

PNG Earthquake update

Over half a million people have been affected by the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck the Highlands Region of Papua New Guinea on 26 February. Almost three weeks after the earthquake struck, some places remain cut off and an estimated 35,000 people have been displaced of which about half are living in 26 informal care centres. At least 125 people have died and infrastructure has been severely damaged.

Papua New Guinea's Health Department says more people will die in earthquake-hit districts if health issues are not urgently tackled and the head of Emergency Medicine in PNG says there's a risk that food and water borne diseases could kill thousands.

About 270,000 people, including 125,000 children, require urgent humanitarian assistance, Unicef said earlier this week. There is considerable pressure on food supplies with people in the affected provinces needing both emergency food as well as seeds to re-establish fast growing food crops. According to the latest situation report from the United Nations (15 March), priority needs are medicine, tarpaulins and tents, blankets, food and water.

The situation on the ground is tragic and recovery will take years and Anglican Missions is working closely with the Anglican Church in PNG and with Australia's Anglican Board of Missions to ensure a well-coordinated response that targets those who are most in need.

Anglican Missions is extremely grateful to parishes and individuals who have already generously contributed to this appeal.



Landslips between Moro and Hides in the PNG Southern Highlands. Photo: Bernard McQueen



Damaged road in Komo, Hela province of Papua New Guinea, affected by the 7.5 earthquake 26 February 2018. Photo: Radio New Zealand