

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Papua New Guinea: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPG003  
GLIDE n° **FL-2008-000243-PNG**  
15 December 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 190,000 (USD 162,500 or EUR 120,360) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 15,450 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Floods caused by abnormal sea swells have hit the provinces of New Ireland, Manus, Sandaun, East Sepik, Morobe, Madang, Milne Bay and the autonomous region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. Preliminary assessments indicate that up to 80,300 people are affected and 416 houses destroyed.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) responded to the disaster quickly with distributions of the national society's pre-positioned relief stocks in the provinces of New Ireland, Sandaun and the autonomous region of Bougainville. Staff and volunteers were also quickly mobilized to conduct rapid assessments and support in distributions in all provinces as soon as possible.

This DREF aims to support the national society with the procurement of non-food relief items for further distribution and assistance to the vulnerable. The funds will also be used for the replenishment of disaster preparedness stocks, other related costs for the operation such as logistics and monitoring as well as capacity building for the national society.

[<click here for the DREF budget, or here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected areas>](#)

## The situation

Abnormal sea swells have resulted in floods in the provinces of New Ireland, Manus, Sandaun, East Sepik, Morobe, Madang, Milne Bay and the autonomous region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. Various reports from the media as well as preliminary assessments carried out by the provincial disaster centres, Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and non-governmental organizations including Oxfam indicate that the total number of people affected stands at approximately 80,300, with up to 416 homes destroyed. The table below details preliminary assessment results available to date:

Province	Approximate number of people affected	Houses destroyed
New Ireland	32,000	140
Manus	20,000	Not available
Sandaun	1,000	69, approx. 20 damaged
East Sepik	20,000 (estimate)	Not available

Autonomous region of Bougainville	5,000	81
Morobe	1,000	80
Madang	300	46
Milne Bay	1,000	Not available
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,300</b>	<b>416</b>

#### **New Ireland province:**

Preliminary assessments indicate that the Bol health centre was damaged, and up to 140 houses were reported to be destroyed in different parts of the province. Affected villages include Lossu, Tandis, Fangalawa, Maramakas, Konos, Lamekot, Djaul Island, Pantegom, Namatanai, Loloba, Katangan, Bumbuc, Pentagin, Silom, Lemeris, Kanabu, Dabinol, Bulu, Bol, Nusa Island, Tench Island, Managai, Himau, Palm, Lalaibina, Panasau, Fisowa and Nonopai.

#### **Manus province:**

The Manus provincial disaster centre estimates that up to 20,000 people have been affected by the sea swells, as many people live on 24 outer islands, some which have no communications infrastructure. The provincial administrator indicates that up to seven rapid assessment teams, of which the PNGRCS is a part of, will be mobilized as soon as possible to carry out assessments.

#### **Sandaun province:**

Vanimo and Aitape towns as well as nearby villages have experienced flooding from the swelling seas, with 69 houses destroyed to date while several others including the hospital were flooded. Up to three families were evacuated, and approximately 1,000 people in the province are affected. Assessments are currently ongoing and further information will be shared as soon as it is available.

#### **East Sepik province:**

Communication lines are down in the province but informal reports indicate that up to 20,000 people may be affected by the disaster.

#### **Autonomous region of Bougainville province:**

Preliminary assessments and information from the provincial disaster centre indicate that 33 houses were destroyed on Mortlock island. Up to three houses were destroyed on Cateret islands, and five houses destroyed in Inus village in Tinputz district. A further 35 houses were reportedly destroyed with an estimated 1,000 people affected in Manob village on mainland Bougainville. Up to five houses were destroyed and nine others partly damaged in Elisa island. Fresh water sources in the province have been contaminated as well.

#### **Morobe province:**

Extensive damages have been reported from the provincial disaster centre in Morobe. Current information indicates that up to 1,000 people have been affected, with a total of 80 houses destroyed. Affected districts include Wasu (22 houses destroyed), Sialum (11 houses) and Siassi (47 houses).

#### **Madang province:**

Up to 300 people are reportedly displaced, with 64 houses destroyed. While there have been no deaths or casualties, up to ten villages are affected to date.

#### **Milne Bay province:**

There is currently limited information from the field, but approximately 1,000 people (200 families) are estimated to be displaced.

The national disaster centre has yet to declare a national emergency, but is monitoring the situation closely as more and clearer assessment reports come in from the affected provinces.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) is currently working closely with both national and provincial disaster centres to carry out assessments and map out the needs of the affected and coordinate their rapid response. In addition, PNGRCS is also working with other non-governmental actors in the field including Oxfam and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) to ensure coordination and minimize duplication of efforts.

Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, PNGRCS is leading in current assessments and immediate relief distributions through pre-positioned stocks. The International Federation's regional office in Suva has

made available its support and services to the national society, and the Asia Pacific Zone office in Kuala Lumpur is assisting on International response coordination and with additional technical support if so required. In addition, the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies have also come forward with offers to assist the national society if needed.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

All PNGRCS branches in the affected provinces have been activated, with staff and volunteers mobilized in the provinces of New Ireland, Sandaun, Manus, Madang, Milne Bay and the autonomous region of Bougainville. Staff and/or volunteers will be deployed to East Sepik and Morobe provinces as soon as possible.

In New Ireland province, the PNGRCS branch have an operations desk and health radio network staffed by volunteers to monitor information from health centres and aid posts in the province. The branch is working in coordination with the provincial disaster committee. Assessments are currently ongoing, and non-food items such as tarpaulins and jerry cans have been mobilized from its branch disaster preparedness container for distributions. At the time of writing, branch stocks have been completely distributed, together with 2,700 collapsible jerry cans provided by the Australian Red Cross. Additional stocks from the national headquarters are in the process of being deployed to the province. A member of the disaster management unit from the national society's headquarters in Port Moresby has been deployed to assist the branch in assessment and response efforts. To date, up to 647 families have been reached with non-food items, and an additional 853 are targeted for further assistance.

In the province of Sandaun, up to 47 branch volunteers have been mobilized and are currently working with the provincial disaster committee to conduct assessments. The relief items from the disaster management container in Vanimo have been mobilized, and a staff from PNGRCS headquarters was deployed to help with the assessments and provide clear analysis of what additional support is needed. Additional relief stock for 200 families are being deployed from headquarters as pre-positioned stock in the province has been exhausted.

The Red Cross branch in Manus is a part of the seven rapid assessments teams mobilized by the provincial disaster committee. A request has been sent from the branch to headquarters requesting for relief items including water containers and mosquito nets as well as funds to support operations. Transportation for distribution of relief items are being coordinated with the provincial disaster committee.

The PNGRCS does not have a branch or volunteers established in East Sepik province. However, the national society has coordinated with Oxfam, a partner non-governmental organization with presence in the province, to share information based on preliminary assessments carried out by the three Oxfam volunteers on the ground. A staff member from the PNGRCS headquarters was deployed on 15 December 2008 to support in assessments and determine needs which can be addressed by the national society and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

In Madang province, two disaster management volunteers are conducting assessments in Bogia district, which was reportedly affected by the sea swells. Preliminary reports say that gardening and building tools as well as food gardens have been destroyed, and water sources have been contaminated. Relief items for 300 people have been activated at headquarters level. The national society plans to procure the balance of items needed locally.

In the autonomous region of Bougainville, PNGRCS volunteers are conducting assessments. The national society's headquarters are disbursing funds to support the branch to mobilize transport to carry out relief distributions, including food rations provided by the provincial disaster committee and partner non-governmental organizations such as Care International and World Vision.

The International Federation's regional office in Suva is supporting the national society to mobilize and coordinate Movement support. The Asia Pacific Zone office based in Kuala Lumpur has additional technical support in disaster management, logistics, finance and reporting on standby with additional assistance should the national society require it. In addition, both the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies have offered their assistance to the PNGRCS.

## The needs

The national society has exhausted its stock of pre-positioned relief items in its branches and at headquarters. Funding support is required to purchase additional non-food relief items locally for further

distribution to beneficiaries affected by the disaster, as well as the replenishment of its disaster preparedness stocks used in the initial distributions. Funds will also be used to help facilitate transportation, warehousing and personnel costs to carry out the operations.

In addition, communications remain an ongoing challenge in the country. Support has been requested and kindly agreed to by the New Zealand Red Cross to assist the PNGRCS in setting up an emergency radio network to facilitate more efficient communications.

## The proposed operation

The proposed plan of action below is based on preliminary information gathered, taking into consideration the urgent needs of beneficiaries and capacity of the national society. This proposal can and will be amended as necessary with further information from assessments currently being carried out in the affected provinces.

Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross have bilateral agreements with PNGRCS to stand by with emergency water provision for the affected areas. The Australian Red Cross have a mobile water purification unit and the New Zealand Red Cross have a desalination unit ready for deployment, pending further information from the national society.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: 15,000 beneficiaries have the necessary immediate support to meet their basic needs of non-food items.**

#### Activities planned:

- National society to conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

### Capacity building

**Objective: Improved capacity of Papua New Guinea Red Cross volunteers, branches and headquarter capacity to manage disaster relief operations.**

#### Activities planned:

- On-the-job coaching for operation managers.
- Field assessment of beneficiary feedback.
- Inclusion of Red Cross volunteer and manager inputs from the operation to the final report.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:frank.kennedy@ifrc.org), phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128.
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia:
  - Jagan Chapagain (Deputy head of Asia Pacific Zone), email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org), phone: +6 03 9207 5700
  - Disaster management unit: Mr. Heikki Väättäminen (Regional disaster response delegate), email: [heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org](mailto:heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org); phone: + 60 3 9207 5729, mobile: +60 12 230 7895
  - Regional logistics unit: Mr. Jeremy Francis (Regional logistics coordinator), [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org), mobile: +60 12 298 9752, fax: +60 3 2168 8573
  - Resource mobilization & PMER unit: Ms. Penny Elghady (RM & PMER coordinator), email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org), phone: +60 3 9207 5771
  - For pledges of funding: [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

*<DREF budget and map of affected areas below; click here to return to the title page>*

**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
Papua New Guinea : Floods

Annex 1  
MDRPG003

**RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	45,259
Clothing & Textiles	31,417
Water & Sanitation	9,768
Utensils & Tools	17,803
Other Supplies & Services	14,945
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>119,192</b>

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Computers & Telecom Equipment	2,600
-------------------------------	-------

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	561
Distribution & Monitoring	41,104
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,732

**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Office running costs	4,095
Communication Costs	1,683
Other General Expenses	1,683

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	12,350
-------------------------	--------

---

<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>70,808</b>
--------------------------------	---------------

---

<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>190,000</b>
--	----------------

---

Less Available Resources

---

<b>Net Request</b>	<b>190,000</b>
--------------------	----------------

---



# Papua New Guinea: Floods

