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## Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update #2

### Papua New Guinea: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRPG008	GLIDE n° <a href="#">EQ-2018-000020-PNG</a>
DREF operation update n° 2 issued: 29 May 2018	Timeframe covered by this update: 28 February until 26 May 2018
Operation start date: 28 February 2018	Operation timeframe: 5 months (with a two-month extension to end on 27 July 2018)
Original overall operation budget: CHF 209,398	
N° of people being assisted: 3,000	
<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, UN agencies, INGO's, Exxon Mobile, Oil Search, and church associations.	

This operations update requests a two-month no-cost extension of the originally planned three-month DREF operation, now extended to five months and ending on 27 July 2018. This extension is based on delays of the final relief distributions due to the security situation in some of the target locations.

This extension will enable the National Society to complete the final relief distributions in all target areas and hold a lessons learned workshop to collectively identify the challenges encountered. Key staff from the IFRC country office and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) staff will participate in this process.

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake with a 35-kilometre depth, struck at about 4 am (Papua New Guinea- PNG time) on 26 February 2018, followed 30 minutes later by an aftershock of 5.5 magnitude, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The epicentre was in the southern highlands in a mountainous area (Mount Bosavi) which is location with a mostly rural population; no major urban centres or infrastructure were located near the epicentre. According to UNDAC reports, and based on the PNG 2011 census, a population of 37,689 persons live in the areas where the earthquake was most felt. Approximately 270,000 people experienced the intensity above 6.0 and required humanitarian assistance.

The two most affected provinces are Hela and Southern Highlands. The death toll remains unclear, but it is believed that more than 100 people died, with most of confirmed deaths caused by landslides. The affected areas have care centres where people are gathering and sleeping. The 21 May 2018 UNDAC<sup>1</sup> report mentioned 8,360 displaced people remain in 11 centres.

The majority of communication and road accessibility has returned to pre-earthquake status after being cut off for several weeks. As some of the affected areas can only be reached by air or walking in normal times, these have yet to be reached or only been assessed or partially reached by air surveys. The most remote locations can only be accessed by walking trails and in non-emergency periods lack radio or mobile networks.

As violent clashes in some of these communities are frequent, the restriction of movement has delayed, or prevented, aid from reaching certain locations. During this operation, several security incidents have occurred, which included the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/papua-new-guinea>.

armed robbery of Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) volunteers and a regional disaster response team (RDRT) member. For this reason, humanitarian organizations temporarily have suspended operations in Hela province.

## Summary of current response

### Overview of Host National Society

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society does not have branches in the affected areas. The nearest branch is in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands. The volunteers from these branches have been very active in conducting initial rapid assessments and relief in the earthquake-affected areas. They have also coordinated and facilitated a coordination hub with other local stakeholder in Mount Hagen to support the affected provinces nearby. A PNGRCS disaster management team from the headquarters also provided surge support. The PNGRCS started to implement the activities of this DREF with the beginning of the assessments, mobilizing volunteers, organizing procurement and establishing a plan of action based on earlier findings from the rapid assessments.

Around 20 volunteers from Mount Hagen, including two trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members have been active in the response of this DREF in the field. While approximately 30 others have assisted with logistics, packing transport etc.



PNGRCS volunteers loading an airplane for distributions, Southern Highlands province. **Photo: IFRC**

### 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 and finance delegate. An operations coordinator from IFRC Asia Pacific regional office was deployed for one month to provide surge support. A RDRT member then took over from him. This RDRT will provide technical support to the PNGRCS in the implementation of this operation for a six-week period. Other IFRC colleagues are providing remote support to the country team.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a mission in Papua New Guinea that is based in Port Moresby with a well-established field office in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands, which covers some of the most affected areas by the earthquake. Initial rapid assessments and response actions by PNGRCS and ICRC teams were conducted shortly after the disaster. The IFRC operations coordinator managed to join one of the teams for three days in Nipa-Kutubu district and shared the ICRC compound for security and logistics purposes. The RDRT member subsequently deployed also stayed at the compound for the duration of his mission and was provided with general logistics and security support by ICRC.

In terms of response, ICRC is using its available resources to respond to urgent earthquake-driven needs in its established areas of operations in the Highlands. They are presently focussed on rehabilitation of health structures, through repairs to water and other essential services. They have also conducted non-food items (NFI) distributions for displaced and host communities and are working on water issues at some care centres. ICRC plans to form a second water and habitation (WatHab) team to boost its capacity to respond to these issues. All its earthquake activities are done jointly with the PNGRCS. Following the shelter training ICRC plans to incorporate this dimension into their operations making use of the newly trained volunteers from Mount Hagen.

Australian Red Cross is providing bilateral support to PNGRCS that has entailed 1000 tarpaulins and 500 mosquito nets as preparedness stock measures as well as sponsoring the costs for the deployment of the RDRT generalist.

Partners are working on longer term planning towards supporting PNGRC with one aligned Movement support plan for greater efficiency and drawing on the collective strength of the Movement. Several partners have indicated interest in partnering with PNGRCS following the successful distribution to affected communities. IFRC Papua New Guinea country office has provided guidance and support to PNGRC throughout the duration of the operation.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

A joint PNG Disaster Management Team has met twice since the beginning of the disaster. The Provincial Disaster Committees (PDC) have more frequent coordination. Highlands Humanitarian Hub (HHH) coordination meetings have been run in Mount Hagen between RC, PDC and INGOs, generally at the National Society's office. Coordination was streamlined after the arrival of UNDAC team to provide coordination and information management support. Seven informal clusters (Logistics, WASH, Shelter, Food Security, Health, Protection, Education, Nutrition) also were activated.

Several INGOs, local NGOs, church groups, UN agencies, government bodies, and the two oil and gas companies present in the affected areas (Exxon Mobile and Oil Search) have been involved in the response effort. The Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), World Food Programme (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM) are active and other actors are increasing their presence, particularly in areas not affected by conflict. Most of them have been doing assessments and are at their early stage of emergency response still due to access issues. The activities are currently being reported in a 3W matrix and information is centralized through the [Humanitarian Platform](#) web page. HHH meeting minutes and associated information is shared.

Information from state and NGO sources are regularly updated on [DTM live](#). Logistic information is available in the following locations:

[Humanitarian Cargo Information Matrix](#)

[Request for Assistance \(RFA\) form](#)

[Transporters Database](#)

PNG armed forces and Australian armed forces were providing logistical support for transport and warehousing, which is winding down or completed. The oil and gas companies are also supporting some organizations in this matter, while MAF has done a series of aerial surveys and conducted substantial relief activities with its aircrafts. Other aviation actors include Hevilift, which provided discounted services to PNGRCS, and Helisolutions. The staging point is in Mogulu and in the Morro airport operated by Oil Search with WFP support.

The PNG government is working on rehabilitating infrastructures and roads and continues to coordinate the response and recovery efforts through the appointed Emergency Controller. The Prime Minister's office has announced that it would mobilize 450 million PNG kinas (approx. 137 million Swiss francs) for the response.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

The access to remote locations and communication remains a significant challenge faced by all actors, including the Red Cross. Serious security concerns in some areas continue to hamper intervention.

The initial rapid assessments conducted with Red Cross teams were composed of Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, ICRC and a staff person from the IFRC. These teams observed minor to moderate impacts in the assessed areas in Hela and Southern Highlands, near the epicentre. Interviews with government authorities and affected populations were conducted, as well as direct observation from the road. The damages visible from the different roads and during visits were quite limited. The most notable damages were the road cracks, mudslides and landslides that became more numerous approaching the epicentre but not affecting populated areas. In terms of infrastructure, most households showed reduced impact and the most affected structures were modern buildings used by government offices. Gardens and small markets with food, and many functional gardens, were observable.

After discussion with authorities, the teams assessed locations to which they were referred by authorities. At times, local community members provided different figures than government authorities for the same places. Care centres which are the informal displaced people gathering point, were observed during day time but were not showing signs of people massively using them. However, it is possible that more people used these during night or were concentrated in other areas not seen during those assessments.

The findings of the rapid assessments did not enable the confirmation of secondary data, which could justify a large-scale response. The two clear findings were that many people are consuming water from different, and at times risky, sources, and they are fearful of returning to their homes. Their fear not only prevents their return to homes, even those not damaged, but also to their gardens. The latter situation could impact their food security. Many of these communities are in conflict and small incidents such as robbing food can lead to further violent altercations. While these two priorities persist and intervention must reflect these priorities further assessment was required to determine appropriate response.

Figures have changed significantly as assessments have been completed. The PNG disaster management team's [Situation report #9](#) reflects the latest tracking figures available from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) implemented as part of the Shelter/CCCM Cluster response; it indicates that 11,041 households (42,577 people) remain displaced due to the earthquake, of which 1,252 households (24 per cent) are displaced in nine care centres.

The Red Cross assessments identified 198 destroyed homes in Beneria, Hela Province. Since 28 March, most humanitarian programmes in and around Tari, the provincial capital of Hela province, have been suspended due to increased tension and inter-communal fighting. Many partners have temporarily relocated humanitarian staff to other locations, including to the provincial capital of the Southern Highlands, Mendi, in view of the situation. Humanitarian partners aim to resume relief work as soon as the security situation allows.

## Operation Risk Assessment

Earthquake aftershocks are still being felt until now and therefore, can still be a risk for the security of staff and volunteers, as well as the affected populations. Continuous rainfalls are also another natural hazard than can lead to further landslides which can result in reducing access or injuries or death.

During the assessments, it was clearly observed that the populations were discontent at the government for not responding quickly enough, but most notably were angry at oil and gas companies which were believed to be responsible for the earthquake. Some people stated that if evidence was found that the soil exploitation lead to the earthquake, there would be retaliation. The existing communities have been in tense relations between themselves, the government, the oil and gas companies for some time. Thus, this earthquake has the potential of triggering further conflicts or violent acts. One INGO member reported during a coordination meeting in Mount Hagen on 16 March 2018 that its team was not allowed to provide humanitarian assistance in Hela province. Armed people blocked their passage and told them to turn around, stating they would refuse to receive humanitarian assistance until the government first provided their "overdue financial compensation". Such incidents have been frequent in the past and can easily be recur in several locations. Several demonstrations of people with bush-knives and other weapons have taken place in recent weeks in some areas and the closure of Tari airport recently added to this disruption.

PNGRCS volunteers and IFRC RDRT traveling back from assessment in Benaria, found the road was blocked with a log. Five young men armed with homemade rifles and machetes attacked the car, hitting and punching without provocation. They took all possessions from each person while threatening each and making everyone sit on the ground. These attackers did not listen to the explanations of the mission of the Red Cross and their response activities. Prior to the team's travel, they had discussed access with ICRC and the Provincial Police Commander; two local men were part of the team. Signs indicate that these individuals were not attached to specific tribal groups in the area and appear to have acted alone.

The NFI distributions entail other risks. Within this complex social context, serious work in engaging the communities is critical due to the inter-community sensitivity and tension. The selection criteria need to be discuss clearly and accepted by all, otherwise distributions can be risky as members not receiving the goods might react with violence. Some humanitarian actors continue to conduct blanket aerial distributions, which could potentially cause some instability.

PNGRCS volunteers have been equipped with communications equipment, first aid kits, satellite phones and personal protective equipment to mitigate risks. However, the unstable environment makes the mitigation of risks difficult. The community and community leaders should be involved in any activities to decrease the chance of risks, as much as possible.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Proposed strategy

This activities of this DREF operation remain the same as those reported in [Operation Update no. 1](#). However, due to the latest security situation delaying the final relief distributions combined with the need to review the lessons learned, the timeframe for this operation has been extended two months until 27 July 2018.

This revised strategy has the following modifications:

- Lessons learned workshop to be organized and incorporate some APRO members to provide strategic review of the challenges encountered
- Extension of the timeframe for final relief distributions to allow the security situation to improve.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Shelter

People reached:

Male: Not available

Female: Not available

**Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions**

**Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	400	236
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>A total of 236 households received shelter and settlement assistance assessment. This included the registration and distribution to 224 households around Beneria Station in addition to the distribution to 12 households, whose family members evaluated by MAF to Mount Hagen.</p> <p>The detailed assessment and distribution in neighbouring communities near Wangopawi area are expected to begin when the road via Komo station reopens. This decision was made based on safety concerns.</p> <p>Community leaders were invited to a roundtable in Tari to discuss safety and security and travel to communities. Work was conducted with leaders for a thorough dissemination, assessment and distribution/training, as needed. Once the road via Komo station is reopened, possible follow-up training and evaluation of Beneria will be possible, as this road passes Beneria area. These actions are expected to be done when security clearance will be given and thus enable the reaching of the remaining 164 households.</p> <p>After publishing the operations update number 1, the team identified some shortfalls related to the items planned for distribution to 400 households. The Australian Red Cross, which provides bilateral supports with tarps and mosquito nets as part of additional contingency stock, agreed to let PNGRCS distribute the additional quantities of tarpaulins and mosquito nets to complete the 400 households for these two specific items.</p>		

 <p><b>Health</b>  <b>People reached: 1180</b>  <b>Male: Not available</b>  <b>Female: Not available</b></p>		
<b>Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced</b>		
<b>Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers deployed to provide assessments	20	10
<b>Output 1.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by first aid services	Case by case	19
<b>Output 1.3: Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households receiving treated mosquito nets	400	236
<b>Output 1.4: Psychosocial support provided to the target population</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people receiving trauma-awareness messaging	3000	710
# of media campaigns disseminated through the population	1	Not started
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Twelve PNGRCS volunteers have been conducting multi-sectorial assessments. First aid has been provided during the assessments, but as of the end of this reporting period, this information was not yet consolidated in the field and transmitted to the branch.</p> <p>To date, the registered information indicates that PNGRCS volunteers provided first aid to 6 children and 13 adults after they came across them in a road accident on 15 March 2018. The cumulative figures will be provided in the final report.</p>		

A total of 21 volunteers (16 men and 5 women) were trained to provide information regarding earthquakes and to provide assistance to minimize the trauma from this disaster. A total of 710 people from 142 households received this service. Additionally, 236 households received long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets during the relief distributions.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 1890

Male: Not available

Female: Not available

### Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by NS with services to address relevant WASH risk factors	3000	1890

#### Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers deployed to provide assessments	20	10

#### Output 1.2: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with essential hygiene items	400	236

#### Output 1.3: Hygiene promotion and handling activities are provided to the entire affected population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion and handling activities	3000	1890

Progress towards outcomes

Twelve PNGRCS volunteers conducted multi-sectorial assessments. Hygiene promotion and WASH-related NIG distribution began 23 April 2018. This activity was slightly delayed due to difficulties of providing the NFIs due to access to locations.

## International Disaster Response

### Outcome 1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

#### Output 1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge capacity roster members deployed	2	2

#### Output 1.2: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standard

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of international procurement respecting the IFRC procurement procedures	100%	100%

#### Output 1.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination meetings with other stakeholders	N/A	16

#### Output 1.4: In the context of large scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of coordination meetings with other RC Movement partners	N/A	18 (regular)

Progress towards outcomes

An IFRC APRO operations coordinator was deployed to provide surge support for assessments, revision of budget and emergency plan of action coordination, logistics support and start of the operation. A generalist RDRT was deployed who provided technical support for monitoring the implementation of this operation, facilitated information sharing and ensured systems to collect proper data were being used, as well as provided technical guidance to the volunteers.

The operations coordinator submitted final requisitions to Operational Logistics, Procurement & Supply Chain Management Department in APRO to replenish the NFIs, which now have been replenished and received.

Members of the PNGRCS team actively participated in regular coordination meetings with other humanitarian actors. Additional, Movement coordination meetings were regularly held.

## Influence others as leading strategic partner

**Outcome 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.**

**Output 1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)	N/A	1 interview

**Output 1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshops	1	Planned for the last phase

Progress towards outcomes

The Red Cross was represented as one of the most active and visible humanitarian actors responding to the PNG earthquake in the international media. The following are some of the media highlights of this coverage:

- Over 2,000 media and social media mentions of the Red Cross in connection with the Papua New Guinea earthquake from 25 February to 7 March 2018.
- Major drivers of coverage focus on death toll, Red Cross initial assessments on number of affected people, lack of accurate information, major aftershocks, concerns over access to safe drinking water as well as on the warning by the Red Cross that the situation could deteriorate because of the season of heavy rains.
- The IFRC head of country office in Papua New Guinea and the Secretary General of Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society were heavily quoted in major online media outlets such as [CNN International](#), [the Guardian](#) and [Reuters](#).
- The two IFRC press releases were picked up by international media outlets such as EFE, the Guardian and Reuters.
- Impressive international media coverage from CNN International, Reuters, AFP, New York Times, BBC News, the Guardian, EFE, AP and more.
- Good engagement on social media from both @Federation and @IFRCAsiaPacific – 2.5 per cent to 4 per cent engagement rate on Twitter (compared to monthly average of 1.5 per cent).
- A [Tweet](#) by AFP mentioning the Red Cross was retweeted 61 times.

The lessons learned workshop is planned for the end of the operation. As mentioned, this workshop with the National Society will include Movement components on the ground, as well as a staff person from the IFRC APRO.

### Logistics and supply chain

Logistic activities have aimed 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.

PNGRCS had prepositioned stocks available. NFIs required to meet emergency response needs were released from in-country stocks and distributed to the affected population. As mentioned, the Australian Red Cross supported PNGRCS bilaterally with NFIs (tarpaulins and mosquito nets as per IFRC specifications) that the National Society volunteers distributed during the relief phase.

Due to limited local market and to ensure the quality of the relief items for any future disasters, the IFRC standard items released for this operation were replenished internationally by the IFRC Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement & Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM). Relief items distributed to meet immediate needs with specific local specification to ensure local and cultural aspects are met will be replenished by the PNGRCS with the support of IFRC CO and AP OLPSCM.

Rented vehicles have been used to transport staff and volunteers as well as relief materials to affected areas. To the extent possible, in the areas where ICRC has presence, they have also been providing fleet support to the PNGRCS with their vehicles and use of base when possible.

Whereas PNGRCS has the lead role in logistics activities to support this operation, the IFRC CO and IFRC AP OLPSCM maintain close coordination with the National Society and provides support as needed.

## D. BUDGET

### DREF OPERATION

MDRPG008 : Papua New Guinea Earthquake

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>



Click here for:

- [DREF operation](#)
- [Operation Update no. 1](#)

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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 (NGO's) 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.

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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**.

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