



PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT AND FLOODS RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT • 31 May 2016



Highlights

IOM provides humanitarian relief to affected communities in Northern Province © IOM 2016 (M. Mohammed)

■ In March-May 2016, IOM operationalized first water boreholes in PNG Highlands (Jiwaka, Enga and Simbu Provinces).

■ IOM distributed Shelter, WASH and Non-Food Items (NFIs) to almost two thousand people affected by floods in the Highlands and Northern Provinces.

■ IOM conducted three Agricultural Surveys in Highlands Provinces.

Situation Overview

In Papua New Guinea, the prolonged El Niño induced drought conditions have had adverse impacts on the agricultural food production system. Precipitation deficits have led to insufficient amounts of water available for crops and human beings to consume. However, the El Niño reached its peak towards the end of 2015 and continues its gradual decline. The weather patterns remain heterogeneous across the country, as residual effects of the El Niño weather system linger in certain parts, however in others, especially the Highlands and Momase region, heavy rainfalls since early February have prevailed. Rains have returned to many locations, it is still not clear that returning rains have been adequate for agricultural recovery in some locations. Some flooding and slides due to the rains have damaged replanted gardens in some areas where rains have fallen.

Staple crops, such as *kaukau* for example, can take up to nine months to regrow, depending on altitude. Currently, there is a shortage of many planting materials and/or seeds that is required to rebuild important garden staples. In-country capacity to supply and multiply foundation seeds needs to be supported. Generally speaking, a proper agricultural recovery, one that allows self-reliant maintenance of local food production to return, is still many months away. Until then food insecurity remains, or even grows. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been activated with WFP and UNICEF taking the lead on food distribution and nutrition, respectively. IOM continues to undertake agricultural recovery support activities, which include drilling boreholes, capacity building on water conservation, drought adaptation, and conservation agriculture/farming; distribution of agricultural kits, and planting materials.

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IOM RESPONSE



CCCM, Shelter and NFIs



IOM distributing relief in Jiwaka Province
© IOM 2016 (Photo: M. Mohammed)

Over the period from March to end of May many parts of the country including IOM focus regions of the Highlands, Morobe & Northern Provinces have seen a continuing pattern of below average rainfalls combined with periods of extremely strong rain. This has resulted in numerous cases of rivers flooding and water induced mudflows and landslides which has in many cases destroyed gardens, houses and infrastructure. IOM has responded to cases of displacement and loss of houses by providing emergency shelter kits (tarpaulin, rope, containers, household equipment, bedding & clothes) to 400 households spread through Enga, Simbu, Jiwaka, Morobe and Northern Provinces.

Early Recovery

Building on the work from early January, IOM, through USAID and ECHO funded projects, continued the activities with farmers in the Highlands Region to assist with early 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 drought as well as targeted agricultural recovery trainings.



Beneficiaries of Shelter and NFI aid in Jiwaka Province
© IOM 2016 (Photo: M. Mohammed)



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The Highlands was a priority region for the distribution of WASH NFIs to 406 affected households in coordination with community health workers, previously trained in late 2015 (with USAID funding). The distributed relief complemented the previously conducted PHAST (Participatory Health and Sanitation Transformation) trainings and constitutes a part of IOM's wider recovery strategy to bring about sanitation and hygiene behavioural changes in the selected communities.



Food Security

While the impact of the drought was starting to decrease in many areas this was offset by Milne Bay Province (MBP) becoming particularly badly hit with food security related problems. The province became the focus of a World Food Programme/ MBP Provincial Disaster Coordinator led assessment across numerous islands and reported back that many villages were suffering severe food security problems with islands often having little ground water and being dependent on rainfall. IOM was one of the partner organizations, and field team leader, for this assessment. The IOM Field Office will open in MBP in June 2016.



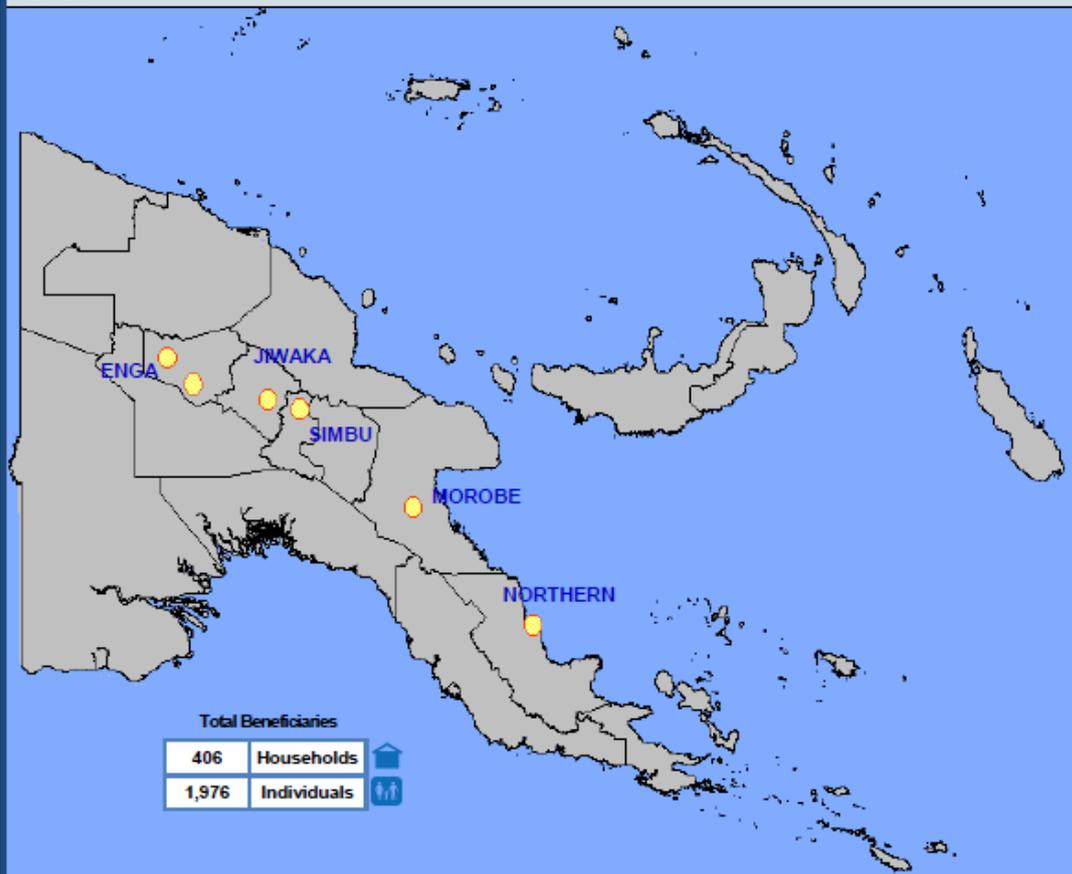
IOM providing supplies to a floods-affected village in Oro
© IOM 2016 (Photo: M. Mohammed)



Peace Building

IOM support continued for the displaced families in East New Britain (Pomio) through advice and planning while they continued to live in temporary accommodation, pending further negotiations on their return. At the same time, with funding from Australian Government (DFAT) and the IOM Development Fund (IDF), IOM is increasing its capacity to work with communities to develop strategies to reduce conflict in Enga and Morobe Provinces. Peace Building consultations and preparatory work for dialogue, mediation and transformation are ongoing with tribal conflicting parties.

MAY 2016



Total Beneficiaries

406	Households
1,976	Individuals

Province	District	Assistance
ENGA	Kandep	1200 WASH NFI Kits, WASH Borehole
	Lalgao/ Porgera	WASH NFI Kits, WASH Borehole 80 NFI HH Emergency Kits
	Province wide	Agricultural Survey
	Kandep	Development of conflict mitigation strategies
SIMBU	Province wide	5 Water Boreholes
	Parit/ Kerowagi	80 NFI HH Kits
	Province wide	Agricultural Survey
JIWAKA	Waghi	80 NFI HH Emergency Kits
	Province wide	Agricultural Survey
MOROBE	Bulolo	80 NFI HH Kits
NORTHERN (Oro)	Ijivitari	80 NFI HH Emergency Kits

Beneficiaries Disaggregated by Sex

PROVINCE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Morobe	148	189	337
Northern	224	197	421
Jiwaka	287	102	389
Enga	157	73	230
Simbu	320	279	599

1:100,000
SCALE
NORTH

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.



Community collecting water from the new borehole in Jiwaka Province © IOM 2016 (Photo: M. Mohammed)

IOM emergency response and recovery operations are supported by



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



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