

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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 AND LANGILA VOLCANOES

4 August 2005

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA012/2005; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 21 June – 21 July, 2005; Appeal coverage: 50%; ([Click here to go directly to the attached contributions list](#)) ([click here for live contributions list available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 21 June 2005 for CHF 471,000 (USD 377,298 or EUR 304,404) for six months to assist 11,500 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 140,000; reimbursed CHF 60,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 235,500 (USD 186,247 or EUR 151,255)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Pacific Regional Appeal 05AA062](#)

Operational Summary: Following a series of volcanic eruptions in Manam and Mt. Langila, more than 15,000 people have been severely affected. Internally displaced persons (IDP) from Manam island are living in formal and informal care centres, and the government has no immediate plans to return them to the island. Preparations for the construction of medium-term housing using local materials are now well underway.

The Kimbe Vulcanological Observatory has reassessed the situation and concluded that the Mt Langila volcano no longer poses an immediate threat to the local population at this stage. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) has distributed relief items, including much needed water containers, to those affected by the earlier eruptions and continues to monitor the situation.

The initial response to the appeal has been very encouraging, and it is hoped that the proposed operation will be fully funded. The Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), through the Australian Red Cross Society (ARCS), has contributed CHF 170,000 to the appeal. Other major contributors include the Swedish Red Cross Society and Japanese Red Cross Society. A proposal for additional funds has also been submitted to the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

The volcanic activity in the areas of Manam and Mt. Langila has been fluctuating between weak to moderately low, with occasional high activity levels over the past two months. There has been a general trend of decreasing volcanic intensity and magnitude over the last two weeks however. The Kimbe Volcanological Observatory has reassessed the situation and concluded that the volcanoes do not pose potential dangers to the local population at this stage.

At present, the volcanic activity in Mt. Langila is emitting occasional white smoke. The winds have also changed, blowing ashes in the southeast direction toward the villages of Vem and Galegale. Although ash collected in the first eruption has accumulated on the hillside, there is no immediate danger of mudflows during the rainy season.

The food situation has been picking up over the past two weeks. The major water sources in Manam and Mt. Langila have been protected from the contamination of volcanic dust. The villagers have also stored enough yam supplies to support themselves until the next harvest in August; however, there is still shortage of taro and bananas, which are traditional staple foods in the region.

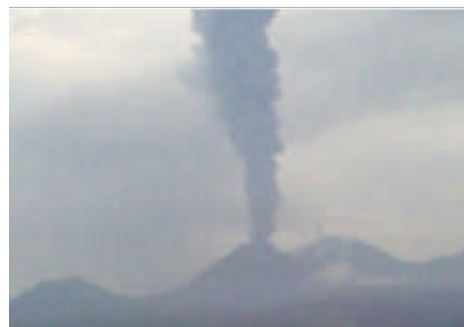


Photo 1: Mt Langila emitting white smoke.

In Manam, recent assessments show that a major need of the affected population's is basic shelter. Most of them are taking shelter under tarpaulins, and very few families have houses, which are constructed using wood from coconut trees or other building materials available locally.

The IDP population has not been able to return to their land because of the high risk of eruptions and the destruction of houses, crops and soil. The government authorities have estimated that the IDPs will remain in the care centres for at least a few years. If the negotiations with the landowners conclude successfully, it is likely that the current care centres will become semi-permanent settlements for the affected population.

Operational developments

The PNGRCS and the Federation delegation have been maintaining close contact with the provincial and district branches in the related volcanic areas, instructing branches to mobilize its members and volunteers for the emergency operation. In the past weeks, the PNGRCS and Federation delegation have held coordination meetings to assist operational activities of the national society's national headquarters. The delegation has also deployed a field delegate to assist the national society in implementing the Manam and Langila emergency operation.



Photo 2: PNGRCS volunteers load a truck bound for affected villages in Langila with relief items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

The PNGRCS has activated its disaster response plan at national and branch levels. During the earlier relief phase local Red Cross branches, along with trained volunteers, have been continuously assisting beneficiaries by providing non-food items such as tarpaulins, water containers, soap and mosquito nets. Red Cross volunteers from the affected area, having been trained in previous years, played a key role in early warning, evacuation, relief and health promotion efforts. These well-trained volunteers not only assisted the affected and authorities in the

evacuation process, but also distributed tarpaulins and water containers. In the five care centres housing IDPs, PNGRCS volunteers are carrying out health awareness activities in close coordination with provincial health authorities. In early July, the PNGRCS deployed a further assessment team to Manam, consisting of staff from the national headquarters and the Madang branch, as well as local volunteers.

Objective 1: Up to 7,500 IDP from Manam will receive support in constructing medium-term shelter through the provision of local building materials, tools and transport.

Progress/Achievements

The PNGRCS, with the active support of the Madang Red Cross branch and community volunteers, conducted an assessment in Manam from 30 June to 10 July 2005. Using participatory rural appraisals (PRA), the assessment team used an open-question style survey to collect both quantitative and qualitative data.

The primary objective of this assessment was to collect necessary information to formulate a realistic and detailed implementation plan for the Manam shelter project. During this assessment, 14,400 soap cakes and 12,000 packets of soap powder, provided by Oxfam, were also distributed to affected population.

To help identify the most vulnerable IDP in the five care centres, the team has classified the IDP into three categories with the support of community volunteers (priority will be given to shelters in category 3, followed by category 2 and category 1):

Category 1: Complete shelter made by bush materials
Category 2: Shelter partially built by bush materials and tarpaulins
Category 3: Incomplete shelter made of tarpaulins and cupboards

Care Centre Name	Total shelters	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Mangem	264	37	107	121
Asuramba	606	34	81	267
Bom and Suaru (Daigul)	298	75	22	201
Potsdam	751	125	494	213
Tobenam	186	0	16	170
Total:	2,105	271	720	972

During the assessment, the team found that there is a lack of space between existing shelters that were built in the emergency phase. Data collected from the field has shown that the spaces between shelters do not meet the SPHERE minimum standards. Based on the samplings made in the assessment, it was found that the average spacing between shelters were a mere 29.5 square metres, way below the SPHERE standards of 45 square metres or five by nine metres. The construction of new medium-term shelters, supported under this operation, will take into account these findings, and the new layout for these shelters will adhere to SPHERE minimum standards.

A detailed implementation plan has been now been finalized and agreed with all stakeholders, including beneficiaries, local authorities, and host communities. It is expected that the operation can be completed as scheduled.

Impact

Affected communities have benefited from the initial relief response to the Manam volcano; however, the real impact of the ongoing shelter operation can only be assessed once the proposed medium-term shelter programme is implemented.

Objective 2: Up to 4,000 people affected by the Langila volcanic eruption will be provided with immediate relief supplies, including water containers and tarpaulins, as well as receive support in further preparedness measures.

Progress/Achievements

During this reporting period, the PNGRCS has organized the transportation of 644 tarpaulins and 762 20-litre water containers to Kimbe in West New Britain province, out of which 302 water containers have been distributed to affected villages (refer to Table 2). The PNGRCS will be conducting another assessment to identify needs and will distribute the remaining 460 water containers if necessary; otherwise, the water containers would be kept in the provincial branches as emergency buffer stock.

Tarpaulins stockpiled in Kimbe are awaiting further notice from the provincial government on the local population's evacuation from affected areas. The East New Britain branch also made preparations in case a need to send more relief stock into the disaster areas arises. The PNGRCS is now planning to replenish the stock of tarpaulins and water containers that have been distributed to both Langila and Manam.

Village	No. of water containers
Kilenge	80
Potne	66
Vem	23
Gelegale	10
Laut	49
Tavel	42
Kilenge Mission	16
Simel	16
Total	302

Table 2: Number of water containers distributed by village.

Impact

In this period, the initial response from the PNGRCS in distributing water containers has assisted the most vulnerable communities in facilitating access and storage of drinking water and in improving hygiene.

Constraints

The lack of proper transport to the affected area and the disruption of the flight operations between Kimbe and other provinces have initially hampered the delivery of assistance. The mechanical failure of a contracted vessel altered the distribution schedules as the PNGRCS were compelled to look for a second vessel. In addition, commercial flights were suspended following a court ruling over on-board safety equipment. Flights have now resumed, enabling staff to travel to Madang.

Federation Coordination

The PNGRCS and Federation delegation have continued to liaise with government, local and international organizations, UN agencies and other stakeholders. The PNGRCS has taken an active part in the coordination established by the national disaster management office (NDMO) and the provincial disaster management office in Madang and Kimbe provinces. Key actors include the national disaster management centre, Care Australia, Oxfam, Caritas, World Vision, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the PNG Council of Churches. The PNGRCS and Federation delegation are also working closely with the Federation regional delegation in Suva.

National Society Capacity Building

The PNGRCS has 32 paid staff and about 500 registered members and trained volunteers, with nine established branches and two interim branches in 11 of its 21 provinces. Under an AusAID funded strategic engagement the PNGRCS with support from the Australian Red Cross and the Federation, is currently developing a four-year plan based on the evaluation of current disaster plans, policies, procedures, the effectiveness of current volunteer mobilization and the training provided to branch-level volunteers. Meanwhile, the PNGRCS has also recruited two additional field officers and a finance officer for the current operation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A series of articles regarding ongoing operations were published in local newspapers, and radio and television stations have also drawn attention towards relief and rehabilitation efforts. Further information bulletins and operation updates will be published on the Federation website.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Papua New Guinea - Manam / Mt Langila volcanoes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA012

PLEDGES RECEIVED

02/08/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					471,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 50.0%	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT				170,000	29.07.05		
JAPANESE - RC		18,900	USD	23,544	04.07.05		
SWEDISH - GOVT		250,000	SEK	42,075	23.06.05		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				235,619	CHF	50.0%	

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES						
				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED						
				0	CHF	