

THE SOL EDUCATOR TIMES

April 2026
Issue #04



FROM THE MINISTRY

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Sol Educator Times, MEHRD's monthly newsletter for teachers, supported by the Stronger Education Together (SET) program.

This Issue highlights three key initiatives that are shaping the development of education across the country.

Following the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Maila, the MEHRD responded promptly by supporting affected schools with relief supplies, conducting engineering assessments, and releasing grant payments early to help restore safe and continuous learning.

The Curriculum Writers Induction Workshop was also launched to commence the redesign of the Years 10–12 senior secondary education curriculum, integrating climate resilience, gender equity, inclusion, indigenous knowledge, and modern skills.

A special feature in this Issue highlights the National Library's support for teachers through its collections, outreach programs, and literacy activities that strengthen classroom learning and promote lifelong learning.

These efforts reflect MEHRD's continuous support for teachers, students, researchers and the general public who frequent the National Library.

Dr. Franco Rodie
Permanent Secretary

MEHRD Leads Education Response Following Tropical Cyclone Maila



School Damage Assessment Team at Sagigae, Choiseul Province.

The MEHRD continues to respond to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Maila, which affected 81 schools across Western, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, and parts of Isabel Provinces. Of these, 34 sustained minor damage, 31 moderate and 16 major damage.

While most schools with minor and moderate damage have reopened, schools with severe structural damage remain closed until temporary learning arrangements or repairs are in place to ensure the safety of students and staff.

MEHRD activated its Emergency Operations Centre and is working closely with Provincial Education Authorities, the National Disaster Operation Committee for education and partners.

Relief supplies, including tents, tarpaulins and "School-in-a-Box" kits, have already been delivered,

especially to the most affected schools in the Western Province.

Engineering teams have been deployed to Choiseul and Western Provinces to conduct structural assessments.

These are critical in determining safe buildings, urgent repairs, and the need for temporary learning spaces.

MEHRD acknowledges its development partners especially the Australian DFAT, New Zealand MFAT, UNICEF, and Save the Children (Australia) for providing technical and humanitarian support, including restoration of WASH services and psychosocial care offered to teachers and students.

The Ministry has also approved early disbursement of the second biannual school and education provider grant payments and fee exemptions for the affected students.



Did You Know...

The NEAP includes a Disaster Management Action Plan to strengthen schools against cyclones, floods, and earthquakes, keeping learning safe and continuous.

MEHRD Launches Curriculum Writers Induction Workshop



Senior MEHRD officials, curriculum writers, consultants and education leaders, during their introductory session.

The MEHRD launched a Curriculum Development Writers Induction Workshop at the Mokolo Building.

The four-day workshop, held from the 21-24 April under the Solomon Islands Senior Secondary Education Improvement Project, was attended by local curriculum writers, international curriculum consultants and MEHRD officials, to begin redesigning the Years 10–12 curriculum.

Permanent Secretary, Dr Franco Rodie, stated in his opening remarks that the review of the senior secondary education

curriculum is a nation-building effort that will shape what students learn and who they become, with the aim of ensuring Year 12 graduates are prepared not only for examinations, but also for life beyond school.

The revised curriculum will strengthen knowledge, skills, values and cultural understanding, and will emphasise climate resilience, gender equity and inclusion, and indigenous knowledge alongside modern skills, including a new core subject, Living Sustainably.

QUICK TIPS

► Wellbeing

- Include small amounts of physical activity in your daily routine to help reset both your body and mind.
- Build strong relationships with colleagues, friends and family to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

► Technology

- Try AI tools like NotebookLM to help generate study guides and lesson materials, saving you valuable time.
- Use free tools like Kahoot! for quizzes and Google Forms for exit tickets to make assessments more engaging.

► Child Protection

- Attend child protection training regularly to stay informed and up to date on your safeguarding responsibilities.
- Be approachable and create a safe space so students feel confident sharing their worries and concerns with you.

Special Feature:

National Library – Showing support for the Education Sector

The National Library of the Solomon Islands is dedicated to supporting teachers and students in their mission to inspire learning through books and other resources available in the library.

With a commitment to collecting, preserving, and providing access to the nation's documentary heritage, the National Library has the potential to support students and researchers, thereby strengthening their learning and curiosity through reliable resources and professional support.

Library patrons can explore three key collections that support learning, teaching, and research:

• *Reference Collection (REF)* featuring encyclopedias, dictionaries, and manuals to guide student research.

• *General Collection (GEN)* offering factual resources for everyday teaching and student assignments.

• *Solomon Islands Collection (SI)* preserving cultural and heritage literature to enrich lessons with local knowledge.

Beyond the collections, the library runs outreach programs that donate books, assist with school library setup and provide training workshops for teachers.

Weekly activities include Pikinini Reading Classes to model early literacy strategies

and Library User Education sessions that build research and academic skills for teachers and students.

Additional services such as printing, photocopying, and binding help educators prepare teaching materials.

In 2025, the library donated 20 bookshelves to schools, improving classroom environments and to organize their reading resources.

This initiative highlights the library's role as a partner in education, ensuring teachers and students have the tools to nurture literacy and lifelong learning across the Solomon Islands.