

INFORMATION 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: FLOODS

15 February 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Heavy flooding in the north western part of Central Province in Papua New Guinea has left an estimated 10,000 people affected. There has been one flood-related death. Many of the displaced are reported to be facing food shortages as local food gardens were destroyed. Heavy rains in recent weeks caused flooding of villages in the Mekeo, Inauabui, Veifa, Biotou and Kairuku districts, with the water level as high as two metres in some places.

At Inauabui, the floods damaged or destroyed dozens of houses. Many of the village's 2,000 residents have moved to higher ground, staying with relatives where they can. In Biotou, where the houses, church and closed-down school now sit in a lake, villagers said it was the worst flooding since the 1940s.



Remnants of a wooden house washed up at the side of a river.

The provincial disaster office is also conducting an assessment and, depending on the findings, the national disaster management centre will plan relief activities and cooperate with other humanitarian assistance stakeholders to mobilize resources. Relief supplies thus far pledged by government and local business community include rice, flour and other dry food, tarpaulins and mosquito nets.

Flooding is a seasonal event in the affected areas, but the recent heavy downpours pushed water levels to new highs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



The PNGRC volunteers conducting house-to-house assessments.

The PNGRCS has sent a team to carry out an initial assessment of scope of the damage and the needs of the affected villages in the Central province. The assessment team comprises two PNGRCS staff, one of whom is trained in emergency response, and two volunteers who are trained in disaster management. This highlights the importance of investments made through longer-term programmes to equip staff and volunteers with appropriate knowledge and skills for immediate deployment when disaster strikes.

Team members left for the affected villages on 11 February 2006, with the aim to identify the most affected villages, assess their needs and register the targeted beneficiaries. Access to the most remote parts of the affected areas remains difficult. Nevertheless, once the assessment is completed, the PNGRCS will initiate relief

operations through prepositioned relief items in the warehouse at Port Moresby.

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