PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REPORT - AUGUST 2015

TO: MR ALBERT TOKAWE – ELC-PNG GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY
FROM: MATRUS – SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR
SUBJECT: ELM NINO PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REPORT – AUG.2015
DATE: 3RD SEPTEMBER 2015
CC: ALL CHURCH OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Background
El Nino strike PNG in 1997/1998 which was believed the worse record to date, however the weather information has focus the weather outlook for August and September 2015 as not encouraging and they anticipate that the El Nino impact will carry into early 2016. Ok Tedi mine has shut down due to low water levels which limit the export of ore from the mine and agriculture production of the country is experiencing a down turn in production. Subsistence food crops output is on decline while the need for fresh water and food become more demand among the rural population in some region of the country.

2. Introduction
In 2015 El Nino has developed to a stage where action, preparation are of paramount to address the need of people and is threat to mankind. It has gone from strength to strength as early as June 2015 and has since the impact on people’s life in some parts of highlands required immediate response to protect life. It is estimated that more than 2 million people are immediately affected and immediate action is needed to counter the drought and frost impacted areas.

Affected areas:

2.1 Western Highlands – Tambul/Nibelia area
It was believed frost hit Tambul area causing distraction to food crops, Tambul has a previous record in 1972 when it was hit by frost. Tambul area is known for food crop production in the Western Highlands Provinces and are already facing food shortage. Post Courier 14 Aug. 2015, front page ...Attached

2.2 Southern/Hella Provinces- Ialibu, Pangia and some Parts of the two Provinces
Media reported that Southern and Hella Provinces have one High School closed. Un-confirmed reports indicated upper/lower Mendi and Allibua areas being affected by El Nino, food shortage and water resources are becoming scarce as dry spell take its cause.

2.3 Chimbu Province
Chimbu Province 400,000 population are already at risks by the impact of El Nino, the Province is without rain for more than 4 months and water and foot are becoming scarce. The Province has made an appeal to Nation Government for assistance from the National Disaster Office and are still waiting for the response from National Government
2.4 Madang Province
There has been some concerned rise in Madang by Authorities of the long dry spell, The Manam was declared an emergency after experiencing food shortage. The National Disaster has response with funding through Provincial Disaster Office.

2.5 Other Coaster Provinces
Morobe, Bougainville, and East New Britain has indicated some concerned of dry spell as a result of El Nino

ELC-PNG Upon receipt of the information through Media and confirmation through communication with own sources on ground decide to conduct a preliminary assessment towards the end of August 2015. ...Attachment Term of Reference

3. General Observation
3.1 The magnitude of the El Nino impact throughout the Highlands Region is a real threat to nearly 3 million lives. Water and Food crops are becoming scarce as Frosts and dry spell continue in most region.

3.2 The rural economy which supports the bulk of the majority people whom are mostly subsistence farmers and small holder’s agriculture traders are badly affected. Coffee and vegetables farmers will not see the return of production for a long time. PNG is well below its marketing quota in coffee export and it is expected that PNG will not reach that in 2015/2016 coffee financial year. The other agriculture commodities are facing the same, the live stock industry are experiencing the difficulties as dry spell continue.

3.3 The Government allocation of K25 million announced in the last week of August 2015, the funding has seen food and other relief supplies beginning to reached the Provinces in need.

3.4 Most Provinces in the Highlands have not fully recognized the importance of having proper Administrative body to address Disaster and Emergency need, they operate on a ad hoc basis and are getting themselves geared as the disaster strike to handle the situation.

3.5 Each Effected Provinces has set up their own Disaster Committee to facilitate relief distribution to the people in need.

3.6 Distribution of relief support to areas link by road is possible while the areas in remote where air lifting of relief supplies is already a difficult tasks for the remote Districts.

3.7 Relief supplies delivery from Lae departed on the 23rd on Aug. and have reached most of the destination by the following day. Stock pile of relief supply in the Provinces is still a concern as most don’t have proper ware house to keep stock. In Chimbu Lutheran Day School was forced to allow the Provincial Disaster Office the use of the hall for Stock piling as there was no other place.

3.8 Security of relief supplies may seem difficult at this stage, most Provinces are working out how to counter the situation. The involvement of Police are possible with some costs. Some have approached Chamber of Commerce and large resource developers to assist in providing security for relief distribution.

3.9 Eastern Highlands Provincial Administration is not in order, attempt to communicate with the Provincial Disaster Office in Goroka has been difficult since the outbreak of Typhoid in March 2015. The dispute in the Appointment of Provincial Administrator has caused disruption to the proper administrative structure of the Province.

3.10 There was no report of any epidemic outbreak as yet to date, there are some dead but not that direct from the impact and or the associate with the impact.

3.11 Seed storage supply areas in preparation for restoration seem very difficult, considering the fact that all the Highlands Provinces are affected by drought and frost. There is a need to find suitable areas where stock are kept in preparation for restoration. At the moment there is little available on ground but as drey spell continue in the next 2 months as predicted by the weather information Office there is little hope that there will be seeds for restoration and has to be brought in from elsewhere.
3.12 Fresh water supply issues are complex in nature and is very critical to solve, in places where there is water it is possible to boil prior to consumption but in those that there are no water may seem a difficult situation to content.

3.13 There are some differences between people in the Provinces and District administration in the coordination of relief supplies, this are the result of misunderstanding from various agencies and institutions responsible to deliver Government services.

3.14 Other development agencies such as Red Cross and other Development Agencies are already getting geared up to support are developing their plans and sourcing for support grants.

3.15 Other Churches have made an appeal to their Church followers to make donation in cash and kind for their church to support those in need/

4. **Recommendation**

4.1 The Church being partner to the Government in service delivery, the Church should immediately make an appeal to its members to support the *El Nino* appeal.

4.2 ELC-PNG is not a member of ACT (Action by Churches Together) therefore will not make an appeal to seek assistance to response to *El Nino* Disaster direct to ACT, but seek LCA's assistance to make an appeal to ACT.

4.3 The Administrative assistance to Kundiawa Disaster Office and Mt. Hagen Office to enable coordination is of urgent need, Kundiawa need Office materials while Hagen need furnitures and Office computer urgently to process and keep data.

4.4 ELC-PNG to assist the response through the Provincial Disaster of each Province by filling the gaps where and when needed with its limited resources. This is applicable during the time of relief respond.

4.5 ELC-PNG set up a National Disaster & Emergency Committee to direct activities of respond and to develop a restoration action plan in preparation for restoration.

4.6 The remaining balance of Disaster funds, K40,000 with the Project Office should be used as a starting point to response while the Church can raise additional funds to support at the later stage.

4.7 The Church Administration establish an administrative structure with a clear terms of reference to deal with 2015 *El Nino* response.

4.8 Continue Monitor relief response in each Province and identify gaps that the Church can fill during the emergency period as partners to the GoPNG.

4.9 The Church address the need of employees working in the effected areas separately from the Disaster function. Their need shall be the function of Finance /MSS arrangement.

5. **Morobe**

Lae city central has received some rain on a regular basis, other remote District have sent in reports of long dry spell as El Nino developed into a more advance stage. Morobe Disaster Office is well establish and are doing everything to contain the situation. They have tried to seek assistance from ELC-PNG for the field assessment but due to staff shortage and our involvement in the Highlands were not able to response to their requests. A report for Morobe has been filed to Port Moresby for further assistance for food, water and medical supplies.

5.1 **Garaina Area**

Garaina declared category 5 as loss of life occurred as a result of dehydration and hunger caused by the long dry spell. Morobe Disaster Office has deployed a team to site to assist the people and are delivering relief supplies there. Garaina is in the remote area of and is locate south of Lae on the Morobe/ Central Province border.

5.2 **Menyamya District**

Menyamya and Aseki are near category 4, both areas have a population of about 50,000 people. The long dry spell has an impact on their lively hood. Morobe Disaster has deployed a team to assist the District staff to site to assists. They are monitoring the ground situation and are reporting back to Lae on a regular basis.
6. Eastern Highlands

Since March 2015 when there was an outbreak of Typhoid in Asaroka and required awareness in all schools in Eastern Highlands the Disaster Office in Goroka was unable to come to some understanding to address the typhoid case. Attempt to get communication establish with the office was not possible. Mr Hinony Lapiso the Chairman of St John’s Congregation was given the task to continue checking the Office and get ELC-PNG to establish contact and work with them.

7. Chimbu Province

7.1 Overview
The drought started in early in May 2015 when it supposed to start in June on a regular weather cycle on the Province. The temperature changed to very hot during the day and very cold during the night causing harm to food crops and drinking water. Signs of frost occur in certain areas such as Gumini District resulting in damage to food crops. The Chimbu Province has a total population of about 440,000 estimated from the last census. It is estimated that about 45% of the population are among the youngest and oldest, whom are the most venerable. The situation in Chimbu is on category 4 and the authorities are monitoring closely as there is a possibility of frost striking Chimbu

7.2 Assessment
Assessment has not been done to the maximum to determine those affected in the most remote areas, there have been certain reports that most remote are rising the concern of the drought and there need to be more assessment done to verify. Chimbu is rugged and certain areas are very isolated and air lifting of the relief supplies still requirement. Need to locate a ware house in Goroka to assist as more airlifting will be out Goroka. The team deployed from National Disaster and Emergency Office in Port Moresby were still working on the field data.

7.3 Relief supplies
Stock piling became a problem as there are no storage facilities to hold stock and or lay down area to stock supplies in containers. Due to urgency we asked Lutheran Day school Management to allow the use of their recreation hall to stock pile in the hall. First load of food was stored there on the 24th Aug. 2014. More relief supplies are expected to arrive in the coming weeks when the Government allocated funds become available to the suppliers to release the goods. The security of relief supplies in the ware house is a concerned right now as the Provincial Disaster Office wants the school and ELC Simbu District to take responsibility. Security for relief supplies is a critical issue for us to resolve immediately.

7.4 Household Data
The Province is yet to conduct household data, from the assessment there seem to be no immediate arrangement to have this data in place at the council ward level to enable fair distribution to effected population. This task has been allocated to the LLG to conduct.

7.5 Coordination Office
Office space and meeting rooms for Disaster coordination in the Province is a concerned, 4 Officers have to work in a 20 square metres room which is already overcrowded. There is no room for meetings and attending to client needs. Refreshment facilities for staff to refresh themselves are not available to add to the water crises of the Kundiawa town.

7.6 Water Crises
Kundiawa water crises commenced early May 2015 when the Provincial Hospital announced that they will only attend to urgent case only. The entire township water supply system to date was not able to meet the entire town residence requiremnet. Water restriction has disrupted public sector service delivery. The Hospital to keep the emergency service in operation to meet emergency need has to pump and cart water from the nearby Chimbu River on a 24 hrs basis. The town population are accessing water for washing from the same river. Most rural people are either have to walk long distance to a nearby water source to fetch water for their need. Water situation in the Province is critical and there is a great need to distribute drinking water to the people in need.
7.7 General Coordination
There is an administrative mechanism in place to coordinate Disaster response, the authority body to direct response is not yet clear at this point of time. The visit to Kundinya and attempt to meet higher Authorities in this respect was not possible.

7.8 Outbreak of any related Epidemic to El Nino
There has been any reporting of any outbreak of any related epidemic, but there are some reports of people dying from natural means.

7.9 Fire risks
There have been some reports of fire causing damage to several household properties and some food crops. Fire warning issued by authorities to control fire as the risks is very high with temperature high and wind flowing at the speed of 10 to 20 knots in the middle of the day.

7.10 Category of Risks – Currently on 4
Chimbu Province is on Category 4 at the moment, they are still monitoring the situation and loss of life will determine the decoration of Category 5.

8. Jiwaka Province
In general Jiwaka area experienced long dry spell like any other Provinces but as not that immediate like other places. There are some reports of food shortage and demand for fresh water, during the time of field assessment there are some signs of need but the authorities are not organized as immediate. Attempt to have discussion with the Government authorities on the Disaster matter was not possible. To date I would rate it as Category 3

9. Western Highlands Province

9.1 Overview
The Frost hit Tambil and Niberia on the 1, Western Highlands the worse hit area by the long dry spell and frost located about 20 nautical miles north west of Mt Hagen township and stretches at the foot of Mt Giluwe to the south west. The immediate population in need in the area is about 60,000 people. A report was presented two weeks prior to field assessment and a team deploy to do investigation on need. NARI has based station in the area where it is regarded highly food production area. NARI assisted most of the assessment to forward a report to Port Moresby. The Prime Minister made a brief visit to site on the 25th of August 2015 before returning to Port Moresby where NEC made the decision to allocate K25 million to address the El Nino Disaster. Other Parts of Western Highlands report dry spell which are still on category 2/3 when Tambul and Niberia is on category 4, loss of life from dehydration and hunger will determine declaration of category 5.

9.2 Tambul/Niberia area
The Frost hit Tambul and Niberia area on the 11th – 14th August 2015 after a long dry spell, the frost destroyed almost every food garden, environment and cash crop that it hits. The area consists of 52 Ward Council and an estimated population of about 60,000 people. The first relief supplies arrived Tambul on the 24th Aug., a container of 1800 x 10 kg rice. The stock was put away pending additional supplies.

9.3 Meeting at Tambul
A Disaster and Emergency meeting was held to plan cause of action and to inform the Councilors their responsibilities during this emergency period. The meeting was chaired by the Council President for Mt Giluwe LLC Mr Michael Mew, the Education Minister in the PEC of Western Highlands who established the Emergency Committee for the area. Those present include; Mr James Papauk, the Deputy Administrator in the Western Highlands Administration and Chairman Provincial Disaster Committee, Mr Philip Koulsel, Chairman District Disaster Chairman 55 councilors and community leaders, all men and 6 women leaders, Mr William Kia Western Highlands Governor’s press officer and other Government Officers. The meeting met its objective to inform the community leaders on the updated information and a plan to do house hold survey by the councilors. The house hold data will establish the accurate amount of relief required per person and each families in every house hold. The Council and the community leaders were given data forms for their area to collect the data.

9.4 Distribution of relief supplies
Tambul Nibelia areas have all weather road network which makes distribution of relief from Tambul station to every villagers by road. Most remote location have easy access to the road and distribution expected to go by each ward council area. All supplies will go direct to the distribution center at Tambul and will not stock pile outside in Mt Hagen. Tambul has a warehouse that the food are now stockpile there.

9.5 Western Highlands Disaster & Emergency Coordination
The Western Highlands Disaster is coordinated within the Office of the Deputy Provincial Administrator, Mr. James Panaup, Provincial Disaster and Emergency Coordinator Mr. Robin Yakumb was only in the office in his second week after being appointed to the post. The Disaster coordination administration set up is still not in order as every activities and office function depend on the Deputy Administrators office functions. The Office is currently not equipped with essential Office equipment and office space to handle large scale response in this case. The communication and understanding between the Provincial and the District is good as indicated in the meeting of 26th August 2015.

9.6 Other Supporting Agencies
The Red Cross International has their Office set up in Mt Hagen to counter problem human displacement issue in Bougainville and other parts of Highlands where tribal fights are common. The approach made by Provincial Disaster Coordination confirmed that they would assists when the reports and requests for support are made through the Provincial Red Cross Office in Mt Hagen. Already Catholic Church through their development agency CARITAS has made an appeal among their Church members in Mt Hagen for donation in cash and kind to support the victims of 2015 El Nino. There could be more working for the same course in the Province.

9.7 Immediate Assistance
The assistance is needed immediately to equip the Provincial Disaster Office Administration to coordinate disaster in the Province.

10. Southern Highlands Province
Southern Highlands has a population of about 300,000 who survive mostly on subsistence farming. Western part of the Province experience long dry spell while the eastern part sharing the border with Western Highlands and neighboring to Tambul and Nibelia has suffered from dry spell and frost. Ialibu, Pangia, Kagua and Erave have experienced dry spell and frost similar to what have experience in Western Highlands Province. The Provincial Deputy Governor Mr James Mall was appointed the Chairman of the Provincial Disaster Committee while the Deputy Administrator Mr Hendry Apen is currently coordinating. The appointed field coordinator was out of office on the time of visit to the Province.

10.1 Relief Supplies
The first batch of food arrive on site on the 24th of August and stored away pending additional food to arrive. This first batch was from the previous National Government allocation of K5 million. The Coordination center was collecting quote and negotiating with several suppliers in Mt Hagen to supply and deliver rice with the Provincial Government grant. It is anticipated that by September first week payment will be done and by the second week of September the food shall reach the population in need.

10.2 Relief supply distribution
The Province has allocate the task to the Districts and LLG’s to participate in the distribution of relief supply, the Provincial body will assist where possible and has the responsibility to ensure relief supply get to their destination for distribution. The Provincial Government and the Provincial Disaster Coordination has reserve portion of the K2 million for freight of relief supplies.

10.3 Security Issues
Security issues in protecting relief supplies from theft loss through other means is a prime concern as raised in the meeting in Mendi. The districts were allowed to reserve a portion of K350,000-00 allocated through the Provincial grant to cater for security purposes on freight and on the time of distribution. Were informed from the meeting that Provincial Administration will work with Oil Search to assist with their security.

10.4 Disaster Meeting in Mendi – 27th Aug. 2015
10.4 Disaster Meeting in Mendi – 27th Aug. 2015
Held the first introductory meeting between Mr. Hendry the Deputy Administrator, Re. Moses Koyamu, the
Immanuel District President at the Provincial head Quarters. The second meeting was with the LLG president
from Erawe and Kagua Districts to sort out their arrangement for relief supplies and method of distribution.
The two districts Administration are currently under suspension and bank account frozen pending
investigation. Those at the meeting include; Mr Hendry D/administrator, Mr James Mali Provincial Disaster
Chairman/Deputy Governor, Provincial Women leader in the PEC, and 4 male counterpart, Rev. Koyamu and
ELC-PNG rep

11. Enga Province/ Hela Province
There are confirmed reports of Long Dry spell in the two provinces, National Disaster and Emergency Office has
deployed assessment team to site and I believed report is sent to Port Moresby seeking National Government support.
Due to time, and man power constraints the two provinces has not been covered

12. Other Areas/Provinces
Madang, New Ireland, North Solomon and East New Britain have also raise concerns of long dry spell

13. Attachments
13.1 Terms of Reference El Nino 2015
13.2 Contacts, National & Affected Provinces
13.3 Mission Statement, ELC-PNG & ACT
13.4 Media reports
13.5 Proposed Budget
Terms of Reference for 2015 El Nino Assessment

1. Liaise with Provinces/Provincial Disaster Office of the El Nino affected provinces and obtained detail Disaster & Emergency report of their province from them.

2. Where necessary conduct assessment on ground and furnish assessment report to respective Disaster Office in the Province to the Church Administration.

3. Establish net work with Government, other Churches, Development Agencies and the LLG’s of concerned areas. For the combine coordinated effort.

4. Coordinate field Disaster and Emergency assessment and supervise reporting of field information.

5. Regular contact with the Provinces concerned and the Church Admin. Re. emergency responses.

6. Reporting to the General Church Secretary/ Church Admin and furnish SITREP on a regular basis.

7. Upon full completion of the El Nino Disaster and Emergency furnish final report to the Church Administration
CONTACT

Morobe Disaster & Emergency/Lae
P.O.Box 1294
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MP.
Phone: 472 7700 - Director (24 hrs)
472 7711 - General
Fax: 472 7707

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ELC-PNG Contact 71415527 /Mr Himony Lapiso, Chairman St John’s

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Ph: 795 03739 Mr James Maili, Deputy Governor/ Chairman P/Disaster Com.
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ELC-PNG Contact 713 80662 /Pr. Moses Koyamu
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Evangelical Lutheran Church
Of
Papua New Guinea
Disaster Management Committee (DMC)

Mission Statement

ELC-PNG – DMC is an entity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea to meet the human needs through coordinated emergency and disaster response and common identity.

As ELC-PNG we understand that emergency response through humanitarian assistance includes rehabilitation, prevention and capacity building. Within this context we are concerned with peace and reconciliation, advocacy and communication. In the Spirit of Christian Service we offer assistance regardless of race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnic origin or political persuasion.

The DMC has been established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea in order to arrange for the implementation of disaster management to operate before, during and after disaster & emergency occurs.

As members of ELC-PNG we are called to a common witness and task. Accountable to God and to one another we accept and commit ourselves to these principles which shape our relationship to one another;

- We believe the church is called to embody God’s gracious love through Jesus Christ in a wounded world and therefore has respond to human need and suffering

- We believe this witness of the whole church is more clearly understood by ourselves and communicated to the world when we work together as one body of Christ. We believe we are given a privileged responsibility to wisely use and care for limited human, financial and environmental resources.

- We believe God has blessed us with a variety of gifts, which we seek to model a vision of restored human community which we believe is God’s intention for his creation.

- We do not work alone. We value the gifts of all people of good will and seek to work collegially the entire community

- We are concerned that our emergency & disaster response maximize the strengths of affected communities.

- We respect their cultures and faiths and do every effort to strengthen or restore their dignity.

- We seek to learn the lessons of emergencies, sharing our knowledge for the purpose of furthering efforts for peace and reconciliation.
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Disaster Management Committee

PRINCIPLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT AND NGO'S IN DISASTER RELIEF

- The humanitarian imperative comes first.
- Aid is given regardless of race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.
- Aid will not be used for further a particular political or religious standpoint.
- We shall endeavor not to act as instruments of government foreign policy.
- We shall respect culture and custom.
- We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
- Ways shall be found to involve programmed beneficiaries in the management of relief aid.
- Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs.
- We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources.
- In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognize disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects.

* All above Principles have been adopted by ELC-PNG-DMC

Note: This text refers to ACT Principles (1995) and the International Red Cross Principles of conduct.
ACT MISSION STATEMENT

ACTION BY CHURCHES TOGETHER (ACT) is a worldwide network of churches and their related agencies meeting human need through coordinated emergency response and common identity.

As members of ACT we understand that emergency response through humanitarian assistance includes prevention and capacity building. Within this context we are concerned with peace and reconciliation, advocacy and communication. In the spirit of Christian service we offer assistance regardless of race, gender, belief, nationality, ethnic origin or political persuasion.

The ACT network is organizationally based in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) and will be a coordinating rather than an operational office.

As members of ACT we are called to a common witness and task. Accountable to God and to one another we accept and commit ourselves to these principles which shape our work and our relationship to one another:

* We believe the church is called to embody God's gracious love through Jesus Christ in a wounded world and therefore has to respond to human need and suffering.
* We believe this witness of the whole church is more clearly understood by ourselves and communicated to the world when we work together as members of one body of Christ.
* We believe we are given a privileged responsibility to wisely use and care for limited human, financial and environmental resources.
* We believe God has blessed us with a variety of gifts which we can best use by complementing and supporting the strength of one another.
* Through our cooperative presence in situations of human suffering we seek to model a vision of restored human community which we believe is God's intention for the human family.
* We do not work alone. We value the gifts of all people of good will and seek to work collegially in the international community.
* We are concerned that our emergency response maximize the strengths of affected communities and respect other cultures and faiths.
* We seek to learn the lessons of emergencies, sharing our knowledge for the purpose of furthering efforts for peace and reconciliation.

September 1995

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ACT is a worldwide network of churches and related agencies meeting human need through coordinated emergency response. The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.
SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES
OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The Emergency Committee will develop policies and criteria to ensure the most effective response possible to emergencies by the ecumenical family. The policies and criteria will include those for:

1. continuous monitoring in collaboration with partners of disaster-prone areas and impending human-made emergencies;

2. the gathering, analysis and dissemination of adequate information on emergencies, where necessary coordinating rapid assessment by members of the network;

3. timely, proactive and holistic response to emergencies, including the issue of appeals (after adequate assessment of funding and implementation possibilities) and, where appropriate, initiatives in peace and reconciliation, and in advocacy;

4) identification of channels of implementation, in full recognition of the role of local partners, including the churches;

5) investment in capacity building and emergency preparedness among implementing partners.

6) the development of models for the co-ordination of response to complex emergencies;

7) the development of an understanding of ecumenical discipline and appropriate codes of conduct;

8) monitoring, reporting, accountability (including financial accountability) and evaluation;

9) the development of appropriate communications as an intrinsic part of all activity for humanitarian assistance, peace and reconciliation and advocacy;

10) the use of the ACT name and Logo;

11) co-operation with other bodies both within the ecumenical family and with other networks and institutions involved in emergency response, including contacts with intergovernmental bodies such as the UN and the EU;

12) smooth transition from emergency assistance to support for rehabilitation and development.

September 1995

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ACT is a worldwide network of churches and related agencies meeting human need through coordinated emergency response. The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.
FUNCTIONING OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

1. The Emergency Committee will comprise member churches, agencies and implementing partners related to the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) which plan an active role in ecumenical emergency response. The membership will not exceed 30 and will be drawn from all regions of the world. The membership will also include four members, two each appointed by the WCC/Unit IV Commission and the LWF Council, selected with due account to the inclusion of Southerners partners, to ensure accountability to the WCC and LWF. The Directors of Unit IV and LWS, or their nominees, will be members.

2. The Emergency Committee will meet at least once per year to set policies within the scope of its responsibilities.

3. The Emergency Committee will receive and adopt an annual report reviewing the response of the ecumenical family to current emergencies and proposing proactive initiatives in relation to impending emergencies. This report will be submitted to the WCC Unit IV Commission and the LWF World Service Programme Committee/Council.

4. The Emergency Committee will elect from its membership two co-moderators drawn respectively from WCC and LWF member churches, related agencies and implementing partners. There will be an Executive Committee of six persons comprising the two co-moderators, the two Directors, one of the members appointed by the WCC/Unit IV Commission and one of the members appointed by the LWF Council. Appropriate expertise and constant accessibility will be two key criteria for Executive Committee membership.

5. The Executive Committee will exercise full responsibility for policy decisions between meetings of the Emergency Committee, including the review of particular emergencies and the taking of decisions to issue appeals. There will be a single appeal mechanism. The Executive Committee will be consulted regarding the hiring of the executive staff for ACT.

6. The Executive Committee will meet not less than twice per ear. It will expect to make many decisions on individual emergencies by telecommunication between meetings. The accessibility of members is crucial to the functioning of the Executive Committee and members will undertake to indicate how they can be contacted at any time.

7. Regional ecumenical organizations may be invited to meetings of the Emergency Committee or the Executive Committee, as appropriate.

September 1995
EL Nino strikes

The impact of EL Nino has fully developed and it is now being felt in many parts of the country.

The PNG National Weather Service, in its Seasonal Climate outlook for the months of August and September 2015 stated that the EL Nino event will continue into 2016 and might surpassed the 1997/1998 EL Nino event. The forecast stated that, in Chimbu Province, there was no rainfall received apart from a few isolated showers. Goroka, the Eastern Highlands Province, is also experiencing dry spells.

East New Britain Province is also showing concern as it is slowly feeling the impact of this weather phenomenon. Ok Tedi mining in the Western Province has already scaled down its operations and won’t be reopened until early 2016. In Port Moresby the dryness is also evident with high temperatures during the day and cooler night time temperatures are signatures of an EL Nino setting.

In the Western Highlands Province, frost has affected one of its rich agriculture districts, the Tambul area (pictured). According to the seasonal Climate outlook forecast, all EL Nino events are different and their strength does not necessarily indicate the kind of impact it will have on the country. “From past experienced, we are aware that the 1997/1998 EL Nino event was the strongest on record. However, this EL Nino event is quite unique. The manner in which it is developing and strengthening has the potential of surpassing the 1997/1998 EL Nino event. If this is going to happen, then the worst case scenario is that the whole country will be drastically affected”, It stated.

EL Nino events, once developed, tend to take more than 6 months before it dissipates. It is therefore very crucial that serious awareness and preparation should start immediately now so that we alleviate ourselves from the harmful effects.

It recommended that the experiences and lessons learnt from the 1997/1998 EL Nino event should be our guide to prepare ourselves for this natural climate variability.
We can learn from past disasters

As we face the current crisis, it is important to learn from past disasters. The 1997-1998 El Niño event in the Philippines was a severe drought that affected millions of people. Lessons from that experience can help us prepare for and respond to future disasters.

In the past, relief efforts were often slow and limited. Agencies struggled to get supplies to affected areas. The government had to rely on international aid to respond effectively.

However, over time, there have been improvements in disaster management. For example, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council was established in 2009 to enhance disaster preparedness and response. The council coordinates efforts of various agencies to ensure a faster and more effective response.

It is crucial to have a comprehensive early warning system to detect and respond to disasters promptly. This involves gathering data on potential hazards, assessing risks, and planning responses.

In addition, we need to strengthen the capacity of local communities to cope with disasters. This includes improving infrastructure, capacity building for first responders, and enhancing community resilience.

Moreover, it is essential to ensure that humanitarian aid is provided in a timely manner. This requires robust logistics and supply chains to deliver aid to the affected areas.

In conclusion, facing and responding to disasters is a continuous learning process. By analyzing past experiences, we can improve our strategies and ensure that we are better prepared for future challenges.
K5m released for relief

THE Government has released K5 million to get the disaster relief assistance effort rolling.

Chief Secretary Sir Manasupe Zurennou said the money was released by Treasury yesterday after an urgent request by the National Disaster Centre.

A National Disaster Committee meeting today will set a budget to be presented to the Government for funding.

"The K5 million is the initial amount we need for the assessment teams to start travelling to affected areas as soon as possible," Sir Manasupe told The National.

"We also need to supply Tambul in Western Highlands, and Gembogol in Chimbu, two areas that have been badly affected. "We need to put a proper plan in place after the National Disaster Committee meeting. After the meeting, we'll do up a budget for the long term."

"We don't know how much money we'll need. "We need all the stakeholders to come in with their estimated budgets."

"We'll put it all together and pass it on to Treasury." Most provinces in the highlands region have reported widespread devastation to food gardens by the frost and drought.

National Disaster Centre acting director Martin Mosi said yesterday there was no funding to deal with the natural disaster hitting parts of the country.

Fish ponds drying up in Southern Highlands

A BIG fish pond at Tepe village in Imbonggu district, which supplies fingerlings to fish farmers in Southern Highlands, has dried up.

Owner Varaus Clement is praying that it will rain soon. He has been working with the provincial agriculture and livestock department in providing fingerlings to farmers.

"I am praying for rain. I depend on this fish farm for my survival and cannot lose everything," he said.

"It is really sad to see the fish dying."

Provincial agriculture and livestock adviser Kenneth Kulinj Teap sent out officers to the districts to assess the situation and compile a report to be presented to the provincial disaster and emergency centre.

The provincial government has sent a team to assess the situation in the five districts and has allocated K2 million to the disaster affected areas.

NARI to help drought victims

THE National Agriculture Research Institute will help people deal with the current drought, according to director-general Dr Sergie Bang.

He briefed Chief Secretary Sir Manasupe Zurennou yesterday on the plan which will be published in The National's NARI Focus column from next week.

"We are now in the middle of a drought situation," he said.
Proposed Budget

Note: The proposed budget is not based on need directly but is design to generate fund raising and direct planning based on regular reports coming from the effected area. The Government of PNG has approved K25 million which most relief will come through from the Government funding. We need funds for monitoring and where possible engaged our staff to the field in areas need and agriculture extension officers for restoration purpuses.

1. Immediately
   1.1 Need Assessment & Monitoring                              K 15,000-00
   1.2 Food Distribution, logistics & security Support to Provinces K 40,000-00
   1.3 Stand by relief /medical/Water/food ..etc                  K 35,000-00
   Sub total                                                      K 85,000-00

   2.1 Admin/Monitoring & Committee expenses                     K 20,000-00
   2.2 Relief support/medical/Food etc..                         K 100,000-00
   2.3 Restoration Program                                       K 25,000-00
   Sub total                                                      K 145,000-00

3. 2016 Jan-March
   3.1 Admin/Monitoring                                         K 25,000-00
   3.2 Relief support                                            K 50,000-00
   3.3 Restoration Program                                      K 50,000-00
   Sub total                                                      K 125,000-00

4. April 2015 onwards
   4.1 Admin/Monitoring                                         K 20,000-00
   4.2 Restoration Program                                      K 50,000-00
   4.3 Audit/Finance                                             K 8,000-00
   Sub total                                                      K 78,000-00

Grand total                                                   K 423,000-00