

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Papua New Guinea: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPG003
GLIDE n° **FL-2008-00243-PNG**
Final Report
2 September 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary:

CHF 190,000 (USD 165,000 or EUR 120,360) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 December 2008 to support Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to approximately 15,450 beneficiaries, and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

Abnormally high sea levels resulted in severe floods in Papua New Guinea in December 2008. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC), with support from the International Federation and partner national societies, responded to the disaster and assisted communities affected with non-food relief items including tarpaulins, mosquito nets and water containers, among others.

The floods as a result of the sea swells was also used as an opportunity to build the capacity of the national society, its branches and communities to be better prepared for future disasters. As part of lessons learnt and improved disaster preparedness, agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed or are in progress with numerous partners and services which include logistics, customs and secure and sheltered space for relief containers as well as information-sharing, access to provincial radio frequencies and transportation for goods and people.

The timely and effective response from PNGRC at branch and headquarters levels is a significant achievement given that this is the first time all eight provinces in the country were affected simultaneously. The PNGRC successfully mobilized up to 200 volunteers throughout the operation and delivered support to a total of 16,790 people, above the initial target of 15,450 beneficiaries.

An unspent balance of CHF 10,897 was returned to DREF. This Final Report is complete with regards to the implementation of activities.

The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Danish Red Cross, Irish Red Cross/ Irish government, Japanese Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross/ Monaco government, Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government, Norwegian Red Cross/ Norwegian government, Swedish Red Cross/ Swedish government, Italian government, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), ECHO, OPEC Fund for International Development, and corporate and private donors. Details of all donors can be found [here](#). The International Federation, on behalf of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, would like to thank all donors for their generous contributions.



Up to 1,408 houses were damaged or destroyed as a direct result of the sea swells and subsequent floods in New Ireland province. PNGRCS.

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The situation

Abnormally high sea levels resulted in severe floods in Papua New Guinea in December 2008. Affected areas included the provinces of New Ireland, East Sepik, Manus, Milne Bay, Sandaun, Madang, Morobe and the autonomous region of Bougainville. Further assessments by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society as well as the provincial and national disaster committees in affected areas bring the total number of people affected to approximately 63,000, down from the initial forecast of 83,000 people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the onset of the disaster, Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC) deployed staff from headquarters based in Port Moresby to the provinces of New Ireland, Sandaun, East Sepik and Madang for preliminary assessments and support to the branches in the affected areas. All staff in headquarters were allocated tasks to ensure an organized and coordinated response, while volunteers and members in the affected provinces were mobilized to carry out assessments, distribution of relief items from pre-positioned stocks, information management, and liaison with provincial disaster centres and logistics.

In coordination with national and provincial authorities as well as government and non-governmental organizations, final reports indicate that PNGRC staff and up to 200 volunteers successfully reached approximately 16,790 people with relief items and support in the affected provinces.

The timely and effective response from PNGRC at branch and headquarters levels is a significant achievement given that this is the first time all eight provinces in the country were affected simultaneously. The effective coordination with partners and communications through the utilization of the high frequency radio network enabled the national society to reach all districts in the country.

The International Federation released CHF 190,000 from DREF to support the national society in responding to the disaster. Additional technical support was also made available through the International Federation's Pacific regional office and Asia Pacific zone office in areas of disaster management, finance and reporting.

A telecommunications delegate was deployed by New Zealand Red Cross and supported the National Society in setting up a high frequency (HF) unit at the PNGRC headquarters in addition to obtaining access to the national disaster centre and national department of health's frequencies. In addition, Australian Red Cross assisted with jerry cans, personnel and funds to support the National Society in its response to the disaster. The French Red Cross further supported PNGRC in assessments carried out in Manus.

Coordination and partnerships

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society worked closely with both national and provincial disaster centres to carry out assessments, map out and respond to the needs of the affected communities while ensuring a coordinated response with all parties involved. The National Society also worked with other government and non-governmental actors in the field including AusAID, CARE International, NZ AID, Oxfam International, Save the Children PNG, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and USAID.

Together with the other actors in the field, PNGRCS was given access to a C130 Hercules aircraft dispatched by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) through AusAID to transport relief items to Manus and New Ireland in two sorties. In addition, Rotary International supported the New Ireland branch at the onset of the floods with up to 2,000 mosquito nets that were distributed to affected communities. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Morobe provincial disaster centre which allows PNGRCS to store up to three containers on its grounds which are situated in proximity to the main wharf and suppliers.

The remoteness and lack of harbours in some of the most severely-affected locations also required the charter of two fixed wing aircraft, which were used to transport 4.2 tonnes of relief items to East Sepik (where PNGRC does not have a branch) for distribution to beneficiaries through a formal memorandum of understanding arrangement with Save the Children and Oxfam - both agencies who have a local presence and networks on the ground in the province. Relief items including treated mosquito nets were distributed in East Sepik in coordination with Save the Children.

Achievements against objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 15,000 beneficiaries have the necessary immediate support to meet their basic needs of non-food items.

Impact:

Distributions of relief items including mosquito nets, water containers, tarpaulins, hygiene items and blankets were successfully carried out by PNGRC staff and volunteers to an estimated total of 15,450 affected people in all eight affected provinces by mid-March 2009

To replace depleted stocks, PNGRC, with support from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur, procured 2,000 tarpaulins of International Federation standard, which arrived in Papua New Guinea by mid-April 2009. Other items including mosquito nets and hygiene items were procured locally for affected branches and national society headquarters.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Impact:

Additional heavy rains in the following months, resulting in flooding and landslides, together with the aftermath of the sea swells, brought health issues to the fore in some provinces. Assessments in the affected areas indicated a need for health-related response, including basic hygiene and health awareness. Health awareness training was conducted in Manus by the PNGRC health and care team, and related health activities also took place in Central province.

There was a rapid transition from the emergency phase to early recovery in most of the affected areas. The transition process highlighted further needs in affected communities. Of these, water security, malaria prevention, and health hygiene awareness to prevent waterborne diseases from escalating are the most significant. The other health-related issue was an increase in malaria cases reported by health facilities. The national society responded to the needs of affected communities by increasing the number of treated mosquito nets distributed, as well as some awareness-raising in selected communities.

As part of the review and lessons learnt from this operation, health and hygiene as well as the spread of HIV was identified as a major issue, which, if neglected, may lead to an outbreak of preventable diseases. To better address this in the future, PNGRC's health and HIV risk reduction programme officers and volunteers are now included in the first response with the disaster risk management officers and volunteers. The health and HIV risk reduction-trained staff and volunteers will play an integral part of response in delivering awareness training to volunteers and disseminating related information to affected communities in their provinces. Training modules for this are being developed and will be trialed in the near future.

Capacity building

Objective: Improved capacity of Papua New Guinea Red Cross volunteers, branches and headquarter capacity to manage disaster relief operations.

Impact:

Based on lessons learned from previous disasters, PNGRC has improved its organizational capacity to respond to the floods which hit the country at the end of 2008. However, the national society's computer server proved inadequate in dealing with the surge in workload due to the disasters, and subsequently broke down. A new service provider and upgraded server have since been engaged and put in place.

To improve current communications and reporting capacity, a request was made for an information management specialist, supported by the Australian Red Cross, who assisted the national society to develop an information toolkit which will be used in future operations.

Furthermore, as part of disaster preparedness, agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed or are in progress with numerous partners and services which include logistics, customs and secure and sheltered space for relief containers as well as information-sharing, access to provincial radio frequencies and transportation for goods and people. Assistance was provided by the Australian Red Cross through a logistics specialist, who supported the national society in liaising with relevant service providers and drawing up agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs). One such agreement was signed with the Morobe Provincial Disaster Committee and the Correctional Services of Papua New Guinea, which

allow the Morobe and Sandaun branches to store their relief containers in secure locations. The two containers have also been repaired and shelters built for proper storage of relief items.

The high frequency radio capacity of the PNGRCS is further strengthened with a base unit purchased and stationed at the national society's headquarters. Another stationery unit as well as a mobile unit have also been purchased and based at the Manus branch. All radios have been programmed with the Red Cross frequencies as well the national disaster centre and health frequencies through negotiations. With the support of the New Zealand Red Cross, work is ongoing to build radio capacities in other branches, linking them with their respective provincial disaster centre networks and the and national disaster centre as well.

A total of 68 volunteers were trained rapid and detailed assessment procedures and tools, with 25 volunteers from New Ireland, 18 in Eastern Highland province and 25 in Western Highland province. In addition, seven containers in Sandaun, New Ireland, Morobe and Madan were repaired and re-sheltered.

Coordination with other organizations, both government and non-governmental, has allowed for improved quality of response based on the respective organizations' capacities.

Operational and transportations costs including assessments and distributions remain a difficult and expensive undertaking, with the Movement continuing to use military assets in recent disaster assessments. The circumstances are unlikely to change given available resources.

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:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPG003 - Papua New Guinea - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/12-2009/7
Budget Timeframe	2008/12-2009/7
Appeal	MDRPG003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	190,000					190,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	190,000					190,000
C5. Other Income	190,000					190,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	190,000					190,000
D. Total Funding = B + C	190,000					190,000
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	190,000					190,000
E. Expenditure	-179,103					-179,103
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	10,897					10,897

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		190,000					190,000	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	45,259	1,208					1,208	44,051
Construction Materials		6,022					6,022	-6,022
Clothing & textiles	31,417	21,221					21,221	10,196
Water & Sanitation	9,768							9,768
Utensils & Tools		48,295					48,295	-48,295
Other Supplies & Services	34,431	7,074					7,074	27,358
Total Supplies	120,875	83,819					83,819	37,056
Transport & Storage								
Storage	561							561
Distribution & Monitoring	28,051	6,260					6,260	21,790
Transport & Vehicle Costs		2,385					2,385	-2,385
Total Transport & Storage	28,612	8,645					8,645	19,967
Personnel								
National Staff	5,049							5,049
National Society Staff		258					258	-258
Total Personnel	5,049	258					258	4,791
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,020							2,020
Total Workshops & Training	2,020							2,020
General Expenditure								
Travel	13,651	43,038					43,038	-29,387
Information & Public Relation	785							785
Office Costs	3,890	17,538					17,538	-13,648
Communications	2,768	14,163					14,163	-11,395
Other General Expenses		-0					-0	0
Total General Expenditure	21,095	74,739					74,739	-53,644
Programme Support								
Program Support	12,350	11,642					11,642	708
Total Programme Support	12,350	11,642					11,642	708
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	190,000	179,103					179,103	10,897
VARIANCE (C - D)		10,897					10,897	