

Papua New Guinea: Volcanic Activity

PNG Disaster Management Team Situation Update No. 8

(as of 27 January 2018)

This update is produced by the PNG Disaster Management Team Secretariat in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 17 January 2018. The next update will be issued on or around 31 January 2018.

Background

Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Kadovar Island (East Sepik Province) became active on 5 January 2018. This volcanic activity affected up to 691 Kadovar islanders and prompted their immediate evacuation to neighbouring Rup Rup island.

The Provincial Government has since evacuated Kadovar islanders to mainland East Sepik Province since 14 January. The location for temporary resettlement was identified as Dandan (Turubu LLG), east of Wewak Town.

The Provincial Government has identified up to 563 people have resettled at Dandan Care Centre.

The Rabaul Volcanological Observatory (RVO) has stated that there is no physical link between the volcanoes on Kadovar and the other Schouten islands and confirmed no new volcanic activity detected on Biem and Rup Rup islands. There are no immediate plans to evacuate Biem and Rup Rup islanders.



Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Jan 2012.

Source: <http://reliefweb.int/map/papua-new-guinea/papua-new-guinea-location-map-2013>
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Current Situation

As of 26 January, the RVO has indicated that the situation on Kadovar remained dynamic but has settled into a reasonable stable situation with continued steady emission of ash, gas and lava.

RVO assessed that there remained a small risk of tsunami to the mainland and neighbouring islands should the volcanic structure collapses.

As of 17 January, a majority of Kadovar islanders on Rup Rup island were evacuated to mainland East Sepik Province. Of the 691 islanders, 563 people have been relocated to a temporary 3ha site¹ at Dandan Care Centre in Turubu LLG.² Acquisition of the identified 30ha site for resettlement at Dandan remains ongoing.

On 17 January, the Provincial Government supported by humanitarian partners conducted a rapid assessment of the Dandan Care Centre to identify humanitarian needs. The most urgent needs identified were: 1) adequate access to clean water; 2) gender segregated sanitation facilities; 3) nutritional supplements for children under five years; 4) lighting and; 5) clothing. Other short and medium-term needs were also identified.³

¹ Approximate coordinates of Dandan Care Centre: S03 42' 13.1" E143 54' 05.9"

² According to unconfirmed reports, the remaining islanders have either chosen to remain on Rup Rup island with family or relocate to Wewak town with family.

³ The assessment report can be accessed at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/papua-new-guinea/document/rapid-assessment-dandan-care-centre-17-january-2018>

