

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: MANAM VOLCANO ERUPTION

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 03/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. DREF funds up to CHF 50,000 have been allocated. Further updates will be issued as required.

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The situation

Manam Island, with an area of 83 square kilometres, lies 15 kilometres off the PNG coast near the town of Bogia in Madang province, and comprises 16 villages and some 9,600 inhabitants. Volcanic activity on Manam – ongoing since October – increased in intensity in November, affecting all 16 villages. This prompted provincial authorities to raise the alert to phase three and to undertake the (voluntary) evacuation of the island's 9,600 inhabitants to the mainland from 27 November.

Explosive eruptions occurred 10 to 12 November, causing serious damage to previously unaffected tracts of land on both sides of the island. The Rabaul Volcanological Observatory reported that on Tuesday, 23 November, the volcano propelled ash some 10 kilometres high and threw out pieces of debris measuring up to eight centimetres in diameter. The immediate threat of a large-scale eruption appears to have eased for now, however, and the alert has been downgraded to level two.



The evacuation is approximately 75 percent complete, with just two villages left on the island: Baliau (1520 people) and Boisa island (700 people). Both groups are reluctant to leave until the government provides clarification on their future and some guarantee on services that will be provided.

Volcanic ash has caused extensive damage to food crops, and in the worst affected areas, crops have been completely destroyed. Ash levels as much as 50 centimetres deep had settled on some areas at the time the evacuation began, and the weight of the sodden ash deposits led to the collapse of a number of traditionally built houses after rains. Supplies of adequate food and clean water are still problems for the people remaining on the island, and it appears unlikely at this stage that the majority of evacuees would return to Manam in the short term.



Three camps or care centres have been established on the mainland. Additionally, a number of evacuees have moved into mainland villages, often where they have family among the permanent population (see table below for numbers). Local newspapers have reported on tensions between authorities and local landowners, who have allegedly demanded the evacuees' stay be limited to six months. Red Cross personnel report there are an estimated 5271 people in the care centres.

The Australian Red Cross water and sanitation delegate who assessed the three original camps found six wells used for cooking and drinking water and another seven used only for washing. All wells were within easy access of the camps' inhabitants.

Care centre	Population
Potsdam	3068
Asurumba	1448
Mangem	755
Village	
Dagui	426
Tobenham	1028
Bonaputa	425
Bogia	725
Total	7875

The Department of Health have already commenced health awareness activities, establishing a health centre in each of the original camps. Diarrhoea, remarkably absent in the main camps until now, has begun to be reported in Asarumba. A number of sources, including the Red Cross field visit team and government authorities, indicate malaria is a growing problem. There has also been a reported case of measles in one of the camps, with the child in question placed in isolation.

An Australian Red Cross water and sanitation delegate, who undertook an assessment of the three main camps on 4-10 December, identified a lack of latrines as a potential health

threat. Since that time, residents of Asarumba and Potsdam camps have begun to dig their own latrines; Mangem camp however lacked the tools with which to do so. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC) has therefore decided to support this activity by providing tools and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience from Asarumba camp.

Red Cross and Red Crescent actions

A joint PNGRC and Federation assessment team visited the island on 19-21 November, followed by a further field visit on 2-5 December and an assessment by the Australian Red Cross water and sanitation delegate on 4-10 December.

In the initial period of response, the PNG Red Cross, with the assistance of the Federation's PNG delegation and in coordination with PNG authorities, undertook to distribute water containers that store cooking and drinking water and tarpaulins for temporary shelter to 1500 families affected by the volcano. At the time of writing, 2843 tarpaulins and 497 water containers had been distributed.

Relief item	Distributed to date	Target
Tarpaulin	2843	3000
Jerrycan 20 litres	497	2000



A permanent Red Cross presence established in each camp, with office and storage facilities in the central camp (Asuramba), transmits information by satellite phone between the field, the Madang branch of the PNG Red Cross and PNG Red Cross headquarters. The visibility of Red Cross activities is extremely high and there is instant recognition of Red Cross personnel within the camps. The effectiveness of the Red Cross volunteer base is reflected by the fact that several other agencies, including Oxfam and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have enlisted the services of PNGRC volunteers to assist in their fieldwork.

Red Cross volunteers trained in community-based self-reliance skills have been identified from most of the villages on the island. Those volunteers have formed three teams, each comprising two men and one woman, and in addition, there is at least one PNGRC volunteer in each of the three newly established sites of Tobenham, Dagui and Bogia. The volunteers have undertaken distribution of relief items, collection of data regarding the situation in camps, as well as basic health dissemination regarding water, sanitation and hygiene.

Discussions have also commenced between PNG Red Cross and UNICEF on a proposal for UNICEF to provide training for Red Cross volunteers in the delivery of community health education. The PNG government has announced that it is setting up an authority to look into the needs of the settlers at present and in the long run. PNGRC will work closely with the authorities in this.

Coordination

Consultation and coordination has continued with all stakeholders, from international donors and national as well as provincial authorities, to camp volunteers and beneficiaries. It includes but is not limited to the national disaster management committee, provincial authorities and other agencies like UNICEF, Care Australia, World Vision, Oxfam and PNG Council of Churches.

The PNG Red Cross has received both domestic and international support for ongoing relief efforts:

- The Federation released CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and is on standby should a further allocation be required.
- A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 has been made.
- The Australian aid agency, AusAID, has pledged support through Australian Red Cross to the value of approximately AUD70,000.
- The New Zealand Red Cross has committed NZD10,000 in support for the replenishment of stocks of relief items.
- The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, will supply water purification tablets the PNG Red Cross will distribute.

In consultation with local and national authorities and other stakeholders, the PNG RC has drawn up a plan of action and budget for the next phase of the operation. This will focus on ensuring improved access to water and sanitation for all evacuees as well as continued distribution of relief items. In addition, PNG Red Cross volunteers within each camp will carry out basic health education activities in close coordination with the Department of Health. A basic outline plan of action and the provisional budget are detailed in the annex below.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

[Plan of action below, click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)

ANNEX 1

The proposed operation

The report from the Australian Red Cross water and sanitation delegate suggests water availability at the three original camps could be ensured with a relatively small-scale intervention, primarily carried out by camp residents themselves. Water at the sites can be accessed via relatively shallow wells (depths of roughly three metres), a number of which exist in each camp. These wells have generally been dug within 100m of the shore and the delegate was advised that the wells had never run dry. Materials for such work were not available in Mangem camp, but PNGRC will provide them.

Existing water sources need to be protected and improved and the number of wells increased to cater for expanding camp populations. Placement of tanks for spring and rainwater storage in two camps has also been recommended. The need for jerrycans for safe storage of collected water remains, as does the need for water purification tablets to ensure the safety of water. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has agreed to provide enough water purification tablets to last two weeks.

PNGRCS is aware of the importance of getting young people involved in activities in the camps to give them a sense of responsibility. Young men and women will be mobilised and trained in a series of workshops on basic service delivery and administration of relief distribution as well as HIV/AIDS outreach and health awareness. This training has begun and will continue into January.

All of the activities described below fall within the scope of existing programmes of the PNGRC, and the society envisages existing staff and volunteers would carry them out.

1. Shelter

Objective: Provision of tarpaulins for temporary shelter

The procurement and distribution is in progress and expected to end in January 2005.

Planned activities:

- Immediate term: continue to distribute tarpaulins.
- Medium term: procurement of village resettlement packs for construction of bush-material houses (if government approval for long-term settlement is forthcoming).
- Distribution of above.

2. Water and sanitation

Objective: Provision of water containers and purification tablets to ensure access to clean water.

Planned activities:

- Continue distribution of 20-litre jerrycans to evacuees.
- Distribution of water purifications tablets (supplied by UNICEF) for two weeks.
- Dissemination on the need to boil and decant drinking water.
- Dissemination on the need to protect water sources.
- Procurement of construction materials (shovels, crowbars, 44-gallon drums) for construction of pit latrines and wells (construction to be undertaken in collaboration with Health Department).
- Distribution of above materials.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

3. Health and hygiene promotion

Objective: Support Health Department activities through dissemination on basic hygiene, safe water and HIV/AIDS.

Planned activities:

- Organise health volunteers in the affected community from within PNGRC's trained CBSR volunteer base.
- Orientation on water, health education and HIV/AIDS activities – basic health dissemination has already started. The January workshop for local volunteers will further develop their knowledge and skills.
- Conduct community-based health awareness.
- Source health awareness materials (usually obtained from Department of Health).
- Distribute above.
- Conduct outreach for HIV/AIDS awareness.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Four community-based disaster management

Planned activities:

- Not considered in initial stages. After six months, however, mapping of hazards could be conducted. Depends greatly on whether evacuees remain at the camps.

[Click here to go to preliminary budget](#)

PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY [\(click to return to plan\)](#)

TYPE	VALUE		DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	CHF	PNGK				
	0.3500					
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>						
TARPS.3.6 x 5.4	42,000	120,000	120,000	0	0	0
WATER CONTAINERS. 20Liters	14,000	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
Other Tools	1,400	4,000	4,000	0	0	0
Total	56,000	160,000	164,000	0	0	0
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE HIRE</u>						
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	5,950	17,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	0
VEHICLE HIRE	11,305	32,300	10,600	11,350	10,350	0
TOTAL	17,255	49,300	17,600	16,350	15,350	0
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
EXPATRIATE STAFF	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATIONAL STAFF	9,177	26,220	18,000	4,110	4,110	0
TOTAL	9,177	26,220	18,000	4,110	4,110	0
<u>ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL EXPENSE</u>						
TRAVEL & RELATED EXPENSES - RELIEF ASSISTANT	24,759	70,740	41,700	18,620	10,420	0
INFORMATION EXPENSES	0	0	0	0	0	0
RELIEF ASSISTANT WORKSHOP	4,060	11,600	6,000	4,050	1,550	0
TOTAL	28,819	82,340	47,700	22,670	11,970	0
TOTALS OPERATIONAL NEEDS	55,251	157,860	247,300	43,130	31,430	0
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	111,251	317,860		0	0	
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-) - AUSAID	-54,250	-155,000				
NET REQUESTED	57,001	162,860				

* Village resettlement packs do not appear in this budget due to the uncertainty of the government's position, but if required the estimated cost would total CHF 74,000.