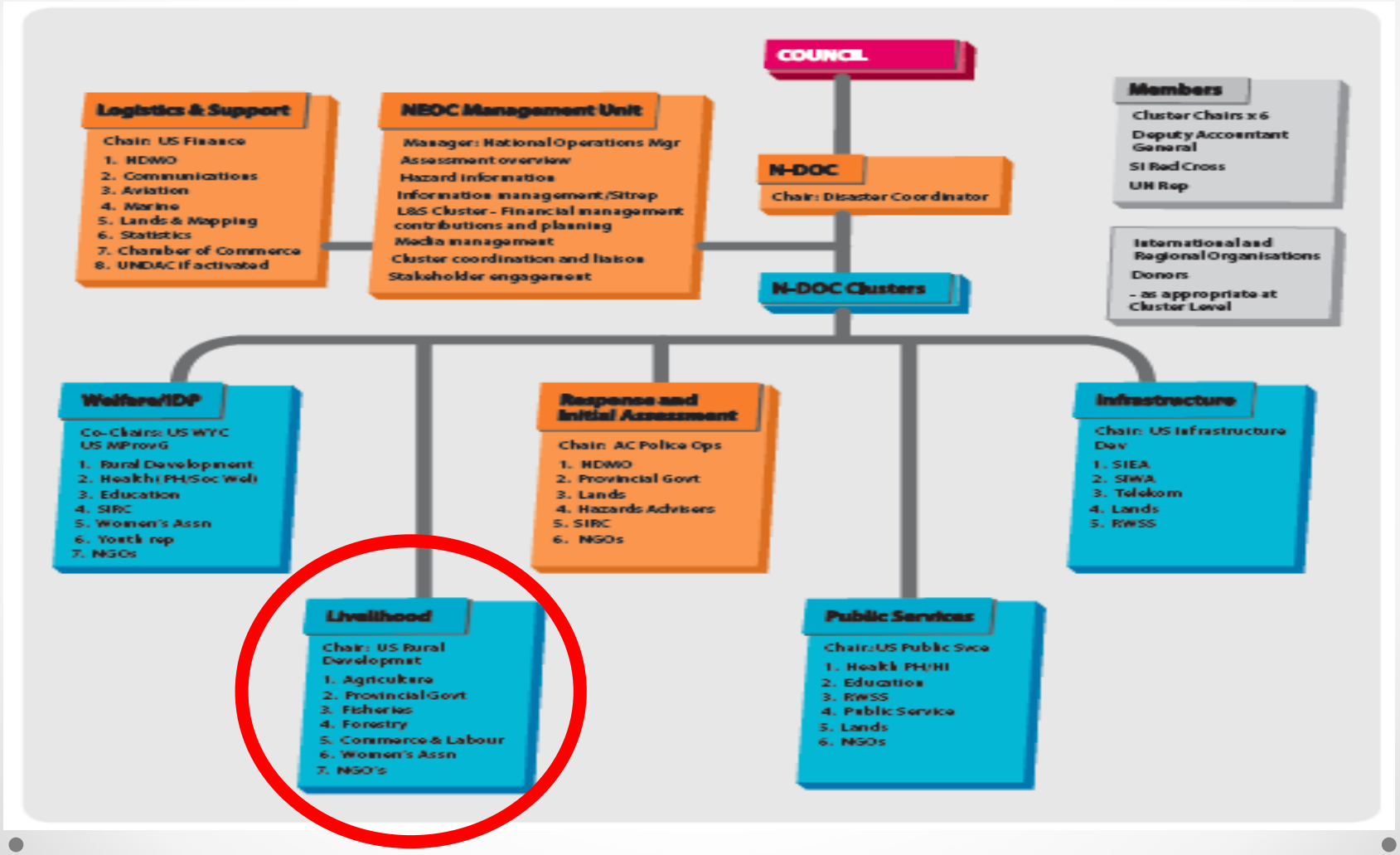
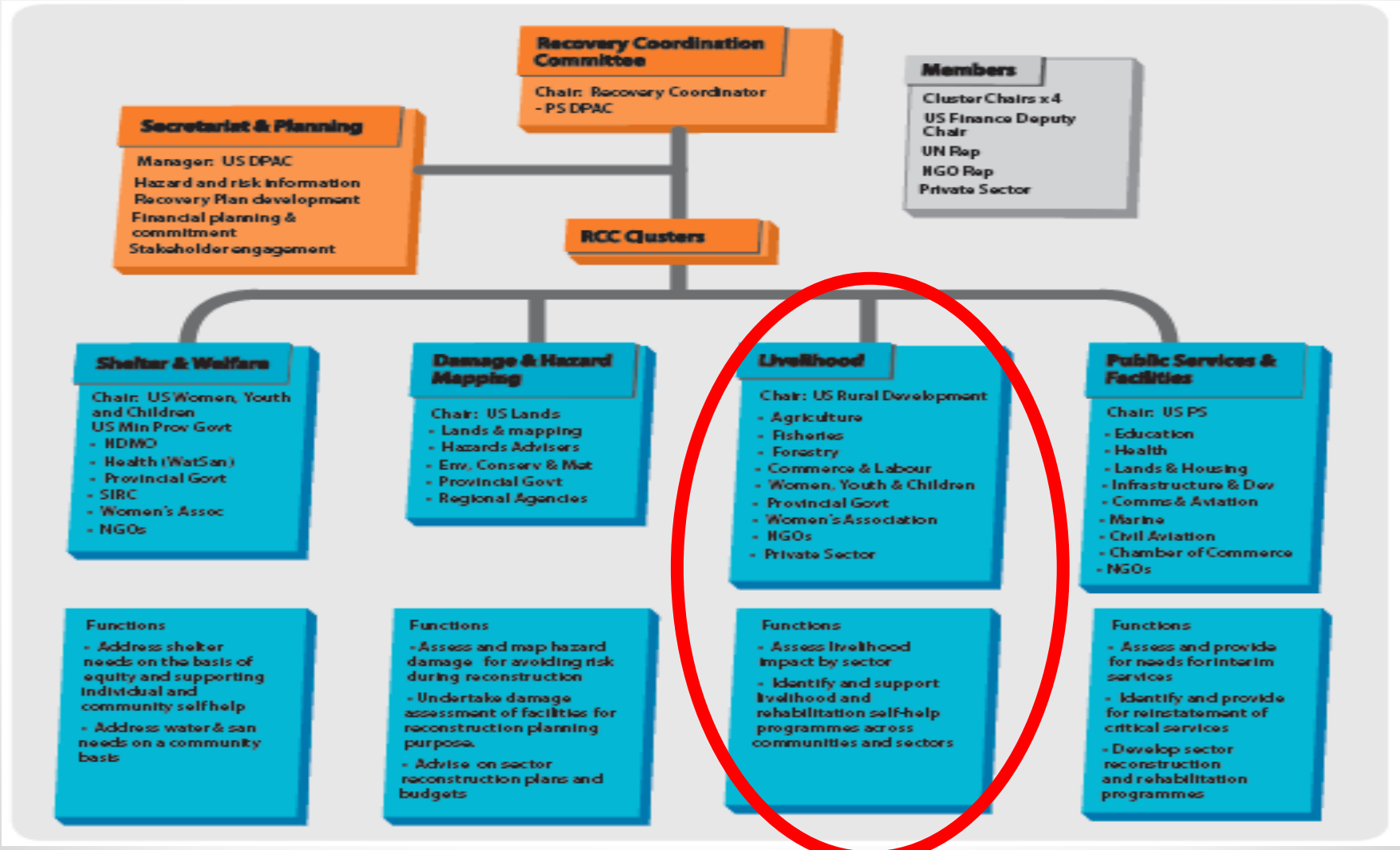
Coordination structure and arrangements During Disaster

- The livelihoods cluster reports to the National Disaster Operations Committee (N-DOC) chaired by the Disaster Coordinator during the emergency phase
- and to the Recovery Coordination Committee (RCC) chaired by the Recovery Coordinator during the recovery period.

Emergency Phase



Recovery Phase



Effects on the Agriculture Sector

- The total damage and loss for the Agriculture sub-sectors (crop and livestock)
- Crops 88%
- Livestock 10%
- The total effect to the Agriculture sector US$ 18.4 million
  - of which $ 1.5 million is damage
  - $ 16.9 million is loss.
  - Of the total effect, 99.92 % for the private sector and 0.08 percent to the public sector.

Recovery Plan

- **Farmers affected by the flash floods supported in order to facilitate a quicker recovery and re-establish their normal livelihoods.**

Short Term & Medium to Long Term Recovery Plan

Short Term (Emergency Phase)	Medium to Long Term (Recovery Phase)
CROPS	
• Provision of Planting Materials and and other agricultural inputs for re-planting of crops • Cash for work activities for community level cleaning to enable affected families to access food needs	• Support promotion of resilient agriculture technique. Community nurseries, • improved resilience techniques against floods (improved drainage systems, combined with training on disaster risk reduction techniques including traditional storage techniques)
LIVESTOCK	
• Provision of emergency feed and water supply • Purchase equipment and/or rebuild animal housing.	• Restocking. • Rehabilitation of livestock structure with BBB technique, • Restoration of water facilities • Designation of area for evacuation during floods. • Inclusion of livestock evacuation in the Community level disaster plans.
	• Boost sustainable production of livestock through investing in research and capacity building by introducing lower cost, locally available ingredients into animal feeds as the strategy to improve profit margins.

Outcome 1: Households with flood damage recover their livelihood and are better prepared for future disasters

- *Replace livestock lost*
- *Rebuild animal housing structures*
- *Re-establish gardens with resilient methods*
- *DRR training*
- *Cash for work*

Outcome 2: Households with income generating activities recover and their capacities to respond to further shocks are enhanced

- *Rehabilitate cocoa, oil palm, floriculture, dryers damaged*
- *Cash for work for community projects*
- *Income generation activities for IDPs returning to Malaita*

Outcome 3: Agriculture, livestock, fishery and commerce sectors are well prepared for future disasters

- *Develop/review disaster management plans*
- *Develop loss assessment tools for future disasters, as well as baseline information*
- *Local research and capacity building*

Cross-cutting issues

- *Disaster risk reduction – through relocation of gardens and animal shelters, training in disaster planning, crop diversity*
- *Environmental sustainability – improved waste management for livestock*
- *Gender & social inclusion – focus on female headed households, monitoring inclusion of women in indicators*
- *Lack of baseline data on agriculture and other sectors.*
- *Sharing of information during emergency and recovery phase.*

Disaster Risk Management and Climate change Adaptation techniques at community level

- *Crop diversification: promote introduction of flood tolerant crops, Multi-storey cropping system, Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT):*
- *Preserve/re-plant traditional edible food/leaves*
- *Vetiver Grass and Coastal pitpit planting to reduce erosion*
- *Alley cropping*
- *Keep agricultural tools in a safe place, away from flood areas:*
- *Get safe storage facility for seeds, harvests and tools;*
- *Keep livestock away from flood prone areas, away from river banks*
- *Build shelters on higher grounds or on elevated sheds.*
- *Have early maturing seed variety available:*
- Keep traditional ways of treating animals diseases (leaves, etc….)


THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION