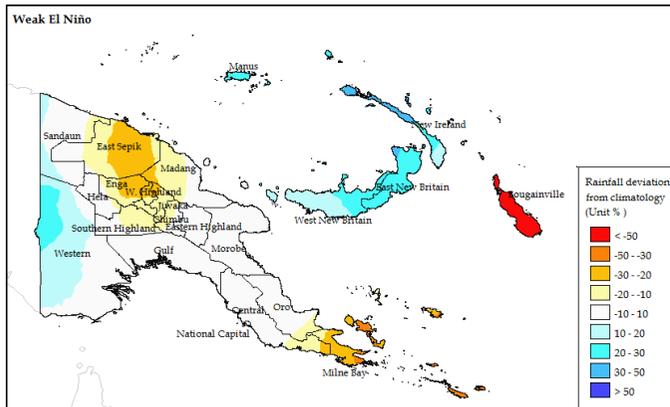


# Papua New Guinea: El Niño Early Action Plan (2017)

## 2017-2018 ENSO IMPACT OUTLOOK\*

### WEAK EL NIÑO



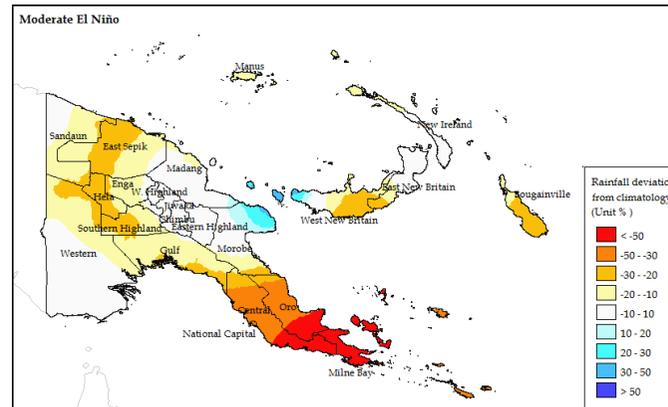
**3,478,116**

people in provinces affected by below average rainfall

**11**

provinces affected by below average rainfall

### MODERATE EL NIÑO



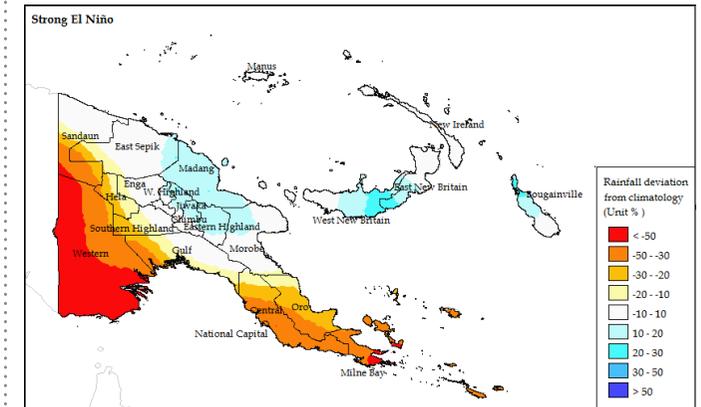
**3,791,168**

people in provinces affected by below average rainfall

**15**

provinces affected by below average rainfall

### STRONG EL NIÑO



**2,140,419**

people in provinces affected by below average rainfall

**9**

provinces affected by below average rainfall

## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

ENSO forecast from global centers indicate a 50% chance of El Niño conditions developing during the second half of 2017. There are chances for the current persisting neutral condition to continue or weak to moderate El Niño like conditions might be possible. Historical data suggests that El Niño events which has onset from July to October are relatively weaker though other possibilities are not entirely ruled out at this stage.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is vulnerable to El Niño induced drought, frost and forest fires, as recent 2015-16 El Niño affected around two million people. A preliminary risk assessment exercise has been carried out based on the methodology proposed in the “Assessment of El Niño-Associated Risks: The Step-Wise Process” (UNDP, ESCAP and RIMES 2016). From 30-31 May 2017, the PNG Disaster Management Team together with national and sub-national government stakeholders undertook an El Niño Early Action planning exercise and developed the strategic objectives for El Niño Early Action and priority actions for both risk management and emergency response preparedness. The planning process was supported by UNDP and OCHA Regional Offices.

Rainfall anomaly caused by El Niño is expected to result in widespread impacts across numerous sectors including agriculture, food security, water, power-generation and mining.

Potential impacts of a recurrence of a serious El Niño condition include:

- Severe damage to crops and reduced agricultural yields resulting in food shortages and a deteriorating nutrition situation.
- Acute water shortages resulting in deteriorating health, hygiene and nutrition, closure of health facilities, closure of schools or reduced attendance, and increased protection concerns for women and children who will have to walk further or traverse high risk locations to access water.
- Drying up of rivers limiting transport of food and goods, including ore and mining equipment, while low water levels in dams will reduce hydro-power supply in provinces including the national capital.

\*ENSO Impact Outlook for Papua New Guinea by PNG National Weather Service and RIMES, 28 May 2017

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## INDICATORS

Indicators describe what in-country partners will be monitoring to determine whether or not the situation is deteriorating or improving. They do not provide a specific trigger for a response, but provide an indication of whether partners should be advocating and preparing for a response to begin. Indicators could include for example, the price of essential food items, access to potable drinking water, quantity of crops harvested, prevalence of certain diseases, and numbers of children requiring treatment for acute malnutrition.



### Increased probability of El Niño occurring

- El Niño forecast and impact predictions by National Weather Service (NWS)/Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early-warning System (RIMES)



### Increased rainfall variability

- Weather forecast monitoring for rainfall and potential frosts by National Weather Service (NWS)



### Heightened risk of food insecurity

- Quarterly Global Early Warning Early Action System by FAO



### Increased market prices of basic food items

- Food security and vulnerability monitoring by WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM)



### Decreased food availability at household level

- Monitoring schools for changes in attendance/increase in drop-outs by Department of Education/UNICEF

- Food security and vulnerability monitoring by WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM)



### Increased incidence of water-borne diseases and acute malnutrition (under 5YO)

- Notifiable Diseases Surveillance by National Department of Health

- Food security and vulnerability monitoring by WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM)



### Decreased availability of water from traditional sources

Food security and vulnerability monitoring by WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM)

## TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

El Niño Early Action planning workshop

NSW/RIMES El Niño forecast update

WFP mVAM assessment

WFP mVAM assessment



May 2017

Jun 2017

July 2017

August 2017

September 2017

October 2017

November 2017

April 2018

Start of Dry Season

End of Dry Season

Start of Rainy Season

End of Rainy Season

## DMT ACTIVITIES



*It is critical that disaster coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level are sufficiently capacitated to coordinate provincial level actions. This is underpinned by the ability of key actors at various levels to collect and consolidate ground data for analysis and mapping.*

### Early Action

- Co-ordination mechanisms vertically strengthened at the Provincial Level to better connect with national structures.
- Agree on protocols for DSIP funding from DDAs, PSIP, LLG SIP for disaster response / preparedness.
- Increased engagement with women's and church groups with presence in at-risk provinces.
- Identify areas where Indigenous Knowledge on early warning and preparedness could support Cluster activities.
- Integration of DRM into annual appropriation at provincial and district level.

### Preparedness

- Agree on Rapid assessment tools and protocols for triggering assessments.
- Establish IM working group with dedicated support to prioritize:
  - Mapping of key resources (water, food type) for preparedness planning.
  - Supporting provincial and regional IM projects.
- Early warning and information campaign providing multi-sectoral messages and information through NBC and other mass communication channels.
- Establish Inter-agency assessment team.

### Response Action

- Regular (once every 2 months) meetings of interagency DMT and NDC to discuss development of early warning indicators and whether there is a need for further response and preparedness actions.
  - July
  - September
  - November
  - January
- Defining triggers and thresholds for activating response actions.

## SECTORAL ACTIVITIES



## PROTECTION

*The priority is to ensure sectors mainstream protection of vulnerable groups, including women, children, elderly and people with disabilities in sectoral early action plans.*

### Early Action

- Integration of Provincial Community Development Officers/Advisers into Provincial Disaster Committees.
- Advocacy with community leaders on addressing needs of vulnerable groups to enable targeting response to meet specific vulnerabilities?
- Develop and implement deliberate socialization campaign on targeting the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Sensitization of Provincial Community Development Officers/Advisers and local communities on risks of gender-based violence triggered by disasters including awareness campaigns (e.g. "in" and "out of" school programs).

### Preparedness

- Data preparation of country-level datasets on vulnerable groups in the communities as well as in households.
- Identify specific needs of vulnerable groups in communities.
- Gender inclusive and planning at national level to involve vulnerable groups, the most vulnerable people like orphans.
- Prepositioning of dignity kits/NFI and safe space/counselling tents for survivors of gender-based violence.

### Response Action

- Protection concerns and targeting of vulnerability to be mainstreamed in other Clusters response activities.
- Monitoring of relief distribution.
- Establishment of safe space through supply of tents.
- Activation of emergency referral pathways to nearest family support centres (FSC), police Family and Sexual Violence units (FSVU), or Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee secretariats (FSVAC).

## SECTORAL ACTIVITIES



### FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

*The main risk management priority is to ensure that existing household-level food production and storage capacity is reinforced and strengthened with appropriate agricultural and food preservation interventions.*

#### Early Action

- Support expanded access to extension services, including:
  - Adaptive farming practices.
  - Irrigation.
  - Promotion of cash and alternative food crops.
- Strengthen seed multiplication and breeding stock (livestock/aquaculture/fisheries) multiplication capacity of national agricultural resource centres.
- Distribute drought tolerant crops and support seed multiplication and distribution.
- Promote techniques for processing and preservation of food crops.
- Increased access to markets, and support food exchange and barter systems between areas – e.g. islands and mainland.
- Improved access to cash through diversified livelihood.
- Develop other response mechanisms including provision of credit, grants (cash or in-kind) through labour-based public works.
- Use community structures for promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding, including the protection of breastfeeding.
- Capacity building of FSC partners in information management training supported by regional Pacific Food Security Cluster.
- Strengthen national agricultural resource centres' capacity to provide DRM/DRR trainings to provincial/district officers and model farmers.
- Training of Provincial Agriculture Advisors and District Rural Development Officers in Emergency and Disaster Risk Management/ Risk Reduction assessment tools.
- Promote 'nutrition-sensitive agriculture through advocacy/awareness of food crops with nutritive value that can be substituted for protein/ vitamins.

#### Preparedness

- Standardisation of food baskets (food types, food specifications).
- Coordinate with other sectors/clusters to include micronutrient powders (MNPs) and water purification tablets in food basket.
- Agreement on approach to targeting, with a focus on improving nutritional situation of children and vulnerable groups.
- Establishing agreements with rice and tinned fish producers on preferential terms for procurement of relief items.
- Mapping of potential suppliers in provinces with robust supply chain for food basket items, with a focus on locally grown suppliers.
- Establishing logistics coordination with private sector to support with delivery of relief items.
- Coordinate with other sectors/clusters to co-utilise relief distribution system, particularly WASH and Nutrition.

#### Response Action

- Distribution of expanded food basket with, minimally, fortified rice, oil and tinned fish or other protein sources.
- Distribution of micronutrient powder and ready-to-use therapeutic foods to children and those vulnerable to malnutrition.

## SECTORAL ACTIVITIES



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### Early Action

- Community-based health promotion including special focus on health and nutritional needs of vulnerable groups.
- Identifying alternative arrangements of food and water sources for health facilities and workers.
- Improve waste management at healthcare facilities.
- Stepped-up capacity to use the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for screening acute malnutrition.
- Health Resources Availability Mapping System (HeRAMS) assessments.
- Outbreak preparedness training and mobile phone surveillance rollout in affected areas.
- Improving water catchment and access at health facilities (with WASH Cluster).
- Surveillance refresher training and strengthening of event based surveillance system.

*The Early Action priority will be the continued functioning of the selected critical health facilities as well as ensure access to direct preventive and curative services to at-risk populations. In addition, the plan will aim to strengthen disease surveillance and outbreak preparedness in the most affected areas.*

### Preparedness

- Prepositioning in-country of MNPs and RUTFs.
- Training and dissemination of Public Health Preparedness, Response and Recovery plans accordingly.
- Establish WASH profile for all health care facilities.
- Rapid response team training.
- Prepositioning of:
  - Emergency essential critical medical supplies.
  - Reproductive health kits.
  - Adequate medical supplies and resupply arrangements in critical health facilities through engagement of health logistician to support distribution of health commodities, including therapeutic feeds for treating acute malnutrition.
- Training for volunteers and actors involved in direct implementation and prepositioning of NFIs.
- Re-activate and sustain 24-hour call centre for effective communication with remote HCF and install or repair HF radios and other communications infrastructure.

### Response Action

- Ensure identification of and referrals for the management of severe acute malnutrition cases.
- Outbreak verification by Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) fellows.
- Provision of outbreak kits.
- Deployment of rapid response team.
- Implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health.
- Distribution of health kits and supplies, to critical health facilities.
- Distribution of dignity kits.
- Provision of public health education.
- Restore and provision of critical health services.

## SECTORAL ACTIVITIES



## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

### Early Action

- Enforce and coordination with partners.
- Map water resources (Hydrogeological mapping) in at risk communities and institutions and identify appropriate interventions.
- Rehabilitate water catchment and water storage systems (tanks) in communities and key community infrastructure, particularly at schools.
- Establish drought-resilient sources of clean water i.e. bore wells, desalinization systems, gravity fed/spring etc.
- Hygiene and water purification promotion, including boiling of water before food preparation.
- Improve piping systems to bring water closer to villages to reduce time collecting water by woman and children and associated risk while travelling long distances.
- Establish communication strategy for information sharing.
- Establish drought-resilient sources of clean water in at community & institutional level such as schools, churches & health facilities.
- Educate communities on water conservation and water storage.
- Educate communities in simple, cost-effective water purification methods.
- Educate and encourage use of purification tabs for any source of water other than “clean water sources”.
- Carry out baseline assessments.

*The risk management priority would be to ensure resilience of existing sources of clean water coupled with improved hygiene practices.*

### Preparedness

- Support coordination between provincial health authorities and provincial disaster committees.
- Develop specific WASH needs assessment tool.
- Set up cluster information management arrangements.
- Disseminate key information management products related to Specific WASH needs assessment.
- Map/update 3Ws capacity and presence of different WASH agencies in PNG Standardization of Rapid Needs assessment tool.
- Standardisation of WASH NFIs (NFI types, NFI specifications).
- Prepositioning of WASH NFIs/commitment by partners in different location.
- Update WASH staff roster (for water- sanitation and hygiene) for deployment/commitment by partners for needs assessment and response.
- Work with private sector, e.g. Coca-Cola, to assess logistics capacities to support WASH programs.

### Response Action

#### Water

- Repair /rehabilitate damaged/defunct water supply systems (including springs).
- Distribution of bottled drinking water.
- Distribution of chemicals for household and institutional levels water treatment (including training for good use).
- Distribution of water containers for water storage.
- Support water trucking for drinking and domestic safe water/ Water trucking to areas with acute water shortages.
- Increase storage capacity through installation of reservoir, check dam etc. WASH NFI distribution.
- Distribution of water purification tablets , preferably as part of food basket.

#### Sanitation

- Install handwashing devices.
- Distribute soaps, dignity kits (including menstrual hygiene materials) and refuse containers.

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## SECTORAL ACTIVITIES



### EDUCATION

*The risk management priority will be the continued functioning of schools by focusing on the enabling factors.*

#### Early Action

- Integration of Provincial Education Officers/Advisers into Provincial Disaster Committees.
- Advocacy with School Board of Management and community leaders on identifying and addressing needs of school children including children with disabilities and girls, to enable targeting.
- Development and regular practice of school disaster response plan.
- Create awareness campaign in schools on measures to take before, during and after disaster.
- Rehabilitate water catchment and water storage systems (tanks) in schools (with WASH cluster).

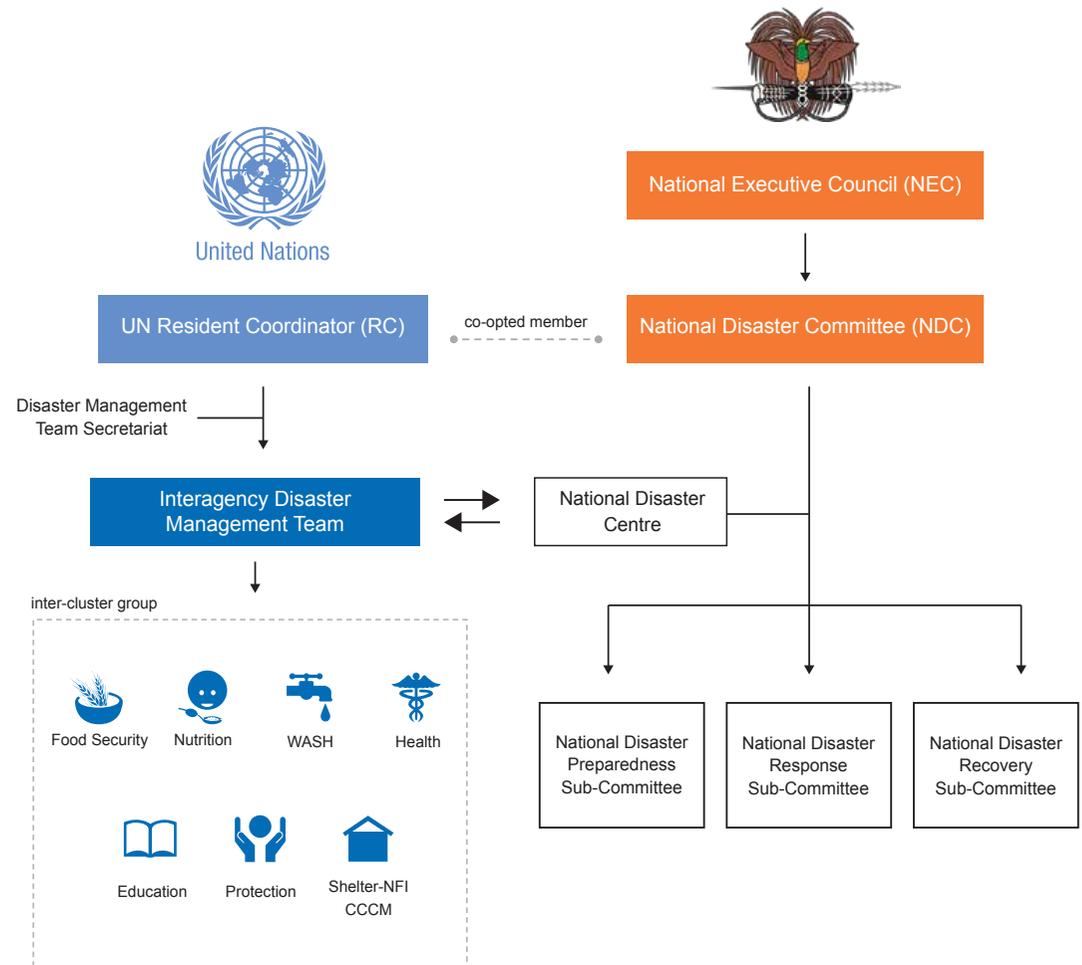
#### Preparedness

- Develop plans and arrangements for time-bound feeding programme in schools (with Food Security Cluster).
- Preposition education NFIs for schools including early childhood centres.
- Protection training for PDoEs/PDCs, School BoM and teachers.

#### Response Action

- Time-bound feeding programme in schools.
- Water trucking to schools with acute water shortages.
- Providing safe spaces for displaced children.
- Micronutrient supplementation and deworming in schools.

## COORDINATION STRUCTURE



## CONTACT DETAILS

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