

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERT (Senior Technical Adviser)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UN Environment /OCHA Joint Unit¹

An earthquake measuring M7.5 occurred in Papua New Guinea on 26 Feb 2018 at 0344hrs (PNG)/ 25 Feb 1744hrs (UTC) in Southern Highlands north of Mount Bosavi just east of the border with Western Province. The epicentre is approximately located in Nipa-Kutubu district, Southern Highlands province. This area contains a dispersed population living in remote/rural communities with no major urban areas within the immediate vicinity. Landslides triggered from the earthquake have occurred and there is risk of flash floods. Oil Search's production facilities in the highlands have been shut down. Exxon Mobile LNG pipeline also runs in the vicinity of the epicenter in Hides and has been shut down. Miners Barrick Gold Corp and Ok Tedi Mine carrying copper concentrate reported damage to infrastructure.

Responsibilities

- Work with national and international emergency responders to address acute life-threatening situations derived from land- and mudslides, as well as any potential flash floods, triggered by the earthquake, under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator;
- Provide advice on possible sampling & analysis needs and required equipment;
- Monitor communication of results to appropriate authorities, including providing follow-up recommendations (immediate and longer term);
- Identify any outstanding expertise or equipment needs to address any immediate risks and impacts to humans and the (aquatic) environment;
- Support the transition from relief to recovery, by advising responsible actors at national and international level (Government and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)) of issues such as further sampling and analysis, continued water quality monitoring, water management and flood risk management (immediate and long-term).

Expected Actions

- Support relevant agencies to consolidate identified steps and provide recommendations to the national and local authorities and the UN Resident Coordinator (or equivalent) to minimize and/or mitigate secondary impacts and promote the integration of appropriate actions into the overall disaster response strategy;
- Advise on possible development of a sampling plan, identification of an appropriate laboratory for conducting analysis and steps needed for the interpretation of analysis results;
- Communicate rapidly and regularly all findings to national authorities, as well as the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit, emphasizing the possible need for additional specialized expertise and/or additional equipment as required;

¹ For more information on the Unit: <http://ochaonline.un.org/ochaunep>

- Identify, where applicable, pre-existing contributing environmental factors contributing to the water pollution (e.g. chemical pollution/composition, aquatic diseases, deforestation, lack of prevention and preparedness).

Note: Contact with media, including interviews, will only be undertaken with consent of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Education and work experience

- Solid background in hazardous waste water management, water quality monitoring, geohydrology, or a combination thereof;
- Familiarity with identifying chemical risks in a disasters and emergency context;
- Ability to distinguish immediate response actions from medium to long-term mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities;
- Familiarity with management of operational support functions including telecommunications, logistics and basic field security;
- Ability to coordinate with international and local agencies involved in disaster response;
- Ability to rapidly assess basic needs and local capacities;
- High motivation, coupled with an ability to improvise effectively in rapidly changing situations with minimal guidance and support;
- Team skills required for working in a multi-disciplinary, multi-national team in field conditions of hardship with an ability to assume authority as and when needed;
- Availability for short-notice mobilization (within 6 to 48 hours) and must be able to stay in the field for up to 4 weeks;
- Availability for additional follow-up, collaboration and editing of mission report after the official mission deadline, if required
- Knowledge of MS Windows and MS Office and ability to operate standard IT and communications equipment.
- Knowledge of English is essential.

Contacts

- Tomas Declercq
UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit
Email: declercq2@un.org
Mobile: +41 76 570 88 67
- Margherita Fanchiotti
UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit
Email: fanchiotti@un.org
Mobile: +41 76 691 08 59
- Dawit Yared
UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit
Email: yared1@un.org
Mobile: +41 79 509 05 80