



UNICEF is supporting the installation of water points like this one at the St Peter's Chanel Primary School at Erima in Port Moresby in 39 schools in the National Capital District. Two water points are installed in each school.

OVERVIEW

Since the country's preparedness and response plans kicked off in January 2020, UNICEF continues to provide technical, financial, policy and programmatic support to the Government of Papua New Guinea in its efforts to fight COVID-19.

To date, out of eight confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country, all have fully recovered.

While the State of Emergency (SOE) that was declared by the Government on 20 March remains in place, several restrictions, guided by public health principles and economic and societal contributions, have been relaxed. Some of these relaxed restrictions include the return of students to school and resumption of domestic flights, except for those to the border provinces of Western and West Sepik Provinces. Restrictions still apply to all incoming international flights.

The Government's COVID-19 Situation Report # 19 highlights that as of 1 May, a total of 7,507 people were

Thank you!

UNICEF's support to the COVID-19 response has been made possible through the generous and timely contributions from public and private sector donors. We extend a deep appreciation and thanks to the following for the support received and pledges that have been made enabling UNICEF PNG to continue the fight against COVID-19 in critical areas:

- European Union
- GAVI
- Government of Australia
- Government of Japan
- Government of New Zealand
- Government of USA (USAID)
- UK Government (DFID)
- UNICEF Australia
- World Bank

identified as 'persons of interest'. Of these, 7,438 (99 %) completed the 14 day follow up period, while 69 are still being monitored by the Surveillance Team.

HEALTH

In close collaboration with the National Department of Health, WHO and development partners, UNICEF continues to work towards ensuring frontline health workers are well equipped to continue providing health services to those in need. To date, 500 of the targeted 2,500 front line health workers have been provided with Personal Protective Equipment following an initial distribution in March .

- This week, a partial 2.6 tonnes of a second shipment of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) arrived in the country for front line health workers. These supplies will be distributed to health facilities across the country. The remainder of the second shipment plus third and final shipment of PPE supplies are expected to arrive in the country in early June.



| 2nd SHIPMENT OF PPE & IPC SUPPLIES | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| ITEM | QUANTITY |
| Coveralls | 5,000 |
| Surgical Gowns | 42,400 |
| Surgical Masks | 84,000 |
| Fog resistant face shields | 59,520 |
| Clinical thermometers | 120 |

- UNICEF, in partnership with the Government through the National Department of Health and WHO, provided technical inputs for a capacity development plan and proposal for more than 3,000 health workers and managers across the country on Infection, Prevention and Control measures, contact tracing and COVID-29 mass screening in high risk areas, diagnostic training for sample collection, testing and transportation and communication with patients and clinical management of COVID-19 cases.

EDUCATION

UNICEF is working in collaboration with key partners including the Government of Australia, Save the Children, PNG Partnership Fund, PNG Disability Sector Coalition and the Global Partnership for Education to ensure all boys and girls access remote learning packages through digital, radio and television during the COVID-19 response. To date 370,777 of the targeted 300,000 children, including 168,000 girls have been supported with home-based learning through radio and television broadcast of language, mathematics and science lessons.

- Established and activated two online learning platforms to support the continuation of teaching and learning for students at home during COVID-19:
 - <https://elearning.education.gov.pg/moodle> - A learning management system site that has been established and will be made available to students and teachers to continue teaching and learning.
 - <https://mypnghomestudy.puremathsolutions.com> - A website where subject contents and videos are being uploaded in line with subject grade, term and topics for students to learn at home. More content will be uploaded for students to access.

Access to online learning materials and radio and television lesson remains a huge challenge for many children in towns and more so in rural and remote areas. The lack of access to radio, television, computers and internet connectivity and financial constraints for data purchase are amongst challenges preventing children from accessing online and broadcast learning material. The Education Cluster is looking at ways address these challenges.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Child Protection Sub-Cluster has been activated and is chaired by the National Office of Child and Family Services and UNICEF. Members include international and national NGOs, Government stakeholders including the Department of Justice and Attorney General and civil society members.

- The ***National Child Protection in Emergencies Preparedness and Response Strategy*** that was developed by the National Office for Child and family Services with technical guidance from UNICEF is undergoing the final stages of the approval process by the National Executive Council. The strategy, outlining child rights, key considerations and strategies for the COVID-19 response as it relates to children, is now being costed, and will serve as the blueprint for the work of the Government and development partners in ensuring the rights and needs of children are highlighted and addressed as part of PNG's overall response to COVID-19 and beyond.
- UNICEF and ChildFund finalized a partnership to expand the ***"1 Tok Kanselin Helpim Lain"*** to provide mental health and psychosocial support to children and adolescents, as well as parents and caregivers. UNICEF will provide the counsellors with trainings on mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence in emergencies and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation. To ensure a solid case management system in the National Capital District, an *'emergency fund'* has been designed through the helpline to facilitate links between the helpline and other service providers such as the welfare office and police.
- Adapted global parenting tips into quizzes to engage parents and caregivers through U-Report. These tips are also being disseminated through social media in English and Tok Pisin.

WASH

Through collaborative efforts with partners including the National Departments of Health and Education, European Union, World Vision, ADRA, Oxfam, Care and Anglicare, UNICEF is supporting ongoing work in the provision of clean water and promotion of hygiene key messages. To date, 80,000 of the 138,000 targeted children have been reached with personal hygiene messages while 12,000 out of a targeted 213,000 people have received critical WASH supplies and services.



Promoting key hygiene and prevention message on city buses

- UNICEF is supporting the construction of 80 water points in 39 schools in the National Capital District to provide clean water and handwashing facilities for up to 40,000 school children.
- Through the EU-funded *Klinpela Komuniti Projek*, UNICEF is facilitating ongoing COVID-19 awareness activities in four districts in the country – Nawaeb in Morobe Province, Bougainville Central in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Goroka in Eastern Highlands Province and Hagen Central in Western Highlands Province. In addition,

UNICEF has engaged public transport buses to ramp up hygiene promotion in Port Moresby. A total of 28 buses that service all city routes including routes outside the city have hygiene and handwashing promotion information featured on the sides of the buses.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO and other key stakeholders to implement the Risk Communication and Community Engagement plan that aims to reach up to 95 percent of the population with key protection and risk reduction messages and information on access to services.

COVID-19 protection messages are being broadcasted on television and two radio stations reaching a wide range of target audiences across the country. Some 300 community leaders in the National Capital District including school inspectors, church pastors, women groups, youth leaders, police and defense force representatives as well as all government departments and stakeholders have been sensitized on potential risks and the impact on communities and trained on managing the impact of COVID-19.

Media practitioners have been sensitized on the role and responsibility of the media in advocating for the protection of the rights of children, women, adolescents and marginalized population and access the basic services in under the state of emergency

More than 12,000 of a targeted 250,000 people have shared their concerns and asked questions about support services to address their needs through feedback mechanisms on U-Report and social media.

UNITED NATIONS SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT FRAMEWORK

UNICEF is participating in and contributing to the UN Socio Economic Impact Framework that the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office is leading.

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