

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## LANDSLIDE RESPONSE | RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

ROUND 1 | DATA COLLECTED: 29 MAY 2024

PROVINCIAL REPORT: ENGA



Yambali landslide in Enga province. IOM © 2024

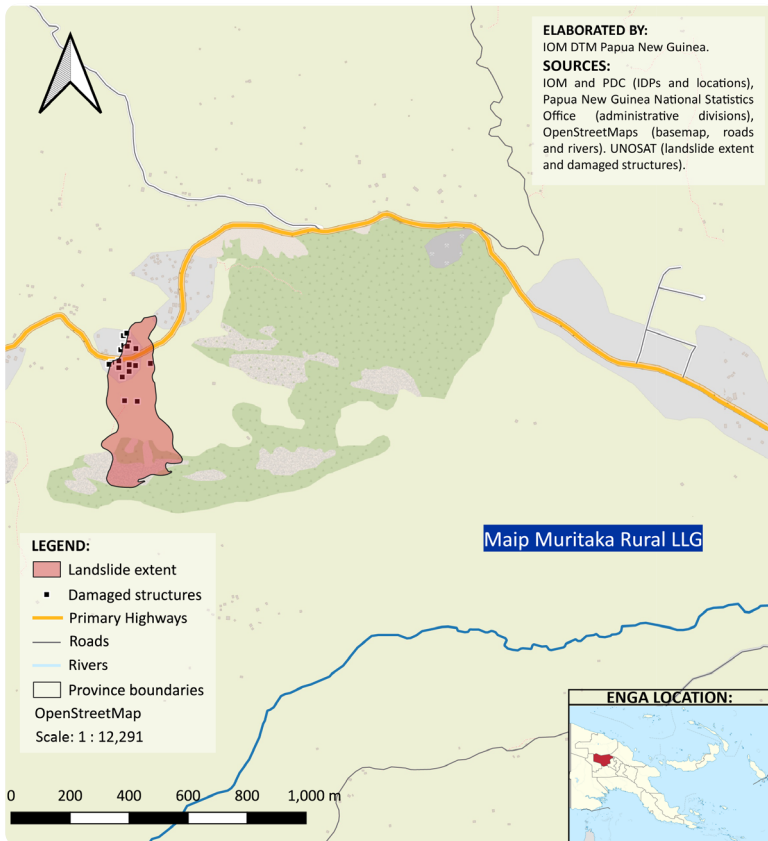


GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE  
DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX



**NDC**

## COVERAGE OF SITE ASSESSEMENT (SA) ROUND 1



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## CONTEXT

A massive landslide occurred on the 24 May of 2024 at 3:00 AM local time in the southeastern area of Maip Muritaka Rural Local Level Government (LLG, Admin 3) in the Highlands' Enga Province. The disaster caused extensive losses and damages to communities downhill, also destroying livelihoods and key infrastructure. The IOM team in coordination with the National Disaster Centre (NDC) implemented a DTM rapid assessment in a host community to provide relevant and timely information to humanitarian counterparts regarding the situation and main needs from the affected population.

This report presents initial findings from the round one of Mobility Tracking conducted at host communities in the Maip Muritaka Rural LLG from 25-27 May 2024. The two communities assessed reported a total of 7,849 individuals from 1,427 households affected, with 1,650 individuals from 315 households displaced. Population estimates from the National Statistics Office for 2021 indicate that the entire population of the Maip Muritaka Rural LLG is of some 26,450 inhabitants. By this numbers, the current disaster has affected at least 21% of the entire LLG population.

## 2.1 KEY FINDINGS



### LANDSLIDE

DISASTER TYPE



### 2 COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN

SITES COVERED



**1,427**  
AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS



**7,849**  
AFFECTED PERSONS



**315**  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED HOUSEHOLDS



**1,650**  
IDPs

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are currently staying with relatives and friends from one host community, which is also at great risk and has been directly affected. The vulnerable location heightens the need for immediate humanitarian assistance.

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Lifesaving food supplies.

Emergency shelter & non-food items (NFIs).

Immediate access to WASH services such as clean and safe drinking water, as well as water tanks and purification tablets.

Medical supplies, MHPSS.

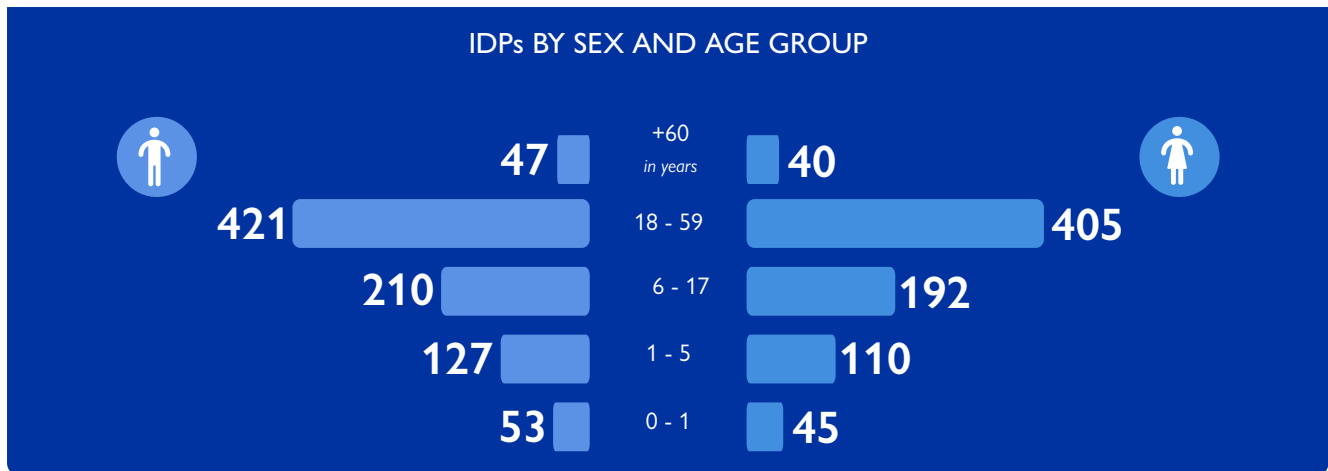
Relocation opportunities and support.

Logistical support for counterparts.

Information management support for Government.

## IDP POPULATION STRUCTURE

One in five IDPs is under the age of six, underscoring the necessity for targeted support for this age group in the aftermath of the displacement. The majority of the displaced population consists of individuals of working age. Additionally, those over the age of sixty constitute 5% of the total population.



## KEY HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

- The primary road remains covered by debris, making it extremely challenging to reach the affected sites. This obstruction significantly hampers the delivery of humanitarian aid and the provision of essential services to the affected communities.
- Security: Conflict in Tambitanis Village could impede road access to affected areas, hindering relief efforts. Additionally, despite the cessation of active fighting in the region, longstanding conflicts and rivalries pose considerable security risks for relocating displaced households in Enga Province. These underlying tensions must be carefully considered when planning relocation efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the IDPs.
- Landslide risk: Continuous sliding and falling rocks, coupled with groundwater underneath the debris, pose an increased risk. Lack of available data: The absence of accurate and timely information on the affected areas and population hinders effective planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance.



People surveying the disaster area. IOM © 2024

### Vulnerable groups

- 21 Pregnant women
- 48 Breastfeeding mothers
- 12 Persons with disabilities
- 10 Persons with serious medical conditions
- 14 Unaccompanied children (lost parents)

## RAPID ASSESSMENT RESULTS BY SECTOR



### SHELTER AND NFIs

The landslide has led to extensive destruction, burying over 150 houses, including domestic residences, businesses, and one guesthouse. Over 75% of the households, are living with host communities, friends, and families, leading to overcrowding and a lack of privacy. Less than 25% of the displaced households are living in either communal shelters or open space or makeshift/self-made shelters.



### WASH

The primary water source for the community was creeks and streams located on-site, easily accessible with a walk of less than 20 minutes. However, the landslide has buried and covered these water sources, severely impacting the community's access to clean drinking water. The creeks now flowing from the debris are contaminated, posing a significant risk of disease outbreak. Additionally, most households lack alternative water sources, such as rain catchment tanks, further exacerbating the water shortage. Currently, there are no methods being used to treat the water to make it safe for drinking. The most common type of toilets in the host community are pit latrines.



### FOOD SECURITY

The main source of food for the majority of households is through donations from the host family. The host community is currently relying on their own food crops and donations from neighboring communities.



### EDUCATION

The local elementary school providing education services to the communities of origin was buried during

the landslide. The elementary and primary schools in the host communities are currently active.



### HEALTH

Community representatives indicate that the most common health problem at the site is diarrhea, followed by malaria. The closest health facility is located less than five kilometers away.



### PROTECTION

There is significant trauma and shock among the affected population. Widespread psychological trauma is evident, with many individuals experiencing fear, grief, and anxiety following the disaster. No cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) have been reported so far. Security at the site is being provided by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) and the police, ensuring the safety of those involved in relief efforts and preventing potential security threats.



### PUBLIC INFORMATION

There is a pressing need for updates on rescue operations and information about recovery and identification of remains. Other topics are access to services, shelter options, distribution of assistance, and the safety and security situation in their communities of origin.

Mobile phone coverage at the site is limited to only phone calls and SMS coverage. DIGICEL is the only available network at the site. The main languages spoken on-site are Tok Pisin and the local Enga language. Access to the community is possible by vehicle.

### What are the top 3 priorities (NEEDS) for this location?

- **FOOD SECURITY**
- **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)**
- **NFIs (Clothing, tools, utensils, etc.)**



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