

## Questionnaire for ISDR

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Outline for national reporting and information on disaster reduction for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe –Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005)

### Information on national contact and provider of information

**Name:** Colonel Rauka Eric Ani, CBE  
**Position:** Director  
**Organisation:** National Disaster Centre  
**Address:** National Disaster Centre  
P.O. Box 4970  
BOROKO  
National Capital District  
**State/Province:** National Capital District  
**Zip/Post Code:** NA  
**Country:** Papua New Guinea  
**Phone:** (675) 301 1053/301 1111/301 1182  
**Fax:** (675) 325 4186  
**Email:** [reani@global.net.pg](mailto:reani@global.net.pg)

The information was obtained without consultation with other institutions.

### Component 1 Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects.

- 1.1 There is a National Policy and Legislation addressing disaster risk reduction in Papua New Guinea. The National Executive Council (NEC) has endorsed the National Mitigation Policy but the legislation is currently under review.
- 1.2 The National Disaster Committee is the highest authority and the decision making body on any policy matters. It comprises of Departmental heads of various Government departments and has co-opted members from NGOs, and diplomatic missions.
- 1.3 Yes
  - (a) Yes—in relation to improvement of **water security**, over K3.m (\$US 750,000.00) was allocated as water mitigation for the drought prone communities soon after the 1997/8 long droughts under joint coordination by National Department of Health and the National Disaster Centre. The mitigation effort ceased to continue for three main reasons:- (i) Absence of nationally based rural water & sanitation coordinator; (ii) Shifting of mitigation focus from drought to tsunami disaster in 1998; and (iii) Lack of recurrent budget support on the concerned sector.
  - (b) Yes—in relations to improvement of **food security**, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) has established Food Security Policy to pro-actively deal with the overall food policies, programmes and activities as part and partial of PNG compliance with the UN intentions on hunger and poverty reduction. On research sector, PNG National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) has embarked on drought mitigation and has so far identified certain food crops for adoption by drought prone communities as tolerant crops for cultivation. However the

main limitation is the inability of NARI and DAL in taking the results of the researches to the affected communities. To effectively transfer the techniques on how to cultivate the identified drought tolerant crops is another limitation. All these are due to funding constraints.

(c) Yes--The National Government has in the year 2003 approved a National Disaster Mitigation Policy which sets broad guidelines through which all stake holders will be guided through to developing their emergency or development related disaster and risk management.

1.4 No

1.5 Yes there are building codes available in Papua New Guinea however are outdated.

1.6 There is an annual budget for risk reduction activities which are normally addressed in the work plans

1.7 All stakeholders in Disaster Management are working in partnership and sharing resources. There are monthly or quarterly meetings held to upbreat each other of any disaster happenings in and around the country. Distribution of situation reports on any disasters and in training or distribution of relief supplies, all efforts are co-ordinated by the National Disaster Centre.

### **Component 2: Risk Identification**

2.1 Hazard mapping in PNG has been implemented in some provinces particularly those with the volcano hazard.

2.2 No

2.3 Yes, the National Disaster Center through its stakeholders such as the National Weather Office, Department of mining & the National Research Institute.

2.4 This has not being the practise in the past but the trend is now changing to doing a post disaster assessment by the National Office.

2.5 There are early warning systems in place and the National Agriculture Research Institute is the had its system activated lately with the production of drought resistance crops.

### **Component 3: Knowledge Management**

3.1 There are risk information management systems available, posters, public seminars and workshops are some means of creating awareness. The target audience is school children, the general public and the management of any organization.

3.2 Academic and research communities are linked to the National Disaster Centre. For purposes of information sharing, a technical committee, National Disaster Awareness & Preparedness Committee (NDAPC) holds quarterly meetings whose chairman is a professor at the University of Papua New Guinea. This committee (NDAPC) provides technical advise to the National Disaster Centre (NDC).

3.3 There are educational programmes available but they do not specifically categorise it as a subject of its own rather it is generalized as a science subject. There are no educational materials developed.

3.4 There are training programs available with the National Disaster Centre and some of its stakeholders such as NGOs and Churches.

- 3.5 Legends or stories of past disasters from the old people are past on from generation to generation though the context changes.
- 3.6 Yes. Through the National Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Committee, the technical information are sanctioned with regard to the potential risk or threats to any community by a known hazard. Specific awareness programs are formulated and made known to public. There is yet to formalize a national awareness program but continuous the National Disaster Centre together with disaster stakeholders like NGOs make disaster awareness each time an organised training workshop or seminar is conducted on all common hazards. The target audiences are the schools and vulnerable communities and government public servants.

#### **Component 4: Risk Management Applications/Instruments**

- 4.1 Yes but not 100% compliance.

Environment management on the impacts of major development projects such as logging, mining, oil refining and oil/chemical transfers. It is a government requirement for any major development operations that there is always an environmental plan put in place and has to be approved by government before any operations could commence. Every now and then operations are monitored to make sure the developers or operators comply with the environmental plan. Corrective measures are taken if the environment is affected.

Slush and burn system of rural Papua New Guinea making gardens/farms is still being practiced. However, in some areas where cash cropping is emphasized the slush and burn practices are slowly decreasing. PNG has a long way to go and would very much need a lot of awareness raising and education to recognize the intentions of ISDR.

- 4.2 Yes but not 100% for Disaster Reduction

Most Insurance companies accept insurance covers on basic policies but very little is given on insurance covering properties in the identified hazard areas. The ordinary people are yet to fully appreciate the importance of insurance cover on their respective properties.

There are a number of Micro – Credit Finances in the country. No one has made any studies on what areas of lending they have been lending or supporting their finances on. In most cases ordinary people seek loans for school fees and death expenses.

- 4.3 The production of Tsunami posters sponsored by the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), the donations of Volcano monitoring equipment by AusAID, the researches and identification of drought tolerant food crops by National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Child – Women intervention Program by UNICEF, Small Craft Act and other Disaster Management Plans by each respective stakeholders e.g. Health Department.

## **Component 5: Preparedness & Contingency Planning**

- 5.1 There are contingency plans in place however are out of date and they need to be reviewed
- 5.2 Emergency funds have been established.
- 5.3 The National Disaster Centre co-ordinates all response activities.

## **Component 6: Call for good practices in Disaster Management.**

Drawing from the lessons learned from the effects of 1997/8 El Nino, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) through the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) has stepped up scientific researches through which it has identified drought tolerant (resistance) food crops which are suitable for different latitudes: *higher, lower and the atolls.*

The problem is that most research reports are not published including skills and techniques not transferred from NARI scientist to the ordinary farmers. DAL has recognized this gap and is seeking support to make the findings of NARI become user-friendly to all those drought/frost prone communities through agriculture extension program.

Concerning **water security** issue, different national and international donors have embarked on health intervention program through water and sanitation by way of installing rainwater catchments/tanks and shallow bore wells before 1997. However, the 1997/8 effects of long drought has tested the water-installed projects and proved to be not capable of sustaining the consumption needs of the rural communities because most or not all of them dried up within the first month of drought period.

Basing on the 1997/8 lessons learned from impacts of drought, the East New Britain Provincial Government ( a province in Papua New Guinea) as an example, embarked on deep water well surveys and drilling. It has successfully drilled some good water bore wells and accordingly have been sealed for future use. Other provinces could not follow East New Britain Province because of financial limitations.

On the other hand, the 1997/8-drought effect has influenced other local organizations to beef up their activities on water related projects. Adventist Disaster Response Action (ADRA) is one good example. It has specialised on water related projects from assessments up to actual installation of water infrastructure. The National Disaster Centre (NDC) still calls on ADRA to provide either mitigation or response support in the event of local disasters.

Concerning on **Food Security**, the Fresh Produce Development Company Ltd is the formal lead agency spearheading the food production, processing, handling and storage linked with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL). Though the concept is excellent but this is yet to have any real impact on the entire country, particularly the drought prone area through networking of local farmers etc. etc.

A number of villages based smallholder farmers' cooperatives/associations have been formed with the prime aim of sharing planting materials, lending/borrowing finance and the transfer of the know-how skills. Drought, frost, tribal fights, agricultural disease and stringent lending policies of commercial banks to some extent have shattered their efforts. Since January 2003, the potato late blight has successfully destroyed the potato crop in all highlands provinces thus resulting a loss of about

K12 million (\$US3. million) annual income for the rural farmers. Funding for costs of chemicals, planting seeds and more researches by NARI are the major constraints faced by the PNG communities.

**Tsunami** –The dangers of tsunami impacts were unheard of by PNG citizens until after the devastation effects of 1998 tsunami disaster, which destroyed villages and killed about 2,227 people. That tsunami situation itself was and still is the most effective tsunami awareness for the entire coastal population of Papua New Guinea. However, the tsunami awareness further made clearer and better understood after a series of public awareness campaigns through broadcast, print and telecast media including community visitations by the Rabual Volcano Observatory (RVO) using the printed tsunami posters and booklets sponsored by Japanese Government through ADRC. Most coastal communities basically have now known what is tsunami but not all 100% have known the possible signs of tsunami and what to do to save themselves from the tsunami impacts. The awareness drive is still continuing but at a low profile due to financial limitations to visit communities scattered throughout PNG through over 750 different languages.

**Component 7: Suggested Priorities to be addressed at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.**

- 7.1 Community Disaster Preparedness;
- 7.2 Early Warning;
- 7.3 Poverty Reduction; and
- 7.4 HIV/AIDS Prevention.