



PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT IOM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT • 9 December 2015



Highlights

IOM and ECHO Officers conveying messages of resilience to affected populations in Enga Province (© Bernard Jaspers 2015)

- IOM begins to roll out Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings in Highlands Provinces.
- EU ECHO funds IOM's drought emergency response and recovery programme in the Highlands.
- IOM conducts a large CCCM training in Port Moresby for selected government officers from Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Situation Overview

The prevailing drought conditions in Papua New Guinea (PNG) continue as the El Nino weather system tightens its grip. Erratic weather patterns including hail, frost, unusually hot weather and the prolonged absence of rainfall continue to challenge many Provinces in PNG. The Highland Provinces remain the worst affected areas where wide-reaching effects of the drought have depleted the availability of food sources. Although the Highlands have recently experienced some rainfall, which may stabilize or even partially alleviate the immediate water shortage in some areas, it is, at least in the short-term, detrimental to food production (causing food rotting and burn in the following sun). This predicament has been compounded by the fact that insect infestations are now targeting the remaining crops. The increased risk of disease, due to the lack of water, also means that people are increasingly likely to partake in poor hygiene and sanitation practices. In response to these aggravating conditions, it has been reported that households have begun to utilize a series of negative coping mechanisms, for example de-investment practices, such as the selling and slaughtering of livestock to address increasing food insecurity and to generate income.

As part of the ongoing UN joint response, IOM has officially opened offices in Kundiawa (Simbu Province) and Banz (Jiwaka Province) in November 2015. The last weeks has seen the initiation of IOM's WASH operations in the targeted Provinces of Simbu, Jiwaka and Enga, including PHAST trainings. In parallel to these activities, IOM conducted a CCCM workshop from 30 November to 4 December 2015. Participants were invited from the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in Vanuatu and the respective Provincial Disaster Centres (PDCs) that IOM operates with in PNG, which now includes the aforementioned Highland Provinces. The aim of the training was to build the capacity of the government officers in regard to displacement management in camp and camp-like settings, and to increase the standard of conditions at existing displacement sites, such as care centres in PNG. Such trainings over the past few months with the PDCs have proved very effective in cross-fertilizing experiences and challenges faced during this difficult time. The continued effort to build upon the partnerships forged with the PDCs remains central to all IOM's interventions, and will be vital to the successful implementation of WASH, NFI distribution and Early Recovery interventions.

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IOM RESPONSE

Early Recovery

Following numerous consultations and joint field visits, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) branch has started funding IOM’s drought emergency response and recovery programme in the most affected areas of Highlands Provinces. The recent visit by ECHO partners to the key areas in Enga, Jiwaka, Simbu, Western and Southern Highlands provided an opportunity to demonstrate the effects the drought and frost are having on the most vulnerable Highland communities.

The initiation of the ECHO funded programme will assist IOM in committing to the long term recovery and resilience building of targeted communities and complement the USAID (OFDA) funded interventions. Such support has made it possible to implement IOM’s planned interventions, including: WASH activities and NFI distribution; borehole construction and rehabilitation; agriculture conservation training; community-based disaster risk management planning implementation and training. All activities are being coordinated through the recently established Enga, Simbu and Jiwaka Offices.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The current El Nino event has led to significantly reduced rainfall in the Highlands, with many water sources experiencing low water levels or complete shortages. IOM’s USAID (OFDA) funded WASH programme is underway, with the integrated induction of Participatory Health and Sanitation Transformation and Community-led Total Sanitation having been implemented in Wabag (Enga Province), Banz (Jiwaka Province) and Kundiawa (Simbu Province) in November-December. Each training included a field activity on the final day to contextualize the theory and put it into practice, and is based on the training of trainers (ToT) methodology. The participants are volunteers and comprised of community leaders, teachers, community health workers, provincial health officials and district officials. To date a total of 60 individuals have been trained and have since drafted an action plan, in collaboration with their governmental counterparts, of the hygiene promotion activities to be implemented at their respective community level.



WASH site assessment in Jiwaka Province
© IOM 2015 (Photo: Benson Mwarongo)

CCCM, Shelter and NFIs

IOM PNG and Vanuatu, with the support from Headquarters in Geneva and the Regional Office in Bangkok carried out a CCCM training for Provincial Disaster Officers in Port Moresby on 30 November to 4 December 2015. This training capitalized on the traction of IOM’s growing partnership with the National Disaster Centre and Provincial Disaster Coordinators. The weeklong training was structured in a way that balanced theory with discussion, culminating in a practical simulation of a scenario based camp set-up. The training offered a unique opportunity for the Government Disaster Coordinators, Camp Administrators and Border Managers and NGO Officers to share experiences of best practices and challenges they faced, thus opening up discussions on the best way forward given the recent knowledge acquired. Following this, IOM plans to roll out further CCCM trainings at the provincial level, allowing for in-depth and context specific trainings that will add value to IOM’s progress in this sector.



CCCM training for PNG and Vanuatu Disaster Officers
© IOM 2015 (Photo: Beatriz Munoz)

The IOM-led CCCM, Shelter & NFIs Cluster continues to exchange information between its members and meets on a needs basis, with the last meeting taking place in November 2015. IOM is supporting the National Disaster Centre and the Cluster in reporting, disseminating and verifying all information pertinent to drought-induced displacement, shelter and settlements needs, and human conflict. IOM is committed to ensuring a well-coordinated and efficient response to the ongoing effects of the El Nino system, and as such remains engaged in WASH, Nutrition and Inter-Cluster meetings as well as the Disaster Management Team meetings.

IOM Drought Response and Recovery Operations are funded by:

