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Information bulletin Papua New Guinea: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Red Cross Society will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.



Papua New Guinea Red Cross volunteers packing water containers to assist people affected by the floods.

The situation

Oro Province

Heavy seasonal rains resulted in widespread flooding in Oro Province between September 2011 and January 2012. Areas within the province that were impacted include Mamba, Gira, Eia, Kokoda and Oro Bay. Some 11,125 people across Oro Province were affected.

More recently, a series of low pressure systems originating in the Coral Sea resulted in widespread rainfall across Papua New Guinea causing flooding in many locations, resulting in damaged houses, loss of stock and market gardens. Access to some affected areas is difficult and communications are very poor.

Sandaun Province – December 2011

In Maiwan 3,000 people experienced flooding but due to the remoteness of the location and poor communications, it was not until January 2012 before PNG Red Cross was made aware of the event.

Morobe Province – January 2012

In the Mumeng local level government area, flooding due to extensive rainfall at the end of January affected 691 people (133 families) in Patep village. Of these people, 467 relocated to higher ground, and 133 lost all goods, houses and livelihoods. Further rainfall occurred in February, which affected another three families from Pullet village. The road to Bulolo town was impassable, but work has commenced to clear the road.

Communities in Markham also experienced flooding but the community had the capacity to cope without extra help.

Western Highland Province – January 2012

In the Jimi local level government area, there is flooding as a result of significant rainfall, affecting up to 2,000 people. The area was difficult to access due to rains. A team was deployed on 8 February to undertake a needs assessment. The assessment indicated minor landslides but no further action was required from PNG Red Cross.

NCD Province – January 2012

In Morata, Talai and Siraka, the flooding affected 1,000 people.

Central Province – January 2012

In the Angabanga local level government area, the floods affected six villages. Most food gardens were underwater. Needs included mosquito nets, water containers, health and hygiene promotion, disaster preparedness awareness and first aid. Seventeen households (96 people) required assistance.

Gulf Province – January 2012

Malalaua and Popo is experiencing flooding but it is unknown how many people are affected. Volunteers are waiting for flood waters to subside so they can access the site for assessments. Secondary sources such as Ministry of Health Centres and local organizations will be contacted for local information.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Oro Province

PNG Red Cross has undertaken assessments and provided emergency relief items including hygiene packs, mosquito nets, blankets, tarpaulins and water containers as well as providing hygiene promotion and first aid.

Red Cross distributed 1,468 water containers, 111 blankets, 1,096 mosquito nets, 1,985 female hygiene kits, six packs of cooking utensils, and 12 sets of gardening tools to restore household gardens and assist with the clean up, as well as 18 tarpaulins.

A water purification unit donated by Australian Red Cross after Cyclone Guba in 2007 was activated for five days in Oro Bay to supply clean drinking water to 1,333 people.

Sandaun Province – December 2011

The Sandaun Red Cross interim branch is assessing needs and potential responses alongside the Aitape Catholic Diocese.

Morobe Province – January 2012

In Mumeng, Red Cross conducted an assessment in 30 January and another on 12 February. Red Cross has distributed five water containers, 23 tarpaulins and 32 mosquito nets. Further distributions are planned for another 55 water containers, 37 tarpaulins and 118 mosquito nets.

Western Highland Province – January 2012

In the Jimi local level government area, the area was difficult to access due to rains. A team was deployed on 8 February to undertake needs assessment, which indicated minor landslides with no further action required from PNG Red Cross.

NCD Province – January 2012

Morata: Red Cross volunteers undertook an assessment and found 28 families in need of assistance. Red Cross distributed 28 water containers, 45 mosquito nets, one tarpaulins, 192 pieces of soap, 60 sanitary packs and 28 towels (354 items in total).

Talai: Red Cross distributed 10 water containers, three mosquito nets, 10 tarpaulins, 96 pieces of soap, 60 sanitary packs and 20 towels (226 items in total).

Siraka: Red Cross distributed 66 water containers, 66 mosquito nets, 22 tarpaulins, 280 pieces of soap, 180 sanitary packs and 44 towels (666 items in total).

Central Province – January 2012

Angabanga: The Red Cross local branch assessed the affected area, and found the flood waters had receded but water was still lying on the ground. Red Cross is finalizing a beneficiary list but is expected to distribute water, hygiene kits and mosquito nets and conduct health and hygiene promotion on 23 February.

Gulf Province – January 2012

Malalaua and Popo: Volunteers are waiting for flood waters to subside so they can access the site for assessments. Secondary sources such as Ministry of Health Centres and local organizations will be contacted for more local information.

The IFRC sent an Operational Manager from the regional office in Suva to support PNG Red Cross responses to all current disasters.

Australian Red Cross sent a communications delegate to support PNG Red Cross's media, communications and reporting needs.

The New Zealand Red Cross sent two information technology and telecommunications delegates to support PNG Red Cross in resolving their technical issues on getting connected.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



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