

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° 4
31 July 2008

Period covered by this Operations Update: 20 February 2008 to 30 June 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: 76%; [<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 further extend the operations timeframe for an additional two months, until the end of September 2008, as additional time is needed to complete recovery activities outlined in the plan of action. In line with International Federation reporting standards, a Final Report will be made available by the end of December 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

Summary:

The formal emergency to Cyclone Guba flooding in November 2007 was completed in February 2008. In March, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS), with the assistance of the International Federation, focused their activities on recovery. Up to seven activity 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. These workshops were facilitated by the PNGRCS Oro interim branch and the International Federation's regional disaster management coordinator and a disaster management delegate. While most recovery efforts has ceased, additional time is required to complete the procurement of stocks and remaining capacity building efforts within the national society as outlined by the plan of action.

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.

The situation

Cyclone Guba lashed through the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea in mid-November 2007, resulting in widespread damage caused by localized landslides and flooding. Final figures now suggest that 149 people died in the disaster and the majority of the province's residents (approximately 162,000) were affected.

Shortly after the disaster, the government of Papua New Guinea declared a state of emergency which was lifted at 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. Exact numbers of displaced people have never been established, but the final estimates compiled by the provincial government indicate that 1,800 to 2,000 homes were completely destroyed and approximately 9,500 people were displaced. Infrastructure damage was severe, with over 56 bridges and culverts washed away or severely damaged. During the emergency phase, the provincial government classified nearly 58,000 people as requiring urgent assistance. In response to this need the government set up 41 care centres and 15 food distribution centres to provide necessary assistance.

The emergency phase was completed in January and efforts were focused on the early recovery assistance.

The recovery stage focused on seven major areas.

1. **Resettlement:** The IDP is the most significant vulnerable group. Addressing resettlement is being actively pursued; basic construction tools and seeds, seedlings and cuttings have been distributed and 40 fresh waterwells were installed by the Papua New Guinea Defence Forces. Oxfam International installed ten water systems, and Anglicare worked to improve food security.
2. **Infrastructure:** Approximately 90 per cent of infrastructural damage to roads, bridges and culverts have undergone temporary repairs, allowing for the restricted movement of people. Most of these are 'wet crossings' whereas the permanent repairs remain an enormously expensive undertaking. The reconstruction of the bridge across the Girua River between Popondetta and the airport at Girua is under consideration.
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, and supplies of seeds and implements were distributed following an assessment of the data available.
4. **Education:** The school year officially started on 28 February 2008. Many schools are now operating with damaged facilities. Repairs to school are on-going.
5. **Health:** Thanks to quick action by the Papua New Guinea government and non-governmental organizations, there were no major health problems.
6. **Welfare:** Assistance was provided to those most affected.
7. **Co-ordination and recovery management:** The Provincial Disaster Committee provided a focal point for all assistance.

Coordination and partnerships

The PNGRCS was at the forefront of the response to Cyclone Guba during the emergency stage and continuing into the recovery stage. On-the-ground activities were completed in March 2008. Support and co-ordination were provided by the International Federation's regional office in Fiji and partner national societies of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the National Disaster Committee, the Provincial Disaster Committee and the UN system available in-country. (see previous operations updates for specific details).

The Oro interim branch of the PNGRCS in Popondetta continues to liaise with the appropriate provincial government sectors in monitoring the situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As detailed in earlier operations updates, 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 (approximately CHF9,860), including two shipping containers, their contents, and an outboard motor 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 once the emergency phase had ceased.

At the headquarters-level, operations slowed down following the end of the distributions in mid-February 2008. The Port Moresby warehouse was re-stocked and re-organized, and a lessons-learned exercise was also conducted in Port Moresby. During this exercise, one of the major problems identified was a lack of understanding of the support required from within the Red Cross Red Crescent organization to successfully and efficiently mount a large response operation, which may require support from all branches as well as from the headquarters. To address this problem prior to the next cyclone season, the PNGRCS will bring all branches and their Board Members to Port Moresby in the last week of July 2008. At this meeting, a disaster management plan for the PNGRCS will be submitted, and all branches will be asked to commit their support. A copy of this agreed plan will be provided in the Final Report for this appeal.

Progress towards objectives

As stated in [Operations Update no. 3](#), following 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 included the procurement of relief stocks, vehicles and information and technology equipment to enhance the capacity of the national society. The latest revision includes provisions for the July meeting, as previously mentioned. No further distribution updates are supplied, as [Operations Update no. 3](#) contained data up till the end of distribution activities. The Final Report will contain final figures related to warehouse refurbishment as well as other pertinent details.

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 2007 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 ¹	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 ²	Assorted bags	493 bags	0
7	Cups		645	0
8	Plates		675	0
9	Spoons		645	0
10	Mosquito nets	Treated	2,292	0

¹ Nails in tool kits were provided by Oxfam.

² Clothes were donated by Caritas PNG and other donors.

11	Soya beans ³		223 cartons (12 ea.)	0
12	Rope	Roll: 6mm x 40 m	48 rolls	4 rolls
13	Blankets ⁴		33 pieces	0

Challenges:

The following table indicates the relief items successfully purchased for the Popondetta-based Oro Province Branch, for storage in the branch containers. The Oro Branch is still working with the provincial government to locate land for the Red Cross office, and working towards attaining full branch status in the near future.

Disaster relief items stocked in 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

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 International Federation's regional disaster management coordinator and a disaster management delegate, was carried out from 11 to 15 February 2008 for volunteers and new executive members. The training was followed by a wider-ranging 'lessons learned' workshop on 16 February. Some of the capital equipment as outlined in the last operations update (and listed below) have since been procured, including a generator, a dinghy with onboard motor, computers and photocopier. Further training for the new interim branch will take place after the disaster management contingency plan meeting organized by the national society's headquarters at the end of July 2008.

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

³ From miscellaneous donors.

⁴ From miscellaneous donors.

It is anticipated that the PNGRCS has the potential to develop a realistic disaster response capacity in Oro Province once all the initiatives as outlined above have been successfully carried out.

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.
- 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 (Head of disaster management unit), email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org; phone: + 60 3 9207 5724, 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.
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*[<Interim financial report attached below;
click here to return to the title page>](#)*

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPG002 - Papua New Guinea - Cyclone Guba

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/6
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2008/6
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</u>						
American Red Cross		26,553				26,553
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)		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
New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)		86,668				86,668
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)		175,700				175,700
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent		3,337				3,337
C1. Cash contributions		457,211				457,211
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
USAID		102,000				102,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		102,000				102,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		559,211				559,211
D. Total Funding = B + C		559,211				559,211
Appeal Coverage		76%				76%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		559,211				559,211
E. Expenditure		-519,872				-519,872
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		39,339				39,339

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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		47,801				47,801	68,936
Construction Materials			11,109				11,109	-11,109
Clothing & textiles	36,900		19,805				19,805	17,095
Water & Sanitation	41,000		24,886				24,886	16,114
Utensils & Tools	71,463		73,557				73,557	-2,093
Other Supplies & Services	110,737		44,804				44,804	65,933
Total Supplies	376,837		221,962				221,962	154,875
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles			26,197				26,197	-26,197
Computers & Telecom			11,144				11,144	-11,144
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	18,040							18,040
Others Machinery & Equipment			10,940				10,940	-10,940
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	18,040		48,281				48,281	-30,241
Transport & Storage								
Storage	18,600		5,950				5,950	12,650
Distribution & Monitoring	55,000		12,508				12,508	42,492
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50,000		36,375				36,375	13,625
Total Transport & Storage	123,600		54,833				54,833	68,767
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		29,225				29,225	-26,954
National Society Staff	94,833		23,997				23,997	70,836
Consultants	13,000		12,005				12,005	995
Total Personnel	126,135		70,613				70,613	55,521
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training			84				84	-84
Total Workshops & Training			84				84	-84
General Expenditure								
Travel	21,366		57,767				57,767	-36,401
Information & Public Relation			6,192				6,192	-6,192
Office Costs	12,522		8,417				8,417	4,106
Communications	8,000		8,646				8,646	-646
Professional Fees			1,984				1,984	-1,984
Financial Charges			4,772				4,772	-4,772
Other General Expenses	6,000		379				379	5,621
Total General Expenditure	47,889		88,158				88,158	-40,269
Programme Support								
Program Support	48,142		33,642				33,642	14,499
Total Programme Support	48,142		33,642				33,642	14,499
Services								
Services & Recoveries			2,298				2,298	-2,298
Total Services			2,298				2,298	-2,298
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	740,642		519,872				519,872	220,770
VARIANCE (C - D)			220,770				220,770	

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MDRPG002 - Papua New Guinea - Cyclone Guba

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2008/6
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IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Disaster Management							
PPG006	Cyclone Guba (ME)	0	559,211	-519,872	39,339	740,642	220,770
Sub-Total Disaster Management		0	559,211	-519,872	39,339	740,642	220,770
Total	Papua New Guinea - Cyclone	0	559,211	-519,872	39,339	740,642	220,770