

June-September 2019



Highlights

Displaced family offloading their belongings at Bakada-Pos Camp care centre in West New Britain province.
© Peter Muropera/ IOM 2019

■ IOM provided displacement profiles to the Disaster Management Team to help inform evidence-based humanitarian responses following Ulawun Volcanic activity last June in West New Britain province.

■ IOM facilitated review workshops for Disaster Risk Management Strategies and Standard Operating Procedures in Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Oro province.

■ Three years on, the Kilip community in Jiwaka province continue to thrive owing to the benefits of past support provided by IOM, USAID and European Commission.

Programme Update

IOM in close cooperation with the National Disaster Centre (NDC) continues to support the Government at the national and sub-national levels in addressing disaster risks associated with natural hazards through its Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programming. Recorded benefits arising from IOM interventions in the past three months include improved food and livelihood security, and enhanced access to safe drinking water in several grassroots communities across the country.

From 20 to 21 June 2019, IOM provided technical assistance in the review of Provincial Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Strategies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Oro province. Upon finalization, these will be used as formalized actions for reducing hazard-related disaster risk and setting the strategic direction for the beneficiary provinces to become more resilient to disasters including guiding the application of a unified set of procedures to effectively support disaster risk management at the provincial level.

Upon request by the NDC, IOM deployed the first round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) from 28 to 29 June to identify people displaced by Ulawun Volcanic activity, and provided multi-sectoral data to humanitarian partners on gaps and needs, displacement patterns and monitoring to inform the coordinated and targeted delivery of aid to those most in need. IOM conducted two rounds of DTM site assessments, and registered displaced households living in Bakada and Kabaya government run care centres.

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Displacement Tracking Matrix

IOM, in close cooperation with the NDC, West New Britain Provincial Administration and Biala Local Level Government, supported the Government in collecting demographic data on the displaced to help inform evidence-based humanitarian responses following Ulawun volcanic activity.

IOM, at the request of the Shelter, Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster co-lead, NDC, deployed its DTM team to both West New Britain and East New Britain provinces in the early aftermath of the Ulawun volcano eruption. IOM deployed teams within days following the 26 June 2019 eruption and has since completed two rounds of DTM assessments in West New Britain province with the second assessment identifying water, sanitation, and shelter among the needs of those displaced across the assessed eight sites including the two care centres – Bakada and Kabaya.

IOM with the support from the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society also registered households displaced to Bakada and Kabaya care centres following NDC’s request. Data gathered through the DTM is providing information to government, local authorities and humanitarian partners on gaps and needs, displacement patterns and monitoring to inform the coordinated and targeted delivery of aid to those most in need in care centres. It also supports return planning.

Capacity Building

IOM facilitated review workshops for the DRM Strategies and SOPs in Oro province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in June 2019.

The workshops were attended by various stakeholders including government (national and sub-national), Non-Governmental Organizations, private sector, academics, community representatives and the media. The workshops were attended by 45 (40 men and five women) and 39 participants (31 men and eight women) in Oro and Bougainville respectively.

Feedback from the participating stakeholders will help in finalizing the drafted DRM Strategies and SOPs which will be presented to the respective Provincial Executive Councils for review. Upon finalization, the DRM strategies will be applied as formalised action for reducing hazard-related disaster risk



Government representative giving opening remarks during the review workshop in Bougainville. © Prince Pihei/ AROB 2019

and setting the strategic direction for the respective provinces to become more resilient to disasters. To complement, the SOPs will help guide the application of a uniform set of procedures within the provincial government’s systems to effectively support DRM activities including clearly defining roles and responsibilities of different actors for effective coordination and collaboration.

Awareness Raising

IOM continues to raise awareness on disasters to the larger public through various sources including print and electronic media. IOM distributed 50 pamphlets in July 2019 in Tok Pisin (Pidgin) language on volcanoes during the DTM field operations in West New Britain province.



A group of people standing next to the IOM supported billboard in Oro province. © Sebastian Hurokoli/ IOM 2019

IOM in partnership with the NDC and Provincial Disaster Centres, and with support from local community members installed four billboards on disaster awareness in Oro (1), East New Britain (1) and West New Britain (2) provinces. The billboards, installed in public spaces along the highways

provide information to people about the hazards their provinces are prone to and the responsive risks preventive measures.



Disaster Mitigation

Several communities in the province continue to experience heavy rains as well as strong winds among other many hazards recorded in West New Britain. Among them is Vovosi Community in the Ward 4 of Hoskins Local Level Government and one of the project sites IOM has worked with in developing its CBDRM plan. As part of the CBDRM planning and implementation, Vovosi villagers identified mangrove planting as one of their community-driven mitigation activities with the aim to reduce coastal erosion induced by flooding. The mangrove planting in Vovosi was supported by West New Britain’s Environment and Climate Change Unit which provided technical advice in local mangrove nursery and transplanting. At least 250 mangrove seedlings were transplanted on the shoreline of Vovosi between March and April 2019.



Water Supply

Mangiang, a rural community in Umi/Atzera Local Level Government in Morobe province, is located approximately 125km south of Lae City. Located on the plains of Markham Valley between the Mangiang and Iruap Rivers, Mangiang is dominated by lowland grassland and mixed savannah types of vegetation.

Access to potable water remained a challenge for the majority of Mangiang villagers. Since the rundown of the existing water system in the community in 2013, women, girls and boys walked distance of up to 1km to collect river water for drinking. In line with its CBDRM programming, IOM worked closely with Morobe Provincial Administration including the Provincial Disaster Centre and Provincial Health Division and the local community members in rehabilitating the dilapidated hand pumps (3) and solar powered (1) water supply systems in Mangiang. Following the rehabilitation of the water point was a training for the Water Point Committee to ensure local ownership and equity of access to the water points.

The rehabilitation of the water supply points is now benefiting over 3,000 community members. A beneficiary woman thanked IOM and the Government for their supported noting, *“Thank you for your assistance to this community. Our*

families are now getting clean drinking water.” Mangiang Disaster Committee Chairman noted, *“Since the breakdown of the water system, mothers and children walked long way to collect water from shallow wells along river banks. The wells get polluted during high tide and we had no choice but to collect the polluted water for our household uses including drinking. Thank you for repairing our water points and restoring access to clean water.”*



IOM staff (in blue vest) and trained Water Point Committee for Lagui community in Morobe province. © Willie Nombi IOM 2019

IOM also trained the Water Point Committee in Lagui community from 18 to 19 July, a beneficiary of the IOM’s Community-Based Disaster Risk Management planning and water supply interventions.



Resilience Building

A US Government delegation visited Kilip community on 3 August 2019 to see the sustainable water supply and climate resilient agriculture project installed here three years ago in 2016 in response to the El Niño-induced drought.

As part of the project, IOM drilled 17 boreholes, giving access to safe drinking water to over 65,000 people across three provinces namely Jiwaka, Enga and Chimbu. Jointly funded by USAID and the European Commission, IOM’s ‘Enhancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Water Supply in Drought-Affected Communities in Papua New Guinea’ project targeted the most-affected villages in the three provinces.

In responding to the El Niño-induced drought, IOM also conducted participatory health and hygiene education awareness to some 15,777 beneficiaries in the communities most affected by drought. Additionally, as part of the project, IOM conducted Pump-minder trainings for selected 30

community members in the targeted areas, where the beneficiaries were equipped with practical skills, tools and protective gear to carry out maintenance for boreholes, to help guarantee their maintenance and sustainability. The Pump-minder trainings were complemented by water-user committee trainings, held for the selected 150 community champions to ensure local ownership and equity of access to the water sites.

Three years on, Kilip villagers and neighbouring communities continue benefit from the project. During the visit by the US Government delegation, community members highlighted several ongoing benefits including improved food security, access to safe drinking water and a decline in disease outbreaks. *“Our children would always get sick in the past. We no longer visit the clinics regularly like we did before you [IOM] came to Kilip community. The education IOM gave us, and the borehole you drilled here benefits over 5,000 people in Kilip. We are a healthy community,”* said one beneficiary.

As part of its response to the drought, IOM promoted sustainable agriculture through conducting technical trainings to 100 master farmers that improved upon local and indigenous farming practices. The training focused on building community resilience while encouraging the use of locally developed hybrid varieties of crops and vegetables. Enhancing the resilience of local communities and building the capacity of local farmers in sustainable agricultural practices is contributing to long-lasting impacts.

Beneficiaries of rice farming (training, tools and seeds distribution) now are recording three harvests each year and reporting improved food security and resilient livelihood. The rice farmers were proud of the 20 tonnes of rice their farms have yielded over the three years but noted that their capacity to process the rice remained limited and requested support for additional milling capability.



IOM, US Government delegation and Kilip villagers during the community visit in Jiwaka province. © Tomoko Sato/ IOM 2019

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