



2023 UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

Papua New Guinea



UNITED NATIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Contents



| | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Foreword by the Resident Coordinator | 1 | 2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda | 39 |
| UN Country Team | 3 | 2.4 Results of the UN Working more and better together: coherence, effectiveness and efficiency | 39 |
| Key Development Partners of the UN in PNG | 4 | 2.4.1 UNDAF Programme Coordination | 39 |
| Chapter 1 Key Developments in PNG and Regional Context | 6 | 2.4.2 Humanitarian preparedness, response and monitoring | 40 |
| Country and Regional Context | 6 | 2.4.3 Gender and Human Rights Working Group | 42 |
| Chapter 2 Support to National Development Priorities through the UNDAF | 8 | 2.4.4 Communication Advocacy | 42 |
| 2.1 Overview of the UNDAF Results | 8 | 2.4.5 UN operations | 42 |
| 2.2 UNDAF Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs | 10 | 2.5 Evaluations and Lessons Learned | 42 |
| 2.2.1 People | 10 | 2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation | 44 |
| 2.2.2 Prosperity | 16 | 2.6.1 Financial Overview | 44 |
| 2.2.3 Planet | 24 | 2.6.2 Resource Mobilisation | 47 |
| 2.2.4 Peace | 30 | Chapter 3 UNCT Key Focus for 2024 | 48 |
| 2.2.5 Programme challenges/ key lessons learned/ innovations/ good practices | 37 | Acronym List | 50 |
| 2.2.6 Reflections on overall progress on the 'Promise to Leave No One Behind' | 37 | Annex 1 - UNDAF Implementing Partners | 51 |
| 2.2.7 Links to other priorities/plans in PNG | 38 | | |



I want to express my sincere appreciation to the government for its continued leadership and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and partnering with the United Nations to implement the UNDAF.

- UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR



Foreword

by the Resident Coordinator



On behalf of the United Nations Country Team, I am pleased to present the 2023 UNDAF annual report of results achieved in partnership with the Government and people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and our development partners. This is the sixth annual report, outlining the final year of implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2023 and showcasing PNG's progress across the four UNDAF focus areas of People, Prosperity, Planet, and Peace.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Papua New Guinea for its continued leadership and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and partnering with the United Nations to implement the UNDAF.

This Government-UN partnership, focused on achieving the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind, enabled significant UN contributions to the national priorities articulated in Government strategy documents, including the 'Vision 2050' and the Medium-Term Development Plan III.

I am grateful for the generous support of development partners throughout 2023 that facilitated the UNDAF implementation. More than ten development partners of the UN in PNG, including the Governments of the Republic of Korea, Japan, Norway and the United States of America, and our two largest partners, the European Union and Australia, provided financing for the US\$95 million expenditure of the 2023 United Nations Joint Annual Work

Plan. In addition, more than 140 implementing partners, including government departments, provincial and district governments and civil society organisations, worked with the UN to successfully realise the UNDAF.

I am proud to highlight some of the 2023 achievements across the four UNDAF Pillars:

PEOPLE:

UN support to the health and education sectors resulted in new and updated strategies, plans, and policies that improved service delivery and enhanced access to health, education, WASH and nutrition. These updated plans enabled resource mobilisation such as securing US\$60 million from The Global Fund (a worldwide partnership to defeat human immunodeficiency virus [HIV], tuberculosis [TB] and malaria) for health initiatives and US\$39.965 million from the Global Partnership for Education. Furthermore, with the UN's continuous advocacy efforts and technical assistance, PNG completed its second Convention on the Rights of the Child State Party Report.

PROSPERITY:

The UN Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade (STREIT) Joint Programme, along with other UN initiatives, has benefitted more than 120,000 individuals in the East Sepik and West Sepik Provinces, boosting entrepreneurship, investment and trade, and overall sustainable economic growth through inclusive participation. The STREIT Programme ensured that marginalised groups such as women, youth and people in rural and remote areas benefitted from enhanced cocoa, vanilla and fisheries value chains. Trainings in climate-smart agricultural practices and provision of farming equipment and healthy crops contributed to increased productivity and quality, higher income, and sustainable livelihoods. The UN also supported the establishment of market associations and enabled women vendors and rural entrepreneurs to access markets and financial services.

PLANET:

The UN supported the development of the REDD+ Safeguards and National Adaptation Plan. Renewable

energy projects for cleaner and more reliable energy access were implemented in East and West Sepik Provinces, while the development of community-based disaster risk management plans empowered vulnerable populations to mitigate climate risks and build resilience. Efforts in forest and marine conservation, including the establishment of protected areas and community-led conservation initiatives were undertaken in Manus Province, contributing to sustainable ecosystem management.

PEACE:

The UN supported the Government in drafting its first-ever Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption, and Whistleblower Protection Policy, advanced gender equality through policy reviews and consultations, and empowered women leaders in political and community spheres. Notable milestones include the formation of the Joint Parliamentary Women's Caucus and the endorsement of the Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Peace, and Security Policy in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The UN significantly advanced peacebuilding in the Highlands Region and Bougainville, fostering conflict resolution and inclusive development. In the Highlands, eight peace agreements between conflicting groups were signed. Targeted trainings empowered women leaders to advocate for peace and resilience against climate-induced conflicts.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, the UN will begin implementing its new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028. The high-impact STREIT Joint Program will continue. In the first year of the UNSDCF, the 2024 Joint Annual Work Plan will include work on community peace and development initiatives; support for implementation of the 2024 Census; addressing sorcery accusation related violence and gender-based violence; leadership on climate action, conservation, and disaster preparedness; and support the diversification of women's livelihoods through skills-building, financial literacy and access to affordable finance.

We look forward to working closely with the Government, development partners, donors, and implementing partners, to continue realising the SDGs while supporting PNG to #BuildForwardBetter for a more sustainable future.


Mr Richard Howard
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Papua New Guinea



UN Country Team

In 2023, 20 resident and non-resident UN agencies actively implemented the UNDAF 2018-2023.

Although not a signatory to the UNDAF, the United Nations Volunteers Programme supports the UNCT by deploying international and national volunteer specialists.



1 Above: UN Resident Coordinator and Secretary of PNG's Department of National Planning and Monitoring co-signing the new UNSDCF 2024-2028.
 1 Below: UNCT at the UNSDCF 2024-2028 signing ceremony



RESIDENT AGENCIES



NON - RESIDENT AGENCIES



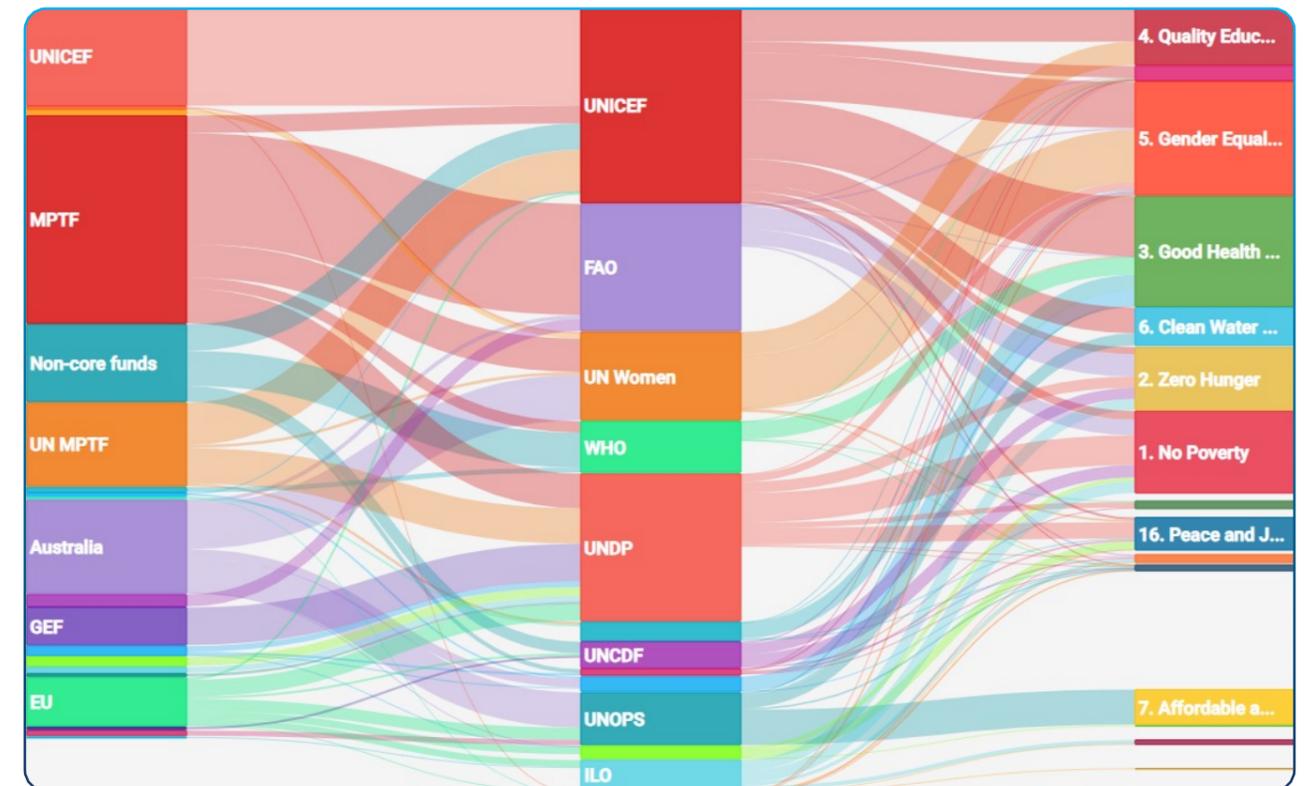
Key Development Partners of the UN in PNG

Donors to PNG through the UN, 2023

- Asian Development Bank
- Global Fund for Coral Reefs
- New Zealand
- Australia
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Norway
- European Union
- Global Partnership for Education
- Papua New Guinea
- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
- Green Climate Fund
- Republic of Korea
- Global Environment Facility
- International Monetary Fund
- United Kingdom
- Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
- Japan
- United States
- World Bank

1. Excludes - (a) UN-based funding including the Peacebuilding Fund and the Joint SDG Fund (b) donors to agencies core, non-core, and regional funding.

Linking Partners, UN agencies and Sustainable Development Goals



Source: <https://uninfo.org/location/86/funding>

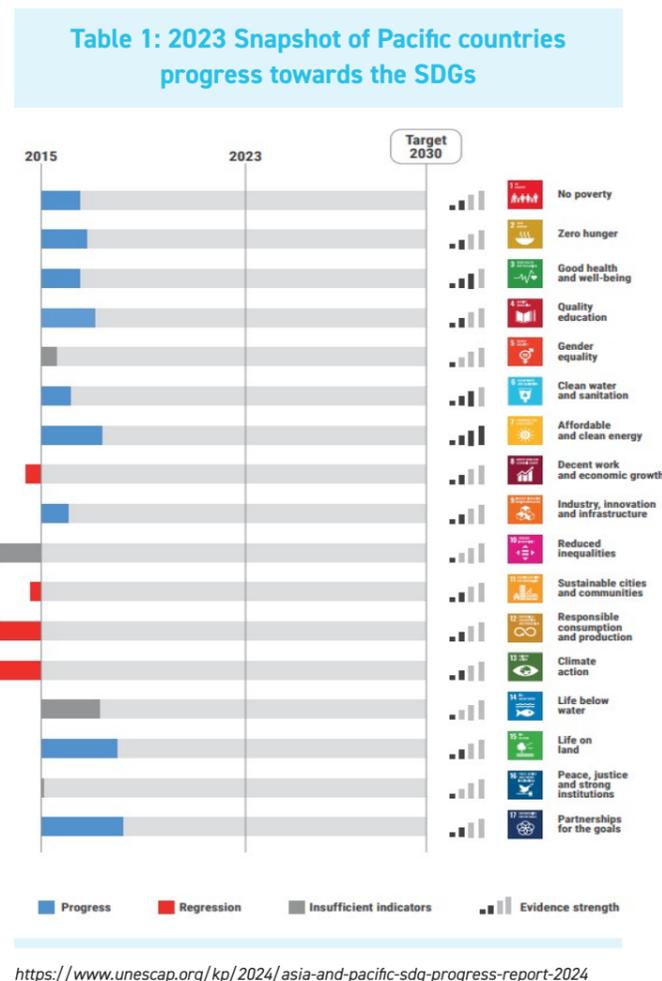
Social: PNG has experienced rapid population growth, increasing from 3.0 million in 1980 to 7.3 in 2011 and 11.8 in 2021, projected to be 13 million by 2030.¹ Public health spending amounted to 2.53 percent of GDP in 2020, up from 2.02 percent in 2000, well below the regional average of 4.9 percent, while the Universal Health Coverage index score stood at 40, behind the regional average of 65. Education spending was at 1.9 percent of GDP in 2018 (latest available data). This indicator value is considerably below the regional average which stood at 4.7 percent.

Environment: Some components of PNG’s environmental legislation and policy are substantial, including the National Oceans Policy, Policy on Protected Areas, National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (STaRS) 2015, the Climate-compatible Development Policy and the Timber Legality Standard 2023. However, implementing these has been challenging and lacking, and much legislation is old, requiring review and updating (for example, biodiversity and wildlife conservation, forestry management, sustainable land use, chemical and waste disposal, and mining). PNG’s environmental governance remains weak. While legislation appears to protect the rights of landowners and the community, the laws and agreements are not consistently enforced in practice, frequently leading to dissatisfaction and sometimes conflict.

Governance: The Financial Action Taskforce/Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering is conducting a mutual evaluation of PNG throughout 2023/2024, including evaluating the effectiveness of the anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism regime. There is currently limited enforcement of the legal framework in these areas and poorly defined processes and systems to investigate money laundering and proceeds deriving from transnational organised crime and corruption. An achievement to date is the development of the country’s first Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption and Whistleblower Protection Policy 2023.

Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus: PNG ranks 18 globally for natural hazard risks and 65 for human-induced risks. The country also ranks 27 in terms of socio-economic vulnerability and 77 in terms of vulnerable groups. PNG ranks 36 out of 191 countries on the INFORM Risk Index for epidemic risk, ranking first among countries in the Pacific region. Notably, the INFORM natural hazard risk assessment excludes volcanoes – five of PNG’s 15 active volcanoes erupted in 2021, and two others within the last decade, with 17 percent of the population living within 30 km of an active volcano. Significant humanitarian impacts also come from low-intensity and recurrent tribal conflicts.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2024 report on **SDG progress in the Pacific region** found that establishing national environmental portals in 14 Pacific SIDS (small island developing states) brought attention to the benefits of enhanced regional partnerships and collaboration, which are vital components in advancing sustainable development (SDG17). This collaborative effort has enabled the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to make more informed decisions targeted explicitly at mitigating and adapting to climate change by enhancing dependable data production and management capacity. These endeavours have also been crucial in advancing initiatives for affordable clean energy and fulfilling emission reduction objectives in nations including Fiji, Kiribati, and Tonga. The table below shows that Pacific countries’ progress on some SDG indicators stagnated from 2017 (blue bars) or regressed (red bars).



Chapter 2: Support to National Development Priorities through the UNDAF

2.1 Overview of the UNDAF Results

Through the four Pillars of the UNDAF and in alignment with national priorities, the UN supported the government to make transformational changes to many institutions and systems in PNG, making a significant positive impact on the lives of Papua New Guineans. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) maintained strategic partnerships with donors and implementing partners, providing US\$128 million in support in 2023. This enhanced PNG’s progress towards the SDGs as well as preparation and response to internal and external shocks.

Under the **People Pillar**, the UN support to health and education sectors resulted in new and updated strategies, plans, and policies that improved service delivery and enhanced access to health, education, WASH and nutrition. These updated plans enabled PNG to access US\$60 million from The Global Fund (a worldwide partnership to defeat human immunodeficiency virus [HIV], tuberculosis [TB] and malaria) for health initiatives and US\$39.965 million from the Global Partnership for Education for education initiatives. In WASH and nutrition, the UN supported the finalisation of crucial frameworks such as the National WASH in Schools Policy 2024-2028 and the Bougainville Food Security Policy Strategic Action Plan 2023-2027.

Under the **Prosperity Pillar**, the UN’s STREIT Joint Programme significantly advanced rural entrepreneurship, investment, and trade in the country. Notable impacts include equipping over 20,700 households with resources such as cocoa seedlings, vanilla vines and fisheries tools, fostering economic growth. The Markets Economic Recovery and Inclusion (MERI) Project expanded financial services, provided business development support, facilitated trade expos and empowered women entrepreneurs. These efforts collectively drive inclusive and sustainable economic development, enhancing livelihoods and fostering resilience in rural communities.

Under the **Planet Pillar**, the UN support boosted PNG’s capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and access to clean

and renewable energy sources. Initiatives included the development of REDD+ safeguards and the National Adaptation Plan. Various renewable energy initiatives across the country, including the STREIT Programme, provided increased access to renewable energy sources for households and public facilities. Community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) plans empowered vulnerable populations to mitigate climate risks and build resilience while efforts in forest and marine conservation, including the establishment of protected areas and community-led conservation initiatives, contributed to sustainable ecosystem management. UN’s support promoted inclusive development, safeguarding both environmental resources and community well-being against climate-related challenges.

Under the **Peace Pillar**, the UN significantly advanced peacebuilding in the Highlands Regions and Bougainville, fostering peace through mediation and inclusive development. In the Highlands, eight peace agreements between conflicting groups were signed. Targeted training empowered women leaders to advocate for peace and resilience against climate-induced conflicts. In Bougainville, the UN facilitated the post-referendum dialogues at the national level, culminating in a historic agreement between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and PNG government allowing the post-referendum resolutions to progress. UN supported women and youth through leadership training and enhancing their capacity to pursue leadership roles (including in political spaces at the national and local levels), addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and child protection. Youth Parliament, a UN’s targeted youth empowerment initiative continued to serve as a platform for empowering young individuals, fostering leadership skills, self-awareness, and assertiveness. Participants learned about the principles of effective leadership, national and international human rights laws, and the PNG constitution. Additionally, they received training on utilizing data for evidence-based debates, advocacy, and activism. These efforts exemplify inclusive peacebuilding, where women and youth play pivotal roles in advancing stability and prosperity in the country.

¹ Source: Papua New Guinea National Statistical Office’s Population Data Project 2021

PEOPLE



The UN supported installation of essential water and hand wash facilities in **349 schools** benefitting **131,000+ students** by providing access to clean water and promoting good hygiene practices.

5500

Trained to advance WASH interventions in their communities



972,353 CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS
Received measles, rubella, polio, and Vitamin A, protecting them from the dangerous and deadly outbreaks.

Second State Party Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) endorsed by the National Executive Council (NEC), launched in November 2023, with the UN playing a key role in facilitating the development and endorsement of the report.



Nutrition Information Systems deployed in



12

PROVINCES

Midwifery scholarships received by

10

STUDENTS



2.2 UNDAF Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

2.2.1 PEOPLE



By 2023, people in PNG, significantly the most marginalized and vulnerable, have enhanced and sustained utilisation of quality and equitable services, food security and social protection.

Sub-Outcome 1: By 2023, PNG's social policies, plans and budgets promote inclusive human development, and actors in the social sectors will be effectively led, regulated and coordinated.

Health

Following its launch in 2021, the UN remains a key partner in supporting the implementation of the National Health Plan 2021-2030. During the reporting period, the UN supported the development of various disease-specific strategies, action plans, and policies, which are crucial for targeted and focused approaches to addressing specific health issues. This included supporting the National Department of Health (NDOH) in developing the Immunisation Strategy 2021-2025, launched in early 2023. This strategy describes the government's main objectives and strategies to strengthen the country's immunisation programme and boost vaccination rates with the aim to reach not only national targets of 70 per cent of DTP3/Penta 3 vaccination by 2025 but also global and regional immunisation targets of 95 per cent of coverage for all vaccines. UN's support to immunisation efforts improved routine immunisation rates from 31% in 2021 to 36% by the end of 2022. In response to Papua New Guinea's low vaccination rates, highlighted by the UN's 2022 National Effective Vaccine Assessment where the country scored 58%, falling short of the WHO's recommended minimal standard of 80%, the UN supported the NDOH to develop an improvement plan (EVM cIP 2023-2027) and trained 229 personnel, comprising 33 percent of women on standard procedures on immunization supply chain management to bolster immunisation efforts. Additionally, recognizing the urgency, the Gavi Board extended PNG's Immunization Strategy with a US\$38.3 million budget until December 31, 2027.

A concrete plan ensures clarity and accountability, instills donor confidence and supports resource mobilisation. This was demonstrated by the Government, securing US\$60 million from The Global Fund, aided by the Neglected Tropical Diseases Strategic Plan 2023-2028, developed with support from the UN. Over the next three years, this funding will be used to address TB, HIV, malaria, and other diseases.

The Health Security Action Framework and National Midwifery Policy were developed with UN support in the reporting period. The National Family Planning Policy was also updated. These important frameworks will guide efforts to strengthen the public health system's response to health emergencies and improve maternal and child health services.

Education

With support from the UN, PNG joined Cohort 5 of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s new Operating Model 2025. This unlocked access to US\$39.965 million from various GPE funding programmes. As part of this funding, the UN helped the National Department of Education by being the grant agent for the System Capacity Grant, facilitating establishment of a Task Team comprising officials from the department, JICA and the UN, that examined data, gender-responsive policy, planning and financial resource allocation in the education sector. Also under the grant, the UN provided technical assistance to PNG's 1-6-6 restructuring efforts, by piloting school mapping of select schools in the National Capital District and Central Provinces. School mapping provides valuable information, including geospatial data, to inform decisions in the restructuring process. The 1-6-6 system comprises one-year early child education, six years of primary education (grades 1 to 6) and another six years of secondary education (grades 7 to 12). The new structure will make primary schools to accept grades 1 and 2 and pushing grades 7 and 8 to secondary school.

Human Rights, Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence against Women and Violence against Children

The UN continued to play a crucial role in advocating for human rights with duty bearers and rights holders including advocating for the rights of children. A notable achievement is the endorsement of PNG's second Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) State Party Report by the National Executive Council (NEC), launched in November 2023, with the UN playing a key role in facilitating the development and endorsement of the report.

Nutrition and Food Safety and Security

To address PNG's very high child malnutrition rate, the Infant and Young Child Food Supply Act was developed and endorsed with UN support. This legislative measure aims to regulate the supply and promotion of children's food products, ensuring their safety and nutritional adequacy to support optimal growth and development. Additionally, with UN support, a Nutrition

Information System was developed and implemented across 12 provinces, spanning health facilities, communities, and schools. This initiative facilitated the dissemination of crucial nutritional guidance to individuals and families, empowering them to prepare meals that meet the necessary nutritional requirements for a child's healthy development.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The National WASH in Schools Policy 2024-2028 and WASH Infrastructure Manual were finalised with the UN's technical guidance. These frameworks ensure that essential facilities such as clean water sources, functional toilets, and handwashing stations are available and maintained in schools, leading to improved access to WASH facilities and better hygiene practices promoted among students, thus reducing the risk of waterborne diseases, promoting overall health, and improving children's education outcomes. The UN also supported the installation of essential water and handwashing facilities in 349 schools providing access to clean water and promoting good hygiene practices for more than 131,000 students.

The Climate Rationale for PNG, ensuring the integration of climate resilience into WASH programmes, was also developed with UN technical assistance.

At the sub-national level, the UN helped establish a District WASH Committee in Jiwaka Province's North Waghi District, which serves as a platform for community engagement in the Community-Led Total Sanitation Project to eliminate open defecation and enhance access to safe toilets in households, schools, and health centres. Over 5,500 personnel participated in UN-supported WASH capacity-building initiatives, including government officers, civil society organisations (CSOs), private companies, community members, and teachers in 500 schools. These initiatives empowered participants to advance WASH interventions effectively; for example, officials from WASH-focused private companies became more proficient in manufacturing ceramic water filters for household-level water treatment and community members became WASH champions in their communities.

Sub-Outcome 2: By 2023, national authorities at central and decentralised levels effectively manage and deliver social services in line with national standards and protocols.

Health

Following the launch of the Immunisation Strategy in early 2023, the UN supported the National Department of Health and the Provincial Health Authorities (PHAs) and successfully implemented the first integrated mass drug administration in West New Britain Province, targeting the elimination of lymphatic

filariasis, yaws, soil-transmitted helminths, and scabies, among vulnerable populations including women and children. Specifically, the UN supported the PHAs to develop a joint work plan, procured drugs and stationery supplies, and facilitated training sessions for both trainers and health volunteers and monitored the implementation progress. Approximately 200,000, with 10% comprising of women and children, were vaccinated in this effort. In addition, the nationwide integrated Measles, Rubella, Polio and Vitamin A supplementary campaign reached 71% (972,353) of the children under five protecting them from the dangerous and deadly outbreaks.

The UN's advocacy effort for increased government ownership to ensure the sustainability of vital health services such as immunisation, resulted in 22 PHAs and the NDoH co-financing the Measles Rubella Supplementary Immunisation Activity (MR SIA) in 2023. Madang District Administration has committed to fully funding the initiative in 2024.

The UN continued to prioritise its support to the government to combat HIV/AIDS and TB in PNG, including reviewing the existing HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) strategy, which informed the development and endorsement of the National HIV and STI Strategy 2024-2028 in December 2023. The UN facilitated the development and submission of the 2023 Global AIDS Monitoring Report, offering a comprehensive assessment of the country's progress towards achieving the 95-95-95 targets for HIV/AIDS. This report identifies areas of success and those needing improvement, along with recommendations for resource allocation and targeted interventions.

UN efforts resulted in the availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) services in three clinics in the National Capital District (NCD), reducing the chances of HIV transmission among individuals at risk of contracting the virus. PREP services expanded to Eastern Highlands Province with the establishment of one PREP clinic. New three-test HIV guidelines were implemented, along with community-based HIV screening tests, and 100 individuals were trained and certified. Progress has been made in establishing HIV self-screening tests.

The Global Fund TB-HIV grant for 2021-2023 was extended to 2024, allowing for continuity of TB-HIV initiatives. Over the reporting period, electronic TB modules were developed with the UN's support to digitise and streamline recording and reporting and enhance TB surveillance.

The UN provided midwifery scholarships to ten students at the University of Goroka, contributing to the solution of the midwife shortage.

Nutrition and Food Safety and Security

The UN intervened in East Sepik and Manus Provinces to bolster food security and mitigate the effects of climate change by promoting the sustainable management of sago palm. Training

and demonstration projects transformed the perception of sago-based communities, positioning sago palm as a valuable food and commercial crop.

The UN conducted a pilot market managers' training, participated in by key representatives from various government entities. The training empowered participants with actionable insights on the food market control system promoting healthy markets, traditional food and food safety. The training coincided with the official declaration of Kokopo Market in East New Britain Province as the Model Healthy Marketplace in PNG, marking a milestone in the decade-long implementation of the World Health Organization "Healthy Island" concept. Plans to extend the training to other markets across the country over the next two years are progressing.

In collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries, the UN supported the ABG in developing the Bougainville Food Security Policy Strategic Action Plan 2023-2027. This plan marks a notable transition in economic priorities, prioritising sustainable gender-inclusive agriculture as key to tackling food security challenges and fostering long-term economic diversification in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

A proposition has been made to coordinate and develop a comprehensive food market control system across the country, to sustain livelihood and mitigate public health risks associated with food markets. Efforts are also underway to develop a health workforce Training and Development Policy and a 10-year Workforce Development Plan for 2023-2032, reinforcing the commitment to enhancing nutrition and food safety initiatives.

Healthy and Sustainable Environments; Community Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

The UN's focus on CBDRM interventions included supporting communities in operationalising their CBDRM plans. Local communities installed rainwater catchments and built community halls and gardens, fostering resilience to climate vulnerabilities and sustained livelihoods. By implementing community-driven solutions, communities were able to identify and address natural hazards and risks.

Human Rights, Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence against Women and Violence against Children

With UN support, subnational systems and institutions planned, allocated financial resources, and delivered gender-sensitive multi-sectoral programmes promoting gender equality and preventing and responding to provincial GBV, particularly to violence against women and girls. The National Capital District (NCD) developed and launched its Gender Equality and

Women's Empowerment Strategy 2023-2027. Referral pathways for survivors of GBV in the NCD were also strengthened.

Collaboration with the Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs to process data on internal displacement informed the development of the PNG policy for internally displaced persons.

To provide technical support and advice to the National GBV Advisory Committee, the UN supported the establishment of an inter-agency Technical Working Group on GBV with representation from the government, the UN, other development partners, think tanks, and academic and research institutions.

Sub-outcome 3: By 2023, people in PNG, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable, increasingly demand and use social and protective services.

Media coverage of World AIDS Day 2023 heightened awareness and appreciation among key populations and communities of people living with HIV (PLHIVs), men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, sex workers, and pregnant women. This resulted in increased utilisation of community-led and innovative HIV interventions and services, such as community-based HIV screening/testing, HIV self-testing, PREP, and community PLHIV case management. UN supported key populations to advocate for these services, leading to a surge in demand from community members.

Key populations or communities have actively maintained a community-led monitoring (CLM) platform to voice issues and concerns, enhancing the quality and coverage of HIV and other health services. Community-based HIV testing and screening, HIV self-testing, PREP and community PLHIV case management were established by health facilities in NCD in response to CLM's findings.

In commemorating World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2023, the UN raised awareness of neglected tropical diseases and emphasised the importance of seeking health services early.

MACKLYN YABAK'S STORY

Macklyn Yabak, in Grade 6 at Tamar Primary School on Tumleo Island, Sandaun Province, clearly remembers not having clean water at the school. "It was not possible for us to wash our hands at any time we wanted" Macklyn said. "Even after using the toilet, I would just go back to the classroom, like all the other students, without first washing my hands. Only sometimes, and if we had time, we would run down to the beach to wash our hands in the sea."

Macklyn is one of 146,000 students from 500 schools across the country benefitting from the Education in Emergency Response and Recovery Program, implemented by UNICEF with funding support from the Government of Australia.

"Some students would go without water for the day if they did not bring it from home. I am happy that we now have enough water for drinking and a hand washing place with taps where we can wash our hands anytime and have water to keep our school clean," said Macklyn.



“Some students would go without water for the day if they did not bring it from home. I am happy that we now have enough water for drinking and a hand washing place with taps where we can wash our hands anytime and have water to keep our school clean.”

- MACKLYN YABAK



| WHO Booth at the 2023 UN day celebrated at the main Gordons Market in Port Moresby, PNG



| Above: A child being immunised during the 2023 Measles-Rubella, Polio and Vitamin A Supplementary Immunization Activity. ©UNICEF PNG
| Left: Mass drug administration campaign medical drug supplies



| Above: WHO donates laboratory equipment to the PNG National Influenza Centre.
| Right: Community-led monitoring at Begabari clinic. ©UNAIDS PNG



PROSPERITY

The STREIT program benefitted over **124,500 individuals** across

20,700 households.

28% of women.

124,500

(28% women & 31% youths)



1522 LEAD FISHERS TRAINED

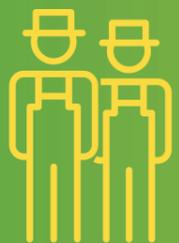
✓ 50% Female ✓ 50% Male

91km length of the road rehabilitated bringing the total length to 171km of roads rehabilitated under the programme. Resulting in better access to economic opportunities and livelihoods to

100,000+ PEOPLE

Trained on aquaculture farming practices

Distributed to 28 fish farming groups

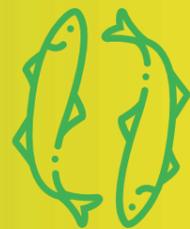


1569

FISH FARMERS

23,662

FINGERLINGS



2.2.2 PROSPERITY



By 2023, all people in PNG, including marginalized and vulnerable populations benefit from shared prosperity and contribute to growth and development that is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

Sub-Outcome 1: By 2023, PNG has a strong legislative framework, credible enforcement mechanisms and governance structures at all levels enabling equitable and diversified economic growth.

Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea (STREIT PNG)

In 2023, the UN, through the STREIT Joint Programme, implemented by FAO, ILO, ITU, UNCF and UNDP, made significant progress in supporting rural entrepreneurship, investment, and trade in PNG. The programme reached over 20,700 direct beneficiary households benefiting more than 124,500 individuals, of which 28 and 31 percent were women and youths respectively. The programme boosted the cocoa, vanilla, and fisheries value chains in the East and West Sepik Provinces, increasing economic returns for the farmers in the region.

Cocoa Value Chain

The STREIT Programme boosted the cocoa value chain by equipping 2,825 master trainers and lead farmers (71 percent were women and youths) with knowledge and skills in improved cocoa seedling production and climate-smart agriculture (CSA). To ensure the sustainability of CSA training, the UN collaborated with the New Guinea Binatang Research Centre to develop a comprehensive manual for cocoa and vanilla value chain actors. Equipped with a resource guide, lead farmers are able to apply and teach CSA practices to fellow farmers, fostering resilience and sustainability and climate-smart cocoa and vanilla farming practices.

Fifty one new cocoa budwood gardens were established and 20 cocoa nurseries were upgraded. It oversaw planting of 720,487 cocoa pod borer-tolerant seedlings, covering 1,100 hectares of cocoa blocks under CSA and distributed them among 9,453 farmers (23 and 33 percent were women and youths respectively) to revive their existing run-down, old, and pest-infected cocoa gardens. These activities not only led to increased community's income but facilitated the development of an efficient cocoa farming system, ensuring long-term productivity.

A comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) report was developed, to map cocoa farms, identifying specific areas and blocks needing rehabilitation.

The programme facilitated two educational tours for a group of cocoa farmers and senior agricultural officers from the Sepik region. These tours, conducted in the East New Britain Province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, offered participants invaluable insights into every facet of the cocoa value chain. Participants visited cocoa farms, cooperatives, processing facilities, and markets, where they interacted with accomplished producers and entrepreneurs. This experience directly equipped the farmers with knowledge and skills to improve their cocoa farming and business practices, ultimately increasing their economic returns.

Furthermore, the programme supported the establishment of 134 new clusters and collective cocoa production and marketing groups, empowering farmers to formalise their businesses. It also built the capacity of 68 cocoa cluster groups, cooperatives, farming associations, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and agripreneurs on entrepreneurship development, enabling them to actively participate in high-volume production, processing, and marketing. As a result, farmers gained access to better markets offering premium prices, contributing to the achievement of SDG8 on decent work and economic growth. This approach aligned with SDG9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure and promoted sustainable and environmentally conscious practices, thereby contributing to SDG12 on responsible consumption and production.

Vanilla Value Chain

The UN through the STREIT Programme made significant progress in enhancing the vanilla farming community in the Sepik region, focusing on cultivation capabilities, quality production, and sustainable practices. To ensure increased yield, quality production, sustainability, and resilience against diseases in vanilla farming, the Programme distributed 68,787 healthy vanilla vines to 1,361 farming households (23 percent female and 34 percent youth). Essential vanilla planning and harvesting tools were provided to 75 of these households. As a result of this support, over 73 hectares of vanilla gardens were brought under environmentally friendly practices.

The Programme provided 199 innovative eco-friendly solar dryers to nearly 1000 vanilla farming households in the Sepik region. Developed in collaboration with students and technicians from the local Yawasoro TVET Centre and a private metal workshop, this

initiative fostered community involvement, enhanced the skills and capabilities of local students and technicians, and ensures sustainability of such farming solutions where these local experts are more likely to support and maintain the solutions even after the project concludes. A further 205 households were provided with improved drying/curing kits for vanilla beans.

Eighty four vanilla value chain stakeholders were upskilled in improved processing, packaging, labelling, and storage, with a focus on meeting quality and market requirements. Training was delivered to 400 new lead vanilla farmers in efficient and sustainable CSA practices.

The UN facilitated an international exposure visit to Madagascar, the world's leading country in vanilla production and export for stakeholders in the vanilla value chain. The PNG delegate met Madagascar's vanilla value chain stakeholders, visited vanilla gardens, processing facilities, testing and certification laboratories and export facilities. These meetings and visits offered them valuable insights into the regulation of the vanilla industry, production, processing and certification and marketing with the aim to apply these learnings to strengthen the vanilla industry in PNG.

Fisheries Value Chain

Continuing its effort to promote and strengthen the fisheries value chain in the Sepik region, the UN focused on capacity building initiatives and distribution of essential farming tools and fingerlings during the reporting period.

Partnering with the Foundation Of Women In Agricultural Development (FOWIAD), the STREIT Programme successfully trained 1,569 fish farmers (32 percent women and 45 percent youth from East Sepik Province) in various aspects of aquaculture including stock management, feed production and feeding, sex identification, breeding and rearing, as well as site selection and pond construction.

A total of 23,662 fingerlings were distributed to 28 fish farming groups, identified through a thorough group profiling process, essential MSMEs information, member lists, and GPS locations. Forty-eight sets of aquaculture farming tools including feed markers, spades and shovels were distributed, facilitating the immediate application of skills and addressing the gap in the supply of necessary farming tools.

In collaboration with the Provincial Fisheries and Hawaii Technical High School, the UN successfully conducted eight batches of Riverine Capture Fisheries Training (seven in East Sepik and one in West Sepik), benefiting a total of 1,522 lead fishers, with an equal distribution of 50 percent female and 50 percent male participants.

Six riverine groups comprising of community groups, MSMEs and government partners were equipped with modern value-chain materials to increase their catch, post-harvest management, processing, and sale. These included 20 fibre-

glass canoes, 12 cooler boxes, five outboard motor engines, 30 fish trays and 10 life jackets.

In collaboration with a renowned service provider and technical advisor, the Programme organised "Boat Operation and Maintenance Training" for 96 boat operators and skippers from 48 fishing groups across the region. Following the training, vital fisheries equipment and tools were distributed to the trained fisher groups, aiming to thoroughly equip these communities.

Under a partnership with the National Fisheries College, two two-week training courses were facilitated for 56 fishers, providing them with hands-on experience and building their confidence to apply the skills in real fishing scenarios.

Furthermore, four comprehensive training sessions were conducted in the Sepik region involving 414 participants from 84 fisher groups. Participants studied ecosystem-based management and the application of coastal fishing gear, including fish aggregation devices. Training also covered climate change mitigation strategies, post-harvest operations and gender considerations, fostering sustainable and gender-inclusive fishing practices.

Nutrition and Food Safety Systems

Under the STREIT Programme, an assessment was conducted, and a report developed on the nutritional requirements of the Sepik region in collaboration with implementing partner Help Resources, to be used by master trainers to conduct awareness on nutrition.

Enabling Infrastructure, Policy and Plans for Economic Growth

A 91-kilometre road was rehabilitated, engaging 453 local men, women, and youths. This brings the total length of roads rehabilitated under STREIT to 171 kilometres, providing over 100,000 people with better access to economic opportunities and livelihoods. Farmers are now able to transport their vanilla, cocoa, and fisheries products to local markets quickly and efficiently, with lower transportation costs and higher profits from sales.

In collaboration with the PNG University of Technology, 184 government and private contractor officials were trained in key aspects of road planning, procurement management, report preparation, environmental and social safeguards, and the use of bioengineering techniques for slope stabilisation in rural roads. The training equipped them to leverage technological innovations such as Arc GIS to design, construct and maintain roads, ensuring the roads are able to resist the impacts of climate change.

The UN engaged with the National Department of Agriculture and Livestock on the National Policy on Gender in Agriculture which once finalised, will promote gender inclusive agricultural practices.

The UN supported the launch of the National Weather Service on the Agricultural Meteorological Advisory Monitoring and Services (NWS AMAMAS) system, a digital farming solution to support Sepik farmers in monitoring their farming practices. 180 farmers (30 per cent females) were equipped with knowledge and skills to utilise the NWS AMAMAS system effectively for their farming practices.

In a significant stride towards boosting rural development and agri-enterprise in the Sepik region, four resource centres were established in the Sepik region: at Brandi Secondary School (Wewak) and Wosera Secondary School (Wosera) in East Sepik, and Don Bosco Technical Secondary School (Vanimo) and St Ignatius Secondary School (Aitape) in West Sepik. Each centre was equipped with 15 desktop computers with licensed software programmes, six printers and network equipment. Farmers are now equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in the market and thereby, contribute to the economic development of PNG. By collaborating with public schools as host institutions, the initiative ensures accessibility, community integration, and long-term sustainability.

Establishment of renewable and clean energy infrastructure progressed across the Sepik region, with five rooftop solar photovoltaic mini-grid systems installed at selected public facilities, including community health facilities and secondary schools. This has provided a reliable source of electricity in remote areas where access to the main grid is limited or unreliable, thereby ensuring efficient and effective operations of essential services and enhanced quality of life for local communities and at the same time, reducing carbon footprint and contributing to environmental sustainability.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with PNG Power Limited to collaborate on solar, renewable energy, and technical initiatives nationwide. This MoU complements existing partnerships with the National Energy Authority for the development of grid codes, solar regulations, and a model Accreditation and Certification system in collaboration with the PNG University of Technology. Furthermore, the programme has demonstrated its commitment to supporting rural households and MSMEs by establishing solar-powered freezers for fishing communities and MSMEs. Solar freezers extend the shelf-life of fresh fish, enabling better prices for these products and contributing to the economic viability of rural communities.

Digital Financial Inclusion

Under the STREIT Programme, digital financial inclusion services were expanded in remote and rural areas of the Sepik region through the introduction of a mobile money platform and digital payment solutions such as Cell Moni, offered by Digicel, the country's largest telecommunications provider. Cell Moni is especially beneficial for farmers in remote areas where traditional banking infrastructure is scarce or inaccessible,

allowing them to conveniently perform various financial transactions such as money transfers, bill payments, and mobile top-ups using their mobile phones. In partnership with Digicel, an action plan was developed to address network connectivity gaps and issues so that Cell Moni could be effectively utilised. As part of the action plan, 282 farmers, of which 36 percent were females and youth, underwent a series of training on digital and financial literacy.

The Women's Microbank opened 30,000 new individual customer accounts, and MiBank opened 300 new MSME bank accounts. A total of 10 new Mama Access Points, one in each Sepik district, were established allowing over 21,000 Women's Micro Bank customers convenient access to financial services. Mama Access Points provide convenient locations where women can access financial services including savings accounts and loans. They play a crucial role in expanding financial inclusion particularly for women in rural and remote areas, giving them greater control over their finances and enabling active participation in economic activities. In addition, 629 vanilla farmers onboarded under two cooperatives now have access to digitalised payment flows for selling their vanilla.

Sub-Outcome 2: By 2023, Papua New Guineans have increased access to, and utilisation of, financial services and markets with enhanced opportunities to participate in the labour market, contributing to equitable and sustainable inclusive growth.

Market managers, including local level government (LLG) officials from 14 markets were trained in the development of market plans and market management. Fifty percent of the targeted markets successfully developed their Market Operations Plans, with the Goroka Market gaining formal endorsement at the LLG Assembly. The inclusion of LLG politicians in the training sensitised them to the importance of these plans, securing their support for endorsement and implementation. This ensures that women market vendors are able to sell their produce in a safe and clean environment.

The UN focused on fostering gender-inclusive decision-making in market operations, ensuring women market vendors are able to voice their issues to management through forming and launching market vendor associations. The UN supported registrations of market vendor associations with the Investment Promotion Authority and built the capacity of vendor association representatives to better raise their concerns to market authorities.

At the national level, the UN is supporting the Department of Community Development and Religion in the development of the Informal Economy and Voice Strategy Policy, ensuring this is actively progressed, finalised and implemented.

Sub-outcome 3: By 2023, Papua New Guineans participate in formal and informal income generation and have increased capacity to contribute to inclusive national growth.

Support for Markets Economic Recovery and Inclusion (MERI) Project

The UN has contributed to promoting inclusive growth in PNG by increasing access to financial services to underserved populations, particularly women and people in rural and remote areas, expanded labour market opportunities, and empowered women to participate more actively in the economy signifying progress towards building a more equitable and prosperous society.

Through the MERI Project, the UN collaborated with the Women's Micro Bank to set up a credit guarantee facility. The UN provided the bank with credit guarantee worth US\$225,000, covering losses up to 25%. The credit facility mitigated risks for the lender and the borrowers, allowing the bank to provide loans to more women entrepreneurs. By the end of 2023, the bank provided loans to 853 women entrepreneurs and established 7,185 new accounts across project location at the Mama Access Points. The leverage effect of the credit guarantee

was remarkable, enabling Mama Bank to extend loans totalling US\$800,000 if fully utilised.

The MERI project also provided financial literacy and business development trainings alongside the financial support. These trainings equipped women entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their entrepreneurial activities, promoting sustainable economic empowerment.

Financial Empowerment and Business Development

The UN supported the delivery of the Business Development Support Service trainings, enhancing the knowledge levels of 381 vendors (315 women and 64 men) from 14 markets across the country on financial literacy, product diversification, business development and access to finance to promote business growth. These interventions have supported 2,160 women vendors thus far to open personal bank accounts, 10 percent of whom have also opened business bank accounts at commercial and microbanks.

Furthermore, 11 women market vendors participated in the PNG-Indonesia Trade Expo in Vanimo and Jayapura (West Papua - Indonesia), fostering valuable networks and creating potential business opportunities.



“Waiting for hours on roadsides for transport, even for urgent medical needs, was a nightmare.”

- JEFFERY OSI, A VILLAGE ELDER AND LEAD FARMER

Jeffery Osi, an elder and lead cocoa farmer in Osima Village, revived his old cocoa blocks using support by the STREIT Program. ©FAO-PNG

FROM ISOLATION TO OPPORTUNITY: REVIVED COCOA BUSINESS MARKS THE TURNING POINT FOR A REMOTE VILLAGE



Reviving cocoa farming

A total of 298 farmers, including women and youths, divided into two business groups. With FAO support, two cocoa budwood gardens and two cocoa nurseries were established in the village. Farmers received 12,000 pest-tolerant cocoa seedlings to plant in their existing gardens and revive the run-down, pest-infested cocoa blocks. FAO also provided training, tools, and materials, enabling the farmers to sharpen their skills in nursery seedling propagation and cocoa block management. Crucially, the support system farmers are learning and applying is environmentally sustainable, transforming cocoa farming in Osima and no longer contributing to local deforestation.

Many planted seedlings are now fruiting. Jeffrey has completed two initial harvests and netted K600 (approximately US\$160), fuelling his ambition to purchase a truck, for community service and to support his family. “I’m happy and really appreciate the European Union and the STREIT Programme for giving us hope,” he said.

Enhancing market access

The Programme recognised the broader need for a robust market ecosystem, resulting in a cocoa export-oriented depot being constructed in Vanimo. This facility promises to reduce freight costs and secure better market prices for high-flavour cocoa beans branded under PNG cocoa quality standards – a game-changer for the local economy that breaks the chains of limited buyers and ensures farmers' long-term success.

In Osima, a remote area in West Sepik Province, villagers led a traditional lifestyle centred around hunting and gardening. But accessing markets in the capital, Vanimo (a three-hour drive away) and the trade point on the nearby PNG-Indonesia border was challenging due to sporadic public transport and road conditions. “Waiting for hours on roadsides for transport, even for urgent medical needs, was a nightmare,” recounts Jeffery Osi, a village elder and lead farmer.

However, guided by visionary priest, Fr Zachery Miroi and supported by the STREIT Programme, in 2021 farmers in Osima embarked on a journey towards economic empowerment, through cocoa farming.



Villagers use Pas-Krisa road in Vanimo green district. ©FAO-PNG

STREIT aims to create an environment conducive to sustainable agri-business growth. By offering trainings in financial literacy, digital skills, group dynamics, and entrepreneurship, communities are equipped to transition to a self-reliant future. Crucial to this wholistic approach is recognition of gender equality and youth inclusion in agricultural development, with women and young people now active participants in the cocoa value chain and their voices shaping the future of their community.

The reach of STREIT extends to road rehabilitation, overseen by the ILO. The vital Pasi-Krisa Road, a 25 km lifeline connecting 10,000 residents to Vanimo, is being rehabilitated, a project set to inject K1 million into the local economy and create 20,000 workdays of decent employment for local youth and women during construction phase. Most importantly, it will reduce travel time to Vanimo to just one hour and slash transport costs by 50 percent, significantly enhancing accessibility to markets, services, and agribusiness opportunities.

Powering social services with renewable energy

Osima's transformation also impacts critical social and community services. Through UNDP interventions under STREIT, a Catholic Church-run station including a sub-health centre and primary school, was equipped with solar renewable energy. This advancement in energy infrastructure has improved the delivery of health care and education services, impacting over 10,000 inhabitants in Osima and surrounds.

Doris Nukum, a nurse who has served the sub-health centre for 14 years, no longer struggles with inconsistent electricity that hampered her ability to care for patients now that the sun is her source of power. For the 222 students of the primary school, the arrival of solar energy has brought in new ways of teaching and learning; computers, printers, and the internet are now accessible, promising a future enriched with knowledge and opportunity.

The impact of these changes resonates through the words of Fr Zachery: "I see it as a changing point for the people to strengthen their lifestyle into the future."

I see it as a changing point for the people to strengthen their lifestyle into the future.

- FR ZACHERY



I Solar Power System established in Osima Church building ©FAO-PNG
I Aerial view of Pas_Krisa road in Vanimo green district ©FAO-PNG

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



I PNG Delegation comprised of lead farmers in Sepik region and government officials visiting Belambo Village's Vanilla Market in Madagascar. @FAO PNG



I Road contractor officials that participated in training facilitated by ILO in partnership with University of technology Civil Engineering department



I Above: Vanilla farmer from the Sepik region drying her vanilla beans



I Left: Participants of fisheries value chain training

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

PLANET

Responded to

2 MAJOR VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS



3 REDD+ POLICIES

Developed, including Prior & Informed Consent, Benefit Sharing & Distribution & Grievance Redress Mechanism Guidelines.

Carbon Market Regulation now established.



2.2.3 PLANET



By 2023, PNG demonstrates improved performance in managing environmental resources and risks emanating from climate change and disasters.

Sub-Outcome 1: By 2023, PNG has strengthened legislative and policy frameworks with institutional support for natural resources management, including climate change mitigation, adaptation, and risk reduction.

REDD+ and Climate Change Initiatives

The UN continued to support PNG in its climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts through the provision of technical and financial support to the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA). This resulted in the development of three REDD+ Safeguards Guidelines/Policies, including Free Prior and Informed Consent Guidelines, Benefit Sharing and Distribution Guidelines, and Grievance Redress Mechanism Guidelines. National REDD+ Development Guidelines and Carbon Market Regulation were also established, including amendments to the Climate Change (Management) Act 2015, emphasising sustainable utilisation, conservation, and climate change resilience.

In addition, the UN, in collaboration with other development partners, supported the CCDA in developing and publishing the PNG National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The NAP is a strategic framework to support country-driven efforts in effectively mainstreaming adaptation to climate-induced risks within sectoral planning processes, fostering sustainable development, and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on the country.

Disaster Risk Management and Response

Towards enhancing the readiness and response capacity of government partners, the UN, supported various interventions including training in the Displacement Tracking Matrix. Consequently, partners were able to swiftly deploy the tool in response to volcano eruptions in West New Britain, East New Britain and AROB, facilitating evidence-based response and recovery planning for affected populations. Government partners also used UN-supported awareness materials on hazards like drought and flood that have significantly increased community awareness and disaster preparedness. The UN continues to support the provincial government and communities to implement their risk management plans.



The UN facilitated the 8th biennial Provincial Disaster Coordinators' Conference. Conference discussions centred on impacts of climate disruptions on food, water, and health security, often leading to conflicts. The conference concluded with the adoption of 19 resolutions and an action plan spanning 2023 to 2027, marking a significant milestone in enhanced disaster preparedness for the country.

Forestry, Land Use, Climate Change and Biodiversity

The UN, in collaboration with other development partners supported the CCDA, PNG Forest Authority, and the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority to enhance the management and conservation of its forest ecosystems. Initiatives focused on combatting deforestation, promoting sustainable logging practices, and safeguarding biodiversity-rich areas through protected area establishment and conservation efforts. The UN also supported the CCDA's participation in regional initiatives targeting climate change impacts, fostering partnerships with organisations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). These collaborations aimed to bolster climate resilience, share best practices, and secure funding for adaptation and mitigation projects alongside regional counterparts, committing to achieving SDGs particularly those related to climate action, clean energy, and sustainable ecosystems.

Sub-outcome 2: By 2023, PNG has enhanced capacity to address climate and disaster risks, deliver clean and affordable energy, and improve management and conservation of forest and marine ecosystems.

Management and Conservation of Forests and Marine Ecosystems

The UN's comprehensive feasibility assessment at the Pilikambian Community Conservation Area contributed to availability of data and insights to inform protected area management and sustainable financing plans, ensuring effective and inclusive conservation efforts.

The implementation of the Climate Adaptive Integrated Mangrove Management Plan in Manus Province has high potential to reduce mangrove loss caused by human activities. Communities have demonstrated increased awareness on climate and disaster risks, leading to enhanced preparedness measures. Ecological data and community insights have



provided a comprehensive understanding of the current status of these vital coastal habitats. Community engagement emerges as a crucial factor in conservation efforts, emphasising the need for strategies in restoration, sustainable resource management, and climate adaptation.

Capacity building and support provided to selected local communities and CSOs have positioned them to access seed grants from the Biodiversity and Climate Fund, established by the UN in 2018 as a public financing instrument.

The UN also delivered the third Protected Areas Forum, raising awareness among relevant government officials and traditional landowners on the requirements to achieve protected area status and the necessary sustainable financing to ensure such areas maintain their biodiversity. In addition, the UN equipped the landowners through various technical assistance and training, enabling them to protect their forest and marine ecosystem, which is vital for biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate regulation, and ensures ecological balance and sustainability.

Further, the UN-facilitated Blue Finance Forum brought together diverse stakeholders to deliberate on the vast potential of PNG's magnificent marine resources. The participants discussed, shared knowledge and planned for actionable strategies to unlock PNG's blue economy while also preserving the marine ecosystem.

Renewable Energy

The Government of PNG has a set target of connecting 70% of the population to renewable energy by 2030, and the UN is contributing to the achievement of this target through its various renewable energy initiatives across the country. The UN-supported solar infrastructure development projects in 2023 made significant progress in supporting communities' access to clean, reliable and renewable energy. The deployment of Solar PV and Battery Energy Storage System Hybrid Systems for seven government institutions in the Telefomin district of West Sepik Province will provide a reliable and sustainable energy source. This, complemented by the STREIT Programme renewable energy projects in the Sepik region, will not only empower communities but significantly enhance government and public service productivity.

Renewable solar energy projects in Daru, Buka and Jiwaka are in feasibility and design stages and are expected to contribute to improved public services, enhanced connectivity, and

overall community development and social well-being. The shift towards cleaner and more sustainable energy sources aligns with environmental conservation goals, contributing to a greener and more eco-friendly development context. These efforts contribute to reducing carbon emissions and minimising the ecological footprint, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change and foster a more sustainable and resilient development trajectory.

During 2023 COP 28, a media exhibition booth showcased photos and videos of the UN's various renewable energy initiatives in the country, highlighting the UN's support for the Government of PNG in advancing clean and affordable energy solutions.

Sub-outcome 3: By 2023, people, particularly marginalised and vulnerable, are empowered to manage climatic risks, develop community resilience, and generate development opportunities from the protection of land, forests, and marine resources.

Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

The UN in collaboration with national and provincial disaster centres made significant progress in strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities across ten provinces through the implementation of CBDRM plans. This approach empowers communities to lead in the planning and implementing of measures to mitigate disaster risks, providing essential knowledge to women and youth. Key achievements included the establishment of multi-purpose evacuation centres for training and shelter during disasters. Evidence from CBDRM communities shows significant improvements in preparedness and resilience. Notably, in AROB's Haku constituency, a community-built evacuation route proved crucial during king tides, while in Jiwaka, proactive initiatives led to the relocation of houses from flood-prone areas, integrating safe shelter techniques.

Gender-inclusive disaster management committees have expanded, fostering community leadership and facilitating regular disaster awareness campaigns. These efforts have notably enhanced disaster preparedness, including the relocation of vulnerable housing to safer locations, thus effectively mitigating risks.

IGNITING A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN PNG

Preserving and capitalising on PNG's extraordinary marine resources was the focus of the Blue Finance Forum, held in late 2023, which saw diverse participants from all industries converge for two days to explore the vast potential of the country's blue economy.

PNG's blue economy sector is underscored by its significant marine ecosystems including its remarkable coral reefs – part of the renowned Coral Triangle, a global hotspot for marine biodiversity.

The forum, part of the collaborative "Gutpela Solwara, Gutpela Bisnis" joint program between UNDP and UNCDF, was a platform for collaboration and learning, and a chance to seize the potential of PNG's blue assets to improve the livelihoods of coastal and upstream communities. The joint program works closely with the PNG Government and is dedicated to catalysing a just and sustainable blue economy. It especially recognises the role of MSMEs in the blue sector and their vital role in creating socio-economic opportunities for Papua New Guineans.

Importantly, the forum represents a significant step forward in acknowledging the potential of the blue economy, not only as an economic driver but as a means to protect and preserve PNG's exceptional marine biodiversity.



Participants of the Blue Finance Forum. © UNDP PNG



Exhibition of sustainable energy efforts in PNG at COP28. © UNOPS PNG

POWERING EDUCATION IN SANDAUN PROVINCE

Frequent blackouts disrupting the quality of teaching and learning was a part of life for nearly 2000 students and staff of Don Bosco Technical Secondary and Vanimo Secondary Schools in Sandaun Province.

"Power is very unreliable here" said Principal Frank Banak of Don Bosco Technical Secondary School. "We experience blackouts about three to four times a week, which means lessons are cancelled, students are unable to do their homework and teachers cannot properly prepare for their classes. The food in our canteen keeps going bad."

UNDP, through the STREIT Programme, recognised the need for a sustainable energy solution and in partnership with PNG Power Limited, installed hybrid solar photovoltaic systems in both Don Bosco and Vanimo Secondary School.

Teachers and students alike celebrated the milestone during the launch ceremony in August 2023. William Maiya, Principal of Vanimo Secondary School, spoke of how important these changes are in order to provide educational opportunities, particularly for rural students.

"Parents from the most rural and remote parts of Sandaun Province send their students to these schools to receive the best possible education. These new systems would mean students from rural backgrounds will continue to benefit from opportunities that would otherwise not be available for them. I am proud to say that we are the only two schools in the province that provide computing courses."

Student Tapi Noel expressed his gratitude, recognising how access to uninterrupted power would support education for him and his peers.

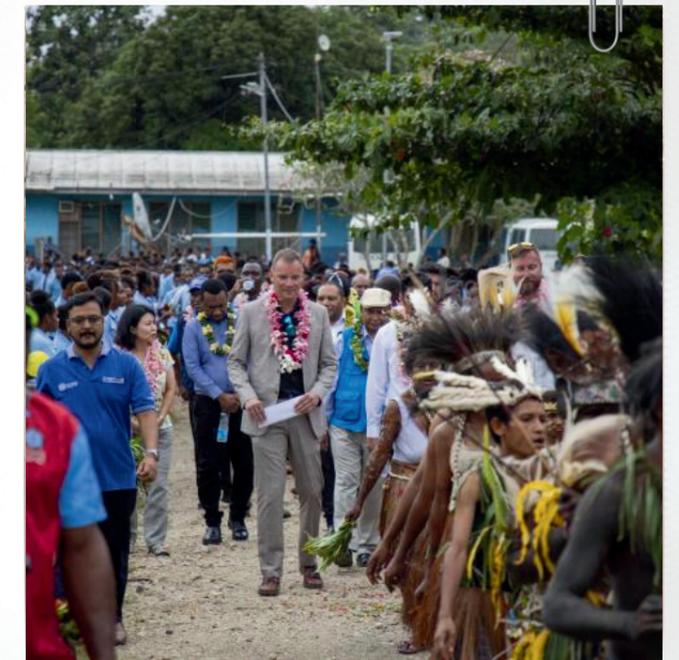
"Whenever there are power outages at my home now, I can come to the school to complete my homework and study for the upcoming national exams. I am so happy my success will no longer depend on electricity, but on the effort I put in my studies."



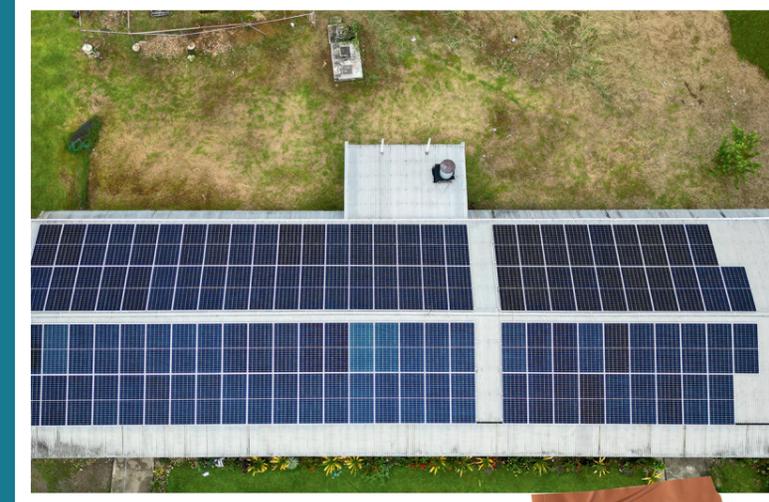
“Whenever there are power outages at my home now, I can come to the school to complete my homework and study for the upcoming national exams. I am so happy my success will no longer depend on electricity, but on the effort I put in my studies.”



| A student studying in one of the Classrooms at Don Bosco Technical Secondary School Vanimo



| Above: STREIT Officials, EU representative and school community at the official launching of the solar systems
| Left: Hybrid Solar Photovoltaic System installed to harnesses energy from both solar panels and the local PNG Power grid



| Solar panels installed at the roof a school building



PEACE

UN support for the Integrated Public Financial Management System (FIMS) led to an additional five provinces adopting FIMS, **increasing the total to 18 provinces from 13 in the previous year**, resulting in a \$20 million revenue generation from owed taxes, compared to zero in the previous year.



\$20 MILLION
Revenue generation



382 INDIVIDUALS In Hela Province empowered to conduct community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities.

26 CHILDREN DIVERTED FROM LEGAL SYSTEM

UN support resulted in children being diverted from the legal system, **18 cases from the police and 8 from the courts.** Plus, 34 children accessed probation services, 66 were placed on remand, and 26 were convicted.



Successfully mediated conflicts in the Highlands

Trained on concepts on entrepreneurship (78 % women)



12
MEDIATED

316
TRAINED



2.2.4 PEACE



By 2023, government and non-governmental institutions demonstrate improved transparency, accountability, delivery of justice, and promotion of peace and security.

Sub-Outcome 1: By 2023, government agencies and non-government organisations working on good governance, peace and security have the capacity and leadership to undertake measures to combat corruption, prevent violence and provide access to justice.

Strengthen Capacity to Address Corruption

The UN's support to strengthen regulatory and policy frameworks to combat corruption, resulted in the finalisation of crucial measures to address systematic corruption and protect whistleblowers. Specifically, the UN supported the Prime Minister's Department in developing the country's first Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption, and Whistleblower Protection Policy 2023, offering a mechanism for civil servants to report malfeasance. This policy enabled the UN to further support the newly established government entity, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, to finalise its various governance and operational regulations including the Whistleblower Act, accelerating progress to deliver its mandate to combat corruption.

At the grassroots level, the UN in collaboration with the CSOs and Transparency International, facilitated the inaugural National Dialogue for the Community Coalition Against Corruption, aimed at fostering demands for improved governance. A total of 1,756 individuals took part in several sessions (59 percent men and 41 percent women). These sessions enhanced the participants' awareness and perception of corruption. Further, the UN mobilised funding for its new Transparency and Accountability Programme, which will focus on enhancing sector coordination, organisational governance, and enhance advocacy efforts.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The UN's support to the Government led to successful consultations in October and November 2023, gathering vital information from six provinces. These consultations served the dual purpose of reviewing the outdated Gender Policy 2015 and collecting pertinent data for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Simplified



Reporting due in 2024, as a precursor to the full report due in 2026. This is crucial for meeting PNG's obligations, which are currently three reporting periods behind schedule. A total of 123 individuals, including 38 males, 85 females, and three females with disabilities from key government departments, CSOs and faith-based organisations participated in the consultations. This effort marks a significant step towards advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in PNG.

The UN facilitated the attendance of two senior officers from the Department of Community Development and Religion at the CEDAW 86th session in Geneva, enhancing their preparedness for CEDAW Reporting and ensuring PNG's representation at the international level is well-informed and effective.

The ABG, through its Ministry of Community Development and with UN technical support, developed two pivotal policies: the Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Peace, and Security Policy 2023-2027 and the Civil Society Partnership Policy 2023-2027. This demonstrates the UN's commitment to supporting the ABG in advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and civil society partnerships.

The UN's continued efforts to advance gender equality and eliminate discrimination and violence against women resulted in progress in political commitment. In 2023, the former Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV became a Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and organised a powerful "United for Equality Summit". Held at APEC Haus in Port Moresby in November, women MPs from the National Parliament and Bougainville House of Representatives formed the Joint Parliamentary Women's Caucus and issued a Joint Declaration on Women in Leadership. The declaration calls for implementing a series of initiatives, institutions, bills and amendments to enhance electoral integrity and women's political participation in PNG, including the introduction of temporary special measures to increase the number of women in Parliament. The declaration was the outcome of the inquiries hosted by the standing Parliamentary Committee on Women's Empowerment and GBV, with UN's support, shedding light on the obstacles hindering women's empowerment and safety in PNG.

The summit also commemorated the closing of the UN Spotlight Initiative. As part of its activities under the initiative, UN supported 21 provincial governments in drafting their GBV prevention and response strategies. The strategies were presented to the public for the first time at the summit. Over 400 government officials, private sector representatives and civil society leaders participated in the summit.

The Provincial Executive Council of East Sepik Province approved an annual budget of K500,000 (approximately US\$138,354) to implement its GBV prevention and response strategy for 2023-2026, marking an important milestone for the UN as it provides comprehensive support to the provinces to draft their strategies.

Child Protection

The UN supported PNG's National Office of Child and Family Services (NOCFS) to develop a three-year costed roadmap for the Social Service Workforce, totalling US\$3,688,072. This roadmap aims to strengthen capacity in the social services sector across planning, developing, and workforce support, with initiatives such as workforce composition identification, enhancing social worker associations, and standardising curricula.

The UN facilitated a Parenting for Child Development (P4CD) Network Meeting during Parenting Month in June 2023, fostering knowledge exchange on positive parenting among participants. Over 1000 parents and caregivers, 52% female, participated in six training sessions in Jiwaka, Morobe, NCD, and Western Highlands. With UN's support, these trainings were conducted by faith-based organisations, local NGOs and CSOs. The P4CD training sessions aim to reduce harsh parenting, child maltreatment and violence against children (VAC). The NOCFS is actively working towards institutionalising the P4CD Programme, a strategic move that will enable the government to expand the programme at scale, sustainably, over the long term. Faith-based organisations and NGOs involved in P4CD implementation will provide technical assistance to NOCFS staff, further enhancing the programme's effectiveness and reach.

Further, the UN supported the development of a Provincial Engagement Framework for child protection systems at the provincial level. This facilitated implementation of the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 through the establishment of by-laws and the launch of provincial child protection committees in July 2023

Child Justice and Juvenile Rehabilitation

The Department of Justice and Attorney General's (DJAG) Juvenile Justice Services unit organised a review workshop of the expired National Juvenile Justice Plan. Information gathered from the workshop informed the development of the revised plan. The UN, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and DJAG conducted a joint monitoring visit to Provincial Juvenile Justice Committees in five provinces to assess the functionality of multisectoral subnational justice coordination mechanisms, discuss capacity gaps and review provincial plans.

Further, the UN strengthened the data management capacity of the three Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat in three provinces. UN efforts also resulted in 26 children being diverted from the legal system, with 18 cases from the police and eight from the courts. Additionally, 34 children accessed probation services, 66 were placed on remand, and 26 were convicted.

Community Peacebuilding and Development through the Highlands Joint Programme

The UN Highlands Joint Programme successfully empowered local stakeholders in the Highlands Region by focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, trust-building activities, and socio-economic peace dividends. Led by mediation teams from the Catholic Diocese of Mendi and the United Church, the programme facilitated dialogues among parties involved in 12 conflicts, resulting in the peaceful resolution of eight conflicts through local peace agreements. Twenty-five community peacebuilding grants strengthened cultural, social, and economic bonds among previously conflicting parties. The programme also empowered women leaders to advocate for climate-induced conflict prevention and community resilience through training, networking, and promoting gender equality. The UN commissioned a Downscaled Climate Risk Assessment in Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces to identify high-risk communities and tailor resilience-building interventions against climate-related challenges.

The signing of a historic peace agreement on December 21, 2023, in the Southern Highlands Province marked a significant milestone, bringing an end to longstanding conflicts among four previously warring communities. This achievement was the culmination of collaborative efforts between the UN, the Kagua-Erave District, and Southern Highlands Provincial Administration.

The UN's support led to tangible improvements in the community's infrastructure, including the construction of a health centre and a market facility. These developments provided essential healthcare services and created economic opportunities for women to sell their products, contributing to overall community well-being.

The UN also conducted targeted peacebuilding training sessions for community leaders, former combatants, and key stakeholders, addressing critical issues such as gender sensitisation and youth advocacy. These trainings were instrumental in fostering a conducive environment for the peace agreement. In parallel, in Hela province, the UN extended support to the Paipeli community by constructing a rainwater catchment system designed to enhance community water security, particularly during periods of water scarcity and natural disasters like droughts. By improving access to safe drinking water, the intervention addressed immediate needs and mitigated potential conflicts arising from water shortages, thereby promoting stability and resilience in the region.

The UN's peacebuilding and community development interventions resulted in the development of a Psychosocial Support Training curriculum to guide capacity-building activities. Using this, trainings were conducted, improving the capacity of 51 mediators and community mobilisers from faith-based organisations, youth, and Language Experience Program centres in psychological first aid, nonviolent communication, trauma-informed support, and community engagement.

In communities across Hela Province, 382 individuals were empowered to conduct community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities. The workshops fostered community engagement through members' involvement in designing cultural and gender-sensitive activities, including art therapy, sports, relaxation techniques, storytelling, gardening, and bilum making.

In efforts to address the persisting challenge of insufficient healthcare workers, including trained MHPSS specialists, the UN provided MHPSS training to healthcare workers, including community-based health workers, in Hela and Enga provinces. The training and supervision equipped the workers to provide effective localised services to communities and individuals affected by tribal conflict.

Through the Small Grants initiative, UN financial and technical support enhanced the institutional capacity of five CSOs to deliver services to survivors of conflict-related GBV and sorcery accusation-related violence. Thirteen executives, comprising six women and seven men from five CSOs in Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces, were trained in financial management, programme management and monitoring, and evaluation. The participants enhanced their skills in managing and reporting on small grants and delivering peacebuilding and psychosocial services in their communities.

Sub-outcome 2: By 2023, government agencies will have a results-based, transparent, and accountable governance system and equitable delivery of services.

Public Financial Information Management Systems

During the reporting period, the UN continued to provide technical advice and support to relevant government entities to enhance public financial management, revenue collection, and transparency. This effort resulted in an additional five provinces adopting Financial Information Management System (FIMS), increasing the total to 18 provinces from 13 in the previous year. This led to a significant revenue increase of US\$20 million from owed taxes which will be allocated to vital services such as education and health.

Autonomous Region of Bougainville Consultations

The UN continued to support Bougainville Peacebuilding efforts through various initiatives. At the national level, as an impartial peace broker and leveraging its convening power, the UN facilitated the post-referendum dialogue between the ABG and the PNG Government, bringing both parties to the negotiating table. This resulted in the first Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) Meeting in July 2023, a significant meeting that brought the Prime Minister of PNG and the President of the ABG to an agreement on a post-referendum process, including

the ratification of the 2019 Bougainville referendum results. The JSB resolution granted authorisation to the PNG National Minister for Bougainville Affairs and the ABG Attorney General to advance the process for submitting the results of the 2019 referendum to PNG's National Parliament.

Recognising the importance of inclusive participation in the post-referendum dialogue process at subnational and community level, the UN successfully mobilised US\$470,000 in peacebuilding funds to facilitate youth engagement in Bougainville's post-referendum dialogue. This will ensure youth perspectives and priorities are integrated into decision-making processes, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable approach to peacebuilding and development.

Sub-outcome 3: By 2023, people in PNG live in a safe and secure environment that allows them the freedom to exercise their political, social, economic, civil, and cultural rights enshrined under the Constitution.

Gender Equality in Leadership and Political Participation

The UN continued its partnership with the Political Leadership Academy (PLAW) embedded in the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance to cultivate a cadre of skilled, confident, and knowledgeable women leaders. Twenty subnational political leaders from 13 provinces underwent training, completing four modules, including Leadership and Governance. Among them, 14 were appointed women representatives in LLGs, district development authorities, and provincial assemblies, while three were elected ward councillors and two were from provincial councils of women. Additionally, 39 participants from previous cohorts benefited from post-training mentoring and networking session. This networking opportunity enabled women leaders to exchange insights and experiences, with two prominent political figures addressing PLAW participants. These initiatives fostered collaboration among the women leaders and reinforced their mutual support, particularly in their aspirations to secure political leadership roles at the national and subnational levels.

Through the Young Women's Political Leadership Boot Camp, the UN empowered 17 young women leaders (ages 19-30) in political leadership. Participants were current students and recent graduates from four PNG universities. The Boot Camp, held in August 2023, enabled participants to network with government and political leaders, learn from their experiences, and create useful connections, setting them on the pathway to attaining future leadership positions.

There were significant shifts in negative perceptions of women in political leadership following the roll-out of the Women in Leadership modules in five locations around the country. These sites were selected based on the 2022 National General Elections data, highlighting locations where women candidates fared well

or faced challenges. The pedagogy of the modules involves understanding the community, building empathy, sharing information on facts about women in political leadership in PNG, and the need for Temporary Special Measures to address gender inequality in political participation. The remaining module focuses on community actions born out of recognising inequality between male and female leadership.

A church pastor from Southern Highlands Province, participating in the Women in Leadership initiative, highlighted its role in restoring peace within the community. In translation from the local Tok Pisin (as below), he said that women's involvement in leadership showcased the potential to bring positive change within families and communities. Emphasising the transformative impact, he expressed that communities and individuals will undergo significant positive transformations with more women assuming leadership roles.

At the policy level, the UN developed impactful knowledge products advocating for Temporary Special Measures in PNG, in collaboration with the Integrity of Political and Candidates



Disla wok em sapatim wok misin. Sapos planti lain (kisim disla) save em ples bai senis, community bai senis, manmeri tu bai senis. Nau mipla ken opim ai tu olsem ol meri ken kamap lida. Meri ken kamapim senis insait lo famili na komunitu tu



Commission. These products include an animation, print advertorial, and set of social media cards, all aimed at policymakers to illustrate the challenges faced by female candidates and voters and highlighting the disparities between men and women in electoral processes. Raising awareness of these inequalities aims to inspire changes in the legal framework to facilitate equal participation of women in elections.

Scheduled for launch in early 2024, these efforts aim to foster a more inclusive and equitable political landscape in PNG.

Youth Empowerment

Through its targeted youth empowerment initiative, the Youth Parliament, the UN empowered 101 young people comprised of 53 females and 48 males (2 males with disabilities) to become active participants in addressing challenges facing their communities and the country. During the reporting period, Youth Parliaments held in Lae and Port Moresby offered an invaluable opportunity for young people to enhance their knowledge of parliamentary procedures by sharing insights, participating in debates, and exploring critical triple nexus, peace, development, and humanitarian issues affecting PNG.

Community Peacebuilding and Development

At the subnational level, targeted development interventions continued supporting the peacebuilding process in the Highlands Region and AROB. An apiculture demonstration farm was established in the Southern Highlands Province through a collaborative effort between the UN, Imboggu District, and local SMEs. The setup included installation of 40 sets of beehives, accompanied by two Training of Trainers sessions and distribution of personal protective equipment. Lead farmers also received vegetable seeds to develop seed banks for further multiplication. The apiculture initiative diversifies livelihood opportunities and fosters unity and collaboration among community members, contributing to sustained peace and prosperity. Awareness campaigns on peacebuilding, mental health, GBV prevention, and sorcery-related violence reached approximately 3000 individuals across ten communities in Hela Province. Conducted by the PNG Council of Churches with UN support, these sessions significantly improved knowledge and understanding of various issues and available referral services.

In AROB, the UN continued its support through various initiatives including the Sustaining Peace through Women's Economic Empowerment Project, which trained 316 individuals (78 percent women) in concepts on entrepreneurship. These efforts have supported entrepreneurs to accelerate their business ideas and establish viable business entities, transitioning into MSMEs.

FROM SMALL BUSINESS TO ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS



| Marthina Nasa receiving the award. ©UNDP

Marthina Nasa, founder of Tonoruku Trading, supplies Bougainville's famous weaving products to handicraft sellers across PNG.

After participating in the UNDP-led "Sustaining Peace through Economic Empowerment" project, Martina used her new entrepreneurial skills to accelerate her business, transitioning from an informal vendor to a small-medium enterprise that now supplies to handicraft sellers including City Pharmacy Limited, one of the country's largest retailers. Income from her business has helped her to pay her children's school fees.

In recognition of her passion for empowering other women through sharing her entrepreneurial journey, Marthina received the 2023 Bougainville Women of Influence Award at the Papua New Guinea SME Awards, an event UNDP has supported since 2020.

COMMUNITY MEDIATOR USES SKILLS TO DELIVER PEACE IN LOCAL LLG

When asked to mediate between two warring clans in North Koroba Local Level Government, Mr Handapa Katia was uncertain how he would be received. "The conflict had been going since June 2023 with properties and livelihoods destroyed, and at least 20 people killed" Handapa explained. "To mediate such conflict was not easy and I feared for my life."

Handapa is part of the Hela Peace Mediation Team that works with the Catholic Diocese of Mendi and Hela in areas affected by tribal conflicts. He took part in training conducted by UNFPA in 2023 on Basic Psychological First Aid and Conflict Resolution, skills he applied to initiate peace between the two tribes.

"We learnt not to dive straight into the issue at hand" Handapa explained. "And that's what I did. I talked about education and how tribal fights will make it impossible for their children to have an educated future. While we fight, another village in Hela and the rest of the country are getting educated and getting better than us."

Handapa shared his fear of being accused of bias while going between clans. "So many tribes had lost someone in this conflict and I was dealing with different factions that were hurting. However, by approaching them with a different angle of education and development in their communities, I was able to ask them to identify why they fight in the first place. Which led them to see that they were fighting for no reason at all, and this resonated peace in their hearts."

In January 2024, the two clans decided to end their fight and reconcile.

Handapa has also been addressing the issue of trauma and psychological first aid with the two factions, helping them to identify the root causes of these tribal issues. "I continue to talk about trauma and underlying causes to these warlords. The issue of peace is ongoing in Hela and this successful mediation is the first of many."



I continue to talk about trauma and underlying causes to these warlords. The issue of peace is ongoing in Hela and this successful mediation is the first of many.

- MR HANDAPA KATIA



| Handapa and another peace mediator in discussion

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE THROUGH POSITIVE PARENTING

“My teenagers became rebellious and disrespected me. My youngest child gave me a lot of headaches. He had no respect for me. If I hit him out of anger or didn't have his meals ready, he would break our plates or stand on the road and throw stones at me.”

Desperate to save her family from falling apart, Lina signed up for Parenting for Child Development (P4CD), a parenting program developed for Papua New Guineans to practice alternative positive discipline approaches and reduce harsh parenting, child maltreatment, and violence against children. Facilitated by UNICEF, the program is delivered by faith-based and civil society organisations in five provinces.

As with many families enjoying improved parent-child relationships after participating in the program, Lina hasn't looked back. “I learned so many things: how to talk to my children, listen to them, have real conversations with them, and understand each other. I stopped hitting my children and started practising what I had learned. The biggest change I see is in my youngest child, who listens to me and stopped doing those awful things. I am happy now.”



I learned so many things: how to talk to my children, listen to them, have real conversations with them, and understand each other.

- LINA SIMON



Participant of Gender Transformative Training on Psychosocial Support for Peace and Community Resilience. © UNFPA PNG



Above: Participant of 2023 Youth Parliament. © UNFPA PNG



Bottom: For some female participants, the dialogues have marked their first opportunity to voice their opinions in a public forum. © UNDP PNG

2.2.5 Programme challenges/ key lessons learned/ innovations/ good practices

Challenges and Mitigation

While the outlined achievements show the strength of the UN's commitment to progressing national priorities, various challenges hinder effective progress across the development pillars. Some of the common challenges encountered in the reporting period are listed below.

- ▶ **Conflict and security risks**, including tribal fighting and political instability, pervade the landscape, impeding programme implementation and disrupting supply chains. To mitigate these risks, the UN continued to foster dialogue and promote conflict resolution.
- ▶ **Unequal participation in development**, particularly among marginalized groups such as women, youth, and children, perpetuates inequalities and limits progress towards national development and the sustainable development goals. To address this, UN continued to promote awareness and advocacy activities including support for policies that promote inclusive and equitable participation, capacity building and other initiatives that empowers marginalized populations such as women and youths, to ensure their representation in decision-making and creating space for children to voice their perspectives to development.
- ▶ **Political instability and interference and lack of buy-in from key stakeholders** hinders progress of the UN development initiatives. The UN continued to monitor the political landscape of the country and maintain regular dialogue and engagement with political leaders and other key government and community stakeholders, building consensus among stakeholders to advance development priorities.
- ▶ **Capacity constraints both human and financial within government institutions.** Limited technical expertise and human resources impede effective policy implementation and service delivery. UN continued to invest in capacity-building initiatives and foster partnerships with external organisations to help strengthen the government's institutional capabilities. Limited funding allocations for key sectors like education and health persist, including lack of funding for gender equality initiatives. The UN continued to advocate for increased funding allocation to these critical areas in national and subnational budget allocations and also supported the government in mobilising resources for such key sectors.
- ▶ **Logistical** challenges contributed to project setbacks and increased costs. UN continued to maintain dialogue with services providers at the ground level to ensure logistics

such as transport, venues for training and accommodation are available to enable programme activities.

- ▶ Also, corruption undermines the capacity of state institutions to deliver on their mandate. The UN has supported the government through its various targeted interventions to establish and implement anti-corruption mechanisms, enhancing transparency, and promoting accountability.

Lessons Learned/Good Practice/Innovation

- ▶ Active and increased stakeholder engagement, spanning from governmental to local communities, where stakeholders are involved at every stage from project identification to design and implementation ensuring, that solutions are tailored to local needs and priorities. This approach employed by the UN has shown ownership and commitment among stakeholders that will lead to sustainability of project outcomes over time. For example, UN's CBDRM and peacebuilding intervention where community engagement is key has resulted in successful disaster preparedness and resilience among communities.
- ▶ Through a holistic, integrated, and collaborative approach to development among UN entities, the UN in PNG has harnessed the combined technical expertise of the UN system and addressed a spectrum of interconnected development problems resulting in optimal reach and impact. This was demonstrated in the collective impact and reach of the STREIT Joint Programme and other joint programmes undertaken by UN agencies in the country.
- ▶ The UN continued to apply innovative practices to its programmes such as the use of CSA practices in agricultural value chains under the STREIT Programme and establishing an -Electronic TB (eTB) module for digital data collection and reporting of TB statistics. Additionally, the UN utilised artificial intelligence to produce the SDG insights report that was shared with the Government of PNG prior to the SDG Summit in New York in September 2023. A strategic foresight workshop was also conducted in December 2023 comprising of three different sessions for Youths, People with Disabilities and the UNCT, building UNCT capacity to apply future and foresight thinking in a rapidly changing programming context.

2.2.6 Reflections on overall progress on the 'Promise to Leave No One Behind'

National Statistics: Reliable and accurate data and statistics are essential for advancing the "leave no one behind" agenda. They enable identification of vulnerable groups, facilitating the development of targeted interventions that specifically address their needs. Reliable data also serves as a benchmark

for measuring progress towards development goals, enables equitable and inclusive resource allocation, and promotes accountability among governments and stakeholders allowing citizens to hold decision makers accountable for their actions. Over the reporting period, the UN supported the NSO to generate population estimates and projections for 2021 and facilitated the completion of the National Transfer Accounts and Demographic Dividend ranking for provinces. As the country prepares for the full National Population Census in the next year, the UN built the technical capacities of the NSO to manage and coordinate this important exercise.

Through initiatives including the Data Literacy Programme, the UN enhanced the capabilities of subnational entities, reaching over 70 percent of provinces and training more than 700 individuals in data collection and analysis.

As a result of the 2022 Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey, various reports were developed covering topics such as demographic dividend, youth, migration, gender, education, economic wellbeing, and fertility/mortality. These efforts were aimed at providing accurate population data essential for effective planning, decision-making, and policy formulation in PNG.

The UN contributed to evidence-based advocacy by conducting critical studies, including the economic impact of poor sanitation and a feasibility study on ceramic water filters in PNG. Collaboration with WorldPop facilitated population-modelled estimation results. Additionally, the UN supported the government in expanding electronic data collection and reporting modules to seven more provinces, further strengthening data-driven approaches to development and governance.

The UN has collaborated with key international development partners and all relevant government agencies to strengthen PNG's civil registrations and vital statistics. Over the reporting period, a workshop was convened where collaborators discussed incremental progress, challenges and shared best practices leading to finalisation of the PNG Civil Registration and Vital Statistic Action Plan 2023-2025. The plan supports the government's goal of achieving universal and timely registrations of all PNG births and deaths so that every citizen has a legal identity, and the country can produce vital statistics from registration records for social and economic planning. The plan outlines existing long-term development initiatives but mostly focuses on shorter-term actions that can support the larger initiatives, where multi-agency collaboration is necessary to deliver immediate and sustainable results.

Vulnerable and marginalised communities: Gender and disability issues were integrated when developing the WASH in Schools Policy, Guidelines and Infrastructure manual. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) ensured that all groups' diverse needs, concerns, and priorities were considered when deploying

Displacement Tracking Matrix operations. For example, ensuring that field assessments involving internally displaced persons were inclusive and involved all groups including women, youth, older persons, and persons with special needs.

Gender and human rights: In 2023, the UN's efforts significantly advanced gender and human rights. Through various initiatives, including capacity-building programs, advocacy campaigns, and policy development, the UN bolstered women's empowerment, tackled gender-based violence and promoted inclusive leadership and governance. By fostering partnerships with local stakeholders and governmental bodies, the UN facilitated the implementation of gender-sensitive policies and legal frameworks, enhancing access to justice and social services for marginalised groups and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Youths and children: Over the reporting period, the UN continued to promote a rights-based, inclusive approach to all its interventions. Notable progress was made to advance children's rights through PNG's second UNCRC State Party Report by the NEC, with the UN playing a key role in facilitating development and endorsement of the report. The report was officially launched during commemoration of World Children's Day on November 30, 2023, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the ratification of the UNCRC. On this occasion, children voiced key concerns to the government, emphasising their rights to protection, education, health, and more. The report awaits submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. Various other initiatives across the four pillars also contribute to improving access to services by children in areas such as education, WASH, nutrition, and health as highlighted in this report.

Similarly, the UN ensured the mainstreaming of youth participation in all its interventions. Youths benefitted from projects under the STREIT Programme and other initiatives across the country including targeted youth interventions, the Youth Parliament, and secured funding for youth peacebuilding initiatives.

2.2.7 Links to other priorities/plans in PNG

The UNDAF 2018-2023 forms the framework for UN activities and aligns with the MTDP III and the PNG Vision 2050. Critical areas of focus in 2023, including climate change, GBV, education and health, fell under the four UNDAF pillars (People, Prosperity, Planet and Peace). The UN also supported government priorities in agriculture, rural development, peace, and social cohesion.

The UN plays a critical humanitarian and emergency response role on the Disaster Management Team (DMT) through various humanitarian clusters that address the impact of natural disasters and other crises, such as the effects of tribal conflicts.

2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Innovative partnerships: In the reporting period, the UN maintained or entered partnerships with a broad range of bilateral and multilateral development partners, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, academia, think-tanks and research institutions, government, trade unions, and media among others, to implement its programmes.

Financing the SDG achievements: The UN received funding from various donors to advance SDG achievements through its various programmes. According to agency inputs on UN INFO, donor partners included the Governments of Australia, Japan, Korea, USA, Norway, and PNG, as well as the EU. International financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF also contributed. Additionally, funding came from global facilities such as the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Peacebuilding Fund and The Global Fund. Core contributions from agencies also supported the UN's work in the reporting period.

Some of these funding support, such as the EU support for the STREIT program, has significantly contributed to achieving multiple SDGs in the country's Sepik region. By empowering individuals, particularly women and youth, through initiatives such as boosting agricultural value chains, STREIT addresses SDG1 (No Poverty) and SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Efforts in the cocoa and vanilla value chains enhance food security (SDG2) and promote sustainable agriculture practices. The Programme fosters inclusive economic growth by supporting collective production groups (SDG9) and promotes sustainable consumption and production (SDG12). Furthermore, its focus on education, digital financial inclusion, and renewable energy contributed to SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG9. Gender equality was mainstreamed in all STREIT interventions contributing to SDG5 (Gender Equality). This demonstrates a comprehensive approach towards economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion while contributing to achieving the SDGs.

South-south or triangular partnerships: The UN developed partnerships with institutions across the region to advance its PNG programmes. This included a technical partnership with the University of New South Wales, Australia to support disability inclusion initiatives for the UNCT.

Government expenditure: Through UN intervention and advocacy, the PNG government's expenditure on addressing GBV, gender equality and women's empowerment, and reproductive health increased. As reported earlier, 22 subnational governments and NDoH contributed financially to the Supplementary Immunisation Activity initiative by the end of 2023. Further, the East Sepik Provincial Government allocated approximately US\$138,354 to implement its provincial GBV strategy. As reported earlier, the PNG government also allocated US\$2.8 million towards UN's programmes.

2.4 Results of the UN Working more and better together: coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

2.4.1 UNDAF Programme Coordination

2023 was the final implementation year of the UNDAF. The UN ensured the effective and efficient implementation of the Joint Annual Work Plan during the final year of the UNDAF. All members of the UN Country Team (UNCT) maintained a positive working relationship, supported by coordination mechanisms such as the Priority Working Groups for each UNDAF pillar and the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group. Through collaborative efforts, the UNDAF priorities were pursued effectively, aligning closely with national priorities.

In 2023, the Spotlight Initiative and Highlands Joint Programme ended, and the STREIT Joint Programme reached its penultimate year of operations. Several joint projects were implemented in which two or more UN agencies came together and benefitted from funding, including the Joint SDG Fund. These included the Blue Economy project involving UNDP and UNCDF, and the FAO and UNHCR Development Emergency Modality project.

Before signing the 2023 Joint Annual Work Plan, government officials and the UN met to discuss the UN's work in PNG. The UN works closely with the Department of National Planning and Monitoring to monitor the plan's implementation, including responding to ad hoc government requests.

The continued use in 2023 of UNINFO 2.0 – an online results-based management and risk monitoring system that enables standardised information management across the UN to ensure credible, evidence-based decision-making – has significantly strengthened UNDAF monitoring and implementation. It contributed to effective coordination of UN programmes and resources and was used for joint work planning, online central monitoring, and joint reporting. Programme staff used the best practices advocated on Yammer and the Development Coordination Office shared drive and webinars.

The signing of the New Cooperation Framework

The UNDAF is now renamed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (or Cooperation Framework). This more accurately reflects the relationship and collaboration between governments and the UN development system to achieve the SDGs. The UNSDCF 2024-2028 was finalised during the reporting period and was co-signed by the Government of PNG and the UN on August 30, 2023. The February 2023 Strategic Prioritisation Workshop preceded the signing, during which, the UN, together with government officials, development partners, civil society, private sector representatives agreed on the UNSDCF priorities. The UNSDCF 2024 – 2028 is aligned with the Government's Medium-term Development Plan IV (MTDP-IV) as well as the SDGs.

In preparation for the implementation of the new UNSDCF, a UNCT configuration exercise was conducted to confirm the new composition of the UNCT in the country. Additionally, a Multi-Year Funding Framework was developed outlining the financial capacity of the UNCT. A Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Strategy was also drafted.

Governance mechanisms, including the Joint Steering Committee, results groups and thematic working groups such as the Gender and Human Rights were re-constituted to effectively support the UNSDCF implementation. The UNSDCF has five results groups covering the five outcomes. These efforts were crucial for ensuring coherence and efficiency of programmes and projects to be implemented by agencies in support of the UNSDCF.

Furthermore, the PNG UN Country Fund Phase II was established, and its Terms of Reference developed. The objective of the PNG UN Country Fund is to support the coherent resource mobilization, allocation, and disbursement of donor resources under the direction of the RC. The Fund's overall strategy is guided by the UNDS reform and the drive to strengthen system-wide coherence and to advance integrated solutions for strategic transformative support to the country's development priorities and SDG acceleration. As a financing vehicle established in support of the UNSDCF implementation, the Fund is firmly anchored in the UNSDCF, its scope, Theory of Change, Results and M&E Framework.

The five Outcomes of the UNSDCF include:

- **Outcome 1** – *Equality for Women and Girls*
- **Outcome 2** – *Governance, Peace, and Social Cohesion*
- **Outcome 3** – *Inclusive Human Development*
- **Outcome 4** – *Sustainable Economic Transformation*
- **Outcome 5** – *Environment and Climate Change.*

The UNSDCF includes PNG development challenges, the theory of change on addressing the challenges, the results framework, the governance framework, and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan.

2.4.2 Humanitarian response preparedness and monitoring

The DMT serves as the highest strategic, decision-making and oversight forum for the coordination of international humanitarian support through disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in PNG. The DMT is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Director of the National Disaster Centre. The Humanitarian Advisory Team, hosted by UNDP, provides direct secretariat support to the DMT.

In 2023, the DMT Secretariat convened nine regular DMT meetings, two ad hoc meetings, and eight donor coordination meetings. The Secretariat monitored and reported 11 emergencies, including the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit the Chambri Lakes region of the East Sepik province, the 6.7 magnitude earthquake that hit the Raicoast District of Madang

province, the Mt Bagana volcanic eruption in AROB and the Mt Ulawun volcanic eruption in West New Britain province.

In July 2023, the DMT, in collaboration with the UN, the ABG, international non-government organisations, faith-based organisations, and CSOs, and with financial support from the governments of Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and France, responded to the Mt. Bagana volcanic eruption, providing relief assistance to 3,003 internally displaced individuals from 724 households who sought refuge in care centres in Bougainville's Torokina district.

In the aftermath of the November 2023 eruption of Mt. Ulawun, which displaced more than 8,565 individuals from 1,707 households in nearby villages across both East and West New Britain Provinces, the DMT conducted an assessment to evaluate the eruption's impact. Collaborating with the West New Britain Provincial Government, private sector organisations, the UN, and with support from the governments of Australia, the United States, and India, emergency relief supplies were swiftly provided to assist affected individuals and communities.

Furthermore, the DMT Secretariat participated in preparedness exercises with the military forces of Australia, New Zealand, France, Fiji and the PNG Defence Force to strengthen disaster preparedness, coordination and response to potential major natural disasters that may occur in the country. The civil-military coordination (CMCOORD) activities conducted include:

- PNG Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange (DREE) – A tabletop exercise led by the United States, June 2023
- Exercise Long Reach Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HADR) – A tabletop exercise conducted by the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), September 2023
- The Pacific Partnership Civil-Military Coordination Workshop, October 2023.

Contingency plans were devised for both sudden and slow-onset disasters, including an early action plan tailored for an anticipated country-wide drought in November 2023. Additionally, a national logistics workshop was convened, resulting in the formation of a Logistics Working Group to coordinate logistics in disaster risk reduction efforts.

The DMT Secretariat recruited an officer to support communications, community engagement, and accountability. The officer will ensure disaster-affected communities have access to reliable and timely information and facilitate effective communication with humanitarian agencies.

In July 2023, the National Disaster Centre officially launched its Corporate Plan 2022-2027. After a long hiatus, the National Disaster Centre resumed its 8th Provincial Disaster Coordinators' Conference with the DMT Secretariat's support. The conference brought together provincial disaster coordinators along with pertinent provincial and national government officials. Throughout the event, participants exchanged knowledge, discussed challenges and strategies related to disaster



I US military supporting delivery of NFIs donated by the Australian Government for populations affected by the Mt Bagana volcanic eruption. August 13, 2023. Photo courtesy of @HAT Project



I Mt. Bagana disaster response planning meeting in Buka. ABG SOE Controller, USAID BHA, NDC & UN cluster agencies. August 13, 2023. Photo courtesy of @HAT Project



I Official handover of emergency relief supplies donated by the Australian Government for Mt Ulawun disaster response. December 11, 2023. Photo courtesy of @HAT Project

management and response, and formulated an action plan. One of the key actions identified is for the National Disaster Centre to expedite the review of the outdated 1984 Disaster Management Act.

2.4.3 Gender and Human Rights Working Group

The Gender and Human Rights Working Group led the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Human Rights 75) on December 10, 2023. Key themes included the universality of human rights and the significance of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN General Assembly in 1948. The United for Equality Summit was held in November 2023, where more than 600 people including all provincial governors, members of parliament, women, youth, CSO, persons with disability, faith communities and government officials discussed gender, human rights and the nexus of gender equality and women's empowerment. The UN will take forward the recommendations from the summit and provide technical support to the government towards the advancement of gender and human rights in PNG.

In February 2023, the Department of Information and Communication Technology introduced a draft media bill that was publicly criticised and viewed as a move by the government to control the media in PNG. The PNG Media Council expressed concerns over the lack of consultations with key stakeholders in drafting the policy, thereby undermining media freedoms across the country. Through the UN's substantive engagement and advocacy with the Media Council, the government has put on hold the draft Media Development Policy with prospects of re-drafting it after wider consultations.

The UN also provided technical support to government and civil society on the simplified reporting process for the treaty bodies, including technical support to consultations on PNG's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. As a result, the government is now in the final stages of submitting the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) state report, last reported in 2003. Additionally, the government has also concluded the consultations on UPR recommendations, and the drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Report is underway. Ongoing UN support has facilitated the establishment of the Human Rights Secretariat, which is collaborating closely with the UN and the Human Rights Advisory (HRA) team to initiate a workshop to address the UPR recommendations in preparation for PNG's fourth cycle in 2025.

2.4.4 Communication Advocacy

In 2023, capacity development training for local media professionals was organised in collaboration with the PNG Media Council, with support from the UN Information Centre in Canberra, Australia. This training led to an enhanced understanding of issues including gender-responsive journalism, the status of HIV/AIDS, mental health, data literacy, and artificial intelligence, as well as the role of media in combating mis/disinformation, hate speech and corruption.

The UNCT's joint advocacy messages focused on human rights, including the rights of women and girls, people living with disabilities, refugees and press freedom. The UNCT observed UN Day in October with a local vendor community at Gordon's Market, Port Moresby, that was revitalised with UN support in 2019 and that serves as a model that places the rights, safety and security of female vendors first to promote economic empowerment of women.

Towards enhancing the donor visibility of PNG's largest UN Joint Programme, a success story entitled "Triumph on the Hill: Transforming Papua New Guinea's Cocoa Farms" was developed and published in the UNSDG and UNCT websites, including on social media.

2.4.5 UN operations

In line with the UNCT's commitment to equity, innovation and responsiveness, the PNG Operations Management Team has overseen implementation of the Business Operation Strategy, which outlines key activities across services in administration, logistics, human resources, procurement, finance and ICT.

Mutual collaboration among 14 participating UN agencies physically present in PNG collectively benefitted from common business services and recorded a realised cost benefit/cost avoidance of US\$930,074 in 2023 against its annual estimated target of \$367,069 and surpassed the target. Staff confidence and morale was boosted due to various initiations including psycho-social counselling services, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse training; and staff subscription to common ambulance services. Staff benefits and incentives systems were reviewed through the use of surveys, including a salary survey for local staff. The Operations Management Team estimates to gain the cost avoidance of a total US\$102,753 collectively over the BOS period of 2024-2028 by continuing a minimum of 21 activities that started from 2019 under the above areas. Aligning to the UNSDCF 2024-2028, the top priority of the Operations Management Team is to work on gender responsive procurement, disability and inclusion in HR management.

2.5 Evaluations and Lessons Learned

In 2023, the UNCT addressed the management response to the UNDAF evaluation. This included the development of:

- ▶ A draft Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Strategy (PRMS) to increase the funding available for implementing the Joint Annual Work Plan. The strategy included the principles for engaging with provincial administrations and the private sector and undertaking UNCT joint programmes.
- ▶ An integrated SDG project to track PNG's SDG progress, enabling an annual national dialogue on advocacy for achieving and implementing the Integrated National Financing Framework.

The PRMS and the integrated SDG project will be implemented throughout 2024 and 2025.

Right: Youth participants at the strategic foresight workshop participating in a group activity identifying signals of change in communities, extrapolated these changes into the future and imagined desired and cautionary futures.



Gender responsive session of the Media Training



Right: 2023 Media Freedom Day Attendees



Media Training Participants with their certificates

2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation

In 2023, the UNCT addressed the management response to the UNDAF evaluation. This included the development of:

- ▶ A draft Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Strategy (PRMS) to increase the funding available for implementing the Joint Annual Work Plan. The strategy included the principles for engaging with provincial administrations and the private sector and undertaking UNCT joint programmes.
- ▶ An integrated SDG project to track PNG's SDG progress, enabling an annual national dialogue on advocacy for achieving and implementing the Integrated National Financing Framework.

The PRMS and the integrated SDG project will be implemented throughout 2024 and 2025.

2.6.1 Financial Overview

A total of US\$128.6 million was available to the UN in 2023 for its programmes. At the time of writing, the UN is reporting an expenditure of US\$95.1 million. The tables below show the financial resources of the UN in PNG. These figures are preliminary self-reported by agencies in-country and are uncertified. The certified financial information is channelled through the PNG UN Country Fund report.

Table 2: Financial resources 2018-2023

| | US\$ millions | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Required Funds | 79.3 | 83.1 | 103.2 | 214.9 | 214.9 | 152.2 |
| Available Funds | 72.9 | 69.6 | 87.9 | 177.4 | 153.4 | 128.6 |
| Expenditure | 63.9 | 63.4 | 63.1 | 105.4 | 93.8 | 95.1 |

Chart 1 - Financial resources 2018-2023, US\$ millions

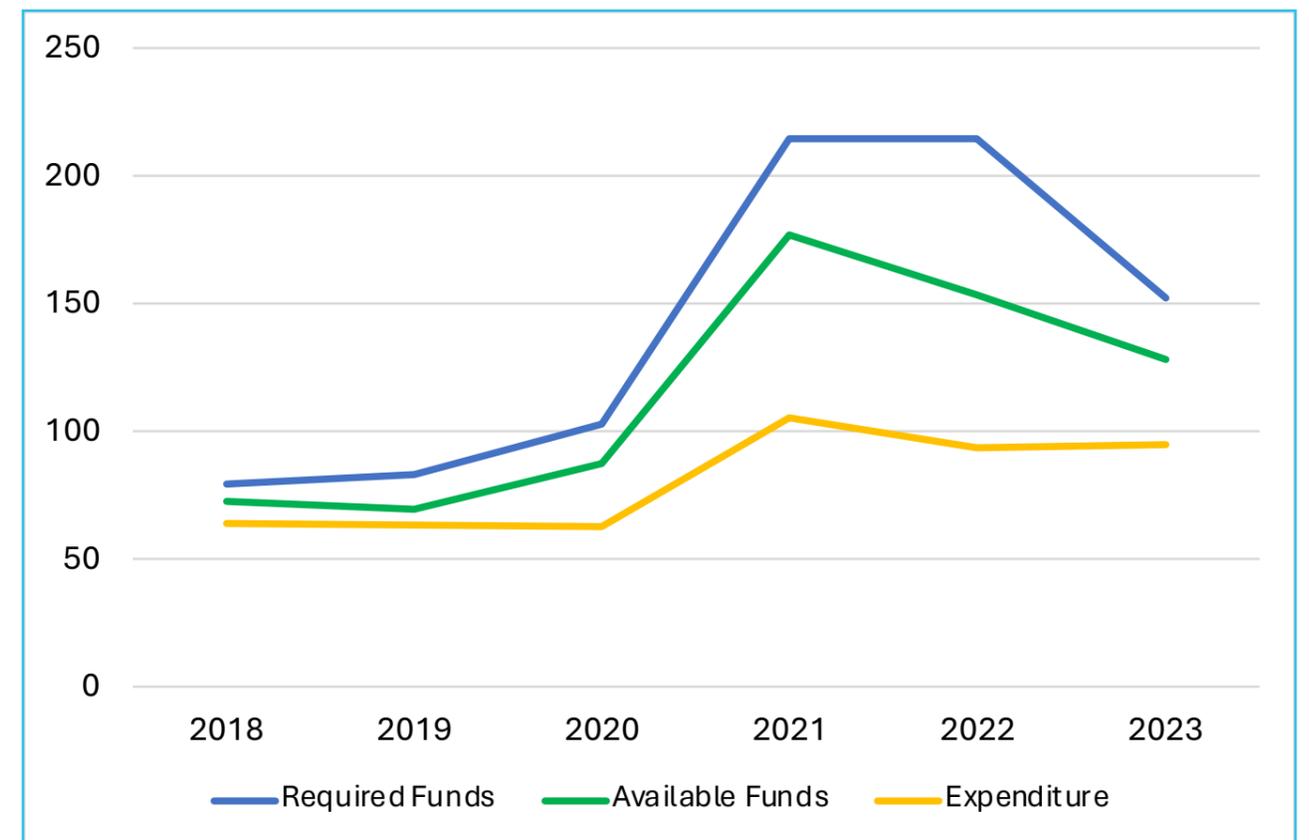


Table 3: Financial resources by UNDAF strategic priority areas, 2023

| UNDAF Results Area | Contributing agencies | Required Funds US\$ Millions | Available Funds US\$ Millions | Expenditure US\$ Millions | Delivery Rate % |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| PEOPLE | FAO, ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNOPS, UNFPA, WHO | 80,526,516 | 57,938,363 | 42,729,009 | 74% |
| PROSPERITY | FAO, ILO, UNDP, IOM, UN Women, UNCDF, UNCTAD | 42,432,148 | 41,824,148 | 26,299,799 | 63% |
| PLANET | FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNODC | 13,423,114 | 14,117,828 | 13,555,965 | 96% |
| PEACE | ILO, UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, UNFPA | 15,888,517 | 14,752,129 | 12,505,301 | 84% |
| Total | | 152,270,295 | 128,632,468 | 95,090,074 | 74% |

Chart 2: 2023 Expenditure by gender marker

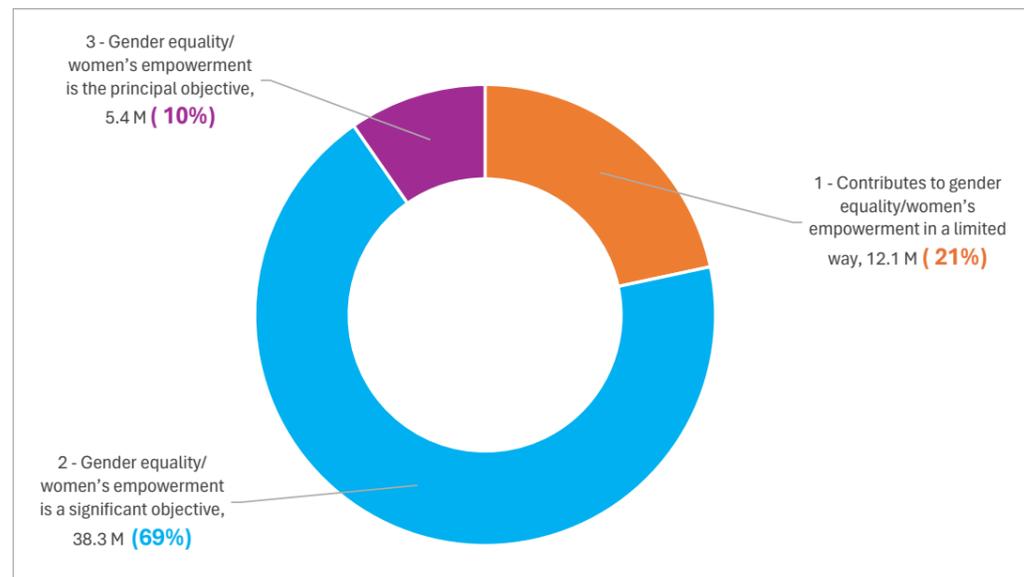


Chart 3: Expenditure by human rights marker

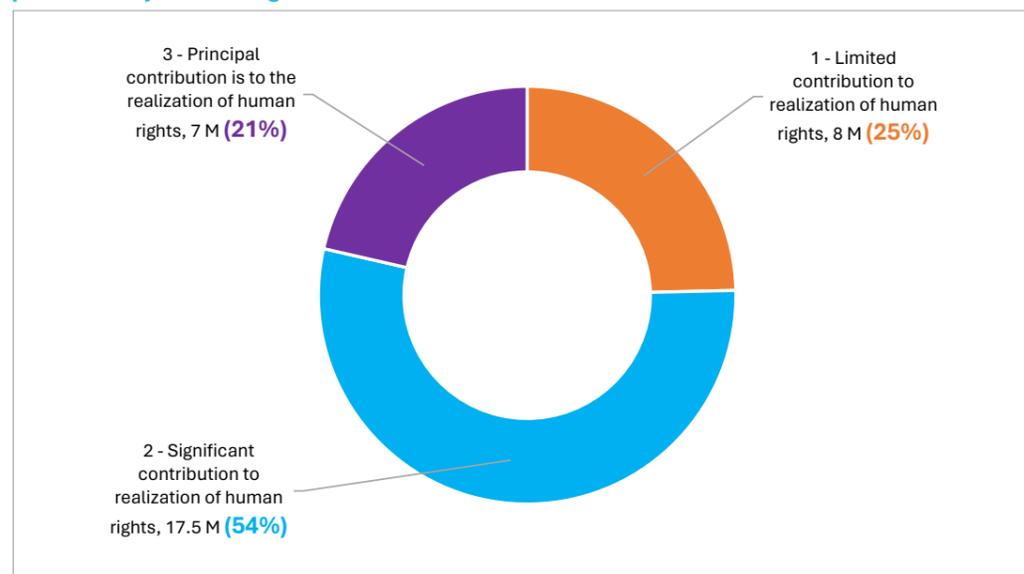


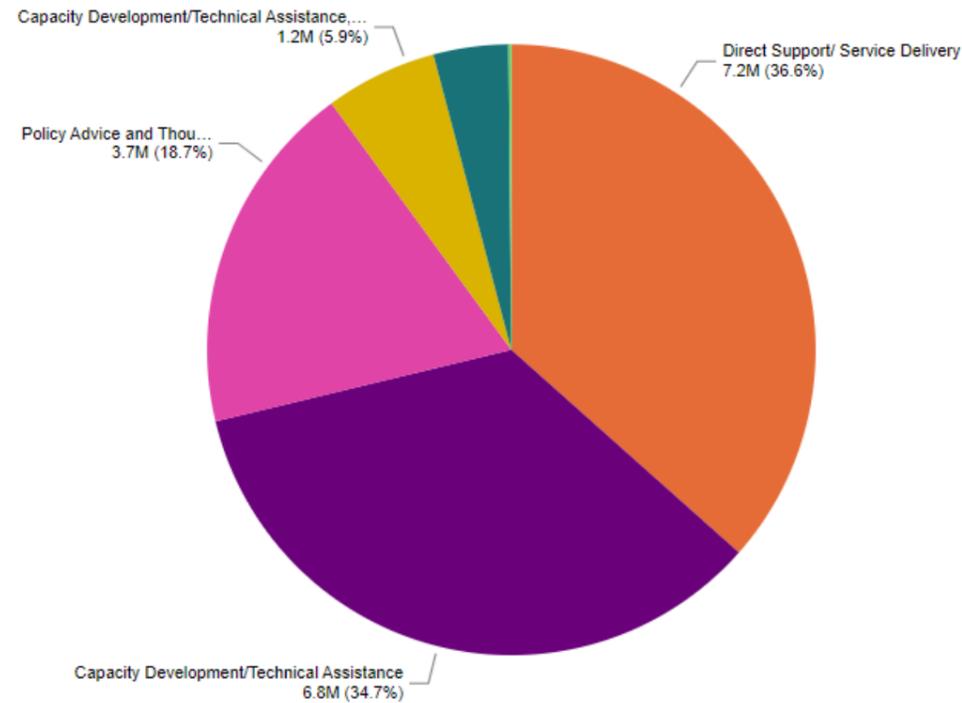
Table 4: 2023 Financial Resources by Agency (US \$ Millions)

| Agency | Required Funds | Available Funds | Expenditure |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | 23,252,000 | 17,132,800 | 11,542,400 |
| International Labour Organisation | 18,561,725 | 18,486,725 | 12,361,580 |
| International Organization for Migration | 6,294,367 | 5,547,975 | 2,675,511 |
| UN Women | 11,973,676 | 11,893,676 | 9,182,024 |
| United Nations Capital Development Fund | 2,158,311 | 2,158,311 | 657,790 |
| United Nations Children's Fund | 35,642,200 | 23,014,082 | 22,952,706 |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development | 96,233 | 163,233 | 2,184 |
| United Nations Development Programme | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | 19,262,310 |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation | 247,427 | 169,829 | 166,370 |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights | 51,500 | 26,500 | 26,500 |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | 57,000 | 57,000 | 57,000 |
| United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS Secretariat | 1,633,920 | 1,633,920 | 633,458 |
| United Nations Office for Project Services | 15,912,677 | 13,146,056 | 7,039,033 |
| United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | 1,800,570 | 1,800,570 | 1,405,737 |
| United Nations Population Fund | 3,478,689 | 5,092,791 | 2,300,046 |
| World Health Organization | 11,110,000 | 8,309,000 | 4,825,425 |
| Total | 152,270,295 | 128,632,468 | 95,090,074 |

Chart 4: Expenditure by SDG Goals



Chart 5: 2023 Expenditure by QCPR Function



2.6.2 Resource Mobilisation

The UN continued to use the PNG UN Country Fund (pooled fund) as the main vehicle for resource mobilization. The UN's resource mobilization strategy included agencies directly contacting donors, the use of resource mobilisation platforms, and joint approaches to donors. Agencies also received funding from core, non-core, and regional sources. The UNCT received both multi-year and short-term funding.

In 2023, the PNG UN Country Fund (One Fund) received a total contribution of US\$15.7million in commitments from Australia, New Zealand and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

In addition to donors to the One Fund, the UN received EU funding for the STREIT and Spotlight Joint Programmes, JICA funding for WASH, and KOICA funding for the Highlands Joint Project, sorcery accusation-related violence and GBV. The UN successfully accessed US\$3.2 million in funding from the Peacebuilding Fund in the reporting period for the 'Empower Her- PNG Peace Initiative' to implement peacebuilding over the next three years. In 2023, the PNG UN Country Fund II was established to mobilize resources for the new UNSDCF 2024-2028. The Fund will mainly be used for financing UN joint programmes.

Expenditure rate of Available Financial Resources, 2023

PEOPLE

57.9 42.7

PROSPERITY

41.8 26.3

PLANET

14.1 13.6

PEACE

14.8 12.5

Chapter 3: UNCT Key Focus for 2024

With the end of the UNDAF, 2024 is the first year of implementation of the new UNSDCF. Priorities for each of the UNSDCF's five outcome areas in 2024 are as follows.

Outcome 1: Equality for Women and Girls

Key focus:

- **Address GBV and VAC:** UN will support advocacy and awareness sessions to build community understanding of the role of law enforcement in addressing GBV and VAC. Additionally, UN will support in strengthening capacity of relevant stakeholders to address GBV and VAC
- **Strengthen legislations, policies and strategies:** Work with relevant government stakeholders at both national and subnational levels to strengthen laws, regulations and policies that promote human rights, including the rights of women and girls, and to promote the "leave no one behind" principle in all aspects of development. This includes supporting the government in its commitment to international human rights obligations.
- **Women in Leadership:** Work with relevant stakeholders including women, girls and communities to ensure increase women's participation in leadership roles including in the political spaces at the national, subnational and community levels.

Outcome 2: Governance, Peace and Social Cohesion

Key focus:

- **Strengthening government efforts to combat transnational organized crimes:** Strengthen the country's ability to detect, disrupt, and successfully prosecute corruption, money laundering and related offences.
- **Strengthening the anti-corruption framework in PNG:** Strengthen the capacity of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and develop capacity of anti-corruption investigators and prosecutors.
- **Strengthen Parliament legislative process:** Initiatives will focus on ensuring increased public engagement in the parliamentary legislative process and promote a responsive legislative body, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable democracy. This focus will also include enhancing parliamentary support services.
- **Peacebuilding efforts in the Highlands Region and Bougainville:** Community-based interventions and national dialogues on the peacebuilding process will continue. There will be increased support to advance post-referendum resolutions between the ABG and the Government of PNG.

Outcome 3: Inclusive Human Development

Key focus:

- **Child Protection and prevention of VAC:** Work with relevant stakeholders, including the government, to advance child protection and VAC initiatives. This will include implementing the Parenting for Child Development Programme and raising awareness on positive parenting techniques that do no harm to children's growth and development.
- **Strengthen health and education systems and capacities:** Through collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, strengthen the institutional capacity of the health sector ensuring access and availability of health and education services.
- **Enhance WASH and nutrition:** Efforts will continue to enhance WASH and nutrition systems and policies ensuring availability and access to these services.

Outcome 4: Sustainable Economic Transformation

Key focus:

- **Enhancing financial inclusion:** Accelerate the adoption of digital payment platforms, promoting mobile money solutions for improved accessibility and affordability of financial services, especially in remote areas with limited physical infrastructure. This entails expanding access to financial services in rural and remote areas, with a special emphasis on underserved populations like women and youth. Improve collaboration with relevant stakeholders to strengthen regulatory frameworks and supervision mechanisms to ensure the stability, integrity, and resilience of the financial sector by updating existing regulations, enhancing supervision capacities, and addressing emerging risks such as cybersecurity and digital fraud.
- **Promoting MSME financing:** Scale up initiatives to facilitate access to finance for MSMEs, which are vital for job creation, income generation, and economic growth. This will encompass developing targeted financial products, providing capacity-building support to MSMEs with a special emphasis on women and youth entrepreneurs, and fostering collaboration between financial institutions and MSMEs.
- **Improving infrastructure:** Continue road rehabilitation and maintenance, making sure that essential transportation routes are accessible to markets with a special focus on enabling better access for cocoa, vanilla and fisheries value chain farmers. Additionally, there will be investments in upgrading airstrips and jetties expanding transportation options to connect producers with broader markets.
- **Boost agricultural production and further enhance supply chains:** Distribute more cocoa seedlings, vanilla vines, and fingerlings and supply equipment for post-harvest processing, storage, and marketing. Training will be provided to various target groups to improve their farming practices.

Outcome 5: Environment and Climate Change

Key focus:

- **Disaster risk management and resilience:** Initiatives that strengthen the capacity of communities to prepare, mitigate and respond to disasters both natural and human induced. Focus will also be on working with relevant government counterparts to strengthen regulatory policies and framework including building the capacity of the government on climate change, disaster risk management and resilience.
- **Promoting conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems:** Promote sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains to alleviate land stress and prevent degradation and deforestation. Also, collaborate with relevant stakeholders to restore and conserve natural habitats and ecosystems, ensuring sustainability of protected areas. This includes finalising the establishment of the Biodiversity Fund and making it operational.
- **Strengthening of infrastructure and sustainable energy:** Installation of renewable energy sources in target communities and public facilities while also finalising design and feasibility assessments, for the expansion to more locations and facilities across the country.

Acronym List

| Acronym | Term |
|---------|--|
| ABG | Autonomous Bougainville Government |
| ARoB | Autonomous Region of Bougainville |
| CBDRM | Community-Based Disaster Risk Management |
| CCDA | Climate Change and Development Authority |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CSA | Climate-Smart Agriculture |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| DMT | Disaster Management Team |
| ECE | Early Childhood Education |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GPE | Global Partnership for Education |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| KOICA | Korea International Cooperation Agency |
| LLG | Local Level Government |
| MTDP | Medium-Term Development Plan |
| NCD | National Capital District |
| NOCFS | National Office of Child and Family Services |
| NSO | National Statistics Office |
| PGK | PNG Kina |
| PHA | Provincial Health Authorities |
| PLHIV | People Living with HIV |
| PNG | Papua New Guinea |
| REDD+ | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SME | Small to Medium Enterprise |
| STI | Sexually Transmitted Infection |
| STREIT | Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade |
| TB | Tuberculosis |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| VAC | Violence Against Children |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |

Annex 1 -

List of implementing partners for the UNDAF 2022

1. Adelberts Cooperative Society
2. Adventist Development and Relief Agency
3. Anglicare PNG Inc.
4. Australian Border Force (ABF)
5. Autonomous Bougainville Government
6. Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG)
7. Bmobile
8. Bomana Police Training College
9. Bougainville Referendum Commission
10. Bougainville Women's Federation
11. Buisness Coalition
12. Business Council
13. CARE International
14. Caritas
15. Catholic Church
16. Catholic Diocese Mendi
17. Central Province Administration
18. Central-Provincial Health Authority
19. Centre for Environment Law and Community Rights
20. Child Fund PNG
21. Climate Change Development Authority
22. Coffee Industry Corporation
23. Community-Led Total Sanitation Approach (CLTS) Expert Agency
24. Conservation and Environment Protection Authority PNG
25. Conservation Environment Protection Authority
26. Conservation Forum of PNG
27. Constitutional & Law Reform Commission
28. Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council
29. Department for Community Development and Religion
30. Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) PNG
31. Department of Education(NDOE)
32. Department of Environment
33. Department of Finance
34. Department of Foreign Affairs
35. Department of Health (NDOH)
36. Department of Justice & Attorney General (DJAG)
37. Department of Labour and Industrial Relations
38. Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM)
39. Department of Provincial and Local-Level Government Affairs
40. Department of Works & Implementation
41. Digicel
42. District Development Authority
43. DJAG Juvenile Justice Services
44. DJAG Magisterial Services
45. DJAG Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat
46. East and West Sepik Provincial and District Administrations
47. Eastern Highlands Province - Provincial Administrator Office
48. Eastern Highlands Province - Provincial Health Authority
49. Eco-Custodian Advocates
50. Employers Federation of Papua New Guinea
51. Equal Playing Field
52. Fagagara Development Foundation
53. Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee
54. Ginigoada
55. Gohoyuho Community Association
56. Goroka DDA
57. Government of Papua New Guinea
58. Highlands Human Rights Defenders Network
59. Integrity of Political parties and Candidates Commission
60. Lake Kutubu Foundation
61. Life Insurance Corporation (PNG) Ltd.
62. Local Women's group
63. Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) secretariat
64. Moresby Arts Theatre
65. Morobe-Provincial Health Authority
66. Mt Hagen City Authority
67. NASFUND
68. National Agricultural Research Insitute
69. National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA)
70. National Broadcasting Corporation
71. National Capital District Commission (NCDC)
72. National Council on Family Relations
73. National Curriculum Development Center
74. National Department of Agriculture and Livestock (NDAL)
75. National Electoral Commission
76. National Forestry Agency of Georgia
77. National Statistical Office
78. National Youth Development Agency
79. Nationwide MicroBank Ltd.
80. Nawaeb District Development Authority
81. Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
82. Office of Urbanization
83. Ombudsman Commission
84. OXFAM
85. Pacific Development Contractors
86. Paediatric Society
87. Papua New Guinea Autonomous Bougainville Government
88. Papua New Guinea Department of Environment
89. Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA)
90. Papua New Guinea Forestry Authority
91. Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Authority
92. Papua New Guinea Ministry of Culture and Tourism
93. Papua New Guinea National Agriculture Quarantine and Investigation Authority
94. Platform for Inclusive Finance
95. PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons
96. PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence
97. PNG Correctional Services
98. PNG Council of Churches
99. PNG Customs Service
100. PNG Employers' Federation
101. PNG Family Health Association
102. PNG National Culture Commission
103. PNG National Research Institute
104. PNG Parliament
105. PNG Science & Technology Secretariat
106. PNG Trade Union Congress
107. PNG Water
108. PNG Independent Commission Against Corruption
109. PNGData4Development Network
110. Population Service International
111. Potters Without Borders
112. Project Management Office
113. Provincial Administration
114. Provincial and District Administrations
115. Provincial Fisheries
116. Public Employees Association
117. Pulsa Lab Jakarta (PLJ)
118. Road Transport Authority
119. Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC)
120. Salvation Army
121. Save the Children
122. SMEC PNG
123. Tenkile Conservation Alliance
124. The National Agricultural Research Institute of Gambia
125. The Voice Inc.
126. Transparency International PNG
127. TVET Institutions
128. United Church PNG
129. University of Goroka-Center for Social Media and Communication
130. University of PNG
131. UPNG Peer Educators
132. WASH PMU-DNPM
133. West New Britain Community Development Forum
134. Western Highlands Province Provincial Administrator Office
135. Wildlife Conservation Society
136. Women in Agriculture
137. Women in Agriculture Development Unit (WiADU) of the NDAL
138. Women's MicroBank Ltd.
139. Woodland Park Zoo (Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program)
140. World Vision International
141. Yoga & Walk for Life
142. YWCA



UNITED NATIONS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Level 13, Kina Bank Haus, Douglas Street,
PO Box 1041, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

~~~~~  
T +675 321 2877

E [rca-uninpng-office@un.org](mailto:rca-uninpng-office@un.org)

W [papuanewguinea.un.org/en](http://papuanewguinea.un.org/en)

 UNinPNG

 UNinPNG

 @uninpng  
~~~~~