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## Information bulletin

# Papua New Guinea : Volcanic Activity

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">VO-2018-000002-PNG</a>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 9 January 2018
<b>Date of disaster:</b> Emerging	<b>Point of contact:</b> Janet Philemon, Chairman, PNG Red Cross Society
<b>Host National Society:</b> Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 591	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 591
<b>Categorization of disaster<sup>1</sup>:</b> Yellow	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is assessing the evolving situation for a potential DREF request to assist the residents of Kadovar Island following a volcanic eruption.

[< click to view the map of the affected area and detailed contact information >](#)

## The situation

The remote Kadovar Island volcano became active on 5 January 2018 with mild volcanic activity on the south-eastern side of the island. The Governor's office conducted an aerial assessment and observed lava flow on the island with an estimated 50-60 per cent of the island covered in lava. The entire population (591 people) has been relocated to Blup Blup island, which is an island of about 800 people.

As of 6 January, prevailing wind conditions have carried ash clouds west of Kadovar island. Kadovar (Kadowar) is a small island belonging to the cluster of islands referred to as Schouten Islands. Kadovar is approximately 100km from Wewak (line of sight) and 24km to nearest point on mainland East Sepik province. Kadovar is part of Wewak Island Rural LLG in Wewak District, East Sepik Province. <sup>2</sup>



*Volcanic activity in Kadova Island on 6 January 2018.  
Photo credit: Radio New Zealand [website](#)*

Since 6 January, the Wewak district administration has been working with the East Sepik provincial administration and the MP for Wewak to organize an evacuation. The MP for Wewak indicated that there were no district funds available currently as government accounts had yet to open for 2018. The National Disaster Centre (NDC) is currently coordinating closely with East Sepik provincial administration on establishing the current situation. On 7 January, a provincial assessment team was deployed. The NDC and East Sepik provincial administration are presently awaiting findings from the deployed assessment team.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. This categorization implies that the response intervention is within the capacity of the National Society of an affected country to manage with resources available in-country. If requested, the IFRC Country Office may provide any necessary technical or management support to the National Society, and if required, the IFRC Regional Office may support the mobilization of regional disaster response tools, with Geneva supporting the allocation of Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

<sup>2</sup> Source: UNDP Disaster Management Team Secretariat

Due to the remoteness of the area, more information to get a clearer picture of the needs has yet to be received. According to the UN DMT situational update on 8 January, the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory (RVO) has assessed that there is a possibility for Kadovar to explode which could trigger similar explosions on Blup Blup and Biem islands (both volcanic islands as well). This may also trigger a tsunami due to landslides.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PNGRC headquarters is in close communication with the PNGRC Madang Branch. The branch is currently looking for more information on the situation with the local authorities and actors. The Madang branch has pre-positioned stock of 400 mosquito nets, 200 jerry cans and an undisclosed quantity of tarpaulins ready for distribution. In addition, PNGRC is assessing emergency stocks in headquarters and other branches to be transported to Madang.

The branch will require additional relief supplies and funds to mobilize its volunteers. They are currently briefing the branch volunteers to prepare them for response. As the inhabitants have been relocated, needs for basic non-food items for shelter and hygiene kits are anticipated.

PNGRC is on standby and closely monitoring the situation to obtain more information at this stage to prepare a request to the IFRC disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to support the response.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

### Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society:

- Janet Philemon, chair; email: [janetphilemon47@gmail.com](mailto:janetphilemon47@gmail.com)
- Uvenama Rova, secretary general; email: [uvr6057@gmail.com](mailto:uvr6057@gmail.com)

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

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