

2015-16 El Niño

Papua New Guinea

Lessons Learnt from the Highlands Response



Photo Credit: CARE



Summary Report

2015-16 El Niño Response

Highlands Lessons Learnt Workshop

Goroka, May 9th 2017



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Acronyms

CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CERF	Central Emergency Funds
CPP	Church Partnership Program
DDA	District Development Authority
DFAT	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DMT	Disaster Management Team
DPLGA	Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
DSIP	District Services Improvement Program
EHP	Eastern Highlands Province
FSC	Food Security Cluster
GBV	Gender Based Violence
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
NBC	National Broadcasting Commission
NDC	National Disaster Centre
NEC	National Executive Council
NFI	Non Food Item
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PDC	Provincial Disaster Coordinator
PSIP	Provincial Services Improvement Program
SHP	Southern Highlands Province
USD	United States Dollars
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United National Development Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHP	Western Highlands Province

Foreword

Foreword from Martin Mose, Acting Director, National Disaster Centre
Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs



On behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, I welcome this summary of the 2015-16 El Niño Response Lessons Learnt Workshop that took place in Goroka on May 9th, 2017.

The 2015-16 El Niño event was one of the largest disasters to hit Papua New Guinea and this workshop summary report provides us with one of the first opportunities to formally reflect on the significant response that we, national and sub-national government stakeholders and our humanitarian partners, undertook to meet the needs of those affected.

The recommendations contained in this report will inform our preparedness and response to similar events in the future, as well as more broadly to the many hazards and risks that we face together as a nation.

The National Disaster Centre, as the coordinating agency for disaster management issues in the country, understands the importance of reflecting and reviewing emergency response work to ensure that our collective efforts are focussed on what is best for those that matter most, the people in villages and towns where the humanitarian need has arisen.

It is my sincere hope that this report will improve the ability of communities and all levels of government to prepare for and respond to disasters.

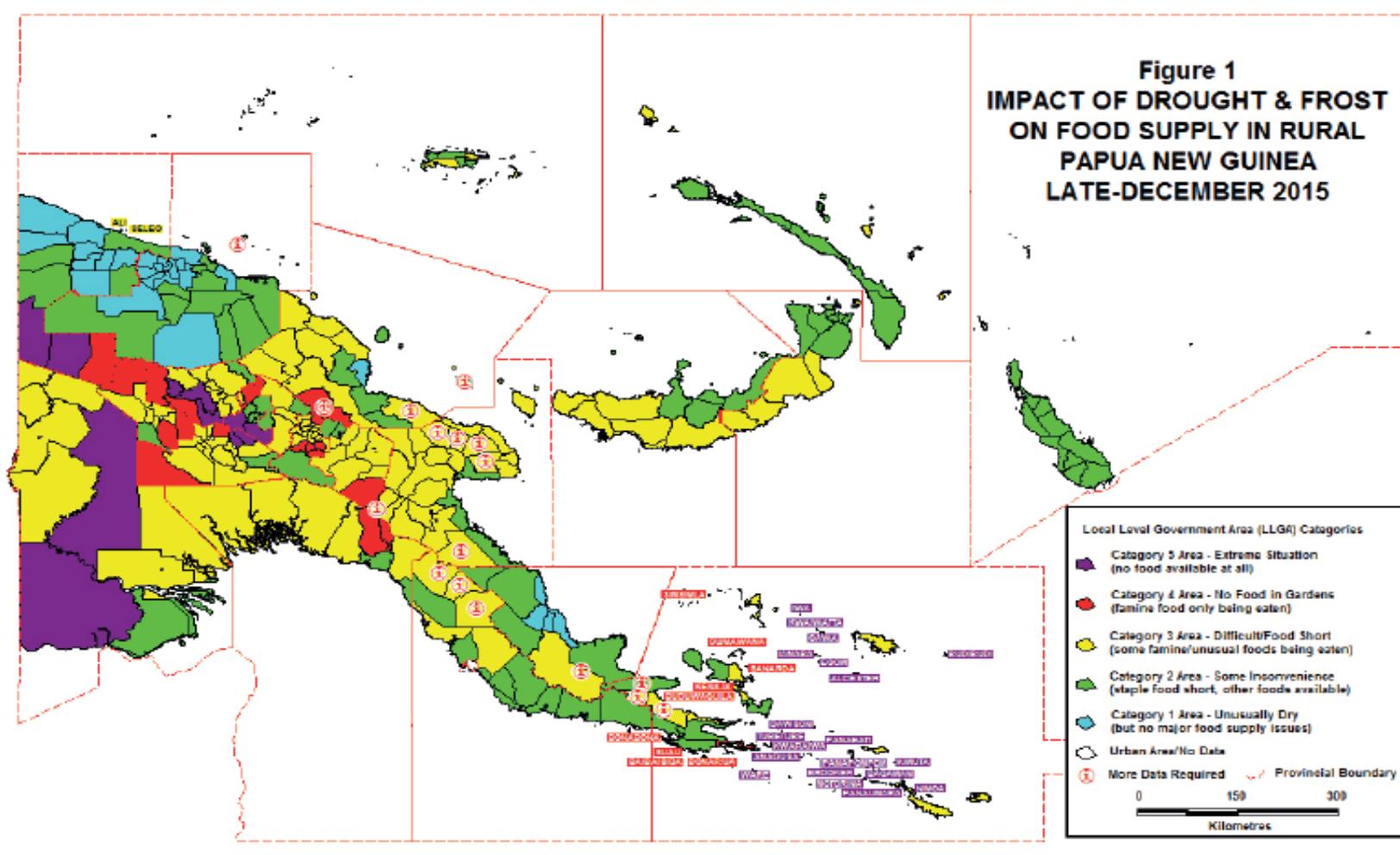
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Mose', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Martin Mose
Acting Director, National Disaster Centre

Map of Affected Areas

A map showing the impact of drought and frost on food supply in rural Papua New Guinea in late December 2015



Data assembled by R.M. Bourke
Map drawn by M.H. Lowe

Executive Summary

The people of Papua New Guinea face frequent natural hazards and a complex and changing environment. In addition to large-scale and recurring hazard events, Papua New Guinea is now faced with more rapid and uncertain change related to the impacts of climate change.

The Highlands of PNG comprises of seven provinces (and eight including the highlands of Morobe) and includes the largest concentration of population within the country. Some parts of this region remain geographically, socially and economically disadvantaged, isolated and vulnerable to natural hazards.

CARE, with funding from the Australian Government, led the facilitation of the 2015-16 El Niño Lessons Learnt Workshop for the PNG Highlands region. The Lessons Learnt Workshop was held in Goroka on 9 May 2017 and had the following objectives:

- Provide space for sub-national government staff and key humanitarian partners in the PNG Highlands region to capture key learning from the 2015-16 El Niño emergency response
- Generate lessons learnt (or recommendations) to feed into the national El Niño Early Action Planning workshop scheduled for 30-31 May 2017.

From May / June 2015 PNG felt the effects of the strongest El Niño dry period since 1997-98. During the period of November 2015 to March 2016, some regions in the country received only 30% of normal rainfall, and these dry conditions resulted in frosts at high altitudes. This created a series of cumulative shocks to food security, which at its height saw 1.31 million people experiencing high food insecurity, with over 162,000 people in six Districts faced with extreme food shortages and classified as severely food insecure.

Beginning in September 2015, the Government of PNG led assistance efforts to respond to food insecurity in the Highlands region through multiple funding allocations culminating in an additional PGK 178 million (approximately \$70m USD) for drought relief through Members of Parliament. In April 2016, a UN Central Emergency Response Fund request was submitted with a focus on a rapid-scale up of emergency food distributions and nutrition interventions in 4 LLGs in Hela and Enga Provinces with around 70% of those in critical need - 140,556 people.

Participation at this workshop aimed to represent all levels of personnel involved in the response across the Highlands region. This included Provincial Government staff that were involved in coordinating operations in their provinces, national government

line department representatives, as well as international stakeholders from INGOs, UN and other organisations.

The Lessons Learnt Workshop started with a brief timeline exercise, carried out to remind participants of main events, both internal and external to the highlands region. Following the timeline exercise, the facilitators managed a lessons learnt exercise that culminated in recommendations developed through group work and gallery walk.

The key challenges and good practices identified are as followed:

GOOD PRACTICES	CHALLENGES
Coordination of the Response	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open communications nationally through DMT and Clusters • Coordination meetings in Eastern Highlands Province • Messaging through shared media channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralisation of the response to the District level • Lack of capacity at sub-national level • Targeting the most vulnerable • No early warning monitoring
Response Across Sectors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience of local communities • Scale of WFP food distributions • Mass distributions of water containers • Some gender assessments completed to inform programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in food distributions • Insufficient resilience funding to mitigate impacts early • Increased anecdotal incidence of gender-based violence

Working on these findings, the groups formulated a list of recommendations for all humanitarian actors, which culminated in a list of high priority recommendations to the National Government. These include:

1. PDCs to take a greater role in coordinating regular disaster management meetings with key Provincial Government and Non-Government stakeholders;
2. Creation of District Disaster Coordination units at the district level;
3. Establishment of early warning monitoring;
4. Increased government budget allocations, including at sub-national levels, for disaster management;
5. Improved regional coordination for all sectors doing response; and
6. Improved information management.

Introduction

Following the response across the PNG Highlands region to the El Niño event in 2015-16, a Lessons Learnt Workshop was held in Goroka on the 9th of May 2017.

The Lessons Learnt Workshop had the following objectives:

- Provide space for Provincial and sub national government staff and key humanitarian partners in the Eastern Highlands to capture key learning at critical steps of the 2015-16 El Niño emergency response.
- Generate lessons learnt and recommendations to feed into the National El Niño Early Action Planning Workshop

The Lessons Learnt Workshop was successfully completed and delivered the following expected output:

- List of recommendations to feed into the National El Niño Workshop to improve emergency practices and policies

Past experience has highlighted the importance of ensuring the participation of not only Provincial Government staff, but also that of National Government and other key humanitarian stakeholders. Therefore the participants of this Lessons Learnt Workshop included the PDC and other Provincial Government staff involved in decision-making, planning and implementing the response; senior management line ministries at the national level; and representatives from other non-government stakeholders. A list of participants is included in Annex 1.

El Niño Response in the Highlands Region

The Emergency

The 2015-16 El Niño event affected much of rural PNG with a major drought and repeated frosts at a number of high altitude locations (2200-2800 m). During the period of Nov 2015 to March 2016, some regions in the country received only 30% of the normal rainfall. The reduced cloud-cover associated with these dry conditions resulted in frosts at high altitudes. Temperatures as low as minus 2 degrees Celsius were recorded between mid-July and mid-August, with the worst frosts from 11th to 14th August. This created a series of cumulative shocks to food security.

From April to August 2015, growth of staple crops (largely root and tuber crops) was stunted, with frosts wiping out crops in higher altitude areas completely. Replanting during the peak of the drought (August–November 2015) was impossible, and existing stocks were depleted. Following the increase in rains in November to December, communities replanted, but in the Highlands and other areas, the sudden rains on dry ground created pest infestations and too much nitrogen in the soil, resulting in crop failure. Having lost staple crops multiple times by January 2016, reserve stores of food and other coping mechanisms had been exhausted. In addition, the total loss of crops meant that in certain areas of the Highlands, no harvest would be available for 6 to 9 months.

At the height of the disaster, WFP's January 2016 mVAM indicated that 1.31 million people were experiencing high food insecurity, with over 162,000 people in six Highlands Districts faced with extreme food shortages and classified as severely food insecure.

The impact of the El Niño event was felt most acutely by rural communities who had less support and assets to cope with such disasters. Immediate assistance was therefore required in order to meet the urgent needs of these populations, including WASH, food, and livelihoods.

The Response in the Highlands

Beginning in September 2015, the Government of PNG led assistance efforts to respond to food needs brought about by the drought with an allocation of PGK 25 million. In November 2015, the Government publically announced that an additional PGK 178 million (approximately \$70m USD) was being made available for drought relief through Members of Parliament. Although distribution of food by Government began early and reached a large number of affected areas, it was clear and publically acknowledged that the assistance delivered was not sufficient in quantity to address the scope of needs of populations affected.

In April 2016, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) resources were mobilised with a focus on a rapid-scale up of emergency food distributions and nutrition interventions. This was recognised by other donors and partners, and coordinated efforts to respond commenced in 4 LLGs in Hela and Enga Provinces with around 70% of those, 140,556 people, in critical need.

The CERF grant request was used to kick-start a rapid response in those areas, setting up a logistics system through existing partners, to do a single distribution for two months of food, out of the three to six months that may be required. The CERF support was intended to be used to address the most critical portion of a wider nutrition response focused on addressing acute malnutrition, specifically a targeted nutrition intervention for children under 5, to screen and treat cases of severe acute malnutrition through provision of therapeutic foods and training of health centre staff.

Overview of Main Events

The workshop identified a summary of the main events and actions undertaken during this response which are summarised under Annex 2.

Methodology and Approach

Methodology

The Lessons Learnt workshop was designed to ensure maximum involvement of the participants with a mix of plenary discussions, group work and gallery walks. Appropriate guidance was given for the various sessions. Presentations were made during the workshop about the response and feedback from participants, national government and international stakeholders.

Participants

Participation at this workshop aimed to represent all levels of personnel involved in the response across the Highlands region. This included Provincial Government staff that were involved in coordinating operations in their provinces, national government line department representatives, as well as international stakeholders from INGOs, UN and other organisations (see full participants list at Annex 1).

Facilitators

The Lessons Learnt Workshop was facilitated by CARE as part of the Australian Government funded Humanitarian Partnership Agreement. CARE's facilitators had extensive experience in the El Niño emergency response, as well as a clear understanding of the Highlands operational response to the El Niño event. The facilitation was also supported by UNDP's Humanitarian Coordination Specialist.

Approach

The Lessons Learnt started with a brief timeline exercise, carried out to remind participants of main events both nationally and across the Highlands region. The timeline was developed with contributions from all the participants. This initiated the reflection process as participants were not only asked to identify key events and decisions, but also reflect on the successes and challenges.

Following the timeline exercise, participants were then divided into groups based on functions and location (national level and two provincial level groups: one for EHP and Simbu and another for Jiwaka, WHP, Hela and SHP). These groups reflected on key lessons from the response – what worked well, what didn't work so well and what could be improved.

Lessons learnt and key recommendations were developed through group work and gallery walks. The facilitators provided guiding questions to help frame the groups' thought process:

- What went well?
- What did not?

- What were the contributing factors?
- What would you avoid or change in the future?

After reflecting on lessons learnt within the groups, the participants were given the opportunity to provide feedback to the other groups through gallery walk. In the final session, the groups were asked to generate preliminary recommendations based on these lessons learnt and the feedback provided by the other groups.

Again, the facilitators offered some guiding questions:

- What is the precise change that is required?
- What needs to happen in order to achieve this change / outcome?
- Is the outcome of the change clear?
- Who is accountable for the expected change?

The groups were then asked to consider 2-3 recommendations that would improve future response operations, and formulate key actions to achieve the recommendations and the level of priority the action should receive. Finally, participants were asked to identify specific actions their own organisation could take to support key recommendations.

Lessons Learnt

Coordination: Summary of Good Practices

- ↳ **Disaster Management Team and Clusters:** Nationally, there was an open channel of communication between humanitarian organisations and Government departments through the Disaster Management Team mechanism, NDC and the Cluster system. This coordination system was facilitated by the UN, which provided an information sharing mechanism for operational planning and coordination between PNG Government and stakeholders. This was enabled by an ongoing and positive working relationship between stakeholders at the national level that met on a regular basis developing trust and understanding of the different organisations' respective mandates. It was noted that the Government's co-chairing role of the DMT, as well as co-chair of Humanitarian Clusters, supported by a commitment and investment by donor partners in the coordination mechanism also contributed to this good practice. This coordination was able to support initial, coordinated information gathering (Survey and Assessment) across the highlands.
- ↳ **Provincial Coordination Meetings:** In Simbu (Simbu and EHP group), participants noted that there was good communication between stakeholders through regular provincial level coordination meetings and a willingness from stakeholders to participate in coordination and share information. A similar strength was the participation from CEO's of districts, LLGs, Ward Councillors in the response and the participation of some district representatives in provincial coordination fora.
- ↳ **Shared Messaging:** The National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) in EHP undertook radio broadcasts about disaster preparedness messaging for drought situations, which was also noted as a positive to ensure coordinated messaging was shared as widely as possible.

Coordination: Examples of Challenges

- ↳ **Declaring an Emergency:** Participants noted that despite the pronounced humanitarian needs and impacts of the drought from July/August 2015, a request for international assistance was not issued by the PNG government. This prevented international partners with significant technical expertise to mobilise additional capacity and resources to support urgent Government response efforts. This meant that when international assistance at scale was possible from April 2016, the height of the food insecurity had passed.
- ↳ **Closure of OCHA:** The unanticipated reduction in humanitarian coordination capacity due to the closure of the UN OCHA office in 2015 placed the existing

humanitarian coordination architecture nationally under pressure, and contributed to a limited early warning and advocacy component with Government and donors about the impacts.

- ↳ **Sub-national coordination:** In the Upper Highlands, participants noted that Coordination between the national level, sub-national government and between Provincial stakeholders and District authorities was sub optimal. Coordination and information management had been complicated by the decentralisation of the relief response to the district level. Local capacities, such as logistics and budgets at district level are variable and the level of assistance provided from district to district fluctuated significantly. This impacted on the efficiency of the government funding flows from the NEC for each district to those most in need, with often significant delays. Humanitarian actors had been able to access little accurate and reliable information on the actual quantities distributed and on numbers of beneficiaries reached. In many locations, non-Government organisations and sub-national government at the provincial and district levels were not as well connected on a regular basis as at the national level. It was noted that during non-emergency times, having regular meetings between Provincial authorities and stakeholders around humanitarian preparedness planning would enhance knowledge of individual organisation strengths, capacities and roles/ responsibilities.
- ↳ **Lack of capacity at sub-national level:** Few skilled people in sub-national authorities (Provincial, District, Ward) meant that there were limited and weak assessments undertaken of the need, which led to those reports being often ignored. In the case where an assessment report was done, it was written very poorly. DDAs and PDCs were ill equipped to deal with both the magnitude of the disaster and the funding modality selected by the central Government through PSIP/DSIP resulting in an uncoordinated government response. For example, generally DDAs do not budget for disasters through the DSIP, there are no full time positions for disaster coordination and response at the district level, and there is no form of training or support available for sub-national government around managing a disaster response. In addition, communication constraints and lack of trained staff impacted district decision-making and its integration with Provincial level systems, often resulting in duplication and siloed working groups across Provinces, MPs, DDAs and Wards. This led to uncoordinated planning across sub-national levels, and inefficient budgeting at different levels with limited resources.
- ↳ **Better targeting of the most vulnerable:** Vulnerable people in the community (people living with a disability, women and children) were overlooked and not well considered or heard. Part of the challenge was that sub-national authorities and civil society groups doing assessments and distributions did not have the

skills to ensure adequate social inclusion. Training for sub-national authorities on social inclusion during emergencies would be beneficial.

- ↳ **Involvement of community/ward leaders:** participants noted that the information sharing and involvement of community leaders at the ward level (from District and Provincial Governments) was limited. In addition, Ward authorities did not have the capacity or skills to support District, Provincial and external stakeholders monitor, assess and respond to the drought situation. Supporting formal communication lines between wards and districts as well as their skills to respond to emergencies was noted as important.
- ↳ **Communication with communities:** Communication with contact people in communities was very challenging, especially when community leaders, Ward Development Committee members and Church leaders were hard to contact.
- ↳ **Logistical support from private sector:** There were issues faced with engaging logistical support from Coca Cola because the offer the company made, including some space on their regular distribution runs, resulted in increased transactional costs of logistics coordination.
- ↳ **No drought monitoring to track impacts and raise alarm:** There was (and still is) no regional or national structure to undertake simple monitoring of potential impacts of slow onset crises like regular dry seasons or in advance of significant El Niño events that in 2015 was known from May 2015. As a result, there was insufficient information to trigger action (early warning) and a resulting lack of proactive information sharing (between Government departments and from Government to stakeholders and the public). There were subsequent issues with data collection and reporting (insufficient and inaccurate) that also led to media and social media reports that were not able to be corroborated with official data.

Coordination of the Response: Recommendations

- ↳ **PDCs to play a greater role in coordinating regular disaster management meetings with key Provincial Government and Non-government stakeholders.** These forums will enable strong relationships to be developed across humanitarian actors at the provincial level and to assist government take a greater lead in response activities. It will enable organisations to be familiar with each other's roles and responsibilities, and which local organisations are in place to support emergency response, recovery & resilience building efforts in the province. These regular coordination meetings could:
 - Occur quarterly;

- Develop emergency preparedness plans for the province that outlines how and when to respond in coordination with government departments, districts, LLGs and humanitarian stakeholders;
 - Enable structured and coordinated capacity building for government and local partners, community based organisations, faith based organisations, including on gender and social inclusion, child protection and community disaster management. Through this mechanism government could coordinate and facilitate this trainings with districts, LLGs and stakeholders, as well as allocate funding; and
 - Lead mapping of activity government and internationally funded disaster management activities in the province.
- ↳ **Creation of District Disaster Coordination at the district level.** There should be a focal person for Disaster Coordination (District Disaster Coordinator), overseen by the District Administrator (DDA Chief Executive Officer), in each District. District Disaster Coordination activities and priorities should be reflected in the District Development Plan in order to enable allocation of resources through the DDA. The District Disaster Coordination would work in partnership with, and link into, provincial level coordination led by PDCs. It would be the key focal point to link into any structured training in Disaster Management that would be implemented in the Province through the Disaster Management coordination forums.

Sector Responses: Summary of Good Practices

Food and Nutrition

- ↳ **Early warnings:** Participants noted that there were early warnings in relation to food and nutrition security across the Highlands, particularly in Simbu province, which was positive. There were significant distributions from government and stakeholders particularly of food, seeds and tools, in addition to agricultural recovery training. This supported existing community resilience and coping capacity across the region to these types of hazards.
- ↳ **Church mobilisation:** The mobilisation of Church capacity was considered a positive by participants, which enabled reach and community entry to areas where Government and other stakeholders were not originally operating. The Church's work and strong presence in communities meant they were better able to manage conflict during distributions in partnership with humanitarian organisations that had the capacity to undertake distributions. This partnership enabled food distributions to reach remote, disadvantaged communities.
- ↳ **Reach of food distributions:** In the Upper Highlands, there was a feeling that the WFP food distributions benefited a number of communities. There was good coordination of rice distribution needs from Hagen to Telefomin. By ensuring that

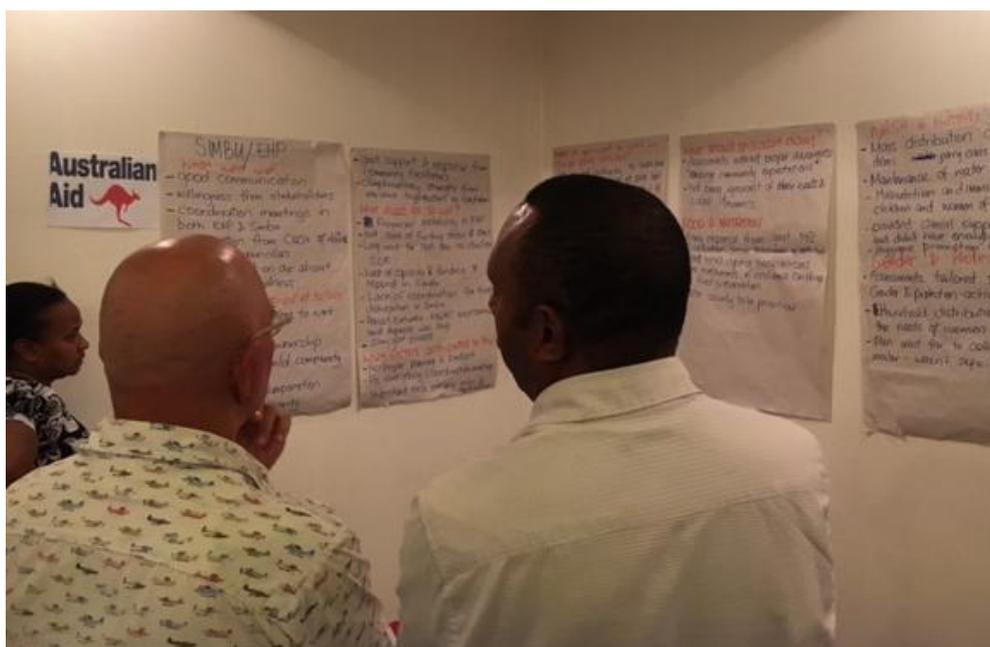
the food distribution to households was based around 'haus kuks', families with multiple wives were considered.

WASH & Health

- ↳ **Distribution of NFIs:** The mass distributions by a range of stakeholders of non-food items, including water containers, aqua tabs and hygiene kits had widespread benefit.
- ↳ **Targeted WASH and nutrition support:** Activities including the repair and maintenance of water tanks at health centres, malnutrition screening and immunisation of child bearing aged women, the provision of clinical support in facilities that didn't have adequate staffing levels, and hygiene promotion training were well targeted.
- ↳ **Community ownership of WASH:** For WASH infrastructure repair, participants noted that organisations and government worked through existing community structures in close coordination with local government authorities and processes to increase community support and ownership. It was also noted that this WASH work was successful because communities mobilised their own resources which contributed to ownership and sustainability.

Gender and Protection

- ↳ **Rapid Gender Assessment:** Participants noted that some assessments (e.g. Rapid Gender Analysis) were tailored to include gender and protection considerations resulting in subsequent programming at the household level that considered the different needs of women, men, boys and girls.



Workshop participants reviewing sectoral strengths and areas for improvement

Sector Response: Examples of Challenges

Food Security

- ↳ **Delayed food distributions:** Rice distributions in the upper Highlands needed to happen sooner. By the time international organisations were able to support large scale distributions, many communities had been experiencing food insecurity for more than six months. Government led distributions prior to that period were not at scale and not well coordinated between MP constituencies. These distributions suffered from limited trained staff at Provinces and Districts to manage large scale household registrations in addition to the logistics of multiple distributions. This led to significant delays and it often took too long to distribute food after it arrived in town/location. Some of the supplies were stolen which increased violence and reduced the humanitarian impact of the intended food. Linked to the above, it was noted that some people sold distributions/rations given the need for the food was lesser by the time some of the significant mass distributions occurred across the upper highlands in mid 2016.
- ↳ **Social conflict disrupting food distributions:** Participants also noted that some communities stopped distributions due to issues around the amount of food they were receiving, or who was receiving food. Strong cultural norms also prevented many people from benefiting. Some of these issues led to an increase in conflict in, and between, communities during food distributions.
- ↳ **Insufficient resilience funds to mitigate impacts:** Additional emphasis and investment should be made towards resilience, food security and livelihoods programming in at-risk areas at the beginning of dry seasons with a particular focus on appropriate crops to plant, agriculture mitigation measures and food preservation.

WASH and Health

- ↳ **Poor sharing of reports:** There was discussion that technical reports about health, nutrition and WASH impacts weren't shared well between different actors.
- ↳ **Inadequate WASH and health technical skills:** The degree that assessment teams were comprised of the relevant technical experts was also discussed. In addition, a concern was raised that there were not enough technical/skilled people in Districts and Wards to report accurately on WASH, health and protection issues and needs.

Gender and Protection

- ↳ **Inadequate social inclusion and protection:** Participants noted that it was difficult to explicitly focus on the most vulnerable in affected communities, as

other community members would often feel left out and can get angry and disrupt operations. Government and active agencies had to talk about being “inclusive” instead of explicitly targeting the most vulnerable and needy.

- ↳ **Gender Based Violence:** Anecdotally there were stories of increased violence against women and girls. For example, as women and girls were required to walk further and across tribal/land boundaries for water, there were reports of increased sexually assault. There were also a number of stories of girls and young women being ‘sold’ or ‘shared’ in exchange for money and food during the period of the drought. Participants noted family violence increased especially over resources. Families were separated which caused conflict and evidence of increased gambling that can place pressure on households. While there are no clear studies exploring these impacts during El Niño, the high rates of gender-based violence in PNG coupled with global research indicates rates of GBV would likely have increased during the emergency. It is almost certainly the case that changes in community dynamics increased the vulnerability to these types of risks.

Sector Response: Recommendations

- ↳ **Early warning monitoring:** NDC and key international stakeholders to work on developing standard triggers for slow onset disasters such as a drought in preparation for a potential 2017-18 El Niño event. The system should be simple, low cost and easy to implement in high risk areas by Provincial and District authorities. These triggers could be trialled in preparation for the 2017-18 El Niño.
- ↳ **Government budget allocations for Disaster Management:** Funding to be made available for disaster management in the provincial budgets to prepare for and respond to emergencies, health epidemics and prolonged dry seasons (El Niño).
- ↳ **Improve regional coordination for all sectors doing response:** Use national humanitarian clusters, such as the Food Security Cluster (FSC), as a platform for improved coordination sub-nationally. The FSC is working and members are active and communicating. Agriculture and food security are key issues for livelihoods and women’s economic empowerment, education, protection, gender, health and WASH, and so the regional FSC is a good platform for coordinating emergency preparedness and response activities across sectors.
- ↳ **Improve information management:** Partners to support NDC to fill the information and communication gap and strengthen national level and sub-national level information sharing and mapping.

Conclusion

The discussions during this Lessons Learnt workshop provided the first opportunity for key stakeholders to reflect on the El Niño response across the PNG Highlands since the response phase ended in mid 2016. In some areas the recovery work is still ongoing given the magnitude of the impacts on rural populations' resilience, livelihoods and WASH systems.

These lessons learnt, summary of good practises and challenges provide clear recommendations to stakeholders across the region and nationally that are particularly pertinent given the high likelihood of El Niño conditions in 2017-18. Even a modest prolonged dry season this year could lead to significant support needs in high risk areas given the reduced resilience and limited recovery time since the 2015-16 event for affected communities.

The lessons and recommendations captured through this Lessons Learnt Workshop will be crucial in developing the immediate mitigation and response preparedness priorities at the national El Niño Early Action Planning Workshop scheduled for end of May 2017.



Participants in the El Niño Highlands Lessons Learnt Workshop

Annexes

Annex 1: Participant List

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Annex 2: Timeline Exercise

A Timeline of Key Events during the 2015/2016 El Niño (source: UNDP)

