

Internal displacements induced by natural and man-made hazards in Papua New Guinea

Summary

- Period covered: 2005 – 2016
- Total number of provinces affected = 13
- Total number of incidents recorded = 26
- Total number of individuals displaced = 75,449

Introduction

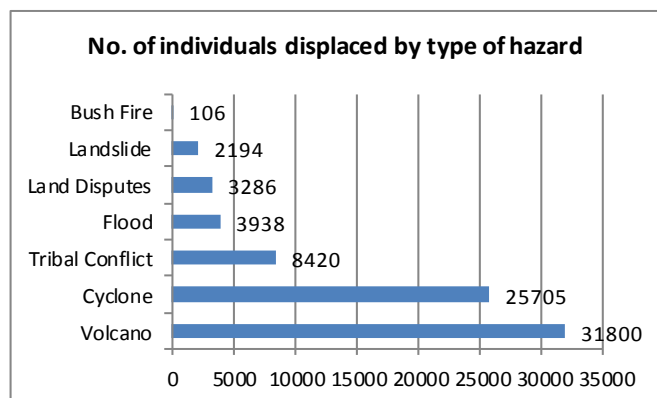
Throughout the last decade, Papua New Guinea (PNG) has experienced internal displacements arising in the context of natural and human induced hazards that includes the Manam volcano and tribal conflicts respectively. Although such events have been exacerbated in the context of the natural disasters and conflict across the country, most IDPs such as those in Manam have now been living in displacement for a protracted period (most since 2005). Particularly in Manam, access to education is still a challenge to children while access to basic social services remains also a huge challenge in most disaster and displacement affected communities in PNG.

Incidents and impacts

As part of the data and information management exercise, IOM is updating the established Information Management System (IMS) that is used to manage data related to emergencies, disasters and displacement in PNG. Hazards contributing to internal displacements include volcano, cyclone, flood, landslide, bush fire, tribal conflict and land disputes. Impacts experienced by the affected population includes internal displacement, loss in lives, destruction of shelter, decreased agricultural productivity and damages to property.

Number of individuals displaced by type of hazard

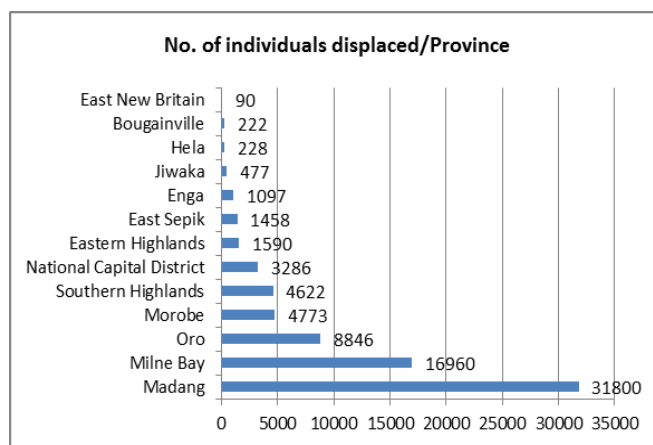
During the period under reporting (2005-2016), emergency and disaster incidents resulted in the displacement of 75,449¹ individuals. The majority of the individuals were displaced as a result of a volcanic eruption at Manam island in Madang province in 2005.



The second largest group of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were affected by cyclones (25,705) in Milne Bay (16,960) and Oro (8,745) provinces. Tribal conflicts displaced 8,420 individuals in Southern Highlands (4,516), Eastern Highlands (1,590), Morobe (1,630), East Sepik (265), Hela (228), Oro (101) and East New Britain (90). Flooding displaced 3,938 individuals in Morobe (2,046), East Sepik (1,193), Bougainville (222) and Jiwaka (477) while landslides contributed to displacement of 2,194 individuals in Enga (1,097) and Morobe (1,097). Land disputes and bush fires displaced 3,286 and 106 individuals in the National Capital District and Southern Highlands respectively.

Number of individuals displaced per Province

Madang (31,800) and Milne Bay (16,960) provinces recorded the highest number of IDPs while the least were recorded in Bougainville and East New Britain and during the reporting period.



Needs and assistance rendered

Needs among IDPs included shelter, medical care, non-food items (NFIs), food and, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). During the emergency and disaster period, IOM activated its response activities and worked closely with the government and other development partners to ensure a more coordinated and effective response. Assistance rendered by IOM includes emergency shelter, WASH, NFIs, medical care and treatment.

Conclusion

IOM continues to work closely with the government and other key stakeholders such as development partners to assist IDPs achieve durable solutions.



¹ IOM PNG Displacement Tracking Matrix