



Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba

Emergency Appeal n° MDRPG002
Fact sheet n° 1; 14 December 2007
GLIDE n° FL-2007-00209-PNG

Appeal target (current): CHF 740,642 (USD 672,146 or EUR 452,390)

Appeal coverage: 49% [<click here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 26 November 2007 for CHF 740,642 (USD 672,146 or EUR 452,390) to assist 13,000 beneficiaries for 3 months.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 25,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.
- Operations Update no. 1 was issued on 5 December 2007.

The Disaster

Severe flooding from heavy rains brought on by Cyclone Guba inundated the provinces of Oro and Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea. Access to the province of Oro is difficult, as roads leading to the airport and Oro Bay were destroyed, cutting off the provincial capital of Popondetta and surrounding districts. Preliminary data released by the government of Papua New Guinea indicate that an estimated 53,000 people are adversely affected by the floods. While the province of Oro remains difficult to access and information is limited, the PNGRCS, with the assistance of the Federation and partner national societies, mobilized resources and aid immediately, in preparation for the relief effort to be undertaken in the coming days.

Operational update

- The PNGRCS, despite not having a local branch connection, responded to the disaster within 48 hours of the cyclone passing. PNGRCS are active today, providing immediate emergency humanitarian assistance, and will continue to provide aid for the next two months.
- Acquiring information and gaining access to affected villages remains an enormous challenge, but the PNGRCS and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, in partnership with other humanitarian non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Anglicare, AusAid, Care and World Vision, is nonetheless in the field meeting basic humanitarian needs for safe drinking water, first aid, and more.
- The Federation is actively supporting this response effort, and the generosity of donors will help us make our immediate and longer-term disaster relief possible.

Impact Summary:

- Current official fatality figures provided by government sources show 175 deaths, and this is expected to increase as the damage to food growing areas becomes apparent, and stored food supplies are consumed.
- Infrastructure damage, particularly to bridges in the province, has been wide spread.
- Many areas are only now reachable by helicopter; others are accessible by water, either from the sea or by river. The local communities are very resilient, but the floods caught all communities by surprise, allowing no or little time to implement the normal rainy season customary disaster preparations.

Response Summary:

- Response was initially led by the Australian Defence Forces, supported by the national and provincial disaster teams. A "pooled" dispersion system was used to deliver supplies, with the air assets of the ADF distributing items to sites identified by the Provincial Disaster Committee as in need.
- The Federation in-country and regional delegations are currently supporting PNGRCS response activities, together with partner national societies who have contributed staff to the response, including the French Red Cross from Vanuatu, the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC), and the Australian Red Cross (ARC).
- The ARC water and sanitation response unit provided a water purification unit which has been set up at the hospital in Popondetta, and is providing the town's only source of potable water.
- With PNGRCS support, water from Popondetta is also being distributed to villages nearby that can be accessed by road.
- Distributions following the departure of the ADF have followed three systems. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has been involved in two of them, a "pooled" distribution of supplies by small boat along the coast

and navigable rivers, and direct supply to displaced people in Popondetta and villages that can still be reached by road.

- The National Disaster Committee (NDC) has hired two helicopters to continue aerial distributions, and the national society will supply items to the NDC for distribution once a review of needs has been conducted.
- With support from the Federation and partner national societies, the distribution of relief items is ongoing. The items include basic hygiene materials, water containers, kitchen sets, plastic sheets to help with shelter, second-hand clothing, blankets and more.
- The PNGRCS has now set up a branch in Popondetta, and has over 200 volunteers assisting relief activities.
- Initial stocks from the PNGRCS warehouse that were deployed to Popondetta have depleted, but with funds received from donors, the national society has purchased an additional 1,000 household emergency kits in Lae for further distribution.

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:

- Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society: Ms. Regina Graham (Acting Secretary General), email: hqpngrcs@online.net.pg; phone: +675 325 2145.
- Country delegation in Papua New Guinea: Ms. Ene-mai Oks (Head of delegation), email: enemai.oks@ifrc.org, phone: +679 331 1855.
- Pacific regional delegation in Suva, Fiji: Mr. Frank Kennedy (Head of regional delegation), email: frank.kennedy@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128; Mr. Martin Blackgrove (Disaster management coordinator), email: martin.blackgrove@ifrc.org, 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. Igor Dmitryuk (Head of regional logistics unit), igor.dmitryuk@ifrc.org, mobile: +60 12 212 2407, 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.

For more details and news stories, photos and all operational updates visit:

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=133>