

DREF 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: CYCLONE GUBA

DREF Bulletin
no. MDRPG002
20 November 2007
GLIDE no. [FL-2007-000209-PNG](#)

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below, reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 25,000(USD 22,400 or EUR 15,260) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, and/or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over six weeks, and will be completed by the first week of January 2007. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The Situation

Cyclone Guba brought with it torrential rain and subsequent high tides, resulting in severe flooding in the province of Oro in Papua New Guinea. Currently, the province is virtually cut off, with the only access being seaborne or through helicopters. Heavy winds continue and the weather pattern remains unpredictable.

<[please click here for a map of the affected areas](#)>

In the provincial capital of Popondetta, with an estimated population of 20,000, the water system has been severely damaged, and the town has no source of potable water. The intake dam has been completely washed away and the treatment tank is reportedly unstable. The electricity-generating capacity has been greatly reduced, and fuel supplies are also affected. Basic food supplies are being rationed, and the main road from the town to the port of Oro Bay has been washed away, as has the road to the local airport.

In rural areas, many bridges and culverts have been destroyed, isolating many villages and making relief and response activities difficult. Several villages in low lying coastal areas around Oro Bay or on river banks have been reportedly buried. Other villages have had their crops washed away or severely damaged. Landslides have also washed away several villages and damaged some houses within settlements.

The provincial government has requested that the national government declare a State of Emergency, and has issued a call for assistance. Currently, up to 70 deaths have been reported, with at least 13,000 left homeless. Medical supplies are severely limited, and there are concerns that waterborne diseases may start to spread.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRC) is preparing to send pre-positioned stocks of relief supplies from its warehouses to the province by sea, including tarpaulins and water containers. The Federation has chartered a boat, and the container of supplies will be shipped to Oro tonight. A staff member of the PNGRC is already in Popondetta, and the PNGRC disaster management officer is expected to be in Oro within the next 48 hours. PNGRC has skilled staff and volunteers, but lack funds to carry out relief activities.

Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba, DREF Bulletin

The Federation country delegation is providing ongoing support to the PNGRCS in their relief initiatives and is liaising with internal and external stakeholders. PNGRCS and both the Federation country and regional delegations and the PNGRCS have attended coordination meetings together with agencies such as AusAID, USAID, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the National Disaster Council. The Australian Red Cross is currently preparing to send to Oro province a water and sanitation emergency response team, together with water purification units. The Australian Red Cross and French Red Cross have water and sanitation teams on standby for deployment, further to initial assessments by the Federation and PNGRCS.

Needs

This DREF bulletin will meet the immediate preliminary assessment needs in the province of Oro in the aftermath of the disaster. The PNGRCS, with the assistance of the Federation and partner national societies such as Australia Red Cross and French Red Cross, will undertake rapid assessment and provide assistance to the most vulnerable.

Plan of action against the DREF allocation

- Carry out rapid assessment to determine need for Australian Red Cross and French Red Cross water and sanitation deployment.
- Carry out rapid assessment/confirm need for further relief items, in particular tarpaulins/water containers, or other important needs.
- Transportation and distribution funds for PNGRCS items already allocated, and for local purchase of additional items as required.
- Financial/material support for PNGRCS staff and volunteers involved in relief and support activities.
- Financial/material support for the Federation country delegation during the period of the operation.

DREF Budget

	Total CHF
Assessment/ support activities	12,000
Relief goods; transport and distribution expenses	3,625
Purchase of relief items	7,750
Programme support (PSR 6.5%)	1,625
Grand total	25,000

How we work

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

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society: Mr. Gima Kilma (Secretary General), email: hqpngrcs@online.net.pg; phone: +675 325 2145.

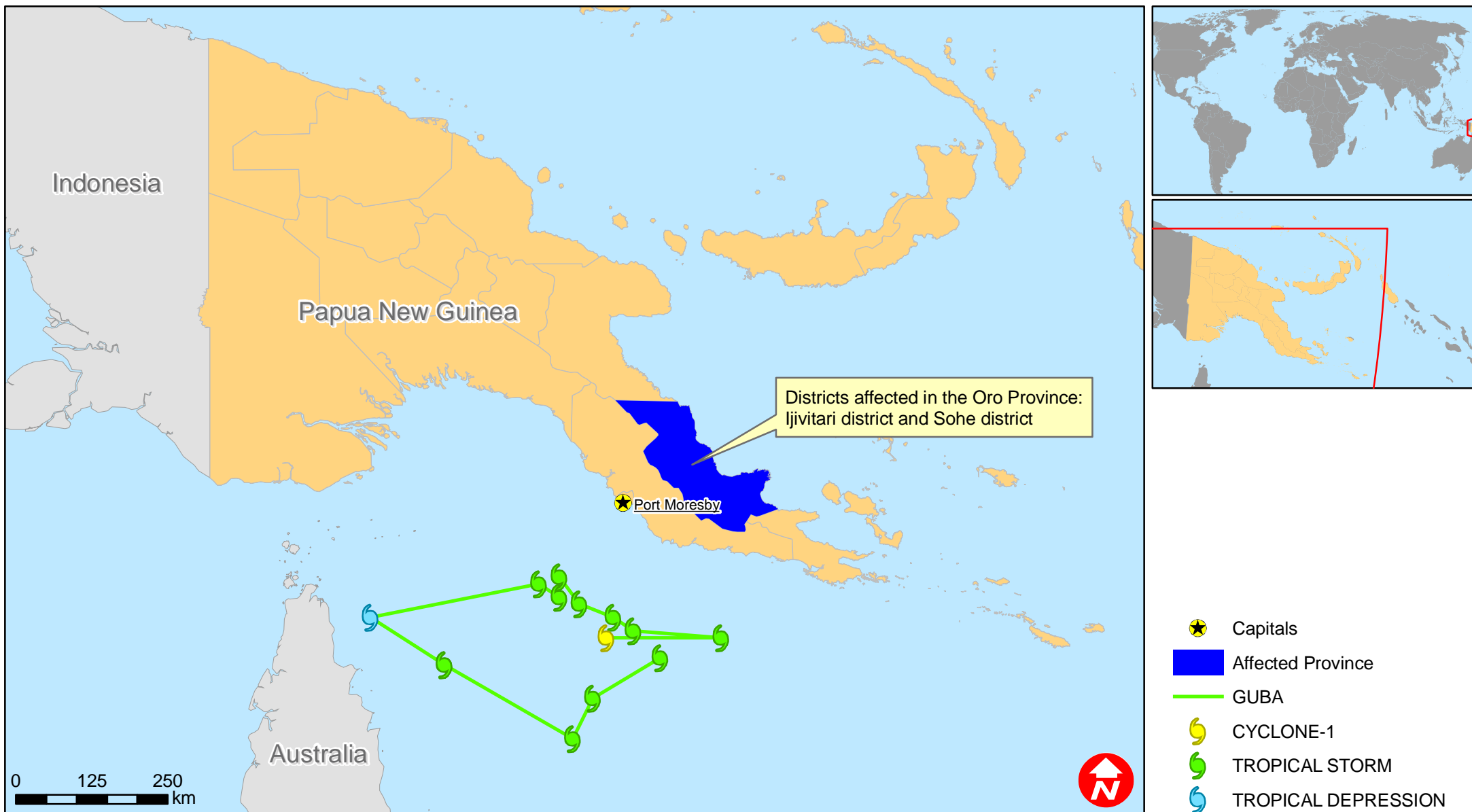
Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba, DREF Bulletin

- Country delegation in Papua New Guinea: Ms. Ene-mai Oks (head of delegation), email: enemai.oks@ifrc.org, phone: +679 331 1855.
- Pacific regional delegation in Suva, Fiji: Mr. Frank Kennedy (Head of regional delegation), email: frank.kennedy@ifrc.org, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128; Mr. Martin Blackgrove, phone: +679 999 2487.
- Asia Pacific Zone office in Malaysia: disaster management unit: Ms. Amy Gaver (regional disaster management delegate), email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org; phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, mobile; +60 12 220 1174; Regional logistics unit: Mr Igor Dmitryuk (Head of regional logistics unit), igor.dmitryuk@ifrc.org, mobile: +60 12 212 2407, fax: +60 3 2168 8573.
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific department, Ms. Christine South (Operations coordinator), email: christine.south@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.730.4529, fax: +41.22.733.0395.

[<Click here to return to title page>](#)



Papua New Guinea: Cyclone Guba



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, UNISYS, Federation