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DREF operation update

Papua New Guinea: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| DREF operation MDRPG005 | GLIDE n° CW-2015-000116-PNG |
| DREF update n° 2 | Timeframe covered by this update: 5 October to 15 November 2015 |
| Date of issue: 21 December 2015 | Date of disaster: 31 July 2015 |
| Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Stephanie Zoll, IFRC DM Coordinator | Point of contact (name and title): Michael Sembenombo, PNGRC DM manager |
| Operation start date: 15 September 2015 | Operation end date (<i>revised</i>): 15 March 2016 |
| Operation budget: CHF 150,669 | Number of people assisted: 18,000 people (3,600 families) |
| Number of people assisted: 18,000 people (3,600 families) | |
| Host National Society(ies) present (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society has 500 volunteers, 18 headquarter staff, 7 branch staff and a presence in 13 administrative units of the country through branches. For this response, the National Society has 20 volunteers and staff trained in hygiene promotion from Western Highlands and 7 from other branches. The DMO from Solomon Islands Red Cross provided technical support as peer exchange in the initial response. | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and is supported operationally by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in its response to the drought. The Australian Red Cross is supporting the next stage of planning for the drought response. | |
| Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National technical agencies, provincial disaster committees (PDCs), UN agencies, CARE, World Food Programme, Caritas, Save the Children, IOM, World Vision | |

This DREF Update aims to inform of an extension to the operating timeframe by an additional 3 months. The operation is expected to be completed by 15 March 2016, and the final report will be available 90 days after the operation end date.

Summary

Some of the key activities in the initial plan of action have been delayed because further community consultations showed that a response focusing on WASH activities alone will not be sufficient to meet the immediate needs of the affected population. The drought has also impacted on short-term food shortage in the communities. The National Disaster Committee (NDC) took the decision to deploy Inter Agency Assessment Teams to the four regions of the country to assess the extent of the impacts on communities. These assessments have been conducted between 22 August and 13 September 2015 covering 19 of the 22 Provinces. The findings and recommendations were presented in the NDC meeting held on 1 October. In view of the considerable financial implication and inter-sectoral nature of the El Nino impacts, the NDC recommended for a cabinet submission to be made outlining the impacts, immediate and long term needs, the budgets and the main gaps in responding to the needs of affected communities.



Community member during Hygiene Promotion session at Lower Kagul, Western Highlands. (Photo credit: Freeman Manyavi, PNGRCS DM Officer)

An estimate of 2.4 million people are affected to varying degrees, in which some 1.7 million requires food assistance and access to potable water. To date, the government has provided the much needed food assistance to approximately 40 per cent of the most affected communities. Although some progress has been made in providing water supply to communities that are easily accessible, majority of places faced with water insecurity did not receive the much needed assistance. The international partners together with civil society organizations and private sector have also come forward to support the government's response in areas such as Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Protection and WASH. It is crucial at this stage to ensure these are guided by a framework to ensure needs of affected communities are properly addressed in a coordinated and timely manner.

A government led process of strategic response planning to ensure better connections between assessments, needs analysis, resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluations of 2015 El Nino response operations will be initiated on 16 December. It will validate the current strategy that the government is using to respond to the most affected communities. It is hoped that this planning process will ensure better allocation of resources, inform a focus on most critical sectors and geographical locations as well as strengthen existing coordination arrangements. Activities relating to early recovery phase will be discussed to ensure linkages are being made to existing development programmes.

This resulted in the postponing of distribution of WASH NFI to communities. In a country rife with security concerns, acting against these recommendations would pose serious security risks on PNGRCS volunteers working in the targeted communities. This is consistent with results from assessments carried out by other organizations in country. This has limited the ability of the PNGRCS to undertake complementary Wash activities within the DREF timeframe. The WASH activities identified include hygiene promotion focusing on safe water handling and treatment, and distribution of jerry cans.

A no-cost extension is therefore required by the PNGRCS to complete the above stated WASH activities in the affected communities. The PNGRCS operation team and IFRC representative met with ECHO representatives during an ECHO support visit and there was support indicated for the approaches taken to date by the PNGRCS. DG ECHO being one of the institutional donors in the Pacific region has also made contribution to the replenishment of DREF.

The IFRC, on behalf of the PNGRCS, would like to thank DG ECHO for the generous contribution to the replenishment of this DREF.

Situation

Papua New Guinea has been experiencing a prolonged dry spell since May 2015 which is the consequence of changing climatic conditions caused by El Nino. The Government of PNG indicates up to 2.4 million people could be affected. The country has experienced reduced rainfall in all regions and the seasonal rains expected in November are now not anticipated until the first half of 2016. While El Nino should peak in the first quarter of 2016 the impacts will remain throughout 2016. The drought was declared in August 2015 and the situation remains unchanged despite some rain in recent weeks in Highlands region as well as other parts of PNG. A DREF was launched on 15 September 2015. The objectives of the initial DREF focused on carrying out a detailed assessment and analysis to inform the design and implementation of the operation and to reduce the risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases in communities affected by the drought and frost.

The Highlands Region, which has experienced the worst of the drought, is an area of high annual rainfall and dry seasons are normally limited in length. As such there is limited practice of water storage with communities largely relying on clean spring or creek water as primary water sources. Combined with people largely being subsistence farmers and relying on agricultural cash crops for income, a prolonged drought has significant impacts on the population, in terms of access to safe water and health, as well as nutrition and livelihoods.

The availability of food in the most affected areas remains low despite limited food distributions by government and some faith based actors. The majority of staple food crop gardens including kaukau (sweet potato), potato and vegetables are affected and in areas where frosts have occurred are almost totally destroyed. While some recovery has started, assessments by almost all agencies in recent weeks have highlighted the need for food distributions and the World Food Program (WFP) has entered PNG with the intention of discussing a support program. While the initial WFP scoping identified a potential program complementing the PNG government food distribution and targeting up to 300,000 of the most vulnerable people with food rations, a decision has yet to be made on this offer by the PNG Government. This would complement government food distributions to which the government has indicated 178 million PGK will be available. The government of PNG just started process of strategic response planning with all the in country organizations (including PNGRCS) to ensure better

connections between assessments, needs analysis, resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluations of 2015/16 El Nino response operations. It is done in order to validate the current strategy that the government is using to respond to the most affected communities. It is hoped that this planning process will ensure better allocation of resource, inform focus on most critical sectors and geographical locations as well as strengthen existing coordination arrangements. Where possible activities relating to early recovery phase will be discussed to ensure linkages are made to existing development programs.

The PNGRCS has completed assessments in the Lower Kagul LLG, Tambul-Nebilyer district of the Western Highlands Province in late October 15. The assessments covered 18,000 people (3,600 households) in the category 5 area, the most severe rating allocated by Government of PNG, severely affected by frost and drought. The PNGRCS assessments highlighted clearly that food quality and quantity is significantly reduced, that incomes are reduced or under stress and people ensuring reliance on alternative strategies for obtaining cash. The assessment also highlighted that hygiene promotion and increased awareness of safe water handling, storage and treatment required, as it is perceived that there is a risk from water borne disease such as typhoid and diarrhea.

Household surveys, focus group discussions and engagement with community leadership also highlighted that WASH interventions will not be acceptable without communities' food requirements being met as a first priority. The PNGRCS assessments findings have proven consistent with assessment reports from other organizations.

Limitations with food have hampered PNGRCS ability to undertake WASH interventions. PNGRCS is engaging with other organizations, particularly WFP to ensure that WASH interventions undertaken by the PNGRCS will now accompany food distributions.

The PNGRCS and IFRC met with regional representatives from ECHO who were conducting a follow up and visit to an earlier assessment mission. The ECHO team findings were consistent with the PNGRCS and other assessments. The ECHO team indicated they were support of PNGRCS and IFRC efforts to date.

Coordination and partnerships

The DREF operation has been led by the PNGRC disaster manager with support from the IFRC WASH delegate until November 11, when a Team Leader was dispatched through surge support from the IFRC Pacific Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Suva, Fiji. The Team Leader supported the PNGRCS in planning its next steps in its drought response and coordinates with other organizations the drought response at national level. The Team Leader further supported PNGRCS to develop an assessment report which includes recommendations for future actions the National Society or other Movement partners could implement in regards to the assistance of the communities affected by El Nino impacts in PNG. During the mission linkages with drought related response and early recovery activities with TC Pam related programming, particularly in the implementation of Wash activities were identified.

Although the WASH delegate completed the mission on 11 November, continuous remote support was provided by the same delegate from Suva.

The peer-to-peer support mechanism was activated and the DMO from Solomon Islands Red Cross was deployed from 4 to 16 October to provide technical assistance to the PNGRCS team in Mt Hagen.

The PNGRCS has deployed a DM staff from its headquarters, together with an experienced volunteer to support Western Highlands Branch management. The IFRC WASH delegate and peer-to-peer exchange support have provided technical support throughout the training and assessments period.

The model of Movement cooperation has been a combination of multilateral and bilateral cooperation, with the IFRC working closely initially with the PNGRCS on the initial DREF operation, followed by bilateral support together with the Australian Red Cross (ARC) to develop a post DREF national response plan. The ARC will also engage with key donors on supporting the national response plan. The ICRC has provided logistic and administrative support to the teams deployed in the Western Highlands Province.

So far, coordination with other organizations has been very good at both the national level and regionally. The PNGRCS has hosted a regional humanitarian stakeholder meeting in Mt Hagen. At the national level the PNGRCS has been engaged in DMT and WASH cluster coordination and engaged bilaterally with actors in particular in relation to food.

Security remains a key challenge. The DREF operation is being managed and implemented in a manner that supports PNGRCS approaches to working in and supporting communities. The DREF extension is in part linked to the need to manage security and expectations at the community level.

Operational implementation

Overview

In-depth assessments together with hygiene promotion training and messaging have been completed by the PNGRCS in drought and frost affected communities in Lower Kagul LLG, Tambul-Nebilyer district of the Western Highlands Province in late October. The assessments covered 18,000 people (3,600 households) in the category 5 area and the hygiene promotion covered households who participated in the assessments, as well as health center staff. This was higher than the initial figure in the DREF of 15,000 people and 3,000 households. A summary of the assessments has been produced and submitted to the DMT in country and a final assessment report will be completed in the coming weeks. The Western Highlands branch and volunteers has received intensive training in assessment, WASH interventions as well as disaster management and the branch is available for replication of activities elsewhere.

Branch and volunteer capacity development, together with the assessment training and data collection has progressed extremely well. The assessments have determined that despite water shortages in-country, the need for jerry cans was still very much needed. The jerry cans have already been sourced and procured in Lae, and have been transported and stored at the Western Highlands branch for distribution. The negative impacts from insufficient food distributions in the region, and the related community level security concerns have meant that the operation has not yet met planned results in regards to delivery of hygiene promotion and distribution of jerry cans to the target population of 3,000 households.

Distribution has been placed on hold until a significant and acceptable food distribution is undertaken in the program sites. The need for a significant food distribution to occur prior to WASH interventions was highlighted consistently in household surveys, in focus group and leadership discussions and by experienced branch staff and volunteers.

In areas of high insecurity and difficult community relations, moving ahead with WASH related activities without a food intervention carries risk of non-acceptance by communities and potential for unrest within the communities. These are consistent with other stakeholders' assessments and approaches in the region.

Vis a vis to the above observation, it is recommended that any food distribution includes a simultaneous and complementary WASH intervention. This will ensure a comprehensive approach resulting in improved community health and wellbeing, whilst decreasing risk of diarrhea and other water borne disease.

The PNGRCS has begun an engagement process with private sector, government and other actors to ensure food distributions occur in the areas of operation where the need has been highlighted and that they are undertaken in a timely, quality and equitable manner. The PNGRCS will work with food actors and undertake the hygiene promotion (including the jerry cans distribution) as an accompaniment activity in the Western Highlands. Despite the delays, health risks related to poor water handling and hygiene practices remain and an extension of the DREF is required to allow sufficient time to complete the distributions and follow up hygiene promotion to be undertaken.

A WASH intervention, focusing on hygiene promotion and safe water handling is to be completed under the DREF. This will be complemented with a post DREF plan of action that will see hygiene promotion monitored, a focus on working with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), who has a research base in the Tambul-Nebilyer district on promotion of drought resistant seeds, of drought awareness and food preservation and on ongoing monitoring of hygiene promotion and safe water handling. There will be a focus on ensuring the minimum



PNGRC Volunteer collecting survey data at Lower Kagul, Western Highlands, PNG (Photo credit: Freeman Manyavi, PNGRCS DM Officer)

standard commitments (MSCs) in gender and emergency programming and these materials are being translated by the operation team. If sufficient post DREF funding support can be identified, the Western Highlands branch would likely consider an expansion to other affected areas in the Western Highlands Province using volunteers trained under the DREF.

Quality programming

Outcome: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.

| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned | Implementation (%) |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Output 1.1 Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings. | 1.1.1 Mobilize PNGRCS staff and volunteers for assessments. | 100% |
| | 1.1.2 Mobilize/deploy IFRC delegates and regional peer exchange available in the region and Geneva to support PNGRCS in conducting assessments. | 90% |
| | 1.1.3 Undertake assessments to determine specific needs of beneficiaries in the target affected areas. | 100% |
| | 1.1.4 Develop a response plan with activities that will meet identified beneficiary needs. | 80% |
| Output 1.2 Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan. | 1.2.1 Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs and through established feedback mechanisms. | 90% |

Progress:

Assessments have been completed, which provided insights into the changing needs of the affected population. The assessments highlighted that food assistance has been identified as the priority need, as main staple food (sweet potato) has been damaged by the frost in August resulting in a failure of root crops. As such, communities are working harder to obtain sufficient quantity of food, as the food available for consumption is reduced. A secondary need has been identified as access to improved water. Most communities who have been assessed have reported drinking untreated water from open rivers, in which increases the potential risk of a disease outbreak in the future.

An additional role for the PNGRCS in working with actors (government and non-government) to ensure food distributions take place in target communities has been included in the plan.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases in communities affected by the drought and frost is reduced.

| Outputs (expected results) | Activities planned | Implementation (%) |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Output 2.1 Knowledge, attitude and practice on safe water, sanitation and hygiene by target population increased. | 2.1.1 Collaborate with the relief sector in providing jerry cans and hygiene kits; complement with hygiene promotion for safe hygiene practices and usage of safe water storage containers. | 20% |
| | 2.1.2 Mobilize existing WASH/Health branch volunteers to participate in hygiene promotion activities, in coordination with the relief team. | 20% |
| | 2.1.3 Coordinate with the NDC, WASH and Health Clusters to develop hygiene promotion and disease prevention dissemination/ awareness campaigns. | 80% |

Progress:

Procurement has been undertaken for jerry cans. Branch volunteers have been trained in hygiene promotion and mobilised. The PNGRCS has engaged the WASH cluster on developing the health promotion materials which will be used by the trained volunteers.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (phone +675 325 7016):

- Alison Dage, Interim Secretary General, email: alisondage.pngrcs@gmail.com
- Michael Sembenombo, DM manager, email: msembenombo@gmail.com

IFRC Pacific country cluster support team, Suva (phone +679 3311 855):

- Stephanie Zoll, disaster management coordinator, mobile: +67 99 980 561, email: stephanie.zoll@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60 3 9207 5700):

- Nicolas Verdy, operations coordinator, mobile: +60 19 6200 357, email: nicolas.verdy@ifrc.org
- Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva

- Christine South, operations support; phone: +41 22 730 4529, email: christine.south@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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRPG005 - Papua New Guinea - Drought**

Timeframe: 15 Sep 15 to 15 Dec 15

Appeal Launch Date: 15 Sep 15

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2015/9-2015/11 | Programme | MDRPG005 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2015/9-2015/12 | Budget | APPROVED |
| Split by funding source | Y | Project | * |
| Subsector: | * | | |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

| | Raise humanitarian standards | Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people | Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development | Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work | Joint working and accountability | TOTAL | Deferred Income |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| A. Budget | | 150,669 | | | | 150,669 | |
| B. Opening Balance | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| Other Income | | | | | | | |
| <i>DREF Allocations</i> | | 150,669 | | | | 150,669 | |
| C4. Other Income | | 150,669 | | | | 150,669 | |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4) | | 150,669 | | | | 150,669 | |
| D. Total Funding = B +C | | 150,669 | | | | 150,669 | |

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

| | Raise humanitarian standards | Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people | Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development | Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work | Joint working and accountability | TOTAL | Deferred Income |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| B. Opening Balance | | | | | | | |
| C. Income | | 150,669 | | | | 150,669 | |
| E. Expenditure | | -55,793 | | | | -55,793 | |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | | 94,876 | | | | 94,876 | |

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRPG005 - Papua New Guinea - Drought

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Selected Parameters

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| Budget Timeframe | 2015/9-2015/12 | Budget | APPROVED |
| Split by funding source | Y | Project | * |
| Subsector: | * | | |

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

| Account Groups | Budget | Expenditure | | | | | TOTAL | Variance |
|---|----------------|------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | | Raise humanitarian standards | Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people | Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development | Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work | Joint working and accountability | | |
| | A | | | | | B | A - B | |
| BUDGET (C) | | | 150,669 | | | 150,669 | | |
| Relief items, Construction, Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 45,000 | | | | | | 45,000 | |
| Medical & First Aid | 2,385 | | | | | | 2,385 | |
| Utensils & Tools | 18,000 | | | | | | 18,000 | |
| Total Relief items, Construction, Sup | 65,385 | | | | | | 65,385 | |
| Logistics, Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Transport & Vehicles Costs | 12,773 | | 401 | | | 401 | 12,372 | |
| Logistics Services | 7,250 | | | | | | 7,250 | |
| Total Logistics, Transport & Storage | 20,023 | | 401 | | | 401 | 19,622 | |
| Personnel | | | | | | | | |
| Volunteers | 11,323 | | 3,189 | | | 3,189 | 8,133 | |
| Total Personnel | 11,323 | | 3,189 | | | 3,189 | 8,133 | |
| Workshops & Training | | | | | | | | |
| Workshops & Training | 3,135 | | 9,130 | | | 9,130 | -5,995 | |
| Total Workshops & Training | 3,135 | | 9,130 | | | 9,130 | -5,995 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 35,169 | | 25,276 | | | 25,276 | 9,893 | |
| Information & Public Relations | | | 1,260 | | | 1,260 | -1,260 | |
| Office Costs | 3,022 | | 1,095 | | | 1,095 | 1,928 | |
| Communications | 3,415 | | 266 | | | 266 | 3,149 | |
| Financial Charges | | | 363 | | | 363 | -363 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 41,606 | | 28,260 | | | 28,260 | 13,346 | |
| Operational Provisions | | | | | | | | |
| Operational Provisions | | | 11,407 | | | 11,407 | -11,407 | |
| Total Operational Provisions | | | 11,407 | | | 11,407 | -11,407 | |
| Indirect Costs | | | | | | | | |
| Programme & Services Support Recovt | 9,196 | | 3,405 | | | 3,405 | 5,791 | |
| Total Indirect Costs | 9,196 | | 3,405 | | | 3,405 | 5,791 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 150,669 | | 55,793 | | | 55,793 | 94,876 | |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | | 94,876 | | | 94,876 | | |