



SITUATION REPORT



MARCH 2018



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SITUATION

On February 26th, at almost 4 am local time, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Papua New Guinea (PNG) destroying homes, contaminating water sources, disrupting communications, causing landslides and more. A series of violent aftershocks followed for several days after, including a 6.7 magnitude earthquake on March 8th, increasing the devastating impact of the initial quake.

Access to the most impacted areas continues to be an issue, as the quake destroyed several roads and bridges to some of the more remote regions.

On March 2nd, the PNG government declared a state of emergency. As of March 13th, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 544,000 people were impacted by the quakes with 270,000 in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.



RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is partnering with companion church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG) and their disaster team to assess the damage and needs created by the earthquake and the many aftershocks. We invite you to stand by our neighbors in Papua New Guinea during this time.

Your undesignated gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response allows us to respond to disasters like the earthquakes in Papua New Guinea. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support the needs in this response and others like it.

ONE MORE THING...

Lutheran Disaster Response is often able to respond to disasters across the globe because of already existing relationships through companion churches and/or ELCA World Hunger. Papua New Guinea and the Church there is one such place. Currently, ELCA World Hunger is supporting the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea to support local farmers impacted by unusual weather patterns through the implementation of new agricultural techniques, irrigation, and drought resistant crops, and training on book-keeping and other skills.



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