

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) estimates that more than 2.7 million people are affected by extreme El Niño climate conditions, which started around April 2015 and are expected to extend until mid-2016. As of January 2016, the needs of an estimated 770,000 people living in rural and high-altitude locations in PNG continued to be exacerbated by severe drought and localised frost (Bourke, 2016).

Despite the provision of some relief assistance to affected areas, and the arrival of mid-January and February rains, which have temporarily eased the limited water supply situation in parts of the country and allowed for new plantings to bear, severe food and water insecurity persists. The situation is particularly aggravated in communities living in dispersed remote areas, which can only be reached by foot or air, making relief operations in these locations logistically complex and costly. Furthermore, access to some parts of the country has also been severely restricted by recent heavy rains, which, according to media reports, have caused a number of roads and bridges to close or collapse, due to floods and landslides.

Although further assessments are needed and there remains information gaps, as of early February 2016 a number of high-priority locations were identified as being in critical need of food assistance, including: inland Morehead and Nomad Rural Local Level Governments (LLGs), Western Province; inland Gulf Province; southwest Southern Highlands Province; Gumine, Salt and Nomane LLGs, south Simbu Province; very high altitude locations in Enga, Hela, Southern Highlands and Western Highlands provinces and small islands in Milne Bay Province (Bourke, 2016).

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## 1. LOGISTICS UPDATES

- WFP is currently negotiating access to Coca Cola's 20% truck and barge transport capacity, which the company has made available, in-kind, to organisations involved in drought/frost-relief operations. WFP will inform organisations on how to access this service imminently.
- Oxfam informs that the deployment of assessment teams to the Shoulten Islands, off the coast of Wewak, East Sepik Province, is in the planning phase and will be conducted via the district's sea ambulances and banana boats, which will carry additional fuel supplies.
- Oxfam advises that future operations in the region are likely to involve the transportation of non-food items (NFIs) and WASH materials, which will act as a way to test the logistics capacity in the area. Previous relief supply distributions' run by the district administration in October 2015, used barges from the nearby PNG Defence Forces barracks. Availability of barges and weather conditions could be major constraints for operations in the islands.

## 2. NEEDS AND GAPS

- UNICEF and NDOH are seeking support to transport 40,000 A2-size health awareness campaign posters to provincial health offices across the country, as well as their onward distribution to health facilities, schools and communities.
- World Vision International (WVI) is seeking support to transport water purification tablets from Lae to Madang, for onward distribution to Bogia District.

## 3. ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

### *Road*

#### **Morobe Province**

- World Vision International (WVI) reports that increased rainfall has caused flooding in rural communities along the Markham River, Markham District, Morobe Province, cutting off access to main urban centres as well as restricting staff movement to reach target sites.

#### **Eastern Highlands, Chimbu and Enga Provinces**

- Oxfam reports that travel and access to main routes in Henganofi District, Eastern Highland Province; Gumine District and northern parts of Kundiawa-Gembogl District, Chimbu Province, have been affected by heavy rains and landslides.
- Flooding and landslides have been reported in areas near the Waghy River, after the river burst its banks (The National 16 Feb).
- Sections of the Highlands Highway between Wara Simbu and Ku in Yongomugl, Chimbu Province, have been affected by landslide (The National 16 Feb).

#### **Jiwaka Province**

- The Tuman River, in the Kindeng area, has burst its banks and parts of the Kindeng-Kondopena road are unpassable (Post Courier 15 Feb).

#### **West New Britain Province**

- Due to heavy flooding the Ivule bridge, that links Kimbe to Bialla and East New Britain, has collapsed and the Tiauru Bridge is on the verge of collapsing (Post Courier 15).
- Flooding reported along the Hoskings-Kimbe Highway, in particular near the Siki junction and Buluma oil palm sections (The National 16 Feb).

#### **Air**

- As of 15 February, the Rural Airstrips Agency reports that all of its 23 monitored rural airstrips were open to air traffic. These include airstrips in remote locations such as Hesalibi, Fuma and Mougulu (Western Province); Amblua, Kol and Koinambe (Jiwaka Province); and Lapolama, Iropeno and Maramuni (Enga Province).
- The Agency produces a daily rural airstrip condition report – iRAMP - co-funded by the PNG Government. Organisations interested in receiving this report, should contact the WFP Logistics Information Management Officer.

#### **Sea/River**

- Ok Tedi Mining Limited reports that the Fly River, Western Province, has been holding above the 7-metre mark, allowing for the passage of all chartered and commercial vessels to Kiunga. The company produces ad-hoc Fly and Strickland River vessel position reports. Organisations interested in receiving this report, should contact the WFP Logistics Information Management Officer.

#### **4. ORGANISATIONS UPDATES**

- In collaboration with the National Department of Health (NDOH), UNICEF has provided jerry cans, water buckets and aquatabs to 20,000 people, as well as micro nutrient powder for 20,000 children, in the Highlands and Simbu provinces.

- World Vision International (WVI) completed the procurement of 5,000 20-litre jerry cans for distribution to the Hela, Southern Highlands, Madang and Morobe provinces. Distribution is expected to start in the next two weeks. The organisations has also procured drought and frost tolerant planting materials, which it intends to distribute to the Highlands region the first week of March 2016.
- The joint NDC-WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) food security survey for El Niño drought/frost-affected areas is ongoing with Digicel mobile network. Preliminary results will be published next week, with the final report to follow at the end of February.
- The Church Partnership Programme (CPP) is planning a needs assessment and data collection exercise, due to begin before the end of February, to gather updated information on drought and frost conditions in remote category 5 and 4 areas.
- CPP is currently assembling 4 teams to be deployed to Kopiago and Mt Bosevi, Hela Province; Kandep's hinterlands, Enga Province; and inland Gulf Province. WFP will provide logistics information support, and tentatively accompany some of the teams in these expeditions.
- Following last week's joint field mission with DFAT to the Western Province, WFP is currently assessing funding needs and logistics gaps to support the distribution of food supplies procured by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), to the North Fly District and parts of Nomad Rural LLG.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (A.O.B.)**

- WFP Logistics Coordinator Kennet Blixt has arrived to Port Moresby to provide logistical expertise and act as the focal point for logistical needs and gaps for actors involved in drought-relief operations.
- As of 15 Feb, the WFP Information Management Officer will be temporarily embedded with the National Disaster Centre (NDC) to provide logistical, GIS and information management support and coordination.
- Organisations are kindly reminded to continue to inform the WFP Logistics Information Management Officer of access constraints. Inputs will be consolidated into a new logistics and access constraints map and shared via distribution list and on the Humanitarian Response website.
- The next Logistics Bulletin will be published on **29 Feb**. Organisations are kindly advised to send their logistics information via email to the WFP Inter-Agency Logistics Information Management Officer by **27 Feb**. A reminder will be sent close to the deadline.
- The first Logistics Bulletin, distributed on **01 Feb**, can be downloaded here:  
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/papua-new-guinea/logistics>

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