



**Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**  
**F9 (FED9)**

Title: Assistance to the Victims of Volcanic Eruptions in Papua New Guinea

Location of operation: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Amount of Decision: EUR 200,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/PNG/EDF/2005/01000

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**Explanatory Memorandum**

**1 - Rationale, needs and target population.**

1.1. - Rationale:

Severe continuous volcanic activities from two volcanoes have affected a total of 15,000 people in Papua New Guinea (PNG) since October last year. Manam volcano, on Manam Island, registered several major eruptions up to the end of January, and Langila volcano in PNG's West New Britain province has been erupting continuously since 2 June. During the last two months the volcanic activity of Langila has progressively increased in its intensity and magnitude, and is expected to continue. The volcano eruptions have led to the displacement of some 10,000 persons and many more are threatened by displacement.

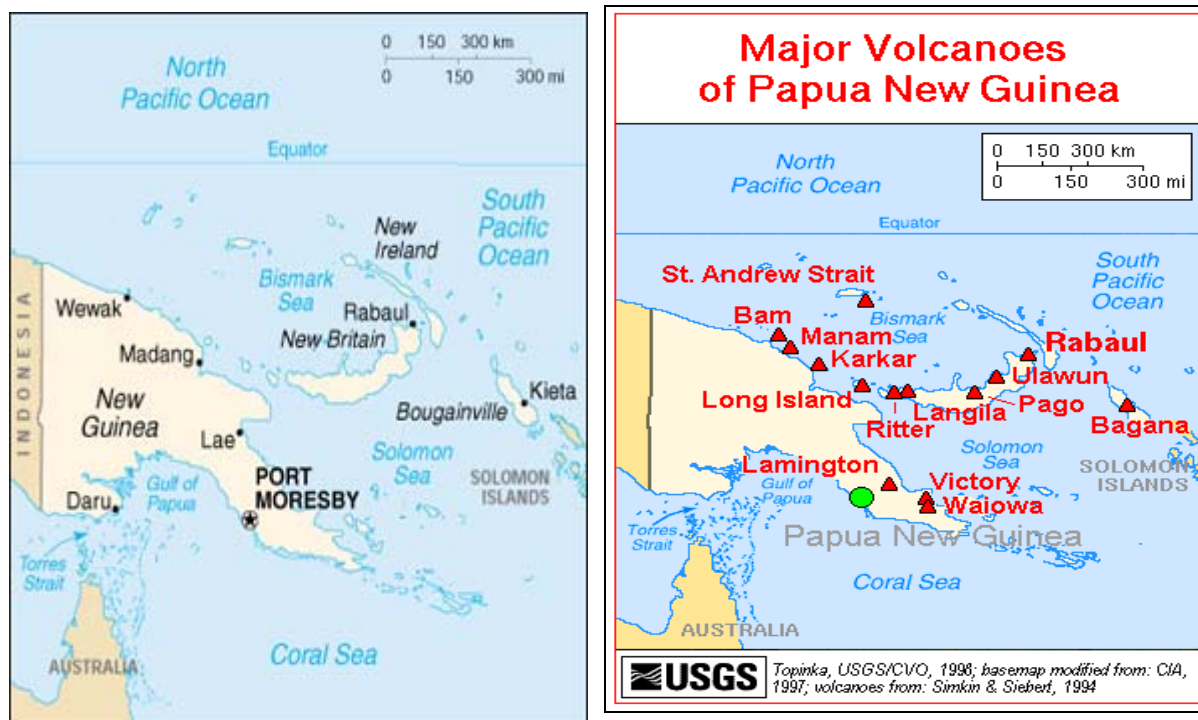
Manam

Manam volcano is located on Manam Island, 15 km off the coast from Bogia in the Madang province of Papua New Guinea. Following a series of eruptions of the Manam volcano late last year and early this year, nearly 10,000 people now live as internally displaced persons in three formal care centres in Postdam, Asuramba and Mangem. The eruptions also caused widespread damage to property, including food gardens, cash crops, water wells, livestock and the natural environment. It was initially hoped that the displacement was temporary but seven months later it is recognised that the people from Manam Island most likely will have to resettle on the mainland.

Langila

Langila volcano is located on the island of New Britain in the West New Britain province of Papua New Guinea, 250 kilometres from the mainland. While the Langila volcano has been active for two months, it has erupted continuously since 2 June 2005, discharging lava and heavier than normal loads of ash into the sky. Fallen ash has damaged food gardens, not only spoiling crops above ground but also drawing moisture from the earth, thereby exacerbating

the onset of the dry season. Also, water sources have also been contaminated by thick ash. Visual observation is the only means of monitoring of the ongoing volcano activity as the instruments installed by the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory have been damaged by lightning.



## 1.2. - Identified needs

When the first eruptions of the volcanoes took place initial assessments lead to the conclusion that the humanitarian needs could be largely covered by local means. However, the protracted nature of the crisis calls for international assistance, and very recently the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have published an appeal for emergency assistance (No. 05EA012) through which they are seeking CHF 471,000 (EUR 304,404) to assist 11,500 beneficiaries affected by the Manam and Langila volcanic eruptions for a period of six months. A mission of the World Food Programmed (WFP) to Manam Island confirmed the need for assistance.

### Manam

In recent assessments, the PNG authorities acknowledge that basic shelter is now a major need for the affected population. About three quarters of the total population – an estimated 7,500 people – are in need of better shelter. Most IDP at Asuramba and Mangem are still taking shelter under tarpaulins, and very few families have houses made from available local building materials. Tarpaulins that were initially provided are now deteriorating and need to be replaced.

The PNG authorities and some NGOs have been providing food rations, and World Vision has put itself in charge of water and sanitation, also key priorities for the island. In terms of health issues, the increase in malaria cases is a concern for all care centres where there is generally low medicinal stock and inconsistent supply.

## Langila

A damage and needs assessment of the worst affected areas surrounding Langila was carried out on 31 May 2005. Immediate needs in order of priority include canvas for shelter, water containers, fuel, rolls of poly plastic, and food supplies. Families affected are in urgent need of water containers to collect drinking water from uncontaminated water sources. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) has disbursed 600 jerry cans and 600 tarpaulins to Kimbe from its main warehouse in Port Moresby, but a further 800 units of each are still required. The pre-positioning of further stock is necessary to deal with the expected increase in numbers of those affected.

### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

Approximately 10,000 people from Manam are living as internally displaced persons as a result of volcanic eruptions, and the entire island can be said to have been affected by the eruptions. The Langila volcano eruptions have affected 702 families or 4053 people. These eruptions have severely affected the villages of Aitavala, Masele, Kilenge, Ongaea, Potne and Sumel, and to a lesser extent the villages of Vem, Galegale, Tauale, Laut, Aimaga, Aipate and Gie. It is expected that the number of affected people will increase with continuing eruptions.

### 1.4. – Risk assessment and possible constraints:

Both Manam Island and the island of New Britain are considered remote and only accessible by sea or helicopter which complicates relief efforts.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed.**

### 2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective:

- To respond to relief needs of people affected by volcano eruptions

Specific objective(s):

- To support populations affected by volcano eruptions in the sectors of non-food including shelter, water and disaster preparedness

### 2.2. - Components:

- Shelter
- Non-food relief items
- Water/sanitation
- Disaster Preparedness

### 3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision.

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months from their starting date. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 21 June 2005.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure*, or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect the procedures established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

### 4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis.

None.

### 5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

The Australian government has so far donated nearly AUS 300,000 (EUR 192,400) in response to the Manam volcano, to ease the suffering of those forced to flee the eruptions.

IFRC's delegation in PNG and the PNG Red Cross Society have been attending regular meetings with the national disaster centre and UNDP to share findings and coordinate action.

### 6 - Amount of Decision and distribution of funding by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 200,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To respond to relief needs of people affected by volcano eruptions</i>			
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>1</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: To support populations affected by volcano eruptions in the sectors of non-food including shelter, water and disaster preparedness	200,000	Madang Province, West-New Britain	CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH
TOTAL:200,000			

<sup>1</sup> FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE  
ECHO/PNG/EDF/2005/01000

## COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund  
in  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

### THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, in particular Articles 72 and 73 thereof,

Having regard to the Internal Agreement of 18 September 2000 on the Financing and Administration of the Community Aid under the Financial Protocol to the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000, in particular Article 25 thereof<sup>1</sup>.

Whereas

- (1) Populations in Papua New Guinea have been adversely affected by the continuous eruptions of two volcanos;
- (2) Affected populations are in need of shelter, non-food relief items as well as other forms of humanitarian assistance;
- (3) The current situation can be considered as a case of special urgency in the sense of Article 25.2 of the Internal Agreement;
- (4) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 6 months;
- (5) In accordance with the objectives set out in Articles 72 and 73 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and Article 25 of the International agreement it is estimated that an amount of EUR 200,000 from the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund, is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations affected by volcano eruptions taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors;
- (6) The use of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF funds is necessary as funds under the General Budget are not available;
- (7) The Commission will inform the EDF Committee in writing in accordance with Article 25.3 of the Internal Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L317 of 15.12.2000  
ECHO/PNG/EDF/2005/01000

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 200,000 from the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund for humanitarian aid operations to assist vulnerable people directly affected by volcano eruptions in Papua New Guinea.
2. In accordance with Articles 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
  - To support populations affected by volcano eruptions in the sectors of non-food including shelter, water and disaster preparedness

The full amount of this decision is allocated to this objective.

*Article 2*

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their start date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision is eligible from 21 June 2005.
3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended due to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

*Article 3*

This decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Member of the Commission*