QRCS sends relief delegation to Papua New Guinea

April 8th, 2019 — Doha: Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has completed a relief intervention to help the victims of earthquakes and floods in Papua New Guinea, with funding from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

The project was coordinated with Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It was designed to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the earthquake, by providing shelter, water, and sanitation aid for Pinu village, Gabadi Kairuku Hiri District, Central Province.

A relief delegation was sent from Doha to hold coordination meetings with relevant partners, and update the field action plan accordingly. They worked hard to overcome the challenges, finish all the shipment clearing and logistics, and conduct the packaging and distribution process.

A total of 200 families, or 1,200 persons, received household hygiene kits, water buckets, cooking pots, jerrycans, and blankets. In preparation for the coming monsoon season, a stockpile of relief items was stored at ICRC warehouses, to ensure timely response. These included 400 household hygiene...
kits, 700 tarpaulins, 700 kitchenware kits, 1,200 water buckets, and 1,000 blankets.

QRCS Head of Disaster Preparedness, Subhi Fahid Ejjeh, said, “The partnership started last year in September, with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between PNGRCS and QRCS to help the vulnerable people whose lives were affected by disasters”.

Mr. Ejjeh expressed QRCS’s thanks to the Government of Papua New Guinea and the National Disaster Office for facilitating the release of relief containers from the port. “This donation was made by the State of Qatar, through QFFD, for the benefit of earthquake victims in Hela last year, and the people affected by floods early in January 2019. We hope to continue working closely with PNGRCS,” Mr. Ejjeh added.

Pinu disaster chairman, Kevau Aó, commended the joint work by PNGRCS and QRCS to bring relief to his village. “I was surprised to see that the hygiene kits had all the necessary items for both men and women. We are very happy for these contributions to our living standards. Such assistance was quite useful and met the needs of the affected population,” he stated.

PNGRCS Secretary-General, Uvenama Rova, welcomed the support from QRCS. “The items received will go towards helping the people whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters,” he said. “PNGRCS appreciates this support from QFFD through QRCS”.
Bernadette Aihi, an elementary teacher, was surprised to hear her name called to get the items distributed. She said, “I did not expect that my name will be called to receive these items, as I was away during the time when the assessment was conducted. But to my surprise, my name was called, and I have these items. Thanks a lot to PNGRCS and QRCS for helping us with these items. It means a lot to us”.

About Qatar Red Crescent (QRCS)
Established in 1978, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a humanitarian volunteering organization that aims to assist and empower vulnerable individuals and communities without partiality or discrimination. QRCS is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which consists of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 191 National Societies. QRCS is also a member of several GCC, Arab, and Islamic organizations, such as the Islamic Committee of International Crescent and the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO). In this legally recognized capacity, QRCS has access to disaster and conflict zones, thus serving as an auxiliary to the State of Qatar in its humanitarian efforts — a role that distinguishes it from other local charities and NGOs.

QRCS operates both locally and internationally and has ongoing international relief and development projects in a number of countries throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. QRCS's humanitarian actions include providing support in disaster preparedness, disaster response, risk reduction, and disaster recovery. To mitigate the impact of disasters and improve the livelihoods of affected populations, QRCS provides medical services, healthcare, and social development to local communities. It is also active at the humanitarian advocacy front. With the help of a vast network of trained, committed staff and volunteers, QRCS aspires to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity.
QRCS works under the umbrella of the seven international humanitarian principles: Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.