

CAN DO supports PNG Earthquake recovery

The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO), of which Anglican Overseas Aid is a member, is conducting a major response to the impact of a 7.5 magnitude earthquake which happened in Papua New Guinea in February.

The quake killed 150 people and has left 270,000 people (including 125,000 children) in need of emergency aid, according to the UN.

CAN DO agencies are providing urgent shelter and health support, especially in the form of clean water, sanitation and hygiene support (WASH) as well as trauma counselling.

An outbreak of dengue fever is of particular concern for the local population as are cases of diarrhoea and dysentery. Access to clean water, food and medical resources is still scarce, and tribal conflict has been exacerbated by these stresses. As a result the numbers of displaced peoples are on the rise and the Papua New Guinean military and security personnel have moved in to protect a number of state-owned assets, including a hospital in Hela province.

“Anglican Overseas Aid CEO, Revd Bob Mitchell, said, “Church agencies working together to provide support increases the impact we are able to make in affected communities. Some agencies have suspended response efforts due to escalating conflict. But the churches are continuing to provide support despite the ongoing challenges. This highlights the importance of the church network in the response.”

CAN DO agencies are also investing in rebuilding, with efforts already underway to rebuild schools, hospitals and houses throughout the Central Highlands Region.

Revd Mitchell added, “We are enormously grateful for the AUD \$1.5 million support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the NZ \$900,000 support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).”

CAN DO comprises Act for Peace, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia, Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, the Australian Lutheran World Service, Transform Aid International (Baptist World Aid Australia), UnitingWorld, and Caritas Australia.

If you would like to assist the people of Papua New Guinea, you can donate to the Anglican Overseas Aid PNG Earthquake Appeal by calling 1800 249 880 or by visiting <http://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/donate-online> or sending a cheque, made payable to Anglican Overseas Aid, to

Anglican Overseas Aid
PNG Earthquake Appeal
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