

EMERGENCY APPEAL: PAPUA NEW GUINEA EARTHQUAKE 26 Feb. 2018

Background

- Fatalities from the devastating 7.5 magnitude earthquake which affected large parts of the Highlands region on 26 February now exceed 100. This was the largest quake to hit the Highlands region in more than a century.
- While a State of Emergency was declared on 27 February, responders are still struggling to reach remote areas.
- Aerial assessments show significant damage and large landslides. Water is scarce in affected areas due to damage to storage facilities and water sources.
- The United Nations estimates up to 465,000 people have been affected and an estimated 247,000 people are likely to require immediate assistance.
- There have been dozens of aftershocks with the largest, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake hitting the same region yesterday (8 March) with media reporting further deaths.
- Another significant quake (6.8 magnitude) rocked eastern New Britain earlier this morning (9 March). However unlike the devastating Highlands quake, today's quake comes in an area known for seismic volatility. There are no reports of injury or severe damage.

Church Response to date

- Australia's Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) has launched an appeal and wants to raise AU\$50,000 for immediate humanitarian aid (food, water, shelter). ABM is working directly with the Anglican Church in PNG (which in turn is part of the Church Partnership Programme).
- The Church Partnership Programme in PNG has brought together members of the Anglican Church, the Baptist Union, the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist and the United Church. The United Church is establishing church-led response centres in Tari, Hela Province and Mendi – all in the Southern Highlands, in order to coordinate initial needs assessments and share church actions and to help ensure a coordinated church-based response and recovery effort.

Anglican Missions

- Given the severity of the earthquake, the number of fatalities, the fact that recovery and rebuilding will take years, the central role the church plays in PNG in responding to natural disasters and the strong history and level of partnership between the the Anglican Church of PNG and the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, we commend this Appeal to you.
- Anglican Missions will work closely with ABM and the Anglican Alliance to help ensure a collaborative and coordinated Anglican response and will provide updates via the Anglican Missions website.

Your prayers for the people of Papua New Guinea are very much appreciated. If you or your parish would like donate to this Appeal, please refer to our website. If you have any questions, please contact the Anglican Missions Office: email info@angmissions.org.nz or phone (04 473 5172).

9 March 2018

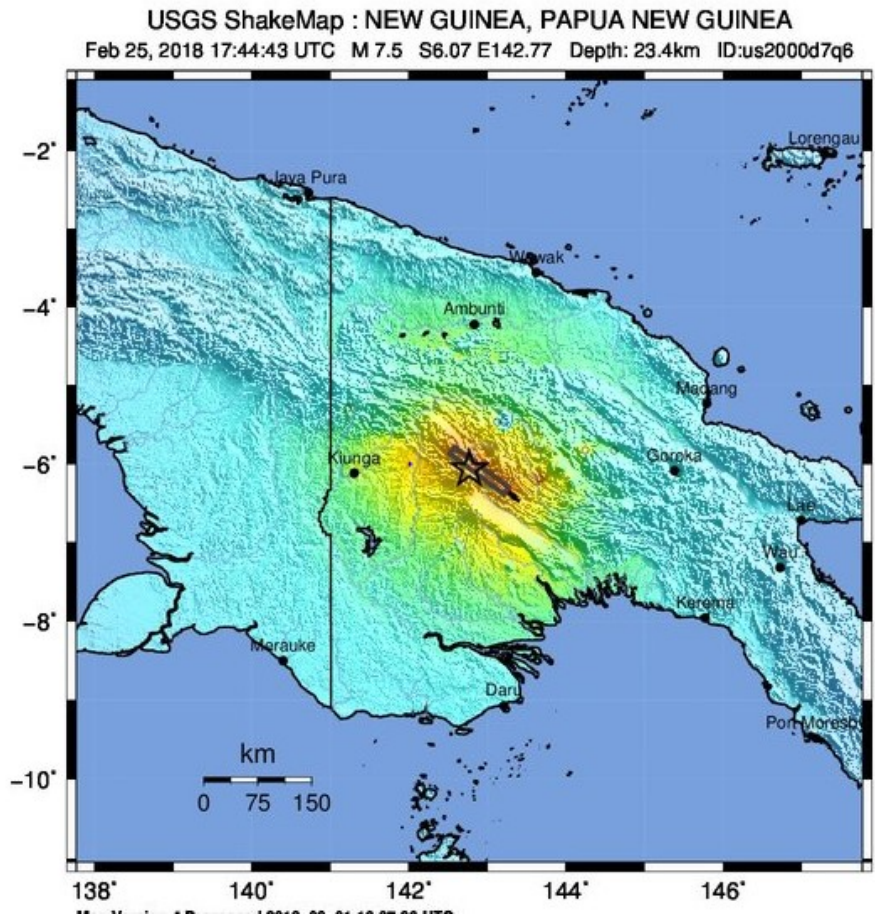


Fig 1: Earthquake 26 Feb. Location. *Source: ReliefWeb*



Fig 2: People in Southern Highlands waiting for the arrival of food. *Source HANDOUT/Reuters 8 March 2018*



Fig3. A man views a house that collapsed in Halagoli, Hela Province. *Source: 9 news, 8 March 2018*



Fig 4. Villagers clear a landslide by hand. *Source: Associated Press 8 March 2018*