

## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

8 January, 2000

*appeal no. 1.28/2000  
situation report no. 2  
period covered: July 2000 - December 2000*

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*Despite a slow start, the second half of 2000 was a very busy period with numerous workshops and other activities taking place around the country. Many of these activities serve as a base for the continuation of the activities for 2001 and 2002. The security situation in PNG remains a concern, but the Federation plans to continue its support to the National Society in implementing the various programmes.*

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### ***The context***

Responding to the humanitarian needs in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Federation's support focuses on assisting the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) with general management procedures, improved financial management, a human resource development programme, stronger branches, increased public awareness, more diversified income sources, expanded relations with external organizations, preparation of the National Disaster Preparedness Plan, improved water and sanitation and health services in Bougainville and extended training for community based volunteers in disaster preparedness and health.

The PNGRCS is very small, with only a few hundred members and branches in seven provinces. After concentrating from 1991 to 1998 almost entirely on disaster relief operations, dominated by assistance on Bougainville, the National Society is now switching its priorities to providing support to, and building programmes in, branches which have been left on their own for many years. The process began with the adoption of national development plans in 1998 and the incorporation of development oriented programmes into the Aitape tsunami operation in 1998.

On Bougainville island, the nine year secessionist conflict, formally settled by a peace accord in 1997, and prolonged isolation from the outside world have taken a serious toll on a severely ravaged and

traumatised population. It has left behind a divided political infrastructure, ill-equipped to deal with meeting the most basic health needs. Only recently has the island seen hopeful signs of political stability and peace, sufficient to enable the local authorities, the PNG government and its development partners to move in with small scale rehabilitation projects.

## *Latest events*

According to the economic reports, business activity declined in the first half of 2000. The decline included subdued activity in the agriculture sector reflecting lower coffee and copra production due to a poor coffee crop, the deterioration of roads and depressed world market prices.

The Peace Process in Bougainville is now entering a new phase since the talks in Port Moresby from 6 to 17 July. The talks were preceded by a workshop which brought together senior advisors of the National Government to openly exchange views on the Bougainvillean Negotiation Position. The workshop also allowed officials who had just joined the National Government Team to learn about the process. Discussions on the referendum issue were also initiated. Upon conclusions of the exploratory talks, officials returned to continue discussions based on the principles set out in the draft Special Status Agreement, noting areas of understanding and areas of difference in views reached at the end of the meeting.

## *Red Cross/Red Crescent action*

### **Institutional Development •**

The PNGRCS held their regular Council and Executive Meetings. In August the council members were briefed by the Federation's Head of Delegation on the issues related to the emblem and the extraordinary general assembly. The newly created Planning Committee met in October and discussed various plans to further strengthen the PNGRCS. During the reporting period the Constitutional Committee met twice to review the National Society constitution and forwarded the draft to the Branches for their comments and feedback. Discussions were held by the PNGRCS Secretary General with the authorities and other stakeholders with respect to setting up of a Branch in East Sepik. The membership in PNGRCS still remains low and there are workshops and meetings planned for the first quarter of 2001 to address this issue and consider written policies.

A Branch leadership workshop was carried out in New Ireland Branch. A similar workshop will be carried out in all existing Branches.

Most of the staff positions for the various headquarters departments were filled and staff have participated in workshops organized by the different programmes. In order to further build the capacity of the staff from headquarters and the branches, a five day management course has been organized in January 2001. The major event during the reporting period was the participation of all staff along with their counterparts from the Federation in drawing up the Appeal 2001 and 2002. It was a learning process for both the PNGRCS staff and their Federation counterparts.

### **Disaster Preparedness •**

Discussions with the various stakeholders, information gathering and data collection are ongoing with respect to preparing the National Society Disaster Preparedness Plan. Meetings and discussions were held with senior level officials of the Government's National Disaster Emergency Services. During the 3 field CBSR workshops, Vulnerability Capacity Assessment were carried out covering 24 villages in the remote areas of Sandaun Province. These information and data will be used for preparing the National Society Disaster Preparedness Plan. A 5-day Disaster Management Workshop for staff and volunteers from the PNGRCS headquarters and branches scheduled from 4 to 8 December 2000 was postponed to February 2001 due to unforeseen reasons.

On 29 September the Mt. Ulavum volcano started its activity. Approximately 3,000 people living in the vicinity left their homes for safer grounds. The government termed this as a stage two alert which indicates signs of unrest which could eventually lead to an eruption. Within a short period however the Government declared that it was safe for the people to return to their homes. During the reporting period several tremors were felt in the different parts of the country. However there were 2 major earthquakes recorded. The first one was on 16 November at 14:54 hours local time measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale with a depth of 20 - 50 km below sea level. It was located 3.55 south, 152.42 east (40 km north of Rabaul). The second earthquake was on the same day at 17:42 hours local time measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale with a depth of 50 km below sea level. It was located 5.2 south, 152.9 east (150 km of south east of Rabaul in the Solomon sea area). The provinces affected were East New Britain, North Solomon and New Ireland. According to reports from the PNG Rabaul Observatory, these quakes were tectonic in origin and are not related to any volcanic activity. The earthquakes caused a meter high tsunami tidal wave and land slides in some areas. The PNG Red Cross Official based in Rabaul joined the Government assessment team, concluding that a total of 14 million Kina is required for immediate and long term repair of damages, including water and health facilities, roads, buildings, power supply, land purchase to resettle high-risk population and urgent relief assistance. The PNGRCS have despatched relief items to affected provinces. As part of the DP programme 20 foot containers loaded with the various essential relief materials are being sent to several branches for the preparedness programme. These containers will be sent only to branches who have secured places to store these containers.

### **Community-Based Self Reliance (CBSR) •**

Following the CBSR training of trainers (TOT) workshops which started in May 2000 and with the completion of the second TOT in July 2000, the 37 trainers and assistants comprising staff and volunteers from the headquarters and branches including Bougainville were divided into 3 groups and started the field CBSR training in the most rural areas of the Sanduan Province. Each workshop covered Community Based First Aid (CBFA), Community Based Health Awareness (CBHA) and Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP). A total of 117 community participants (76 males and 41 females) have been trained. Approximately 10,000 people or 2,100 families from 24 villages will benefit from the CBSR programme.

A post-mortem on the 2 TOT workshops and the 3 field workshops was carried out during the second week of December 2000. Delegates, PNGRCS staff as well as the SG and the Federation Head of Delegation participated in the exercise. As this programme is newly implemented it was considered a valuable learning experience for all.

### **HIV / AIDS Programme •**

Over 3,000 people are estimated to be living with HIV / AIDS in Papua New Guinea. PNGRCS has joined other partners in ensuring that communities in urban and rural villages through the volunteer network will be trained in HIV / AIDS awareness, prevention, counseling as well as promoting the use of condoms. PNGRCS and the Federation's PNG Delegation organized a 5-day workshop in late November 2000 for staff and volunteers relating to HIV / AIDS. A total of 21 participants attended, with the workshop facilitated by officials from the National Aids council, the PNGRCS and Federation. Following this workshop, PNGRCS joined in the celebration to mark HIV / AIDS Day. Posters, pamphlets and brochures were reproduced and distributed to the branches. Several more workshops are planned for the first half of 2001.

### **Health Programme in Bougainville •**

Five District World AIDS Day Committees (Central, Wakunai, Bana, Torokina, Wisai) have been assisted to plan and prepare activities for World AIDS Day. A successful World Aids day celebration was organized in Arawa at the market place with participants from Paru Paru staging a pantomime which was well attended. Prior to this a workshop on HIV/AIDS was held in Paru Paru after which

the participants went on foot patrol to various remote areas to disseminate the messages through role plays, dramas etc.

Five more workshops on "Healthy Life Styles and Safe Mother Hood were conducted in the Bana, Telei, Wisai, Wakunai and Torokina districts of Bougainville during the reporting period and the final report of the project has been submitted to Geneva and the donors. As a follow-up of the workshop participants conducted 246 community health education sessions in 175 villages, reaching 14,263 villagers (of which 8,751 were women) during these sessions. More workshops were requested by the Health Department and the possibilities are being investigated.

1,022 participants attended health education sessions this month which was conducted in collaboration with health workers from the Arawa Health Centre. 12 health education sessions were conducted at six locations in the Central District for 702 female participants and 320 male participants.

Two Community Based First Aid workshops were conducted separately for a group of 12 women trainees of Women's Vocational Training Course conducted by UNDP in Arawa and for another group of 14 carpentry students (from the Carpentry and Social Development Project) from 22-24 November at the Red Cross training centre in Arawa.

Three medical kits containing supplementary medical supplies were distributed to all health centres in Bougainville. An aid post equipment kit was distributed to all established first aid posts in Bougainville.

The International Federation has provided a laptop computer and portable printer to the Arawa Health Centre. The health centre has not had a computer in the past and has intermittent power. The administration officer has been trained in basic computer skills and is receiving ongoing supervision and support from a volunteer. The computer is being used for the health information system, reporting, and other administrative tasks. The pharmacist will also be trained by the Federation health technical assistant in computer skills to meet reporting requirements for the stock management system. The International Federation funding has provided a desk top computer, printer, photocopier and an overhead projector to the Paru Paru Community Education Development Centre during the period.

Five solar refrigerator sets have been shipped from the Lae logistics warehouse to Buka and will be stored at the provincial health warehouse prior to shipping to the atolls (Tasman, Mortlock, Fead, Carterets and Nissan Islands) for installation. The field trip to the atolls to install the solar vaccine refrigerators is dependent on resumption of shipping services to the atolls.

### **Water and Sanitation Programme in Bougainville •**

The implementation of the community projects has progressed well until security concerns in Buin put a stop to the plans for November and December. The logistics difficulties in shipping the purchased watsan materials to Arawa has also been a challenge, but the watsan delegate made adjustments by changing the activities to the central districts. Delivery of specific equipment to the requesting communities remains the main priority for January 2001. With the transfer of the store-keeper to the Water/Sanitation Department, the team now has a stronger capability to deliver materials, commence training in a more meaningful way and to monitor projects on an on going basis.

The training of 15 youths in using ferro cement construction was the highlight of November and each student has indicated their willingness to volunteer for Red Cross and have an opportunity to attend a dissemination session on the Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Ferro tank programme while innovative at the grass roots level has one major downfall in that the training takes between 5 and 6 days (per tank) and this does not easily fit into other commitments in the field. However with additional staffing now some of these time management issues may be lessened.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The appeal is fully covered and there are no outstanding needs.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Frequent contacts have been maintained with the various stakeholders. The UN has been consulted regularly, and frequent contacts have been maintained with provincial, district and local authorities. In November the Federation met with the UNHCR interim Representative who is in PNG to reopen the UNHCR office. Contacts with other UN agencies continue.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

Papua New Guinea						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.28/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				01/11/01
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>3,501,000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 124.7%</b>
Balance carried forward from 1999				<b>420,831</b>		
				321,038		
AMERICAN - GOVT (USAID/OFDA)		178,017	USD	315,713	24.10.00	ID,CBFA,CBDP
AUSTRALIA - RC				40,000	03/03/00	
AUSTRALIA - RC				100,000	03/03/00	
AUSTRALIA - RC				589,430	03/03/00	
AUSTRALIA - RC		13,437	AUD	14,077	01/21/00	PNG BOUGAINVILLE
AUSTRALIA - GOVT/RC		450,640	AUD	443,204	26.05.00	BOUGAINVILLE, INSTALLATION OF 150 "TUFFA" 4500L. WATER TANKS, PROVISION SUPPLEMENTARY BASIC MEDICAL SUPPLIES, COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA - GOVT/RC		1,637,756	AUD	1,602,708	06.07.00	BOUGAINVILLE COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
JAPAN - RC		20,000,000	JPY	311,220	04/15/00	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>4,158,221</b>	CHF	118.8%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Australia	Delegate(s)			122,874		Adjustment 10/01/01 - KN
Denmark	Delegate(s)			54,373		
Japan	Delegate(s)			31,540		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>208,787</b>	CHF	6.0%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIAN - RC		12,186	AUD	11,925	12.06.00	COSTS F.A. DEL. CBSR PROG.
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>11,925</b>	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PPG000, PPG001, PPG002, PPG003, PPG004, PPG160, PPG161						