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Information bulletin Papua New Guinea: Landslides

 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.



Red Cross is distributing clean water and water containers, as well as promoting good health and hygiene practices.

The situation

A number of incidences of flooding and landslides have been reported across Southern Highlands, Morobe, Western Highlands, Enga, Sandaun, National Capital District, Central and Gulf Provinces.

Southern Highlands Province

At approximately 6.30 am on Tuesday, 24 January, a landslide 1.5 km long, 500-600 metres wide and around 50 metres deep buried houses at Tumbi, a small settlement near the town of Tari in the Southern Highlands Province.

Initial figures estimated that 42 houses and properties were buried and approximately 60 people died.

However, according to the National Disaster Centre on 16 February 2012, the number of people confirmed dead is 25 and up to 35 people are still missing.

A large number of mourners have travelled to the site to wait for the bodies of their relatives to be retrieved for burial. They have erected mourning houses, each house accommodating up to 50 people. Other people are transiting over the landslide-covered road to and from the town of Komo. Needs of up to 3,000 people include clean water, sanitation, counselling, sexually transmitted disease education and hygiene education.

Enga Province – January 2012

Suwanda area in Kombiam-Ambum District experienced a landslide following high rainfall. The main road was blocked by the landslide and remains blocked. Approximately 30,000 people have been unable to easily access towns and markets to sell and buy goods and access services.

Sandaun Province – December 2011

Nuku Central, Palai and Maiwan local level government areas in Nuku District experienced landslides affecting rural populations. An estimated population of 5,000 is affected, with cash crops and food gardens damaged.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Southern Highlands Province

On Saturday, 28 January, PNG Red Cross led a joint assessment with ICRC, Oxfam, World Vision and UNOCHA.

A second PNG Red Cross assessment was conducted on 12 and 13 February.

Red Cross dispatched 200 collapsible 10-litre water containers from Mount Hagan, which were delivered to the site by the Rural Women's Development Foundation and Red Cross volunteers. The 200 containers were filled with clean water and distributed on 19 and 20 February to local villagers and people from other provinces staying at the site in mourning houses.

Five Mt Hagan Red Cross volunteers travelled to Tari on 18 February to lead the distribution and were assisted by five volunteers from the Rural Women's Development Foundation. Red Cross volunteers are being accommodated by Oxfam.

Another 600 Red Cross water containers as well as hygiene promotion materials are planned to be shipped by Air Nuigini to Tari on 22 February. They will be distributed by Red Cross and Rural Women's Development Foundation volunteers.

Red Cross will also coordinate water distribution, and will conduct hygiene promotion and HIV/AIDS awareness.

Enga Province – January 2012

Suwanda area in Kombiam-Ambum District: PNG Red Cross undertook an assessment between 3 to 6 February, where initial findings included no major damage to infrastructure or houses, although a few gardens were damaged. PNG Red Cross shared the assessment information with partners.

Sandaun Province – December 2011

Nuku Central, Palai and Maiwan local level government areas in Nuku District: Due to the remoteness of the locations and poor communications, it was not until Jan 2012 before PNG Red Cross was made aware of the events. The Sandaun Red Cross interim branch is assessing needs and potential responses alongside the Aitape Catholic Diocese.

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 its technical issues on getting connected.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **National Society:** Secretary General, Esmie Sinapa, office phone: +675 325 7016 / 325 857; mobile: +675 73493744; email: esmiesinapa@gmail.com
- Communications Coordinator, Miriam Kamaso, office phone +675 325 7016 / 325 8577; mobile: + 675 71609709; email: mkamasopngrcs@gmail.com

- **IFRC regional office:** Disaster management coordinator, Ysabeau Rycx; office phone: +679 331 1855; mobile: +679 999 2509; email: ysabeau.rycx@ifrc.org
 - **IFRC Zone:** Operations coordinator, Heikki Väättämoinen; office phone: +603 9207 5729; mobile: +6012 230 7895; email: heikki.vaatamainen@ifrc.org
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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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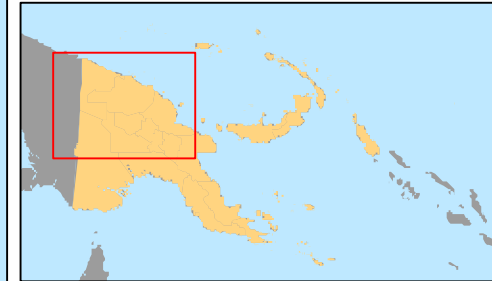
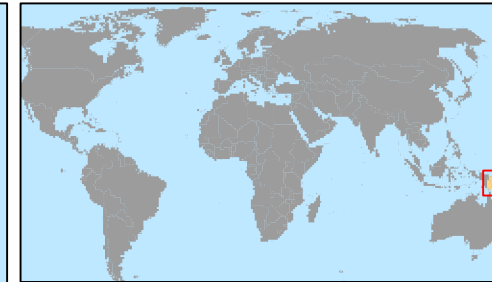
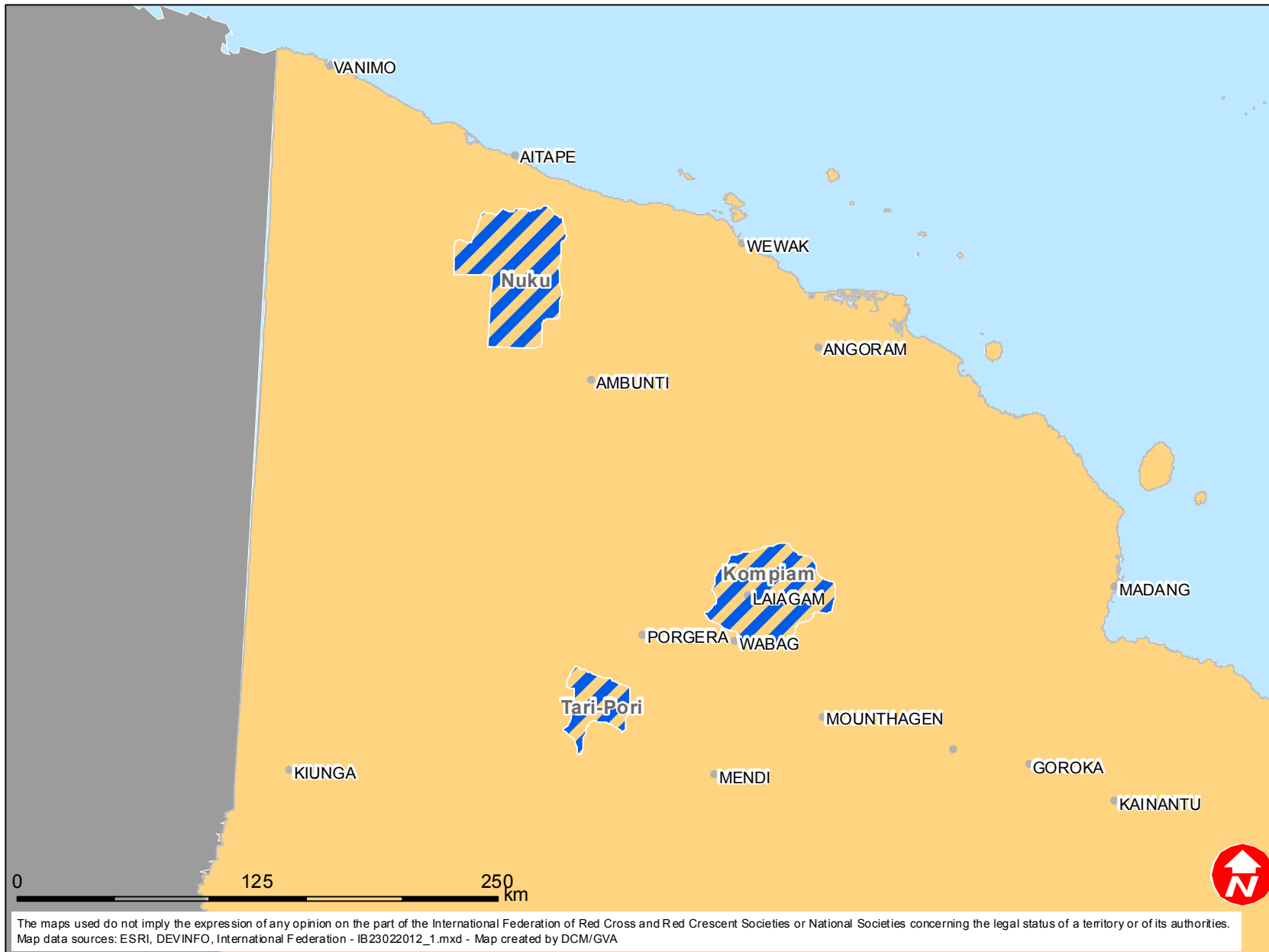



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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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Papua New Guinea: Landslides



 Affected districts