



PAPUA NEW GUINEA - HIGH SEAS IN BISMARCK AND SOLOMON SEAS OCHA Situation Report No. 2

Port Moresby, 15 December 2008

HIGHLIGHTS/ KEY PRIORITIES

- Papua New Guinea Red Cross estimates that total number of displaced people amounts to 75,300, with the biggest number in New Ireland (32,000) followed by Manus (20,000) and East Sepik (15,000). Among the 75,300 displaced people, it is estimated that 34,050 people will require immediate support.
- The proportion of displaced people in comparison with the population in the Province shows the devastating impact of the disaster on each province. For example, 46% of total population in Manus have been displaced due to the disaster while 27% in New Ireland.
- Early recovery strategy with the focus on re-establishment of livelihood and shelters needs to be prepared at the earliest.

CONTEXT

On 8 December 2008, severe sea swells in Bismarck and Solomon seas hit New Ireland and Northern Provinces, East Sepik, West Sepik (Sandaun), Madang, Manus, Morobe and the autonomous region of Bougainville (please see map attached). The sea swells were caused by low depression in the waters of Guam and New Caledonia.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The second stakeholder meeting of the National Disaster Centre (NDC) was held on 15th December, and key disaster response agencies as well as donors participated. The meeting was followed by an informal DMT meeting, attended by key members to discuss the possible deployment of an inter-agency assessment team. It was agreed that the team with focus on prioritized sectors including Water/Sanitation, Health, Nutrition/Food, Shelter and Protection including psychosocial aspects will be deployed to East Sepik Province. East Sepik requires further assessment due to lack of information at this moment. In other areas, assessments are being conducted by NDC/Provincial Disaster Centre (PDC), Red Cross and NGOs whose result will be available in a few days. Australia has dispatched relief items delivered by the RAAF C-130 plane on 14th December to New Ireland and to Manus. The second flight will deliver Non Food Items on 16th December.

On 15th December, the PNG Defence Force dispatched a Navy vessel, HMPNG Dreger, to Tingwon Island in New Ireland with food and non-food items (NFIs). An assessment team was also deployed. Another Navy vessel, HMPNGS Salamaua, is being loaded with food and NFIs for East Sepik.

The government will not be initiating the relocation of Carteret islanders to mainland Bougainville yet until proper planning is done.

OCHA officers in the UNRC's Office are consulting humanitarian experts in adapting an assessment template for the inter-agency assessment team to use East Sepik.

Water and Sanitation

Water born disease is one of the major health concerns so that it requires timely and adequate water/sanitation intervention. Water purification tablets provided by the Australian government are being distributed in New Ireland and Manus by the RAAF C-130 planes. Water purifications tablets locally purchased are being distributed in East Sepik as well.

Timvon Island in West Hanover Group in New Ireland has been without water since 8th December, 2008. The residents are now relocated to Umbukul.

Health

Situation remains as reported in the last situation report.

Food and Nutrition

Additional food supply will be needed in Bougainville, and it will require the purchase of food from outside of the Province.

Shelter

Situation remains as reported in the last situation report.

Camp Coordination

So far, 6 care centres are established in New Ireland at Emirau Primary school (pop.88), Fissoa, Taskul (pop.462), Mamirum Plantation (pop.200), Tingwon Island (pop.342), and Simberi Island (pop.250).

Protection

The DMT has agreed to include protection aspect including psycho social support in inter-agency assessment.

Logistics

The main wharf in Wewak, East Sepik Province has been partially damaged by the waves and it hinders discharge of relief items. There is no alternative sea port.

Telecommunications

New Zealand Red Cross is deploying telecom expert in order to support PNG Red Cross strengthening its telecommunication capacity in affected Provinces.

Telecommunication in East Sepik remains a challenge as the high tides have damaged the facilities..

Early recovery

Damage to livelihood such as loss of gardening tools and domestic animals, damage to cash crops are reported, In order for the affected population to re-establish their livelihood as soon as possible, comprehensive early recovery strategy needs to be formulated at the earliest stage.

Education

Situation remains as reported in the last situation report.

Cross cluster/sector issues

Situation remains as reported in the last situation report.

Coordination

- Government stakeholder meeting held on 15th December.
- Disaster Management Team was held on 15th December to discuss inter-agency assessment, composition of the team and location of the assessment.
- NGO coordination group was formed in East Sepik by Oxfam, Save the Children and Habitat for Humanity.

Needs and Gaps

The focus of emergency response is mainly on distribution of Food and Non-Food Items, and assessing the extent of humanitarian needs in other sectors still requires further information. The below matrix shows on-going assessment in each Provinces, and the outcome of these assessment will be able to provide information on multi sectoral humanitarian situation.

Province	District	Agency	When ready?	Copy of assessment form
Bougainville:		NDC/PDC CARE PNG Red Cross	Care assessment dispatched today to Morttlock, Carteret and Nuguria islands will return on 19 th December.	N/A (requesting a copy)
New Ireland:	One team dispatched to Tingwon island on 15 th Dec.	NDC/PDC ADRA PNG Red Cross		N/A (requesting a copy)
Manus:	5 out of 8 assessment teams deployed to the field have returned and currently compiling assessment report.	NDC/PDC PNG Red Cross ADRA Caritas	5 of 8 teams returned, currently preparing report (15/12)	N/A (requesting a copy)
East Sepik:		NDC/PDC Oxfam Save the Children Habitat for Humanity	Oxfam conducting assessment in Angoram today	N/A (requesting a copy)
West Sepik		NDC/PDC Caritas PNG Red Cross	Initial damage assessment done (13/12)	N/A (requesting a copy)

Morobe		NDC/PDC PNG Red Cross		N/A (requesting a copy)
Madang		NDC/PDC PNG Red Cross		N/A (requesting a copy)
Milne Bay		NDC/PDC PNG Red Cross		N/A (requesting a copy)
Oro		NDC/PDC Care PNG Red Cross		N/A (requesting a copy)

Funding

- Provincial administration in New Ireland received donation in cash and kind from Douglas Tasang of Bisi Trading Ltd, and Provincial Council of Churches- New Ireland Province, Islands Petroleum, Lihir Gold Mine, and Hamamas Trading
- Provincial Disaster Committee in New Ireland is arranging for opening of trust account to maintain funds from donors and the National Government
- GoPNG has approved PGK20 million (USD 8,160,000) for the NDC for relief response.

For more detailed and updated information please contact:

OCHA New York Ms. Aditee Maskey, Tel: +1-212-963-0910

OCHA ROAP Bangkok Mr. Markus Werne, Tel: +66-81-917 8940

OCHA PNG Ms. Minako Kakuma, Mobile: +675-677 5645

Ms. Vini Talai, Tel: +675-321 2877 ext 1249