

Update # 5 | 28 July 2020

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OVERVIEW

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Papua New Guinea steadily climbed to 65 in the last couple of weeks including 23 new cases reported in just one day on July 26. This is an increase of 49 in just 10 days. Eleven of the 65 people have recovered. One person who passed away due to cancer also tested positive for COVID-19. All new cases reported are in the National Capital District (NCD). The NCD rapid response team in collaboration with teams from the PNG National Department of Health, St John Ambulance PNG and WHO, is conducting ongoing thorough case investigations, contact tracing and testing of contacts.

Acting Secretary for Health and Deputy Controller for the National Pandemic Response, Dr. Paison Dakulala has urged citizens to comply with COVID-19 prevention measures adding that the increasing number of cases strengthened the evidence of continued community transmission in the National Capital District. Hospital clinical and related services in Port Moresby are being scaled down indefinitely after health workers were tested positive.

The public is reminded to observe these health measures:

- Stay home and away from others if you are sick.
- Maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5 meters in all public places
- All business establishments and offices must have hand washing facilities and make available alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Temperature checks must be consistently imposed.
- Call the toll-free hotline number 1-800200 if you have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, body ache or difficulty breathing.

UNICEF, through the generous and timely support of donors and contributors, continues to support PNG's COVID-19 response with a focus on interventions that promote sustainable behavior change and strengthen the overall health system.

HEALTH

- A total of 116 front line health workers and program managers working in district and sub-district facilities in four provinces are amongst the first master trainers that have received a combination of essential COVID-19 preparedness and response training focused on Infection, Protection and Control; Case Management and Testing; Surveillance and Contact Tracing and Risk Communication and Community Engagement. These master trainers will implement further training of health workers at district and sub-district levels. The trainings, supported by the Government of PNG and implemented through the NDoH-UNICEF PNG COVID-19 Response Project, were rolled out on 23 June 2020. Six rounds of training have already been conducted.

TRAININGS CONDUCTED SINCE 23 JUNE			
Province	Date	Rounds	# Trained
Western Highlands	23 - 25 June	1	21
Jiwaka	30 June - 2 July	2	38
Simbu	6 - 8 July	1	20
Central	7 - 9 July	2	37
UPCOMING TRAININGS			
Morobe	August 2020	3	60
Central		1	20
Gulf		2	40
Enga		1	20

CHILD PROTECTION

- With financial support from the Government of Japan and UNICEF Australia, UNICEF PNG continues to ensure immediate support and counselling is available to children and families at risk of violence and other distress. This is done through a partnership with the Child Fund Helpline. An increasing number of parents reach out to the Helpline seeking support to protect children witnessing domestic violence and child sexual abuse, as well as concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on children. The Child Fund Helpline is a **groundbreaking** initiative that is generating reliable administrative data on violence for the country. Done through a systematic collection and analysis of data on violence, abuse and neglect against women and children, the partnership is providing critical services to children and family where social services are limited.
- As part of the wider COVID-19 risk communication strategy, UNICEF is working to address the secondary impacts of the pandemic through a radio and TV miniseries. Supported by UNICEF Australia, this work draws attention to issues of domestic violence, positive parenting and mental and psychosocial support and will soon be broadcasted on local television and radio stations.

HELPLINE SERVICES PROVIDED BETWEEN 3 & 17 JULY 2020	
# of Beneficiaries	Services provided
21 adolescents (10 boys & 11 girls)	Remote counselling and mental and psychosocial support
185 adults (103 females & 82 males)	
58 children (32 girls & 26 boys) including 4 survivors of sexual abuse	Case management services



- Eight Helpline counsellors who received technical support from UNICEF to improve their skills on MHPSS, Gender Based Violence in Emergency and Child Protection in Emergency through a three-day workshop conducted over Zoom. They remarked that the training they received has better prepared them to respond to cases concerning children.
- A total of 299 dignity kits were distributed to women and children living in out-of-home care facilities in Port Moresby and the National Capital District. The kits, procured by UNICEF through funding support provided by the Government of Japan, also include information materials in English and Tok Pisin on prevention of violence and positive parenting. An assessment of additional facilities in the provinces that need the same support is continuing and will inform further distribution of the kits and other hygiene items.

Education

- The National Department of Education, through financial support from UNICEF and the Global Partnership for Education, has extended the broadcast of lessons on EMTV for another three months. These lessons will also include sign language interpretation so children with hearing impairments can follow the lessons.
- When the COVID19 lockdown in PNG forced schools to close on 24 March 2020 disrupting the education of almost 2.4 million students, the National Department of Education (PNG) urgently scaled-up its approach to support the continuation of learning to mitigate the impacts of school closures on the learning outcomes, health, wellbeing and development of the school-age population. We captured this intervention in a case study - [Papua New Guinea – Opening up schools better](#)

WASH

- WASH interventions to promote handwashing and good hygiene practices in 44 National Capital District schools continue to benefit students. More than 66, 000 students (35,027 boys and 31,769 girls) in these 44 schools now



Supervised handwashing at Gerehu Primary School in Port Moresby

have access to hygiene promotion programs supported by the Government of Japan. Twenty eight schools have active hygiene clubs while 12 schools are still in the process of setting up their hygiene clubs. Key hygiene promotion messages on banners and posters have been distributed to 20 schools and 13 schools have received dignity kits.

- Through multi donor support from USAID, the UK Government and European Union, UNICEF is procuring 6,000 hygiene kits that will benefit 20,000 people in the four districts of Nawaeb, Goroka, Mt. Hagen and Central Bougainville under the *Klinpela Komuniti Projek* that the European Union supports. These kits will also include critical information on gender-based violence and violence against children.

- Nine urban clinics in Lae and Goroka have been assessed to determine the scope of work that will be required to improve WASH facilities. These health facilities serve a population of approximately 20,000 people.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- A COVID-19 awareness song, [Wok Bung Wantaim](#), featuring popular PNG artists – Sprigga Mek, Cammy Bee and Brady Skate – that promotes national unity to fight COVID-19 continues to be played on radio stations reaching thousands of listeners around the country. The song and a video produced in partnership with the National Department of Health with support from the UK Government features a mix of English and Tok Pisin lyrics that advocate for the new normal and better hygiene and sanitation practices as part of the country’s COVID-19 response.
- With support from the Government of PNG, the song and video are being broadcasted on 116 spots during prime time on FM 100, Hot 97 FM, TV WAN and EMTV between 16 July and 16 August. That has a potential to reach 95 per cent of the country’s listenership and viewership. [Click here to watch the video.](#)



The making of the ‘Wok Bung Wantaim’ video. PNG popular artist, Sprigga Mek and a video crew filming in Port Moresby

Our Support to the COVID-19 Response and Progress to Date

Below is a summary of progress against select key performance indicators.

THEMATIC PRIORITY AREA	INDICATOR	PROGRESS
Risk Communication & Community Engagement	Number of people reached on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services (RCCE)	85%
Critical Supply & Logistics	Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	49%
Addressing Primary Impacts (Health/Nutrition and WASH)	Number of women and children that have continued access to obstetric, neo- and postnatal and child health care including immunization services	57%
	Number of people reached with nutrition messages in the context of Covid-19	99%
Addressing socio-economic impacts (Education, Child Protection, Social Protection & ECD)	Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	100%

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19



WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY WITH SOAP



LIMIT SOCIAL GATHERINGS



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE



KEEP AT LEAST 1.5M DISTANCE FROM OTHERS



AVOID SPITTING IN PUBLIC PLACES



CLEAN & DISINFECT SURFACES



COUGH IN BENT ELBOW NOT HANDS



AVOID CONTACT WHEN GREETING

#Stopcovid19

#lukautimheltbilongyu

#healthyhabitssavelives



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