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# Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Papua New Guinea: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRPG008</b>	<b>Glide n° EQ-2018-000020-PNG</b>
<b>Date of issue: 28 February 2018</b>	<b>Expected timeframe: 3 months</b> <b>Expected end date: 27 May 2018</b>
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster: Yellow <sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>DREF allocated: CHF 209,398</b>	
<b>Total number of people affected: Unknown</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 2,000</b>
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society has 500 volunteers, 18 headquarter staff, seven branch staff and a presence in 13 administrative units of the country through branches	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Provincial disaster committees (PDCs), National Disaster Centre (NDC), PNG Disaster Management Team and OXFAM	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake with a 35 km depth, struck at about 4am PNG time on 26 February 2018, followed 30 minutes later by an aftershock of 5.5, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and various media sources. The epicentre is in the southern highlands in a mountainous area (Mount Bosavi). Population is mostly rural and with no major urban centres or infrastructures near the epicentre. According to the USGS, the epicentre was located 33.1 km southwest of Tari (population 8,186), 98.5 km west of Mendi (population 26,252) and 163.4 km east of Kiunga (population 11,536), Papua New Guinea. There are 670,000 people living within 100 km and 12,000 within 10 km of the epicentre.

Communication and road accessibility have been cut off. The mobile phone network in the region has been disrupted, with reports that telecommunications towers may have collapsed. The earthquake is understood to be massive and had been felt in neighbouring provinces including Enga and Western Highlands (WH).

According to unconfirmed reports, several houses have been destroyed including public properties, while schools and hospitals in Komo completely disrupted. Thirty persons have been presumed dead, several others sustaining injuries which is yet to be confirmed. It was also reported by a Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC) volunteer that a section of the road between Kiburu and Poroma has been buried by landslides making it impossible for vehicle passage. This indicating that many areas roads are currently blocked and difficult to access.

Further update (unconfirmed reports) from Red Cross sources:

- According to some Red Cross sources 15 persons are confirmed dead in Southern Highland province (presumed from collapsed infrastructure)
- Tari – Poroma road cut off by landslide
- Several web media are mentioning around 30 people dead, although this figure has not been confirmed.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. This categorization implies that the response intervention is within the capacity of the National Society of an affected country to manage with resources available in-country. If requested, the IFRC Country Office may provide any necessary technical or management support to the National Society, and if required, the IFRC Regional Office may support the mobilization of regional disaster response tools, with Geneva supporting the allocation of Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

There are landslides in Komo and/or Tari with vehicles reported to have been buried, with no mention at this time of humans being buried.

The National Disaster Centre (NDC) is in the process of gaining an initial assessment of the ground situation from provincial authorities. Its director confirmed that an Emergency Team is being deployed to conduct a rapid assessment on 27 February 2018. The team includes the PNG Defence Force (Works Department) and NDC personnel.

There has been very minor impact reported on the Indonesian side of the island, in Papua Province as the epicentre of the earthquakes and aftershocks has predominantly been in PNG. NDC is coordinating with the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) on joint assessments in bordering areas. No request for assistance is being sought for Indonesia at this point.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1976, making it an auxiliary to the authorities. The National Society has a total of 500 volunteers, 25 staff in the country through 13 branches. The National Society has experience with managing six DREF operations in the past – including a [cholera response in 2009](#), a [drought response in 2015](#), as well as part of the [International Appeal response for Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015](#), [measles outbreak in 2017](#) and [volcanic activity 2018](#) in Kadovar Island, East Sepik Province.

PNGRC is liaising closely with the National Disaster Committee Team. PNGRC has a disaster management unit. The programme manager will take the lead for the operation, with technical support provided from the IFRC country and regional offices.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC has a country office in Papua New Guinea consisting of a head of country office as well as a finance delegate. Additional technical resources required to support this plan will come primarily from the Asia Pacific regional office based in Kuala Lumpur and IFRC country-cluster support team (CCST) office for the Pacific based in Suva, as well as the other Movement members, particularly those that have long standing cooperation with PNGRC, such as Australian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). ICRC has a Papua New Guinea Mission in country based in Port Moresby with a well-established field office in Mount-Hagen, Western Highlands, which covers some of the areas believed to be the most affected by the earthquake. Partners are working on longer term planning towards supporting PNGRC with one aligned Movement support plan for greater efficiencies and drawing on the collective strengths of the Movement. IFRC Papua New Guinea country office will provide guidance and support to PNGRC throughout the duration of the operation.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

A joint PNG Disaster Management Team regularly meet once every month, hosted and chaired by NDC. The Provincial Disaster Committees (PDC) will be involved in current earthquake response activities and supporting with information. UN agencies are closely observing the situation. Disaster Management Team is providing updates to humanitarian partners, international oil and gas companies present in the affected areas and the media. The Prime Minister has also made an official call for the mobilization of the PNG Armed Forces to provide immediate response to the affected population

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

A key challenge for the moment is the collapse of communication on the current status, on exact locations of people and their condition, coupled with the remote location of the earthquake, nature of the terrain and difficulty in communications and road access.

The PNGRC secretary general is in regular phone communication with the PNG authorities who have confirmed that NDC and Defence Force works department will carry out rapid assessment by 27 February and initial report will be shared. There will a second assessment based on the outcome of the first, and NDC confirmed that PNGRC will be part of the second round of detailed assessment.

There are fears a large number of population may have been affected based on magnitude of the EQ and its depth of only 35 km on land. However, no further information on casualties and loss due to damage have been reported so far. A major international oil and gas company had expressed concern due to lack of communication with their workers in the affected areas that includes Kutubu in SH Province, indicating severity of the situation.

Therefore, emergency assessment, relief and WASH, health and hygiene promotion are identified, with emergency shelter urgently needed for the affected populations.

The PNGRC secretary general (SG) is in close contact with the WH Provincial Branch and will continue to communicate with contacts in affected areas for more information. The WH Branch and national headquarters (NHQ) have pre-positioned stock of non-food items (NFI) and will require some replenishment. In addition, PNGRC is assessing emergency stocks in different nearby provincial branches and other branches to be transported to SH Province. The branch is in need of additional relief items and some funds to mobilize its volunteers for assessments.

### **Targeting**

Aerial surveillance of South Highlands will be done early to have a better view on the impacts and areas to prioritize for the subsequent assessments. The selection criteria will be finalized after PNGRC completes the assessments. However, PNGRC will take immediate action to carry out emergency relief operation and has agreed to cover the needs of 2,000 people based on its present capacities.

PNGRC will do a recipients list in coordination with other actions once a full assessment is completed. Based on the estimation that it will be some time before people can recover, it is essential to get a full picture of the market, public structures, supplies available in affected areas and whether these are accessible to the population. People with particular vulnerabilities will be prioritized in receiving aid (such as elderly, disabled, pregnant women, single-head households). It is in these interventions that PNGRC volunteers will play a key role, working alongside the Provincial Disaster Committee and other stakeholders to carry out assessment, beneficiaries' selection and response to the disaster. PNGRC SG is involved as a member of the National Disaster Committee and has many years of experience as a volunteer and responding to disasters.

### **Scenario planning**

The most likely scenario is that the PNG government has the capacity to support the affected population on SH Province with food and water supplies for a limited time.

The worst-case scenario is that rounds of after-shocks continue and cause damages before the affected population can be resettled. It is unlikely that a detailed assessment and recovery can be conducted in a timely manner due to difficult terrain and damaged link roads, increasing the likelihood of casualties. This would have significant humanitarian impact on this sizable population as access and communications are difficult. If this happens, potential additional response by PNGRC would be requested and therefore this DREF would potentially need to be reviewed to address evolving needs in this particular scenario.

### **Operation risk assessment**

The distance to reach the affected area is difficult, with no road link from Port Moresby, Mt. Hagen and other sectors. This will be factored into the detailed planning and budgeting for the operation and will include security considerations related to the threats linked with road transport. Currently there are concerns that the circulation of humanitarian supplies in road conditions that have been worsened can represent security threats for road movements which can be a risk for the volunteers and staff providing humanitarian assistance.

In the remote and often inaccessible areas affected, there is a likelihood for high expectation of immediate relief assistance by the visiting teams, adding a security concern for those conducting assessments alone.

Advice from the PNGRC is to utilize local volunteers and staff from the nearest branch with capacity to respond. The PNGRC is in discussion with the Provincial Disaster Committee (PDC) about the utilization of these volunteers for the response by WH Branch. PNGRC volunteers will also be equipped with first aid kits, phones with credit and emergency food/water in remote locations. They will be given other required safety and security gear as appropriate.

The EQ activity in the region is difficult to anticipate. More severe aftershocks in the location could represent risks to both the affected people and PNGRC staff and volunteers.

Finally, it is important to note that due to security risks in handling money, no cash programming can be considered for this operation. The authorities are not allowing this option and PNGRC cannot put its staff and volunteers at risk.

## **B. Operational strategy**

### **Overall objective**

Support the rapid and detailed assessment and response with immediate effect through reaching the affected people and distribute basic household needs, water and shelter, jointly coordinated with the NDC/PDC and partners, to save the lives of people in Southern Highlands and Hela provinces.

## Proposed strategy

This DREF operation is expected to be implemented over three months, to be completed by 27 May 2018. The proposed operational strategy aims at reaching out to the people affected and providing basic needs. The total number of people targeted is 2,000 (HH size = 5), which has been agreed by the National Society to respond. Further targeting will be done during the implementation phase, and this number may change. Main activities include:

- Aerial helicopter assessment due to the lack of communications and disrupted access
- Deployment of staff and volunteers for rapid assessment of the situation and to support the immediate response in earthquake affected areas. This deployment will cover initially 2,000 people in targeted provinces.
- Volunteers will assist in identifying affected people and preparing beneficiaries list
- Provide first aid assistance on need basis during assessments
- Distribution of existing essential relief items<sup>2</sup> from PNGRC existing stocks and subsequent replenishment through international procurement.
- A 'lessons learned workshop' for participating staff and volunteers at the end of the DREF operation.

### Relief items to distribute per household (HH)

Emergency shelter and household items		
	Per HH	Total
Kitchen sets	1	400
Blankets	2	800
Sleeping mats	2	800
Mosquito Nets	2	800
Tarpaulins	2	800
6 mm nylon ropes, 30 m rolls	1	400
Emergency WASH <sup>3</sup>		
Hygiene kits	1	400
Jerry Cans 10 L	2	900

## Operational support services

### Human resources

PNGRC national headquarters (NHQ) staff will be deployed for immediate rapid assessment. Nearby PNGRC Provincial Branch volunteers team will be deployed for at least one month of the operation. In total, 20 volunteers will participate in the operation and logistic support will be provided by the PNGRC NHQ. Each volunteer will be deployed for 20 days during the response operation, and will be provided with per diem, funds for transportation as well as Red Cross visibility. Those involved in the response will be provided with required safety and security equipment prior to deployment and insurance coverage.

A provision to contract two PNGRC staff in finance and programme has been included in this operation to support the implementation of the operation full time as the regular staff are already extremely busy with other emergencies and regular activities.

IFRC will continue to provide support through its PNG country office and regional office, while ICRC PNG Mission will mobilize a communications delegate to support the early stage of this operation.

A Regional Disaster Response Team member (RDRT) with a combination of PMER and Relief experience will be deployed for a period of one month to support the operation and with analysing the assessment information to revise the plan of action as appropriate.

### Protection, gender and inclusion

The volunteer team is expected to be gender balanced. The Shelter and WASH guidelines of the IFRC Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity in Emergency Programming will be followed throughout the activities and specific refreshing sessions for the volunteers included in this plan of action. Volunteers will monitor the evacuated populations to ensure adequate privacy and separation of facilities and adequate participation of men, women, girls and boys in identifying and addressing issues of protection (separated children, children being harassed, SGBV).

<sup>2</sup> PNGRC will also distribute baby bundles (kit with items for babies) to all families with children below one year of age. Those will not be replenished and will be absorbed by PNGRC outside the scope of this DREF

<sup>3</sup> These are standard IFRC hygiene kits procured from regional logistics (KL) stocks. They also include some menstrual hygiene items for women.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

PNGRC stocks are currently being updated and the details will be communicated with IFRC Asia Pacific *Operational Logistics, Procurement & Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM)*. Information on infrastructures, warehousing and transport will be gathered as part of the multi-assessments.

To the extent possible, ICRC will provide support with their vehicles and use of base when possible. They have 1,700 household kits prepositioned in their Mount-Hagen office.

Logistic activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

PNGRC will be in charge of delivering relief goods to distribution points with existing resources supported by IFRC CO. Due to limited capacity of local markets, the replenishment of shelter and household items such as tarpaulins, hygiene kits, kitchen set, blankets, mosquito net and jerrycans will be sourced internationally and delivered directly from OLPSCM warehouse in Kuala Lumpur. The sleeping mats, nylon ropes, wash toolkits will be procured locally. The OLPSCM department will extend its technical logistics support to PNGRC and IFRC CO as needed.

### **Information technologies (IT)**

Mobile phone airtimes will be purchased for volunteers working in the remote areas to ensure access to communication for safety and security. All volunteers will have access to means of communication at all times while in the field. This will ensure they are contactable and can contact relevant emergency numbers as well as IFRC and PNGRC staff for support if needed. Cell phone reception has been confirmed in the affected areas where volunteers will be traveling to.

### **Communications**

As PNGRC does not have a communication team. ICRC will mobilize a communication officer to support with the in-country communication work during early stages, with possibility to provide more as needed until the end of the operation. The IFRC AP regional communication manager will provide complementary support remotely. This support will include carrying out media relations, if required, and producing content that include news articles, social media updates and key messages. This will also include managing communications risks, for example by producing media reactive lines where necessary. Assistance can also be provided on guidance for the production of advocacy and IEC messaging and ensuring communities have the information they need, and volunteers are prepared to answer the questions and concerns of communities.

### **Security**

PNGRC's security framework will apply throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. The National Society will brief its personnel working in the field on the evolving situation and the relevant evacuation routes and processes to ensure they operate safely. Should personnel under IFRC security responsibility, including PNS and surge support, be deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management will apply. In this case, location specific safety and security assessments will be conducted. ICRC will play a key role on providing security management advice as they have an established presence in this region.

IFRC's regional security coordinator is closely monitoring the situation and will provide advice as required. Volunteers will be provided with mobile phones to ensure they have means of communication at all times throughout the operation. Personal protection equipment will be provided to all involved in the operation.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)**

The programme manager at PNGRC headquarters, with the support of IFRC, will guide and monitor the plan of action. Reporting on the emergency plan of action will be carried out according to IFRC minimum standards. Monitoring visits to the affected communities and interviews with beneficiaries, volunteers and others participating in the response will also be conducted to assess progress at regular intervals and guide any required adjustments to the proposed response. At the end of the operation, a lessons-learned workshop will be carried out by PNGRC staff, with volunteers and relevant stakeholders.

### **Administration and Finance**

The IFRC provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to PNGRC on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. The IFRC finance focal point in PNG will provide support to the operation.





AP026	Conduct refresher training for RC volunteers on carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene assessments and basic health sensitization (use of mosquito net) as part of a multi sectorial assessment	x	x														
P&B Output Code	<b>Health Output 1.5: Psychosocial support provided to the target population</b>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP023	Provide basic psychosociological first aid on a needs basis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 2,000

Male / Female: N/A (gender disaggregated data will be provided during activities)

**Needs analysis:** It is anticipated that the displaced population, living in overcrowded conditions, will require assistance in regard to hygiene – specifically hygiene kits and awareness raising activities to prevent the spread of illness. Although it is currently the wet season, supply of clean and safe drinking water is another anticipated need, especially due to possible contamination of many water sources from ash fall. It is anticipated that the government will be able to provide drinking water for an extended period of two weeks to reduce the strain on local sources. Adequate sanitation is likely to be an issue with displaced populations placing a significant strain on existing facilities in host communities. 2 x 10 L jerry cans per family will be distributed.

**Population to be assisted:** 2000 people displaced in temporary shelter and/or host families.

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** Sphere standards will apply.

P&B Output Code	<b>WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities</b>																
	<b>WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities</b>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Child Protection and Gender and Diversity Minimum Standards briefing for volunteers conducting activities	x	x														
AP026	Conduct refresher training for RC volunteers on carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene assessments and basic health sensitization (use of mosquito net) as part of a multi sectorial assessment	x	x														
AP026	Conduct initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities as part of a multi sectorial assessment	x	x														
AP026	Continuously monitor the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								





<b>P&amp;B Output Code</b>	<b>Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.</b>	<i># of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)</i>															
	<b>Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</b>	<i># of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP053	Communications work support from IFRC APRO office is provided	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
<b>P&amp;B Output Code</b>	<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP055	Lessons learned workshop for DREF operation											x	x				

## Budget

### DREF OPERATION

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27/2/2018

Budget Group	DREF grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	11,200
Clothing & Textiles	16,052
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,000
Medical & First Aid	900
Utensils & Tools	14,569
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>48,721</b>
Storage, Warehousing	2,941
Distribution & Monitoring	13,353
Transport & Vehicle Costs	37,647
Logistics Services	4,000
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>57,941</b>
National Society Staff	15,000
Volunteers	47,647
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>62,647</b>
Workshops & Training	8,824
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>8,824</b>
Travel	13,911
Information & Public Relations	2,206
Office Costs	441
Communications	1,544
Financial Charges	382
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>18,485</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	12,780
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>12,780</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>209,398</b>

**Reference documents**

Click here for:

- [DREF Budget](#)
- [Map of affected area](#)

**Contact information**

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**For Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) queries**

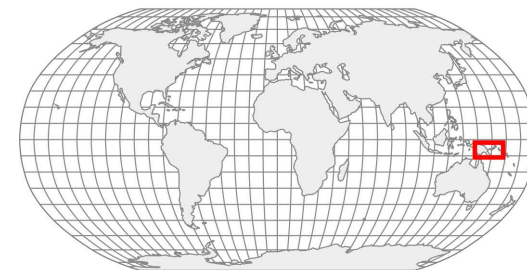
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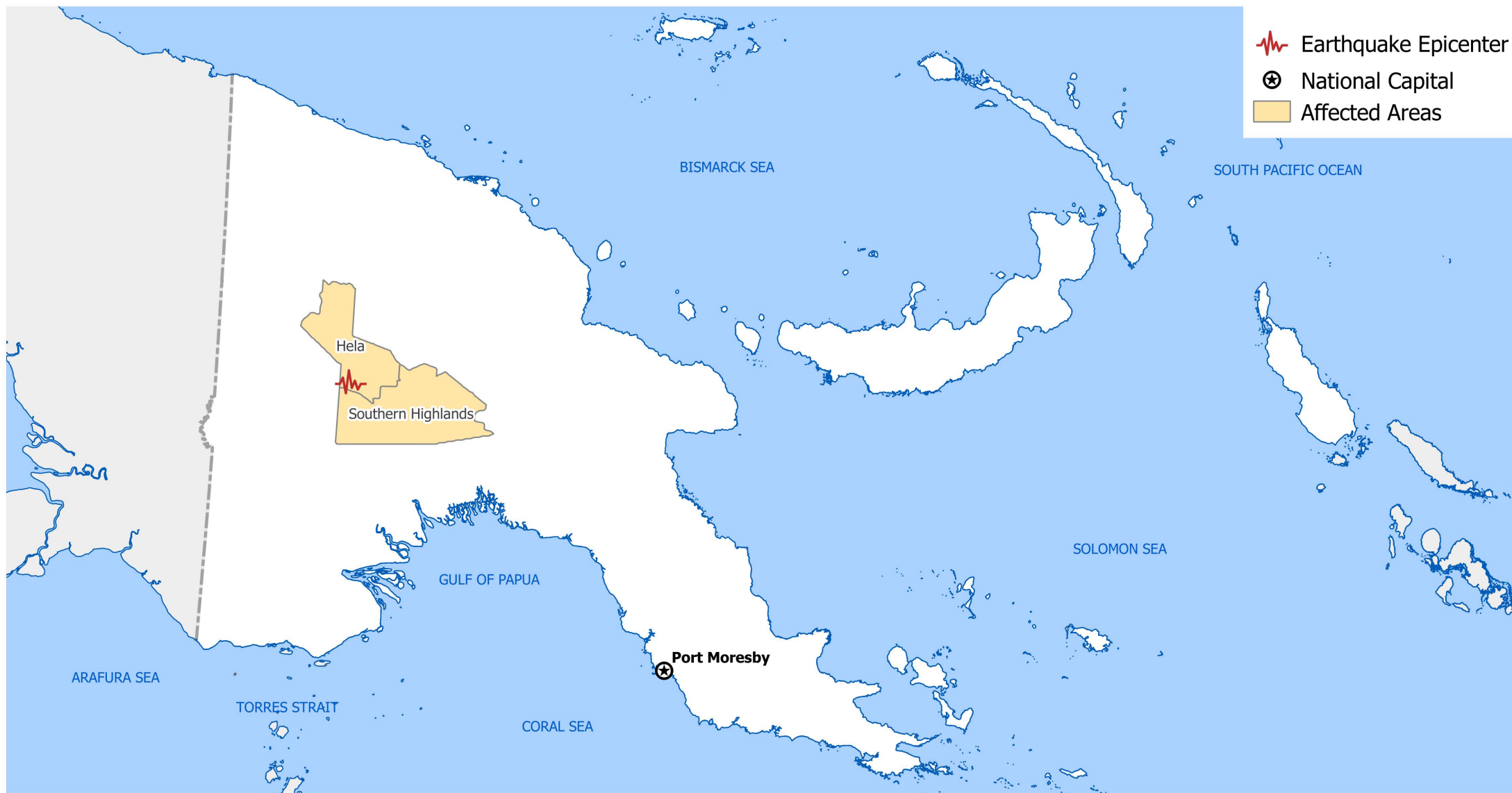


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Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
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# Papua New Guinea, Earthquake: DREF Operation

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0 100 200 300 400 km

