



TV

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PROMPT UNICEF AID GUARANTEES SURVIVAL OF REMOTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ISLANDS

VIDEO

VOLCANO/DESTRUCTION (25")

PATRICK WAPAR ON-CAMERA
(16")

HOUSES DESTROYED/ BLACK
WATER (20")

AUDIO

An all too familiar scene in Papua New Guinea, one of the most disaster-prone nations in the world. In recent years, this western Pacific country has witnessed devastation from just about every kind of natural disaster. From volcanoes and earthquakes, to landslides, droughts and tsunamis – or tidal waves. Local official Patrick Wapar recalls a recent tsunami...

WAPAR:

"It dropped down the houses. The water level dropped back, the sea dropped and it caused the wells to dry up so people had no water at all".

NARRATION

The tidal wave followed an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale in the remote northern Wallis and Tarawai islands. Four people were killed and 700 houses damaged or destroyed. Community facilities collapsed. Electricity was cut off and water became too polluted to drink.

DANCING (22")	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>But a year later, villagers here have cause for cautious optimism – and a reason to welcome visitors with a traditional dance symbolizing renewal and survival. This farming and fishing community is recovering, thanks largely to carefully thought out emergency stand-by arrangements.</p>
PUMPING WATER (18")	<p>Soon after news of the disaster reached the capital, the UN Children’s Fund, UNICEF, rushed in equipment to restore the safety of water supply. Within weeks, new wells were drilled. Bush latrines were constructed to lower the risk of disease.</p>
LATRINES/RAIN/KIDS DRINKING (17")	<p>To supplement the underground supply, basic systems to capture water from the area’s heavy rainfall were erected. All these measures were possible because of careful arrangements aimed at reducing the impact of these calamities.</p> <p>UNICEF’s Robert Bennoun...</p>
ROBERT BENNOUN ON-CAMERA (11")	<p><u>BENNOUN:</u></p> <p>“The natural disasters occur frequently. So we’ve had to do very careful contingency planning about what it is that we can really do to make a difference when something like that happens.”</p>
SCHOOL (23")	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>UNICEF donated medicines, as well as</p>

educational supplies to every child in the islands. It also had to rebuild the schools themselves. Thousands of men, women and children benefited. Less than six months after the deadly earthquake the island's life was back to normal. Professor Abraham Baileu runs Tarawai's main school.

ABRAHAM BAILEU ON-CAMERA
(15")

BAILEU: (in Pidgin English)

"We are very grateful for what UNICEF has done here. This building, the school materials and the water have made the life of our children much easier and convenient."

ISLAND (30")

NARRATION

Communities everywhere can draw an important lesson from the experience here. Careful preparedness makes the difference when disaster does strike. And the sooner recovery begins, the more likely it is that locals will reconstruct their lives, restore their livelihoods and preserve their traditional way of life. In Papua New Guinea and elsewhere, no one can prevent natural disasters. But a great deal can be done to minimize their impact and quicken the return to normality.

UN LOGO (12")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.

