

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



United Nations
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Delivering as One

2015





“ 2015: Celebrating 40 years of Independence in Papua New Guinea and the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations - Promoting Peace and Progress ”

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The UN presented this artwork, which is displayed at the National Museum and Art Gallery, to the Government of PNG to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the UN and the 40th Anniversary of PNG's Independence. The artwork was created in collaboration with the grade four students from Hagara Primary School in Port Moresby and represents their experience of progress and development in PNG. They drew their ideas on a selection of the 900 individual squares painted to reflect the national colours. The individual squares were then arranged to form a single image of a child's face, which is a symbolic representation of the next generation, inspired to be active participants in shaping a better world.



Forward

As Resident Coordinator of the United Nations (UN) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) I am pleased to present the Annual Progress Report for 2015. The report highlights progress made in delivering the goals set out in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2017. Although originally planned for four years, the UNDAF was extended, at the request of the Government, for an additional two years until 2017 to ensure better alignment with the Medium Term Development Plan II 2016-2017. Synchronizing our work with the Government's goals and drawing on best practices from a global perspective, the UN coordinates innovative approaches to development that are suited to the unique political, economic and social context of PNG.

Marking the final year of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 2015 saw consolidated efforts by the UN and the partner agencies to achieve the global goals. Our experience has shown that the best results for development occur when government, private enterprises, civil society groups and the international community work closely together to improve the wellbeing of a nation.

The UN in PNG is proud to be a 'Delivering as One' Country Team and we appreciate the support of the Government of PNG, as well as development partners. In 'Delivering as One' Countries, the UN coordinates to increase efficiency and effectiveness in programme delivery, making it easier for the Government and development partners to work with the UN.

As we shift from MDGs to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which world leaders adopted as a new development framework to be



realized by 2030, we see immense opportunities ahead in 2016 to support the Government to localize and realize these Goals. The UN Country Team will continue to work with the people of PNG and the Government, as well as with civil society and the private sector, to bring about practical improvements in the country. 2016 will also see the development of the next UNDAF, which provides opportunities to position our support in accordance with the Government's development aspirations. On the humanitarian front, the UN responded as quickly as possible to the impacts of the El Nino induced drought and frost by supporting government efforts on many fronts. To that end, I would like to thank the World Food Programme, which promptly deployed in-country support for food relief operations.

On behalf of the UN Country team, I would like to thank the Government of PNG for its continued partnership, and for its commitment to development for all Papua New Guineans. I would also like to thank our development partners, in particular the Government of Australia and the European Union, whose support to the UN in PNG enabled us to achieve many of the results summarised in this report.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the people of PNG for your resilience and warmth which we experience every day in our work.

Mr. Hemansu-Roy Trivedy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Trivedy', written over a white background.

United Nations Resident Coordinator

Development Trends 2015

The year 2015 was characterised by many milestones as well as challenges for the Government of PNG. The year marked the 40th anniversary of the country's independence and started with high expectations and hopes amongst citizens. In July the Government successfully hosted XV Pacific Games, demonstrating the country's ability to organise a 'world class event' while also maintaining law and order in the country. In September, PNG hosted the 46th Pacific Islands Forum Summit, focusing on 'strengthening regional connections' including post-2015 development especially climate change. As the world was preparing to adopt the SDGs, the Government, with support from the UN, released a Summary MDG report for PNG with a forward looking focus on implementing the SDGs.

The year witnessed important policy decisions. The Government adopted the Mid-Term Development Plan II 2016-2017 to align its plans with the political cycle in the country and launched its first ever Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Roadmap. Elections in Autonomous Region of Bougainville were organised successfully, resulting in the re-election of President Momis and the selection of the first ever woman Member of Parliament to win an Open Seat. This was a historic achievement given the fact that in PNG, women represent only 2.7% of parliamentary seats, lower than the 5.4% average in the Pacific Island Countries, and among the lowest in the world.

These positive developments were achieved despite an increasingly difficult economic situation in the country. In 2014, Liquefied Natural Gas project deliveries resulted in increased gross domestic product growth (8.4%). Building on this, at the start of 2015 the Government forecasted an ambitious annual gross domestic product target of 15.5% - twice as fast as any other country in the world. The lower

projected revenues led to a sharp reduction in the country's forecast for growth (adjusted to 9% in-year) which in turn led to the doubling of the forecasted budget deficit. This required the Government to pass a Supplementary Budget to cut over PGK 1.6 billion in-year in an effort to reduce the budget deficit, causing political difficulties in a period when drought and drug resistant Tuberculosis affected many parts of the country.

PNG was impacted by the strongest El Niño Southern Oscillation event since 1997/98. Since mid-2015, the country experienced drastically below average rainfall as well as killer frost which resulted in widespread crop failures in a predominately subsistence society. The Government of PNG estimates that more than 2.7 million people (40% of the population) have been affected by this prolonged drought with approximately 180,000 people living in the most severely affected areas. Priority needs include food relief, access to water and agricultural recovery support. With many affected communities living in geographically remote locations, physical access remains a challenge for delivering assistance.

Despite high rates of economic growth over the past decade, the poverty rate in the country (36%) remains stubbornly fixed. PNG was one of a small handful of countries worldwide that did not manage to achieve any of the MDGs. Its Human Development Index is among the lowest in the world (158th out of 188 countries) as is the country's standing on the international Gender Inequality Index (140th out of 155 countries). The prevalence of Gender Based Violence in PNG also remains high.

The UN Delivering as One in PNG

Delivering as One is a UN initiative devised to bring together the in-country UN agencies as a way of enhancing efficiency, effectiveness and coherence. At the request of the Government of PNG, the UN in PNG became a Delivering as One country office in 2007.

In PNG, all UN agencies operate under five pillars:

1. One Programme
2. One Fund
3. Communicating as One
4. Operating as One
5. One UN House

This initiative enables the UN, the Government and our partners to coordinate more effectively to improve the quality of life for all Papua New Guineans. Its implementation has increased national ownership, and this has led to greater alignment with national priorities, resulting in improved development impact.

1. One Programme

The UNDAF 2012-2017 is the second joint programme in which the UN in PNG coordinates human and financial resources under the Delivering as One framework. The UNDAF was developed following extensive consultations with key ministries, civil society and development partners to ensure enhanced coordination and alignment with national priorities, to reduce duplication, and promote the norms, values and standards of the UN.

The UNDAF is supported by a single Action Plan and Results Matrix that integrates gender equality and a human rights-based approach as core programming principles.

The structure of inter-agency task teams and joint planning processes strengthens internal and external coordination, planning, alignment and implementation. Joint annual work planning eliminates duplication of programming efforts, reduces reporting requirements for partners, and fosters inclusiveness.

In 2015, at the request of the Government of PNG, the UN extended the existing UNDAF for an additional two years through 2017. This aligned the UN Programme with the Government Medium Term Development Plan II 2015-2017 and the political cycle in PNG.

2. One Fund

The functioning of the PNG UN Country Fund – the ‘One Fund’ – provides performance-based support to the UN’s integrated policy

approaches, enabling joint resource mobilization. The One Fund also contributes to the alignment of UN operational and programme activities with national plans and priorities.

In 2015, 100 percent of resources mobilized in-country for the joint annual work plans were allocated through the PNG UN Country Fund, with the exception of core agency resources. Australia, the largest bilateral donor to PNG, channelled all financial contributions to UN programmes through the PNG UN Country Fund.

3. Communicating as One

The UN’s joint agency communications efforts in PNG are coordinated by the UN Communications Group, which supports the UN Country Team to increase awareness and understanding of the UN’s work. Comprised of agency focal points and communications specialists, in 2015 the group continued to implement a joint public communications strategy to build the UN’s profile and position itself as a leader in the development sector. A variety of activities were coordinated, some of which involved national media, to raise awareness on a range of issues related to human rights, health, education, governance, environment, and the UN Development Agenda.

The UN Communications Group implemented a campaign celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Independence of Papua New Guinea and the 70th Anniversary of the UN. These national and institutional milestones presented an opportunity for the UN to advocate for peace and development through the UN4U programme by engaging with, and making presentations at, dozens of schools. The UN distributed 25 boxes of advocacy and resource materials to schools and the University of Papua New Guinea, and presented the National Museum and Art Gallery with an original art piece produced by local children, now featured as a permanent exhibit.

The UN Communications Group continues to play a role in supporting the UN to respond to the drought caused by El Nino in the second half of 2015, through providing media monitoring and management of the Humanitarian Response online information system. This system is a centralized tool for sharing drought-related information used by the UN, the Government of PNG, and development partners.

Other 2015 highlights included coordination of a UN side event at the Pacific Islands Forum. This event provided an opportunity for UN experts to lead a discussion about strategic planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with government officials of PNG and other Pacific Island delegations.

The Communications Group, in partnership with the European Union, continued to build its relationship with the media through the Yumi Olgeta, or informal get-togethers for media and development communication practitioners. The aim is to increase the media's capacity in relation to reporting on development issues.

4. Operating as One

The UN Operations Committee contributes to the strategic direction of UN operations (i.e. finances, Human Resources, procurement, Information and Communications Technology, general services and common services) at the country level. The continued progress in all identified areas of operations for effective implementation, coordination and management is the primary objective of this committee. It is composed of all UN Operations Managers and it implements cost-saving measures that shape how the UN conducts its activities in Papua New Guinea. For example, in 2015, the UN Operations Group developed a long-term agreement for security services, enabling the most competitive fees in the market, which were negotiated for the entire UN, rather than for each individual agency.

5. One UN House

Locating all UN agencies in PNG in one building - a 'UN Haus' - would further facilitate and support the implementation of joint UN operations.

UN Agencies, Non-resident Agencies, Funds and Programmes Operating in PNG in 2015

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)*
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

**By resolution A/Res/51/148 of 13 December 1996, the General Assembly, taking note of the Cooperation Agreement between the UN and IOM of 25 June 1996, invited all Specialized Agencies and other organizations, funds and programmes of the UN system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the UN and the Director-General of IOM to initiate, maintain and increase consultation and programmes with IOM. It is also clearly acknowledged and accepted that the IOM is not a UN organisation. The working partnership between the UN and the IOM is appreciated by both parties.*



Analysis of the UN in PNG Programme

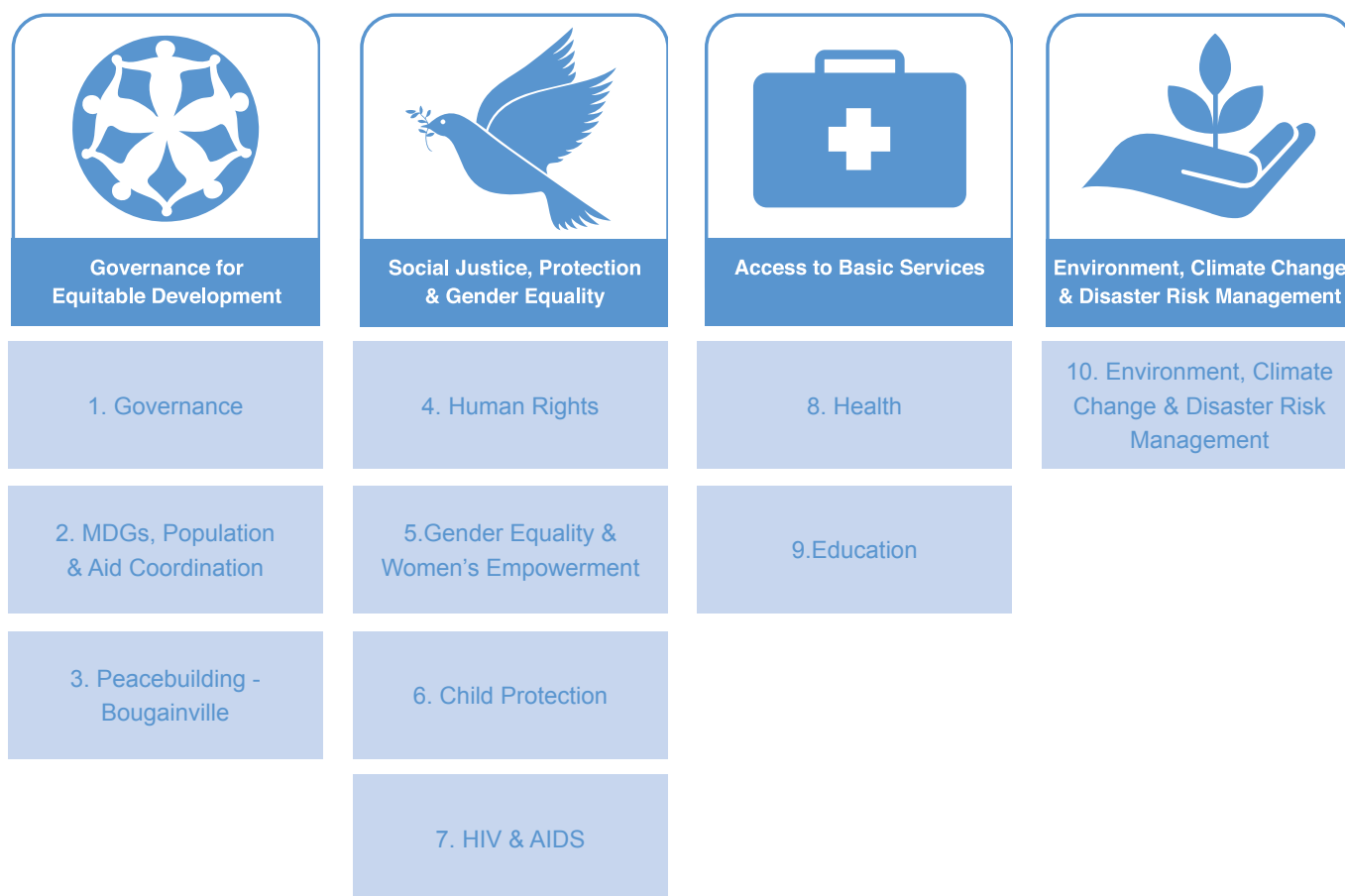
The Annual Progress Report is the UN's mechanism for reviewing yearly progress against the UNDAF 2012-2017.

Using the UNDAF Action Plan Results Matrix, results are defined at the inter-agency outcome level and output level. The Matrix tracks the achievements of results and their contribution towards strengthening national development efforts and reaching national objectives.

Under the UNDAF, the UN's work in PNG is divided into four clusters:

1. Governance for Equitable Development
2. Social Justice, Protection and Gender Equality
3. Access to Basic Services
4. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Under these four clusters, our work prioritises ten agreed inter-agency outcomes, covering a variety of areas where the UN has strategic knowledge and expertise:



Activities in PNG across the inter-agency outcomes include:

- Standard-setting, promoting international norms and values, as well as strengthening national systems through the provision of technical support,
- Support to policy planning, development and implementation,
- Financial contributions and capacity-development for implementing partners.

Output Delivery Rates

Outputs are the changes in skills, knowledge, understanding and capacity of individuals or institutions, or the availability of new products and services, that result from the completion of activities within a development intervention. The output delivery rates are useful barometers of progress towards achieving development results.

In 2015, the UN focused on 47 outputs across the ten inter-agency outcomes. Each of the outputs has several indicators with annual targets that enable monitoring of progress.

By year-end 2015, two inter-agency outcomes are complete, seven are on track and one is delayed. For the corresponding outputs, 43 percent are complete, 34 percent are partially completed and 23 percent are delayed.

Year	Percentage of Inter-agency Outputs Complete or Partially Complete
2015	77%

Financial Resources and Expenditure

By year-end 2015, the fourth year of the UNDAF, the expenditure rate for all ten inter-agency outcomes was 79 percent. This represents expenditure of USD 33.5 million out of the available budget of USD 42.6 million. These figures are self-reported by Agencies in-country and are uncertified. For certified figures channelled through the PNG UN Country Fund, please refer to the PNG UN Country Fund section of this report.

Year	Total Resources Available (USD)	Total Expenditure (USD)	Expenditure Rate
2015	42,609,756	33,524,689	79%

Each of the ten inter-agency outcomes benefits from varying available resources such as core, non-core and the PNG UN Country Fund. The following table illustrates the 2015 available resources per inter-agency outcome and the expenditure rates.

Inter-agency Outcome	2015 Total Available Resources (USD)*	2015 Total Expenditure (USD)*	2015 Expenditure Rate (%) **
1. Governance	3.5 million	2.3 million	65%
2. Peacebuilding – Bougainville	1.2 million	1.1 million	89%
3. MDGs, Population and Aid Coordination	2.2 million	2.0 million	93%
4. Human Rights	.795 million	.415 million	52%
5. Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment	4.1 million	3.4 million	83%
6. Child Protection	1.8 million	1.5 million	85%
7. HIV and AIDS	1.0 million	.703 million	68%
8. Health	11.9 million	7.8 million	66%
9. Education	3.4 million	3.0 million	90%
10. Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management	12.8 million	11.3 million	88%

*All figures have been rounded up/down and are self-reported by Agencies (uncertified)

**Based on actual amounts, not the rounded up/down figures

Cluster One:

Governance for Equitable Development



Governance for
Equitable Development

CLUSTER OUTCOME:

By 2017, the national government will realise significant improvements in good governance, the leadership of development planning processes, budgeting and financial management of service delivery – making optimum use of available resources to attain the localized MDG targets. PNG becomes a safer, more secure and stable nation upon which its citizens can make real strides towards sustainable development.

1. Governance

Contributing Agencies: UNDP, UNCDF

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, elected representatives and key Government of PNG bodies implement good governance practices grounded in accountability, transparency, inclusive participation and equity.
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The UN is providing support in the area of Governance both on the financial accountability reporting of the Government, and on addressing corruption.

The last comprehensive report of the PNG Auditor-General Office was done in 2013. The report stipulated that the percentage of government spending subjected to audits would increase to 71 percent. With the implementation of the new public financial management system, there was substantial improvement in reporting from government departments, from three in 2014, to 17 in 2015, representing 56 percent of government departments.

In 2012 PNG was ranked in the bottom nine percent against the rest of the world in the control of corruption (according to the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index). In 2014 it was 14.83 percent and then 15.38 percent in 2015, falling short of the target of 17 percent. In spite of this, the gradual increase over the past years is a positive indication of improvement in a number of areas relating to governance, transparency and accountability in the Government's systems and operations. The UN's contribution has been to support the implementation of the new accounting system and public financial management systems in 2015, in an effort to reduce the risk and incidents of corruption in the Government's public expenditure and reporting. The other significant achievement during the reporting period is the tabling of the bill on the establishment of the Independent

Commission Against Corruption. The UN provided substantial technical and advisory assistance and support in these two areas between 2011 and 2014. The UN has also provided advisory support to the Bank of Papua New Guinea to establish an Anti-money Laundering Unit.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES

The UN and the National Parliament signed an agreement in 2014 for a three-year project with the overall objective of deepening democracy and strengthening the rule of law in Papua New Guinea. Unfortunately, the project was not commenced in 2015 due to the National Parliament's inability to allocate the agreed start-up funds for the project. The three specific project outputs relate to ensuring that the PNG Parliament has the capacity to fulfil its duties effectively. The outputs aim to ensure effective institutional capacity, effective legislative and oversight functions, as well as to provide assistance to parliament representation, outreach and communication work objectives. Discussions in 2015 resulted in the agreement for the Information and Communications Technology component to start. Other components of the project will depend on funding allocations by Parliament. Ad hoc support to parliamentary committees continued, which resulted in the adaption and launch of the PNG Population Policy 2015-2024 by the National Executive Council.

In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, an agreement has been reached between the UN and the Bougainville House of Representatives

to conduct a needs assessment and develop a capacity-building plan for support to the administration and parliamentarians. The funding will come from the Peacebuilding Fund and the Pacific Centre in Fiji.

INCREASING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

Every year, the Government disburses recurrent and development grants to the provinces through the Department of Finance, to the 22 provincial treasuries. These treasuries must be accountable for all districts', Local-level Government's treasuries', and various sectoral administrations' use of the grants in delivering their respective services and mandates. However, progress in delivery of basic services remains slow, in part because of insufficient financial management, monitoring and reporting capacity at subnational levels.

The Provincial Capacity Building Programme for improved financial management supports the PNG Government's Financial Management Improvement Programme by strengthening capacity on public financial management at the subnational level, and by assisting with the implementation of the public financial management systems. The Programme has five primary objectives: (i) enhance accountability and transparency within the PNG public finances; (ii) improve financial management capacity at subnational levels; (iii) minimize risk of corruption; (iv) establish the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Management Framework; and (v) support efforts for the rollout of the public financial management systems in the provinces.

In 2015, the Programme continued its support in building the financial management capacity of provincial and district treasuries. During the reporting period, the Programme managed and coordinated its technical support to the newly incorporated provinces: Enga, West New Britain, and New Ireland Province. With the addition of these new provinces the Programme now supports a total of 14 provinces.

As a result, all mandatory 2014 annual financial statements from 11 provincial treasuries were submitted on time to the Department of Finance in Port Moresby. Also, all monthly bank reconciliations were completed on time for all operating accounts for Provincial and District Treasury Offices. The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability country assessment report was finalized by the Government with the support from the International Monetary Fund and development partners, including the UN. Based on this country assessment report a Roadmap was elaborated and published by the Government.

In addition, 520 Department of Finance and Administration staff received basic Information and Communications Technology training in the supported provinces in preparation for the public financial management systems rollout. The "Phones against Corruption" initiative, supported by the UN, established a hotline where corruption could be reported. As a result, two arrests were made for alleged corruption, five are currently awaiting judicial process, and 250 cases are under investigation by the Department of Finance Internal Audit and

Compliance Division. Against 110 proposals from 13 countries within the region, the "Phones against Corruption" initiative was recognized in the 2015 UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific innovation fund. A grant of USD 25,000 was awarded to the initiative.

Lastly, a new Monitoring and Evaluation system was developed for the Department of Finance. This will allow a close and effective oversight of financial reports from provinces and districts.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION CAPACITIES

In PNG, several significant barriers restrict low-income households from participating in the formal financial sector. The high costs of serving poor customers relative to the revenues generated by small transactions and balances, the high costs of building a distribution system to acquire and serve low-income customers, and a lack of products and services tailored to the needs of low-income customers deprives individuals, families and communities of the socio-economic benefits associated with financial inclusion. In the past five years, the unbanked population was 85.6 percent, with the highest percentage in the highlands. More positively, since 2014 financial inclusion in PNG has received active support from the national government, resulting in a diverse range of service providers, financial products and delivery channels.

In support of policy and regulatory environments for financial inclusion that facilitate the expansion of appropriate, innovative and secure financial products and delivery channels for low-income citizens, particularly women and youth, work to date includes implementation of the first National Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy Strategy. This has led to the establishment of six national working groups that will address needs in electronic banking, as well as in inclusive insurance, financial literacy and education, consumer protection, data and measurement, and government coordination.

Work is in progress on the development of the second strategy by the Bank of PNG and Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion, with the assistance of the UN and Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme. A lessons learned exercise is being planned to inform the development of the second strategy document.

Support to the six working groups under the National Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy Strategy continued this year with an added focus on electronic banking, data and measurement, finance education and financial literacy. From the support provided by these groups the government is able to identify key areas of improvement and provide workshops and Direct Financial Services events to further improve and deepen financial access. For instance, one such event brought together private and public sector stakeholders to discuss the bottlenecks in, and options to advance, Direct Financial Services in PNG. Work in this area has also improved financial access through product/channel innovations that meet the financial service needs of

low-income citizens, including women and youth, focusing on low-cost insurance products. An agreement was signed by BIMA, the world's leading provider of low-cost insurance, and the first tranche of payment is underway for the project to start in the Highlands. There have been expressions of interest from Mobile Network Operators, Micro Banks and other commercial banks to collaborate with the UN and the Government on Direct Financial Services grants to develop innovative, tailored and sustainable financial products through the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme Support Grant Facility.

Work has also started on a Financial Education Scoping study in the Highlands to develop a strategy, work plan and budget for joint approval by the Bank of PNG and the Department of Education.

Access to knowledge and information on the financial market has been identified as a pressing need for citizens. To address this a consultative workshop was held on the Digital Financial Services Assessment. The findings and report is being prepared and will be distributed to all stakeholders. The report will increase understanding of financial products, channels, and business models that are most suited to the needs of low-income citizens through demand, as well as supply, and impact evaluation studies.

Another key aspect of work under this thematic area is the limited support given to nurturing local entrepreneurship in PNG. There are a few social innovations taking place in PNG but not enough at this stage to nurture new ideas for iterative prototyping of solutions rooted in motivating connections between the problem and those most affected. A Business Plan Competition project has been launched to invite ideas on solving key development challenges in PNG.

With support from the Australian Government, the UN has collaborated with a local non-governmental organization, the Kumul Foundation, to facilitate the Business Plan Competition through the banner 'Kumul Game Changers'. Despite limited funding, the UN together with the Kumul Foundation put significant effort into communications and awareness-raising and created a strong brand presence by its growing publicity in national- and social-media. It facilitated a large number

of registrations for the competition, with over 680 ideas or concepts being registered. This campaign culminated in 328 submissions. With the support of an expert panel from UN and Kumul Foundation, 42 submissions were shortlisted and underwent a week's start-up training with a renowned global start-up expert who is the accredited trainer to the Global Entrepreneurship Network. The training focused on ideation, prototype design, user validation, pitching, fundraising, and scaling, and each entrepreneur received a certificate for the training.

In addition, a week-long boot camp was conducted at the Institute of Banking and Business Management in Port Moresby for the Game Changers programme. A total of 20 selected entrepreneurs underwent intensive refinement to their business ideas at the boot camp. They received support through a structured programme designed to prepare them for the final jury at a two-day Kumul Game Changers Initiative Conference. The Conference was a success. It brought together entrepreneurs supported by the programme to showcase innovative ideas that responded to development challenges in the country and to pitch their ideas to potential investors.

The Business Plan Competition project also commissioned a study on "Seeding Social Enterprise in Papua New Guinea" to highlight the market potential, opportunities, challenges, and spaces for impact enterprises in PNG across six sectors: agriculture, clean energy, education, financial inclusion, healthcare, and water and sanitation. The report also presents findings from a survey of 80 social enterprises operating in PNG and discusses case studies of successful social enterprises from Africa that address similar challenges that could be replicated in PNG.

This analysis shows that there is enormous market potential for social enterprise activity in each of the six sectors. Improvement in Information and Communications Technology infrastructure and the increasing penetration of mobile money are two key factors that are likely to encourage impact entrepreneurship. The UN is conducting a review exercise to inform the next phase of this project.



Papua New Guinea | Accelerating progress on the MDGs in Remote Villages through Community-led Development

“I have lived a long life. It’s been hard. I have seen too many women die while giving birth, or while on their way to seek medical help, children die because we could not get to a hospital on time. The nearest hospital is too far away. And to go, we needed car, and to go in a car, we needed roads.”

Namba Mel, in her eighties, recalls life in the remote village of Trolga, in PNG’s Western Highlands Province. She is one of the beneficiaries of the Millennium Village Development Pilot Project in Papua New Guinea, a pilot initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by the UN in partnership with the Government of PNG.

The community "turned their pain and hardship into something positive, looking at what they could use and do to help themselves. Thanks to the initiative we can now use our locally available resources and skills. We built a bush material health centre, three health staff housing, an 11km road and 12 bridges. We then lobbied the provincial health authority to register it the centre as a sub-health centre. This centre serves over 8000 population of Trolga and surrounding villages. All this is astonishing," explains Namba.

In addition to these direct benefits, the initiative contributed to raising a strong sense of ownership, inclusion and cooperation in the community.

“In the past years before the project started, we used to experience big tribal fights. When we received funding for the project, we talked with people to stop tribal fights and have peace within our communities, so that services could come to our people. This change in our community occurred because we needed the services so much.”

Running in four villages in PNG, these projects aim to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at local levels, and at benefitting vulnerable people who live in remote geographical locations, suffering from poor infrastructure and services.



2. Millennium Development Goals, Population and Aid Coordination

Contributing Agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA

Inter-Agency Outcome:	BY 2017, relevant Government of PNG bodies undertake data and evidence-based participatory policy-making, planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and manage aid effectively to achieve MDGs with equity.
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Over the last year, the Government has demonstrated greater ownership in strengthening monitoring and evaluation, statistics and demographic data. For example, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and National Statistics Development Strategy were submitted to the National Executive Council. Once finalised, these frameworks will provide the basis for targeted resourcing and capacity building to enable assessment of development progress in the country. Considerable focus was given to strengthening the enabling environment to advance priorities related to the National Population Policy 2015-2024. The UN is supporting the development of an implementation plan to complement the Policy, to be completed in 2016.

INCLUSION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTO PLANNING PROCESSES

The Government of PNG, with UN support, finalised PNG's MDG report. The report is significant as it provides the first MDG progress update since 2010. The 2015 final report provides an overview of progress to date as well as a roadmap on how to localise the SDGs, to lay the groundwork for implementation of the SDGs in 2016. This is a critical first step to integrating the SDGs into National and Provincial plans.

The key message from the summary report is that despite missing all of the MDG targets agreed internationally notable achievements have been made since 2012 and the country is in a better position to achieve improved development outcomes in the future.

In addition to the summary MDG report, the Government of Papua New Guinea, with UN support, has produced other policy planning documents during 2015 including the draft Development Cooperation Policy, the Population Policy and the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Roadmap.

Along with this, the UN continued its rollout of the MDG Acceleration Pilot project in four communities. The project covers over 20 MDG focused initiatives to demonstrate the impact of policy measures on the lives of target groups. Although 10 of these initiatives are still ongoing, there is growing interest from the Government in this work. To date, PGK 70,000 (~USD 25,000) has been allocated by the Government for scaling-up this work. As well as this, one target community received the Prime Minister's Excellence Award for community development.

The UN supported the Government of PNG to develop a National Human Development Report that presented policy options for the

Government, civil society, communities, private sector and development partners to manage revenue from the extractive industry sector, and to cultivate sustainable human development. The findings of the report were disseminated and awareness-raising workshops were held in partnership with the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council. The report's findings provide a basis for future mapping of the Provincial Human Development Index, which can inform on the human development status per province. The Index could help influence better planning and utilization of Provincial Service Improvement Plan and District Service Improvement Plan funds, to achieve sustainable development.

The Population Policy 2015-2024, adopted by the National Executive Council, was launched in Parliament during the first 2015 parliamentary sitting. Copies of the Policy were disseminated to all provinces through four regional dissemination workshops. Discussions were held with a Health Department Sector Plan Review team, and recommendations were taken up by the team to integrate and align the Health Plan to the Population Policy 2015-2024.

The Policy is significant in that it addresses population issues across all sectors, providing a multi-sectoral framework to strengthen population-based planning. The major emphasis is on Health, Education and Community Development, particularly family planning, community health posts and population education. Unlike the previous policy, the 2015-2024 Policy was driven by the Government, and in particular the Minister for Planning and Monitoring. The UN provided technical support through a consultant, and additional human resources through the UN and support staff in the Department of Planning and Monitoring. The UN also provided financial support to ensure a wide consultation across all the provinces, civil society and stakeholders. The Population Policy provides a framework for implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

These initiatives provide the basis for integrating the SDGs and related indicators into planning processes at the national level. The UN will continue to support the Government, and in particular, the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, to make the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

While the use of disaggregated data remains a challenge, a number of initiatives are underway to strengthen institutional capacities to collect, analyse and use data. The UN supported the Government

to develop a policy to better manage and coordinate development finance. This policy will inform the Government's development of annual aid reports as well as an aid database. The UN provided technical support (document review and drafting, financial support, and engagement in national workshops) for the finalization of the Development Cooperation Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation and National Strategy for the Development of Statistics frameworks, which are under review by the National Executive Council. This included supporting three national level validation workshops to solicit feedback from development partners, government and civil society. The Census 2011 National Report was finalized and disseminated, and training on indicator calculations was conducted for all the Provincial Planners and Statisticians. Data utilization for decentralized planning has been strengthened, however further support to monitoring and evaluation is needed, particularly at the provincial level.

Together with partners, the UN continued to support the Government at national and subnational level to develop the systems, governance structures and capacity needed to monitor, evaluate and report on credible data to inform planning and budgeting processes. UN technical support was instrumental in the development of the 2016-2017 National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, the 2016-2017 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the 2015-2024 National Education Plan. These frameworks will assist better results monitoring and data coordination across all sectors.

The UN continued to support the Government in expanding the use of DevInfo for data management and processing. A PNGInfo admin training workshop was held to strengthen capacities in the use of DevInfo. Nine partner departments, including two new departments (the National Economic and Fiscal Commission, and the Department of Implementation and Rural Development) and six provincial planners have the skills to use PNGInfo to analyse development indicators. A Memorandum of Understanding was revised to include additional departments (from 6 to 18). Capacity training was held to solidify these gains, and support the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs. Through these trainings, government departments will be better able to utilize, monitor and report data for enhanced planning and budgeting.

The UN supported technical workshops to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation and Results-based Management capacity to enhance results oriented reporting. As a result of three days of customized training, 15 National Planning officials have the knowledge to implement provincial level Results-based Management projects. These initiatives provide the basis for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacity across government to ensure that data is available, credible and accurate. Despite delays due to lack of funding, following the initiation of the Demographic Health Survey, an initial survey indicator of the planning and engagement of the Macro consultancy firm has been lodged.

The UN MDGs Population and Aid Effectiveness Task Team will continue to prioritize capacity development in this area, including

the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework and National Strategy on the Development of Statistics to the provincial level. These frameworks provide a mechanism through which to target financial and human resources to further strengthen literacy and a Results-based Management culture.

CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING

As a result of technical support, youth organizations have increased capacity to lobby and advocate for young people's needs and rights in the National Development Framework. The UN supported training that brought young people together to develop youth district plans and Local-level Government plans. As an example, the Morobe Provincial Youth Plan was developed and will be launched in 2016.

Youth networking increased in Central and Enga provinces, as well as the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, as evidenced by the training conducted there with UN support. Enga Province included Sexual Reproductive Health Training in their 2016 work plan. This will be fully funded by the Government of Enga.

Youths were trained on self-management and rehabilitation in the Central Region of Bougainville (30 youths trained) and Central Province. A follow-up monitoring will be conducted to ensure these young people are fully and peacefully integrated back into their communities.



3. Peacebuilding – Bougainville

Contributing Agencies: UNDP, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) leads post-conflict recovery and development planning and budgeting and provides a safe, secure, stable and sustainable environment in which girls, boys, women and men enjoy their rights to equitable access and utilization of basic services and their protection from violence, discrimination, exploitation, injustice and inequality.
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A UN Needs Assessment Mission was deployed to assess possibilities for UN support for the referendum preparations and 2015 Bougainville elections. A submission was made to the Joint Supervisory Body consisting of National Government and the ABG identifying the areas in which the UN could support the referendum preparations.

A UN Electoral Support Team supporting the 2015 Bougainville elections trained women candidates on planning and campaigning, as well as election officials, observers and media on elections processes and procedures. Additional support to the Elections Support Project included coordination of international observers, as well as the set-up of an election dispute resolution mechanism.

The elections in Bougainville saw the election of the first woman candidate from an open constituency, and this was seen as a significant addition to the three reserve seats for women. The elected Member of Parliament for the open seat attended the women's candidates training, which was organized by the UN with support from the Bougainville Women's Federation and the Bougainville Electoral Commission. A participatory lessons learned exercise was organized by the UN in the three regions of Bougainville, with a final review workshop. This was a first ever elections review exercise. At the end of the lessons learned process, senior policymakers from Papua New Guinea and Bougainville agreed on key objectives for the next few years and installed mechanisms to monitor progress.

Implementation of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan through dialogue between the two governments commenced with requests from the national government and Autonomous Bougainville Parliament for UN support in discussions and meetings about the Bougainville Peace Agreement and its key pillars. A key aspect of support under the Priority Plan, currently being leveraged by both governments, is the use of the UN's 'trusted broker' role and expertise. This role supports key parties and stakeholders, convening under the terms of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, to contribute to the autonomy review and other peacebuilding processes, as well as in identifying and contributing to addressing bottlenecks in the reconciliation process, including security and weapons disposal. Some of the highlights of the support provided included the Deployment of a Peace Development Adviser in Port Moresby and Political Liaison Officer in Buka, preparations for the Joint Supervisory Board and meetings of its technical committees, and a visit

of a referendum expert to provide information to the ABG.

The UN continued to support South-South exchanges, supporting programme visits and participation of Bougainville education authorities. In 2015 a high-level delegation (led by the Education Minister of Bougainville) participated in the fourth Child Development and Poverty Reduction International Conference and the Asia Region Network for Children Conference in Beijing on Early Childhood Development. As a result, the ABG agreed to create a position on Early Childhood Care and Education within the Department of Education.

A gender-mainstreaming workshop in humanitarian settings was held for 11 Heads of Department and 13 District Executive Managers. The training will contribute to more sensitized government department heads and enhanced understanding and implementation of ABG's Gender Policy. In addition, an agreement was reached with the National Department of Health and the ABG provincial health office to enhance the health sector response to family and sexual violence through the training of health workers in 18 health facilities in Northern and Central regions.

To strengthen the capacity of the health sector to provide emergency medical care, psychosocial first aid and referral services for survivors of family and sexual violence, the UN supported the National Health Department in training health workers from 18 health facilities in Northern and Central districts of Bougainville in clinical care for survivors. An independent evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and scalability of Family Support Centres, which included Family Support Centres from Buka was finalized, and preliminary findings and recommendations were presented to national stakeholders.

During the year, the UN also strengthened the ABG's capacity to monitor, respond and manage child protection issues that may emerge as a consequence of disaster. This was achieved through training and capacity-building in Child Protection in Emergencies of 38 child protection officers, district community development officers, Faith-Based Organizations and disaster officers.

In other areas, the capacity of paediatricians and nurses in a provincial hospital has been developed in detecting and treating severe acute malnutrition cases, using the treatment protocol, followed by mentoring visits. This will work towards the creation of a safe, stable

and sustainable environment for girls and boys. Restorative foods are provided for malnourished children in the hospital through the UN.

Teachers from more than 60 selected schools in Buka and Arawa benefited from capacity-building on disaster risk reduction, safe schools and climate change. Pre-positioning of emergency supplies, such as 'school in a box', school tents, and family kits have been provided to Bougainville through the UN.

Through direct support from the UN, ten schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have access to improved water sources, child friendly and gender-sensitive toilets and handwashing facilities. These facilities will contribute to increased school attendance, especially for girls, and improve retention as well as the quality of the learning environment.

Children from 81 primary schools in the Bougainville were trained on emergency preparedness and climate change adaptation.

SUPPORTING POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP

The UN deployed an electoral scoping mission at the request of the Government and the ABG. The UN mission found that the referendum preparations required a significant investment of time and attention and so offered its support to assist with technical and advisory matters such as voter eligibility and referendum options. The first meeting of the Joint Supervisory Board for 2015 was held and attended at the highest level by both governments. Several key decisions were made, and the UN submission to support the referendum preparations was acknowledged.

Agreements on allocation from the Special Intervention Fund were made during the Joint Supervisory Body meeting. However, matters such as revenue sharing on fisheries were not agreed and are to be discussed again in 2016.

The 2013 autonomy review identified various bottlenecks and sought to remedy the delays and challenges by proposing benchmarks for 'good governance' and expected progress of autonomy arrangements. A total of 34 powers and functions were originally requested for gradual transfer from the national government to ABG. Some progress and significant commitments have been made where laws such as health and education have been successfully drawn-down from government. Others, such as the protection and promotion of human rights, child protection, and protection of women have not been decentralized successfully to date.

In regard to the work with the Bougainville House of Representatives, discussions were held with the Speaker and Clerk led to an agreement establishing an inter-parliamentary committee on the Referendum between the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the PNG National Parliaments. To start the process a needs assessment of the members of the Bougainville House of Representatives and administration was carried out. A capacity programme is being

designed following this exercise, with a special focus on supporting the women parliamentarians, as well as male members who will be part of the inter-parliamentary committee.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT

Work to date includes bringing together key officials of both governments to meetings to assist planning and discussions on key approaches and strategies to conduct awareness-raising and outreach activities in preparation for the Referendum process. Drawing from international experience and lessons learned, support and dialogue was facilitated between the Government and ABG to inform planning for the referendum. Support to the ABG Communication Division and independent media (in Bougainville and PNG) helped to develop a clear communication package on the Bougainville Peace Agreement, referendum and other identified issues for peacebuilding (including content, key messages agreed by both governments and communication tools).

The UN supports a holistic dialogue process between Bougainville communities (in Bougainville, as well as in a number of other hubs in PNG with large populations of Bougainvilleans). To support peacebuilding and address key issues of importance for the existing community, new mechanisms such as youth parliaments, school debates, town halls in which the ABG can meet with and respond to queries from the people, a Bougainville women's federation, churches and faith-based organisations, have all been utilized.

In 2015 important collaboration agreements with youth leaders aligned with the ex-combatants and the Meekemui were reached. This has enabled the UN to work closely with target groups who remain an important stakeholders in the peace process, but who have often been previously left out of forums and discussions.

A post-election and diagnostic study and gender analysis was conducted, bringing on board all 35 women candidates that participated in the recently concluded June 2015 Bougainville General Elections. The Post-election Study and Analysis Report will build efforts to strengthen women's participation in political discussions. Key partners and stakeholders such as the Office of Electoral Commission, the Department of Community Development and women leaders all attended the workshop. The post-election diagnostic study and analysis report will build on the Autonomous Region of Bougainville's efforts in reviewing and compiling women leaders' lessons learned in the electoral process, which will enable women leaders to develop a phased strategic plan to support gender mainstreaming and inclusivity in future electoral events, including the referendum.

STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY SECURITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

Community social cohesion and security in Bougainville continues to be a priority for lasting peace. The Peace and Development Analysis

highlighted how two significant issues related to dealing with the legacy of the past have been largely neglected. These are: (i) trauma healing (affecting many communities, as well as individuals); and (ii) providing the conditions and environment to discuss the conflict and learn from the past.

A community-based pilot project with a focus on establishing a model of community engagements that could transform social norms around violence, especially Gender-based Violence, by addressing the post-conflict trauma of women and men through empowering community conversations, commenced in South Bougainville and is ongoing.

Thirty-six trained facilitators are conducting community conversations across the 18 Village Assemblies in Buin and Siwai, while utilizing a recently developed and pre-tested curriculum. The 36 facilitators work hand-in-hand with the trained 20 community counsellors offering psycho-social support services and coordinating referral for complex cases.

Ongoing community-wide sensitization on Family Sexual Violence, Human Rights, Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution is contributing to the strengthening of community social cohesion, through the provision of counselling services to victims of trauma and Gender-based Violence. These conversations are contributing to the upskilling of facilitators, enhancing their position within communities to assist negotiations on reconciliation.

To date, seven community conversations with an average 280 participants (180 females and 100 males) have been conducted in Siwai and Buin with outreach sessions on Family Sexual Violence. This has led to an increased demand for counselling services, which are being provided through referrals to the Buin Safe house. Strengthened project collaboration with existing service providers in Buin contributed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Buin Safe and Planim Save to provide professional and comprehensive counselling services that has seen more than 15 people benefiting.

Working with young people is an important aspect of the UN's strategy for peacebuilding in Bougainville. Twenty-nine youths (15 males and 14 females) between the ages of 20-40 from Panguna, Awara and Kieta were trained on self-management rehabilitation, including topics such as human rights, sexual reproductive health, gender sensitization, and peace and security. According to Youth Policy (both Bougainville and PNG), youths are generally defined as either 35 and under or as people who left the formal education sector at the age of 12-years-old. In Bougainville these youths, although influential, are sometimes considered problematic in their communities and a number have come into contact with law enforcement agencies. The training was held in Kokopo, which gave the youth exposure to how livelihoods and development can take place after restoration and rehabilitation. Monitoring is continuing to document and evaluate the impact of this intervention.

To assist reconciliation and outreach, preparatory meetings have commenced with the head of the ABG Department for Referendum, Veteran's Affairs and Peace. These meetings aim to develop a plan to undertake community consultations that would identify key actors and key change agents, including ex-combatants, and to develop strategies on awareness on the referendum, and peace, security and weapons disposal. The UN has been providing advice and guidance. It has conducted initial meetings with the different groups to gauge their interests in participating in the reconciliation and outreach process. Since the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, there has not been a targeted approach to addressing specific factions exclusively, and involving them in the implementation of the Agreement. The Peace and Development Adviser in Port Moresby and a Political Liaison Officer in Buka were able to provide valuable technical support and advice to the two governments.

MAINSTREAMING, COORDINATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING OF RESULTS

A Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat was established with staff to ensure effective coordination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and communication on the achievement of the Priority Plan results and the projects that support it. A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed and a stakeholder mapping exercise has commenced.



Cluster Two:

Social Justice, Protection and Gender Equality



CLUSTER OUTCOME:

By 2017, PNG progresses towards becoming a more inclusive and equitable society where all citizens enjoy political, economic, and social rights, free from discrimination and irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or geographical isolation.

4. Human Rights

Contributing Agencies: OHCHR, UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, ILO, IOM, WHO

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, the PNG Government takes action to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for all people in accordance with its obligations.
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In 2015, the Government of PNG took further steps towards strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights, in line with recommendations emanated by international human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures. Significant legal and policy developments were completed in areas including family sexual violence, gender-based violence, child protection, sorcery-related violence, disability, and human trafficking, to tackle human rights priorities and improve access to justice and services. New frameworks, however, did not always prompt effective implementation and accountability on the ground. Troubling cases of human rights violations continue to be reported.

The UN continued supporting the Government to strengthen its engagement with international human rights mechanisms, specifically the Universal Periodic Review process, whose first cycle is coming to an end early 2016, and to foster participation and dialogue with civil society organizations and other stakeholders to advance the human rights agenda.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

The Government continued working on the ratification of new human rights treaties, in line with accepted Universal Periodic Review recommendations, including the Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol, and also considered the ratification of relevant new ILO Conventions. The Government started preparations to submit the initial report to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Overdue initial and periodic reports remain pending for the

following: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The UN provided training to government officials on reporting to treaty bodies. Relevant government departments discussed the opportunity to develop a core common document to be submitted to all committees of the relevant human rights treaties.

Government delegations from key departments took part in two UN regional capacity building initiatives on Treaty Reporting and on effective follow-up of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations. As part of the training, guidance was provided for the review of the national mechanism for follow-up and reporting of recommendations with the aim of developing stronger national ownership, political commitment, interdepartmental coordination, and inclusiveness. The Government continued to lead coordination on the national human rights agenda through the PNG Human Rights Forum, chaired by the Department of Justice and Attorney General, with overall support from the UN. Meetings were widely attended by key government departments, civil society, and development partners, providing an inclusive and participatory platform for update, discussion and action on key human rights questions and recommendations relevant to the country.

Government officials and civil society, including participants from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, received training on Universal

Periodic Review related reporting. The initiative, provided by the UN in partnership with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, ensured greater capacity on better structuring and planning the Universal Periodic Review national report, due in early 2016. The Core Committee of the Government Universal Periodic Review Task Force, with UN support, conducted regional consultations in several provinces including Chimbu, Eastern Highlands, Gulf, Madang, and Bougainville, gathering information from key stakeholders and ensuring an inclusive and participatory process. Human Rights Day on 10 December, saw the Government, in partnership with UN agencies and the European Union, launch the one-year campaign, 'Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always', at the National Parliament House. The campaign was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the two International Human Rights Covenants, and to guide the Government's recommitment to effective implementation and reporting of human rights treaty obligations and recommendations.

STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONS

Key laws and policies were adopted and/or operationalized, with UN support, to address pressing human rights and protection issues and discrimination in the country, while meeting key international human rights recommendations.

The UN was instrumental in the unanimous passing of the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 (Child Protection Act) and in the development of regulations for the Juvenile Justice and the Child Protection Acts. The UN supported the Government in harmonizing its legislation on sex work and male to male sex, and in removing existing legal barriers, in line with the goals set in the PNG National Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Strategy 2011-2017. The revision of the HIV/AIDS Management Act (2003) has not yet commenced due to structural changes occurring in the National AIDS Council. The UN supported the Government towards endorsement of the Industrial Relations and the Employment Relations Bills. Draft regulations for the Family Protection Act were submitted and approved by the National Executive Council. A work plan draft to implement the Family Protection Act has been created by the Department of Justice and Attorney General in collaboration with Magisterial Services, Village Courts Secretariat, the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council, and the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee.

On the initiative of the Constitutional and Legal Reform Commission, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Legislation Review Programme continued with respect to the review of legislation associated with this Convention.

A Working Committee comprised of government agencies and civil society reviewed, assessed and proposed changes to laws relating to the welfare of women. Two laws were finalised including the Marriage (Amendment) Bill, and the Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Bill. They were cleared by the State Solicitor's Office and are now with the Department for Community Development, ready to be tabled in Parliament. The Constitutional and Legal Reform Commission also started a study on compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, identifying gaps to

draft the Gender Equity Law for the country. Regional workshops were conducted in Goroka, Kokopo and Port Moresby. Once finalized, the results from these two studies will enable the identification of laws to be reviewed in compliance with the Convention, as well as the drafting of the Gender Equity Law.

High-level advocacy by the UN and other stakeholders contributed to the first parliamentary inquiry into violence against women and children, led by the Parliamentary Committee on Health and Family Welfare. Both oral and written submissions by the UN to the committee called for greater investment from government to enhance coordination mechanisms, increase human resource capacity, expand access to quality preventative and responsive services, and enhance knowledge management and accountability mechanisms

The Government, with UN support, finalized the drafting of a National Strategy on Gender-based Violence, whose launch is pending, as well as a National Policy on Child Protection. The Government launched its National Policy on Disability addressing key social and economic rights, and a National Refugees Policy was also launched bringing new measures for the integration of refugees in the country. The Department of Provincial and Local-level Government Affairs, with UN support, started a review of existing legislation for the development of the country's first policy on Internally Displaced Persons. The UN assisted the Government in developing a policy to address Child Labour.

The Government, with technical support from the UN, developed a National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons. The UN, in partnership with the Government and civil society partners, contributed to the development of a national action plan on sorcery-related violence, which was endorsed by the National Executive Council with PGK 3 million allocated for its implementation.

The persistent drought in 2015 compromised the basic human rights of the affected population and especially of the most vulnerable. Through co-leading and the overall advocacy of the UN cluster system, the Government strengthened its effectiveness in coordinating humanitarian responses in different areas including protection, food security, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as education.

The UN supported national efforts to strengthen the capacity of the child protection sector to respond to emergencies. This was accomplished through finalizing a Child Protection in Emergency Training Kit. In addition to training ten core trainers, the UN supported the training and capacity-building of 102 child protection officers, community development officers and other stakeholders, at national and provincial level, in monitoring, responding to and managing protection issues that may emerge as a consequence of disaster.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

To improve access to justice and effective security for the most vulnerable and marginalized, the UN partnered with law enforcement institutions, as well as with institutions and actors at community level, with a mandate for legal assistance and protection. The Royal PNG Constabulary, in partnership with the UN, committed itself to strengthening their respect for, and protection of human rights,

especially in light of increased public reports of police violence and poor accountability. Two-hundred-and-fifty police recruits (including 50 females) were trained by the UN on basic rights and the role of the police. In keeping with efforts to upgrade the Bomana Police Training College into a 'Centre of Excellence', the Royal PNG Constabulary agreed with the UN to move forward towards institutionalizing human rights training modules for pre-service and in-service recruits in early 2016.

The UN conducted national and provincial level trainings on access to justice for child survivors and child witnesses, reaching a total of 135 police officers, regional police trainers and instructors from Bomana Police College. Police officers from the team successfully advocated for capacity-building interventions on child survivors and child witnesses to be included in the police annual plan, and secured a budget of PGK 300,000 to support related activities.

Two-hundred-and-fifteen Royal PNG Constabulary officers, 35 customs officers and 30 immigration officers received capacity-building support from the UN, including training on the management of human trafficking cases. Officers of the Ombudsman Commission's Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Unit strengthened their capacity to monitor prisons and lock-ups in the country.

The UN international police consultant tasked with developing and delivering training for the Royal PNG Constabulary had to be repatriated for health reasons. This hampered implementation and caused the training project to be reprogrammed for 2016.

As a result of a UN train-the-trainer initiative, some fifteen representatives from eight provinces, including Bougainville, as well as from the Women Human Rights Defenders network, strengthened their capacity to monitor and report on Gender-based Violence. Their capacity was improved in assisting victims and groups at risk in rural and remote areas of the country by linking victims with judicial authorities and legal assistance providers. The Development Lawyers Association, with UN support, strengthened their capacity to provide legal assistance to victims of discrimination and other human rights violations.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

At the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, the PNG Government adopted the new global agenda to end poverty by 2030 and embraced the new SDGs. These are grounded in international human rights instruments and are closely related to economic, social, cultural and other fundamental rights.

By improving implementation of universal health coverage, ensuring better knowledge and skills for health care workers in the provinces, and raising the profile of Family Centres for victims of Gender-based Violence the Government, together with UN support, improved the quality of health services for the most vulnerable. The newly adopted National Disability Policy aims at improving education, health and pension schemes for persons with disabilities. The refugee policy waves naturalization fees for refugees, providing them with the opportunity to work in the country. Under the National Gender-based Violence Council, the National Strategy includes a key referral pathway for services to survivors of family and sexual violence.

The UN provided support for the training and capacity-building of 54 health workers from 54 health institutions (18 from ABG and 36 from Western Highland Province) in clinical management, psychosocial support, and referral for legal aid for survivors of family and sexual violence.

The Office of Lukautim Pikinini, the Juvenile Justice Technical Working Group and the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee increased their capacity to better serve vulnerable and marginalized groups. The Office of the Development of Women, established originally as a stand-alone structure, continued to lack a sufficient budget or the proper level of authority. Leadership issues also hampered capacity of the office, resulting in stalled reporting activities relating to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as other relevant areas. The need to upgrade the Office of the Development of Women has been raised in different UN led forums. The UN conducted a sub-regional skills and livelihood training for older Out of School children in child labour or those considered at risk. Delegates from Papua New Guinea took part in the training.

With UN support, platforms such as the Human Rights Forum, the Sorcery National Action Plan Committee, the National Human Trafficking Committee, and the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee all empowered civil society organizations. Community-based organizations strengthened their participation in decision-making, enhanced capacity to monitor human rights, and contributed to making protection mechanisms more effective for vulnerable groups. Benefitting from the UN's capacity development activities, non-governmental organizations improved their advocacy skills as well as their organization and budget development. Following an assessment by the PNG Institute of Medical Research, and through a UN award initiative, national media received technical incentives to improve their reporting on HIV and Gender-based Violence issues.

The sixth edition of the annual Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival travelled from Port Moresby to Madang and Bougainville,



providing an excellent awareness-raising initiative and involving youth, non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders, as well as government and international organisations. In Bougainville alone 1,500 people were sensitized by the films and discussion panels conducted by the festival.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The Government has taken steps to move forward on the establishment of a National Human Rights Mechanism. A draft bill establishing the National Human Rights Mechanism was completed and submitted to

the National Executive Council for approval. Discussion at the National Executive Council level stalled on technical aspects relating to the legislative mechanism for the establishment of the commission and the form it should take. The implication of the establishment of the National Human Rights Mechanism through an Act of Parliament, rather than as a Constitutional Amendment, was one of the issues under discussion. The UN continued providing technical assistance to support the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission fully compliant with the (Paris) Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions.

5. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Contributing Agencies: UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, women, men, boys and girls have increased opportunities to access services, resources, rights and decision-making processes through equal participation and benefits from the economic, social and political development of PNG.
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INCREASED CAPACITY OF NATIONAL WOMEN’S MACHINERIES

In 2015, the United Nations focused on building the capacity of one of three national women’s machineries, the National Council of Women. This was done through awareness-raising workshops that would inform members at provincial levels on the changes in the 2013 National Council of Women Act, enabling them to make better-informed decisions. The two workshops were carried out in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, where 19 Woman Federation executives (President, Vice President and Treasurer) from all over Bougainville attended. A Similar workshop was hosted in Central Province, with the attendance of 33 women group executives from across the province. In addition, contribution towards capacity-building, including office

equipment and free office space allocation in a designated UN space, has improved communication, coordination and accessibility for the National Council of Women.

LAWS, POLICIES AND MECHANISMS TOWARDS LEADERSHIP FOR GENDER EQUALITY

In 2015, the UN partnered with the Constitutional and Law Reform Committee to domesticate and accelerate recommendations from the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Review Committee. To date, the Constitutional Law Reform Committee has reviewed the Marriage Act, the Adoption of Children Act and the Matrimonial Act, as part of the implementation of the Legislative Compliance Review Report undertaken in 2007. These reviewed acts were subjected to a thorough public consultative process before being finalized and submitted to the National Executive Council for approval. It is hoped these reviewed acts will be passed by parliament in the first parliamentary sitting of 2016. The reviewed Lukautim Pikinini and Family Protection Acts, which were already passed by parliament in 2014, have also incorporated the recommendations.

In preparation for PNG’s second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2016, the UN conducted training for targeted non-governmental organizations to prepare them for providing input on Sexual Reproduction and Human Rights in their reporting category. The Universal Periodic Review has three categories of reporting. These include the UN Country Team Report, the Government Report and the Civil Society Report. The UN Country Team has compiled and submitted its Universal Periodic Review for PNG and is providing support to the Government of PNG to compile its own report.

Under the Planim Save project implemented in South Bougainville, and in partnership with the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre, the UN is promoting peacebuilding activities at community level to address



gender-based violence and conflict-related trauma experienced both by survivors and perpetrators. A comprehensive curriculum has been developed based on the existing implementing partner's training materials. These were pre-tested in three Village Assemblies and adapted for use in community conversations. Thirty-six community facilitators were identified and trained from the 18 Village Assemblies. The training included orientation on the curriculum, reinforced by a one-week facilitation skills training aimed at equipping facilitators with the knowledge and skills needed for coordinating conversations.

Addressing the demand for support services on gender-based violence and trauma-related issues, 20 community counsellors have been identified. Currently, counselling services are provided to individuals in communities during conversations, while complex cases are referred to the Buin Safe House. To promote community collaboration and strengthen the Council of Elders' planning, two project launches have been organized and a baseline survey targeting 2,600 participants has been completed.

UN intervention prior to the 2015 elections in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville provided extensive support to women candidates, and contributed to one woman winning an open seat, notwithstanding the three reserve seats for women. In the recent Bougainville elections, 342 candidates were nominated. Of these, 34 were women, representing about ten percent of the total number of candidates. Eleven of these women contested the open seats, while the rest contested the three women's reserve seats. A post-election diagnostic study and gender analysis was also conducted to incorporate all 35 women candidates that participated in the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Bougainville. Also included in the workshop were government policy makers such as the Office of Electoral Commission and Department of Community Development. The post-election diagnostic study and analysis report will build on the Autonomous Region of Bougainville's efforts in reviewing and compiling women leaders' lessons learned in the electoral process. This will enable women leaders to develop a phased strategic plan towards the organization of a more inclusive election in the upcoming referendum. Also awaiting validation and endorsement from the Autonomous Government of Bougainville is the Women in Leadership Action Plan, which provides a roadmap towards increased participation of women in leadership. Both publications will be launched in early 2016.

GENDER SENSITIZED PLANS

In keeping with the National Health Sector Gender Policy (2014) to integrate gender into the national health system, 22 health Programme Managers from the New Guinea Islands Region have been trained to further integrate Gender-based Violence priorities in provincial strategies, plans and budgets. So far, Bougainville has established a Family Support Centre in 2014, followed by East New Britain in 2015, to provide medical care for survivors of Gender-based Violence. Also, 15 health care workers from 12 Family Support Centres were trained in provision of Antiretroviral Treatment and Post-exposure Prophylaxis for Sexual and Gender-based Violence survivors. Upon completion of

the full four-weeks Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness training, the participants will be legally certified to prescribe Post-exposure Prophylaxis and Antiretroviral Treatment.

The Health Sector Gender Curriculum was developed in collaboration with health sector partners early in 2015 and is currently being trialled at the Medical Faculty of the University of PNG and Divine Word University.

The independent evaluation on the Family Support Centres in PNG was completed in late 2015 with preliminary findings presented to the Technical Committee on Gender & Men's Health. Plans to implement recommendations have been delayed to 2016. With UN support, The National Department of Health developed data tools for Family Support Centres which will enable relevant Gender-based Violence data to be collected at the Centres.

In keeping with Government's Gender Equality and Inclusion Policy in the public service, the Department of National Planning and Monitoring is also now taking the lead in the integration of staff and operational budgets across key government entities and provinces, to ensure priorities are captured in their strategic plans and budgets. The UN has been working closely with the Department of Personnel Management by way of consultations and technical assistance to mainstream gender into the public service. Five provinces have received instructions from the Department to appoint a Gender Equality and Inclusion Advisor and a Gender-based Violence Coordinator. These will be linked directly to the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee Secretariats under the National Strategy, which links public service to the general population.

With assistance from the UN, the National Department of Education completed a gender audit of the department in 2015 which will be used to guide policy and planning processes. The gender audit is timely with the Gender Equity in Education Strategic Plan 2009-2014 due for review. The Education Strategic Plan 2009-2014 was drawn up to implement the Gender Equity in Education Policy, which provides the underlying framework of principles and practices envisaged to help improve the educational opportunities for all children.

STRENGTHENED LEGAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Following the gazettal of the Criminal Code Amendment Act to combat human trafficking and people smuggling in 2014, in 2015 the National Human Trafficking Committee finalized the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking which is awaiting National Executive Council endorsement. The UN supported and facilitated this significant achievement through technical support, consisting of south-south visits for focal points in the relevant government departments to build their knowledge, as well as facilitation of stakeholder consultations and workshops to draw up the plan.

The UN continues to work in partnership with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary by providing sensitization training on Gender-based Violence, child protection, referral pathways and human rights.

Representatives from the police have been participating both at national and provincial levels in the work on Family Sexual Violence Action Committee Secretariat guidelines, protocol, and the Gender-based Violence services database.

Through the Pacific Fund grant support, more than 1,000 survivors of Gender-based Violence have received counselling, medical care or referral support from project sites in Goroka, Lae and Buka in the last six months of 2015. For example, in Angau Family Support Centre, 93 percent of rape victims were administered Post-exposure Prophylaxes after undergoing Provider Initiated Counselling and Testing. Only one tested HIV positive and was referred to Friends Clinic in Lae for confirmatory test and psychosocial support. Additionally, from survivors' file records, over 80 percent have recovered after two to three mental health counselling sessions and are satisfied with the outcome of services received.

The University of Goroka has integrated gender sessions in its education programme for trainee teachers, with support from Eastern Highlands Family Voice. Approximately 186 survivors of Gender-based Violence received counselling from the organization, of which 45 were referred to networking partners, including Police, Courts and Child Welfare, for specific support.

Through support from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, based on data collected in the first half of 2015, 70 women survivors have accessed counselling and other referral support services, including legal advice and Interim Protection Orders, from Voice for Change. Seven survivors of sorcery-related violence have been successfully reintegrated back into their communities through awareness-raising, community consultations, peace mediation and engagement of community leaders. Voice for Change has also supported the development of community by-laws on ending violence against women in three targeted communities in the South Whaji District of Jiwaka Province. These by-laws will assist community members to promote safety and protection of women and to end all forms of violence.

The organizational and programme management capacity has been strengthened for four programme managers in policy advocacy and lobbying, Gender-based Violence and primary prevention of violence against women, supported by the Regional Rights Resource Team and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre in Fiji. It is envisioned that through this capacity development opportunity local organizations will be able to confidently address Gender-based Violence. A new toolkit on 'How to design projects to End Violence against Women' was also developed by the Pacific End Violence Against Women Facility Fund to assist organizations and individuals addressing violence in the Pacific.

In 2015, all levels of government remained relatively stable, this supported the implementation of the Port Moresby Safe Cities programme. Several external events had an impact on operations at the markets. The Pacific Games hosted by Port Moresby redirected significant resources and attention to infrastructural preparations for the Games. This halted progress on the infrastructural development of

Gordons Market. The general El-Nino-induced dry spell in Papua New Guinea resulted in drastically lowered food production countrywide. This affected the numbers of market vendors.

The National Capital District Commission Board approved a gender audited draft design of Gordons Market. Plans to relocate market vendors to other market sites in light of the impending closure of Gordons Market for the restructure have started. The Markets Division developed a policy briefing, outlining the vision and key principles of the new Gordons Market that is inclusive of a gender audit and attentive to safety issues. This will be used to help guide the design and future operations of Gordons Market as a "safe, healthy and inclusive market for all". In 2015, the Markets Division effectively oversaw market operations of Gerehu and Gordons markets, while managing the infrastructural upgrading works at two relocation markets, with gender inclusion as a central modality of operations. Gender inclusion has been the theme of multiple trainings. The Markets Division has demonstrated competence in managing its own budget to implement market operations and maintenance. The Division submitted a proposal for an increased portion of the National Capital District Commission budget in 2016, including sufficient funds for the reconstruction of one secondary market, which will house an increased number of vendors, 85 percent of whom are expected to be women.

Through the Safe Cities Programme, the UN supported the Commission's Gender Equity Desk to reinvigorate the National Capital District Family Sexual Violence Action Committee to perform the secretariat and coordination role of services. The Committee has developed a referral pathway for Gender-based Violence survivors, inclusive of victims of human trafficking, which has been successfully endorsed by all stakeholders and reviewed by the Committee, to be rolled-out across the country. Guidelines, supporting a holistic, systematic and transparent approach have been drafted. It will help translate the referral guidelines into practical steps. The guidelines will form the base of the work of the Secretariat and inform the way referrals are made, paying particular consideration to the needs of the survivors.

The Gender Desk also led the coordination of stakeholders through the establishment of the Community Referral and Mentoring Service, which comprises a group of service providers such as the Royal PNG Constabulary, Haus Ruth, Development Law Association, International SOS, Family Support Centres, and Doctors Without Borders, among others. Primary prevention reduces the incidence of the problem before it occurs and includes awareness programmes focused on family violence, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls. It also offers alternative conflict-resolution skills and public education campaigns to increase awareness of the harms caused, as well as services available. Secondary prevention addresses and decreases the prevalence of the early signs of the problem. This model involves volunteer mentors who work from the market and within communities, through peer support, to help survivors of violence access services. The coordination of this project resulted in an increase in reporting of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls at the Gordons Market police post and an increase in

case referral to both police and external service providers.

Even though, due to technical issues, many vendors at Gerehu Market have ceased using the mobile fee payment and mobile wallet systems first introduced in 2014, crime within the market compound (including extortion of fees) has remained low. This is due largely to the enhanced capacity of Market Controllers to oversee operations and manage security guards. The organization of vendors into a single association unites them as a community, enabling vendors to provide surveillance around the markets, which serves as a deterrent to crime. Despite the discontinuation of the mobile fee payment pilot at Gerehu Market midway through 2015, revenue collection at both Gerehu and Gordons markets remain stable, much higher than in previous years. This sustained increase in revenue collected from market fees is due to increased supervision and training given to market controllers and security guards.

With funding from the Australian Government, through support to a local non-governmental organization called Ginigoada, the 'Meri Seif Bus' project launched a bus service solely for women and children, operating between Gerehu and Town. There is currently a single bus providing this service, with plans to add another in 2016.

The inaugural launching of the Media Awards on Excellence in Reporting on Gender-based Violence and HIV took place during the 20 Days of Activism on 10 December, commemorated as Human Rights Day. The objective of the annual Media Awards is to encourage journalists to do more thorough investigative journalism in these areas to present a balanced story and raise awareness of these two issues. Three awardees were chosen from the many nominations. The campaign to 'Tell the Bigger Story' was launched during the awards event. It was encouraging to see an increase in the number of in-depth stories in mainstream media covering both Gender-based Violence and HIV as a direct result of the Media Awards.

Meri Safe Bus

According to the scoping study the UN conducted in 2014, over 90 percent of women and girls interviewed for the study said they experienced some form of violence when accessing public transport. Following the study, the first Meri Seif Bus from Ginigoada started operations in August 2014 and the purple bus been a fixture on the road between town and Gerehu ever since. Support for the first year of operation came from the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other stakeholders, and 400 women have been using the service daily. The second Meri Seif Bus also started to travel from 9-Mile to Manu via the 3-Mile hospital.

The Australian Government and the UN have provided six million Papua New Guinean Kina (USD 1.97 million) to support the comprehensive Safe Public Transport Programme. The programme includes the operation of the Meri Seif Buses as one of several interventions planned to address violence against women and girls on public transport in Port Moresby. The funding also goes towards conducting a behaviour change campaign, and helps in the trialling of cash-less ticketing, the improvement of bus stops, work with the Road Traffic Authority and bus drivers to increase prevention of, and improve responses to, violence against women and girls on and around public transport.

In an address that included a thank you from a Ginigoada Board Member to Australian representatives and the National Capital District Governor, Hon. Powes Parkop, for ongoing support, Ginigoada Foundation Manager, Pastor Mike, stated that he, *"longs for the day where Port Moresby does not need these buses, but until that day comes (where there is no violence against women and girls on buses), Ginigoada will continue to work in partnership with the city and the UN to ensure women and children can move around the city with safety and dignity."*



6. Child Protection

Contributing Agencies: UNICEF, ILO

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, children at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse will have increased access to prevention and intervention services for protection and justice to allow them to access their rights and to be supported by protective legislation and policy frameworks.
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LUKAUTIM PIKININI ACT

The child protection sector continued to register significant progress in improving legal protection for children in 2015. The Papua New Guinea Parliament unanimously passed the Lukautim Pikinini Act. The Act is a robust piece of legislation that renews and improves the country's laws on the protection of children and sets the foundation for strengthening national child protection systems, including the capacity of the Office of Lukautim Pikinini. The Act establishes an Independent Office of Child and Family Services, which will replace the current Office of Lukautim Pikinini. The Act also establishes national and subnational councils for Child and Family Services to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Act. The legal and policy framework for the protection of children is also being strengthened through the development of an overarching national child protection policy, implementation regulations and operational guidelines. The child protection policy, which will be submitted to the National Executive Council for endorsement in 2016, addresses systemic barriers and bottlenecks that hinder the realization

of children's rights to protection. It also provides strategic directions for strengthening sector leadership and coordination mechanisms, increasing human and financial resource capacity, expanding access to quality preventative and responsive services, and enhancing knowledge management and accountability mechanisms.

While the target for training and gazettement of child protection officers and child protection volunteers has not been reached, joint advocacy with partners resulted in incorporation of increased human resource capacity (415 child protection officers and 1,520 child protection volunteers) in the new child protection policy. Advocacy by the UN and other stakeholders, with parliamentarians, also contributed to the first parliamentary inquiry into violence against women and children, led by the Parliamentary Committee on Health and Family Welfare. Both oral and written submissions by the UN to the inquiry committee called for the Government to incorporate Sustainable Development Goal targets on violence against women and children into national development plans, and to adequately fund interventions to achieve these targets.



Progress on establishment of Child and Family Services Councils, and training and gazettement of child protection officers and child protection volunteers, was constrained due to delays in certification, gazettal and implementation of the Lukautim Pikinini Act.

The Employment Relations Bill, as well as the Occupational Health and Safety Bill, are explicit on the engagement of children in forced, compulsory or other forms of child labour, and these Bills are expected to be put through the Central Agencies Coordinating Committee and Cabinet in 2016.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY TO DELIVER CORE PREVENTATIVE AND RESPONSIVE PROTECTION SERVICES

The End Violence against Children campaign was successfully launched in the Western Highlands in 2015. Partners have reached 39,000 adults and children through schools and community level campaigns with their end violence message.

To strengthen the capacity of the health sector to provide emergency medical care, psychosocial first aid and referral services for survivors of family and sexual violence, the UN supported the National Department of Health to train health workers from 54 health facilities in the Western Highlands Province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Training included the skills needed to provide emergency medical care, psychosocial first aid and referral services for survivors of violence. An independent evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and scalability of Family Support Centres was finalized, and preliminary findings and recommendations presented to national stakeholders. The findings of the evaluations will be released in 2016. An agreement has also been reached with the National Department of Health to revise the current Family Support Centre Guidelines.

The UN also supported the Department to develop Gender-based Violence indicators and an information system for use by Family Support Centres and other health facilities. This marks the first time an information system has been developed within the Department. Advocacy for incorporation of key indicators on violence against women and children in the planned Demographic and Health Survey is ongoing.

PNG's capacity to respond to child protection in emergency situations is limited due to a lack of both locally appropriate training resources and trained professionals. During 2015, the UN supported national efforts to strengthen the capacity of the child protection sector to respond to emergencies through finalization of a Child Protection in Emergency Training Kit, as well as training ten child protection officers as Trainers. Further training was conducted for 102 child protection officers, community development officers and other stakeholders at national and provincial levels, enhancing their capacity to monitor, respond to and manage protection issues that may emerge as a consequence of disaster.

The UN has formed partnerships with the Catholic Archdiocese of

Madang, Kundiawa and Mt. Hagen to model Evidence-Based Parenting Programmes that will reduce violence against children and improve family relationships.

This involves developing a locally appropriate parenting resource kit, training and mentoring 189 family-life educators, child protection officers, Catholic Catechists and child protection volunteers, as parenting facilitators. The parenting facilitators will work in 90 congregations across four provinces. In 2016, over 3,600 parents and 21,000 children will benefit from the initiative. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems will be established to test the effectiveness of the programme for scale-up and institutionalization.

The UN has worked closely with the Department of Labour, in shaping the Child Labour Unit into the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations structure, for expected rollout in 2016. The Unit receives and processes reports of child labour cases, from labour inspections, as well as from individuals, with the hope of providing them support.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The capacity of the police to deliver child friendly and gender-sensitive services to child survivors and witnesses of crime has been developed through the training of 11 regional and provincial police trainers, eight police instructors from the Bomana Police Training College, as well as police officers from 126 provincial police stations in the Highlands Region and New Guinea Islands. The UN and the Government of PNG jointly funded this capacity development initiative.

The UN also supported the Department of Justice and the Attorney General to develop regulations and policy for the Juvenile Justice Act. With support, Correction Services completed a Juvenile Management Handbook. The Juvenile Management Handbook provides guidance for prison officials on the handling of children placed in their custody either as convicts or on remand.

The development of regulations is a requirement from implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act (2014). The National Executive Council will submit the regulations and the policy for endorsement in 2016. Funding is available in 2016 for the capacity-building of 275 village court areas in Eastern Highlands Province, Western Highlands Province and Simbu, as well as for district magistrates.

BIRTH REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

The Government launched a new national identification and civil registration system and initiated a campaign to undertake registration and issuance of identification and birth registration under the new system. Government priorities during the year, as outlined by senior officials, were focused on the roll out of this system, and health sector engagement became less of a priority. Through local events and a targeted media campaign, the UN worked with the PNG Sport Federation to undertake a campaign on birth registration during and prior to the Pacific Games.

7. HIV and AIDS

Contributing Agencies: UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UN Women

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, the Government of PNG and its partners have strengthened capacity in delivering on the goals and strategic priorities of the National HIV and AIDS Strategy.
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INCREASED CAPACITY TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF HIV FOR MOST AT RISK POPULATIONS

The most recent national projection exercise¹ estimated a 0.7 percent HIV prevalence with an estimated 37,000 people living with HIV in 2014. The estimated number of annual new HIV infections is around 2,000, which needs to be reduced to 500 by 2020 to be on track to achieve the global vision of ending AIDS by 2030.

According to anecdotal evidence from practitioners, observation and sector wide discussions, there has been little or no improvement in service delivery. Some provincial service delivery mechanisms have even scaled back due to a loss of funding, resulting in a probable decrease in essential service delivery to key affected populations. As the national surveillance system does not yet disaggregate data related to key populations in most areas, it continues to be impossible to measure achievement, progress or actual deficiencies in services.

Through support from the Global Fund, the Government of Australia, and the United States Agency for International Development, together with the technical input of the UN System and implementation by the PNG Institute of Medical Research, a targeted Integrated Bio-behavioural Survey of female sex workers and men who have sex with men will be conducted in early 2016. This survey aims to improve the understanding of the extent and impact of the epidemic on these population groups by collecting a number of key parameters including behavioural and biological markers.

The UN, the Parliamentary Working Group on Population and Sustainable Development, the Safe Motherhood Alliance of PNG, the PNG Development Law Association, the Kapul Champions, and Friends Frangipani, are all supporting an initiative to review and potentially address legal impediments to accessing essential services for sex workers. Initial consultations and legal reviews were conducted in the first half of 2015. Further to that the comprehensive documentation on the existing situation in the country with regards to the criminalisation of sex work and all required legal documents have been prepared for tabling for the first parliamentary sitting in 2016.

The UN, on behalf of all development partners, presented the overall HIV situation to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Status of HIV and AIDS in Papua New Guinea. The document submitted to the Inquiry

reflected all aspects of the country's HIV-related situation and response, including legislative barriers to achieving the goals set in the PNG National HIV and AIDS Strategy 2011-2017. This laid a good base for building broader partnerships and dialogue for the removal of legal barriers impeding the national HIV response.

IMPROVED DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES TO REDUCE MORTALITY, MORBIDITY AND TRANSMISSION OF HIV AND OTHER INFECTIONS

Though the output targets for 2015 were not fully achieved, reasonable progress has been made in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Antiretroviral Treatment coverage. Under Global Fund support nine provinces have been identified by the National Department of Health for strengthening of their HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) services. Joint meetings of the National Technical Working Group for HIV and TB were held quarterly to streamline the HIV, TB indicators and linkages between the two vertical programmes. In 2014, circa 8,848 TB patients were screened for HIV at TB clinics; 2015 data is not yet available for reporting. There are plans to scale-up these cross-linkages within the next year, through increased testing of TB patients in TB clinics.

The national HIV programme has improved quality HIV prevention and treatment services and strengthened health-related HIV strategic information and coordination, particularly in the following key areas:

All provinces received rollout and capacity-building of provincial surveillance and ProMEST for new surveillance forms. This was carried out by the National Department of Health, with technical assistance from the UN.

Coordination of HIV and technical working groups ensured regular monthly meetings were held, coordinated by the UN, to look at strategic policy directions for prevention, care and treatment, and how to strengthen routine data collection.

The UN is an active member of the PNG Country Coordination Mechanism. The UN is also the Chair of the Oversight Committee. The time and expertise of UN staff paved the way for a fair election process. Orientation was also provided to the newly elected members.

Technical Assistance was provided to the National Department of Health and the Institute of Medical Research for ethical clearances for

¹Estimations and projections are done using SPECTRUM software with technical assistance from the UN. This is an annual exercise to update country HIV estimates and is carried out by members of the Strategic Information Technical Working Group where UN, government and civil society are the members.

the Integrated Bio-behavioural Survey. These were obtained from the University of New South Wales (Australia), the PNG Research Advisory Committee, the PNG Medical Research Advisory Committee, and the ethical clearance mechanisms of the US Centres for Disease Control. The survey management and technical committee met regularly and provided necessary support to the Institute of Medical Research and the National Department of Health for timely implementation of the Survey. It is expected that data collection will start by early 2016 in Port Moresby, with roll-out to other sites in the first half of the year.

A national data validation workshop was held. All the data was updated and validated as of December 2014. Data-usage capacity for programme improvement of attendees was built at local level.

The UN is actively participating in various working groups (steering committee and users committee) and providing technical assistance for the Demographic Health Survey 2016, particularly on prioritizing the key indicators to be included in the survey questions. Through the Government, the UN has already identified the HIV indicators and relevant questions, which have been submitted to the National Statistics Office for consideration. It is important to note that PNG lacks most of the population-based key HIV indicators, and the last Demographic Health Survey was undertaken ten years ago, in 2006, when HIV indicators were limited.

A pilot unique identification project was undertaken in Goroka with Australian Government support and technical assistance from the UN, along with other stakeholders. As an initial step, the Unique Identifier Code project is planned for up-scaling to all targeted interventions among key populations. Four national level surveillance officers were also trained in the Unique Identifier Code. It is expected that the Unique Identifier Code will facilitate more accurate counts for individuals receiving testing and treatment.

To develop a key population's management information system, the UN has provided focused technical assistance to the National Department of Health.

The UN supported two workshops for Out of School young people (some of them from the key populations), targeting them with information on issues relating to HIV and human rights, and linking them to essential health service providers.

The UN provided technical assistance to Oil Search, as well as secondary recipients of the global fund for building capacity of key community-based organizations, including Igat Hope, Hope World Wide, the Catholic Health Service and Kapul Champions.

The UN supports regular community conversations on a quarterly basis, or as required, to strengthen collaboration between civil society organizations and the National AIDS Council. In 2015, this coordination resulted in addressing issues such as capacity-building on good governance, creating platforms for meetings with the

senior management team of the National AIDS Council, as well as strengthening and solidifying partnerships.

The UN continues to provide technical assistance to, and organizational capacity-building for, key civil society organizations, such as Friend Frangipani and Igat Hope. Support was provided to guide their board decisions on budgets for 2016, and develop their safeguard tools and advocacy materials.

The UN supported a governance workshop for a faith-based organization working with key populations. The launching of safeguard tools for the Christian Leaders Alliance Against HIV was attended by most heads of different denominations. The PNG Christian Leaders Alliance, National AIDS Council Secretariat and the UN facilitated the governance workshop.

The UN contributed to strengthening the roles and responsibilities of seven organizations in effectively representing their constituencies within the PNG Country Coordination Mechanism. The UN created the tools and procedures, as well as facilitating civil society organizations, to select new representatives. A workshop was conducted for those elected organizations to build their constituency representation capacity. The workshop assisted civil society organizations' work planning processes to ensure the inclusion of activities that would build on their roles as constituency representatives.

The UN continued to support HIV awareness for marginalized communities by building the capacity of community leaders, particularly women leaders, in displaced and disaster-affected communities. The UN, in partnership with the Government and other partners, trained a total of 149 leaders on Sexual Reproductive Health, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, HIV/AIDS and the Referral Pathway in Morobe (40), Oro (55), Kimbe (25), and Carteret Island (29).

The UN provided technical assistance to develop new care and treatment guidelines. Another update will be carried out so that National Department of Health can align with the new UN guidelines for 'test and treat' in 2016. Rollout of these guidelines was undertaken through the training of regional medical officers, providing Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness training and circulars during the medical symposium.

Under the HIV Technical Working Group a sub-group was formed for up-scaling the viral load testing pilot carried out at Port Moresby General Hospital. Along with other stakeholders, the UN provided technical assistance for evaluating the pilot, and for developing a national algorithm for up-scaling the viral load assessment with the National Capital District.

Operations research, in the form of technical assistance, was provided for the design of a national HIV drug-resistance survey. Protocols were developed and submitted to the various internal and international ethical clearance processes.

The UN conducted extensive advocacy in different forums and partner meetings to build the capacity of support groups, including the parliamentary working group, stakeholder meetings, and national data validation workshops. In these meetings discussions were held to clarify the global vision of ending AIDS by 2030 and the importance of achieving 90-90-90 by 2020. Partners are already undertaking efforts to set targets to achieve 90-90-90 in the National Capital District, focusing on key populations.

The UN is supporting operations research (with the PNG Institute of Medical Research) to study the barriers affecting retention of clients living with HIV on a model of care preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Data collection is ongoing. The study will provide lessons for improving retention of clients on lifelong HIV treatment and in-depth knowledge on how to address challenges faced by adolescents living with HIV.

Fixed Drug Combinations were introduced, further simplifying training and procurement and task-sharing of Antiretroviral Treatment prescription to non-doctor medical carers. Quality of HIV service delivery has been strengthened through mentoring and support supervision of health facilities providing prevention of mother-to-child transmission and paediatric HIV care. Fourteen out of 22 provinces received mentoring and technical support supervision at least once, with support from the UN. Mentoring tools and standard operating procedures are in place to support provinces to conduct quality improvement activities. Capacity has been built for provincial managers in Jiwaka and East New Britain provinces on evidence-based planning for HIV services, through training and participatory analysis of barriers and bottlenecks affecting the utilization of HIV services.

The National HIV programme was strengthened through technical assistance in forecasting and planning procurements. The UN is a third party procurement agent to the National Department of Health and supports procurement of HIV test kits, syphilis test kits, Antiretroviral drugs and drugs for Opportunistic Infections. In general in 2015, PNG's HIV programme maintained reasonably successful logistics and did not experience any stock shortages of the Antiretroviral Treatment.

World AIDS Day 2015 was commemorated as an Expo, which was attended by 3,000 people on 1 December 2015 at the Sir John Guise Stadium. The UN team participated with all stakeholders and partners from government, civil society and the private sector.

GLOBAL AND NATIONAL REPORTING

The key focus of support for strategic information during 2014 and the first half of 2015 has been to assist in the development, completion and submission of the following: a Global AIDS Response Progress Report, which reports 2013 data pertaining to the 34 core indicators used globally to monitor national progress in responding to the HIV

epidemic; the Universal Access Report, which reports the 23 indicators for monitoring and reporting on the health sector response to HIV during 2013; the National Commitments and Policy Instrument, which measures progress in the development and implementation of national-level HIV/AIDS policies, strategies and laws, and tracks progress made in implementing the laws, regulations and policies necessary for an effective response to HIV; and the 2015 Final PNG HIV Estimates and Projections Report. PNG's national HIV estimates are generated using an estimations and projections package. Estimates and projections were calculated for national, regional and provincial levels. For the second half of 2015 data from the above reports and analyses were fed into work planning and target setting for 2016.

LEADERSHIP FOR GENDER SENSITIVE PROGRAMMING ON HIV/AIDS

There has been a delayed and slow response from the National Central District Commission regarding planned joint activities within the Safe Cities Marketplace programme. The UN, in partnership with the Safe Cities Marketplace programme, FHI360 and Marie Stopes International, is in the process of adding mobile HIV testing and related health services to the existing Safe Cities programme. A total of 44 personnel were trained on Gender and HIV. This included market security guards, police officers, market management team and urban safety officers. This is envisaged to increase the capacity of duty bearers to identify and respond to sexual violence, including HIV-related risks. Terms of Reference, Memorandums of Understandings and all design documents have been completed, funding is being sourced, and the programme should commence service delivery immediately upon signing by a City Manager who has, unfortunately, been absent for some time.

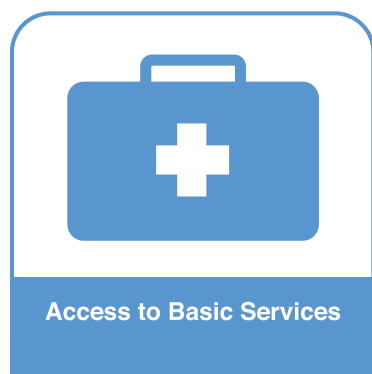
The UN supported the development of a workplace policy on TB and HIV that outlines the goals, objectives and actions for HIV and TB prevention, treatment and employment terms in the National Capital District Commission and its respective departments. The policy is pending for final revision and approval. Other activities, namely training for the markets and Commission's staff on HIV are still pending.

In addition to strengthening the media's role in raising awareness of HIV, the UN, together with PNG UN Co-sponsors, continues to empower and advocate with government and civil society to make appropriate responses to address the stigma suffered by people living with HIV.

As part of a Media Awards project, supported by the UN, a research project was completed by the PNG Institute of Medical Research on how HIV, Gender-based Violence and key populations are reflected in PNG's leading newspapers. The study highlighted media reporting over the course of the last two years and provided recommendations on ways in which the quality of reporting can be improved in a manner sensitized to human rights.

Cluster Three:

Access to Basic Services



CLUSTER OUTCOME:

By 2017, an increased number of citizens have access to quality health and education services leading to longer, healthier, and more productive lives.

8. Health

Contributing Agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

Inter-Agency Outcome:	Support given to the Government of PNG and non-governmental organizations to strengthen primary health care for all and improve service delivery for the rural majority and urban disadvantaged.
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MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The Midterm Review of the National Health Plan 2011-2020, conducted in 2015, showed that there is slow improvement in health service delivery. Factors contributing to the slow improvement include major gaps in the health sector workforce, failure to align funding to the Plan's priorities, and weak programme coordination, monitoring and accountability. This has resulted not only in poor health services and slow progress in indicators, but also persistent inequality in health services received by rural- and sub-populations, compared with urban populations. Districts closest to the provincial capital are improving faster than those in remote areas, largely because of an increased service capacity of provincial hospitals.

Health service delivery that engages all key stakeholders in the analysis of the current situation is needed to reach a consensus on how to accelerate increased access to basic health services to the rural majority.

The process should support the Government in taking leadership and driving the health improvement agenda by capitalizing on its strategy on decentralization. Local government authorities need to be supported to position health high in their development priorities, with adequate resource allocation and a call for increased accountability to ensure that communities receive and benefit from much-needed health services.

During 2015, the UN conducted trainings of health facilities in seven provinces in preparation for the introduction of the Measles-Rubella Vaccine and the Inactivated Polio Vaccine. In East Sepik Province, a

specific focus was put on 15 health facilities in two districts (Angoram and Wosera Gawi) to improve capacities to deliver vaccination services with equity (reaching all children within the catchments of the beneficiary health facilities). The trainings' target aimed to improve the capacity of health workers to plan, budget, manage and report on routine immunization, including the introduction of new vaccines. As a result, the two districts have improved their routine Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis coverage, moving from 14 percent and 27 percent respectively to more than 60 percent (based on monthly reports).

Despite this significant progress, routine immunization remains below the expected level in the country, with 14 provinces falling short of this capacity-building exercise. Seventy percent of women of reproductive age have not been reached with the Tetanus Toxoid vaccine and the cold chain system in the country needs to be renewed.

Limited resources are contributing to major constraints to the rollout of critical interventions. Poor distribution of available resources at provincial and district level, and limited human resources at the Central Department of Health and in several provinces are preventing better management of the routine immunization programme. Addressing these aspects remains critical to strengthening routine immunization and reaching more deprived children in the remotest areas of the country.

Breastfeeding is considered critical to child survival in developing countries. With this in mind, the Baby Friendly Health Facility Initiative aims to promote and protect breastfeeding. The UN supported the

National Department of Health in developing the National Nutrition Policy, and the Infant and Young Child Feeding policy and guidelines. The Baby Friendly Health Facility Initiative implementation framework is integrated into the Baby Feeds and Supplies Act that guides the strategy.

The Infant and Young Child Feeding training manual and materials for facility-based and community health workers and non-governmental organizations were finalized and will be printed and commissioned for use in early 2016. In addition, capacity of two national level staff was built for advancing national level policy and rolling out the Infant and Young Child Feeding interventions through participation in an international training course on Breastfeeding Practice and Policy.

The Baby Feeds and Supplies Act, specifying the code for the commercialization of breast milk substitutes, is currently under review in preparation for the Solicitor General. In 2016, the UN will support regional level Training of Trainers for the finalized Infant and Young Child Feeding training materials. The regional trainers will support cascade trainings and supervision on counselling and support to mothers and caregivers on the behavior changes that improve breastfeeding, care and complementary feeding practices, and how this can ultimately contribute to the prevention of malnutrition.

To contribute to these efforts to prevent malnutrition, UN resources provided Micro-nutrient powders for a total of 20,000 children, to be distributed to families in selected provinces to mitigate hidden hunger, including anemia and Vitamin A deficiency, among others.

The National Department of Health, with support from the UN, is revitalizing and scaling-up nutrition interventions, starting with management of severe acute malnutrition. In early 2015, a high-level advocacy meeting was successfully convened to bring together five secretaries of relevant national departments for Health, Education, Community Development and Religion, Agriculture and Livestock, as well as the Department of National Planning and Monitoring. The departments agreed to move forward with the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy 2015-2024 using a multi-sectoral approach to address the high burden of malnutrition in the country.

Capacity was built for 15 provincial hospitals to provide services for severe acute malnutrition management. Collectively, a total of 90 health workers have been trained. In 2015, Madang and Chimbu provinces were supported in strengthening and rolling-out severe acute malnutrition management at district level. In addition, supplies worth more than USD 200,000.00 associated with severe acute malnutrition management were procured using the UN's resources, and distributed to the implementing facilities. These included 3,000 packs of mid-upper arm circumference measuring tapes for screening children, 120 digital weighing scales, 118 height boards, 120 cartons of rehydration solution for the malnourished, and feeds of up to 300 cartons of F75, 450 cartons of F100, 45 cartons of combined minerals and vitamins, as well as 1,500 cartons of the ready to use restorative foods commonly called 'plumpy nuts'. These supplies are available for routine health facility activities, pre- and in-service teaching, and conducting surveys that pool data together, as well as to support nutrition interventions

in emergencies, such as during the El Nino response. The mid-upper arm circumference measuring tapes were distributed for the mass screening of severe acute malnutrition, to identify affected children for appropriate action.

Efforts are being made to increase the human resource capacity on nutrition to address the overwhelming gap in pre-service training in the country. The UN is brokering the partnership between Mahidol University in Thailand and the Government in PNG to support the universities in PNG to incorporate and/or strengthen nutrition content in the existing curriculum of medical and health-related training institutions. Overall, this will translate into a health workforce better prepared and enabled to deliver the national nutrition policy strategies at all levels. Moreover this is a relatively low-cost intervention that builds greater sustainability and long-term national capacity than in-service cascade-types of capacity-building.

Increased advocacy in 2015 has achieved some positive results. For example, the Government has allocated an increased budget for nutrition. Notably, this has meant procurement of all necessary restorative foods sufficient to cover the country's needs for 2016. Thus demonstrating the Government's commitment to, and ownership of, improving the nutritional status of children and women in Papua New Guinea.

UN agencies and other stakeholders supported districts and health facilities to advocate, provide community awareness, education and family planning services, in both urban and rural communities. This support included staff training, supervision and procurement of contraceptive commodities.

Building capacity for maternal health interventions progressed well in 2015, including formal midwifery training in four midwifery schools (with 65 midwives graduating) and in-service training for provincial health workers in comprehensive and essential obstetric care. A number of planned activities did not take place and the delay is largely due to the capacity of the government to implement these activities.

From 2014, the National Department of Health started rolling out Early Essential Newborn Care as one of the high impact interventions for child survival. This intervention aims to address the major causes of perinatal deaths including birth asphyxia, hypothermia, prematurity/low birth weight and septicemia.

Following the launch of the Newborn Care Policy in 2014, the capacity of nine provinces was developed to provide Early Essential Newborn Care through training of 195 health workers with support from the Australian Government and the UN. In total, 74 health facilities in these provinces have introduced Early Essential Newborn Care in routine delivery practices. Forty sets of newborn care equipment and demonstration materials were procured to support training activities. Systematic quality improvement activities were introduced in three of the nine provinces where Early Essential Newborn Care was implemented. In 2016 the service will be scaled-up to a total of ten provinces with in-house coaching conducted to consolidate the service before rolling-out to other provinces.

Major achievements for 2015 include 65 midwifery students graduating from the four midwifery schools, 136 staff receiving training in emergency obstetric care from Enga, Bougainville, Central and Morobe provinces, and 711 health staff in 20 provinces attending in-service training in emergency obstetric care.

There were 20 Out of School youth trained on Peer Education in Lae by the Young Women's Christian Association, with support from the UN. There were 15 radio programmes hosted by this Association on National Radio Broadcasts. There were also continuous training programmes for Out of School youth, and ongoing peer education activities on the university campus and in residential halls. Games were used to inform students on issues that affect them, such as sexuality and relationships, peer pressure, family planning, HIV or sexually transmitted infections, and gender awareness. Older university students and peer educators were able to provide support and encouragement to new arrivals. In a peer education workshop, 25 new peer educators were trained over the course of five days on how to be peer educators, covering subjects on sexuality, reproductive health, human rights, reproductive rights, gender, and HIV, or sexually transmitted infections. The H3MBS Games (The annual Healthy Mind, Healthy Body and Healthy Sexuality sports competition), reached 800 university students with messages about healthy living and healthy sexuality. Using sports for development concepts, students competed over the course of two days in a variety of team sports, and worked together in their teams to develop songs and use drama to convey key messages to their peers.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Despite continuing to improve its services, with support from various partners, to curb TB prevalence and death rates in Papua New Guinea, The National TB Control Programme has not yet achieved its set targets.

The efforts and initiatives in 2014 contributed to the increasing trend in the case notification rate for all TB cases and new smear positive cases. Treatment success rate still remains below the national and international target.

The loss to follow-up rate is exhibiting only slight improvements compared with the previous year's data (from 20 percent in 2013 to 17 percent in 2014). This can mainly be attributed to the following factors: (1) Directly Observed Therapy has not been strictly implemented in most facilities; (2) inadequate counseling to ensure patients understand the need to comply with the treatment regimen and the expected side effects of the drugs; and (3) weak supervision and recording errors.

The malaria indicators are measured on an annual basis and were not yet available at the time of reporting. Nonetheless, the progress achieved in the past few years with significant reductions in malaria incidence and malaria mortality is likely to continue. Increasingly, rapid diagnostic tests are utilized at PNG's health facilities, as the 2014 data suggests. Although data will only become available in 2016, this trend is likely to continue in 2015.

The TB problem in PNG is further compounded by the emergence of drug-resistant TB. Based on the recent TB drug-resistance survey,

Multi-drug-resistant TB conducted by the National Tuberculosis Control Programme is estimated to be present in 2.7 percent of new cases and in 19.1 percent of previously treated cases, roughly translating into about 1,000 cases per year. The survey observed that the prevalence of Multi-drug-resistant TB across the country is diverse, with a number of hot-spot areas where outbreaks are more pronounced. Treatment success rate for multi-drug-resistant TB increased from 14 percent (2011 cohort) to 55 percent for the 2012 cohort. However, programmatic management of drug-resistant TB needs considerable inputs such as funding and technical assistance in coming years. There is a need to strengthen the collaboration of the TB and HIV programme, especially in terms of referral of patients and sharing of data for services rendered.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

Health sector appropriations for 2015 were revised downwards and data is not yet available to report against health centre supervision.

The majority of proposed activities under output 8.8 were completed as planned, leading to the achievement of the output indicators. As part of the efforts to strengthen district health systems, the introduction of a Supervision Checklist, complemented by six-monthly provincial and district performance reviews, has improved the quality and frequency of supervision of district health staff in the six districts of Madang Province. Lessons learned will inform strategies for rolling-out the Checklist to the other districts.

The 2012 National Health Accounts provide information on the various sources of health funding in PNG, effectiveness in the allocation of health resources, and patterns of utilization, as well as providing a platform for fiscal transparency in the health sector. Evidence provided by the Midterm Review of the National Health Plan has resulted in the health sector refocusing on high impact health interventions. It has prioritized frontline service delivery at the subnational level for



the remainder of the plan period, especially in light of the projected deterioration in PNG's fiscal environment in the coming three years.

Support for the implementation of the Health Workforce Enhancement Plan 2013-16 is expected to improve the availability of health workers in the health sector. This is as a result of revision of the retirement age for public servants from 60 years to 65 years, the recruitment of expatriate international health professionals in a number of specialty areas where skills are not currently available locally, and the increased intake (of an additional five more students per annum) at all training institutions. Audits of nursing schools and the revision of the midwifery curriculum will contribute to improved quality of training, especially as a result of the implementation of Quality Improvement Plans. Revised and improved salary structures for educators at church owned training schools (Nursing & Community Health Workers) has improved their motivations and resulted in parity of their entitlements with those provided at government-run institutions. The situation analysis of the health workforce in PNG will be completed by early 2016 to feed into work on the development of the long term Strategic Plan.

The availability of essential medicines remains an issue for the health sector. Information on the availability of essential medicines is scarce as there is currently no appropriate system to ensure valid data on

the current stocks of medical products are provided at the facility and central levels. Current support for the rollout of the mSupply software is envisaged to improve the availability of quality and reliable information to track stocks of medical products throughout the health system. The establishment of the National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory is expected to facilitate monitoring of the quality of medical products used in the health sector in PNG.

Baseline information from the STEPS Survey of 2008 remains relevant to monitor the levels of non-communicable disease risk factors in PNG, until the STEPS Survey proposed for 2016 is conducted. The recently completed Multi-sectoral Strategic Framework and the PNG Roadmap for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases provide strategic guidance for PNG's whole of government approach to dealing with this crisis in the coming five years. Efforts to finalize the Tobacco Control Bill were deliberately frustrated by the direct interference of the tobacco industry at the political level in PNG. Adoption of the National Cancer Policy guides the development of cancer prevention. Control strategies and the establishment of hospital-based cancer registries at Port Moresby and Angau Hospitals will assist in the classification of cancers, determine the extent of the problem, and monitor cancer prevention, treatment and control strategies in PNG.

Happy over plumpy nuts

Sitting on a hospital bed, Dalla, a nearly one-year girl, smiles as she clutches a packet of plumpy nut paste. The paste is a vitamin and energy enriched edible peanut paste Ready to Use Therapeutic Food to treat malnourished children.

Two weeks ago Dalla's situation was dire. When her weight plummeted from ten to six kg over a four-week period following a bout of diarrhoea, her parents, Hane and Peter, brought her in the Mt. Hagen Hospital.

"My baby was so sick, she didn't want to eat anything and refused breastmilk. She was a big strong baby but when she had diarrhoea, she became very thin and her skin was very dry," Hane says.

"In the two weeks we've been in Hospital, the nurses fed Dalla milk and she started getting better. Now she is well enough to eat this paste and likes it very much. I'm very happy she is well enough to go back home," Hane delightedly adds.

After exclusively breastfeeding for four months, two months shy of the World Health Organisation's recommended period, Hane introduced Dalla to soft mushy foods like pumpkin, bananas and paw. Protein, vitally important for a young child's growth, was missing because her parents couldn't afford it.

Close to 45 percent of children under five years of age suffer from some sort of malnutrition in PNG. In 2015, the UN supported government to build the capacity of health workers to manage severe acute malnutrition. As a result, 15 provincial hospitals now have 90 trained health workers to detect and manage such cases. Following these interventions, an additional 2,000 malnourished children were treated in 2015.

The UN has also provided the hospitals with high energy, fortified ready-to-eat food such as micro nutrient milk, plumpy nut paste and oral rehydration solutions. Following successful advocacy by the UN, the government has increased its budget for nutrition and agreed to buy enough therapeutic food. Without therapeutic food, Dalla would remain hospitalised for nearly a month, which is the average time for a child to recover from complicated SAM. The new protocol, enhanced capacity and a steady stock of therapeutic food have shortened this period, saving financial resources that would otherwise be spent on hospitalization.



9. Education

Contributing Agencies: UNICEF, UNESCO

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, sufficient capacity exists within the Department of Education and DCD, together with cognate departments and provincial divisions of education and community development, to formulate and implement policies and programmes to achieve inclusive universal basic education, holistic Early Childhood Care and Development and alternative pathways to learning.
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION PLAN

While a number of initiatives are underway, the result remains off-track due in part to low capacity and funding at the national and subnational level to advance Universal Basic Education initiatives. A number of activities were not implemented in 2015.

Capacity training on statistics and data management provided by the Australian Government, European Union and the UN helped to strengthen the education management and information system. As a result of targeted training, the Department of Education is now generating key performance indicators to facilitate evidence-based planning and monitoring to help guide policy implementation.

The current National Education Plan 2015-19 prioritizes the implementation of the Universal Basic Education Plan. Areas relating to education for Out of School children, gender as a cross-cutting issue, and early childhood education from age five, are being integrated into policy documents with support from the UN. The limited capacity of key education officers at the subnational level remains a challenge to implementation of the Plan. Implementing government directives relating to tuition free education, and re-introducing the Standards-based Curriculum, as noted in the final PNG Education for All Report 2015, are further remaining challenges.

The UN contributed to the finalization of the curriculum for elementary level, which integrates early learning development standards for five- and six-year-olds, peace and values education, as well as strengthening gender inclusiveness. In addition to preparing children for school, it ensures their smooth transition to primary school and nurtures compassion, non-violence and problem-solving skills amongst children. This will help to increase retention and completion rates in both elementary and primary education.

With UN support, the University of Goroka organized a national education conference that brought together around 300 participants from different parts of the country for a discourse on the quality of education, values education, peace, non-aggression, compassion, mindfulness, gender, and life skills. The UN successfully advocated for the integration of values education in the elementary Standards-based Curriculum and the National Education Plan through an experience exchange with Thailand. This involved Thai Educators visiting PNG to

share their experience during this conference, in which an advisor to the Ministry of Education in Thailand was a prominent speaker. In addition to evaluating the progress of education over the past 40 years in PNG, the conference created a platform for academics, students and service providers to seek other progressive ways of providing basic education for children in PNG.

To improve evidence-based information for better access to education, the UN supported the Department of Education to pilot RapidPro technology to collect data relating to the school census. The pilot will be launched in 89 schools in five provinces with the aim of scaling-up to all 12,000 schools by the end of 2016. This innovative way of gathering data will enable the Department of Education to monitor the number and age of children enrolling and attending school at elementary and primary levels, and the number of teachers, all of which impacts the implementation of Universal Basic Education policy. In 2016, the UN will work directly with provinces to build capacity to implement this policy.

OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN ACCESSING NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ARE INTEGRATED INTO FORMAL EDUCATION

To advance the Education for All goals in PNG, the UN supported the launch of the Out of School Children Initiative by the Department of Education. Through this initiative, the Government will be better able to identify Out of School children and develop avenues for children and young people to access non-formal education and alternative basic education programmes. This is significant given the high number of Out of School children, where girls are disproportionately represented. The findings will also contribute to bolstering policy recommendations to reduce the Out of School children rate at pre-primary, primary and lower secondary levels in PNG.

Revision of the Literacy Policy, which provides avenues for young people who are Out of School to continue with secondary or vocational education, was delayed as a result of the delayed implementation of the Out of School Children Initiative. In 2015, several initiatives were implemented. These included the formation of a core technical team, a data inventory and the identification of data sources to be used for profiling Out of School children and for analysing the barriers and clarifying the limitations and challenges of the current monitoring system at the pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education

levels. However, due to competing priorities within the Government, the Out of School Children Initiative was unable to be implemented, despite initial momentum and high-level technical support provided by the UN. To overcome this shortfall, the UN is discussing with the Government the possibility of providing one technical staff to enhance capacity and provide secretariat support.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Significant progress was made to advance access to quality early childhood education in PNG. The UN supported the Department of Education to develop an Early Childhood Care and Education curriculum for children aged four- to five-years-old, in line with standards-based education and using the 85 indicators validated during the East Asia Pacific Early Child Development Scales Assessment. The curriculum includes issues of peace education, values education and life skills, providing a foundation to address violence against children within and outside schools. The curriculum also focuses on emergent literacy and emergent mathematics, critical to learning roots and skills for children's school readiness. The elementary education curriculum in PNG is designed for children six-years-old and beyond. That the Department of Education drafted the curriculum for ages five- and six-years-old is a strong indicator that the education sector is considering ways to integrate it into the education system.

The UN is supporting the institutionalization of early childhood development by assisting the PNG Education Institute in developing courses for elementary teachers who are both pre- and in-service. In line with this, a teacher's guide and training manual were developed, to be finalized in 2016.

A number of low-cost Early Childhood Care and Education materials were developed by teachers from provinces, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organisations, the Department of Community Development, and Department of Education officers, for use in 30 centres. This, together with a parenting education programme, which was launched in six provinces in 2015, will contribute to the healthy stimulation of children, helping to ensure their smooth transition from home to the centres and to school.

The UN supported the establishment of 15 inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education centres in four provinces. The centres will facilitate early detection of children with disabilities and will help ensure children with disabilities have access to quality stimulation and learning. Progress was made towards strengthening government capacity to develop and implement policies targeting inclusive education and alternative pathways to learning.

UN advocacy was instrumental in strengthening coordination between the Department of Education and other sectors to expand access to early childhood development. The UN's advocacy contributed to the establishment of a Multi-sectoral Steering Committee to guide the

formulation of the country's first multi-sectoral Early Childhood Care and Development Policy, to be finalized by 2016. This is significant, as Early Childhood Care and Development has previously had only the limited involvement of other critical sectors, including the departments of Health and Education.

CHILD FRIENDLY SCHOOLS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Gender responsiveness is an integral part of Child Friendly Schools. Provision of protection measures, especially for girls, is being addressed. School behaviour management policy is being revised to specifically address school-related Gender-based Violence. The UN supported the construction of changing rooms for the menstrual hygiene management of older girls in 25 schools in three provinces (to be scaled up in 2016, based on findings from the pilot initiative).

Building on the 2014 gender audit recommendations (conducted with the support of the UN), all staff of the Department of Education were trained on gender mainstreaming. With support from the UN, 151 officers within the Department of Education were sensitized on gender concepts and frameworks. Training was provided for a significant number of government staff and teachers. Attention was given to strengthening schools' capacity to address violence and bullying as a core strategy to advancing gender inclusive education and child friendly schools. As a result of the ongoing capacity-building of school-based counselors, 28 school-based counselors (18 females and 10 males) are able to identify and address bullying and Gender-based Violence at primary school level and can provide counseling and student referrals when needed. Fifty-six guidance and standards officers from the provincial level of four regions were trained to support children and young people at risk of dropping out by drawing on support services to keep them in school. This is significant considering the increase in incidences of bullying and violence in many schools.

The UN supported the development of an inclusive education course book for teachers in teaching colleges. The course book will equip graduates with skills to accommodate children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms. Using the standards-based education curriculum for elementary schools, resource materials were developed for special education resource centres to meet the needs of children with visual and hearing impairments, learning difficulties and intellectual needs. These will be finalized in 2016.

Issues concerning child friendly schools and the strengthening of gender mainstreaming have been integrated across the National Education Plan pillars. UN advocacy and continuous engagement has helped to ensure that issues of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the National Education Plan are addressed as a component of child friendly schools.

The Gender Parity Index reveals that girls' participation at elementary level is almost even with boys (0.99), with slightly lower in primary



(0.93) and secondary (0.88). However, PNG has a high number of Out of School children, with a disproportionate representation of girls (Source: Department of Education, Education Statistics, 2014), which reveals that gender remains a key barrier to education when it comes to retention and continuation of girls to upper grades.

Through direct support from the UN, an estimated 6,755 boys and girls from nine schools in the Eastern Highlands Province and ten schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, (reaching around six percent of schools in the two provinces) have access to improved water sources as well as child friendly gender-sensitive toilets and handwashing facilities. These facilities will contribute to increased school attendance, especially for girls, and enhance retention and the quality of the learning environment.

In partnership with the Department of Education, the National Department of Health and Colgate Palmolive, a Papua New Guinea Global Handwashing Day was observed. Approximately 30,000 school children participated in the Global Handwashing Day celebration, increasing their awareness of the importance of washing hands with soap.

Children from 81 primary schools, covering 41 percent of primary schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville were trained on emergency preparedness and climate change adaptation. Disaster response plans were developed by 134 schoolteachers and principals. Pre-positioned non-food items benefitted more than 1,000 school children and their families in Milne Bay and West New Britain provinces during floods and cyclone.



Cluster Four:

Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management



CLUSTER OUTCOME:

By 2017, the Government and civil society have enhanced their capacity to implement biodiversity conservation, low carbon and climate resilient development initiatives for environmental sustainability and improved community livelihoods to reduce the vulnerability of women, girls, men and boys to disaster risks.

10. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Contributing Agencies: UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WHO, UNHABITAT, IOM

Inter-Agency Outcome:	By 2017, the Government of PNG and civil society have enhanced their capacity to implement biodiversity conservation, low carbon and climate resilient development initiatives for environmental sustainability and improved community livelihoods to reduce the vulnerability of women, girls, men and boys to disaster risks.
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INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The United Nations’ technical and strategic support to the Government on policy and legislative change to improve biodiversity conservation and natural resource management has seen a number of successes in 2015.

Successes include the completion of the Protected Areas Policy and Policy Gaps Analysis that assist the design of PNG’s Biodiversity Offset Policy. The approved policy provides the overall policy framework to improve protected areas management at national, provincial, and local levels. The Biodiversity Offset Policy will complement these two policies in terms of facilitating sustainable financing options to support management of protected areas in the country. Initial discussions were completed between the Department of Lands of Physical Planning and Conservation and the Environment Protection Authority, with non-governmental organization partners. Topics of discussion included the linkage of the National Policy on Protected Areas and the draft Land Use Policy, which provides guidance on the categories of different land uses, including conservation areas of high biodiversity values. Similarly, the National Marine Zones Act stipulates protection of special marine zones. This will be the impetus for the new Oceans Policy, which will give prominence to marine protected areas from a fisheries management perspective. Simultaneously, the participating provinces and Local-level Government are advocating for the designation of high conservation areas in their locality, under the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Government.

In addition, an assessment on options available under a potential Payment for Ecosystem Services model was completed. This has created interest from communities and government with the latter improving its efforts to promote income opportunities for communities engaged in biodiversity conservation and improved natural resource management. This included improved infrastructure development for eco-tourism such as road networks, which the UN believes shows positive support towards strengthening management of protected areas.

A review of the previous Food Security Policy, where the findings have been integrated into a new draft policy covering 2016-2025, was also completed. A national consultation workshop to discuss the review report and the new draft policy was organized. Following additional stakeholder consultations, a final draft of the National Food Security Policy has been completed.

Capacity-building was increased on community empowerment, using paralegal knowledge to enhance livelihood opportunities through improved local community conservation and natural resource management actions. To date, around 120 villages with an aggregate total of 86,739 hectares are being established as a network of Community Conservation Areas (five existing gazette Wildlife Management Areas with 25,884 hectares and an additional 60,855 hectares as newly established sites comprising of recognized communities with longstanding commitments on conservation). Paralegal training and education on the customary rights over natural resources is being rolled out within Pomio District, East New Britain. These activities are being provided to local-level governments, ward

representatives and communities facing land disputes and issues arising from Special Agriculture Business Leases within the Nakanai Range. This has leveraged growing private sector support to address rapid conversion of virgin forests into palm oil plantations on New Britain Island.

Equally important progress has been made on importation of PNG biodiversity data from offshore academic and research institutions. This data will allow a welcome update of the national Species Information Management Systems database hosted by the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority that has not been operational for several years. Further work to enhance the Species Information Management Systems is expected following the approval of a new project to design an Integrated Environmental Information Management System. This is complemented by the ongoing national forest inventory led by the National Forest Authority. An inception workshop was organized to finalize the design and methodology for the inventory, and project staff has been recruited. The field-sampling phase was also initiated. These efforts towards data collection and information management mean that all biodiversity data kept in other institutions nationally and internationally will be returned to PNG to inform biodiversity conservation and environment regulation.

PROMOTE LOW CARBON GROWTH AND CLIMATE RESILIENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PNG continues to take the necessary steps towards developing its capacity to establish its national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) architecture to be eligible to receive results-based payments through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UN-REDD Programme provided support on strategic advice and policy development by giving input to (the debate on) developing the REDD+ Policy. Furthermore, it contributed in refining the National Climate Compatible Development Strategy, which was transformed into the National Climate Compatible Development Management Policy. This policy in turn underlies the Climate Change Management Act that was approved by the Government. Furthermore, as part of the National UN-REDD Programme, the country has moved forward with development of Free, Prior and Informed Consent Guidelines; improved Social and Environmental Safeguards; a Framework for Benefit Sharing and Distribution Systems; an appropriate National Forest Monitoring System; operational Monitoring Reporting and Verification; and an effective Communications Strategy. These pillars are currently still being developed in isolation. Integration and synergy of activities, and efficient planning between key stakeholders, remains a challenge.

In 2015, to establish capacities for efficient management of REDD+ and the National Strategy, PNG – with the financial support of the World Bank's Forest Partnership Facility in close collaboration with the Government and the UN – launched implementation of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness project.

In addition, good progress has been made on key strategic activities envisaged under the Climate Change Development Authority (formerly the Office of Climate Change and Development). Climate Change

Adaptation initiatives include: designing an effective early warning system for inland and coastal flooding; assessment of the climate risk and vulnerabilities in five pilot provinces; conducting climate change adaptation capacity assessments; developing a capacity development plan; implementation of integrated adaptation measures in risk-prone communities; supporting community-led mangrove reforestation; and conservation awareness and education. Similarly, the report on a national scoping study on Climate Change and Urban Development is almost complete, with the editing process underway, while preparatory work is in progress to compile baseline Greenhouse Gas data. The Port Moresby Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report has also been completed. All the activities are on track and good progress has been made during the reporting period.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

The UN's engagement at subnational levels with civil society organisations has achieved good progress in 2015, focusing on community empowerment through awareness, advocacy and capacity development to enhance biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and community-based disaster risk management. Increasingly, the UN has encouraged communities to seek more socio-economic development opportunities to improve their livelihoods by participating in income-earning activities. Notable progress has been the involvement of 597 women trained in management and leadership roles by the Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative, the Eco-Timber and Community Forestry Initiative, and the Rotokas Eco-Tourism Initiative. These initiatives have generated increased interests from women to actively lead and participate in improving management of natural resources in their localities.

In other work, expanding the implementation of income earning opportunities in the area of biodiversity products, by Sepik Wetlands Management Initiative, saw 28 individual farmers trained in crocodile egg collection and incubation for transportation in East Sepik Province. Silviculture led by the Eco-Timber and Community Forestry Initiative in West Sepik Province saw 11 members trained in eaglewood biology and management as a commercial species. In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, the Rotokas Eco-Tourism Initiative contributed to at least 1,800 people being trained in trekking and other tourism activities. Overall, from these three initiatives, a total of 79 communities supported by UN through these church based organizations are participating in income earning opportunities.

In addition, the UN's support in East New Britain Province with the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement led seven villages in Arabam, Raigel and Managi wards under Sinivit Local-level Government to protect the natural rainforest. Watershed of the Warangoi dam was averted by providing alternative sources of livelihood, such as the production of natural oils and sustainable organic farming. These opportunities have resulted in more farmers becoming involved in sustainable livelihoods activities – agriculture, fisheries, forestry and eco-tourism. These livelihoods initiatives have the potential to increase income and improve sustainable resource use through better management of natural resources.

EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The UN has signed a project document with the National Disaster Centre geared towards helping the Government of Papua New Guinea to strengthen its overall disaster risk management capacities. It will also contribute to strengthening disaster preparedness mechanisms and response procedures at the national and subnational level. It will do so through the establishment of disaster risk management committees to strengthen the planning processes. Provincial Disaster Management offices will be strengthened through provision of emergency communication systems and equipment. Disaster response and preparedness will be strengthened through development of disaster risk management plans.

The National Executive Council, integrating Gender-based Violence and Gender mainstreaming activities, passed the Population Policy 2015-2024. Training on addressing these issues in humanitarian settings was completed by Bougainville Secretaries, resulting in an improved understanding of how to manage such cases. The UN System has coordinated or co-coordinated humanitarian clusters (Health, Nutrition, Shelter/Non-Food-Items), which has increased information-sharing, improved coordinated planning, and reduced duplication of efforts across the humanitarian partners, particularly during the El Nino crisis.

ENHANCED GOVERNANCE FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The in-country UN Team also received valuable support from the World Food Programme for work on disaster risk management. A major element of the UN's work to support Government is responding to and preventing disaster risks focused on the El Nino response. The UN supported the Government and humanitarian partners in a variety of ways including coordination, assessments and response planning work.

Community-based Disaster Risk Management brought together communities, local service providers and national stakeholders to expand its resource base. Throughout this process, all possible measures were taken to promote a multi-sectoral approach, as well as establish and strengthen partnerships between communities, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, private sector, and governmental agencies at various levels. This has resulted in 225 government officials being trained as facilitators.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BY COMMUNITIES

More woman and girl children are encouraged to take a leading role in Disaster Risk Reduction: 1,525 have participated, which is 300 percent over the target set for 2015.



Wanang Conservation Initiative

In response to pressing issues of climate change, commercial logging and its negative impact on livelihoods, 11 rainforest-dwelling clans of Wanang Village in Papua New Guinea combined their efforts to create a Wanang Conservation Area. The clans declared their 10,000 hectares of forest to be off-limits for logging.

The community created a 'forest dynamics plot', where they have planted more than 280,000 trees to study their responses to changing climatic conditions. A research station, which is one of the largest in the country, serves as a capacity-building hub, and trains Wanang villagers and students as para-ecologists and research technicians. The research station enhances communication between the local population and research scientists, provides a source of livelihoods, and supports environmental learning.

The initiative has become a model for community-driven conservation and development in the country and is a powerful example of partnership between a self-governed community, local NGOs, government, and research institutes.

The initiative is supported by the UN through the GEF Small Grants Programme. In 2015 Wanang Conservation was awarded the UNDP Global Equator Prize for outstanding local achievement in advancing sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. The award has brought worldwide recognition to this unique initiative.



Challenges in 2015

The ten Task Teams of the UN in PNG are supporting a varied range of development interventions across numerous sectors. Identifying common cross cutting challenges faced and mitigation strategies used is a core component of the annual progress reporting process. The identification of common challenges and response strategies feed into lesson learning that is applied to existing programmes and built into the planning process for new ones.

Below, some of the key common challenges faced in 2015 are highlighted and the mitigation strategies used to surmount them or reduce their negative impact.

CHALLENGE	STRATEGY
<p>Decreased and delayed funding for Government partners and civil society organizations. This impacts on planned delivery while having a knock-on effect impeding timely achievement of programme targets</p>	<p>Where there are funding gaps and delays affecting planned activities and delivery the UN works with relevant partners to agree core priorities and programme components that must be supported and moved forward.</p> <p>Additionally ongoing technical assistance is provided to develop capacity for leadership and financial management with governance as a cornerstone of building robust institutions.</p>
<p>In some sectors there is a current lack of effective coordination mechanisms and clarity on the mechanics of integration under national strategies. This results in delays, fragmented responses and potentially duplicative efforts and structures.</p>	<p>The UN supports the development of robust implementation and management arrangements as well as the creation of clear guidelines to deliver under agreed frameworks and work plans. Where possible Memorandums of Understanding are used to delineated expected roles, responsibilities and division of labour.</p> <p>Additionally technical support is provided to enhance coordination with the UN playing a convening role while also contributing to targeted restructuring, fast tracking and development of effective coordination tools.</p>
<p>Accessing, analysing and planning using a strong evidence base is a challenge across numerous sectors. This is due to insufficient centralised data collection & management, missing baselines and an unclear approach to results based management.</p>	<p>Where possible the UN contributes to the alleviation of data shortages through developing programmatic baseline information, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and strengthening capacity for UN, government and civil society staff on results based management, including the importance of relevant data.</p> <p>The UN also advocates for improved data collection, management and analysis across development actors in PNG. In some sectors the UN provides technical assistance and fundraising advocacy to the generation of specific data sets through special studies and surveys (for example the Integrated Bio Behavioural Survey).</p>

Delayed implementation and reporting from partners, competing priorities, insufficient capacity and lack of joint monitoring of programmes between the implementing partners and UN agencies.

When entering into partnership with organizations a stringent and in-depth assessment of their capacities must be performed. In-depth implementing partner assessments during the selection process are essential for effective and efficient programme implementation. Such assessments, made against rigorous selection criteria, help to identify risks and capacity gaps and will to necessary risk-mitigation measures. The Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer is a widely used approach that is being integrated into the UN's work across PNG.

Results oriented reporting and results based management are core elements of an effective partnership. Overall monitoring of results must be a joint effort between implementation partners and relevant UN agencies/Task Teams. Implementing Partners benefit greatly from a robust risk based monitoring framework and clear pre-set performance criteria and indicators.



The PNG UN Country Fund

OVERVIEW

The PNG UN Country Fund allows the UN in PNG to move towards a single financing method for development and provides a means for further harmonization of the UN funding mechanisms in PNG.

To minimize transaction costs for partners, the UN jointly mobilized the required additional resources and developed a single report for the Government of PNG and donors to provide an annual update on UN contributions to development results.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

The Multi-partner Trust Fund Office in New York has been appointed by Participating Organizations as the administrative agent of the PNG UN Country Fund. As per the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between participating UN organisations and the administrative agent, the responsibilities of the administrative agent include:

- the receipt, administration and management of contributions from donors,
- disbursement of such funds to the participating UN organisations in accordance with the approved programmatic documents,
- provision to the Resident Coordinator of consolidated reports, based on individual programme reports submitted by the participating UN organisations, on the PNG UN Country Fund. These reports are then submitted to the UN Country Team, the Government of PNG - UN Programme Steering Committee, and to each donor.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office maintains the GATEWAY website (mptf.undp.org), an online portal providing transparent fund management in real-time. This online site also includes a section dedicated to the PNG UN Country Fund. The GATEWAY includes extensive, real-time information on contributions to the PNG UN Country Fund; on transfers made to Participating Organizations; and on annual expenditure data and all key documents relating to the PNG UN Country Fund.

GOVERNANCE

The governance arrangements of the PNG UN Country Fund ensure national ownership and alignment with national priorities through

the Government of PNG's co-chairing of the UN Programme Steering Committee. The management responsibilities are divided between the Resident Coordinator, the Government of PNG - UN Programme Steering Committee and the UN Country Team.

The Resident Coordinator is responsible for the strategic leadership of the PNG Country Fund. This involves:

- engaging in joint resource mobilization for the PNG UN Country Fund,
- ensuring the allocation process is documented,
- ensuring consolidated PNG Country Fund level reporting in collaboration with the administrative agent and based on submissions received from participating UN organizations.

The Government of PNG - UN Programme Steering Committee is responsible for:

- monitoring the overall results of the UNDAF,
- outlining programmatic priorities,
- allocating resources at the inter-agency outcome level.

The UN Country Team is responsible for:

- monitoring the overall delivery of joint UN country strategy results,
- mediation of disputes in case of disagreements on allocations, utilization or management of the PNG UN Country Fund,
- outlining programmatic priorities,
- allocating resources at the inter-agency outcome level.

The UN Budgetary Committee:

- advises the Programme Steering Committee on resource allocations and governance arrangements of the UN Country Fund (for example, revisions of allocation criteria).

ALLOCATION PROCESS

As a general rule, donors to the PNG UN Country Fund are encouraged to contribute un-earmarked resources. Besides the preferred un-earmarked method, donors may earmark thematically by inter-agency outcome in the UNDAF. In addition, donors may earmark per agency, where earmarked funds are specifically attributed to agency staffing cost or activities within the joint annual work plans.

Financial Performance

The financial information in the tables included below has been provided by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in its capacity as the Administrative Agent of the PNG UN Country Fund and it includes multi-year funding. The net transfers as of 31 December 2015 are not limited to the budgeted expenditures for 2015 and, in some cases, also include allocations against budgeted expenditures for future years. Expenditure data is consolidated based on financial reports submitted by participating UN organizations' headquarters to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up. All amounts in the tables below are in USD.

TABLE 1 | FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The below table provides a financial overview of the PNG UN Country Fund as of 31 December 2015, highlighting the key figures as well as the balance available, both with the Administrative Agent and with Participating Organizations.

	Annual 2014	Annual 2015	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Gross Contributions	11,132,855	32,603,989	77,635,242
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,398	9,216	40,158
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	-	1,114	28,796
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF	-	-	-
Other Revenues	-	-	-
Total: Sources of Funds	11,135,253	32,614,319	77,704,197
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	8,244,282	31,174,347	71,442,264
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	(47,571)	(53,645)
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	8,244,282	31,126,776	71,388,619
Administrative Agent Fees	111,329	326,040	776,352
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)	2,777,245	-	4,348,231
Bank Charges	67	248	342
Other Expenditures	-	-	-
Total: Uses of Funds	11,132,922	31,453,064	76,513,544
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	2,331	1,161,254	1,190,652
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	27,067	29,398	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	29,398	1,190,652	1,190,652
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	8,244,282	31,126,776	71,388,619
Participating Organizations' Expenditure	5,572,859	8,378,491	35,134,243
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			36,254,376

TABLE 2 | DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

One donor contributed to the PNG UN Country Fund in 2015. From 1 January through 31 December 2015, donor contributions to the PNG UN Country Fund amounted to USD 32,603,989. In prior years, USD 45,031,254 was contributed, resulting in a cumulative contribution to the PNG UN Country Fund as of 31 December 2015 of USD 77,635,242.

Contributors	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2014	Current Year Jan-Dec 2015	Total
AUSTRALIA, Government of	10,332,855	32,603,989	42,936,844
Australian Agency for Int'l Development	25,212,449	-	25,212,449
Colgate-Palmolive (PNG) Ltd	36,950	-	36,950
Delivering Results Together	800,000	-	800,000
Expanded DaO Funding Window	4,244,000	-	4,244,000
NEW ZEALAND, Government of	3,805,000	-	3,805,000
Population Services Intl.	600,000	-	600,000
Grand Total	45,031,254	32,603,989	77,635,242

TABLE 3 | RECEIVED INTEREST AT THE FUND AND AGENCY LEVEL

Interest income is earned in two ways:

- i) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent ('Fund earned interest'), and
- ii) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations ('Agency earned interest') where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the Administrative Agent. (Many UN agencies have revised their financial rules relating to interest refunds and, as a result, no interest income was received from Participating Organizations in 2015.)

As of 31 December 2015, Fund earned interest amounted to USD 40,158 and interest received from Participating Organizations (taking into account prior years) amounts to USD 28,796, bringing the cumulative interest received to USD 68,954. Details are provided in the table below.

This amount has been, and continues to be, an additional source of income for the PNG UN Country Fund and increases the amount of funds available for allocation.

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2014	Current Year Jan-Dec 2015	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	30,943	9,216	40,158
Total: Fund Earned Interest	30,943	9,216	40,158
Participating Organization			
UNDP	26,313		26,313
UNWOMEN	1,369	1,114	2,483
Total: Agency earned interest	27,682	1,114	28,796
Grand Total	58,624	10,330	68,954

TABLE 4 | TRANSFER OF NET FUNDED AMOUNT BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

From 1 January to 31 December 2015, the PNG UN Country Fund had funded approved projects/programmes for a net total of USD 31,126,776. The distribution of approved funding by Participating Organizations is summarized in the table. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2015, a total of USD 71,388,619 had been net transferred for funding projects/programmes.

Participation Organization	Net Funded Amount		
	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2014	Current Year Jan-Dec 2015	Total
FAO	49,500		49,500
IOM		1,155,859	1,155,859
OCHA	1,017,988		1,017,988
OHCHR	90,446	753,806	844,252
UNAIDS	16,799		16,799
UNCDF	1,573,772		1,573,772
UNDP	12,569,691	5,602,559	18,172,250
UNEP	118,909		118,909
UNFPA	2,311,794		2,311,794
UNHCR	129,361		129,361
UNICEF	11,432,482	14,797,775	26,230,257
UNWOMEN	2,712,570	4,463,559	7,176,129
WHO	8,238,532	4,353,218	12,591,750
Grand Total	40,261,843	31,126,776	71,388,619

EXPENDITURE TABLES

During the reporting period, 1 January to 31 December 2015, a total of USD 8,378,491 was reported by Participating Organizations as expenditure. The cumulative total expenditure since 2009 amounts to USD 35,134,243 as of 31 December 2015. This is the equivalent of 49.22 percent of the total approved funding that was transferred to Participating Organizations as of 31 December 2015. The net transfers as of 31 December 2015 are not limited to the budgeted expenditures for 2015, and in some cases include allocations against budgeted expenditures for 2015. The delivery rates in the tables provide the percentage of actual expenditures against the total net transferred amounts. All expenditure reported for the year 2015 was submitted by the headquarters of the Participating Organizations through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Financial Reporting Portal and consolidated by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The below tables provide different cuts on this expenditure data.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for harmonized inter-agency reporting. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board modified the original six categories. Therefore, all expenditures reported from 1 January 2012 are presented in the new eight categories. The old and new categories are noted below in Table 6.

TABLE 5 | EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR WITHIN COUNTRY

Country / Sector	Expenditure				Delivery Rate %
	Net Funded Amount	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2014	Current Year Jan-Dec 2015	Total	
Change Management	100,000	149,397	(39,800)	109,597	109.60
CLU 1 2012 Governance	11,779,596	2,376,376	2,332,642	4,709,018	39.98
CLU 2 2012 Just, Protect, Gen	14,792,306	2,792,901	2,846,517	5,639,418	38.12
CLU 3 2012 Basic Services	24,945,002	2,926,360	3,140,188	6,066,548	24.32
CLU 4 2012 Environment	1,476,407	288,415	98,528	386,944	26.21
Foundations for human development	7,534,065	7,534,065		7,534,065	100.00
Gender	867,796	844,819	163	844,982	97.37
Governance and Crisis Management	6,635,757	6,680,629	22	6,680,651	100.68
HIV/AIDS	2,583,649	2,581,149	230	2,581,379	99.91
Sustainable livelihoods and Po	399,337	316,345		316,345	79.22
UN Communication and Advocacy	197,705	188,383		188,383	95.29
UN Operations	77,000	76,913		76,913	99.89
Grand Total	71,388,619	26,755,752	8,378,491	35,134,243	49.22

TABLE 6 | EXPENDITURE BY STANDARDIZED UN DEVELOPMENT GROUP BUDGET CATEGORIES

Category	Expenditure				% Total of Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2014	Current Year Jan-Dec 2015	Total		
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	603,703	-	603,703	1.84	
Personnel (Old)	4,257,805	-	4,257,805	12.96	
Training of Counterparts (Old)	896,568	-	896,568	2.73	
Contracts (Old)	1,900,870	-	1,900,870	5.79	
Other direct costs (Old)	1,448,803	-	1,448,803	4.41	
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	4,841,402	2,555,418	7,396,820	22.52	
Suppl, Comm, Materials (New)	222,094	166,511	388,605	1.18	
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn (New)	360,627	107,106	467,733	1.42	
Contractual Services (New)	2,056,554	1,941,705	3,998,259	12.17	
Travel (New)	1,617,221	775,541	2,392,761	7.29	
Transfers and Grants (New)	2,737,362	1,017,919	3,755,281	11.43	
General Operating (New)	4,187,762	1,149,373	5,337,135	16.25	
Programme Costs Total	25,130,771	7,713,573	32,844,343	100.00	
Indirect Support Costs Total	1,624,981	664,919	2,289,899	6.97	
Total	26,755,752	8,378,491	35,134,243		

COST RECOVERY

The cost recovery for the PNG UN Country Fund is guided by the applicable provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Agreements concluded between the Administrative Agent and Donors. Cost recovery, as of 31 December 2015, was as follows:

- a) The Administrative Agent fee: One percent charged at the time of donor deposits and is charged for the entire duration of the PNG UN Country Fund. As of the end of the reporting period (31 December 2015), the Administrative Agent fee amounted to USD 776,352 (USD 15,950 in 2009, USD 40,689 in 2010, USD 125,642 in 2011, USD 40,836 in 2012, USD 115,867 in 2013, USD 111,329 in 2014 and USD 326,040 in 2015).
- b) Indirect costs of Participating Organizations: As per the PNG UN Country Fund Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Administrative Agreement, Participating Organizations may charge 7 percent indirect costs on approved programme costs. As of the end of the reporting period (31 December 2015), indirect costs across all programmes and projects amounted to USD 2,289,899 or 6.97 percent of reported programme expenditure.
- c) Direct costs: As per PNG UN Country Fund Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Administrative Agreement, the Programme Steering Committee may request any of the Participating Organizations to perform additional tasks in support of the PNG UN Country Fund not related to the Administrative Agent functions. Such costs are to be charged as direct costs to the PNG UN Country Fund.

In 2015, no direct costs were charged. Since 2009, the total cumulative direct costs amounts to USD 4,348,231.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

To effectively provide fund administration services, and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office has developed a public website, the Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, as well as interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the Multi-partner Trust Fund Office portfolio and extensive information on individual funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge-sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.



Acronyms

ABG	Autonomous Bougainville Government
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations
PNG	Papua New Guinea
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHO	World Health Organization

Credits and Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank all of our valued partners for their continued support:

- Government of Papua New Guinea
- Government of Australia
- European Union
- New Zealand Aid
- UN Development Operations Coordination Office
- UN Development Group
- Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

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