

JANUARY–DECEMBER 2024

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA OPERATIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial and independent organization whose exclusive humanitarian mission is to help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In Papua New Guinea (PNG) we have been working since 2007 with offices in Port Moresby, Mount Hagen and Buka that enable us to respond to the needs of affected people. We work closely with communities, local authorities and local partners, such as the Papua New Guinea Red Cross (PNGRC). In the upper Highlands region of PNG, the ICRC is one of the main humanitarian organizations responding to the humanitarian needs of people affected by tribal violence, while in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, we strive to support the families of people who went missing during the conflict of 1988–1998.

Here are some highlights of our activities in 2024.

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, we:

- continued to support the Office of Missing Persons in Bougainville (OMP) with data collection and by providing training and other resources to respond to the needs of families of those who went missing from 1988–1998, during the Bougainville conflict. Among other things, some families of missing people received mental health and psychosocial support through this initiative
- launched the Tribal Fighting Module (TFM) in partnership with the Department of Education in Hela Province in the Highlands to equip secondary and high school teachers to teach their students about basic humanitarian rules and influence them in choosing alternatives to violence. This module is piloted in a few schools and will be replicated in Enga Province in 2025
- assisted survivors of sexual violence with accessing health services and initiated a cash voucher program in Enga Province to help cover the immediate needs of women and girls affected by sexual violence
- provided household items and shelter materials to communities affected by tribal violence in Wapenamanda District, Enga Province, to help them rebuild their lives
- promoted basic humanitarian principles, the importance of restraint, international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law through continuing dialogue and training sessions with security forces, fighters and affected communities, primarily in Enga Province.



### SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY BOUGAINVILLE CONFLICT

- Trained 14 counsellors with support from PNGRC to provide mental health and psychosocial support to more than 50 families of missing people in Bougainville
- Trained 18 PNGRC volunteers in collecting data related to missing people
- Facilitated peer-to-peer exchange between the OMPB and the Search Unit of Missing Persons of Colombia
- Provided the OMPB with equipment, training and technical support



### ASSISTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN ENGA

- Assisted 5,398 families displaced by tribal violence with emergency household items and shelter materials such as tarpaulins and tools
- Distributed cash vouchers in partnership with PNGRC to 455 survivors of sexual violence to aid their recovery
- Provided vital information on sexual violence and referral pathways to more than 500 women and girls



### PROMOTING BASIC HUMANITARIAN RULES AND PRINCIPLES

- Trained 329 PNG Defence Force and police personnel through 14 workshops and other engagements on international human rights law and international policing standards
- Raised awareness on respect for basic humanitarian principles among more than 12,000 people
- Engaged in discussions with 90 tribal fighters through workshops on restraint and protection and respect for non-fighters, women, children, the elderly and essential infrastructure
- Launched the TFM teachers' guide in 1 province, reaching 5 schools and more than 2,000 students





## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND FIRST AID

- Provided basic medical items to 2 health facilities to support emergency response to those affected by landslide and tribal violence in Enga Province
- Supported PNGRC in providing first-aid training to more than 700 people affected by tribal violence



Families affected by tribal violence receiving emergency household items and tools in Wapenamanda.



An engagement to support families of missing people in Arawa.

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