

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba

Emergency appeal n° MDRPG002
GLIDE n° [FL-2007-000209-PNG](#)
26 November 2007

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 740,642 (USD 672,146 or EUR 452,390) in cash, kind, or services to support the Papua New Guinea National Society (PNGRCS) to assist 13,000 beneficiaries for 3 months.

CHF 25,000 (USD 22,400 OR EUR 15,260) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Severe flooding from heavy rains that started on 13 November 2007 (brought on by Cyclone Guba) inundated the provinces of Oro and Milne Bay. Access to the province of Oro is only possible by boat or helicopter, as roads leading to the airport and Oro Bay have been 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. Up to 13,000 people have been made homeless, and over 70 deaths have been reported, with the numbers likely to rise further. 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, have mobilized resources and aid immediately, in preparation for the relief effort to be undertaken in the coming days.



Houses and shelters were destroyed by the floods, such as this one in the Oro Province.

Based on the situation, this Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the PNGRCS, and focuses on providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the following sectors, including water and sanitation, relief distributions and emergency shelter.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by mid-February 2008; a Final Report will be made available by mid-April May 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)
[here to link to a map of the affected area;](#) or
[here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Severe flooding has inundated the provinces of Oro and Milne Bay as a result heavy rains brought on by Cyclone Guba. Access to the province of Oro is only possible by boat or helicopter, as roads leading to the airport and Oro Bay have been destroyed, cutting off the provincial capital of Popondetta and surrounding districts. Limited stocks have resulted in basic food and fuel supplies being rationed, and the lack of potable water remains one of the biggest challenges faced.

Bridges and culverts leading to smaller towns and villages have been washed away, making assessment and assistance to the most vulnerable more difficult. Crops and homes have been devastated, and the security situation has deteriorated, resulting in army and defence forces mobilizing human resources to maintain law and order. Preliminary data released by the government of Papua New Guinea indicate that an estimated 53,000 people are adversely affected by the floods. Up to 13,000 people have been made homeless, and over 70 deaths have been reported, with the numbers likely to rise further. Reports have been received that the displaced have established two camps on the outskirts of Popondetta.



Swollen rivers devastated more than 12 important bridges and roads that linked towns to each other, Oro Bay and the airport.

A State of Emergency has been declared in the province of Oro, and the government of Papua New Guinea is in the process of requesting international assistance. The number of deaths has reportedly increased, and damaged roads and communication continue to hinder the efforts of the government and non-governmental organizations in providing aid.

Coordination and partnership

The PNGRCS is leading the relief response with the support of the Federation, several partner national societies and in close coordination with the United Nations disaster management team as well as the government's national disaster council (NDC). An emergency response coordination centre in Port Moresby is being established and will include the Federation, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the NDC. Several partner aid agencies are coordinating their efforts to ensure stocks are available once a delivery pipeline into the affected area can be established.

The PNGRCS has requested Federation assistance to support the response operation. The Australian Red Cross (ARC) will provide a water and sanitation emergency response team, equipped with water purification equipment to meet the critical need for clean water. Partner national society support is also being provided by the French Red Cross (FRC) with a water and sanitation engineer from Vanuatu, and both New Zealand Red Cross and other national societies in the Pacific region have made staff available if required.

The Federation regional disaster delegate is coordinating the response with assistance from the Federation Zone office and the Asia Pacific disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur. The Federation's country and regional delegations have been providing support to the national society in coordination and relief activities. Coordination meetings with partners such as the United Nations, the Salvation Army and World Vision have been ongoing. The ICRC is present in Papua New Guinea; the Federation and the ICRC will collaborate in this operation as needed.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

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, have mobilized resources and aid immediately, in preparation for the relief effort to be undertaken in the coming days.

The Federation released disaster response emergency funds (DREF) amounting to CHF 25,000 on 20 November 2007. The PNGRCS has deployed all of their relief supplies, which includes 700 tarpaulins and 800 water containers, to Oro Bay Port by boat. Currently, DREF has been used to charter a small freighter for the delivery of relief supplies from the PNGRCS warehouses on the night of 20 November. The supplies arrived on 22 November and will be distributed shortly.

In addition, the PNGRCS is sourcing and stockpiling additional supplies in their warehouse in Port Moresby and preparing this stock for shipment, by air or sea. The PNGRCS is also making preparations to mobilize emergency volunteers in the nearest branches for assessment, distribution and monitoring activities. The volunteers will also have to be transported to the affected area.

The Australian and French Red Cross and the Federation delegation staff will assist with the emergency assessment and relief activities. The Federation's regional disaster management coordinator will continue to provide assistance to the operation.

A helicopter flight chartered by the National Disaster Council has been cancelled due to poor weather and the deteriorating security situation in Popondetta. Meanwhile, the ARC has already deployed the water and sanitation/logistics team leader who arrived in Port Moresby on Tuesday. The water and sanitation equipment deployed by the ARC, including 12,000 water containers and a water purification unit, have arrived safely as well. The team leader is currently co-ordinating disaster response with the PNGRCS from the Federation's office, and is being supported by two additional water and sanitation delegates from the ARC. The FRC has deployed a water and sanitation delegate in Vanuatu to provide further assistance, and the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) have provided a media delegate to support the operation. The NZRC also offered further human resources support as needed.

The needs

As a result of the cyclone and subsequent floods, up to 13,000 people have been displaced and have moved to the provincial capitol of Popondetta in search of shelter and assistance. Red Cross relief activities will target the displaced communities in the initial stages by providing emergency shelter, potable water and non-food relief items such as blankets and sleeping mats. While addressing the needs of displaced groups, assessments will be undertaken in the more remote rural areas.

The proposed operation

Overall objective: To provide emergency disaster response services to an estimated 13,000 of the most vulnerable population affected by the floods in Oro Province, Papua New Guinea. This will include relief distributions of basic non-food items, water and sanitation as well as emergency shelter relief.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: Ensure basic non-food items are distributed to the displaced population in Popondetta.

- Develop beneficiary selection strategy and registration system.
- Conduct rapid assessments prior to distribution of basic non-food items.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to selected beneficiaries.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop a transition strategy for operations.

The PNGRCS staff and volunteers will conduct relief operations for emergency needs and complete capacity assessments, with support from the Federation. A beneficiary selection strategy and registration system will be developed to deliver the intended assistance, and 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.

Water and sanitation

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

- Mobilize water and sanitation team from ARC with FRC support.
- Conduct an assessment of the situation.
- Develop an implementation plan.
- Mobilize mass water distribution for camps in Popondetta.

The ARC's emergency water and sanitation team will be deployed to Popondetta as soon as practicable. The actual site for the water purification unit, with a capacity of 5,000 litres an hour, will be decided after the initial assessment has taken place.

Emergency shelter

Objective: Ensure emergency shelter is provided to targeted affected rural populations.

- 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.

The PNGRCS is currently putting together emergency shelter kits, including tarpaulin, nails, hammers and poles. While very basic, these will be sufficient for initial emergency shelter needs. Further assistance may be required, but will depend upon the results of the findings of assessment teams.

Capacity building

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

- 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.

Logistics

The PNGRCS manages a warehouse in Port Moresby which will be utilized as a staging/preparation centre prior to despatch to Popondetta. A similar centre will be set up in Lae if required. In Popondetta, a logistics hub will be set up by PNGRCS in Oro Bay Port, with assistance from the logistician included in the water and sanitation emergency team, as well as the French Red Cross staff. Local procurement in both Lae and Port Moresby will be done by PNGRCS as required.

The Federation's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur will provide the required technical support. If requested the mobilisation table will be prepared and published on DMIS (and mobilisation process coordinated through the RLU)

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Increased media interest has taken place since the floods hit almost five days ago. The New Zealand Red Cross has sent a media delegate to assist with communications, concurrently with media support from the Federation's media department in Geneva. This will help ensure a consistent flow of timely and accurate information between the field and stakeholders, which is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations.

Capacity of the national society

Papua New Guinea is the most disaster-prone part of the Pacific, but the capacity of the PNGRCS is limited. There is no branch in Popondetta, which has limited the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's ability to assess and respond as quickly as hoped. There are nine branches spread through the country, with the nearest branch being Lae. The PNGRCS have two dedicated disaster management staff, and a field assessment and coordination (FACT) trained volunteer available to assist. Technical support is obtained from the Federation delegation and other regional and international Federation resources.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation country delegation comprises a head of delegation and national staff covering administration and finance, who assist the PNGRCS to continuously monitor the situation. The disaster management delegate from the Pacific regional delegation is providing ongoing coordination support, and will be traveling to Papua New Guinea in the coming days. In addition, the Asia Pacific disaster management unit will provide assistance as required. The in-country and regional delegations are also well-supported by partner national societies such as the ARC, NZRC and FRC.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[<Emergency Appeal budget and map below:
click here to return to the title page>](#)

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: Mr. Gima Kilma (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, 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: ILir Caushaj, Regional Logistics Coordinator, telephone: +603 2161 0892; e-mail: ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org.
- 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.

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Papua New Guinea : Cyclone Guba

MDRPG002

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	315,000
Water & Sanitation	22,500
Other Supplies & Services	82,500
Total Relief Needs	420,000

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Computers & Telecom Equipment	25,000
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TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	40,000
Distribution & Monitoring	60,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	50,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	40,000
National Staff	20,000

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	15,000
Office running costs	8,500
Communication Costs	8,000
Other General Expenses	6,000

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)	48,142
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Total Operational Needs	320,642
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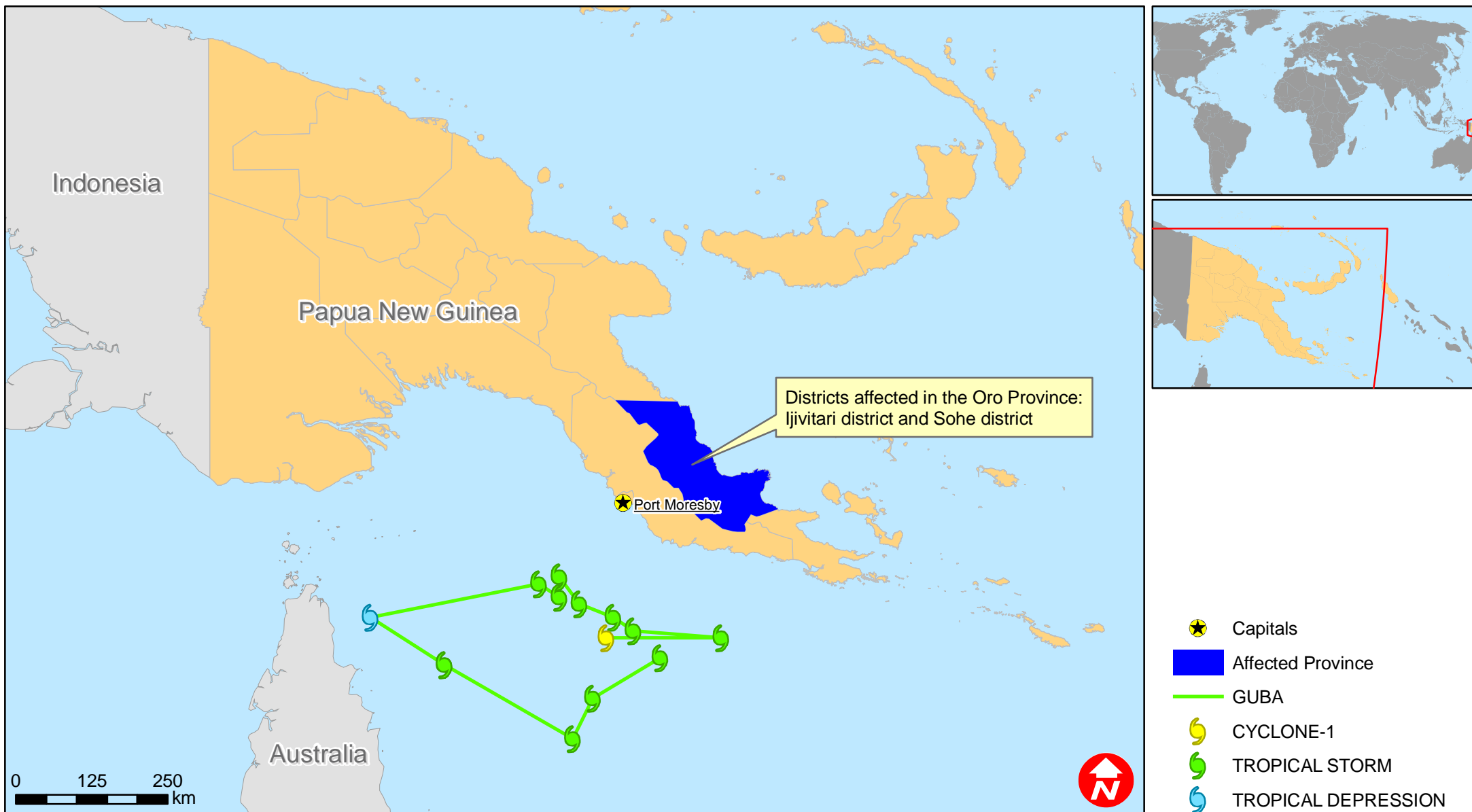
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	740,642
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Less Available Resources

Net Request	740,642
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Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, UNISYS, Federation