

# RCC member countries

## Papua New Guinea



### Country Information

**Region:** Pacific

**Population:** Approximately 8.3 million

**Capital:** Port Moresby

**GDP (US\$):** \$21.089 billion

**Geography:** Papua New Guinea (PNG) is situated between the stable continent mass of Australia and the deep ocean basin of the Pacific. The eastern half of the island of New Guinea is dominated by a massive central cordillera, or system of mountain ranges. A second mountain chain fringes the north coast and runs parallel to the central cordillera. In the lowlands, there are many swamps and floodplains. The smaller islands of PNG generally feature mountain ranges rising directly from the sea or from narrow coastal plains. Volcanic landforms dominate the northern parts of New Britain and Bougainville, and some of the smaller islands are extremely volcanic.

**General climate:** The climate is tropical with high temperatures, humidity and rainfall. PNG experiences a northwest monsoon from December to March and a southeast monsoon from May to October. Temperatures vary significantly from one area to another due to the mountainous topography and different air streams.

**INFORM Risk Rating:** 5.6

## Risk Summary

- PNG is prone to natural hazards including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, river flooding, coastal erosion, landslides, droughts and frost.
- PNG ranks in the top 6 countries for the highest percentage of population exposed to earthquake hazards and for population exposed to severe volcanic risk.
- Due to its location on the margins of the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates, PNG regularly experiences earthquakes between magnitudes 5 and 7.
- Landslide hazards are particularly high and they are generally associated with large, shallow earthquakes and rainfall. Many landslides happen during the wet season as rainwater weakens the restraining properties of the soil or rock.
- The country has 16 active volcanoes, 10 of which potentially threaten 250,000 people. 6 of the active volcanoes are considered high-risk.
- El Niño appears every 2-10 years and causes drought and frost, contributing to food and water shortages.
- West and East Sepik, Madang, Morobe, Milne Bay, Manus, New Ireland, Bougainville, East and New West Britain are the locations most prone to tsunamis.
- Every year, floods cause considerable damage to buildings and critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, as well as to agriculture and crops.

## Disaster Management System

### National Level

- **National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC)**

The NDMC is the strategic decision-making forum for disaster risk management (DRM) and is advised by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), which is the day-to-day focal point for DRM activities. The NDMC advises the National Executive Council on all DRM matters in the country. It reports on DRM planning and budgeting arrangements for DRR; major DRM policy and legislation

amendments; the national state of preparedness for emergencies; appeals for international assistance; and the circumstances and advisability of declaring a National Emergency.

6 sub-committees have been established under the NDMC, including:

- ◆ **Risk and Mitigation Sub-Committee (R&MSub/C):** The R&MSub/C is responsible for identifying and analyzing disaster risk.
- ◆ **Response Sub-Committee (ResSub/C):** The ResSub/C is responsible for ensuring the adequacy of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan in setting the strategic framework for response to emergencies and disasters; and for ensuring the adequacy and operational preparedness of the National Emergency Operations Center.
- ◆ **Recovery Sub-Committee (RecSub/C):** The role of the RecSub/C is to continually review, monitor and make recommendations regarding roles and responsibilities within the Government of PNG relating to disaster recovery.

- **National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)**

The NDMO is the day-to-day focal point at the national level for all disaster management matters. It plays a pivotal role in ensuring the achievement of the aims and objectives of the national DRM strategy. It is responsible for coordinating national disaster response, humanitarian relief and recovery operations; evaluating preparedness at all levels of government; providing leadership, mentoring and support in developing a culture of risk management across all government sectors; providing technical support, coordination and guidance to Provinces; and developing a National Training and Awareness strategy.

## Sub-National Level

- **Provincial Disaster Management Structure**

The disaster management structure replicates the national structure at each tier of government: at the provincial, district and local level. Local governments may act independently at the start of an emergency or disaster. However, if capacity is exceeded, the District level and Provincial levels will step in.

- **Provincial Executive Council (PEC)**

Each provincial government, through its respective PEC, has the ultimate responsibility for DRM throughout their province. The council also develops and implements DRR and disaster management countermeasures, policies and laws.

- **Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC)**

The PDMC advise the PEC on all disaster management matters in the provide. It plays a central role in provincial DRM arrangements both in normal times and at times of crisis. It is responsible for the adequacy and suitability of provincial DRM policies and plans. It will also monitor the progress and effectiveness of DRR plans, projects and initiatives and will advise the PEC on annual DRM planning and budget requirements.

- **Provincial Disaster Management Office (PDMO)**

The PDMO is the focal point for provincial DRM. Its responsibilities are similar to the ones of the NDMO at the provincial level.

- **District and Local Level Disaster Management Committees**

District and local level committees share a similar structure to PDMCs and have similar roles and responsibilities at their respective levels.

## Helpful Links and Sources

PNG country profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/papua-new-guinea>

INFORM country risk profile:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>

Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Reference Handbook:

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/disaster-mgmt-ref-hdbk-png.pdf>

Information on DRR:

<http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=598&Lang=en&NationNum=12>