



IOM, government (sub-national) and community members witnessing signing of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Plan during the launch in Kendata in Oro Province. © Peter Muropera/ IOM 2019

### Highlights

- Kendata villagers launched their Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Plan in March, developed with support from IOM in Oro Province.
- 50 local farmers in East New Britain Province trained on conservation farming techniques by IOM and the National Agricultural Research Institute.
- Displaced villagers received shelter support from IOM, Oil Search Foundation and Papua New Guinea Government partnership in Southern Highlands Province.

### Programme Update

IOM continues to support remote, disaster prone and displacement affected communities through its disaster risk management programming. IOM has this year expanded its programme in the country, opening a field office in Western province making its geographical presence in 14 of 22 Papua New Guinea's provinces.

Like many other communities in the country, Kendata in Oro province is prone to several natural hazards including strong winds, volcanic activity and flooding. IOM's community-driven approach has led to the successful launch of Kendata's Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Plan. The community's leadership and contributions in developing their plan will ensure it is well prepared for what may come and will continue to endure. Developed with support from IOM, government and key partners, the plan is now operational and will help empower the community to better manage disaster risks, increase resilience to natural disasters and work towards community-identified development priorities.

A number of rural communities are still rebuilding their homes following the 7.5M earthquake that struck the Highlands region in 2018. In partnership with the Government and Oil Search Foundation, IOM has responded to the shelter needs of communities living in displacement situations following the devastation caused by earthquake. The partnership supported 1,800 people in remote and hard to reach areas with shelter support.

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## Resilience Building

In March, 2019, IOM, local villagers and key stakeholders joined together to launch a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Plan for Kendata community in Oro Province. Throughout the development of the plan, community members considered environmental causes of displacement, natural hazards that impact their communities and initiatives that could help to reduce the risk of natural disasters and promote sustainable development.

Kendata like many other communities in Papua New Guinea is prone to various natural hazards including flooding, strong winds and volcanic activity. Funded by USAID, IOM supported the CBDRM process through the facilitation of a community-based process and technical input, while local leaders and government stakeholders helped to mobilize community members.



The launch was attended by Kendata ward 7 Councillor, Higaturu Local Level Government (LLG) Vice President, Sohe District Chief Executive Officer, Oro Provincial Disaster Coordinator and representatives from the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Oro Volcano Observatory, Papua New Guinea Red Cross and churches. Speaking during the launch, Higaturu LLG Vice President noted, *“I congratulate you all for your hard work in developing this plan and preparing for the launch. This is your plan and the [government] will support you to address disaster risks and development initiatives identified in it.”*

Of the 45 CBDRM plans IOM has supported country-wide, a total of 15 have successfully been launched in Oro province. The launched plans are now being operationalized and will help communities, government actors and key partners to

address disaster risks and work towards resilient development initiatives in Kendata community.

## Food and Livelihood Security

IOM in partnership with the National Agricultural and Research Institute (NARI) delivered a five day long training on conservation farming to 50 locals farmers (16 men and 34 women) from Warakindam ward in East New Britain province.



Technical support including field demonstrations was provided by NARI while IOM equipped the farmers with drought tolerate seeds (yam, taro and sweet potato) and gardening tools. With rural communities in Papua New Guinea heavily depending on subsistence farming for food and livelihood, the training will help the farmers increase resilience for food security.

## Shelter

In March 2019, IOM delivered the Build Back Safer training of trainers to 36 villagers (29 men and 7 women) from Endela, Yalanda, Kekero and Isup in Southern Highlands Province. The training equipped participants with knowledge on safe shelter construction techniques and will help people from the beneficiary communities to build more resilient shelters using traditional and locally sourced building materials. The training also helps to address the cultural perceptions limiting limited women’s participation in constructing shelter.

The training was also attended by nine staff (4 men and 5 women) from Oil Search Foundation and Community Development Initiatives, and content covered included displacement tracking, prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse, and the mandate and work of the United Nations

in the country. “*Dispela skul em i gutpela bilong yumi na nau bai yumi painim gutpela hap bilong mekim haus*” (This training is useful to us and we now know how to select a good site to build a house), said a female participant.



IOM staff and participants pose for a photo outside the training venue in Southern Highlands Province. © Peter Muropera/ IOM 2019

 Partnerships

In March, IOM, in partnership with Papua New Guinea Government (national and provincial) and Oil Search Foundation, distributed 360 shelter tool kits (including claw hammers, hand saws, pad bolts and nails) to households living in Endela (147), Yalanda (86), Kekero (59) and Isup (68) hardest hit by the 7.5m earthquake that struck the Highlands in 2018.



IOM staff and participants pose for a photo outside the training venue in Southern Highlands Province. © Peter Muropera/ IOM 2019

Delivery of the shelter tool kits complemented the Build Back Safer training and will ensure that at least 1,800 vulnerable people in the remote communities that are only accessible on foot or by helicopter have the necessary tools and skills to

rebuild their homes following the devastation and displacement caused by the quake.

In April, IOM welcomed a representative from USAID to Southern Highlands Province to visit some of the sites supported by the United States Government following the 7.5m earthquake in 2018, and to meet with provincial-level disaster management stakeholders. The visit marked a period of transition where IOM, supported by USAID, is moving from early recovery towards preparedness and risk reduction by supporting partners to develop a provincial-level Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Standard Operating Procedure as well as engaging with new communities for community-led disaster risk management plans and initiatives.



IOM, USAID representatives visit beneficiary community of IOM's shelter support in Southern Highlands Province. © Thomas Mek/ IOM 2019

IOM participated in the Jiwaka Women and Youth in Agriculture Trade Fair for 2019. IOM invited beneficiary women farmers from its conservation farming interventions in the province that showcased their work—displaying and processing their harvested rice and shared success stories including improved household food security and income arising from rice production. IOM distributed its disaster awareness brochure and educating people about disasters focusing on mitigation and preparedness.

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