

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## I. Natural hazards in PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### 1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Earthquakes, River Floods, Landslides, landslides dam burst, Coastal Erosions, Tsunami

### 1.2 Recent major disasters

year	dis_subset	killed	injured	total_affected	dam (US '000s)
2003	Landslide	13	21	21	—
2004	Flood	0	0	10000	—
2004	Explosive Eruption	0	0	9600	—
2005	Earthquake	1	0	200	—
2005	Flood	1	0	—	—
2005	Explosive Eruption	0	0	15000	—

Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database [www.em-dat.net](http://www.em-dat.net) – "Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"

### Example of a major disaster and response activities

#### Sea Level Rise Countermeasures (1999)

A number of coastal PNG villages have experienced gradual erosion of their coastal areas resulting from the effects of high waves or the effects of global warming. The Duke of York Islands in the East New Britain Province came to a stage that the sea level rise was threatening the future of the existence of the islands. Though it was not a declared national disaster, the East New Britain Provincial Disaster Committee through the Provincial Administration responsibly went ahead in planning and implementing the relocation of the islanders to the main island of New Britain as a long term counter measure to sea level rise effects.

### Activities for recovery and reconstruction after major disasters

#### Example: Aitape -Sissano Tsunami – 1998

Due to lack of information on tsunami dangers by scientists, lack of communication establishment by the Government and lack of trained disaster managers this led to not only the slow response by the

established mechanism but also the death of most of the 2,217 citizens on 17th and 18th July 1998 respectively. International relief assistance was overwhelming particularly from Australia, Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, USA, China including Taiwan and other Pacific island nations.

The Rehabilitation Programme and the coordination of it was activated after the recovery phase. Through this programme the following have been put in place:

- The temporary relocated victims were placed in their new and permanent villages away from the coast line.
- There have been more schools built now than before the tsunami impact. This is in preparation for future increase of population
- There have been more health facilities like aid posts and health sub center set up than before the disaster impact.
- The establishment of Trauma Counseling Training Center in the area for the victims and for PNG.
- The construction of over 45 kilometers of road linking the local town (Aitape) and most of the new villages.
- The people have adapted very well to the new environment of predominantly gardening life to that of the former, being the fishing life.

## II. Disaster Management system

### 2.1 Administrative system

*Conventional long form:* Independent State of Papua New Guinea

*Conventional short form:* Papua New Guinea

*Government type:* constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy

*Capital:* Port Moresby

*Administrative divisions:* the country is divided into 19 provinces plus the National Capital District in Port Moresby. The Provinces are divided into districts and district sub-district into local level government (LLGS).

### 2.2 Legal system, legal framework

#### **PNG National Constitution, (Part X - Emergency Powers)**

This Part of the Constitution sets the basis for any disaster-related matters to be legislated or managed within Papua New Guinea.

#### **National Disaster Management Act (Chapter 403) of 1984.**

After visiting Japan and looking through its Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, the PNG NDMO has formally written to the Legal and Policy section of Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs to liaise

with the Attorney General for the review of the NDMO Act. This is also in line with the major activities of the National Disaster Management Project when it commences in February 2001. Among other issues the reviewed Act will address the basic concepts and principles of disaster management, making it mandatory for any NGO groups involved with disaster matters to be accredited with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

#### **Public Health Act**

All health, medical and medicinal matters either during the disaster or between disasters are managed and coordinated by the Ministry and Department of Health.

#### **RPNG Constabulary Act**

All law enforcement programmes and activities either preventing or reducing of the human caused civil strifes, the Act empowers the PNG Police Department to handle that as a lead agency.

#### **PNGDF Act**

The Act provides that the PNGDF to be deployed on call out basis to answer to the calls of either human or natural caused emergencies and disasters. The Act also provides that PNGDF personnel can be deployed on civic action programmes and activities such as infrastructure construction including health and awareness. The final aim is to prevent or reduce (mitigate) adverse effects of disasters.

#### **Internal Revenue Act**

The Act empowers the Internal Revenue Commissioner to over ride certain provisions of the Act particularly in the event of national disaster or emergency when it comes to importation of special relief supplies and the exception on import duty.

#### **Insurance Act**

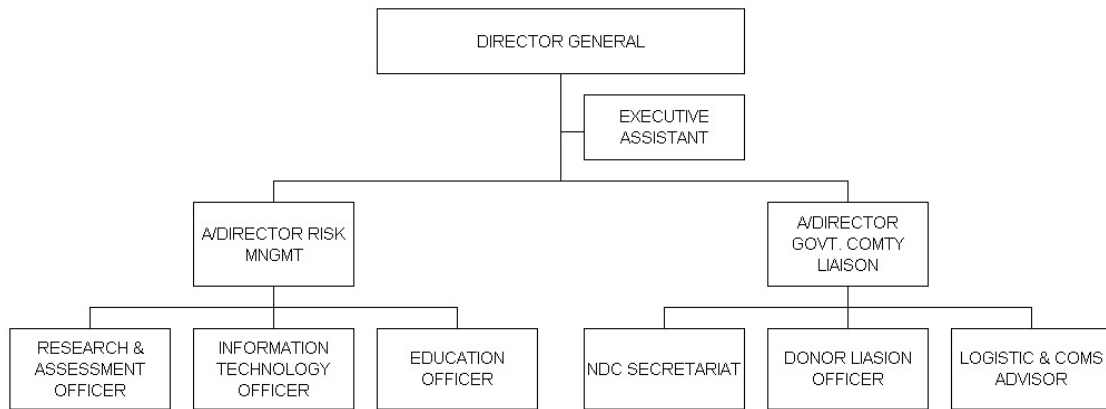
The Act provides avenue for property owners to take up insurance policies to cover their properties from losses e.g. through urban fires. This Act needs reviewing and improvement.

### **2.3 Structure of disaster management**

#### **National Organization for Disaster Management**

The Disaster Management system in so far as the preparedness and responses are concerned is headed by a **National Disaster Committee (NDC)**. NDC is responsible to the cabinet, the National Executive Council (NEC).

The NDC is composed of Secretaries of selected departments, chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs (DoLLGA). There are lower level disaster

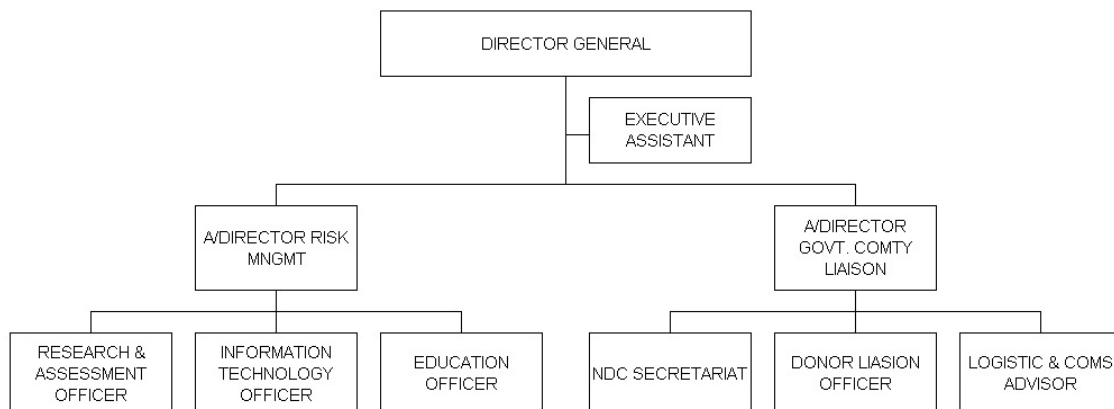


committees in Provinces.

*Structure of National Disaster Committee*

A permanent **National Disaster and Emergency Services (NDES)** a headquarters organization, constituted within the Department of Provincial & Local Level Government is responsible for the operational coordination of emergency responses including logistics and communication.

The **National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)** is the new title for the National Disaster & Emergency Services (NDES). The changes were necessary to be consistent with practices in the South West Pacific region.



*Structure National Disaster Management Office*

The core activities of the NDMO has been revised as follows:

- Promote public awareness and education.
- Provide technical support to its sub-branches in the Provinces and District.

- Risk Management.
- Liaison and Coordinating role with other Government agencies and NGOs.

## 2.4 Priorities on disaster risk management

- Community Disaster Preparedness;
- Early Warning
- Poverty reduction

## III. Disaster management plan

### **National Disaster Management Plan**

The review has been completed but waiting for approval by the National Disaster Committee before having it submitted to the National Executive Council for ratification.

### **National Response Action Plan**

The draft plan has been circulated to key agencies for input. As soon as the National Disaster Plan (the basic plan) is formally ratified and implemented, the National Response Action Plan will be the next piece of countermeasure to be dealt with. This NRAP will spell out the time frame for the development of multi-sectoral roles and functions through their respective Contingency Plans, Operation Procedures etc.

### **Specific Contingency Plans for identified Hazards**

Each active volcano in each province supposed to have a separate Contingency Plan drafted by each respective Provincial Disaster Committee. However, only a few have been in existence like Manam Volcano, Karkar volcano, Ulawun volcano and Rabaul volcanoes including other plans for different types of hazards or emergency & disasters like Oil Spill, Search & Rescue Plan, Aviation Accidents Plan etc. need reviewing. Some have yet to start drafting after local scientists and technical officers establish the Hazard and Risk involved.

### **Provincial Emergency & Disaster Plans**

Laid down by each respective province in Papua New Guinea

## IV. Budget size on national level

There is an annual budget for risk reduction activities which are normally addressed in the work plans

## **V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)**

### **VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by Ministry**

#### **Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Project: 5 year term**

Project Components:

1. Training
2. Review of the national DM plans
3. Disaster awareness and preparedness activities
4. Review of the DM Act
5. Strategies:
  - Institutional strengthening
  - Disaster education and community awareness
  - Disaster preparedness and
  - capability building

### **VII. ADRC Counterpart**

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