

Papua New Guinea Crisis Response Plan 2024



IOM responding to the volcano eruption of Mt Bagana. Photo © IOM 2023

January - December 2024

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IOM VISION

IOM partners with the government at national and sub-national levels to respond to complex emergencies, reduce and mitigate the impacts of disaster displacement, and build peace. IOM works with partners and local communities to reduce exposure to natural hazards, build resilience and facilitate climate change adaptation through community-based planning interventions, as well as strengthening trust, contributing to shared peace, security, equality, justice and social cohesion goals.

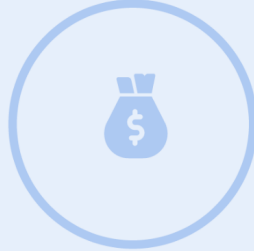
CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRIMARY TARGET GROUPS

1. Internally displaced person
2. Local population / community
3. Internal migrant
4. Refugee

FUNDING REQUIRED: \$9,500,000



\$34.2K
CONFIRMED



\$9.5M
GAP



96,000
PEOPLE TARGETED



18
ENTITIES TARGETED

IOM PROPOSED RESPONSE

Saving lives and protecting people on the move

\$6,550,000
FUNDING REQUIRED

\$0
FUNDING CONFIRMED

80,000
PEOPLE TARGETED

Driving solutions to displacement

\$2,950,000
FUNDING REQUIRED

\$34,247
FUNDING CONFIRMED

80,000
PEOPLE TARGETED

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (USD) 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITY AREAS	2024
Saving lives and protecting people on the move	
Basic needs, including food and multi-purpose cash assistance	\$750,000
Provision of water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies	\$1,200,000
Camp coordination and camp management	\$450,000
Protection	\$600,000
Shelter and settlements	\$1,200,000
Emergency preparedness	\$1,750,000
Displacement tracking	\$600,000
Driving solutions to displacement	
Community stabilization	\$750,000
Peacebuilding and peace preservation	\$2,000,000
Adaptation and disaster risk reduction	\$200,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED	\$9,500,000

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is prone to multiple natural hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, flooding, rising sea levels and droughts, that lead to displacement and economic and human losses yearly. In 2023, the country went through multi-layered disasters caused by election-related violence, medium to major-scale earthquakes, flooding and volcanic eruptions.

Natural hazards have significant impacts. Earthquakes hit the Highlands region in September 2022, damaging infrastructure. Between July and November 2023, volcanic eruptions of [Mount Bagana](#) and [Mount Ulawun](#), displaced thousands of people in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and West New Britain and East New Britain provinces. In Autonomous Region of Bougainville, a total, 3,303 displaced individuals from 724 households (HHs) were identified at Wakunai (1,500 individuals from 315 HHs) and Piva station (1,803 individuals from 409 HHs) care centres and while in November 2023, a total of 17,109 people were displaced due to the Mt Ulawun volcano eruption in different sites in West New Britain and East New Britain provinces.

A total of 3.09 million people or 585,314 households are exposed to the El Niño hazard, including 1.24 million vulnerable people (United Nations in Papua New Guinea, 2022). Many parts of the country are experiencing an exceptionally extended dry spell due to La Niña. South Bougainville, East New Britain, and northern parts of New Ireland provinces are in critical drought conditions and are forecasted to experience below-average rainfall in the coming months, a situation further exacerbated by climate change (Papua New Guinea National Weather Service, 2022).

On 10 January 2024, violence erupted in Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea. The unrest began when a group comprising of uniformed forces protested due to unexplained tax deductions from their salaries. The unrest spread rapidly to other provinces including the Eastern Highlands leading to the destruction of businesses. Shops were looted, and buildings were set on fire, exacerbated by the absence of police. The exact number of casualties remains unconfirmed, but there were reports of multiple deaths and dozens of people injured. Emergency services struggled to cope with the magnitude of the disturbance. In response to the escalating situation, the government declared a 14-day state of emergency in the capital, Port Moresby.

The spill over of the PNG National General Election (2022) violence also remains significant across the Highlands region of the country, especially in Enga and Hela provinces. The violence started in May 2022 and has continued. In some places, the violence has resurfaced from long-standing issues, including land disputes, retribution, and unsettled disputes between clans, who are using the instability around elections to re-ignite old tensions. The election-related violence and associated tribal conflicts triggered the displacement of more than 30,000 people according to IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#).

The high rates of violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea persist as a significant challenge. [Research](#) indicates that at least 60 percent of women in the country have endured physical and/or sexual violence from intimate partners, a figure twice the global average. Furthermore, instances of violence linked to accusations of sorcery against older women seem to be increasing. A 2021 report by the International Finance Corporation highlighted that Papua New Guinea businesses suffer substantial losses, averaging 10 days per staff member annually, due to the repercussions of family and sexual violence.



IOM responding to the volcano eruption of Mount Bagana in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville © Mohamud OMER/ IOM 2023

INFORM Risk Index (August 2023)	High (16/191)
Human Development Index (2023/4)	Medium
Fragility Index (2022)	Fragile
IDPs (IDMC, Dec 2022)	91,000

COORDINATION

IOM Papua New Guinea works closely with the Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA), and the National Disaster Centre (NDC). It also works closely with multiple Provincial Disaster Centres (PDCs); provincial, district, and local level governments and local communities, supporting the country's alignment with the vision and guiding principles of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). As a member of the Disaster Management Team (DMT), Co-lead of the shelter, non-food items and camp coordination camp management (CCCM) cluster, and member of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, food security, and protection clusters in PNG, IOM also maintains close coordination and partnership with other UN agencies, international NGOs; PNG Red Cross and international development partners; as well as with church groups and private sector representatives that play critical roles in reinforcing pre- or post-disaster collaboration and communication. The DMT in PNG is the highest strategic coordinating body for international humanitarian assistance to PNG. It is co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the NDC, and is composed of UN agencies, international NGOs, the Red Cross Movement, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and key development partners.

IOM CAPACITY

IOM established its country office in PNG in 2001. IOM has 12 field offices across PNG, located in Bougainville, East New Britain, Western, Southern Highlands, Morobe, Madang, Hela, Jiwaka, Kimbe, Enga, Western Highlands, and East Sepik. IOM has a strong presence in PNG and enjoys excellent relations with the government at both national and sub-national levels and with other intergovernmental, international, and non-governmental organizations in the country. Whereas IOM has the full capacity to implement all proposed activities, the Organization is working very closely with the national and sub-national authorities, communities, civil society, and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to facilitate the localization, cohesiveness, and sustainability of its interventions. With a gender balanced team, IOM is one of the leading actors in life-saving emergency responses, engaging actively in the humanitarian coordination system with a solid commitment to reducing the protection risks to which crisis-affected individuals and communities are exposed. IOM works in disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding to help prepare States and communities to minimize the impacts of a crisis. Throughout the crisis cycle, IOM fosters trust and long-lasting relationships with populations, authorities, and communities, resulting in holistic and localized approaches supporting national and local authorities. IOM employs Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) initiatives which aim to capacitate local authorities by providing training and support in conducting needs assessments and enhancing emergency response capabilities. By collaborating closely with communities and authorities, IOM fosters trust and facilitates the development of localized strategies that address the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by different provinces in the country.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND EMPOWERMENT





IOM places people at the centre of its action, upholding the principles of accountability to affected populations (AAP) and contributing to empowering the affected population through people-centred approaches to assistance delivery. In Papua New Guinea the commitment to AAP principles will be demonstrated through approaches that promote inclusive participation of different groups to provide input that can be used to shape activities and ensuring affected groups are reached by relevant and timely information that they can use to make decisions. Community engagement will be prioritized to ensure an inclusive consultation, especially during needs assessments, to collect perspectives that can inform on the ground activities.

ENGAGING WITH THE GOVERNMENT





IOM has a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the PNG National Disaster Centre, a mandated agency of the government to provide overall coordination during disaster and other emergency situations. The relationship at the national level extends to the sub-national level at the Districts, Local Level Government and Ward level. IOM continued to provide capacity building training in Displacement Tracking, CCCM, CBDRM and emergency response. IOM also ensured the engagement of PDC's in emergency responses like the 2023 Mount Bagana volcanic eruption in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

IOM RESPONSE

CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

-  Data and evidence
-  Protection mainstreaming
-  Gender equality
-  Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

KEY OPERATING MODALITIES

-  Participation and empowerment
-  Conflict sensitivity
-  Integrated programming
-  Collaboration and partnership



SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Funding Required

\$6,550,000

People Targeted

80,000

People Targeted Description

IOM works with disaster-affected communities, as well as with local authorities to collect data in a timely manner and respond to lifesaving needs, including protection, targeting disaster-affected communities. In parallel, IOM will continue its strong involvement in support to conflict-affected communities in PNG, especially in the Highlands region, ensuring national leadership of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster, while seeking to expand in partnership with actors within and beyond the cluster, potentially including local Civil Society Organizations / Community-Based Organizations (CSO/CBO) networks. This equally applies to mass displacements caused by natural hazards. In partnership with the local authorities, primarily the Provincial Disaster Centres, IOM will use the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and Solution and Mobility Index (SMI) for refined data-gathering processes and will lead field visits in identified displacement communities to collect data on profiles, challenges, needs, perceptions, and feedback from displaced and host communities across provinces that have been affected by emergencies or are deemed susceptible to population displacement due to volcano eruptions, climate change, man-made tribal and inter-tribal conflict, flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, and cyclones. The information gathered will help to inform response and recovery planning, as well as the drafting of PNG's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Policy, which IOM is leading in partnership with the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office. Specifically, IOM targets vulnerable communities identified through DTM and SMI assessments, as well as in collaboration with, or through referrals from, the relevant state authorities and key partners on the ground.

BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD AND MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE



BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD AND MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

IOM will address immediate food needs and protection concerns while facilitating livelihood recovery for vulnerable conflict-affected populations. This will involve integrating protection measures and mainstreaming gender-based violence (GBV) considerations into food distribution processes. Additionally, livelihood support initiatives, including equipping communities with climate smart trainings, seedlings and gardening tools, will be implemented alongside food distribution efforts to promote sustainable recovery and resilience-building among affected communities, ensuring recipient families' nutrition and energy needs are met. The food distribution will be done following PNG Emergency Minimum Required Food Basket Items to ensure the intake of 2,100 kcals per person per day following the Sphere minimum standards. IOM will also conduct food security assessments aimed at understanding the situation, current needs, and how to meet those needs; estimate how many people need assistance; identify groups at the highest risk and provide a baseline to monitor the impact of humanitarian response.

Funding Required

\$750,000



PROVISION OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN EMERGENCIES



PROVISION OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN EMERGENCIES

IOM will distribute and maintain a contingency stock of basic emergency WASH NFIs and dignity kits to be able to respond to sudden events of displacement. While the WASH NFI distribution targets vulnerable families, the dignity kits will be distributed to those families based on the number of women of reproductive age. The contents of the hygiene and dignity kits will be determined, ensuring Sphere minimum standards and local context-adapted packages from WASH and Protection clusters. The distribution of WASH NFIs and hygiene kits and the intervention on water schemes will be accompanied by hygiene promotion work to make people aware of crucial public health risks related to water, sanitation, and hygiene and measures to be taken by individuals, households, and communities to reduce them. The hygiene promotion work will be based on the identified main public health risks and the current hygiene practices that contribute to these risks. IOM also has the capacity of installing and rehabilitating the WASH facilities at the evacuation sites during emergency.

Funding Required

\$1,200,000





CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

IDPs' camp-like settings or gathering points are commonly referred to as care centres in PNG, most often existing infrastructures used as gathering and evacuation sites. IOM will work in close cooperation with the government in establishing well-functioning evacuation management in collective centres and will provide technical support to maintain effective CCCM service, particularly in terms of evacuation and transit. IOM will also support the authorities with the administration and management of the displacement sites, including coordination of the service provision in displacement sites and centres and capacity building of government officials, humanitarian partners and faith-based organizations in CCCM and protection standards. IOM will also work with state officials and community focal points to ensure that displacement communities are well represented and participate in decision-making related to their situation. As Shelter, CCCM & NFI cluster lead, IOM will coordinate service provision in the sites as required.

Funding Required
\$450,000



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PROTECTION

During humanitarian responses, IOM is committed to mainstream protection and GBV risk mitigation to alleviate threats to lives, dignity and the well-being of crisis-affected populations. In line with this frame, IOM is committed to the Centrality of Protection in PNG following the IOM's Institutional Framework for Addressing Gender-Based Violence in crises (GBViC) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Protection Policy. IOM's interventions include building local capacity through providing dedicated trainings to village leaders, disaster management committees, GBV and Child Protection focal points, and youth volunteers on how to identify the needs of vulnerable groups, mitigate protection risks during disaster response and safely respond to disclosure of protection-related incidents. Also, IOM will support the establishment of community engagement forums and community discussions with community leaders on protection risks, ensuring that the roles of women and other vulnerable groups in the event of disaster response and recovery are meaningfully taken into account. IOM will also support government stakeholders and civil society organizations to strengthen coordination and referral pathways for child protection, GBV and trafficking in persons (TiP) cases.

Funding Required
\$600,000



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SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Access to adequate and appropriate shelter to ensure that the most vulnerable are not at risk and do not resort to negative coping mechanisms is vital, considering shelter has been cited as an acute need among displacement-affected communities. In 2023 during the emergency response and for election-related violence, earthquake and volcanic eruption in PNG, IOM provided shelter kits, which enabled the targeted households to make temporary shelters, in alignment with Sphere standards while living in care centres. Safe shelter training was also conducted to the IDPs to build a strong and safe shelter. IOM's approach is to provide case-by-case support to the targeted affected households to ensure appropriate adapting of the kits to needs and to ensure maximum impact. Additional support is required for host families in need of shelter support to extend their housing area/coverage to protect from external elements and mitigate protection risks associated with overcrowding. IOM will collaborate with community networks to facilitate beneficiary identification and collect vulnerability criteria of households, prioritizing persons with disabilities/elderly/minor-headed households/female-headed households, etc. Based on the lessons learned from the previous earthquake response, IOM will work on community mobilization and peer assistance to support.

Funding Required
\$1,200,000



■ IOM



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

IOM's emergency preparedness activities aim at increasing the skills and knowledge of vulnerable communities through awareness raising in disaster-prone areas to assess risks, capacity, needs, and gaps to build resilience to natural hazards through the delivery of baseline assessment and training on CBDRM. IOM will further support CBDRM planning sessions in the target communities, considering gender-mainstreaming and youth empowerment. IOM will also support the organization of simulation exercises for a community-based early

Funding Required
\$1,750,000

warning and evacuation system established as a part of the CBDRM plan, observed by provincial, district, and local level government authorities. In addition, IOM will deliver trainings on Safe Shelter and Build Back Safer to vulnerable communities, as well as to relevant local-level government officials. IOM will support further involvement of sub-national governments by facilitating discussions between the exposed communities and sub-national governments to promote more active participation in community-based evacuation drills and more technical and financial contribution from the sub-national governments to implement community projects for risk mitigation.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme will continue providing an essential evidence base to enable humanitarian, health, and development partners and counterparts to maximize resources and deliver better-targeted, timely and mobility sensitive assistance to returned, displaced, mobile, and host communities. DTM will implement one round of Baseline Mobility Assessments (BMA) and Community-based Needs Assessments (CBNA) at the community level in areas affected by conflict and natural hazards. BMA and CBNA will provide an evidence base and mapping of communities that host return, displaced and migrant populations to inform and ensure better-targeted delivery of essential services by partners, counterparts and stakeholders, IOM will also deploy and pilot the Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) in the Highlands region to inform further interventions aimed at addressing the multisectoral needs of particularly fragile areas and communities. SMI will support in allowing for regular tracking of conditions (related to housing, access to services, livelihoods, social cohesion, security conditions, etc.) which will allow for enhanced understanding of conflict dynamics, better targeting of assistance, tracking of improvement or deterioration of conditions over time, etc. IOM will ensure male-female participation in the focus groups, to attain essential, sex-disaggregated inputs, especially regarding the needs of communities, by employing female enumerators to ensure that everyone is able to seek assistance, share information, and participate in activities without any obstacle that may be posed by gender. IOM also ensures capturing the needs of other vulnerable groups, such as older persons and people with disabilities, who are consistently included in the data collection and take an active part in the programs whenever possible, for example in the CBDRMs. Finally, DTM enumerators will receive basic training on how to ensure data confidentiality and respond to disclosures of GBV including incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Funding Required
\$600,000



IDPs at a care centre in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Photo © IOM 2023

DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Funding Required
\$2,950,000

People Targeted
80,000

People Targeted Description

Some of the country's regions suffer from social fragility and limited social cohesion, with limited state presence and a significant number of

tribal disputes that result in violence. Violent disputes can spread swiftly across regions and into urban areas and are exacerbated by competition over scarce natural resources and exposure to the effects of natural hazards, such as drought and damaged infrastructure. While the effects of climate change do not directly cause violent conflict, they can multiply risks known to contribute to insecurity and overburden limited community and state resources, making already vulnerable communities more desperate and susceptible to incidences of violence. To support social cohesion, mitigate the impact of climate change and address underlying causes of conflict and drivers of displacement, IOM will continue to work with local communities, the National Disaster Centre, Climate Change Development Authority, sub-national government (provincial, district and local level), and partners. The impact of climate change and natural hazards has been increasing in frequency, intensity and scale, challenging the ability of communities to cope using their indigenous/traditional risk reduction knowledge. IOM will work with fragile communities which will be supported in community-based resilience-building applying methodologies through Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Planning and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) projects to strengthen the capacity of the government at the national and sub-national levels, and local vulnerable communities to build resilience including strengthening preparedness to emergency situations.



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

IOM will contribute to an enabling environment for the sustainable reintegration of returnees and communities in areas of high return in which returnees reach a level of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their community, and psychosocial wellbeing that enable them to cope with evolving challenges, with a particular focus on women and youth. IOM will foster employability and increase employment opportunities in the labour market, by providing target beneficiaries with tailored technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and business skills. Specific attention will be placed on pre-existing skills, experience, educational profile, intentions, and preferences. Returnees, particularly women and youth, will enrol in market-driven technical and vocational training in local businesses; business management training will be provided to selected returnees, with an emphasis on women and youth; and start-up tools and equipment, including using cash modalities if feasible, will be provided to graduates to start their own businesses or seek employment. In addition, IOM provided agricultural and farming skills training to vulnerable communities in rice and cocoa production for food security purposes and also part of the income generating initiatives.

Funding Required
\$750,000



PEACEBUILDING AND PEACE PRESERVATION

Based on the identified unique drivers of conflict, IOM will work to implement key peacebuilding interventions through community-based planning techniques for example, strengthening infrastructures for peace through establishing networks of community mobilizers, establishing peace centres as neutral spaces for interaction and mediation, by young women, establishing youth hubs for empowering youth complemented by capacitating youth leaders in peacebuilding, and enhancing the capacity of traditional/local leadership in conflict management. Infrastructures include projects to improve village-level courts and setting up peace centres/multi-purpose centres. Community mobilizers are networks of committed individuals, sometimes self-organized in informal associations, that aim to contribute to dialogue and participate in conflict resolution. IOM will also work to enhance intra- and intergroup dialogue and mediation through directly supporting community-level conflict mediation, supporting the role of women mediators through the identification and inclusion of women leaders and community members in all initiatives, and facilitating local peace conferences. Through a community engagement and policing (CEP) approach, including training of local and provincial leadership in conflict-sensitive development, local-level governance and decentralization, IOM will facilitate the development of and implementation of community peace for development plans. This will include small grant projects, facilitating access to essential services, supporting provincial-level conflict-sensitive development planning, the establishment of feedback mechanisms to enhance institutional accountability and conflict monitoring and mapping for early warning and early action, and strengthening local governance and post-conflict recovery efforts.

Funding Required
\$2,000,000

Funding Confirmed
\$34,247



ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Funding Required

\$200,000




Together with selected UN partners, IOM will pilot early/anticipatory action programming in the country and collaborate with regional anticipatory action initiatives, such as the framework of the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)-funded mechanisms or Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiatives. IOM aims to pilot anticipatory action related to the risk of natural hazards, specifically tropical cyclones and tsunamis in the most vulnerable provinces. IOM will also aim to implement the Early Warning for All Initiative and broaden community level access to multi-hazard early warning systems as part of its DRR programming.

CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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