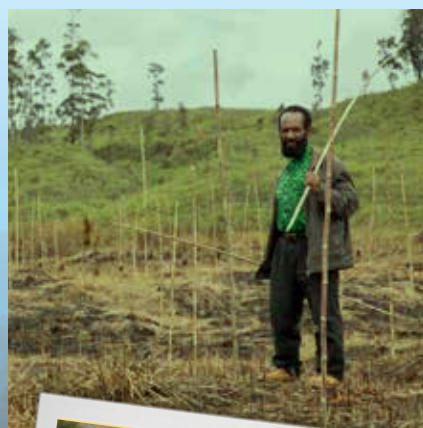


20 Annual 24 Results Report



Places



People



Promises



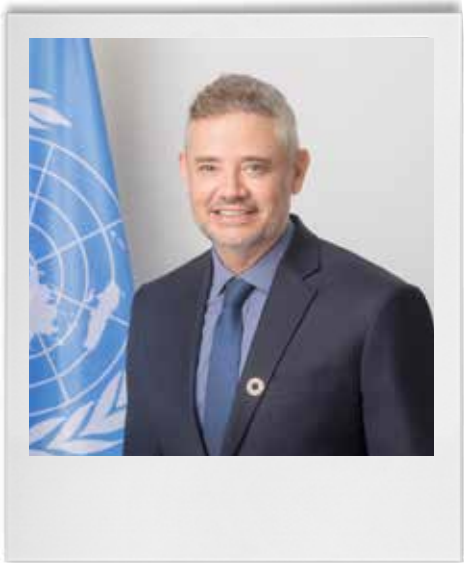
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Foreword

by the Resident Coordinator



I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Results Report, highlighting the key achievements made in the first year of implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024–2028 for Papua New Guinea (PNG).

This year also represents the second year of implementing PNG’s Medium Term Development Plan IV 2023-2027 and a decade of commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I wish to extend my appreciation to the Government of Papua New Guinea for its continued leadership and unwavering commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for its strong partnership with the United Nations. While progress toward the SDGs in PNG has shown promise in several areas, there is still an urgent need to accelerate efforts to address persistent development challenges across many areas of the SDGs.

I am therefore grateful for the generous support of our development partners throughout 2024. More than ten partners—including the Governments of Australia, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the United States financed the US\$81.83 million expended through the 2024 United Nations Joint Annual Work Plan.

Over 50 implementing partners, including national departments, provincial and district governments, and civil society organizations, collaborated with the UN to translate priorities into impactful action,

in areas as diverse as women's reproductive health, biodiversity protection, conflict resolution techniques, refugee rights and disaster risk management. Our support in education, health, food security, peacebuilding, economic empowerment, climate change, environment protection, disaster risk reduction, and advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment have seen good results. I am proud to witness the UN Country Team (UNCT) and its partners working together more effectively than ever, especially during these challenging times.

The UN Country Team has delivered integrated responses to emerging needs, including support to communities affected by the Mulitaka landslide and other areas across PNG impacted by natural disasters and conflict. The STREIT programme strengthened agricultural value chains, including cocoa, fisheries and vanilla, bringing transformational changes to many people in East and West Sepik Provinces. The UN supported gender equality and addressed gender-based violence through policy development, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building. Trainings empowered healthcare workers, law enforcement, and community leaders to provide survivor-centred care and promote gender-equitable leadership and economic participation. In the Highlands region, the UN trained insider mediators, facilitated conflict mediation and peace agreements, and supported displaced communities return and rebuild their lives through livelihood initiatives like Agricultural Lab Centres. These collective efforts highlight our shared commitment to leverage the strengths of different agencies, funds, and programmes to deliver more integrated, effective, and efficient support to development in PNG. The 2024 Results Report highlights essential progress in the reform efforts that ultimately make the UN development system more effective.

On behalf of the UN Country Team, I would like to express our gratitude to all our partners in Government, across the development partner community, and of course to the people of PNG, without whom none of these achievements would be possible.

Mr Richard Howard
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Papua New Guinea

UN Country Team

RESIDENT AGENCIES



NON - RESIDENT AGENCIES



Key Development Partners

Donors to PNG through the UN in 2024



Excludes donors to UN agencies' core, non-core, and regional funding

Chapter 1

Key Developments in PNG and Regional Context



Key Development Trends, challenges and advances

2024 marked the first full year of the implementation of PNG’s Medium Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV). Achievement of the SDGs is woven into the goals of the MTDP IV. As shown in the diagram above, progress towards the SDGs stagnated in 2024, except for SDG 12 and SDG 13, which moderately improved. Progress on SDG 11 is decreasing, and data for SDG 4 and SDG 10 are unavailable.

As a nation rich in natural resources, PNG’s potential for growth is significant; however, systemic issues such as corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and social inequality hinder advancement. Governance remains a pivotal concern, with corruption deeply entrenched in various sectors, eroding public trust and undermining institutional effectiveness. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2010-2030 aims to address these issues, yet the implementation of reforms faces significant hurdles. The establishment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) represents a crucial step towards enhancing accountability, but challenges persist in achieving political consensus and resource allocation.

PNG’s reliance on the extractive sector poses risks to fiscal stability and human capital development. The country grapples with high unemployment rates, particularly among youth, exacerbated by a lack of access to education and training opportunities. Socially vulnerable populations, including women and children, face significant barriers to accessing essential services. Papua New Guinea’s estimated growth of real gross domestic product is 4.2 per cent in 2024.

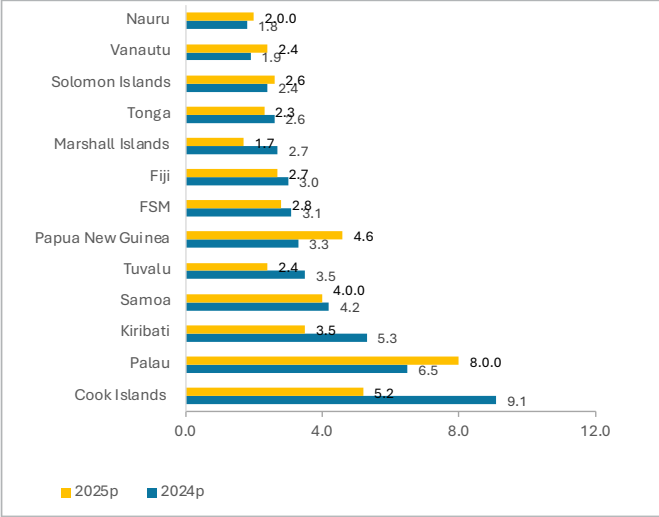
Environmental challenges, including climate change and biodiversity loss threaten the livelihoods of many. The government’s commitment to sustainable development is reflected in its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and various international agreements, yet effective implementation remains a challenge. The intersection of humanitarian, development and peace efforts is crucial, particularly in addressing the impacts of natural disasters and internal displacement.

As we will see in Chapter 2, UN development support addresses the key challenges faced by PNG across the five pillars of the 2024-2028 Cooperation Framework

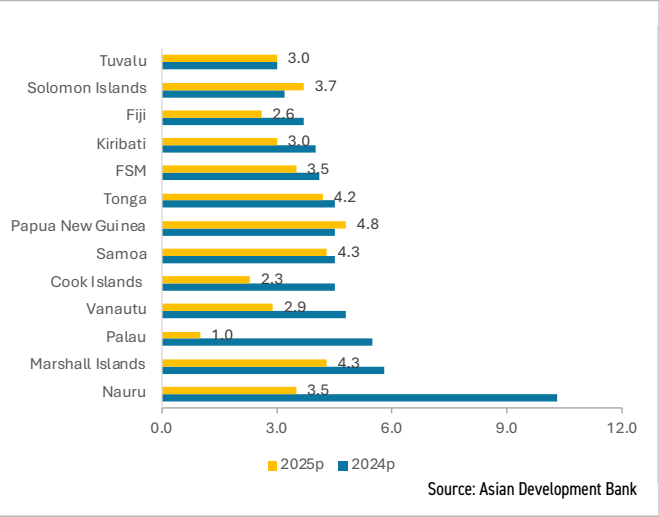
Regional Context

The Pacific region’s GDP grew by 3.5 per cent in 2023 and by an estimated 3.3 per cent in 2024. Growth for 2025 is projected at 4 per cent. Recovery of resource extraction in Papua New Guinea, stable visitor arrivals in most tourism-dependent economies, and stimulus from public infrastructure projects drive growth in the region. Economic risks include the potential for labour shortages, reduced fiscal space, ongoing vulnerability to catastrophe risks, and volatility in global commodity prices and supply chains. Inflation averaged 6.8 per cent in 2023 and 4.5 per cent in 2024, and is projected to be 3 per cent in 2025.

GDP Growth in the Pacific Region 2024-2025



Inflation in the Pacific Region 2024-2025



The Pacific region faces significant challenges in achieving the SDGs, with progress falling behind other regions, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. While some progress has been made in individual countries through strategies to improve biodiversity, digital infrastructure, social protection, and education, the region still needs increased resilience to disasters and a focus on reducing poverty. There has been progress towards zero hunger, good health, and well-being, but gaps in equal access to education are widening. Gender equality remains a challenge, and the region is not on track to meet Goal 6 targets due to water stress, pollution, scarcity, and inadequate sanitation services. Urgent action is needed to improve access to decent work, support economic growth, and accelerate progress towards responsible consumption and production. Strengthening partnerships for the goals is crucial for promoting sustainable development.



Chapter 2

Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1 Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results in 2024

Through the five outcomes of the Cooperation Framework and in alignment with national priorities, the UN supported the government in making transformational changes to many institutions and systems, making a significant positive impact on the lives of countless people. The outcomes – Equality for Women and Girls; Governance, Peace, and Social Cohesion; Inclusive Human Development; Sustainable Economic Transformation; and Environment and Climate Change help create a better, fairer society for all.

Overall, the UN maintained partnerships with donors and implementing partners, providing US\$150.55 million in support to PNG in 2024. Here are some of the year's most transformative achievements in figures.

The Year in Numbers

150.55 million

- The amount in US\$ the UN provided to PNG in 2024

1516

- The number of women market vendors that received UN financial literacy training

52

- The number of women and girls trained in agribusiness, fish farming, and digital finance literacy

300

- The number of frontline workers trained in gender training

1 million

- The number of people reached through nationwide campaigns promoting gender equality, awareness and access to justice and support



32

- The percentage increase in government Goods and Services Tax revenue due in part to UN helping strengthen the public financial management system

2

- The number of UN community mediation peace processes that helped end violence in the Highland regions

46

- The number of districts that saw UN technical assistance for education reform

15,000

- The number of disaster-affected and displaced individuals who got improved access to safe water and hygiene services thanks to UN support

171,000

- The number of caregivers the UN trained in maternal and child nutrition practices

500

- The number of MSMEs the UN trained in enterprise development and digital marketing

500,000

- The amount in US\$ the UN awarded in start-up grants to six women-led enterprises

34,770

- The number of hectares of rainforest in the highlands region that are now protected through UN efforts

Where we work in Papua New Guinea


The map below displays the number of programmatic interventions per location (note that a programmatic intervention may be linked to more than one location). Some interventions related to specific locations might also have components at the national level, even if they are not categorized as country-level interventions.



Strategic Priority 1: Equality for Women and Girls

602

women and girls trained in leadership for agriculture, MSMEs, & community organizations.



60

Government officials & community leaders were trained in gender mainstreaming in agriculture, promoting women's inclusion in agribusiness.

52

Women from Panguna mining area received leadership and conflict resolution training, forming the Panguna Women in Mining Association.

380

Participants attended the 2024 Bougainville International Women's Day, increasing awareness of gender equality barriers.

81

Community leaders (46 women, 35 men) in Bougainville trained in conflict management and decision-making.



187

Market authorities trained in gender-inclusive market governance & planning.



1,516

Women vendors received financial literacy training, ensuring economic stability.



52

Women trained in agribusiness, fish farming, digital finance & marketing.

12,000 MEMBERS

From network of church leaders & community champions address GBV and sorcery-related violence (SARV).



1,245 ADOLESCENTS

Provided menstrual health & hygiene (MHH) education from Oky PNG initiative via digital & radio platforms, breaking period stigma.



2.2 Achievements of Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 1: By 2028, women and girls in Papua New Guinea, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable, exercise their rights and agency and live a life free from all forms of discrimination and violence.

Outcome 1: 2024 Funding Information

Available versus the gap as a proportion of the required (US\$26.32 M)



Category	Amount (M)	Percentage
Gap	18.53	70%
Available	7.79	30%

Expenditure versus the remaining as a proportion of available funds (US\$7.79 M)



Category	Amount (M)	Percentage
Remaining	1.76	23%
Expenditure	6.03	77%

Output 1 - Women and the Enabling Environment: Enhanced gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels in line with international norms and standards in the implementation of legislation, policies and financing.

Developed with UN support, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) launched two key policies: the Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Peace, and Security Policy 2023-2027 and the Civil Society Partnership Policy 2023-202. These policies integrated into Bougainville's legal framework ensure a long-term impact on gender equality, peace, and civil society engagement in peace and development in the region. The launch, attended by 104 stakeholders (64 women, 40 men), including ABG President and MPs, government officials, donors, and CSOs, reinforced high-level commitment.

The Bougainville President, Hon. Ishmael Toroama, stated in his keynote address that: "The launch of the Gender Equality, Women Empowerment, Peace and Security Policy and the Civil Society Partnership Policy lay the foundation for our independent state of Bougainville. These policies recognize the importance of our national identity and our felt needs and aspirations."

The Department for Community Development and Religion, in partnership with the UN, led the review and validation of the National Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) Policy (2025-2035), ensuring broad participation. Through workshops, consultations, and surveys, 212 participants (154 women, 56 men, and 2 non-disclosed) engaged, including 13 persons with disabilities. This inclusive approach strengthens policy effectiveness and representation in advancing gender equality.

The UN provided technical support to the PNG government in fulfilling its Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) reporting obligations. This support included strengthening the national

capacity to complete the report accurately and comprehensively, reinforcing accountability and accelerating progress toward eliminating discrimination against women.

A delegation of three senior officials (2 women and 1 man) from the Department for Community Development and Religion, two civil society representatives, and one UN representative participated in the 68th Session on the Commission of the Status of Women in New York, enhancing their understanding of gender inequality and strategies for women's economic empowerment. The PNG delegation hosted a side event, highlighting progress and challenges in women's economic empowerment, especially in the informal sector.

With UN support, the Juvenile Justice Service in the Department of Justice and Attorney General launched the Deep Dive Study on Diversion and Alternative Sentencing. The study helped establish new pathways for children in conflict with the law, expanding gender-responsive, disability-inclusive justice and child protection services in both urban and rural areas.

The UN advanced gender equality by training 60 government officials (12 females and 48 males), lead farmers from all 10 districts of East and West Sepik and other stakeholders, as Trainers of Trainers or coaches on gender mainstreaming in agriculture, Gender Action Learning System, and Farming As a Family business. This strengthened the local capacity to integrate gender-responsive approaches in agricultural agribusiness development.

Awareness campaigns promoting inclusive practices were held on key occasions, attracting a diverse range of participants. International Women's Day saw the participation of 350 women and 75 men. The celebration of the International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day engaged 95 women and 129 men while the International Youth Day celebration attracted 52 girls and 180 boys.

Youth in East and West Sepik provinces are now able to participate in development discussion processes through the five district Youth Council Platforms that the National Youth Development Authority established in collaboration with the UN.

8

► **Output 2 - Women and Leadership:** Women occupy more leadership and decision-making positions in the political and public spheres at all levels.

A total of 122 women leaders from across Papua New Guinea strengthened their capacity to participate in the 2025 Local Level government elections in a training session delivered by the UN in collaboration with Department of Community Development and Religion. The session enhanced their campaign strategies, communication skills, voter engagement, and resource mobilization, increasing their preparedness and confidence.

Fifty-two women leaders from the Panguna mining area strengthened their knowledge of women's rights, leadership, and conflict resolution through a training session delivered by the UN. As a result, they established the Panguna Women in Mining Association to advocate for their rights and interests.

Eighty-one community leaders in Bougainville (46 women and 35 men) have a better understanding of the Community Government Act 2016, conflict management, and decision-making through a UN-facilitated training. The training encouraged men and women to work together at the community government level. In addition, 45 community government members (30 women and 15 men) strengthened their governance and leadership skills through a separate UN-supported training.

A total of 602 women and girls improved their leadership and group dynamics skills, empowering them to take on leadership roles in agriculture, micro, small, and medium enterprises and community organizations through leadership training delivered by the UN. For instance, Evelyne Sukuina now leads a women's cocoa business group with 108 members (78 females and 30 males) in Singionk Village in East Sepik.

With support from the UN, six women parliamentarians participated in a forum for Pacific Women in Power, sharing insights on PNG's action plans for integrating gender-sensitive parliamentary Standing Orders.

A working group was formed to drive the implementation of initiatives to enhance women's participation in political leadership. The working group will focus on mentoring young women to contest in the local Government elections in PNG and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in 2025.

► **Output 3 - Women and the Economy:** Women are technically, financially and legally skilled and empowered to participate in all sectors and aspects of the formal and informal economy.

The UN-in collaboration with local authorities-rehabilitated water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in Tari, Wewak, and Alotau markets, increasing access to clean water and sanitation. Awareness sessions on WASH, ending violence against women and girls, and COVID-19 were also conducted, contributing to safer market environments for vendors and consumers.

92 market authorities were trained in gender and disability-inclusive market governance, operational planning, and management strategies, fostering more inclusive and effective market operations.

Furthermore, 1,516 women market vendors gained financial management skills, equipping them with the knowledge to restore economic livelihoods disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 52 women and girls received training in agribusiness, fish farming, processing, marketing, IT, and digital finance, enabling them to establish or expand their businesses. Among them, Madam Tina Savinio successfully increased her group's income by adopting innovative fish processing techniques, demonstrating the impact of skill development on economic empowerment.

The UN facilitated improvements in access to markets for women-led businesses. This opportunity enabled women to expand their businesses, increase income, and enhance economic resilience. The UN also helped facilitate women's access to credits and savings facilities.

► **Output 4 - Women and Violence:** Women and girls are free from discrimination, violence, and torture through a whole-of-society approach to the promotion of gender-equitable socio-cultural attitudes, norms, and behaviours.

Insights from the situational analysis conducted by the UN in collaboration with the Department for Community Development and Religion (DfCDR) informed GBV programming in Eastern Highlands Province, supporting efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including sorcery-related violence (SARV)."

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, launched in West New Britain by the UN in collaboration with government partners, reached one million people through print and social media, extending beyond Papua New Guinea to Australia, the United States, and Singapore. The campaign raised awareness on GBV, advocated on prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls and issued calls to action at local and national levels. Additionally, 200,000 Digicel mobile users received targeted messaging on gender-based violence awareness as part of the campaign.

A total of 206 frontline workers (144 women, 62 men)—including healthcare providers, safe house staff, and law enforcement officials—across multiple provinces were trained in survivor-centered care, crisis support, and referral pathways. The capacity-building covered counselling, psychosocial first aid, GBV response using WHO's LIVES approach, and GBV case management psychosocial first aid

A network of church leaders and champions was established in Eastern Highlands in Enga, Simbu, and Hela, mobilizing over 12,000 community members and training 70 percent of stakeholders to address GBV, SARV, and harmful gender norms. A church toolkit on SARV was developed for standardized capacity building and messaging among religious leaders.

The UN supported the development of a male involvement strategy in child immunization, informed by a gender and immunization analysis. The strategy aims to boost men's participation in children's health and immunization—traditionally the responsibility of female caregivers.

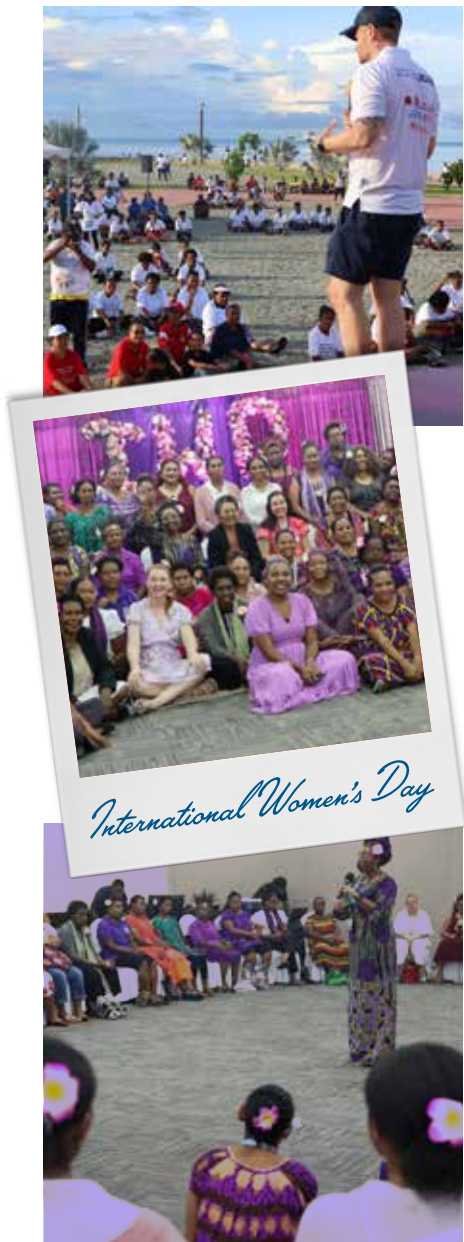
The UN's Oky PNG initiative provided menstrual health, hygiene, and sexual reproductive health education to 1,245 adolescents across the country, helping to dismantle negative perceptions surrounding these often-taboo topics in PNG culture

A total of 408 people were reached through UN-supported initiatives, including 52 women and 98 men trained as Community Gender Advocates (CGAs) to promote gender-equitable norms and prevent GBV using the GALS methodology. An additional 258 individuals received information

on GBV, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/STI prevention, along with resources to support mental well-being.

The UN provided over US\$85,000 worth of ICT assets to the Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) in Port Moresby to support its Information Management System. Thirty-four (18 females and 16 males) FSVU staff were also trained to use the information management system. Furthermore, the UN, in partnership with the FSVU of the Royal PNG Constabulary, produced six animated videos to guide victim-survivors in accessing law and justice

The UN supported the refurbishment of two family support centers in Western Province, enhancing safety, confidentiality, and privacy for GBV survivors accessing critical support services. Safehouse spaces in Hela and Morobe were also refurbished. In addition, the UN supported the development of National Standard Operating Procedures for safe house operations and services, informed by consultations with frontline workers and provincial GBV focal points.



Leaders in Eastern Highlands Province
Aim to End Sorcery Accusation-Related
Violence

An effort to end Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence (SARV), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and substance abuse has begun in Goroka in Papua New Guinea's Eastern Highlands Province.

Leaders from government, faith-based organisations and civil society groups gathered for the first Leadership Collaboration Meeting, which was supported by the United Nations Population Fund and funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The event saw participants identify gaps that hinder efforts to address SARV, GBV, and substance abuse, including weak law enforcement, limited public awareness, and the influence of powerful local elites.

"Sorcery accusations destroy lives and communities," said Bishop Rev. Justine Soongie. "Village courts lack the knowledge and courage to intervene, leaving victims vulnerable to mob violence."

Participants pledged to strengthen community resilience, advocate for stronger law enforcement, and promote education to address the root causes of violence.

Benefit from 11 peace & development grants.



- ✓ **22 participants**, trained in conflict resolution.
- ✓ **81 people actively engaged** in peace & development dialogues.
- ✓ Youth-led **Human Rights Defenders' Network** established.

Empower Her Project (Highlands & Bougainville):

58 **Civil society participants** trained in conflict resolution (Tari & Mendi).

72 **Participants** in Bougainville sensitized on key policies (BISDP, Gender Equality Strategy, etc.).



Democratic Governance & Accountability:

-  **6** Female parliamentarians participated in the **Pacific Women in Power Forum**.
-  **89** Officials participated in the **Judicial Integrity Training**.
-  **12** Officials from ICAC, DJAG, OPP, & others received the **Integrity Certification** via Griffith University & UNODC.

SALIENT Project:

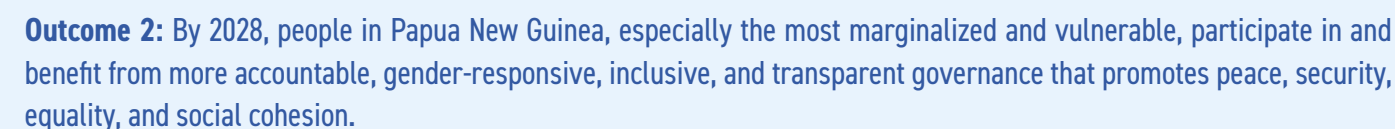
✓ **National Strategy:**
developed for small
arms control.

 **77 participants**
from govt, CSOs,
& UN.

IRC GST Revenue Increases to:

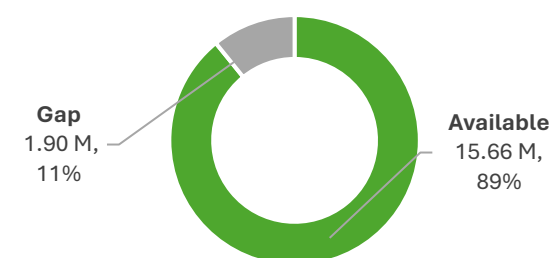
PGK140 Million

from 95m Kina in 2023.

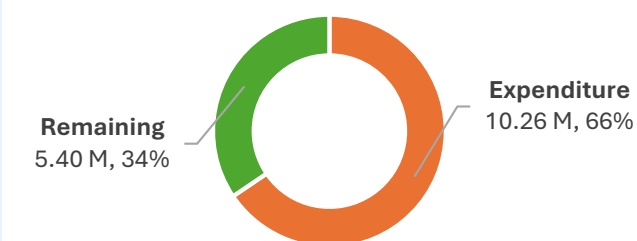


Outcome 2: 2024 Funding Information

Available versus the gap as a proportion of the required (US\$17.56 M)



Expenditure versus the remaining as a proportion of available funds (US\$15.66.M)



Output 1 – Social Contract: Renewed social contract between the Government and all sectors of Papua New Guinean society through support to the creation of conditions conducive to an ongoing, free, and open dialogue, generating demand for better governance, and acceleration of nationwide implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda/SDGs.

Implemented by UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA, the 'Sustaining Peace in Bougainville, including Post-Referendum Support' joint programme fostered conditions for lasting peace and development in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB). Through UN-facilitated engagement of an independent moderator, the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government can now conduct fair, open, and respectful dialogues to address outstanding issues from the 2019 referendum.

Capacity-building initiatives led by the UN have strengthened civic engagement, particularly among women-led civil society organisations and youth human rights defenders. A series of training sessions in citizens' rights, responsibilities, and nonviolent communication led to the establishment of a youth human rights defenders' network, bringing together representatives from across the region.

Twenty-two participants (12 women and 10 men)—including former combatants and community government officers from conflict-affected areas—gained practical conflict resolution skills and learned conflict-sensitive approaches through a UN-facilitated capacity-building session, equipping them to contribute more effectively to peacebuilding efforts.

The UN's sustained advocacy for inclusive participation also yielded positive outcomes, with 81 individuals (57 women and 24 men) engaged in peace and development dialogues. An Economic Development Assessment helped identify key livelihood programming opportunities to strengthen economic resilience in the region.

Through the Empower Her-Women, Peace and Security joint project implemented by OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, and UN Women, the UN advanced peace and security initiatives in the Highlands and AROB.

In the Highlands, a framework was established to enhance women's access to justice and involvement in conflict resolution in Hela Province following a workshop facilitated by the UN. The workshop identified twenty key stakeholders and six local-level government areas to pilot interventions aimed at strengthening justice systems, advancing gender equality, and promoting women's leadership in peacebuilding efforts.

The capacities of 58 participants from civil society organisations from Tari and Mendi were strengthened to engage more effectively in peace-building efforts.

In Bougainville, 72 participants gained a better understanding of key frameworks and policies, including the Bougainville Integrated Strategic Development Plan, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy, Peace and Security Policy, and the Civil Society Partnership Framework.

The government established a Roadmap to the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, achieved through UN support to the Department for Community Development and Religion.



The first of three Innovation Hubs - which UNDP and the Government of Japan will be launching in Bougainville this year - has opened in the capital Buka.

The Hubs - which include an incubator space, a women's resource center, and an IT lab - will also provide access to training and resources.

They are being built under the Japan-funded Sustaining Peace Through Economic Empowerment Joint Programme

“Peace in Bougainville is not possible without the economic empowerment of its citizens,”

UNDP Resident Representative, Nicholas Booth said at the opening ceremony.

The Ambassador of Japan to Papua New Guinea, H.E. Nobuyuki Watanabe, said the project “is a testament to the confidence that Japan and UNDP place on Bougainville’s potential.”

“It is time to embrace innovative business practices through new ideas and technologies,” added the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Hon. Ishmael Toroama.

► **Output 2 - Democratic Governance:** Improved functioning, integrity, accountability and transparency of public institutions, including parliamentary, electoral, and rule of law institutions along with the relevant entities.

The UN strengthened the legislative efficiency of the PNG National Parliament and the Bougainville House of Representatives by enhancing their law-making functions. As a result, both institutions self-assessed their law-making functions using the international Indicators of Democratic Parliaments.

With UN support, officials from the Auditor General's Office participated in the South Pacific Fiscal Oversight Conference, gaining insights

on tech-driven accountability and digital tools. With capacities built, the Auditor General's Office adopted the Auditing Recommendation Tracking tool, which will help in monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations, ensuring that corrective actions are taken on identified issues.

The UN strengthened PNG's anti-corruption efforts by equipping the ICAC with 60 high-performance laptops to enhance its ability to detect, prevent, and prosecute corruption and money laundering. ICAC officials also received mentoring in money laundering investigations, asset confiscation, forensic accounting, and beneficial ownership. Twelve officials earned certification from the Integrity Professionals Foundations Course delivered in partnership with Griffith University.

The UN also supported the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council by providing IT equipment for its Whistleblower Call Centre and training officials in anti-corruption policy design and implementation. In addition, the UN also built the capacities of 100 provincial government officials in detecting corruption and conducting fraud investigations.

Through collaboration with the UN, the government's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority developed standard operating procedures for detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wildlife crimes. Additionally, officials from various government institutions benefited from a two-week training programme to enhance their investigative skills.

The UN, in collaboration with the PNG/Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence, strengthened the capacity of 89 law enforcement and judiciary officials (46 men and 43 women) on judicial integrity and anti-corruption legislation

With UN support, PNG government officials participated in two global conferences: the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Lithuania, and the Seminar on Government Incentives for Corporate Anti-Corruption Compliance in Bhutan. Delegates presented on the country's progress against the Teieniwa Vision roadmap on anti-corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The UN collaborated with a youth group, KECTIL PNG, to raise awareness on government accountability and the vital role of young people in promoting press freedom during the 2024 Press Freedom Day event at the University of Papua New Guinea.

The UN partnered with the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and Transparency International PNG and equipped sixty participants to draft the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.

The SALIENT joint project, implemented by UNDP, UNODA, and UNFPA, supported a national workshop to inform the development of a National Strategy on Small Arms Control. The project also facilitated a technical risk assessment on stockpile management and conducted a small arms survey in the Highlands region to guide small arms control efforts.

► **Output 3: Service Delivery - Strengthened national and sub-national planning, monitoring, data, and public finance management systems for improved effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery.**

Strengthening Effective Public Financial Management

The UN's support to the government's Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) saw a 32 per cent increase in Goods and Services Tax revenue from

PGK 95 million in 2023 to PGK 140 million 2024. The UN, in collaboration with the Department of Finance trained provincial IRC officers on revenue collection through the Integrated Financial Management System, leading to an increase in revenue.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Department of Finance (DoF) and the National Department of Health to strengthen provincial health authorities' public financial management capacity. Under this agreement, the DoF will implement capacity building initiatives with health authorities in East New Britain, Central, East Sepik, and Simbu. The capacity-building initiatives have proven effective, highlighting a strong need for expansion to the remaining 18 provinces. Additionally, mini computer labs were installed across all provinces to facilitate training on budget preparation.

With support from the UN, the National Statistical Office successfully conducted a full national population census in 2024, providing accurate data on population size, distribution, and demographics. This data will support government policy and development planning, ensuring fair resource allocation based on population size and needs.

The Government of PNG enacted the Civil Identity and Vital Statistics Act, a milestone in ensuring universal birth registration for children. This law enables data sharing between the PNG Civil and Identity Registry and other government sectors, ensuring better policy and service delivery.

► **Output 4 - Social Cohesion:** Strengthened social cohesion strategies, also incorporating early warning and prevention, at the national and sub-national levels are implemented to benefit the most vulnerable.

Five teams mediated four conflicts in Magarima district of Hela province with support from the UN resulting in a peace agreement, while steps are being finalised to sign peace agreements in the remaining three conflicts. So far, 11,000 individuals across 11 communities in Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces benefitted from 11 community peace and development grants administered by the UN. In addition, 13 peacebuilding forums in Southern Highlands Province united isolated communities, providing a platform for dialogue, perspective-sharing, and mutual support, ultimately fostering peace social cohesion.

The UN supported six development dialogues between provincial and district authorities and various community stakeholders, which enhanced trust, improved communication and ensured all stakeholders shared their perspectives on peace and development.

Women's role in peacebuilding was strengthened as eighteen Women Insider Mediators were trained and empowered, with UN support, to engage in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace initiatives.

With support from the UN, the first-ever rally against sorcery accusation-related violence (SARV) became a platform to raise awareness on this critical issue, bringing together over 300 participants. Former SARV survivors, perpetrators, church leaders, government officials and women and youth called for an end to this form of violence.

The UN strengthened national and local capacities in displacement tracking and early warning systems by conducting Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) training sessions across AROB, East Sepik, Morobe, Enga, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, and Simbu provinces. A total of 202 participants (126 men and 76 women), including government officials, humanitarian partners, and local enumerators, were trained in displacement data collection, vulnerability assessments, and response planning. This capacity-building initiative enhanced the ability of

Provincial Disaster Centres and local authorities to identify high-risk areas and respond more effectively to climate-induced and conflict-related displacements.

Two Agricultural Lab Centres were launched, with UN support, in the conflict-affected communities of Idauwi and Paipali in Hela Province. These facilities provide a space for communities to learn vital skills on sustainable agriculture, disaster-risk reduction and mitigation, food security, and resilience-building.

The UN supported the establishment of an inter-Government Working Group (IGWG) in 2024. The working group will support the government to implement commitments it made at the Global Refugee Forum last year. The government committed to establish and issue National Asylum-Seeker and Refugee Card and Interim Humanitarian Status Visas for refugees and asylum seekers. Additionally, the group will work on creating a pathway to enable prima facie refugee status recognition of recent and future West Papuan asylum seeker arrivals and ensure the naturalization of West Papuans who meet nationality requirements.



Inaugural inter-Government Working Group for the PNG Global refugee pledges. Credits: UNHCR PNG



Credits: UNDP PNG

Agriculture Lab Centre Rebuilding Lives Through Farming.

The Paipali Agricultural Lab, located in the most conflict-affected community of Tari Town, the capital of Hela Province, has become a catalyst for rebuilding lives.

The lab has facilitated the return and reintegration of displaced community members from the five-year long conflict. Since its launch, it has empowered 47 women and youth leaders (27 male youths and 20 women) who learned about resilient farming practices and service-oriented income-generation skills.

Strategic Priority 3: Inclusive Human Development

84

Schools tested the Early Childhood Education (ECE) School Registration.

11

Schools endorsed as registered ECE schools.



ECE curriculum package finalized; launch planned for early 2025.





Training & Capacity Building:

✓

238 sub-national education officers trained (including 19 women) in micro-planning & school clustering.

✓

Schools – 46 districts across 13 provinces, enabling funding from the Provincial Education Improvement Plans (PEIPs).

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs):

78% Treatment coverage for 25,508 cases of skin NTDs identified in West New Britain Province.

248 Healthcare workers trained in integrated skin NTD management across 9 provinces.



678



Grade 6 students accomplished leadership, entrepreneurship, & life skills from the PNG Teen Entrepreneur Programme.

90%



Malaria Treatment rate in 2024.

WHO's T3 (Test, Treat, Track) malaria policy endorsed by NDoH in 2024.



Mulitaka landslide response:

- 3,950

Displaced people reached with hygiene awareness.
- 1,023

Displaced families received hygiene & dignity kits.
- 5,127

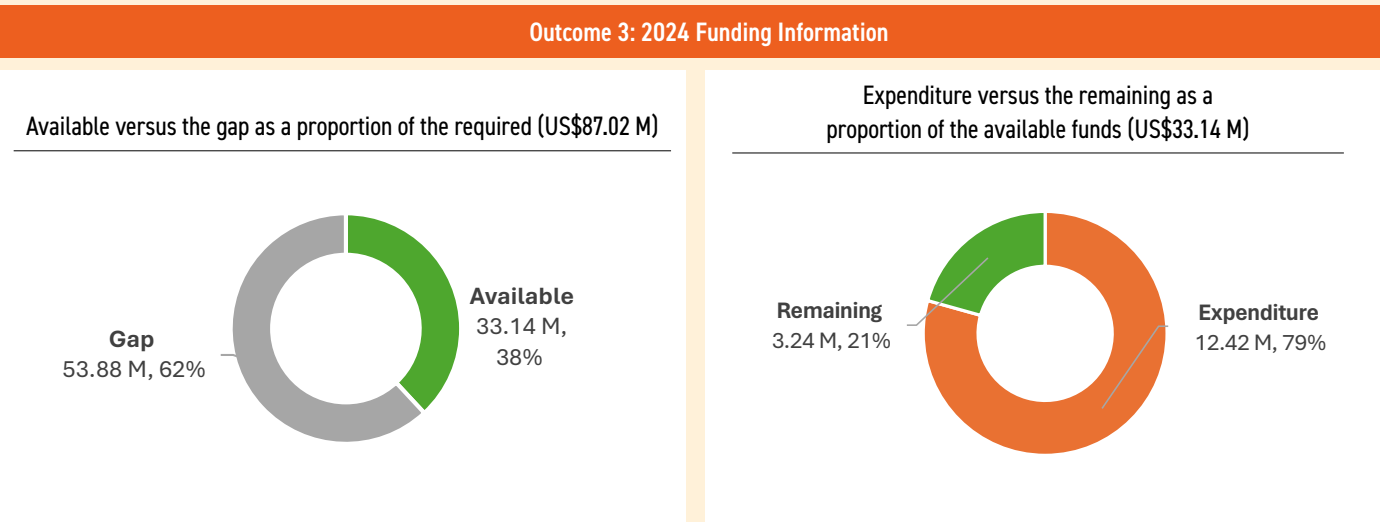
Individuals benefitted from the response.

Five community water supply projects under technical review:

East Sepik, Madang, Jiwaka, Western Highlands & Southern Highlands.



Outcome 3: By 2028, people in Papua New Guinea, especially the most marginalized, benefit from gender-sensitive, shock-responsive, rights-based, and quality basic and social services, and realize their full potential in order to meaningfully contribute to PNG's development.



Output 1 – Education and Skills Development: Strengthen services and increase access to improved foundational learning, which include literacy and numeracy, critical thinking and skills development that aim to achieve stronger performing education systems, lift attendance and retention in schools, while providing skills pathways for out of school youth.

A key milestone was the pilot testing of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) School Registration Framework—developed with UN support—across 84 schools in five provinces, including UN-supported model schools. This resulted in 11 schools being officially endorsed for registration as ECE schools.

To ensure sustainable government funding for ECE, Bogia District in Madang Province and Nawaeb District in Morobe Province successfully integrated ECE framework indicators into their district development plans. This integration ensures dedicated government budget allocations for ECE at the district level.

With technical support from the UN and other development partners, the National Department of Education (NDoE) completed a long-overdue Education Sector Analysis, nearly a decade behind schedule. Its recommendations were presented to key decision-makers at national and sub-national levels and included in the Education Minister's Achievement Report, which was tabled in Parliament.

In support of the government's 1-6-6 education reform agenda, the UN assisted the Department of Education in building sub-national implementation capacity. A total of 238 education officers, including 19

women, were trained in micro-planning and school clustering. As a result, schools in 46 districts across 13 provinces are now successfully clustered. Additionally, sub-national governments incorporated 1-6-6 planning into their Provincial Education Improvement Plans, enabling them to access national government funding to support education reform.

A total of 678 Grade 6 schoolchildren, including 323 girls and 348 boys in the seven targeted schools in the country's Hagen district gained entrepreneurship, leadership, and important life skills through the UN's PNG Teen Entrepreneur Programme. This initiative, which aims to promote positive behavior and productive lifestyles among young learners, will be scaled to more schools following the successful pilot.





Credits: UNICEF PNG

Promoting Inclusive Early Childhood Education in Papua New Guinea.

More than 50 preschoolers attend the Hobu Lutheran Early Childhood Education Centre in Hobu, a community in Morobe Province. Five years ago, they built a classroom and playground for their children who are too young to travel to the nearest school, and helped a community member become a teacher. This Early Childhood Education Centre is part of UNICEF's Convergence Programme in Papua New Guinea – a programme focused on health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, and social policy. Rueben Moses is the Teacher in Charge of Hobu Lutheran Early Childhood Education Centre. Partially paralysed in his right leg due to polio, he has been teaching since the centre was opened in 2019.

"When I was a student, I saw that able bodied students bullied students with disabilities. I don't want any children with a disability to go through what I experienced." Rueben says parents now have time to work as they are not looking after children.

“

I don't want any children with a disability to go through what I experienced!

► **Output 2 – Health:** Strengthened health systems to improve the well-being and access to quality, integrated, people-centred health services including TB, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health; and provide protection from health emergencies for people at national and sub-national levels, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas.

The UN continued to support the National Department of Health (NDoH) and Provincial Health Authorities (PHAs) to improve primary health care, with a focus on integrating maternal and child health (MCH) services with care for both communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This integrated approach is crucial for delivering healthcare in resource-limited areas facing challenges such as insufficient infrastructure, workforce, and medical supplies. Following UN-supported training sessions on HIV, syphilis, and gestational diabetes, improvements were seen in the integration of these services. Trained health workers are now able to implement the 3-Step HIV Testing Algorithm, ensuring accurate diagnosis, minimizing false results, and guiding appropriate treatment.

A significant milestone in TB care was achieved with the endorsement and rollout of the all-oral BPaLM regimen for drug-resistant TB. The new treatment regimen was distributed to high TB-burden regions, including the National Capital District and Western Province. This all-oral regimen offers a safer, shorter, and more effective alternative to traditional treatments, improving patient survival. TB reporting tools are being updated with WHO surveillance standards to enhance data collection and monitoring nationwide—supporting PNG's progress toward the WHO 2030 End TB Strategy.

In response to the country's escalating TB crisis, the Emergency Tuberculosis Project was launched to strengthen TB services in Western Province and NCD. Through this initiative, the UN delivered critical TB drugs, consumables, and diagnostic tools, enabling faster detection and better treatment planning for drug-resistant TB cases.

The UN also supported the Government of PNG in implementing Mass Drug Elimination, targeting neglected tropical diseases (NTD) such as lymphatic filariasis and scabies. In West New Britain Province, 25,508 skin NTD cases were identified and treated, achieving approximately 78 per cent treatment coverage. 248 healthcare workers across nine provinces were trained in integrated skin NTD management and surveillance.

Sustained UN advocacy also led to the endorsement of WHO's Test, Treat, and Track (T3) malaria policy by NDoH. The policy ensures universal access to quality-assured diagnosis and treatment. To support implementation, healthcare officers were trained to monitor the rollout, resulting in over 90 per cent of lab-confirmed malaria patients receiving treatment—a significant increase from 54 per cent in 2016.

To improve emergency preparedness, the UN supported the installation of a fully equipped containerized PCR laboratory and biosafety cabinets in various health facilities. Medical waste incinerators were installed in health facilities to enable proper waste management. Solar panels and battery energy storage systems were installed at two provincial hospitals, reducing reliance on unstable grid power.

The UN also helped identify 20 health facilities for solar power system installation, with work underway to provide sustainable, clean energy for uninterrupted health services.



UNFPA and Monpi Coffee Exports Enhance Health and Livelihoods of Farmers.

In Papua New Guinea's Highlands, coffee farming is an integral part of life. Now, through a partnership between UNFPA and Monpi Coffee Exports, which sources coffee beans from smallholder farmers, coffee is supporting the well-being of thousands of families. This collaboration – which helps 4,600 farmers – brings health services to remote communities, tackling the challenges that farmers face in places where healthcare has been limited due to difficult terrain, staff shortages, and inadequate facilities. By partnering with the PNG Family Health Association, UNFPA provides maternal health information to farmers, while the collaboration with the Center for Excellence in Financial Inclusion equips farmers with financial literacy skills.

Saira Shameem, UNFPA Country Representative in Papua New Guinea, says the partnership is about saving lives and securing the sexual and reproductive rights of farmers.

“

Together, we're contributing towards the reduction of maternal deaths.

To strengthen maternal and newborn health the UN supported the recruitment and capacity-building of Village Health Assistants, which are crucial in delivering essential healthcare within their communities. A total of 149 healthcare workers received training in pediatric care, obstetrics, gynecology, and midwifery through a partnership between national professional associations and the UN. This training improved newborn care in primary health centers and neonatal intensive care units (NICU) across 10 provinces. Complementing these efforts, essential newborn care equipment was distributed to all public health facilities and NICUs in the targeted provinces.

In child health, the UN supported the government in optimizing its vaccine delivery schedule. As a result, 188,898 children received the Pentavalent-3 vaccine. To ensure cold chain functionality, 370 new units were delivered to 177 health facilities, bringing the total number of facilities with operational cold chain equipment to 737. Additionally, 83 facilities adopted the mSupply electronic logistics management system to improve vaccine supply chain management.

To further improve vaccine uptake, 34 health workers (14 men, 20 women) were trained in human-centered design for immunization services. A Routine Immunization Communication Toolkit was also developed to promote vaccine literacy, community engagement, and gender-responsive immunization.

Nutrition services were also strengthened by partnering with the Enga Provincial Health Authority. The UN helped build the capacity of 35 healthcare workers and VHAs to deliver nutrition services and provided training materials and an integrated emergency preparedness handbook. Nutrition supplies were distributed to disaster-affected health facilities to ensure continued support to impacted communities.

The UN helped train 75 healthcare providers in modern contraceptive methods, broadening the range of family planning options available and increasing uptake. Under the Condomized campaign, 30 volunteers from Eastern Highland Province were trained in condom promotion, distribution, and reporting, resulting in improved distribution and data accuracy in the province.

Efforts to strengthen the medical supply chain continued with the training of 125 health staff—including pharmacists and area medical store managers—in reproductive health commodity security and electronic logistics management information systems. The UN also provided scholarships to 30 healthcare workers to pursue a Certificate in Basic Pharmacy Management.

To improve health workforce efficiency, the UN supported training in health labor market analysis and workload indicators of staffing need helping PHAs, faith-based, and private facilities to better allocate personnel, particularly for PHC services.

The UN supported revising reporting tools and capacity building in data management, resulting in improved mortality data collection. Curricula for nursing, community health workers, and pharmacy training were also revised to align with updated healthcare priorities.

The UN collaborated with the NDoH and World Bank to design a health facility audit tool, which was endorsed and used in 26 of 31 facilities. This audit provided evidence for policy, infrastructure planning, and funding decisions. A training programme to build the capacity of health workers to conduct these assessments was finalized, with planning underway for provincial rollout.

► **Output 3 – Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** WASH systems strengthened to ensure people have equitable access to affordable, gender sensitive, environmentally and climate friendly safe drinking water and sanitation services and have awareness of safe hygiene behaviour.

In 2024, good progress was made in enhancing WASH sector. The National WASH Management Information System (MIS) expanded with mWATER tools, with the government funding its nationwide rollout. The WASH Climate Rationale for PNG was finalized and adopted, ensuring climate resilience is integrated into sector planning.

WASH Service Delivery Arrangements and costed district WASH plans were developed in four districts. A WASH Sector Coordination Mechanism was designed and is under government review, while District WASH Committees were established in five districts, improving coordination and technical expertise.

The Support to the Papua New Guinea National WASH Policy Project included completed field investigation reports, detailed engineering design and the tendering of the construction contract. Constructions of facilities will begin in the coming year, increasing access to safe, adequate, and sustainable water supply and sanitation and improving hygiene practices.

The UN supported the National Department of Education (NDoE) to revise the WASH in School's Policy and developed climate-resilient WASH standards. The policy was endorsed by the NDoE and implementation has commenced at the provincial level.

In collaboration with the Jiwaka Provincial Health Authority, the UN installed a multi-use Solar Powered Bore Water System for three healthcare facilities in the North Waghi district. This water system is expected to benefit many patients annually at these facilities. The system will also serve three nearby primary schools.

With UN support, the Department of National Planning and Monitoring collected baseline data on WASH knowledge, attitudes, and practices in schools and healthcare facilities across districts. This data is crucial for monitoring progress on WASH priorities.

Five community water supply projects in East Sepik, Jiwaka, Western Highlands, Southern Highlands, and Madang provinces are under technical review for final design. The UN identified these projects through consultations with communities.

The UN, in collaboration with community volunteers and hygiene promoters, responded to the Mulitka landslide in Enga Province, reaching 3,950 displaced individuals with hygiene awareness. These awareness sessions improved personal and household sanitation, strengthened community hygiene practices, and prevented disease outbreaks in affected areas. Hygiene and dignity kits were distributed to 1,023 displaced families.

The UN also assisted communities displaced by conflicts and disasters in East Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Chimbu, Jiwaka, Western Highlands, Madang, Enga, and Morobe. This assistance included the distribution of soap, water containers, buckets, sanitary pads, and towels to 1,351 households, benefiting a total of 7,072 people.

► **Output 4 – Food Security and Nutrition:** Increased food security as a result of the establishment of food systems and nutrition sensitive agriculture, especially for those most marginalized and isolated.

The UN supported the government in addressing emerging and priority zoonotic diseases threatening animal farming in the country. Strategic interventions for disease surveillance and control were identified through a one health assessment. Two government officials participated in FAO Anti-Microbial Resistance Monitoring Training in Thailand, enhancing national capacity for antimicrobial resistance surveillance.

Lessons learned from African Swine Fever outbreaks were shared with over 1,000 livestock-dependent smallholder farmers in rural communities. These farmers are now more aware of farm hygiene practices, helping safeguard their farms and livestock.

The UN promoted healthy nutrition in health facilities, communities, and schools across 12 provinces. As a result, approximately 18,413 children under five, including 7,922 girls, received treatment for severe acute malnutrition, exceeding the annual target threefold. The UN helped the government improve child diets by educating 170,984 caregivers, including mothers, on maternal, infant, and young child feeding. To address nutrient deficiencies in children aged 6–59 months, 95,201 children received multiple micronutrient powder, 388,833 received deworming tablets, and 387,539 received at least one dose of Vitamin A

In addition to the distribution of hygiene products to 1,023 households (5,127 individuals – 2,386 males and 2,741 females) affected by the Mulitaka landslide and reported under Output 3, food items were also distributed to these households to sustain their diets and provide food security while they rebuild their lives..

The UN supported the government in developing the National Guidelines for Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition. The rollout of these guidelines began in 2024 and is expected to scale up in the coming year. Additionally, following the enactment of the Infant and Young Children's Food Supply (Control) Act in 2023, the UN assisted the government in drafting a regulatory framework to support its operation.

The National Department of Health (NDoH) initiated the Nutrition Intervention Acceleration Month with United Nations support. This initiative aimed to increase the distribution of medicinal nutrition supplements among school-aged children and adolescents, reaching 37,352 girls and 26,047 boys and 25,370 pregnant women with iron folate supplements and 99,670 children with deworming tablets. Following the successful rollout, the NDoH has officially included March and August as the "nutrition intervention acceleration months" in the school calendar.



Crops grown on nearby hills following trainings from IOM.



Rice farmer with Jiwaka Provincial Disaster Coordinator.
Credits: IOM PNG

Food Security Through Smarter Farming

Since 2016, the IOM has supported farmers in Jiwaka, Papua New Guinea, to ensure essential food supplies remain available when disaster strikes. Initially responding to the El Niño drought, IOM provided 9,000 agriculture kits with tools, seeds, and training on drought-resistant crops. Over the years, and continuing in 2024 with funding from USAID, IOM has helped communities diversify crops, introduce storable foods like rice and corn, and shift gardens to higher ground to withstand floods. These sustained, community-led efforts have strengthened resilience and ensured ongoing access to food during natural disasters..

► **Output 5 – Protection:** Strengthened social protection systems and improved access to all forms of protection services by the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, that provide physical and legal protection including in violent or conflict contexts.

Thanks to 44 mobile registration kits provided by the UN and capacity-building support for government officials, 63,662 birth certificates were issued in 2024, compared to the 26,000 certificates issued the previous year. The programme has been expanded to all 22 provinces, documenting 17,991 children under five and 45,671 children aged 6 to 17, with a total of 108,791 birth certificates issued nationwide.

With UN's support, the Somare Institute for Leadership and Governance (SILAG) has commenced the design of a specialized child protection certification programme.

A dedicated task force was also established to develop standardized operating procedures and referral pathways for child protection case management.

The UN's Parenting for Child Development (P4CD) programme has been hailed as a success in promoting positive parenting and transforming parent-child relationships. The programme gained global recognition at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bogotá, where the PNG government pledged to expand the programme nationwide, underscoring its impact. In 2024, the programme reached over 5,000 parents.

Through UN coordination, 37 organizations worked together to respond to the Mulitaka disaster, training 371 individuals (more than half of whom were women) in child protection, gender-based violence prevention, and psychosocial support for displaced communities. Community engagement initiatives reached 20,400 people with child protection messaging.

In response to the Mulitaka landslide and the Angoram conflict, the UN established seven child-friendly spaces, equipped with 30 recreation kits and 30 trained facilitators to support children affected by these events. A total of 5,814 children received psychosocial support and other assistance. Of these, 79 children (including 43 girls) were referred for specialized services. Additionally, 30 children with disabilities received tailored support to ensure that no one was left behind. Child protection awareness sessions reached 20,400 individuals, providing vital information on protecting and safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

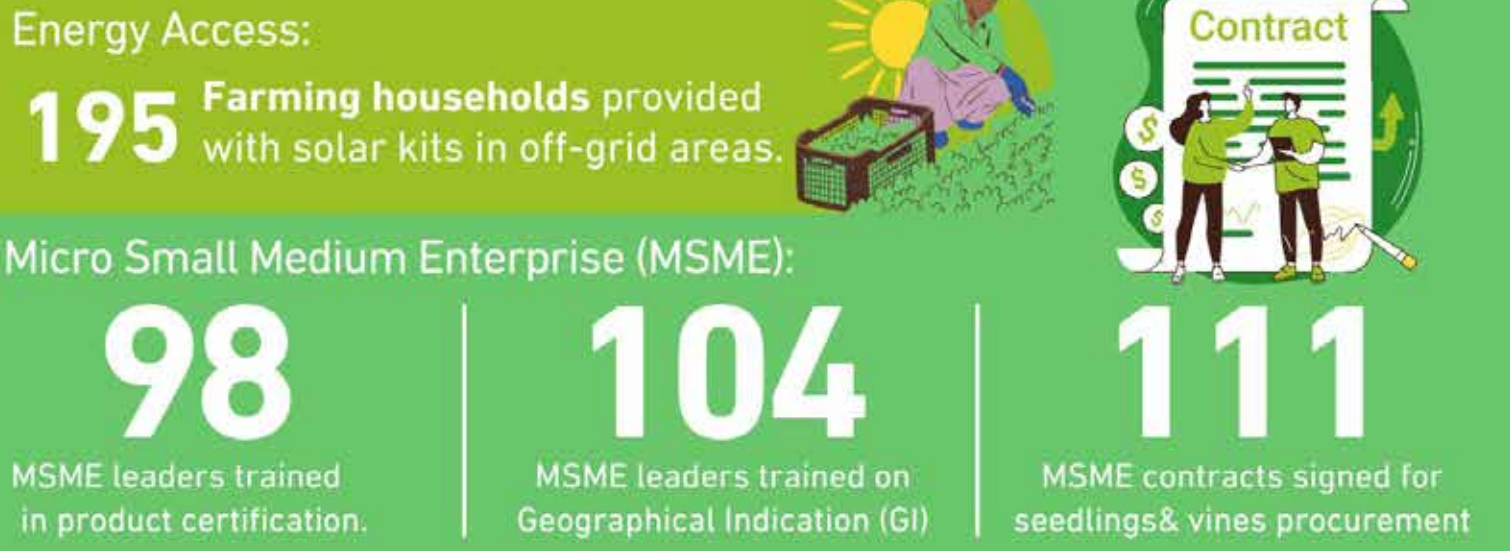
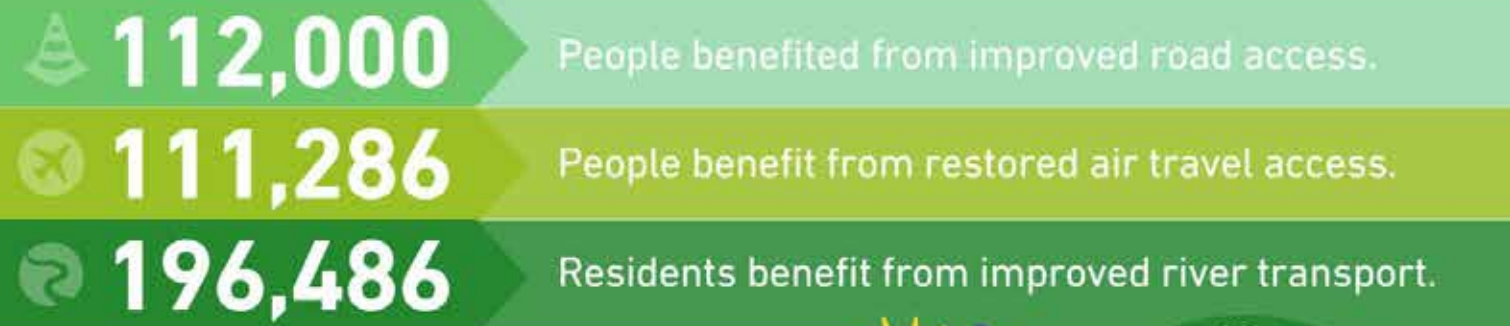
In 2024, the UN assessed PNG's sustainable and shock-responsive social protection system, aligned with the employment policy framework. The resulting Social Protection Diagnostic Assessment report highlighted key gaps and policy recommendations and is now a key reference for understanding the state of social protection in the country.

Government officials also received training in implementing social protection and employment policies. Furthermore, an actionable policy reform and system-strengthening document was developed following a national dialogue facilitated by the UN. These documents aim to guide efforts to strengthen social protection in the country

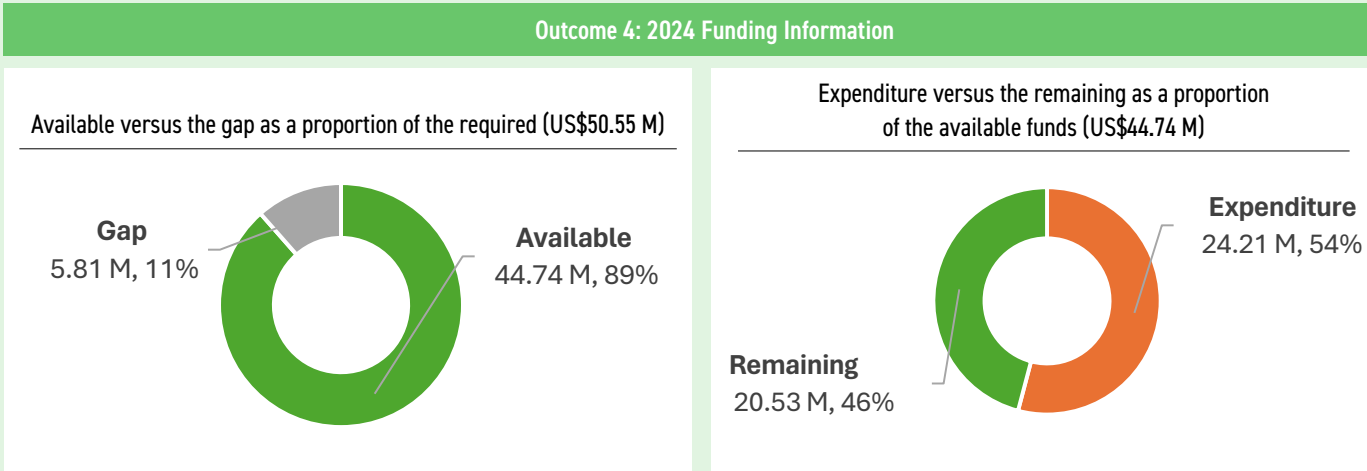
In 2024, IOM utilized Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessments to advance protection mainstreaming by ensuring that displacement-affected populations, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, were prioritized in humanitarian response efforts. Across 52 wards in 38 districts spanning 14 provinces, 15 DTM assessments provided critical data on displacement trends, vulnerabilities, and service gaps, allowing evidence-based decision-making for protection-sensitive interventions. By systematically tracking the needs of at-risk groups, DTM enabled IOM and humanitarian partners to deliver targeted assistance that addressed both immediate and long-term protection concerns.

To strengthen community mental health support, 305 individuals received psychosocial first aid training, including 24 health workers from Mulitaka health facilities and the Enga Provincial Health Authority, as well as 281 community members from various socio-economic backgrounds, equipping them to support vulnerable individuals facing trauma and distress.

Strategic Priority 4: Sustainable Economic Transformation



Outcome 4: By 2028, people in Papua New Guinea, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from improved and sustainable livelihoods and expanded access to diversified economic opportunities that deliver inclusive and green growth.



Output 1 - Blue/Green/Circular Economy: Expanded and diversified Blue/Green/circular economy leading to increased decent jobs and skills.

Under the Gupela Solwara Gupela Bisnis joint project implemented by UNCDF and UNDP, the UN successfully launched the Blue Economy Incubation facility to provide financial and technical support to local women-led blue MSMEs in order to both conserve the local marine biodiversity and to provide sustainable livelihoods to local communities. Targeting West New Britain and Milne Bay, the project selected six blue enterprises in West New Britain as the first cohort of businesses to be supported by the new facility. The facility disbursed the first round of Blue Innovation start-up grants, totaling US\$500,000. The project also developed a comprehensive Five-Year Gender-Sensitive Business

and Revenue Plan and delivered financial literacy training to local communities, specifically targeting 100 women from the Blue Business Network in Kimbe Bay, West New Britain. As part of the project’s ocean conservation efforts, 99% of nearly 1,000 consulted community members in the Kimbe Bay area expressed strong support for designating the bay as a Marine Protected Area, which would safeguard 1.33 million hectares of rich biodiversity, including coral reefs, diverse fish species, and endangered animals such as sea turtles and dugongs, from overfishing and unsustainable harvesting.

A similar facility will also be established to support Milne Bay. The project team engaged with various stakeholders during the reporting period to initiate the project in the province.



The six successful blue enterprises take a group photo with UNDP, KPMG, and provincial and national government counterparts to mark the launching of the Blue Economy Incubation Facility. Credits: UNDP PNG

► **Output 2 - Enterprise Development:** Enhanced growth of Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME) and value chain development in agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

Thanks to funding from the European Union, the Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade (STREIT) joint programme implemented by FAO, ILO, ITU, UNCDF, and UNDP improved rural livelihoods by enhancing cocoa, vanilla, and fisheries value chains while providing crucial support to value chain enablers in East and West Sepik Provinces of PNG.

In 2024, 29 new cocoa nurseries were established, equipped with Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB)- tolerant seedlings, ensuring a reliable supply for cocoa garden rehabilitation. 1.58 million CPB-tolerant seedlings were distributed to 19,251 cocoa farmers (38% women), bringing 2,532 hectares under climate-smart agriculture. Additionally, 336 kiln pipes and accessories were distributed to upgrade cocoa fermentaries.

Training in seedling, vine production, and block management enhanced the skills of 2,864 lead cocoa and vanilla farmers (21% women). Lead farmers' knowledge-sharing boosted sustainable cultivation, improved yields, secured better market prices, and increased household and community incomes.

A cocoa export depot was also completed and inaugurated in Vanimo, West Sepik, serving over 20,000 cocoa farmers by facilitating cocoa bean collection and export. Nationally, the Programme is also supporting the establishment of a cocoa processing factory.

The STREIT Programme distributed 557,711 treated vanilla vines to 4,843 farmers (35% women), expanding cultivation by 892 hectares under climate-smart practices. Eighty-two lead farmers (21% women) were trained in quality assessment and climate-smart farming and provided 12 solar-powered vacuum packaging machines to farmer groups to support post-harvest processing.

To boost fish production and reduce pressure on wild stocks, 66,800 fingerlings were distributed to 345 farmers (39% women), 73 sets of fisheries equipment, and 18 solar freezers to improve post-harvest storage. Additionally, 272 fishers (31% women) were trained in aquaculture, riverine, coastal, and post-harvest techniques, enhancing fishing practices and reducing post-harvest losses.

Through the STREIT programme, the UN also strengthened value chain enablers such as roads, waterways, and airstrips. During the reporting period, thirteen roads totaling 207 km were rehabilitated, and 18 roads covering 312 km were maintained across nine East and West Sepik districts, improving market access and benefiting 112,000 residents. The programme engaged local contractors, who then engaged 1,500 community workers (52% women) for road maintenance and rehabilitation works.

Through the programme, the UN also trained 1,136 stakeholders, including government officials, contractors, and community members, on road maintenance and rehabilitation. In addition, the Department of Works and Highways adopted a road transport information system and

a construction site monitoring tool, initially developed as pilot solutions for road project management in East and West Sepik, for nationwide use. These tools support road planning and the development of annual and five-year Provincial Road Transport Master Plans. The Programme also developed the Productivity Work Norms at the request of the Department of Works and Highways to standardize cost estimation and budgeting for road projects.

The STREIT Programme also rehabilitated three previously closed airstrips—Mariama and Mukundu in East Sepik and Warakori in Telefomin of West Sepik, improving access to essential services for communities in these areas, including 111,286 people of Telefomin who rely on air transport to access basic services. Additionally, 215 km of Sepik River tributaries were cleared, ensuring reliable river transport for 196,486 residents, particularly benefiting cocoa and vanilla farmers accessing markets.

To strengthen market access and digital inclusion, 542 lead farmers (40% women) were trained in e-marketing and digitalization, improving their ICT skills and enabling access to new markets and e-commerce platforms. Additionally, 512 MSME members (33% women) received training in enterprise development, business planning, financial literacy, and access to financial services.

Furthermore, 35 cocoa and vanilla groups were registered with the Investment Promotion Authority, gaining legal recognition and access to financial products, services, and market opportunities. Financial inclusion was also expanded with 18,325 new bank accounts opened, 37% of which belonged to women, supporting their participation in entrepreneurship.

To strengthen agricultural production, 111 contracts were signed with local MSMEs to supply cocoa seedlings and vanilla vines, ensuring uninterrupted access to planting materials. Additionally, 98 MSME leaders (13% women) improved their skills in product certification, and 195 off-grid farming households received solar kits, providing reliable power for basic needs.



How FAO-Thiaroye Technique (FTT) is improving fish processing for Kandangapma Women's Business Group

Fishing for food and income is a traditional way of life for the Sepik River communities in PNG's East Sepik Province. Traditionally, fish were smoked over open fireplaces—a labour-intensive, time-consuming process that exposed women to hazardous smoke and produced lower-quality products.

Through the STREIT Programme, the Kandangapma Women's Business Group from the Sepik River received training in business management, group dynamics, financial literacy, ICT, Family Farming as a Business, and Riverine Capture Fisheries. They began applying this knowledge to improve their operations.

The Programme also supported the group with installing the FAO-Thiaroye Technique (FTT) for fish smoking, along with proper shelter. Unlike traditional methods, FTT is safer, more efficient, and environmentally friendly. It uses less firewood, reduces smoke emissions, and improves product safety and quality.

Tina said, "With FTT, we can smoke up to 436 fish in one day, filling 4 to 6 baskets, which we sell at the market. This has significantly increased our income." She proudly added, "We can make between PGK600 and PGK1,000 and return to our home." In Maprik and Wewak, demand is even higher.



Tina standing in front of FTT Fish shelter; Credits: FAO PNG

“

Customers taste the fish, and they come back for more.

This new method has improved our business.



Traditional Way of smoking fish; Credits: FAO PNG



A New Road Brings Hope to a Remote Papua New Guinea Village

For generations, the people of Wautogik Village in Papua New Guinea’s East Sepik Province carried their dreams – and their crops – on their backs. A steep descending bush track was their only connection to the outside world. But today, thanks to a upgraded road supported by ILO through the European Union funded STREIT Programme, life there is changing..

Julius Yahapin, a 79-year-old retired teacher, recalls the challenges before the road was fixed. “To buy basic things, we walked down a steep track to the main highway. Mothers struggled carrying heavy loads, especially in the rain,” he says.

For Nancy Watia, a mother of three, selling vegetables in town meant tough journeys with limited supplies. “I could only carry so much that I can push on my back. I earned about PGK 100 each trip, needing to pay PGK 20 for round trip on public transport,” she says.

In 2024, that all changed when the 7.8km Banak-Wautogik road serving over 2,000 villagers – was upgraded. The upgrades – including one reinforced concrete causeway and a new bridge – meant vehicles could finally reach the village.

“Now public transport can drive straight to our homes,” says Julius. Buyers can now arrive to purchase cocoa, saving farmers the exhausting journey. Tony says farmers’ incomes have risen up to 30%.

“This intervention provides local communities with improved access to essential services, including healthcare, and access to public transport for transporting agricultural products such as cocoa, vanilla, and coconut. A recent study found that transportation costs for cocoa and vanilla have decreased by 10%,” says Eav Kong, the ILO-STREIT Chief Technical Advisor.

The road has become a lifeline for the community. “Mothers in labour reach the health centre quicker. The sick get help in time,” Tony says.

Nancy’s life transformed in another significant way: she joined the Road Maintenance Group (RMG), which keeps the road maintained. This allows Nancy to earn a consistent income for the first time. “Before RMG, I didn’t earn this kind of money. I bought solar lights for my home. Now I sew at night” she smiles. She’s saving to build a house – a dream she once thought impossible.

Tony says that the community is hopeful for a better future, as villagers are coming up with many new ideas for change. Julius adds,

“I’ve seen this village without a road. Now, with it, our future is bright.



Fabian, his wife and son and a fellow villager proudly presenting their vanilla beans produced with the help of the EU-STREIT PNG Programme. Credits: FAO PNG

How the STREIT Programme is improving vanilla cultivation and increasing income potential for Fabian’s Family

Prior to the STREIT programme, Fabian and his family from East Sepik of PNG cultivated vanilla, but the yield was not good. After the STREIT programme trained Fabian and other farmers on best practices for vanilla cultivation, husbandry, harvesting, and post-harvest processing, the vanilla yields have improved significantly. The programme also provided disease-free vanilla vines, cooler boxes, blankets, thermometers, pruning saws, and a solar vanilla dryer. These tools, combined with the training, significantly improved productivity and quality.

“EU-funded STREIT Programme assisted us. We now have 30 kg of vanilla and plan to export in August 2024. The Programme helped us find a market and provided many things,” says Fabian.

Previously, improper storage caused mold and low-quality vanilla. “After the training, we adopted the right way to do vanilla processing,” Fabian explains. Villagers now understand the ideal timing for pollination and curing methods, resulting in a noticeable boost in quality.

“

EU-funded STREIT Programme assisted us. We now have 30 kg of vanilla and plan to export in August 2024. The Programme helped us find a market and provided many things.

- Fabian.

► **Output 3 – Innovative Financing and partnerships:** Expanded public/private partnerships for increased innovative financing instruments.

Under the STREIT programme, the Government and the UN launched a policy dialogue in the Sepik region to bring together key stakeholders in order to improve mobile phone network coverage; expand access to mobile broadband and the internet to enable the integration of telecommunication services with banking, providing rural communities with digital and financial management tools to support remote communities in agribusiness.

The Programme established and equipped seven Resource Centers in the Sepik region, where communities receive training in skills including basic ICT, online learning for cocoa, vanilla, and fisheries production, business management, financial literacy, and farming as a business. This initiative aims to transform the agricultural sector, enhance resilience, and unlock the potential of digital technology for sustainable rural development.

A total of 65 MSME leaders (8 per cent women) participated in five national and international exposure visits in the cocoa and fisheries value chains, enhancing their knowledge of best practices, global market standards, and business networking. These visits strengthened their market competitiveness and connections with potential overseas buyers and business partners.



Strategic Priority 5: Environment and Climate Change

US\$2.18 M

In grants awarded to 7 Protected Area Associations (Kimiali, Crater Mountain, Sulamesi, Sulei, YUS, Turubu Wildlife).



391 PEOPLE Trained in land-use planning & best agricultural practices.

\$16M US

Secured for a tropical forest preservation project in Gulf & Western provinces (implementation starts 2025).

34,770

Hectares of rainforest secured as protected areas under the GEF-7 project.

\$43K US

UNDP Blue Innovation start-up grants, awarded to four businesses.



12

Disaster-prone areas identified in AROB, with projects designed for each



129

Provincial officials trained in disaster preparedness across 4 provinces.



24

Island & atoll communities benefited from climate change adaptation projects.

16,000+ PEOPLE

Will benefit from Small Grants Facility initiatives (water, solar, food security, shoreline protection).



19,700 PEOPLE

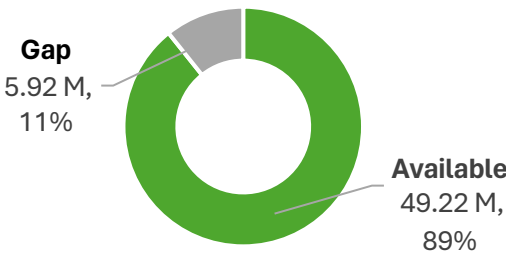
From 12 communities involved in drafting Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Plans.

Outcome 5: By 2028, people in Papua New Guinea, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from equitable access to climate resilient services that improve livelihoods and protect natural resources.

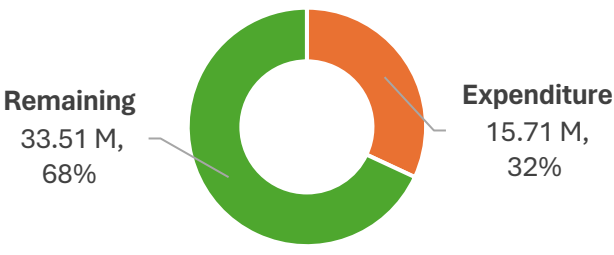


Outcome 5: 2024 Funding Information

Available versus the gap as a proportion of the required funds (US\$55.14 M)



Expenditure versus the remaining as a proportion of the available funds (US\$49.22 M)



► **Output 1 – Natural Resource Management:** Natural resources are better managed to the benefit of Papua New Guineans through improved biodiversity conservation, environmental governance and partnerships at all levels.

Thanks to the UN's continued advocacy and collaboration with government stakeholders and communities, the government enacted the Protected Areas Act, strengthening the management of Papua New Guinea's protected areas.

In Manus Province, the UN led conservation efforts to protect mangroves, which are rapidly disappearing from many coastal areas. Working with local communities, key conservation areas were identified using GIS mapping. Young community members also received training in biodiversity monitoring and adaptive management, equipping them with the skills to actively safeguard and sustain this vital ecosystem.

The UN supported the government's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) in designing a project to preserve tropical forest landscapes in the Gulf and Western provinces. The UN's support was pivotal in securing US\$16 million for the project's implementation in 2025.

Through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 7 project, the UN collaborated with the government and target communities in securing over 34,770 hectares of rainforest, including critical biodiversity-rich

sites around Mt. Wilhelm, the country's highest mountain, as protected areas. This achievement ensures biodiversity conservation and fosters sustainable farming practices, reduces agricultural-driven deforestation and preserving natural landscapes and ecosystems in the Highland region.

The Biodiversity and Climate Fund began disbursing grants, awarding a total of US\$2,185,421 in Low-Value Grants to seven successful grantees – primarily Protected Areas associations.

Five additional Protected Area associations that met eligibility criteria during the reporting period received funding through the Rainforest Trust Fund.

Following UN-led awareness and training sessions, 391 people, including 152 women and 239 men from the Pomio and Gazelle districts of East New Britain and the Nakanai district of West New Britain, now have a better understanding of the importance of land-use planning and the pathways to secure legal recognition from relevant provincial and national authorities. This empowers them to make informed decisions about land management, ensuring sustainable and legally recognized practices that benefit their communities.

Additionally, these individuals—mostly cocoa farmers from East New Britain and smallholder oil palm farmers from West New Britain—gained valuable insights into best farming practices for cocoa and oil palm cultivation through UN-facilitated training.

► **Output 2 – Climate Action:** Enhanced climate adaptation and mitigation measures are delivered to strengthen the capacity of Papua New Guinea to mitigate the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, communities, livelihoods and the economy.

The Community-based Disaster Risks Reduction Management CBDRM Plan for AROB was launched in 2024 to strengthen community-based climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in the region. The UN worked with AROB communities to identify 12 disaster-prone areas, which informed the development of 12 projects to address issues in each area.

With support from the UN, PNG has enhanced environmental and social safeguards in its REDD+ programmes, enabling the country to engage in international forest carbon markets. The UN also supported climate change reporting and finance, including forest and land use assessments and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Results-Based Payment proposal.

The UN continued to support the government of PNG to meet its Paris Agreement commitments. Part of this effort in 2024 included supporting the government to develop its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due this year.

In partnership with the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA), the UN implemented climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in 24 vulnerable island and atoll communities across the country under the Building Resilience to Climate Change (BRCC) in PNG project. As part of this effort, Climate Change Vulnerability Adaptation Plans and Investment Priority Plans were developed based on community vulnerability assessments. These plans enable communities to access small grants to support livelihood projects, including solar power, sanitation, shoreline protection, livestock management, coral training, food preservation and food security initiatives. Home garden demonstrations, food processing and preservation initiatives, and mangrove forest and watershed rehabilitation were implemented in nine communities using the small grants. Ward Development Committees were formed to oversee the operation of UN-supported dinghies, ensuring reliable transportation for these communities. Overall, more than 16,000 people in 24 atoll communities will benefit.



Dagua Health Centre equipped with solar power.
Credits: UNDP PNG

Solar Energy Powers Schools and a Health Center in East and West Sepik Province

As part of the European Union-funded STREIT Joint Programme, UNDP installed solar energy systems across six school campuses and three health centers in Papua New Guinea's East and West Sepik Provinces. These systems provide a reliable, clean, and affordable source of electricity, ensuring uninterrupted power supply to critical public services and benefiting over 60,000 community members.

"At our school, we've seen a 70–80% reduction in electricity costs since switching from backup generators to solar power," says Rolan Rintangken, Principal of St. Ignatius Secondary School in Aitape, West Sepik Province, where the solar system was introduced in late 2024.

"Before, many students relied on torches to complete their homework at night. Now, thanks to solar power, we can offer evening study sessions from 6 PM to 9 PM. Students can also continue working in their dormitories if needed," adds Gregory Weimeia, Principal of Nagum Secondary School in East Sepik Province.

"The solar panels allow us to power fridges for storing vaccines and sterilize instruments used for deliveries and suturing," explains Veronica Asikamali, a Nursing Officer at Dagua Health Center in East Sepik Province. "Other facilities in the region don't have access to these services, so we feel privileged to benefit from this solar energy installation."

“

Before, many students relied on torches to complete their homework at night.

Now, thanks to solar power, we can offer evening study sessions from 6 PM to 9 PM. Students can also continue working in their dormitories if needed.

– Gregory Weimeia,
Principal of Nagum Secondary School in East Sepik Province.



► **Output 3 – Disaster Risk Management:** Strengthened resilience and preparedness of the most vulnerable and displaced communities through implementation of disaster management strategies and systems.

To strengthen the capacity of sub-national authorities in disaster response, the UN, in partnership with the NDC and provincial disaster officers of East New Britain and AROB, developed Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans and standard operating procedures for the two provinces, which will be launched in 2025.

A series of workshops held in Eastern Highlands, West Sepik, Western, and West New Britain strengthened these provinces' disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacity. Delivered by the UN in partnership with national authorities, these workshops built the capacities of 129 provincial government officials, including 104 males and 25 females, in disaster coordination, information management, and hazard mapping validation.

As part of the annual joint civil-military exercise with the Australian, US, and PNG Defense Forces, the UN, in partnership with military personnel and government disaster agencies, built the technology-based disaster monitoring capabilities of 14 officials, including 11 males and 3 females from government entities and the UN.

The UN continued to build community resilience and disaster preparedness capacity. Twelve beneficiary communities (with a total population of 19,700) across various provinces will soon have their own CBDRM Plans. The plans are informed by community consultations, ensuring that women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities contributed ideas.

The UN also supported disaster affected communities in East Sepik, Enga, and Morobe. Community members and local authorities learned 'Build Back Safer' shelter construction techniques. The UN also provided shelter toolkits, helping communities build stronger shelters.

In response to the Mulitaka landslide, the UN supported the Enga Provincial Government and the National Disaster Center in developing the Mulitaka Disaster Recovery Plan. This plan guided coordinated response and recovery efforts, ensuring effective support for affected communities.

The UN strengthened the capacities of partners in emergency communication, community engagement, and advocacy. In collaboration with the Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities Network (CDAC), the UN also developed a Country Media Policy Guide to improve crisis communication.



Community members, including children and adults, weeding around the reservoir area. Credits: IOM PNG

Rain-Water Catchment System Transforms Pungazipup Community's Access to Clean Water

With funding from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) established a rainwater catchment system in Pungazipup, providing clean water access to over 1,200 people.

Pungazipup relies on a distant creek for drinking water, which has contributed to numerous waterborne diseases, with children particularly affected.

The UN designed and constructed the Rain-Water Catchment System, which features three 5,500-liter tanks, enabling the collection and storage of 15,000 liters of rainwater. Water taps were installed in central locations to ensure easy access for community members.

A Water Management Committee has been established to oversee the maintenance of the system, which not only provides a reliable water supply but also fosters a sense of ownership and collaboration among community members, enhancing their ability to manage disaster risks.

KEY CHALLENGES

Security risks and logistical barriers, particularly in remote and conflict-affected regions are key challenges affecting programme delivery. Roadblocks, armed groups, and violence posed risks to UN and partner staff, delaying the delivery of programme activities or emergency assistance during natural disasters and conflicts. To mitigate these risks, agencies worked closely with UNDSS, the PNG Defence Force, and local police to monitor security. Escorts were deployed when necessary and community leaders were engaged to identify safer access routes.

Financial and human resource constraints also affected programme delivery and sustainability. The lack of long-term funding puts several promising initiatives at risk as programmes near closure. To address this, the UN continues to advocate for increased government funding allocation to these initiatives in the national and sub-nation budget allocations. The UN also works with partners to identify potential donors and mobilize funding to sustain progress. For example, implementing NDCs have faced financial and technical capacity challenges, particularly among government counterparts. In response, the UN supported capacity-building efforts for staff within the Climate Change and Development Authority and provided technical assistance to prepare and successfully secure funding from the Green Climate Fund.

Political instability and lack of buy-in from key stakeholders also hindered progress of UN initiatives. The UN continues to monitor the political landscape of the country and maintain regular engagement with political leaders and other government and community stakeholders in order to build consensus to advance development priorities.

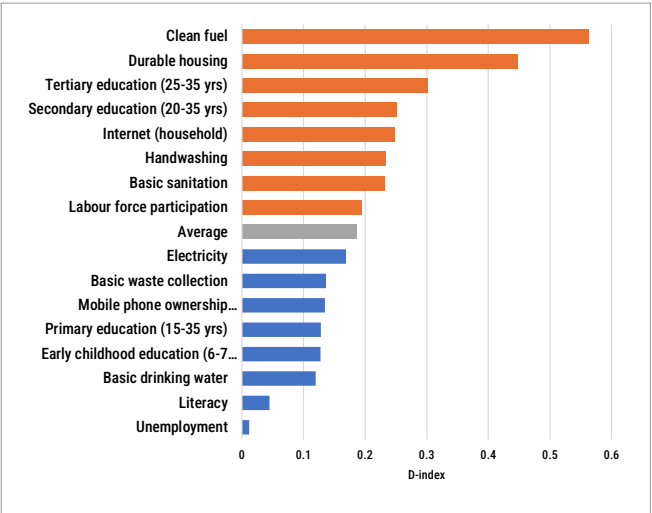


REFLECTIONS ON PROGRESS ON THE ‘PROMISE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND’

Support to National Statistics Office: The UN continued to support the National Statistics Office, which led to the completion of the full national population census in 2024.

In preparation for PNG’s second National Voluntary Review on progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN collaborated closely with the National Statistics Office (NSO) to produce a “Leave No One Behind” analysis using PNG’s latest Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey from 2022 covering 16 proxy SDG indicators. The 16 proxy SDG indicators cover SDGs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 17. The findings were validated in a workshop with the NSO and other government officials, and a final draft was shared with the government for integration into the full VNR report.

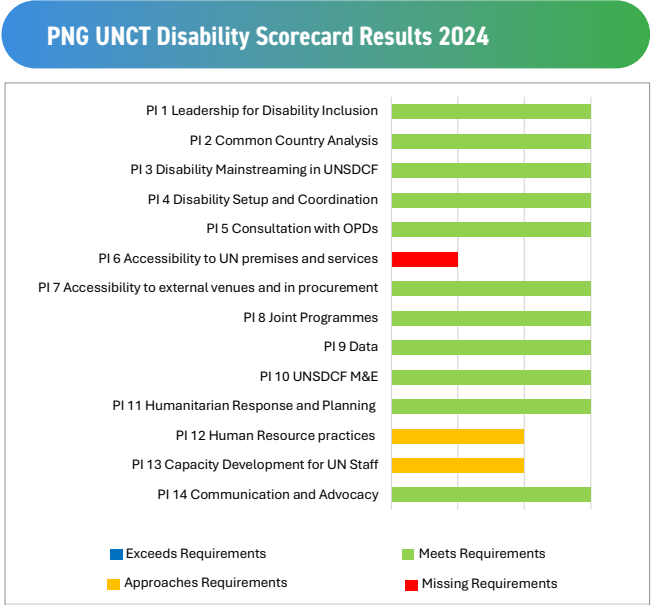
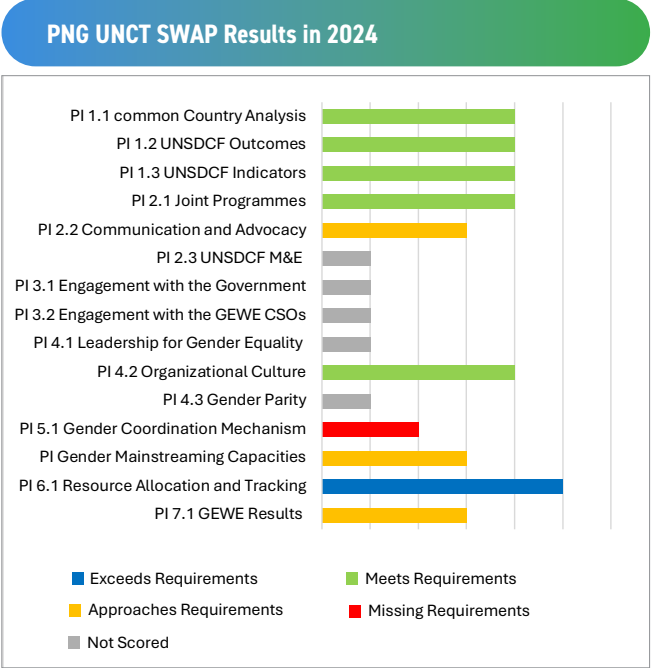
A visualization of the 16 SDG indicators using the Dissimilarity index (D-Index) methodology is provided below. The D-index values range from 0.01 for unemployment to 0.56 for clean fuel. Indicators with the largest gaps are mostly captured in the top segment of the bar chart in orange. However, there are some nuanced differences. Inequality is highest in access to clean fuel and durable housing, with a D-index value of over 0.4. Inequality is also relatively high in tertiary education participation, secondary education completion, access to the Internet, hand-washing facilities and basic sanitation services, and labor force participation, with a D-index value above the average.



Support to PNG’s Second Voluntary National Review on SDG Implementation: In addition to supporting the production of LNOB Analysis, the UN also supported the government in reviewing and digitizing the VNR data collection questionnaire, and helped analyze statistical SDG indicators, with a full data analysis workshop scheduled for 2025 to finalize the findings for inclusion in the report.

Information Management System Scorecard Scores: In the Information Management System Survey Scorecards, the UN in PNG

achieved a 60 % score on gender, reflecting a 20 % increase from 2022. However, the UN missed the gender submission deadline in 2023. Meanwhile, the disability scorecard recorded a 79 % score, marking a 15 % increase from 2023.

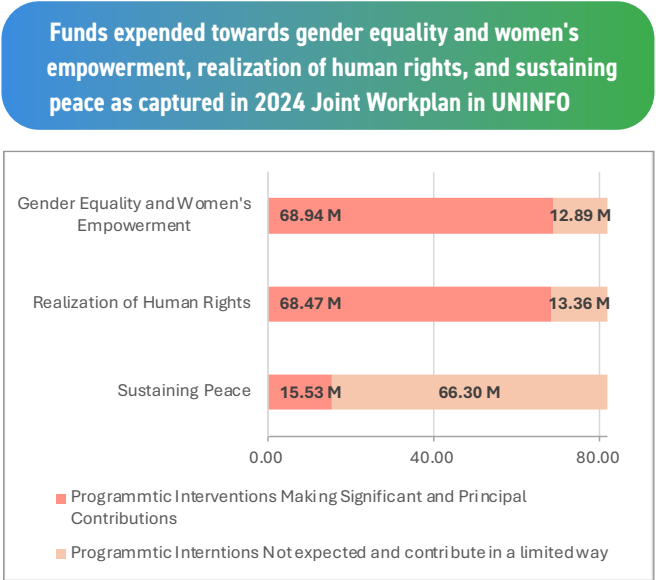


UNCT Gender Equality, Human Rights, and Sustaining Peace Marker: Of the 213 unique programmatic interventions captured in the 2024 Joint Workplan at the time of writing, 159 were tagged as having a significant or principal contribution to gender equality, while 166 were marked as contributing significantly or principally to human rights. In contrast,

only 66 interventions were tagged as having a significant or principal contribution to sustaining peace.

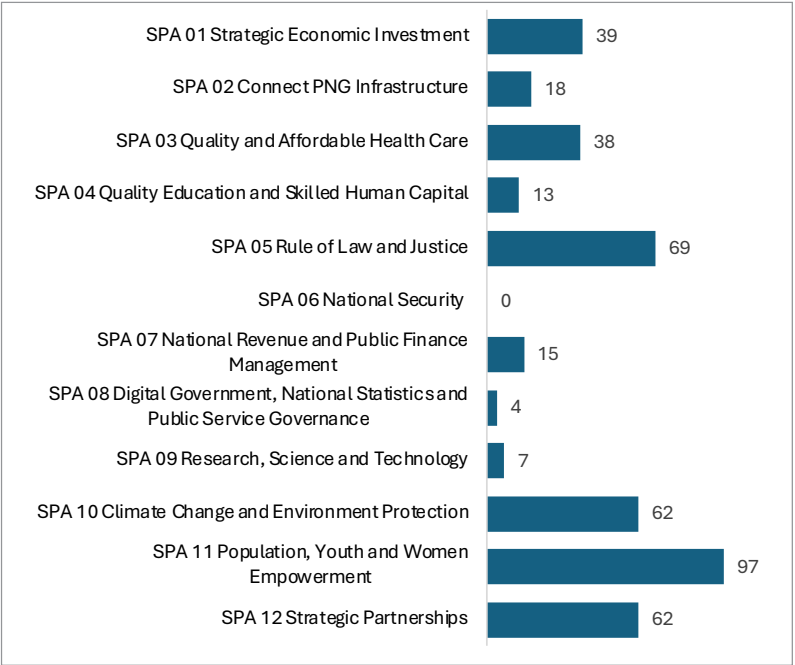
In terms of funding, funding expended on interventions advancing gender equality, realization of human rights, and sustaining peace can be found in the graph below. More than half of the total expenditure was expended on interventions making principal and significant contributions towards gender equality and human rights, while less than half was expended on interventions having principal or significant contributions to sustaining peace.

Issues of Leaving No One Behind: Leave No One Behind remains central to the UN’s work. Among the 213 interventions captured in the 2024 Joint Annual Workplan, 80 were tagged as benefiting children, while 112 were identified as benefiting women and girls, who are among the country’s most marginalized groups.



LINKS TO OTHER PRIORITIES/PLANS IN THE COUNTRY

Links to the National Development Plan: 2024 marked the first year of UN PNG’s Cooperation Framework 2024-2028. Aligned with the Government of PNG’s Medium-Term Development Plan IV (2023-2027), the Cooperation Framework ensures all interventions support national priorities. To strengthen this alignment, UNINFO developers introduced a mandatory MTDP IV marker for sub-output creation in the Joint Annual Workplan (JWP). This ensured that all UN development interventions captured in the JWP clearly contributed to the government’s MTDP IV twelve Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs). The graph below illustrates this contribution.



The visual displays the number of programmatic interventions by SPAs. A programmatic intervention may contribute to multiple SPAs; therefore, the total number of interventions represented in each bar should not be summed, as some interventions may align to more than one SPA

Links to Emerging Priorities: In response to disasters and conflicts in 2024, the UN coordinated disaster response through the Disaster Management Team, co-chaired with the National Disaster Centre, to address major crises, including the Mulitaka landslide, the Ambunti earthquake, the Wapenamanda conflict, the Angoram conflict and Western Province flooding. The UN deployed rapid assessment teams, facilitated relief distribution, coordinated humanitarian aid with donor governments, NGOs, and faith-based organizations, and provided technical assistance in recovery planning, ensuring targeted support for affected communities.

2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

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

Key multi-stakeholder partnerships for financing the SDGs: The UN received funding from a range of donors to implement its programmes. These included the governments of Australia, Japan, Korea, the USA, Norway, and the EU, as well as International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank and IMF. Global financing mechanisms also provided funding, including the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Peacebuilding Fund, and the Global Fund. Core contributions from UN agencies also played a vital role in supporting programme delivery.

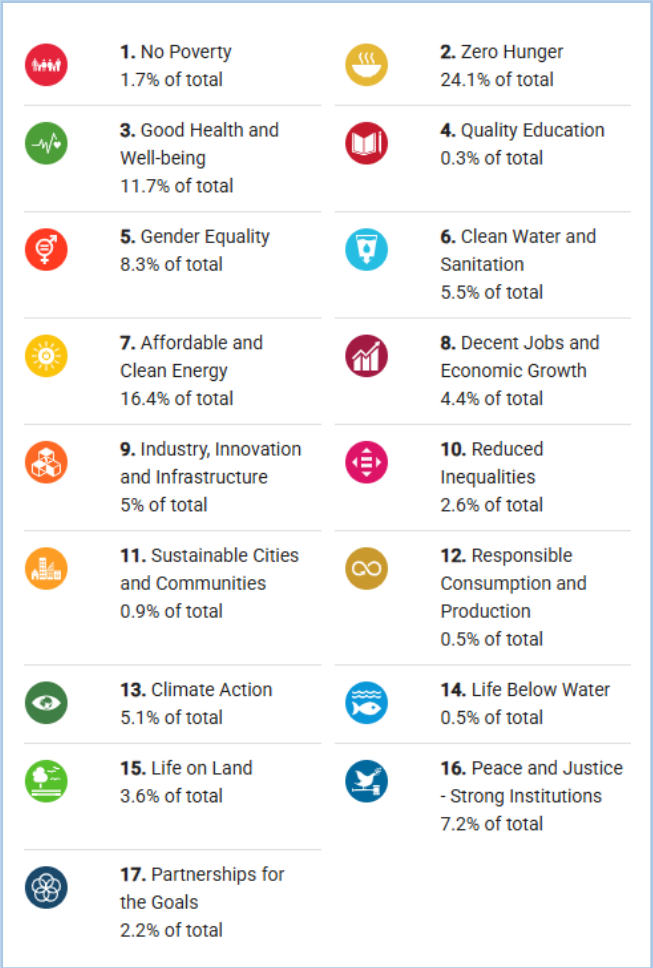
According to UNINFO, out of 213 programmatic interventions, 45 interventions—or nearly 21 per cent—were implemented using multiple funding sources highlighting the importance of leveraging multiple partnerships for financing the SDGs.

South-South or Triangular Partnerships: The UN's Japan-funded project on Promoting Green Transformation in the Pacific Region aims to support net-zero and climate-resilient development in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Samoa, promoting secure and sustainable growth. A key component of the project is the promotion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) to facilitate knowledge exchange among these countries and others in the Asia-Pacific region. During the reporting period, the first SSTC webinar was held, bringing together regional experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss green investment and the role of the private sector in advancing renewable energy. Country representatives shared national challenges and opportunities, while experts from academia and the private sector provided insights from across the region

South and triangular cooperation was also promoted under the European Union-funded STRET joint programme. A total of 65 MSME leaders (8 per cent women) participated in five national and international exposure visits in the cocoa and fisheries value chains, enhancing their knowledge of best practices, global market standards, and business networking. These visits strengthened their market competitiveness and connections with potential overseas buyers and business partners.

UN's Support to Financing the 2030 Agenda: As captured in the UN Country Team's 2024 Joint Annual Workplan at the time of writing, the infographic below illustrates the allocation of financial resources in 2024 towards achieving the SDGs. The largest share of available funding was allocated to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) at 24.1 percent, followed by SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) at 16.4 percent, and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) at 11.7 percent.

Available Resources: US\$150.55 Million



Source: <https://uninfo.org/v2/location/86/programming/analysis/sdgs>

There are 213 unique programmatic interventions. Where a programmatic intervention contributes to multiple SDGs, the funding is divided equally across the SDGs Goals (based on the tagged SDG targets)

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

Cooperation Framework Implementation Coordination: 2024 marked the first implementation year of the UNCT's new Cooperation Framework. To support the Cooperation Framework, various governance mechanisms were established including five results groups for each of the five strategic priority areas of the Cooperation Framework. The monitoring and evaluation group, the gender and human rights working group, and the Operations Management Team (OMT) were further strengthened to meet the Framework's needs.

In 2024, the UN had eight active joint programmes. Key joint programmes, such as STREIT and HJP, which significantly contribute to Cooperation Framework priorities, have joint UN-government steering committees co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and a relevant government department secretar.

The OMT's efforts to enhance operational efficiency in 2024 resulted in US\$545,000 of cost avoidance savings. As the lead for common services and the Business Operations Strategy, the OMT secured the participation of 15 agencies in the UN common house construction.

Joint Communications and Advocacy: The UN maintained a unified voice in support of the SDGs, national development, and human rights. Throughout 2024, key messages were delivered at various events. UN Day celebrations engaged all UN agencies, school students, and civil society, showcasing the UN's impact and partnerships. Human Rights Day featured a film screening with key stakeholders, highlighting global human rights issues and youth leadership. The UN also commemorated the 16 Days of Activism, emphasising gender equality and human rights.

In 2024, eleven joint statements addressing tribal conflicts, mass killings, and support for disaster victims, among others, were released and are publicly available on the [UNCT website](#).

2.5 Lessons Learned and Evaluation

The key lessons learned in the first year of implementing the new Cooperation Framework include:

Community and Government Engagement is key: Successful programme implementation heavily depends on community and relevant government authority involvement. Building trust and getting stakeholder buy-ins ensures that work progresses well and is sustained in the longer term.

Institutional Capacity Building is Critical: Strengthening the capacity of government agencies, local institutions, and service providers is essential for sustainable development. Investment in training, knowledge-sharing, and technology adoption improve governance and service delivery.

Multi-sectoral and Integrated Approaches Yield Better Results: Collaboration among different sectors (health, education, governance, environment, gender equality) enhances programme impact. Integrated solutions address multiple root causes a programme is trying to address rather than addressing isolated issues.

Gender Sensitivity and Social Inclusion Must be Prioritized: Programme design and implementation should be intentional in involving marginalized groups such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and rural populations for sustainable development

Data and Evidence-Driven Decision-Making Enhances Impact: Reliable data collection and analysis improve programme design, targeting, and resource allocation. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensures accountability and informed policy-making.

Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness Should be Integrated: PNG's vulnerability to climate change and disasters underscores the need for proactive risk management, resilience-building, and adaptive strategies in development planning.

Behavioural and Social Norm Change Takes Time: Addressing deeply rooted societal issues, such as gender-based violence or corruption requires long-term commitment, sustained advocacy, and multi-pronged approaches.

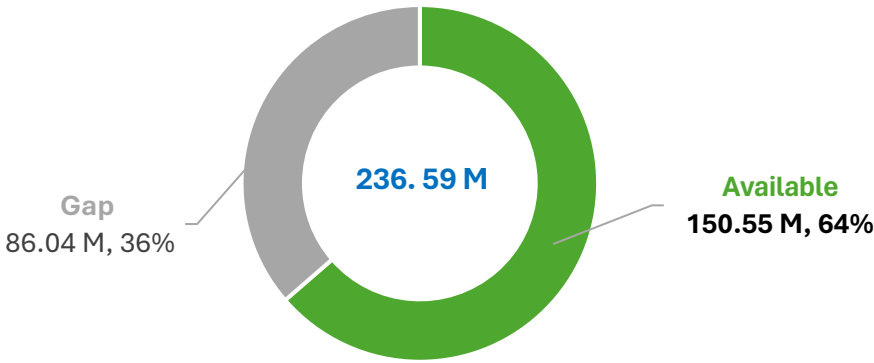
2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2.6.1. Financial Overview

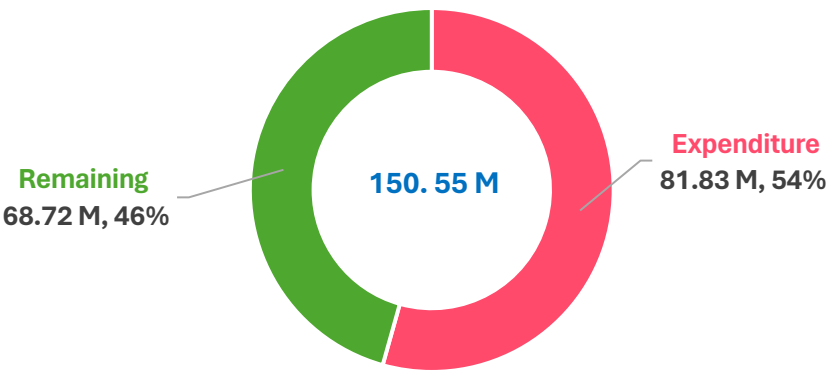
As shown in the graphs below, the UN required a total of US\$236.59 million to effectively deliver its programmes in 2024. Of this amount, only US\$150.55 million was available with a funding gap of 86.04 million (36%).

At the time of writing, the UN reported an expenditure of US\$81.83 million reflecting a delivery rate of 54%. These figures are preliminary, self-reported by agencies, and remain uncertified.

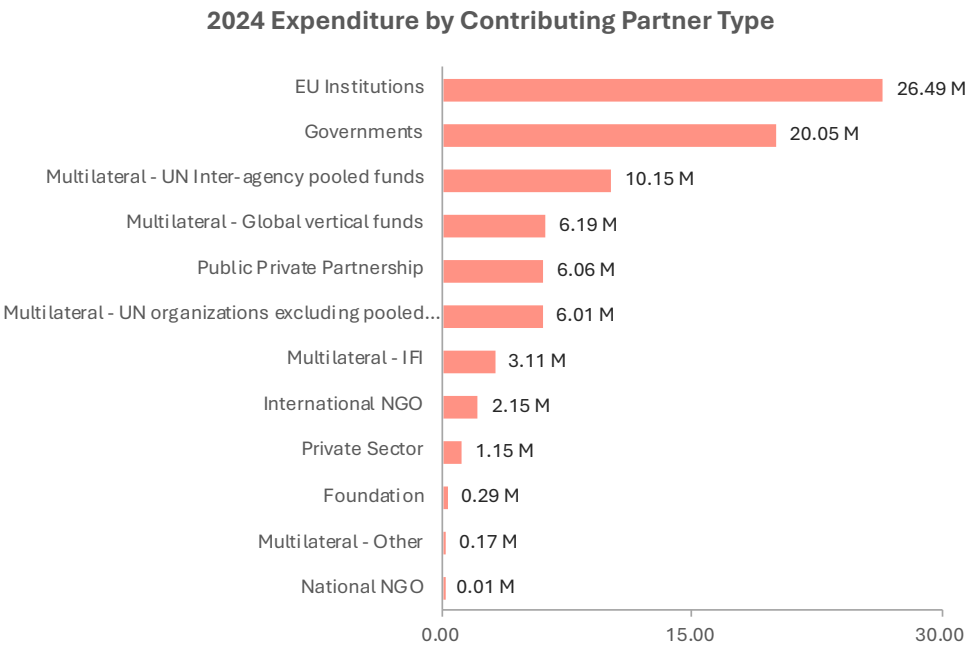
2024 Overall Funding Status (in US\$ millions) - Available versus the gap as a proportion of the required funding



2024 Overall Funding Status (in US\$ million) - Expenditure versus the remaining as a proportion of the available funding



2024 Expenditures by Contributing Partner Type



2024 Funding Information by Agencies (in million US\$)

Agencies	2024 Required	2024 Available	2024 Expenditure	Delivery Rate (in %)
FAO	81.50	37.69	16.84	45%
ILO	11.57	11.62	4.18	36%
IOM	2.72	1.67	1.06	64%
ITU	0.91	0.91	0.43	47%
OHCHR	0.19	0.12	0.12	100%
UN Women	7.42	3.16	2.63	83%
UNAIDS	3.00	1.34	0.84	63%
UNCDF	27.20	4.61	1.83	40%
UNCTAD	0.26	0.13	0.05	39%
UNDP	21.65	21.65	20.90	97%
UNEP	0.94	0.94	0.16	17%
UNESCO	0.55	0.02	0.02	100%
UNFPA	5.01	4.49	3.49	78%
UNHCR	0.30	0.20	0.20	100%
UNICEF	21.26	13.84	13.70	99%
UNODA	0.07	0.07	0.05	71%
UNODC	2.71	2.71	2.25	83%
UNOPS	42.25	39.58	8.17	21%
WHO	7.08	5.80	4.91	85%
Overall	236.59	150.55	81.83	54%

Excludes ITC and IFAD, which did not report financial expenditures.

2.6.2. Resource Mobilization and quality of funding

The resource mobilization strategy in 2024 included agencies directly contacting donors, using resource mobilization platforms, and joint approaches to donors. As shown in Figure 3 under the Financial Overview section, the UN received funding from a diverse range of partners, including donor governments, EU institutions, the private sector, NGOs, and various multilateral sources, among others. Agencies also received funding from their headquarters or regional office core resources. The UNCT received both multi-year and short-term funding.

The Papua New Guinea UN Country Fund Phase II commenced on 15 December 2023 and will conclude on 30 June 2029 as part of the UN's development cooperation with the Government of Papua New Guinea. The PNG UN Country II is a Multi-Donor Trust Fund that has a Terms of Reference (TOR) and a Steering Committee to facilitate the effective and efficient collaboration between the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) and the Government of Papua New Guinea for the implementation of the Fund.

The PUNOs agreed to adopt a coordinated approach to collaboration with donors, using the TOR as the basis for mobilizing resources for the Fund. They also agreed to offer donors the opportunity to contribute to the Fund and receive reports on the Fund through a single channel. The United Nations Development Programme (also a PUNO), through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF-O), serves as the administrative interface between donors and PUNOs. The Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) serves as the interface between PUNOs and the MPTF-O to ensure a synergistic approach to the PNG Country Fund II efficient operations. For the first time, the PUNOs will have access to unearmarked resources.

Chapter 3

UNCT Key Focus for 2025

Looking Forward: Key Priorities for 2025

●

Voluntary National Review

Papua New Guinea will present its second Voluntary National Review on SDG implementation at the UN High-Level Political Forum in New York in 2025. The UN will help support the development of a progress analysis based on available SDG statistical indicator data. To facilitate this, an SDG data analysis workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2025.

●

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Report

In 2025, UN Women will support the Government of PNG in finalizing Bougainville consultations, contributing to a supplementary report that will be annexed to PNG's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) report to ensure the concerns of women in Bougainville are represented. As the draft report undergoes government review, the UN will facilitate PNG's participation in a CEDAW peer review with Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa. This exchange will help strengthen PNG's submission to the United Nations General Assembly, incorporating best practices in gender equality and women's empowerment.

●

Highlands Joint Programme Phase II Design and Resource Mobilization

Phase I of the Highlands Joint Programme concluded in 2024, with the design of Phase II also initiated during the same year. In 2025, the UN will focus on finalizing the programme design, mobilizing resources, and preparing to launch implementation, contingent on successful resource mobilization.

●

Support to the Government of PNG and Autonomous Bougainville Government on 2019 Referendum Results

The United Nations will continue to play a neutral and supportive role in the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Papua New Guinea (and the Autonomous Bougainville Government following the 2019 Bougainville Referendum. It will provide facilitation support to help ensure that discussions and decisions remain peaceful, inclusive, and aligned with the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

●

Labour Force Survey and Review of Employment Legislation and National Minimum Wage

The Government of Papua New Guinea is undertaking three landmark initiatives to improve working life in the country. This includes the first-ever Labour Force Survey, which will provide essential data on employment, unemployment, and labour market participation to inform policy and drive economic growth. The Government will also undertake a comprehensive review of the country's employment legislation. With technical support from the International Labour Organization, this initiative aims to modernize labour laws to align with international standards and promote decent work for all. Finally, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, is undertaking nationwide consultations for the review of the national minimum wage, aiming to ensure fair wages that reflect economic conditions and promote decent work across Papua New Guinea.

Acronym List

Acronym	Term	Acronym	Term
ABG	Autonomous Bougainville Government	IOM	International Organization for Migration
ADB	Asian Development Bank	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
ARoB	Autonomous Region of Bougainville	MTDP	Medium-Term Development Plan
CCDA	Climate Change and Development Authority	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management	NACS	National Anti-Corruption Strategy
CEPA	Conservation and Environment Protection Authority	NAQIA	National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	NCD	National Capital District
CDAC	Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities Network	NDOE	National Department of Education
CGA	Community-Gender Advocate	NDOH	National Department of Health
CPDP	Community Peace and Development Plans	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	PILAG	Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance
DAL	Department of Agriculture and Livestock	PGK	PNG Kina
DfCDR	Department of Community Development and Religion	PNG	Papua New Guinea
DNPM	Department of National Planning and Monitoring	PNGCS	PNG Customs Services
DoF	Department of Finance	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
DMT	Disaster Management Team	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	SARV	Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ECE	Early Childhood Education	SME	Small to Medium Enterprise
EU	European Union	SILAG	Somare Institute for Leadership and Governance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
FSVU	Family and Sexual Violence Unit	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	STREIT	Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	TB	Tuberculosis
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UN	United Nations
GHRWG	Gender and Human Rights Working Group	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
GI	Geographic Indicator	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GoPNG	Government of Papua New Guinea	UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GCF	Green Climate Fund	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ICA	Immigration and Citizenship Authority	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ILO	International Labour Organisation	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	VNR	Voluntary National Review
IRC	Internal Revenue Commission	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
IDP	Internally Displaced Populations	WHO	World Health Organization

Annex 1 -

Unique Implementation Partners

Autonomous Bougainville Government

Civil Society Organizations

Immigration and Citizenship Authority

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Australian Defence Force

CARE International

Catholic Church Health Services

ChildFund PNG

Climate Change Development Authority

Climate Technology Centre and Network

Conservation and Environment Protection Agency

Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council

Department for Community Development and Religion

Department of Agriculture and Livestock

Department of Finance

Department of Foreign Affairs

Department of Information and Communication Technology

Department of Justice and Attorney General

Department of Labour and Industrial Relations

Department of National Planning and Monitoring

Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council

Department of Provincial and Local-Level Government Affairs

Department of Works and Highways

Digicel

District Health Services

Electoral Commission

Equal Playing Field

Faith Based Organizations

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Korea Institute of Energy Research

Monpi Coffee

National Agriculture Quarantine and Investigation Authority

National Capital District Commission

National Department of Education

National Department of Health

National Disaster Centre

National Information Communication and Technology Authority

National Office for Child and Family Services

National Statistical Office

National Youth Development Agency

Non Governmental Organizations

Papua New Guinea Customs Service

Papua New Guinea Department of Environment

Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons

PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence

PNG Defense Force

PNG Power Limited

PNG Trade Union Congress

Provincial and District Administrations

Provincial Health Authorities

Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC)

Save the Children

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Transparency International

University of PNG

US Army

Wildlife Conservation Society

Women's MicroBank Ltd

World Vision

Annex 2 -









Measuring UN contribution towards the SDGs

2024 Progress on the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework

● Achieved or progressing well

● Work initiated or some progress made

● Insufficient data/no data available

SDG	Indicator	Indicator Value in 2024	Traffic Light Score in 2024
	1.1 Number of new or revised national social protection policies to extend coverage, enhance comprehensiveness, and/or increase the adequacy of benefits, with UN support	0	●
	1.3 Number of beneficiaries gaining increased secure access to land (tenure security over land, secure access to water, or to water bodies), with UN support		●
	1.5 Number of people benefiting from income-generating activities with UN support.	1500	●
	3.1 Number of national policies on health (including overall health or specific health areas such as sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable and communicable diseases), in accordance with human rights standards are developed and adopted, supported by the UN	4	●
	3.3 Number of people benefitting from UN-supported health services: a) Communicable diseases; b) non-communicable diseases (NCD); c) Sexual and reproductive health (SRH); d) Integrated management of childhood illnesses services; e) Other	387,593	●
	4.1 Extent to which the education system is inclusive and gender equitable for access to learning opportunities, and in accordance with international human rights standards, with UN support	Score 2 (Initiating)	●
	4.3 Number of people directly benefiting from improved access to skills and lifelong learning programs, including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), developed and implemented with UN support	281,807	●
	5.2 Number of measures implemented with UN support to: a) Eliminate gender-based discrimination and segregation in labour market; b) Increase women's access to and use of digital technologies, digital finance, e-commerce and digital value chains; c) Ensure women's economic security and empowerment; d) Address discriminatory gender and social norms, stereotypes and practices; and e) Promote the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work	5	●
	6.3 Number of people reached with at least basic drinking water services that are safe and available when needed with UN support.	1, 200	●
	8.3 Number of cases in which business support organizations, workers' organizations and employers and business membership organizations have increased capacity to provide services to their members/ clients to promote economic development, productive employment and decent work, as a result of UN support.	2	●
	10.2 Bilateral, national, and local development and sectoral policies that integrate migration and recognize migrants as contributors to sustainable development developed with UN support and implemented by the Government	Establishment of inter-government working group	●
	10.3 Number of people who are internally displaced, migrants, refugees or part of the host communities, or communities left or affected populations, benefiting from integrated and targeted interventions, including on strengthening social cohesion, with UN support	5, 127	●
	16.2 Extent to which oversight, accountability, or protection mechanisms, especially on civic space, that conform to international human rights standards, are in place and/or functioning, with UN support	Partial	●
	16.3 Number of gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive development institutions, policies, plans, or cross-border initiatives in place, with UN support that, promote and protect human rights, prevent systemic human rights violations to: a) Address conflict drivers; b) Strengthen social cohesion; c) Prevent risk of conflict, including climate security; and d) End all forms of violence, promote the rule of law, and ensure equal access to justice for all	7	●
	16.4 Level of meaningful participation of right-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes, supported by the UN	3 – Some Progress Made	●

20 Annual 24 Results Report

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