

Call for inputs internal displacement in the context of the slow-onset adverse effects of climate change Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons Deadline: 17 June 2020

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A. Background

The Migrants and Refugees (M&R) section was established by the Catholic Church in 2019 following an Annual General Meeting (AGM) resolution. The M&R section is dedicated to dealing with migrants and refugees/asylum seeker or displacement issues in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Island (PNGSI). At the moment, in PNG it focuses on the West Papua, the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre (MIRPC) group and any spontaneous arrivals in the country. It also deals with internally displaced people (IDPs) and the victims of human trafficking and smuggling under the broader supervision of Caritas PNG (CPNG). Currently there are more than 18,000 displaced people in Papua New Guinea.

Manmade and natural disasters contributed displacement to West Papuans. Since 1960s to present 2020 more than 10,000 (Data Base 1990) West Papuans have fled from persecution in West Papua and lived in PNG as stateless persons without proper legal documents as durable solutions. Some West Papua Refugees would obtain the legal documents after living in PNG for more than 8 years to 49 years. Since 1984 during the massive influx of West Papuans into PNG, the Catholic Church has been actively supporting and advocating for them, mainly on humanitarian matters. CPNG is currently supporting a family who has spontaneously arrived from West Papua, escaping from persecution and torture by the Indonesia Military. Towards the end of 2019, 145 of West Papuans crossed over to Western Province of PNG and were looked after by the Catholic Diocese of Daru – Kiunga, CPNG and the local communities. Massive deforestation in West Papua contributed significant displacement, massive forest destruction and disasters, and great impacted on the climate change by giant companies for instance mining company (Freeport McMoran Gold Mining, Rio Tinto Company, British Petroleum Company, etcetera), palm oil company (KORINDO company, etcetera). As a direct consequence of the corona virus situation in the country, more than 10 000 people lost their jobs, including West Papuan Refugees. Most of them live in designated, but underdeveloped sections of the Port Moresby city known as camps. The main West Papuan camps in Port Moresby include Hohola, Rainbow and Waigani. Food security was definitely a major issue, but also small business activities which most people are engaged in have also been greatly affected before, during and after COVID 19 & the impact of State of Emergency (SOE) implementation. While the situation inside West Papua there is unresolved IDPs caused by natural disaster in 2019 and present there is ongoing project armed conflict by Indonesia which significantly contributed to the IDPs towards West Papuans.

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in PNG are still remained as unresolved issues to present 2020. The IDPs for Manam and Cartered Islands still become the main homework to Government of PNG. Tribal fighting in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea also displaced a lot of people, and on small and random cases women have become displaced as result of sorcery attacks. According to a report by International Organization for Migration (IOM) PNG, there were 8,041 IDPs individuals across PNG in 2019. One of the recent reports stated that heavy rain and flooding has displaced more than 700 people in Chimbu province where homes and gardens have been destroyed. Some issues of IDPs remain as unresolved and many still live in care centres, as in the case of the Manam Islanders. There is still no durable solution for them for about 15 years since they evacuated their island in 2005. PNG must immediately step-up their measures to protect more than eight thousand (8,000) internally displaced persons from the threat of COVID-19. IDPs are at significant risk of spread of COVID-19 due to limited access to proper information, awareness, water, food security, hygiene, sanitation, adequate shelter, lack or nil healthcare, even sometime discrimination. IDPs are one of the most vulnerable clusters that should be prioritized by the PNG government in their response to the threat of COVID 19.

COVID-19 virus is impacting communities worldwide, disrupting state functions, economic activities, and livelihood options, as well as family and social networks, including in areas already impacted by crisis prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. As livelihood options are impacted there is increased pressure on families to maintain their wellbeing and food rations. Many people, especially women and girls, including migrants and asylum seekers may be forced into trafficking activities to make ends meet during this difficult time. Human trafficking activities in PNG has been existing almost unreported, involving both local and foreign nationals. In January 2020 CPNG made a press statements on the plight 8 (eight) Chinese women as victims of Human Trafficking in Port Moresby. According to the local media, the eight Chinese women entered Port Moresby with fraudulent visas organized by their sponsors. CPNG will continue to advocate against human trafficking and would seek to support those who become victims of such schemes.

INPUTS

Several observations on refugee migrant populations suggest that they need support for the following areas, to get themselves out of the situation including caused by corona virus.

1. Clear policies for the protection and legal documents process to vulnerable people which displaced
2. Business activities; Reselling, Farming, Fisheries, Catering Houses, Poultry and other businesses
3. Empowering Women (Mothers and Young Women) to various training centers
4. Awareness and prevention against COVID 19 and improve the immune system of the body to Refugees/Asylum seekers, IDPs & Human Trafficking.
5. Women Leadership; organize themselves as the representative in every aspects.
6. Equality; discrimination free zone
7. Ongoing advocacy to the vulnerable people as part of durable solutions: Refugees Rights (Clear Status, Local Integration, third Country Resettlements, complementary pathways, Social Welfare, Education & Training, Health etc.), IDPs, victims of Human Trafficking, and other relevant issues of Integral Human development (IHD).
8. Funding for emergency response of refugees/asylum seekers, IDPs, human trafficking in PNGSI. Several necessities fields based on the observation; ultimate freedom as independence

nation for West Papua to end the human rights violation and displacements, Education from elementary to university, medical access, livelihood, protection, housing/shelter, Early recovery response, etcetera.

9. Continue assist and support the capacity building for the spontaneous arrivals, asylum seekers, refugees, IDPs, human trafficking survivors as vulnerable groups
10. Support any refugee who wished to build their lives and settle in PNG.
11. Facilitate reunification of refugee families both in PNG and outside.
12. Facilitate resettlement of refugees in a third country through networking and advocacy.
13. Collect census data of all West Papuan refugees and asylum seekers in PNG through PNG Immigration, IOM and the National Statistics Office.
14. Collect census data for all IDPs through the National Disaster Office and respective provincial governments.
15. Initiate community integration project for the refugees, IDPs and human trafficking survivors
16. Scholarships/school support for regular education from primary to universities for refugees & IDPs
17. Business activities for vulnerable people especially refugees and IDPs; Reselling, Farming, Fisheries, Catering Houses, Poultry and other businesses
18. Produce Information, Education & Communication (IEC) to each public and private sectors in PNGSI
19. Baseline studies, valid data base and research of vulnerable people in PNG to be conduct with government stakeholder in PNGSI.
20. Social activities for refugees and IDPs
21. Welfare support to spontaneous arrival from West Papua temporary for Western Province and Port Moresby
22. General advocacy for migrants, refugees, IDPs, seafarers, and victim/survivor of human trafficking.
23. Advocacy at the highest/top level to vulnerable people in PNGSI;
 1. To end massive prolong suffering of West Papuans in exiles especially in PNGSI and other countries, PNGSI government to change the foreign policy over West Papua (Legal rights).
 2. Build shelter/housing for the refugees & IDPs across PNGSI probably start with PNG borders and Port Moresby.
 3. Advocate to the UN to solve the case of West Papua and rectify New York agreement 15th August 1962, Rome Agreement. they need the unresolved basic matters to be resolve by UN include Ultimate Freedom, education, land/shelter, health services, and etcetera
 4. Ultimate independence for West Papua as sovereign nation to end the ongoing human rights violation and refugees in PNGSI, include end the massive deforestation in West Papua
 5. Indonesia government to lift up all blockade access (foreigners, foreign diplomats, local/foreign journalist, human rights watch, ICRC, UN, even Etcetera) and stop military operation in West Papua.
 6. Peace talk to solve the crisis in West Papua preferable outside of Indonesia and mediated by UN, the Pacific Leaders, ASEAN Leaders and religious leaders as witness.

7. Urge World Bank and International Monetary Funds (IMF) to stop funding assistance for Indonesia, due misused the funds to murder West Papuans
8. Significant need the involvement of both governments PNGSI and UN to do more assistance support on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, IDPs in PNG.
9. Stop foreign companies that still operating in West Papua and PNGSI that triggered climate change & disasters by their massive illegal activities which contributed to massive destruction to our common home (Example; Illegal logging and mining/seabed mining).
10. PNGSI to provide citizenship to refugees/asylum seekers and stateless
11. PNGSI to allocate land & shelter permanently for refugees (West Papuans in Port Moresby), IDPs, and across PNGSI in future.
12. PNG to meaningfully engage with NZ as a third country option for refugees/asylum seekers

CONCLUSION

The ongoing manmade and natural disasters include SOE on COVID19 has made significant impacts on the lives of the people, including aspects of their health, psychology, social, economic, education, movements, food security, welfare, information and communication. West Papua Refugees and other refugees in PNG, IDPs, human trafficking are issues that will not go away in the Pacific Region especially in PNG and SI. Therefore, as vulnerable people and receiving little government support, they place their hope on the Catholic Church across the globe through its institutions which assist them in short, medium and longer term. Mostly the West Papuan Refugees and asylum seekers arriving randomly in PNG are still in need of protection status with proper legal documents and livelihood empowerment of economic, health, education, and commercial assistance to successfully integrate into PNG communities.

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