

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## COUNTRY PAPER

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#### **1. PAPUA NEW GUINEA - A COUNTRY**

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a country with over 4.5 million people. The country lies north of Australia and share common International Borders with Australia, Indonesia and Solomon Islands.

The country has diverse cultures and over 700 languages and dialects.

The country gained its independence from Australian in 1975.

#### **2. DISASTER IN THE COUNTRY**

Papua New Guinea is one of the countries in the world that was seriously struck by Natural Disasters in the most recent pasts.

In 1995, the volcano totally destroyed the beautiful town of Rabaul in East New Britain Province. Thousands of people were relocated and a new town is now being built in Kokopo. International donors such as Japan and Australia assisted in the rebuilding of essential infrastructures such as airport, roads etc.

In 1999/98, Papua New Guinea was seriously affected by the Drought and Frost brought about by the global El-Nino Phenomenon. Again international donors came to assist the country with Japan donating 8,000 tonnes of rice, plus monetary donations.

In 1998, a Tsunami (Tidal Wave) struck the west coast in Sandaun Province causing the death of 2,022 people and destroying entire villages and leaving thousands homeless.

Apart from these major disasters, there were other minor disasters, such as the Manam Volcano in Madang Province, earthquakes, floods, landslides and sea mishaps.

### **3. NATIONAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The National Disaster and Emergency Services (ND ES) is an organisation established by an Act of Parliament ? The Disaster Management Act.

Its main function is to ensure that the National Disaster Procedures are adopted throughout Papua New Guinea.

The functions and activities of the National Disaster and Emergency Services are clearly outlined in the National Disaster Management Plan Handbook which formed the basic blue prints for managing disasters in Papua New Guinea.

Owing to the fact that the plan was drawn up some years back, it needs to be reviewed and updated to conform with the current situations in the country.

It is therefore pleasing to note that the review programme is scheduled to commence in March this year \along with other Disaster Management Programmes which I will outline later in this paper.

### **4. PAPUA NEW GUINEA DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Following the experiences of Rabaul Volcano Disaster in 1995, the National Disaster and Emergency Services had embarked on a project sponsored by AusAid to put together the Management Programme to improve the National Disaster Management capabilities.

The Project Documents was finalised in 1995 and presented to AusAid. In the same year the document was passed to the Secretary for Provincial and Local Level Government, which is the mother department of the National Disaster & Emergency Office to comment on the document before further action can be taken in so far as the implementation was concern.

Since then nothing much eventuated, thus delaying the implementation of the proposed project.

In 1998, in the midst of the drought and tsunami disasters, the Government directed that the project document be reviewed and implemented as it was seen as a priority tasks to improve the Government's abilities to manage disasters more effectively in the country.

Once again, thanks to AusAid which agreed to fund the review of the project documents and later the actual implementation of the project.

It is pleasing now to note that the review had been completed and the review project document is now in Canberra, Australia to assess and administer the Tender Procedure of the Project.

The main purposes of the Review, if I may outline was to bring the components of the Project into line with the current Government Reform System and also to include experiences learnt from the Drought and Tsunami Disasters in the project components.

At the time of the Review, it was agreed that some preproject activities be implemented in 1999 whilst the actual project will come into implementation in 2000.

The components of the pre-project activities which formed the main disaster activities in 1999 includes the:

- Review of the NDES Structures;
- IDM and TFI Training Courses;
- Review of the national Disaster Management Plans referred to earlier;
- Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Activities; and
- Review of the Disaster Management Act.

The review of the NDES structure had been completed and the new structure is now the Department of Personnel Management (DPM) for approval. The NDES structure is amongst all other Government Departments Structures that were reviewed for the purposes of cost reduction and 1999 Budget Implementations.

The review of the NDES structure came up with the identification of core business of the Disaster Institutions in the country which needs to be strengthened when implementing the Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Project in Year 2000. The Project is a 5 year Project Term.

Main components of the project are the:

Institutional Strengthening

Disaster Education and Community Awareness

Disaster Preparedness and

Disaster Training

With the institutional training, the project intends to improve and strengthen Disaster Institutions at the National, Provincial and District Levels. This basically what the Government Reform System is all about, getting the District and Provincial Governments to be responsible for the affairs of the district or grass root levels. The intention here is to strengthen the Provincial and District Authorities to respond initially to disasters and only call on the National Government when all its coping capacities are fully exhausted.

With Disaster Awareness and Preparedness, the Project intend to provide wide range of education and awareness in the Government, NGOs and community organisation. By doing this, wider co-ordination

is needed and this is why the function of Government and donor co-ordination is emphasis in the reviewed structure. The project also intends to achieve these objectives through a wide range of workshops and training courses to cover all stakeholders in Disaster Management.

## 5. ATTACHMENTS

Reviewed NDES Organisational Structure

Copy of the Pre-Project Activities

LUDWICK KEMBU QPM

Director General

NATIONAL DISASTER MONITORING OFFICE DIVISION CORE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES 1999				
CORE & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES (Core in bold, support in italics)	ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN	RELEVANT ACT AND SECTION (IF APPLICABLE)	ASSISTING DIVISIONS	DEADLINE ( IF APPLIC. )
<b>NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	a) Review and update national disaster plan		LP	( Pre-project)
<b>DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT</b>	a) Review and update disaster management act		LP	( Pre-project)
<b>DISASTER PUBLICATIONS &amp; INFORMATION</b>	a) Praduce disaster awareness material			( Pre-project)
	b) Distribute throughout PNG as required			( Pre-project)
	c) Conduct awareness campaign in urban and rural areas			( Pre-project)
<b>AITAPE REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION</b>	a) Continue current efforts		ADDC	Rehab complete
<b>MANAM RESETTLEMENT</b>	a) Resettle vulnerable community to Bogia district.		Madang PA	19/2/99
	b) Create emergency contingency plan for Manam volcano eruptions		Madang PA	19/3/99
<i>DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL)</i>	a) Co-ordinate & conduct training courses (TFI, IDM)		HRD,Prov Adms, AUSAID	( Pre-project)
<i>ESTABLISH DISASTER DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</i>	a) Specify system requirements		LGAS ( D a t a)	( Pre-project)
	b) Develop Disaster Management System			( Pre-project)
	c) Train users and maintain			( Pre-project)
<i>NDMO STAFF ESTABLISHMENT</i>	a) Review N D M O staff establishment		HRD	( Pre-project)