



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IOM DROUGHT AND CONFLICT RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT • 31 August 2016



IOM Coordinator holding a conflict mediation session in the Highlands © IOM (Photo: M. Mohammed)

Highlights

- IOM distributed 35,153 sweet potato cuttings and 1,200 banana suckers to 2,000 households in Jiwaka, Enga and Simbu Provinces.
- IOM conducted Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) for 15,777 beneficiaries in the Highlands.
- IOM trained 28 Government Officials and Community Leaders from conflict areas on peacebuilding and reconciliation processes.

Situation Overview

Despite the end of the El Niño phase, many Papua New Guineans continue to suffer from hunger and lack of clean water, whilst the harvest is expected to yield crops only towards the end of the year (WFP). Access to clean and safe drinking water, irrigation and storage facilities continues to disrupt the communities' recovery efforts and livelihoods management.

WFP, with assistance from partners has identified 77,770 people in Milne Bay Province affected by El Niño drought compounded with cyclone damages. IOM is currently participating in a post-drought assessment with Cluster Partners, the findings of which should shape the next phase of the response.

The UN Special Envoy for El Niño, H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau, visited Papua New Guinea (30 June to 2 July) and conducted a number of meetings and field missions to observe the drought response operations. The Special Envoy will share his findings with the General Assembly and will continue to advocate for international support to PNG to aid its transition, recovery and disaster risk management efforts.

Tribal conflict, ongoing drought and other natural-hazard related disasters such as floods and landslides continue to compound the vulnerabilities of the affected populations. Despite logistical, environmental, and security challenges in the Highlands, IOM continued to support agricultural recovery, distribute crops and tools, improve water maintenance capacities, conduct training and awareness on health and hygiene, and implement conflict mitigation activities.

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IOM RESPONSE



Food Security



IOM distributing sweet potato vines in Jiwaka Province © IOM 2016

During June-August 2016, IOM continued working with farmers in the Highlands Region to assist with food security and agricultural recovery as the drought eased. This included identifying and providing suitable seeds and cuttings adapted for both high altitude and the changed soil conditions (following the effects of the drought).

Moreover, IOM facilitated trainings by agronomists from partner agency National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), which focused on onsite field demonstrations for planting, multiplication and crop management. Further, IOM has set up seed multiplication sites near the water boreholes for master farmers to integrate and synergize the WASH and agricultural recovery components of the response.

In June-August, IOM effectively distributed 35,153 sweet potato cuttings and 1,200 banana suckers to 2,000 households in Jiwaka, Enga and Simbu Provinces. Likewise, to facilitate the recovery and build farming capacities of the affected populations, IOM distributed 1,000 basic agricultural toolkits to 1,000 households, which included bush knives, garden hoes, mattocks, spades and garden forks. IOM has also set up a three-hectare seed multiplication plot with clean and high quality vines, which will produce 48,000 cuttings to be distributed to 2,400 households in Kandep district over the next 12 months.

IOM's recovery programme combines the food security, agricultural recovery, WASH and peacebuilding components to ensure an integrated approach to the drought response. Working in close coordination with the Food Security and WASH Clusters, local Government and grass-roots partners, the focus has been to address the root causes of displacement by stabilizing the affected vulnerable communities.

The next phase of IOM's response will focus on water supply, disaster risk reduction and other key priorities emerging from the ongoing post-drought needs assessment.



Peacebuilding

During the reporting period, IOM continued to work on peace building and durable solutions for the internally displaced (IDPs), focusing on the areas of tribal conflict in Morobe and Enga Provinces. IOM conducted training of trainers (ToT) for selected Provincial Government Officers and community peace champions to drive the reconciliation process in their respective districts of Kandep, Bulolo, Finschhafen and Markham, all affected by tribal violence.

A total of 28 participants from Enga and Morobe have been trained by IOM on conflict mediation, resolution and mitigation, creating a negotiation culture among the warring parties. The next step, currently under preparation, is mutual planning for inclusive development projects (funded and facilitated by IOM) to be implemented jointly by the communities engaged in the protracted conflict from the mentioned districts, designed to lead towards reconciliation.



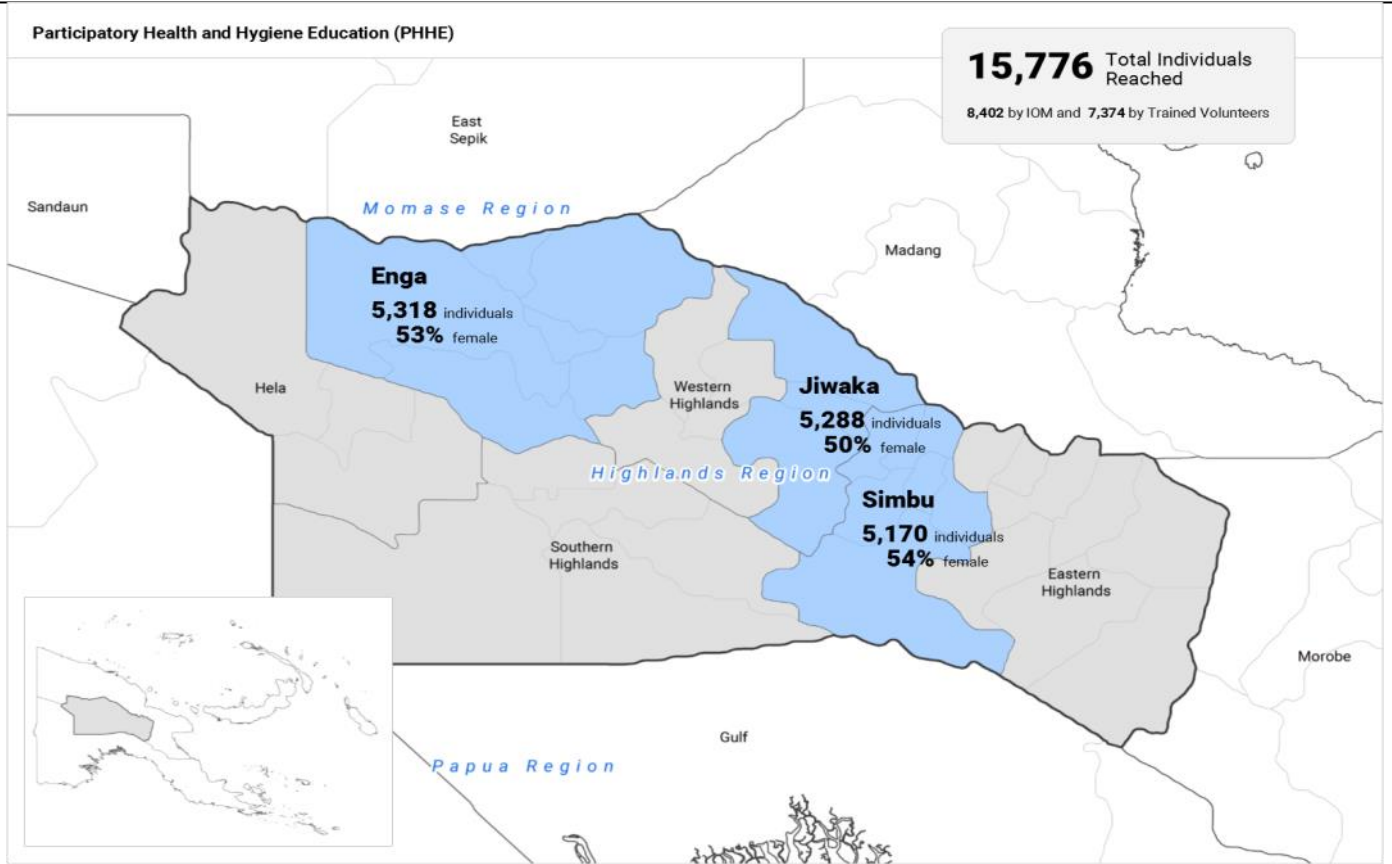
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Over the past three months, IOM has conducted Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) for 15,777 beneficiaries in the Highlands Provinces of Jiwaka, Enga and Simbu. The aim of the trainings and outreach was to promote behavioural change to the communities most affected by drought. Pamphlets have been distributed to schools and accompanied by practical demonstrations.



IOM distributing toolkits to Kandep High School Pump-minders © IOM 2016

IOM also conducted Pump-minder trainings for selected 30 community members in the targeted areas. IOM equipped the beneficiaries with practical skills, tools and personal protective gear to carry out maintenance for 17 water points (boreholes constructed by IOM), to guarantee their maintenance and sustainability. Likewise, these 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.



IOM's drought recovery programme beneficiaries in Enga Province
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