

Dandan Care Centre, East Sepik Province

23 January 2018



Internally displaced persons in Dandan Care Centre. © Peter Murerera/ UN Migration Agency (IOM)



Situation Overview

Following a volcano eruption on Kadovar Island on the 5th of January 2018, Kadovar islanders were temporarily evacuated to safety on Ruprup Island before their relocation to Dandan care centre¹ between 14th and 16th January. On the 17th and 20th January, an assessment team comprising state and non-state actors visited the Dandan care centre to assess the situation of the Kadovar internally

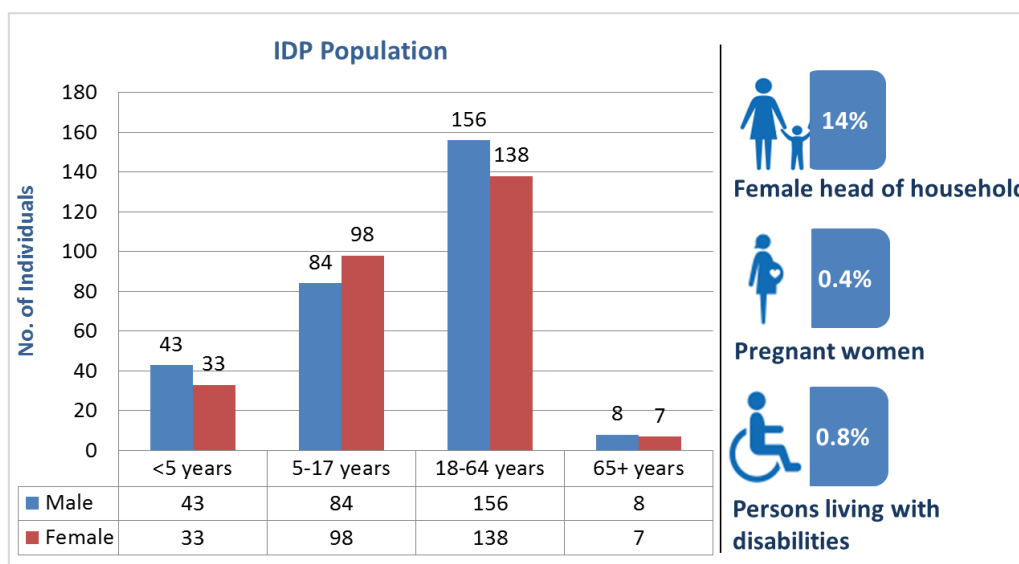
¹ Dandan care centre is located in Turubu Local Level Government, Wewak district, East Sepik province. The GPS coordinates for Dandan care centre are S 03° 42' 13.1" and E 143° 54' 05.9".

displaced persons² (IDPs), identifying their needs and recommended actions to improve the conditions of the centre and of those displaced. Data was collected through key informant interviews administered to government representatives working in the care centre as well as community leaders from both the IDP and host communities. A population census and household survey³ were conducted, complemented by assessment team observations. Information gathered from the assessment shows that the displaced households are in urgent need of an adequate potable water supply as well as access to gender segregated sanitation facilities. Nutritional supplements, mainly for children under 5 years of age, and clothing were also identified as urgent needs. Lighting is also needed to illuminate both living areas and toilet facilities and pathways. While awaiting resettlement to a larger settlement site⁴, IDP movements are currently limited to areas in and around the care centre (approximately 3.35 hectares). This report presents findings from the assessment and provides recommendations to address the needs of IDPs from response to recovery phases, to promote durable solutions for the displaced Kadovar islanders.

Findings

Demographics

The assessment team conducted a census in the care centre. The charts below provide a summary of the demographics and particularly vulnerable groups of the displaced population.



² Internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations or generalized violence, or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. Available at: www.iomvienna.at/sites/default/files/IML_1_EN.pdf

³ A total of 23 households were randomly selected for participation in the survey.

⁴ Negotiations are underway between the government and landowners for 37.9 hectares of land



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The main sources of drinking water for the households are two creeks accessible at walking distances of less than 100 meters. Aqua tabs were not available on-site during the time of the assessment and households reported that they do not treat their water before drinking. Water is largely collected by women and children, and IDPs are denied access to fresh water outside of the marked borders. A number of IDPs interviewed during the assessment reported that their source of water in Kadovar had rain-fed water tanks before they were destroyed by the eruption; whereas the drinking water at the resettlement centre is presently only accessible from the two available creeks.

“My family used to drink water from a rain-harvesting tank in Kadovar. We are currently collecting drinking water from the nearby creeks and we are really worried about our health, especially for the children.” – IDP contacted during the assessment



Creek accessed by households to collect water for consumption. © Peter Murovera/ UN Migration Agency



Women and children walking to fetch water from a nearby creek. © Peter Murovera/ UN Migration Agency (IOM)

To improve the water situation in the short term, the provincial government has started transporting water in 10 litre collapsible water containers from Wewak town to the care center. The transported water is collected from a 1,000 litre water container which ships water from Lae in Morobe province to Wewak. IDP households identified one creek they use for bathing, laundry and washing cooking utensils, in addition to the two used to collect water for consumption. Men, women, boys and girls take turns to access this creek to bath. The assessment found that some men cannot bath daily because they give priority to women and children.

Access to sanitation is a major challenge in the care centre. There are currently 10 latrines at distances of between 50 and 100 meters from tent accommodation⁵. Five latrines are accessed by women and girls and five are accessed by men and boys. The latrines are not equipped with hand washing facilities. There is thus a need to include hand washing facilities and take measures to raise hygiene awareness among IDPs. The majority of IDPs reported feeling unsafe when accessing the latrines at night, due to the lack of lighting.

Shelter and Settlement

Before their displacement, the majority of Kadovar islanders owned land and lived in traditional shelters. None of the IDPs own land in Dandan and all of them are living in tarpaulin tents. IDPs are currently living on a very small area of land, which has contributed to crowding in the care centre. The shelters are further very close to each other, limiting privacy. IDPs were seen gathering local materials to construct their temporary shelters during the time of assessment.



Temporary shelters in Dandan care centre. © Peter Murovera/ UN Migration Agency (IOM)

⁵ IDP households grouped themselves into five villages and each village has more than 10 households. A total of two latrines are available for each village, one for males and another one for females. IDP households are unable to construct additional latrines due to limited space in the care centre.

The provincial government indicated that it has surveyed 37.9 hectares of land which they plan to purchase for longer term resettlement of the IDPs. A total of 3.35 hectares of land have so far been secured and form part of Dandan care centre.



Food and Nutrition

The displaced population is currently relying on food aid. The last distribution of food rations was in Ruprup (13 January) and the available food stocks will likely last one week at most from the day of the second assessment (20 January). Households have limited access to vegetables and prepare meals mainly based on rice, noodles and canned fish. Some of the children under 5 years old are showing signs of malnutrition, such as loss of appetite and swelling of the ankles, feet, and belly. While the household census (registration) identified a total of 76 children under the age of 5 years, there are no nutritional supplements for children under the age of 5 available in the care centre.



Health

Six healthcare worker⁶s were reportedly deployed to the care centre. Some of the respondents contacted during the assessment reported that members of their household were suffering from diarrhoea since their arrival in the camp. The household registration identified 15 ill people with 10 of them suffering from chronic illnesses. Those reporting illness have received medication in the care centre.



Education

A total of 32 per cent of the IDP population are children aged between 5 and 17 years. As schools are currently closed pending start of the 2018 academic year, no children are currently attending classes. SIRR Primary, the only school located in the host community, is located at a distance of 3km from the care centre and is accessible by foot. There is no secondary school in the area and children attending secondary education will have to enrol in school in Wewak town, located one hour from the centre by land and sea transport.

⁶ Three health workers are from East Sepik Provincial Health Administration and the other three from Wewak District Health service.

There are four male police officers providing security in the care centre and no security-related incidents have so far been reported in the camp. However, as mentioned above, the majority of IDPs (78%) do not feel safe when accessing the latrines during the night due to limited lighting.

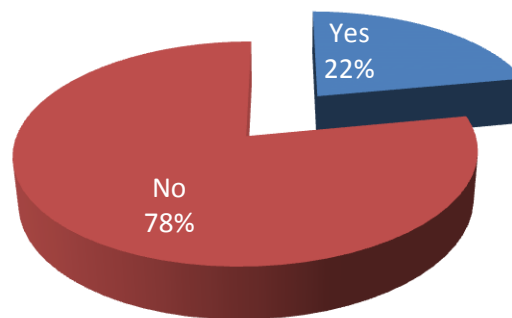


Figure 1: Is the access to latrines considered safe at night?

The one floodlight present in the care centre does not provide adequate lighting, but leaves the pathways to latrines dimly lit or in the dark. Some households had solar lighting in Kadovar but these were either damaged or destroyed during the time of the eruption. The crowded shelters and the shared use of the same site (creek) for bathing has resulted in limited privacy.

“We are new to this place and cannot freely move around at the moment. We don’t feel safe or know the attitudes of the landowners.” – Male IDP interviewed at Dandan care centre.



Children from IDP households in Dandan care centre.
© Peter Muropera/ UN Migration Agency (IOM)



IOM staff and an elderly male IDP at Dandan care centre.
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Income and Livelihoods

Prior to their displacement, the IDPs relied on fishing and the sale of artefacts to earn income and a livelihood. Findings from the assessment show that currently, the IDPs do not have any direct source of income or livelihood.



Intentions

The assessment gathered information on the IDPs' migration intentions. Forty-four per cent of surveyed IDP households are uncertain of their migration intentions, 34 per cent wish to settle in Turubu Local Level Government (Dandan), and 13 per cent mentioned relocating elsewhere and 9 per cent wish to return to their previous homes in Kadovar (Figure 2). One of the respondents contacted during the survey mentioned his household is uncertain of their intention for the future and noted, *"We have no plans for now and it is really hard living here."* Another respondent noted, *"We have no plans at the moment. If the government purchases the land, we can stay here. If they don't, we may consider going back to our previous home."*

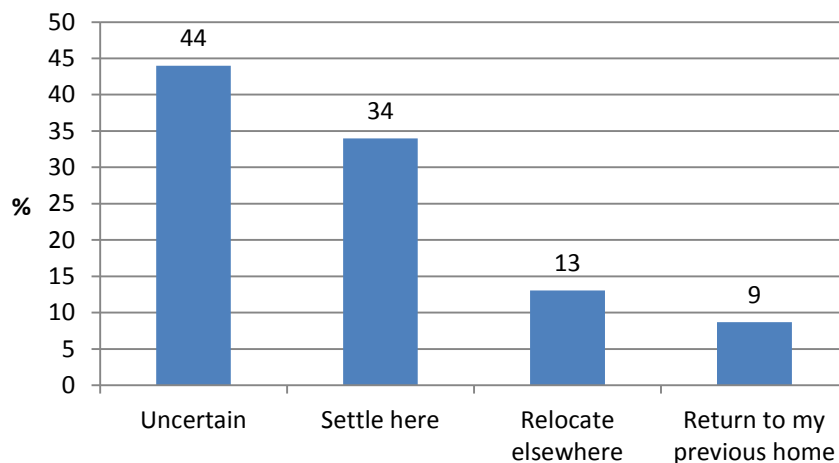


Figure 2: What plans do you have regarding your displacement? (Percentage of respondents)



Humanitarian Access

Accessing Dandan care centre takes one hour by sea travel. A report from stakeholders who accessed Dandan by both road and sea, noted that it takes about 45 minutes to drive to the closest point to the centre from where one must take a 15 minute boat ride to access the care centre. The

provincial government is exploring ways to construct a road that connects Wewak town and Dandan.



Telecommunications

Currently, there is no mobile phone coverage in Dandan area, which makes it difficult to communicate with people in the care centre.

Preliminary Recommendations

This report recommends that the following needs (See Table 2) of the 567 displaced persons are addressed and corresponding items are provided.

Table 2: Needs for IDPs

Immediate Needs	Short-term Needs	Long-term Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food for 567 individuals and nutritional supplements for 125 children under five years old, lactating mothers and chronically ill persons. - Aqua-tabs for 106 households (H/H) - Potable water for 567 individuals - Hygiene kits for 106 H/H - Lighting/Solar lights for 106 H/H - Clothes for 106 H/H composed of 567 individuals - 318 mosquito nets - 10 additional temporary sanitation facilities (5 for males and 5 for females) - 212 buckets for laundry - Blankets for the 106 households - Provision of technical support in the management of the care centre (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 106 sets of tools for shelter construction - 106 sets of gardening tools - Land for IDP resettlement, approximately 212 hectares - Livelihood skills: Vocational skills training, income-generating interventions - NID registration of IDPs (IDP population: 567) - Temporary Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable water supply with capacity to serve the 567 IDPs - Improve available health services/health centre (Need for an in-depth assessment) - Improvement of the primary school infrastructure and establishing a secondary school (need for an assessment) - NID Registration - Road

Assessment Team

Name	Organization
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9. Justin Nei	OXFAM
10. Clarence Burain	Save the Children
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Assessment team and staff from ESPA offloading water at Dandan Care Centre. © Peter Murodera/ UN Migration Agency (IOM)



East Sepik



National Disaster Centre



Save the Children

