



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT IOM RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

SITUATION REPORT • 25 January 2016



## Highlights

IOM begins to drill bores in Enga Province (© IOM G. Gigauri, 2015)

■ IOM began to drill bores in the targeted Highlands communities. To date, two boreholes were installed, with 15 more to be constructed.

■ Three Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings were completed in Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu Provinces.

■ IOM conducted a comprehensive WASH assessment in Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu Provinces.

## Situation Overview

As the new year progresses, the El Nino weather system is predicted to decline in strength, with noticeable changes in January 2016. However, this does not mean that the danger has abated. To date, the PNG Government estimates that some 2.7 million people out of the country's total population of 7.3 million are affected by the ongoing drought and frost. This estimate includes 522,000 people in the most severely affected areas. As with previous months, priority needs include food, water and agricultural recovery support. Access remains a key issue for many remote areas that are experiencing the severe effects of the El Nino. Estimates from the National Government state that over US\$66.5 million has been committed to the affected provinces.

Recent assessments indicate that major water sources, such as rivers have experienced declines in water levels, but are however, still accessible by most communities. The main issue is the lack of water storage at the community level, and/or the existing water storage systems are most often not functional due to poor maintenance. Inadequate supply of safe water most often results to poor hygiene and sanitation practices that increase the risk levels of diarrhoeal and water-related diseases. IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assessments performed in December 2015 found that 85% of assessed communities in Enga, Simbu and Jiwaka provinces rely on unprotected water sources, 67.5% do not treat their drinking water and that 47.1% of respondents had someone within their household who had suffered from diarrhoea within the four weeks prior to the survey. It is therefore evident that reduced access to safe water sources is a concern and is likely to increase with the unremitting El Nino associated drought.

In recent weeks, as part of the joint UN response, IOM has rolled-out its PHAST trainings in Jiwaka, Enga and Simbu Provinces. The trainee Community Health Volunteers (CHV) are now successfully implementing WASH trainings in their respective communities. In parallel to these activities, IOM acknowledges the need for sources of safe water and has committed to the installation of 17 boreholes in Enga, Jiwaka, Hela and Simbu Highland Provinces. So far two boreholes have been constructed in Kandep, with a remaining 15 in Enga, Simbu, and Jiwaka to be established in the coming weeks.

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## IOM RESPONSE

### Early Recovery

Between mid-December (2015) and early January 2016, IOM, with colleagues from USAID (OFDA), Food for Peace, WFP, and UNRC Office conducted four field visits to the affected Highlands communities. Kandep High School (Enga Province), Women in Farming Office (Southern Highlands) and Kilip village (Jiwaka Province) were among the sites visited. These visits familiarized the donors and key agencies in drought response with the extent of the current emergency, allowing for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the projects being implemented, and the associated challenges. Registration of 2,000 Households targeted for agriculture support of seeds and tools is in progress. A selection of 100 local farmers in 25 wards are currently undergoing training on conservation farming and crop diversification.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WASH baseline assessments conducted by IOM in the Highland Provinces of Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu over the course of December (2015) determined low levels of water, poor sanitation and hygiene behaviors, lack of access and management of facilities by users within the targeted communities. The findings proved pivotal in selecting communities for PHAST trainings and tailoring the trainings to suit the context within these areas. This baseline data will allow IOM to precisely measure the impact of the investments made by the project following the completion of interventions.

Following the assessments, IOM had successfully rolled-out its PHAST trainings in Enga, Simbu and Jiwaka provinces. A total of 100 CHVs participated and in the process of identifying hygiene promoters for training, whilst conducting health education and sensitization on the need for proper food handling, preparation and storage, household water treatment and safe storage amongst other key hygiene domains.



One of identified unsafe water sources in Simbu (2015 © IOM)

Each CHV is tasked with educating and sensitizing a minimum of 20 community households (HH) reflecting a total of 13,400 community members in the intervention areas. Activities being carried-out include through community dialogue sessions, discussions, dramas, songs and dances.



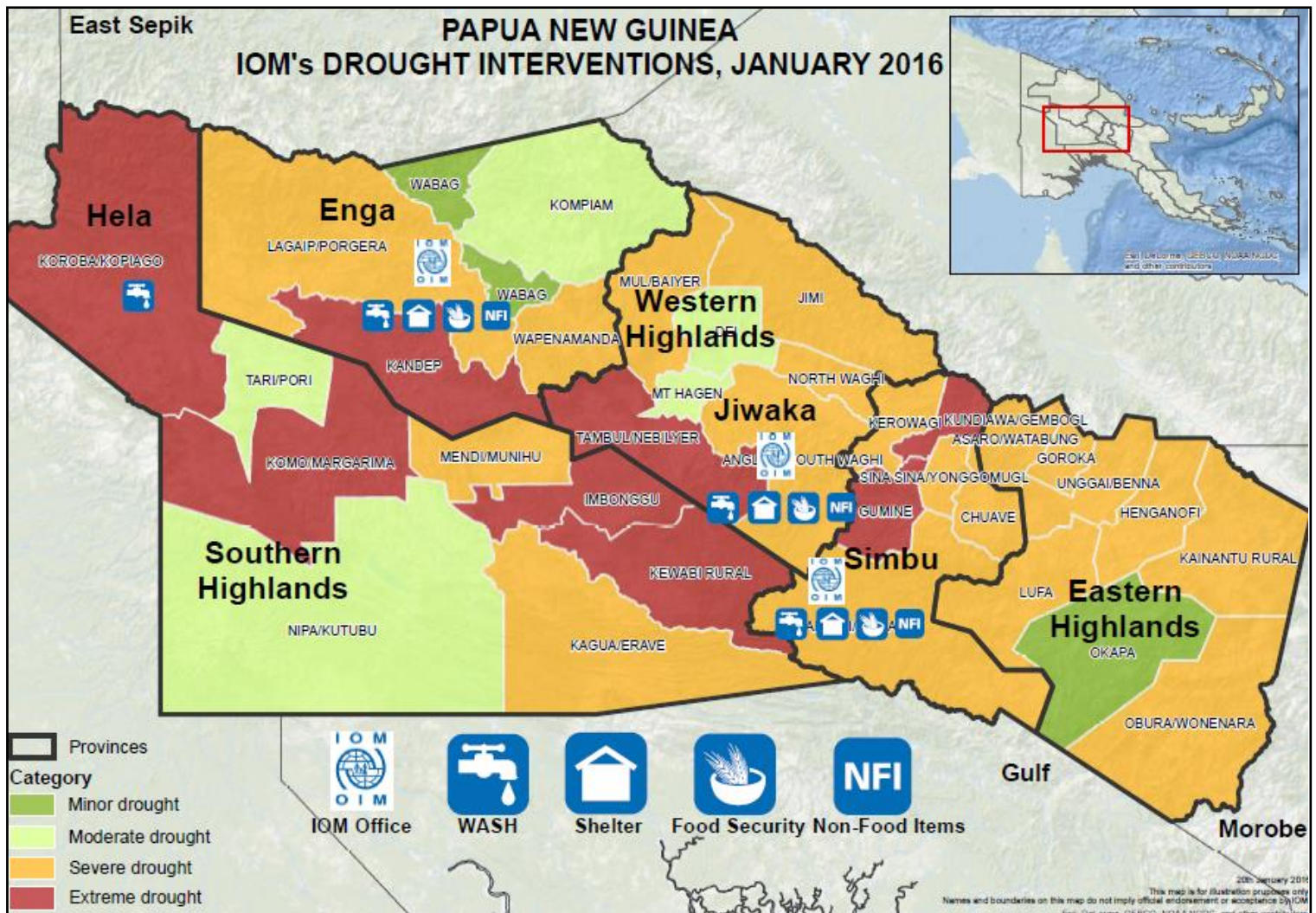
Good hygiene practices discussion session in Simbu (2015 © IOM)

In conjunction with these activities, IOM has over the last month installed 2 boreholes in Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu Highland Provinces. Each borehole is expected to provide safe water to 600 community members. To facilitate the longevity and sustainability of the boreholes, 17 water committees, of which half of the members should be women and youth and five 'community pump-minders' per borehole will be trained on the operation and maintenance of the water systems. Potential conflict concerning land rights and ownership of the boreholes has been mitigated by having them constructed wherever possible on government owned land in health facilities, schools and churches. IOM's WASH focus is primarily aimed at promoting the adoption of proper health practices like hand washing through soaps provision, the use of potable water from resilient sources and safe water storage containers. These activities, coupled with the installation of boreholes will improve access, reliability and safe water consumption, thus reducing the risk of diarrhoeal and water-related diseases.

### NFI **CCCM, Shelter and NFIs**

The year end CCCM, Shelter and NFIs Cluster meeting was held at National Disaster Centre with PNG Red Cross, MSF, Salvation Army, DFAT, UNRC office in attendance. The country has NFI supplies adequate for 5,000 households which is positioned in various parts of the country. They could be mobilized within 72 hours in case of flooding associated with the decline of the El Nino. IOM is supporting the NDC 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 on-going effects of the El Nino system, and as such remains engaged in WASH, Health, Nutrition and Inter-Cluster meetings as well as the Disaster Management Team meetings.





### IOM Assistance Snapshot

Location	Family NFI	Boreholes	WASH NFI	PHAST Training	PHAST Awareness	Agriculture kits	Agriculture Training
Simbu	19 H/H	5	2,000 H/H	29	9,500	900 H/H	30
Enga	22 H/H	5	2,000 H/H	30	10,000	1400 H/H	35
Jiwaka		5	2,000 H/H	31	10,500	700 H/H	35
Hela		2					
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 H/H</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6,000 H/H</b>	<b>90 Health staff</b>	<b>30,000 people</b>	<b>3,000 H/H</b>	<b>100 Farmers</b>

IOM Drought Response and Recovery Operations are funded by:

