

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba

Emergency appeal n° MDRPG002
GLIDE n° **FL-2007-00209-PNG**
Operations update n° 3
26 February 2008

Period covered by this Operations Update:
15 January 2008 to 20 February 2008

Appeal target: CHF 740,642 (USD 672,146 or EUR 452,390) in cash, kind or services [<click here for Emergency Appeal>](#).

Appeal coverage: 79%; [<click here to go directly to the interim financial report, or here to link to contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 26 November 2007 for CHF 740,642 (USD 672,146 or EUR 452,390) for 3 months to assist 13,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 25,000 (USD 22,400 or EUR 15,260) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.

This operations update seeks to extend the operations timeframe for two months, until the end of April 2008, as additional time is needed to complete recovery activities outlined in the plan of action. In line with Federation reporting standards, a Final Report will be made available by the end of July 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

Summary: The formal emergency stage since the floods that was brought on by Cyclone Guba three months ago is now complete, and the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS), with the assistance of the Federation, have focused their activities on recovery. Up to seven areas were identified, including resettlement, infrastructure, agriculture, health, welfare and coordination and recovery management.

Disaster management training and 'lessons learnt' workshops were held for volunteers and members of the newly-established interim branch in Popondetta, facilitated by the Federation's regional disaster management coordinator and a disaster management delegate.

The Red Cross Red Crescent operation is supported by AusAID, NZAID, USAID, the Swedish International Development Coordination Agency (SIDA), the British High Commission, and the American, Australian, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Swedish and the United Arab Emirates Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies.

Since the launch of the Appeal, international response has been positive. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed or pledged to this appeal.



PNGRCS staff checking relief stocks in the warehouse in Popondetta, Oro Province.

The situation

Just over three months ago, Cyclone Guba lashed through the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea, resulting in widespread damage caused by localized landslides and flooding. Updated figures indicate that approximately 140 people died in the disaster and the majority of the province's residents (approximately 162,000) were affected,

based on combined and continuous assessments. Gardens, home and safe water sources were destroyed, and infrastructural amenities such as health facilities, schools, roads, bridges/culverts and economic activities were severely affected.

Shortly after the disaster, the government of Papua New Guinea declared a state of emergency which has been extended until the end of April 2008. The government sent a request to foreign missions and to international disaster relief agencies for assistance. A large scale response consisting of assessment and sector specialist teams, as well as airlifting and sea transport of supplies and personnel occurred during the emergency phase of the disaster.

The situation with internally displaced persons (IDPs) remains the most challenging humanitarian problem. Exact numbers are still difficult to verify as there continues to be considerable movement between families and communities. Anglicare, the organization which has been compiling the information database on behalf of the provincial government, indicates that approximately 58,000 people are classified as priority 1, requiring substantial food supplementation. There are presently 41 care centres catering for IDPs and 15 food distributing centres providing supplementary food to beneficiaries.

Currently, the emergency stage is over and efforts are focused on the recovery stage. Ongoing assessments and appropriate responses for pockets within the wider community continue alongside the broader recovery strategies.

The recovery stage is focusing on seven major areas.

1. Resettlement. The IDP are the most significant vulnerable group. Addressing resettlement is being actively pursued; basic construction tools and seeds, seedlings and cuttings have been distributed and the government has purchased equipment for approximately 40 wells to be installed by the Papua New Guinea defence forces. Oxfam International is also installing ten water systems in identified communities, and Anglicare has put forward a food security proposal to provide a steadily diminishing ration over the next eight months.
2. Infrastructure. Approximately 90 per cent of infrastructural damage to roads, bridges and culverts have undergone temporary repairs, allowing restricted movement of people to occur. Most of these are 'wet crossings' whereas the permanent repairs remain an enormously expensive undertaking. One major challenge is the reconstruction of the bridge across the Girua River between Popondetta and the airport at Girua as well as the port at Oro Bay.
3. Agriculture. Under normal circumstances, an estimated 80 per cent of the population of Oro Province is dependant upon gardens as the primary source of food. Farming implements, seeds and juvenile stock are being produced in research stations such as the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) as well as from other sources, and distributed.
4. Education. This situation remains unclear with the 2008 school year due to start on 28 February and with many schools claiming damaged facilities. The Papua New Guinea government has suspended school fees for all Oro students from elementary school age right up to tertiary level to help relieve the financial pressure felt by many of the province's parents.
5. Health. Monitoring of the health status of people, especially those in care centres, remain a high priority for the health professionals. An outbreak of yaws¹ has been reported and the authorities are moving quickly to contain this. The "Kumusi ulcer" had been a concern but authorities have been assured by local health personnel that it is a common localized bacterial infection of open cuts that is manageable. Rehabilitation of some facilities damaged during the disaster still remains high on the priority list for this sector.
6. Welfare. The trauma experienced by many communities is widespread and counselling services are being sought to address this need.
7. Coordination and recovery management. This is to provide a single point of focus for the a holistic recovery process within both the central and provincial government and the various other agencies committed to this stage of the operation. There is now a recovery plan in draft that requires all partners to participate in their sectors of concern with the lead government agencies.

Coordination and partnerships

The PPNGRCS has been at the forefront of the response to Cyclone Guba during the emergency stage, continuing into recovery at the time of reporting. Support and coordination has been provided from the national level as well as within the Oro Province, with both government and non-governmental actors consolidating resources and responding holistically to best assist those affected (see previous operations updates for specific details).

¹ a tropical infection of the skin, bones and joints caused by bacteria.

This cooperation has also included a close working relationship with the staff of the country's Federation office in Port Moresby and the regional delegation in Suva, Fiji. A disaster management delegate from the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) was additionally contracted to assist with PNGRCS' training and workshops (see later section on capacity building).

PNGRCS staff continue to attend all National Disaster Council meetings and other appropriate sector meetings in Port Moresby. The Oro interim branch of the PNGRCS in Popondetta continues to liaise with the appropriate provincial government sectors as well as Anglicare and Oxfam, the last two remaining active non-governmental organizations in Oro Province.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As stated above and explained in detail in [Operations Update No. 2](#), the PNGRCS was at the forefront of assessment data collection, the identification of the needs of the most vulnerable and the sourcing, mobilization and distribution of relief items.

These activities continued through to mid-February when the emergency stage came to an end and the national society had distributed the procured items (see later section on relief distribution).

A short period then followed where the newly-formed Oro interim branch of the PNGRCS consolidated its experience with a formal five-day disaster management training workshop, followed by a lessons learnt workshop facilitated by the Federation's regional disaster management coordinator and a disaster management delegate from NZRC.

The remaining assets valued at approximately PGK 25,000 (CHF9,860), including two shipping containers, their contents and an outboard motored dinghy, were formally handed over to the executive and volunteers of the new branch. The Toyota Land Cruiser vehicle, kindly provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the PNGRCS Hagen branch, but diverted to Popondetta when the cyclone struck, was returned to its initial destination as the emergency phase had ceased. While this has temporarily reduced the branch's capacity to deliver assistance where needed, the national society, with support from the Federation, is working towards resolving this issue by negotiating for a replacement vehicle, as addressed by the revised budget attached.

At the headquarters-level, operations slowed down following the end of the distributions in mid-February. With the brief lull in activities, planning is underway to re-organize and re-stock relief items at both headquarters and in Oro Province to maintain a high level of disaster preparedness. Provisions to ensure security and longevity of the Oro containers are also planned. Discussions are also underway to conduct further appropriate training within the wider PNGRCS staff to reinforce the lessons learnt from their recent experiences.

Progress towards objectives

Further to more detailed assessments, project accounting lines within the overall budget were adjusted to address the needs of beneficiaries and the capacity of the national society. The revised budget includes the procurement of relief stocks, vehicles and information and technology equipment to enhance the capacity of the national society. Please click [here](#) to view revised budget.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: Ensure basic non-food items are distributed to the displaced population in Oro Province	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary selection strategy and registration system is developed. Rapid assessments prior to distribution of basic non-food items are conducted. Relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to selected beneficiaries are distributed. Relief activities and reporting on relief distributions are monitored. Transition strategy for operations is developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PNGRCS staff and volunteers will conduct relief operations for emergency needs and complete capacity assessments, with support from the Federation. A logistics hub will be established in Port Moresby, utilizing the existing warehouse. A possible alternative supply/storage warehouse is available in Lae, which is closer to beneficiaries and can be supported by a nearby PNGRCS branch, allowing for better shipping connections. ARC/FRC staff will assist the PNGRCS in these activities. In addition, the PNGRCS has two FACT-trained volunteers, and both are ready to be deployed as needed.

Progress:

The distribution of relief items was completed on 10 February 2008. Unfortunately, no records exist for relief items distributed through the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) in the very early days of the disaster as the air operations central hub in Oro at Girua Airport was inaccessible to PNGRCS staff. However, from 3 December 2007, PNGRCS staff were able to take full control of the distributions of donated stock. From 3 December to the end of the distributions on 10 February 2008, PNGRCS distributed to approximately 123 locations, including care centres and independent communities. Of these, five were undertaken by air, 52 by water (sea/river) and 66 by land. The following table indicates the complete list of individual items distributed and the current stock remaining in containers in Oro (see capacity building section for additional disaster preparedness stock requested):

Items distributed between 3 December 2007 and 10 February 2008

Item	Description		Total distributed	Stored in Oro
1	Tarpaulins	Varying sizes	2,728	18
2	Cooking pots	Varying sizes	1,941	655
3	Tool kits ²	Nails, spade, axe, hammer, saw, machete.	1,013	1
4	Hygiene kits	Towels, sanitary pads, soap	2,140 towels 201 cartons 341 cartons	41 0 12 cartons
5	Water containers	Rigid and collapsible	1,904	208 (rigid)
6	Clothes ³	Assorted bags	493 bags	0
7	Cups		645	0
8	Plates		675	0
9	Spoons		645	0
10	Mosquito nets	Treated	2,292	0
11	Soya beans ⁴		223 cartons (12 ea.)	0
12	Rope	Roll: 6mm x 40 m	48 rolls	4 rolls
13	Blankets ⁵		33 pieces	0

Challenges:

Although the distribution stage is now complete, it is paramount that the PNGRCS builds up an appropriate buffer stock in Oro Province as part of its disaster management preparedness programme, as prior to Cyclone Guba, the PNGRCS did not have a functioning branch in this disaster-prone area. The following table indicates the proposed refurbishment of relief items to cover Oro Province.

Proposed disaster relief items for Oro Province.

Item	Description	Units	Quantity
Tarpaulins	White, heavy duty	Bales	700 pieces
Water containers	Collapsible	Pcs	2,000 items
Mosquito nets	Treated	Bales	10,000 pieces
Rope	6mm x 40 m	Coils	100 coils
Tool kits	Nails, hammer, saw, machete, axe, spade	Box	500 boxes
Hygiene kits	Towels, sanitary pads, soap.	Box	20,000

Water and sanitation

Objective: Ensure that clean potable drinking water is available to displaced target populations in Popondetta.

Expected results	Activities planned
Water and sanitation team from ARC with FRC support are mobilized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an assessment of the situation. Develop an implementation plan. Mobilize mass water distribution for camps in Popondetta.

There are no further actions or challenges in addition to those outlined in [Operations Update No. 2](#). However, it is noted that up to the end of the distributions on 10 February, approximately 2,000 water containers were successfully distributed to beneficiaries in Oro Province.

² Nails in tool kits were provided by Oxfam.

³ Clothes were donated by Caritas PNG and other donors.

⁴ From miscellaneous donors.

⁵ From miscellaneous donors.

Emergency shelter

Revised objective: Ensure emergency shelter is provided to targeted affected rural populations, as well as a reconstruction tool kit to 1,000 affected and appropriately identified households in Oro Province

Expected results	Activities planned
Three thousand cyclone-affected families in Oro province have access to emergency shelter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize relief activities. • Establish distribution and set up for 3,000 emergency shelter kits. • Assess affected rural communities and identify most vulnerable rural populations within impact zones. • Prioritize rural families requiring non-food items' distribution. • Transport commodities and prepare distributions.

Since the last update, tarpaulins and 'Reconstruction/Recovery' tool kits have continued to be distributed to identified beneficiaries. By the end of distributions on 10 February 2008, 2,278 tarpaulins and 1,013 tool kits have been distributed (Note that the proposed refurbishment of emergency shelter items are described in the relief items section above).

Capacity building

Objective: Recruit, equip, train and manage PNGRCS volunteers and staff to ensure effective disaster management system with volunteer/staff retention.

Expected results	Activities planned
PNGRCS branch in Popondetta established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish volunteer registration process, and training initiatives to maintain an estimated 20 or more volunteers for relief distribution, volunteers from Lae and other branches. • Ensure PNGRCS staff, volunteers and facilities are fully equipped to provide emergency services within this plan of action. • Establish rapid training programmes for PNGRCS volunteers response objectives. • Ensure coordinated and comprehensive PNGRCS disaster management capacity. • Set-up Oro PNGRCS branch if possible, using locally recruited volunteers as base. • Utilize and deploy experienced staff from other Pacific national societies, in particular from Solomon Islands Red Cross, based on recent tsunami experience.

Progress:

As mentioned earlier in the report, the PNGRCS has already started a formal capacity building process for Oro Province. With no branch in the province prior to Cyclone Guba, this process is an extremely important stage in the development of PNGRCS disaster preparedness for the province. A disaster management training session, facilitated by the Federation's regional disaster management coordinator and a disaster management delegate, was carried out from 11 to 15 February for volunteers and new executive members. The training was followed by a wider ranging "lessons learned" workshop on 16 February. This needs to be followed up with the purchase of capitol equipment and further training for the new interim branch. The following table outlines the proposed items and services required for this to occur (anticipated costs can be found in the budget at the end of this report):

Proposed activities for capacity building of Oro interim branch.

Item	Description	Quantity
Equipment	Generator	1
Publication	PNGRCS disaster management plan	13
Storage capacity	Shipping containers plus appropriate weather and security protection.	2
Transport	Vehicle (1) and dinghy with onboard motor (1)	1 + 1
Training	National disaster response team, branch development workshop and disaster management plan/policy review workshop.	3
IT equipment	Computers, photocopier, global positioning system (GPS)	3

It is anticipated that the PNGRCS has the potential to develop a realistic disaster response capacity in Oro Province, through these proposed activities.

Logistics

The PNGRCS had used the high school in Popondetta as their operations and primary logistics storage base. Since the last operations update, the national society has moved out of these facilities, and has relocated to a temporary office consisting of two 20-foot reefer containers off the hospital's grounds.

In response to the disaster in Oro, the Toyota Land Cruiser provided by the in-country ICRC for use in the PNGRCS Mt. Hagen branch was diverted to Popondetta for the duration of emergency operations. The vehicle has since been returned to the Mt. Hagen branch, but plans are underway to procure a vehicle to improve the branch's response capacity.

The Regional Logistics Unit based in Kuala Lumpur continue to provide technical assistance and support to the national society through the Federation's country office in procurement and fleet management.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society: Ms. Esme Sinape (Secretary General), email: hqpngrcs@online.net.pg, phone +675 325 2145.
- Country office in Papua New Guinea: Ms. Ene-mai Oks (Head of office), email: enemai.oks@ifrc.org, phone: +679 331 1855.
- Pacific regional office in Suva, Fiji: Mr. Frank Kennedy (Head of regional office), email: frank.kennedy@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128; Mr. Martin Blackgrove, phone: +679 999 2487.
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia: Disaster management unit: Ms. Amy Gaver (Regional disaster management delegate), email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org; phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile: +60 12 220 1174; Regional logistics unit: Mr. Jeremy Francis (Regional logistics coordinator), jeremy.francis@ifrc.org, mobile: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573.
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific department, Ms. Christine South (Operations coordinator), email: christine.south@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.730.4529, fax: +41.22.733.0395.

**[<Interim financial report and revised budget attached below;
click here to return to the title page>](#)**

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY
Papua New Guinea Cyclone GUBA

Annex 1
MDRPG002

	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
	VALUE IN CHF	VALUE IN CHF	VALUE IN CHF
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter & Construction Materials	153,350	78,686	(74,664)
Clothing & Textiles	36,900	19,785	(17,115)
Water and Sanitation	41,000	28,448	(12,552)
Utensil & Tools	20,500	95,918	75,418
Other Supplies & Services	110,737	53,724	(57,013)
Total Relief Needs	362,487	276,561	(85,926)
<u>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</u>			
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computer and Telecom Equipment	18,040	55,470	37,430
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse	18,600	18,600	-
Distribution & Monitoring	55,000	55,000	-
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50,000	60,673	10,673
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International Staff	10,000	10,000	-
National Staff	2,271	6,881	4,610
Regional Staff	6,281	2,429	(3,852)
National Society Staff	94,833	94,833	-
Consultant	13,000	13,000	-
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	14,350	30,710	16,360
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	21,116	36,500	15,384
Communications	8,000	8,000	-
Administration & General Expenses	18,522	23,843	5,321
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	48,142	48,142	-
Total Operational Needs	378,155	464,081	85,926
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	740,642	740,642	-
Less Available Resources		582,463	
Net Request	740,642	158,179	-

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPG002 - Papua New Guinea - Cyclone Guba

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/1
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRPG002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		740,642				740,642
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
American Red Cross		26,553				26,553
Australian Red Cross		18,724				18,724
British Government		25,047				25,047
Fiji Private Donors		519				519
Japanese Red Cross		38,136				38,136
Monaco Red Cross		8,315				8,315
Netherlands Red Cross		66,000				66,000
New Zealand Red Cross		8,212				8,212
Swedish Red Cross		175,700				175,700
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent		3,337				3,337
C1. Cash contributions		370,543				370,543
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross		19,300				19,300
New Zealand Government		84,800				84,800
USAID		108,000				108,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		212,100				212,100
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		582,643				582,643
D. Total Funding = B + C		582,643				582,643

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		582,643				582,643
E. Expenditure		-306,723				-306,723
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		275,920				275,920

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPG002 - Papua New Guinea - Cyclone Guba

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/1
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/12
Appeal	MDRPG002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		740,642					740,642	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	116,736		15,476				15,476	101,261
Clothing & textiles	36,900		15,353				15,353	21,547
Water & Sanitation	41,000		24,886				24,886	16,114
Utensils & Tools	71,463		59,368				59,368	12,096
Other Supplies & Services	110,737		39,735				39,735	71,002
Total Supplies	376,837		154,818				154,818	222,019
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	18,040							18,040
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	18,040							18,040
Transport & Storage								
Storage	18,600		1,751				1,751	16,849
Distribution & Monitoring	55,000		8,529				8,529	46,471
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50,000		23,199				23,199	26,801
Total Transport & Storage	123,600		33,479				33,479	90,121
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	9,750		3,084				3,084	6,666
Regionally Deployed Staff	6,281		2,303				2,303	3,979
National Staff	2,271		2,429				2,429	-158
National Society Staff	94,833		16,489				16,489	78,344
Consultants	13,000		3,322				3,322	9,678
Total Personnel	126,135		27,626				27,626	98,508
General Expenditure								
Travel	21,366		35,716				35,716	-14,350
Information & Public Relation			103				103	-103
Office Costs	12,522		3,599				3,599	8,924
Communications	8,000		3,397				3,397	4,603
Financial Charges			1,129				1,129	-1,129
Other General Expenses	6,000		212				212	5,789
Total General Expenditure	47,889		44,156				44,156	3,732
Programme Support								
Program Support	48,142		19,937				19,937	28,205
Total Programme Support	48,142		19,937				19,937	28,205
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			26,706				26,706	-26,706
Total Operational Provisions			26,706				26,706	-26,706
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	740,642		306,723				306,723	433,919
VARIANCE (C - D)			433,919				433,919	