



PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT IOM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT • 12 October 2015



Highlights

IOM conducting disaster risk management (CORE) training, with a special focus on drought.
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■ IOM conducted a week-long Disaster Risk Management training (CORE) workshop for Provincial Disaster Officers with a special focus on drought preparedness and response.

■ USAID (OFDA) has awarded IOM USD100,000 for a six-month project proposal to enhance climate-resilient agriculture and water supply in the drought affected Highlands Provinces, focusing on WASH and early recovery.

■ IOM continues to work with the Government and humanitarian partners sharing assessments and working to find synergies. IOM is participating in WASH and Nutrition Clusters as well as the Inter-Cluster Group.

Situation Overview

El Niño affecting Papua New Guinea continues to cause drought and frost, particularly in areas surrounding the Highlands provinces, where the effects are unlikely to alleviate before early 2016. Current estimates suggest that some 1.8 million people have been affected by El Niño, 1.3 million of whom are categorized as being most at risk. El Niño has also affected agriculture and water sources of local communities, and two Provinces (Enga and Southern highlands) have subsequently been declared a state of emergency. Access to sustainable sources of water and outbreaks of bush fires due to low levels of precipitation, predominantly in the lowland areas, have become a great concern. IOM plans to open 3 Sub-Offices in 3 Highlands Provinces (Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu) accordingly by the end of October 2015. IOM's planned interventions include: distribution of WASH NFIs to 2,000 households; identification of 100 certified trainers on participatory health and hygiene education to raise awareness of the affected population (10,000 people in the four affected provinces: Enga, Jiwaka, Hela and Simbu); drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes; and the distribution of drought-resistant seeds for 2,000 households in conjunction with the training of 100 master farmers on conservation farming. A budget of PGK 30 million (USD 10.2 million) has been allocated by the national government to meet the demands caused by the drought. Supplementary contributions have been made from Members of Parliament through their discretionary funds and donations via fund raising campaigns, as well as food collections from local churches. Rice has been delivered to four provinces in the Highlands in light of crop failures. A total of 300,000 people identified by a rapid assessment by the Provincial authorities in Morobe have received food assistance and non-food items (NFIs), such as water purification tablets. The National Government has delivered emergency food supplies to a regional centre in Mt. Hagen where provincial authorities are responsible for collecting the aid and distributing the goods. The Disaster Management Team is coordinating all humanitarian partner support.

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IOM RESPONSE

Pathway to Recovery

IOM conducted Disaster Risk Management training for 11 Provincial Disaster Officers and key officials from the capital. The workshop aimed to build capacity and improve preparedness, response and resilience in dealing with natural disasters using the current draught scenario of the most affected provinces in PNG hit by El Niño: Jiwaka, West and East New Britain, Madang, Oro, and Morobe. Participants applied new learning and technical knowledge in assessments, protection, shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene, and livelihood programming.

The workshop, in addition to exposing participants to humanitarian



IOM presenting training participants with certificate.
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standards, encouraged participants to develop and discuss tools and indicators in the context of drought preparedness and response planning in their particular provinces. The workshop specifically focused on logistics; shelter and NFIs; settlement planning; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); livelihoods; tools to track population and services needs and gaps for displaced populations in disaster scenarios (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix); humanitarian disaster terminology; the legal protection framework; and assessment and implementation of the existing legislative natural disaster framework for each province of the country. The attendees requested IOM to organize multi-sector trainings in each affected province, aiming at the improvement of community resilience against El Niño-induced draught and frost. They also recommended the creation of kits considering the targeted communities' cultural needs.

The week-long training was funded by USAID and the Australian Government and ended on 2 October 2015.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

USAID (OFDA) has awarded USD 100,000 for a six-month project proposal to enhance climate-resilient agriculture and water supply in the drought-affected provinces of Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu, targeting 2,000 households. IOM will deliver rapid support to address the effects of El Niño on the most vulnerable communities. IOM will implement participatory health and hygiene education (PHHE) trainings in line with NFI and WASH Clusters' recommendations. IOM will provide basic WASH commodities (collapsible water containers and soap), train communities for health and hygiene promotion to protect water sources and ensure water treatment and augmented water source capacity (borehole repair and drilling) for highly affected locations with little access to surface water. Additionally, IOM will train master trainers to target highly vulnerable families for capacity building on conservation agriculture, and provide seeds and tools to enable them to begin planting. IOM is currently in the process of opening field offices in Jiwaka, Enga and Simbu Provinces.

Shelter, CCCM and NFIs

The IOM-led Shelter, CCCM and NFIs Cluster has not been activated yet as no immediate displacement or shelter needs have been identified. IOM is however monitoring the situation closely, especially any incoming reports of conflict, forced migration, evacuation and shelter/settlements damage. IOM is coordinating closely with the Government and humanitarian partners in the country, sharing assessments and working to find synergies. IOM is participating in WASH and Nutrition Clusters as well as the Inter-Cluster Group, harmonizing and de-conflicting humanitarian response activities.

IOM operations are supported by:

