

TT 2.1B: Pan Island SitRep (Scenario B: Flooding)

Key priorities

- Two weeks of heavy monsoon rainfall have caused three landslides and severe flooding.
- They have killed at least 508 people. Around 5,000 people have been affected. These numbers will probably increase.
- Heavy rain is expected to continue. There may be more mudslides and landslides.
- Initial assessment suggests the main needs are food, shelter and non-food items.

Background

The island of Pan is in the Atlantic Ocean. It is a low-income country, and heavy monsoon rainfall often causes extreme flooding. The country's main economic activity is farming. Many families also get important income from illegal logging in the areas around the capital, Rad. This has increased the risk of landslides and mudslides during the wet season.

You expect that the month-long rainy season will start next month. Informal settlements are very vulnerable to flooding and mudslides. A lot of people have been displaced in recent years. Communities living on the coast often live in areas with hazards. For example, many people live in houses built on "banked" land reclaimed from the sea. This makes them vulnerable to flooding.

Pan society is divided strictly according to social status and gender. It is difficult for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to get information from and about vulnerable groups. This makes it difficult to provide the right help for people. Cellphone coverage is very high, but few women own a phone.

Your disaster risk reduction (DRR) organization is well known in Pan. It has worked there for 15 years and has well-established partnerships in the country, especially with regional and national governments.

Situation overview

Two weeks of heavy rain have caused three major landslides around Rad. Heavy rains are expected to continue for the next 24 hours. The number of deaths has reached 508. At least 5,000 people have been affected. There is a lot of damage, but only in certain places. In areas that are vulnerable to floods, several roads are blocked by fallen trees. There are increasing numbers of reports of flash floods and mudslides that could be deadly.

The government is leading a major emergency rescue, evacuation and response operation in Coastal Zones 1 and 2 of Rad.

People were evacuated before the flooding. Around 3,000 vulnerable people living near the sea were moved to evacuation centers. However, some groups (including people with disabilities and older people) did not receive information about the evacuation procedures beforehand, and it was difficult for some to follow the procedures without help. Many are stranded. Agencies have not yet reached them with assistance.

Early warning alerts did not reach some areas near Rad because cellphone towers were flooded. Many people were surprised by the landslides. They did not leave or have access to emergency shelters or supplies. Many have lost their identity documents.

The Pan Red Cross says the main needs are food, water and non-food items (including clothing, blankets and lights). Rapid needs assessments will collect more information. Reaching affected locations is difficult. There are reports of displaced people (IDPs) living in schools and churches. Many are staying with family and friends in nearby villages.

Security was good before the flooding. However, in the last few days, there have been many reports of looting. There has been a security problem with a lorry delivering NGO assistance.

Humanitarian response

The immediate needs are shelter, food and non-food items. Other agencies are already giving people non-food items and food. The largest gap is shelter. Host families are struggling themselves and may not be able to help the displaced people for long.

Your disaster risk reduction (DRR) organization is partnering with an international NGO. This NGO is giving shelter assistance and managing evacuation centers. You will support the shelter response because of your organization's local knowledge and networks. Another part of the response will involve working with the community on disaster preparedness actions because people are worried about flash floods and landslides.