



Public messaging on COVID-19 prevention, handwashing and hygiene promoted at five bus stops in Port Moresby

### OVERVIEW

Three more COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Papua New Guinea recently bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 11. Emergency Controller, David Manning announced the cases following the return of positive results. An investigation is currently underway to identify the source of infection for all recent cases. More than 500 tests have been done in the past few days and an aggressive contact tracing exercise is also ongoing.

Through the generous and timely support of donors and contributors, UNICEF continues to support the Government’s COVID-19 preparedness strategy including interventions that promote sustainable behavior change and strengthen the overall health system to be able to respond to future pandemics.

### HEALTH

- On 20 June, PNG’s health system received six ventilators through collaborative efforts of UNICEF and UNDP. These are the first batch of 30 ventilators scheduled to be delivered to PNG. Through support by the Government of New Zealand, UNICEF has procured 10 of the 30 ventilators that will add to the country’s capacity to treat possible future acute COVID-19 and related critical respiratory cases. Longer-term, this equipment will enhance the country’s health system’s capacity to support intensive treatment for acute respiratory and other life-threatening illnesses.



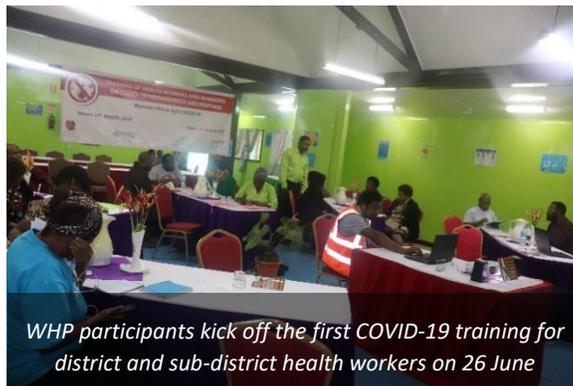
The first batch of 6 ventilators that arrived in PNG on 20 June

**THANK YOU** to our donors & contributors for supporting our work:

- European Union
- GAVI
- Global Partnership for Education
- Government of Australia
- Government of Japan
- Government of New Zealand
- Government of USA (USAID)
- Newcrest Mining Limited
- UK Government (DFID)
- UNICEF Australia
- World Bank

- Through the NDOH-UNICEF PNG COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (with World Bank financing), 3,000 front line health workers and program managers in district and sub-district health facilities

across the seven highlands provinces will receive essential COVID-19 preparedness and response training in the areas of Infection, Protection and Control; Case Management and Testing; Surveillance and Contact Tracing and Risk Communication and Community Engagement. UNICEF, WHO and the Department of Health in partnership with local NGO – Touching the Untouchables – rolled out the inaugural training on 26 June and facilitated the first workshop in Mt. Hagen for 20 participants who represented district and sub-district facilities across Western Highlands Province. A second batch of 20 participants from Jiwaka Province attended the three-day training from 30 June to 2 July.



*WHP participants kick off the first COVID-19 training for district and sub-district health workers on 26 June*

## CHILD PROTECTION

- Through an ongoing partnership with the ChildFund Helpline, UNICEF provided critical remote counselling and mental and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to three adolescents aged 11-16 (1 girl and 2 boys), and to 101 adults (32 males, 69 females) in the past two weeks. To expand MHPSS services to more children and adolescents in PNG, UNICEF also trained 10 counsellors of the ChildFund Helpline on the use of U-partners, a platform that allows online counselling and referral, while ensuring privacy and confidentiality. In addition, 27 children and adolescents aged 2-17 years (14 girls and 13 boys) who experienced and reported violence or neglect to the Helpline were referred to the Family Support Centres and the police for essential services. Concerningly, seven of the 27 cases were of sexual abuse.



*ChildFund Counsellors at the U-Partner training on 12 June*

- MHPSS messages and parenting tips continued to be disseminated through online and social media reaching over 39,000 Facebook users during the reporting period.

- In the first two weeks of June, UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment on the secondary impact of Covid-19 on children, focusing on MHPSS, violence and other protection issues. The survey, disseminated through social media, including U-report, and to existing clusters and sub-clusters, showed that over a quarter of respondents (27%) acknowledge there was an increase in domestic violence during the State of Emergency (SOE), specifically physical violence (45%) against women and children; 37% of the respondents indicated there had been an

increase of physical discipline during the SOE and nearly one-third of respondents reported physical discipline of children in their communities that involved shouting, yelling or screaming at the child (28%); spanking, hitting or slapping the child (16%), or calling the child dumb and lazy (13%). These findings will inform the UN in PNG socio-economic assessment being finalized and UNICEF programs in the new normal.

- In collaboration with the Government, UNICEF continues to support community engagement initiatives on prevention, early detection and on the secondary risks of COVID-19. Following the first training held in May 2020, 204 people participated in the second round of training held from 15 – 26 June that targeted school personnel and social welfare workers, bringing the total number of people trained to date to 434.

## EDUCATION

- In close collaboration with Save the Children and the Government of Australia, the National Departments of Education and Health have developed age appropriate behavior change communication materials for students, teachers and parents/caregivers to explain what COVID-19 is and how the pandemic can be prevented and controlled in schools. UNICEF will print and distribute these materials as part of a national back to school campaign sponsored by the Global Partnership for Education, Government of Australia and World Bank. Now that the schools have reopened in PNG, the key issue is to get children back to school again. The behavior change communication materials will encourage students and teachers to return to classes and reassure parents and caregivers to send their children to school daily.
- School closures due to the COVID-19 lock down directly affected close to 2.4 million school children in PNG. With support from the Global Partnership for Education and the Government of Australia, the Government of Papua New Guinea is ensuring all students continue quality learning during the coronavirus pandemic. The substantial support both agencies provide is in line with the PNG COVID-19 Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan. By funding sustainable initiatives, GPE is helping rebuild the education system's capacity to respond to and resist future crises to ensure a prosperous and secure future for children. Click on this link to learn more about this support - [Papua New Guinea reinventing learning in the time of coronavirus](#).

## WASH

- WASH interventions to promote handwashing and good hygiene practices in schools are maintaining momentum. A total of 152 teachers (44 male and 108 females) and 87 students (44 male and 108 females) from 42 of the targeted 44 schools in Port Moresby received WASH training on the formation of school hygiene clubs and the development of school WASH activity plans during the first two weeks of June. UNICEF is currently monitoring the implementation and impact of the school hygiene promotion plans.
- More than 59,767 students (29,457 girls 30,310 boys) in 40 schools in the National Capital District now have access to clean water and handwashing points that the Government of Japan supported.
- With support from the European Union and in collaboration with the National Capital District Authority, UNICEF is ramping up public prevention messages and has facilitated the following behavior change communication materials to ramp up and support the spread of public messaging promoting prevention, handwashing and hygiene:
  - Three hundred stickers reinforcing key messages have been strategically placed around Port Moresby. Two hundred stickers have been distributed across four main Port Moresby markets – Gordons, Boroko, Waigani and Gerehu – where an estimated population of 54,000 market vendors and customers converge daily, while 100 stickers are placed in 38 Port Moresby primary schools reaching an estimated 52,000 students.
  - In partnership with National Capital District Commission, public messaging is further strengthened on mobile billboards through the use of 20 buses, including 15 that transport primary, secondary and tertiary students to and from schools in Port Moresby. An estimated 80,000 students in addition to the thousands of public transport users are directly exposed to these critical behavior change messages on a daily basis.



*Promoting public messaging on mobile billboards using buses that transport students to and from schools in Port Moresby*



➤ An estimated 100,000 Port Moresby dwellers are expected to be exposed to COVID-19 behavior change messaging on seven billboards and five bus stops strategically located across Port Moresby as part of a joint campaign in partnership with NCDC.

➤ In the highlands, an estimated 50,000 people are exposed to public behavior change communication through mobile billboards using the public transport servicing the highlands highway linking Southern Highlands, Enga, Western Highlands, Chimbu, Eastern Highlands, Madang and Morobe provinces.

- The COVID-19 song featuring popular PNG artists – Sprigga Mek, Brady Skate and Cammy Bee – promoting national unity to fight COVID-19 continues to be played on demand on radio stations that is reaching and impacting thousands of listeners daily.

Brady Skate and Cammy Bee – promoting national unity to fight COVID-19 continues to be played on demand on radio stations that is reaching and impacting thousands of listeners daily.

## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- A national mass media campaign, supported by the Government of Japan and facilitated by UNICEF and the Department of Health, focused on building awareness and raising the risk perception on COVID-19 is ongoing with key behavior change messages broadcasted over 800 times on a monthly basis on four major media channels - NBC TV, Wantok Radio Light, Radio Maria and FM100 .
- A 10-day training from 15 – 26 June supported by USAID enabled 204 teachers and social workers from 57 Port Moresby schools including Early Childhood and Development, primary and vocational schools to be trained as trainers on Risk Communication, hygiene practices, nutrition and mental health and psychosocial protection.



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