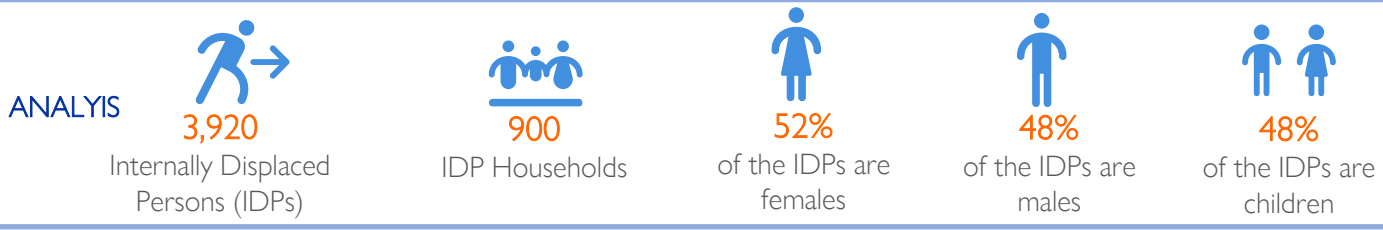


## Mount Bagana Volcano Eruption

### BACKGROUND

IOM continues to work in partnership with the National Disaster Centre and Bougainville Office for Disaster and Climate Change to assess and assist communities affected by Mt. Bagana volcano eruption. IOM, at the request of the National Disaster Centre and Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) deployed the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) on 26-30 July 2023 that identified a total of 3,303 people (724 households) displaced to Wakunai and Piva station care centres.<sup>1</sup> A second round of the DTM deployed on 10-14 August 2023 has witnessed a 19 per cent increase in the IDP population from the first round. This report presents findings from the second round of the DTM assessment.



### POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC

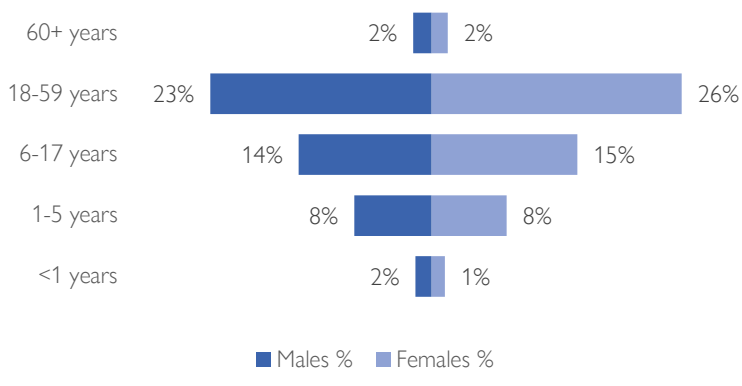
In total, 3,920 displaced individuals from 900 households (HHs) were identified at Wakunai (1,712 individuals from 414 HHs) and Piva station (2,208 individuals from 486 HHs) care centres. Of these 3,920 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), 48 per cent were males, and 52 per cent females.

The IDPs located at Wakunai centre originate mainly from two Wards of Siro and Ruruvu, and most IDPs in Torokina (Piva station) are from Tsito-Vuakovi and Koromaketo Wards. This second round of data collection has witnessed a 19 per cent increase in the IDP population from the first round conducted 26-30 July. It should be noted that the IDP population is expected to increase as more people evacuate.

### Map of the Affected Area



### % IDPs by Gender and Age



**Disclaimer:** This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration. © UN Migration/IOM 2023

<sup>1</sup> The DTM report is available at, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/papua-new-guinea-mount-bagana-site-profile-wakunai-and-torokina-july-2023>

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### PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

Six per cent of the total IDP population assessed were found to be particularly vulnerable individuals including breastfeeding mothers (83), single female heads of household (34), people living with disabilities (32), pregnant women (24), unaccompanied elderly persons (12), and persons with chronic illness or medical conditions (9). Reports from Wakunai and Torokina indicate that there are children separated from their parents or guardians who are being cared for by close relatives at the care centres (total figure unknown).



Photo: Internally displaced persons living at Piva station care centre.  
© IOM 2023/Mohamud OMER

### PROTECTION

The previously reported verbal harassment of women by intoxicated youths at Wakunai care centre, has been accompanied by concerns that theft and harassment are rife and increasing as the number of families grows.

Very few members of the police seem to have their presence felt in and around the care centre. Both sites still lack any referral mechanism for GBV survivors. The further absence of privacy can compromise the dignity and safety of the affected population particularly in communal living spaces and temporary shelters. Privacy concerns have led women and girls to travel to the river for changing clothes. Women and girls at Wakunai care centre have stated that some host community members have put restrictions on collecting firewood for cooking, and coconuts.

The Wakunai care centre reported inadequate lighting, with Piva station care centre having no lighting at all. IOM, will distribute 264 solar lights to 264 HHs at Piva station care centre on 17 August 2023.

### SITE MANAGEMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY

IOM, in partnership with the National Disaster Centre and Bougainville Office for Disaster and Climate Change, has facilitated the deployment of Provincial Disaster Centre (PDC) teams from Western Highlands and Morobe to implement Camp Coordination and Camp Management. Gender inclusive teams of IOM and PDCs stationed at Wakunai and Piva are working closely with the Site Management Committees made up to district authorities, IDPs, host community, and Red Cross to enhance capacities in CCCM, and well-coordinated delivery of services at the care centres.

### SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Shelter remains a critical concern. Most of the displaced individuals have sought temporary shelter in various administrative buildings. Other households are living in makeshift and basic shelters constructed from plastic sheeting and sticks, which do not meet established standards.

In Wakunai district, a total of 136 damaged shelters were reported due to the impact of the volcano eruption in their place of origin. Torokina district IDPs reported the damage of 18 shelters, with a further one shelter being completely destroyed.

In the care centers, makeshift shelters are also insufficient for protecting against weather-related dangers, particularly heavy rainfall. This concern is compounded by the recurring worry among residents regarding the continuous rain, which could lead to flooding. Other households, especially those at Wakunai, are living in traditional and semi-permanent shelters belonging to the host families.



Photo: Makeshift shelters at Piva station care centre.  
© IOM 2023/Quintin TALINGAPUA

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At the Piva station care centre, most IDPs have created makeshift shelters in various areas around Piva, including those near the airstrip.

For those located at the Wakunai care centre, accommodation types include: classrooms, halls, make-shift shelters, and tents. Male and female displaced IDPs have been allocated separate sleeping areas, but due to overcrowding, there are more than 30 people sharing a single sleeping space. This overcrowding and the inadequate living conditions present a potential risk to public health. In addition to this, lack of bedding items at the care centres.

IDPs at the Piva site have been offered the option to relocate to Soroken village. However, there is a lack of enthusiasm among the displaced population. This reluctance is due to uncertainties regarding the absence of essential services in that area, including shelter and WASH among others.



*Photo: Shelter remains a critical concern for several IDP households. © IOM 2023/Mohamud OMER*

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Sanitation conditions are poor at both the Wakunai and Piva station care centres. Only three of the six latrines at Wakunai care centre are operational. Piva care centre has five functioning latrines, but this quantity is still insufficient for the 2,208 IDPs housed here. For the IDPs near the airport, there are only three functional pit latrines available, resulting in open defecation unfortunately becoming an alternative for many of the displaced individuals.

Neither site has separated male and female latrines or bathing areas, furthering concerns regarding risks for GBV and privacy.

The primary source of drinking water supply for the centres comes from rain catchments. However, most rain-fed tanks have run dry, and the displaced population are instead fetching drinking water from alternative sources including creeks/streams, springs, and the river, which all pose health risks.

Piva station has 20 rain-fed tanks, and only 12 are functioning, located approximately 1 to 1.5 kilometres from the Piva station. The remaining eight tanks are not being used due to issues such as leaks and missing hardware and fittings. Insufficient water storage capacity leads to frequent trips to the water source, which places an additional burden and heightened risk on IDPs, especially vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

All currently used water sources are prone to contamination, lacking proper protection and at risk of exposure to potential contaminants from volcanic ash and flooding. At the Wakunai care centre, there are also no proper water catchment areas, putting it at higher risk when it comes to ensuring access to water. There are around four rivers to which the communities have access to, yet these are all off-site, requiring an average walk of one hour round trip to access. To assess the safety of these water sources, samples have been collected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and sent to Port Moresby for comprehensive laboratory testing and analysis. Water testing of nearby water sources, and coordination with WASH Cluster co-leads and the relevant government partners is ongoing.



*Photo: The affected population has resorted to collect drinking water from unsafe sources. © IOM 2023/Quintin TALINGAPUA*

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In addition to the above challenges, residents in both sites reported the need for hygiene kits. Providing these kits is crucial for promoting proper hygiene practices and preventing the spread of diseases among the displaced population.

Addressing these issues is of utmost importance to ensure the health and well-being of the displaced individuals. Immediate action should be taken to repair the non-functional latrines, provide alternative water sources or improve the existing ones, and supply hygiene kits to IDPs. These measures would significantly contribute to maintaining proper sanitation at the centres, reduce health risks, and uphold the dignity of the affected population.

### HEALTH

The temporary health facility set up at the Wakunai station continues to serve the affected population. The health surveillance and health promotion teams are providing medical supplies and assisting the affected population on health-related issues.

Both Wakunai and Piva station care centres noted diarrhoea as the most-prevalent health concern, followed by malaria, owing to the increasing care centre population, limited access to clean and safe drinking water, poor sanitation conditions, and the need for mosquito nets.

The Rotary Club of Moresby, and Rotarians Against Malaria have supported the response with the donation of 700 and 300 mosquito nets respectively for Wakunai and Piva station care centre IDPs.

### FOOD SECURITY

The IDPs are being provided for approximately two meals per day. Food provision remains minimal, with displaced individuals receiving only 1kg of rice per household, falling below humanitarian standards. The provisions of food rations by the ABG have occurred twice a week in the Wakunai care centre, and daily for the Piva centre.

Host communities and local business houses have also supported the IDPs with food rations. However, the food supply remains inadequate to cater to the increasing population as more people move to care centres with current stock estimated to be depleted within one week.

### EDUCATION

Schools have been suspended for over four weeks now, affecting student's learning. Less than 25 per cent of children at the Wakunai site were attending education, with none at the Piva centre. Classrooms are being used to provide accommodation for some of the displaced population. Following the request for alternative learning from the IDPs themselves, arrangements have been made for students, especially grade eight, to be allocated an area to erect a makeshift classroom to continue their learning.

### RESPONSE

IOM is actively working with the government (national and sub-national) and partner organizations to address challenges faced by displaced individuals.

A deployed CCCM team, comprised of trained staff from IOM other PDCs, is coordinating these efforts at the site level. The objective is to create a safer and more dignified environment for the displaced individuals during this difficult time. Additionally, IOM is actively monitoring displacement trends and assessing sectoral needs of the affected population to identify gaps and challenges.

With generous financial support from the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), IOM distributed 127 water containers and 4 water tanks to improve water access and storage at care centres. IOM has a pipeline of shelter and NFIs and is targeting 724 IDP HHs with this assistance.



Photo: IOM, US Department of Defense and ABG delivering relief supplies at Piva station care centre. © IOM 2023/Mohamud OMER

## Mount Bagana Volcano Eruption



Photo: Australian Defense Forces' C-130 aircraft loading relief supplies at the Jacksons International Airport in Port Moresby..

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IOM also dispatched life-saving emergency shelter and NFIs to Piva station to enhance living conditions and mitigate weather-related hazards. Airlift of the items from Port Moresby to Buka was done by the Australian Defense Forces, while delivery to at Piva station was completed by the US Department of Defense, through coordination with the USAID/BHA. The local authorities in Wakunai are currently in the process of identifying suitable sites where the displaced people can further establish temporary settlements.

### CHALLENGES

- Limited relief materials especially food, drinking water and shelter to address the immediate needs of the displaced, with concerns raised regarding the inability of shelter materials able to withstand the expected flooding.
- Lack of communication network/ phone coverage at Piva station care centre.
- Overcrowding across both sites posing a threat of GBV, alongside increasing mental and physical wellbeing concerns.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Supply of clean and safe drinking water.
- Provide food rations, and supplementary feeding for children below 5 years old.
- Provide supplementary feeding and breast-feeding mothers and pregnant women.
- Establish learning arrangements for children.
- Strengthen CCCM at the care centres.
- Provide emergency shelter and essential non-food items including blankets and sleeping mats.
- Continued health assessments to inform specific health related interventions needed, alongside the dispatch of medical supplies and hygiene kits.
- Distribute dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age.
- Distribute solar lights to help address safety concerns and improve lighting conditions in the care centres.
- Improve access to sanitation including installing gender-segregated latrines and bathing facilities.
- Install handwashing stations.

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