# PACIFIC RISK PROFILE – SOLOMON ISLANDS

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

* [**2335 m**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) maximum height above sea level
* [**28,230 km²**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) land area and [**25**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) people per km²
* [**8 volcanoes and 17%**](https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/data.html) of people live within 30km of volcanoes
* [**20%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) population is urban
* [**65%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) of population live with 1km of coast, **91%** live within 5km of coast, and **98%** live within 10km of coast
* [**712,077**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) total population
* [**359,821**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) (50.53%) men and [**352,256**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) women (49.47%) in 2020
* [**14%**](https://www.unescap.org/publications/disability-glance-2019) disability prevalence
* [**$6152**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) USD gross domestic product per capita
* [**67%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s labour force participation
* [**18.5%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of managerial positions
* [**33.2%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of wage employment in the non-agriculture sector
* [**64%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner.

## HAZARD LIKELIHOOD

(link: [**https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/225-solomon-islands**](https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/225-solomon-islands))

| **Water scarcity** | **Wildfire** | **Earthquake** | **Landslide** | **Cyclone** | **Coastal flood** | **Volcano** | **Tsunami** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very low likelihood | Medium likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood |

## ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO DISASTERS

* [**$79m**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) USD total average annual loss due to disasters, which is [**8.69%**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) of GDP.

## ADAPTATION COSTS FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

* [**$97-$347m**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) USD adaptation costs for coastal protection per year, which is [**3-11%**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) of projected GDP in 2040.

## RISK INDEX

(link: [**https://www.emdat.be/**](https://www.emdat.be/))

* [**Solomon Islands is ranked 5th**](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2020.pdf)among countries with high disaster risk due to high exposure to extreme natural events and sea-level rise
  + Exposure – very high
  + Vulnerability – high
  + Susceptibility – very high
  + Lack of coping capacities – high
  + Lack of adaptive capacities – very high
* Between 1999 and 2018 [**Solomon Islands was ranked 65th**](https://www.germanwatch.org/en/17307) among countries most affected by extreme weather
* Solomon Island’s risk level is [**high**](https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Covid-19/INFORM-Covid-19-Warning-beta-version) when assessing the potential humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 in combination with other pre-existing crisis risks.

## MAJOR DISASTERS 2011-2020

* **5** major cyclones
* **133,570** people affected
* **38%** of disasters were storms, **23%** were floods, **16%** were earthquake and **16%** were epidemic.

## FLOOD (2014)

(link: [**https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pda-2014-solomonislands.pdf**](https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pda-2014-solomonislands.pdf))

* Between April 1 and April 4, 2014, a slow-moving tropical depression caused persistent heavy rains in the Solomon Islands
* **732 mm** of rain was recorded over four days
* **52,000** people were affected
* **$107.8m** USD estimated economic value of the impact, which was equivalent to **9.2%** of GDP
* Per cent loss by sector: **52%** productive **31%** social and **17%** infrastructure.

## CLIMATE PROJECTION

(link: [**https://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/13\_PACCSAP-Solomon-Islands-11pp\_WEB.pdf**](https://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/13_PACCSAP-Solomon-Islands-11pp_WEB.pdf))

**Rainfall**: projected to increase in most areas, along with more extreme rain events

* **Cyclones**: less frequent but more intense
* **Temperature**: annual mean temperatures and extremely high temperature days will continue to rise
* **Sea level**: expected to continue to rise
* **Ocean acidification**: expected to continue
* **Risk of** **coral bleaching** expected to increase
* **El Niño/La Niña**: likely to continue, **El Niño** events bring warmer, drier wet seasonconditions,

while **La Niña** events usually bring cooler, wetter wet seasons. The impact is greater in Santa Cruz than in Honiara.