



Highlights

Local community affected by king tide induced flooding welcome relief assistance.

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■ "We Will Work for the Betterment of Our Community," Declares Daga Community As It Implements its Community Peace for Development Plan.

■ Women's Participation in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Interventions Benefits Displaced Villagers in Morobe Province.

■ Assessing Displaced Communities to Aid Drafting of a Policy Document for Internally Displaced Persons in Papua New Guinea.

Helping Communities Heavily Affected by King Tide Related Flooding in Manus, East Sepik, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered assistance in response to the king tide induced flooding in East Sepik, Manus, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

Informed by assessment reports, IOM procured, transported, and distributed various shelter/ non-food

items (S/NFIs) to these target locations. The assistance included collapsible water containers, buckets, soap, facemasks, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, shelter construction toolkits, tarpaulins, solar lanterns, and water treatment tablets.

IOM worked closely with the local leaders and communities in the target locations in identifying the most vulnerable persons, including internally displaced persons, persons living with disability, and women heads of household.

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Through financial support from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), and in-kind support from Papua New Guinea's National Disaster Centre, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Australian Government, the response addressed the immediate needs of 10,600 vulnerable persons affected by the king tide.

"On behalf of the Carterets Islanders, I am thanking you all for your help," noted Chief Paul Tobas, Carterets Islands' representative during a distribution by IOM, local authorities, and partners. Autonomous Bougainville Government Member for Atolls, Pais Taihu also appreciated the assistance noting, *"This area is remote, and we are so grateful to see you come and assist our people."*



IOM distributing relief materials to the affected population in AROB.
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The response complements IOM's current USAID-funded disaster risk management project that is being implemented in AROB, East Sepik, and five additional provinces. The project has the overall goal of contributing to reducing economic and human losses and displacement by natural hazards through building community-based resilience and the capacity of government officials of all levels in Papua New Guinea.

The technical and human capacity built under the project at the provincial and national levels enabled IOM and its partners to mobilize resources to assess and respond timely to the affected communities. IOM also used some of the S/NFIs pre-positioned under the project to respond to the effects of the king tide.

Co-leading the Shelter/NFI/Camp Coordination Camp Management cluster coordination system in Papua New Guinea, together with the National Disaster Centre, IOM worked closely with Government through the National and Provincial Disaster Centres, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in delivering critical NFIs to the affected communities.

Hutjena Evacuation Centre in Buka Improved Through IOM, USAID Support

IOM continues to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to manage and reduce the impact of disasters, as well as improve the preparedness and resilience of communities.

Communities AROB are prone to various natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and the effects of climate change. As part of preparedness actions in AROB, the Hutjena facility was identified by the local authorities in Buka to provide evacuation in the event of a disaster.

IOM worked closely with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Office for Disaster and Climate Change to rehabilitate the water supply and refurbish gender-segregated latrines and bathing facilities in improving Hutjena evacuation centre.

The improvements were welcomed by the local communities and ABG.

"The temporary evacuation centre is the first of its kind here and it will serve the people of Bougainville when disasters strike. The Office of Disaster and Climate Change is committed to work in partnership with IOM and other humanitarian actors such as the Red Cross Society," said Farasiko Misimeke, Acting Director for the Office of Disaster and Climate Change.

Community Government Minister for ABG, Thomas Pata'aku also expressed appreciation for the work done saying, *"I thank IOM and all stakeholders that contributed in one way or the other in pulling the project off the ground. It is one of the very important projects that help us to be better prepared. I would be happy to see similar projects in Central and South Bougainville, especially the disaster-prone areas. I will work closely with the government and partners to strengthen disaster preparedness and including mobilizing resources for the other two regions."*

A few days before the launch, IOM in partnership with the National Disaster Centre, Port Moresby Geohazards, United Nations Development Programme, and ABG simulated the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for Lemanmanu community in Haku Constituency. Lemanmanu's CBDRM plan that was developed with the technical assistance from IOM, through USAID funding.

The simulation helped the community to test its CBDRM plan including the procedures that would come into effect during an emergency.

Assessing Displaced Communities to Aid Drafting of a Policy Document for Internally Displaced Persons

With funding from the IOM Development Fund (IDF) and USAID, IOM is providing technical inputs in the execution of field assessments with the Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA) and provincial authorities to gather evidence on internal displacement to help inform planning and decision-making targeting displacement affected communities and providing inputs in the drafting of a policy document for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



IOM, DPLGA staff conducting a discussion with IDPs in Madang province. © Willie Nombi/ UN Migration (IOM)

IOM and DPLGA teams joined by local authorities from the respective provinces carried out assessments in selected areas hosting displaced communities in Manus, Milne Bay, and Madang provinces on 27 March to 3 April 2022.

Vital information, including the living conditions of the displaced population and the challenges experienced to attain durable solutions, was collected and fed into the drafting of the IDP's policy document for Papua New Guinea.

In discussions with local authorities during the fieldwork, the DPLGA highlighted that the IDP's Policy input document would focus on displacement induced by climate change, natural hazards, disease outbreaks, and human-induced hazards, including law and order, and gender-based violence related displacement.

“We are thankful for your visit to our community. We have been displaced many times because of river flooding. We hope that this assessment will outline some better solutions in the policy to capture our needs as vulnerable people so that we can see better responses when disasters struck and displace people,” said Mr. Tokwakwasi, Divinai’s Ward Councilor in Alotau district, during a discussion with the assessment team in Milne Bay province.

Information gathered through the assessments is being drafted as a case study and will be incorporated into a National Situational Report (NSR) on the displacement situation. IOM and DPLGA will convene a workshop that will review the NSR and identify policy gaps and specifications to support drafting the IDPs' Policy input document.

Women's Participation in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Benefits Displaced Villagers in Morobe Province

Morobe province experiences extreme weather conditions that often lead to disasters. Natural hazards such as drought and the effects of climate change have caused challenges related to water and food insecurity in many rural communities in the province.

Internally Displaced Persons’ community in Ward 13 of Markham District of Morobe province now have access

to safe and clean drinking water following the rehabilitation of boreholes in their community, thanks to financial and technical assistance from IOM, USAID, Morobe Provincial Administration, and Markham District Development Authority (DDA).



Community members celebrate improved access to clean and safe drinking water in Morobe. © Samike Gagee/ UN Migration (IOM)

Morobe's Ward 13 consists of the villages of Marafau, Mitsing, and Zumara, where the host communities, and IDPs that were displaced because of a landslide over two decades ago live together. It is prone to drought, and community members highlighted that the prolonged dry periods usually worsened water insecurity in this community.

The water scheme stopped functioning about 20 years ago, forcing the community members, primarily women and children, to walk for an hour under the scorching sun to fetch water along the banks of Markham River.

Lakere Yatap, a female water committee member said that it had become a daily routine for many women and children to walk to Markham River and dig into the muddy deposits along the riverbanks to collect water

before hauling home, the heavy water containers on their backs or heads.

She further highlighted the struggles that women and girls faced in collecting water, saying, *"The water table usually drops during the dry season, and so we resorted to digging an additional half a meter or even more in search of drinking water. This is really hard work, especially for mothers and children."*

"On some days, we waited for at least an hour to allow the sediments to settle before we start fetching the water. During the dry season, it would take me at least half a day to fetch enough water for my family's daily use," she added. Lakere acknowledged it was her responsibility to ensure that these water facilities are well managed, equally accessed by all, and properly sustained.

Mara Filibob, a community member in Zumara echoed her concern regarding the safety of women and girls, saying, *"I did not feel safe to walk to the river by myself. It is not safe for the mothers and girls because they are times harassed by intoxicated men when they go and fetch water from the river. I usually sought the company of other women and would go and return in a group before you [IOM] supported us with these water points,"* she said.

It was during a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management planning session facilitated by IOM and Morobe Provincial Disaster Centre (PDC) when Ward 13's women highlighted the need for improved access to safe drinking water.



"After 20 years of living here, we have finally removed collecting water from Markham River from our to-do list. We now go to bed without worrying about fetching water the next day. We now have enough time during the day to do other activities such as gardening and can now provide enough food for our families," said Nidy Iriap, a woman from Ward 13.

"We no longer complain about body aches from carrying heavy water containers. The widows, persons with disability, and the old now have easy access to water. Our school children no longer walk long distances to fetch water in the morning and now get to school in time," added Nidy.

The water supply intervention is directly benefitting at least 769 community members who now access safe and clean drinking water at their doorstep.

Strengthening Preparedness, Response and Recovery Planning Through Use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix

Disaster management actors in Hela, Southern Highlands, Jiwaka, and Western Highlands provinces now have the necessary tools and skills to accurately capture and monitor displacement, and population

movement caused by natural and/or human-induced hazards after receiving training on use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

Delivered by the IOM in Mendi town on 2-4 February 2022, the training was attended by 20 men and nine women from the provincial administration, district and local government offices, partners, and local volunteers.

The training focused on field data collection and developing information products that better inform planning and evidence-based responses to the multi-sectoral needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It also addressed the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and upskilled participants with results-based monitoring and evaluation knowledge.



IOM delivering the DTM training in Southern Highlands.
© Peter Murerera/ UN Migration (IOM)

"Our provinces continue to suffer from man-made and natural hazards and effects of climate change. With limited skills in collecting displacement data, it can be very challenging for government officers to better plan and respond to displacements," said John Kink, Southern Highlands's Advisor for Climate Change and Disaster Management.

Tracking conflict-induced displacement provides a focus and sense of urgency to address humanitarian needs

and restore and sustain peace. The DTM tool helps to inform early warning and early actions, such as mediation, targeting communities at risk of conflict-induced displacement.

Lynne Warriame, a community advocate highlighted her experience in taking care of women and children displaced to Hoiyabia care facility because of tribal violence by saying, *"I work with women volunteers to collect data, for example, on the needs of women and children that are displaced by tribal fights in Hela province. The information I have learned from this training is vital to my work and I will use it to educate the women that I work with at Hoiyabia care facility."*

Elly Ako, another community advocate, and member of the Hela Council of Women promoting peacebuilding efforts in her community welcomed the training highlighting, noting, *"The 2018 earthquake and past tribal fights displaced many people in this province. It is challenging for us to collect data on displacement properly. I am happy to be participating in the DTM training because it has improved my understanding about collecting and using data to better address the needs of displaced persons."* Elly added that she will use the DTM tool to collect and provide reliable information to local authorities and organizations supporting displaced persons and peacebuilding interventions.

Robin Yakumb, Western Highlands' Provincial Disaster Coordinator noted the need to expand capacities in DTM in the country saying, *"I strongly recommend that the DTM training be rolled out to all districts. The information that we have at the Provincial Headquarters, required for planning and response is inadequate and must be complemented by the districts."*



Participants pose for a photo outside the CBDRM training venue in Western Highlands. © Sebastian Hurokoli/ UN Migration (IOM)

"We ask our district officers to assess disaster areas and produce reports, but the reports are at times inadequate or incomplete," he added. He suggested that the Government take the lead in rolling out the training to districts saying, "Our development partners will not be here always, and we must be at the forefront of getting our government officers upskilled for disaster preparedness."

The training concluded with remarks from Ronald Andali who thanked the Government of Papua New Guinea, USAID, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, and IOM for bringing the training to the Highlands. The three-day DTM training was co-funded by USAID and United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF).

Enhancing Preparedness Capacity and Resilience in Papua New Guinea's Highlands

An emergency can create disorder, and disaster responders and local communities must be prepared and well trained to cope with these situations.

To help address this, IOM enhanced the preparedness capacity of local authorities largely the Provincial Disaster Coordinators, and partners and local

communities by improving their knowledge and skills in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), Build Back Safer (BBS) in Shelter Construction, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

IOM co-facilitated trainings in CBDRM, Shelter BBS, and CCCM with Provincial Disaster Coordinators (PDCs) from Hela, Jiwaka, Southern Highlands, and Western Highlands provinces. The PDCs had previously received upskilling on CBDRM, Shelter BBS, DTM, and CCCM during the national trainings of trainer delivered by IOM in Port Moresby and funded by USAID.

"I have come across people displaced by tribal conflict who lack awareness regarding protection referral pathways. A number of unreported cases of abuses affecting IDP women and girls are at times perpetrated by people we entrust to protect them within the host communities. Establishing well-organized care centre, improve awareness on protection, and adequate humanitarian assistance should also be a priority for displacement incidents," noted Rueben Andrew, a senior constable in the Papua New Guinea Royal Constabulary.

The trainings increased the preparedness capacity and risk reduction knowledge and skills of 62 men and 24 women from Southern Highlands, Western Highlands, and Jiwaka provinces.



Disaster responders participate in an activity during the training in Southern Highlands. © Peter Murorera/ UN Migration (IOM)

Participants were from the Provincial Administration, faith-based organizations, police, civil society attended, and local communities.

“Climate change has resulted in increased occurrences of disasters. The information shared in this training is critical in helping our rural communities to become more resilient to disasters,” said Manuel Kewa, Deputy District Chief Executive Officer for Tambul Nebilya in Western Highlands Province.

John Kupul, Jiwaka Provincial Disaster Coordinator extended his gratitude to the IOM, USAID, and Papua New Guinea Government in partnering to enhance the capacity of Government and partners highlighting, *“This partnership between the Government and IOM, through USAID’s financial support continue to bring many benefits to the disaster centres, partners and local communities.”* Kupul added, *“I have observed a number of communities that were impacted by the past El Nino and effects of climate change becoming more resilient, and with women taking lead especially in climate smart agriculture, improving the food security situation*

following the introduction of CBDRM by IOM in Jiwaka province.”

The trainings were delivered on 6-25 February 2022 in Mendi and Mt. Hagen towns in the Southern Highlands and Western Highlands and were funded by USAID.

Improving Access to Safe and Clean Drinking Water for Rural Communities in Hela Province

It was all joy, evident by smiles on the faces of women, girls, men, and boys from Yambraka, Puju and Kuandi communities in Hela Province as they welcomed materials from IOM to construct clean and safe drinking water points.



Community members welcome materials to install their community infrastructure. © Sebastian Hurokoli/ UN Migration (IOM)

Through funding from Hela Provincial Government, under the United Nations' Highlands Joint Programme (HJP), the materials supplied to local communities by IOM from 29 January to 1 February 2022 include 9,000L water tanks, polyvinyl pipes, galvanized roofing sheets, timber, and cement.

The communities receiving the support are providing labour and local materials in constructing their rain-fed

catchments.

"The only creek that we fetched drinking water from was destroyed by an earthquake in 2018 leaving the community with limited access to safe drinking water," noted Maureen Mokai, Councillor for Kuandi II community.

"We are happy that Hela Provincial Government and IOM have fulfilled their promise to help us have better access to drinking water," added Councillor Mokai.

"Community members are planning to pipe water to strategic locations in the community especially where mothers, youth and children can easily access it," she added.

Construction of the water points will provide clean and safe drinking water to up to 4,800 people from Yabraka, Puju and Kuandi communities.

"We Will Work for the Betterment of Our Community," Declares Daga Community As It Implements its Community Peace for Development Plan

Daga community located in Nipa Kutubu District in Southern Highlands Province is a beneficiary of IOM's Community Peace for Development Planning and Implementation, funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF).

Training for community facilitation teams as well as technical support by IOM in developing Daga's Community Peace for Development Plan (CPDP) empowered women, men, and youth from this

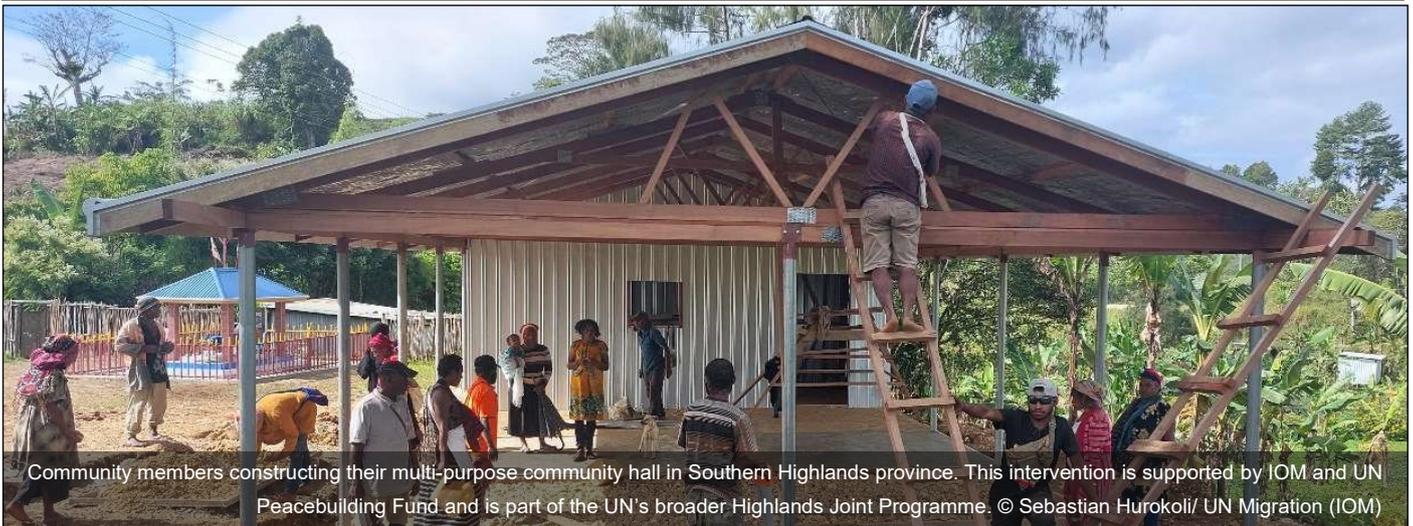
community to draft, officially launch, and implement their CPDP. Community-led projects supported by IOM through UN PBF include a multi-purpose community hall and safe drinking water points.

Daga's CPDP, endorsed by the community leadership and local authorities is a living document, and has various community-driven projects listed for implementation with the aim to promote peace and sustainable development for the benefit of all members of the community.

Empowered through IOM's trainings and community-based planning, Daga community sourced resources and materials from within their community and other stakeholders. This brought new developments in the community, after the IOM project ended, a sign of sustainability of IOM's interventions under the UN PBF project in Daga community.



Women, men, and youth from Daga worked together and constructed footbridges improving access between the two Daga villages. The community also constructed a grandstand that they used to host events such as the Kutubu cultural festival, an event that promoted social cohesion and exhibition of the local culture.



Community members constructing their multi-purpose community hall in Southern Highlands province. This intervention is supported by IOM and UN Peacebuilding Fund and is part of the UN's broader Highlands Joint Programme. © Sebastian Hurokoli/ UN Migration (IOM)

"We will work for the betterment of our community," Haotex Kurao, a youth champion from Daga community told IOM staff in Southern Highlands.

"We are working with the community and partners to undertake the various projects that we listed in our CPDP. We recently constructed and launched an improved foot bridge, after the first one was installed using logs. We have also constructed a grandstand with support from the Worldwide Fund. I can tell you that there is progress and great joy in the community," he added.

IOM's community-based approach through the CPDPs is promoting social cohesion, peacebuilding, and sustainable development as women, men, and youth members mobilize and work together for the betterment of their community, and with the support of the local authorities and partners.

Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Sustainable Community-led Development in Conflict-Affected Communities in Hela and Southern Highlands

IOM is working with local communities of Guala, Kikita, and Tigibi in Hela province, and Munihu, Pambal, Megi

and Yame in Southern Highlands province to sustain peace and promote community-driven sustainable development.

Through financial assistance from United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF), IOM's support to these communities includes training for gender-inclusive community facilitation teams and local authorities, technical assistance in developing and operationalizing community action plans, and material assistance to execute selected community-led priority projects.



IOM has trained women, men, and youth from the target CPDP communities in Hela and Southern Highlands.

© Peter Murodera/ UN Migration (IOM)

Target communities were identified by IOM through consultations with the local authorities (provincial, district and local level) and partners, and mapping of tribal violence, conflict-induced displacement, and other vulnerabilities, and have received support from IOM and local authorities to draft their Community-Peace for Development Plans (CPDPs).

Munihu, Pambal, Megi and Yame identified installation of a multi-purpose community hall and safe drinking water points among their priorities and have received materials including water tanks, galvanized iron poles, timber, and galvanized roofing sheets to construct their community infrastructure. The materials, funded by UN PBF, were welcomed by women, girls, men, and boys from the beneficiary communities, who have started constructing their community halls and water points.



Community members at the newly constructed multi purpose hall in Southern Highlands province. © Sebastian Hurokoli/ UN Migration

“We will use this hall for several purposes. It will be our community resource centre where many of our young people, mothers, and fathers will meet to plan for the betterment of our community,” highlighted a community

member.

IOM Trains Papua New Guinea National Toll-Free Telephone Counseling Hotline Staff

IOM delivered induction training to Papua New Guinea’s national telephone counselling hotline staff (24) on 12-13 April 2022.

The *1-tok kaunselin helpim lain* is managed by ChildFund Papua New Guinea (PNG) and has been operational since 2015 providing a 24-hour telephone counselling service to survivors of gender-based violence including child protection and trafficking in persons (TiP) across PNG.

At the request of ChildFund PNG, IOM delivered sessions to hotline staff in coordination with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and A21. The AFP and A21 sessions were conducted virtually and received positive feedback from hotline staff. Topics of the induction included the international legal frameworks on TiP, the trafficking process, indicators, crisis interventions, and referrals.

The induction training equipped participants with knowledge on what is TiP, the process involved, how to identify a victim of trafficking and different interventions that may be done to support a victim until a referral can be made to relevant service providers.

This joint initiative has provided the opportunity for further collaboration with AFP and A21 offering support to IOM’s efforts in strengthening capacities of the *1-tok kaunselin helpim lain*.

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