



# EVALUATION BRIEF

April 2023

## Reduction of Economic and Human Loss and Displacement by Natural Disasters through Community-based Resilience-building and the Capacity-building of the Government at All Levels in Papua New Guinea

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator for use by key stakeholders, including internally by IOM staff and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

<b>Evaluation type:</b>	Internal independent final evaluation
<b>Evaluator:</b>	Joanie Durocher, internal evaluator, IOM Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Field visit dates:</b>	21 February - 05 March 2023
<b>Final report date:</b>	27 April 2023
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	IOM Mission in Papua New Guinea
<b>Managed by:</b>	Getachew Mekuria, Project Manager

**Evaluation purpose:** Assess the achievement of results and sustainability of action and formulate practical recommendations to help strengthen the design and implementation of similar activities in the future

**Evaluation criteria:** Relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

**Evaluation methodology:** Documentary review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and sites visits.

In total, the evaluator met with 58 key informants over the course of the field visits, including 13 women. Most of the informants (48) were external stakeholders at the local, district, provincial and national levels. Moreover, 74 documents were reviewed and incorporated in the evaluation analysis process, including project documents and 46 external (non-IOM) reports and references.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

The main objective of the Project was to *contribute to the reduction of economic and human loss and displacement by natural disasters through building community-based resilience and the capacity of government officials at all levels in Papua New Guinea (PNG).*

PNG is ranked 156 on the Human Development Index. The country's exposure and susceptibility to hazards is compounded by the vulnerability of communities, and limited capacities of local disaster management authorities. Between 2009 and 2022 at least 26 major disaster events have been recorded in PNG, displacing hundreds of thousands of people temporarily or permanently.

The project contributed to train community, provincial and national stakeholders on a range of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) related topics; supported the Provincial Governments in the development of DRM Strategies; helped vulnerable communities develop DRM plans and measures; and supported the resilience long-term IDP communities. Project activities fostered partnerships with key stakeholders such as the National Disaster Centre (NDC), the Provincial Disaster Center (PDC) and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) committees, as well as the donor, humanitarian partners and other development actors.

### Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Papua New Guinea
Project type:	Disaster risk reduction (DRR)
Project code:	DR.0040
Gender marker:	2a
Project period:	August 2020 to 28 February 2023
Donor:	USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
Budget:	USD 2,800,000.00

IOM organized **Training of Trainers (ToT) on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) and Build-back better (BBS).** The trainers helped roll out the trainings in 8 provinces, leading to the **training of more than 200 additional participants** for each of 4 areas of training facilitated. Non-food items and shelter kits were prepositioned in six strategic locations and partly distributed following various events, **awareness-raising materials** were developed and distributed in both English and local languages, and displacements were better mapped through the publication of 18 **DTM assessments**. The project supports the review of **nine Provincial DRM strategies** and **eight vulnerable communities** developed CBDRM Plans and received support to implement DRM activities. Moreover, **60 farmers in IDP communities in ENB Province received training and equipment** to increase community resilience and food security.

## KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

### *Relevance*

The activities conducted in the scope of the project tackle many of the gaps and opportunities identified in the literature on DRM in PNG and align with the priorities of the NDC and PDC. The activities implemented helped structure more integrated DRM systems by engaging national and provincial stakeholders in shared trainings and DRM strategic planning.

### *Coherence*

The activities implemented were not always designed or implemented with the objective to complement existing information systems or build on existing technical capacities for DR monitoring and early warning.

### *Effectiveness*

Most of the project outputs and outcomes were achieved but significant delays were experienced due to COVID-19 restrictions on domestic travels. Challenges were raised by KIs in relation to the project management and guidance available to project staff in the field. KIs spoke highly of IOM staff and partnerships. However, some indicated that information regarding the project activities did not always reach relevant stakeholders.

### *Efficiency*

Overall, resources have been converted into results. Considering the scope of the project, with 24 activities implemented in 8 provinces, the structure and size of the team implementing the project appear commensurate with the number and complexity of the activities planned. A no-cost extension of 12 months was requested to allow the completion of all activities.

### *Impact*

For most KIs, the trainings provided by IOM were the only form of professional development available to build DRM capacities. Partners trained as trainers mentioned feeling better equipped to manage disaster and support their communities. According to many KIs, the most significant change brought by the project pertains to the process of bringing communities to work together towards common goals. However, the scope of the activities undertaken under this outcome was not commensurate with the needs of the communities assisted and more involvement from IOM staff is required to increase the impact and sustainability of the activities with the communities.

### *Sustainability*

National and provincial stakeholders gained capacities but have limited resources to continue to support DRM and preparedness in communities at-risk. At the local level, the activities supported contributed to validate the CBDRM planning process. IOM built excellent relationships with the communities where it implemented activities, particularly where CBDRM plans were developed. However, the scope of the activities implemented was wide, which might have been detrimental to the depth of the engagement in some areas or communities.

## CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Communities will need more time and opportunities to mainstream gender in DRM and genuinely integrate women, youth and other groups in DRM governance.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The report includes 11 recommendations, including:

**Conducting a stock-taking exercise (Recommendation 1)**

**Ensuring that activities implemented with limited project resources are and remain relevant in the context of PNG. (Recommendation 2)**

**Engaging more consistently with DRM stakeholders and using existing channels to coordinate and share information. (Recommendation 3)**

**Supporting communities in promoting of the CBDRM plans as tools to achieve greater coherence. (Recommendation 4)**

**Monitoring to ensure oversight of/guidance to staff working remotely, adherence to IOM standards and procedures, and technical discussions on the project results and adaptations (Recommendation 5)**

**Reducing the number of activities and communities targeted to invest in quality partnerships, ensure that the skills and community structures are practiced and internalized, and provide the necessary guidance to its beneficiaries at all steps of the process. (Recommendation 8)**

**Recognizing the absorption capacities of partners and ensuring that what is proposed is realistic and achievable to improve local ownership and partnerships for results (Recommendation 11)**

**Scaling up women-led initiatives and gender-focused DRM programming in PNG. (Recommendation 12)**