

# Supporting the COVID-19 response in Papua New Guinea

Update # 1 – 20 April 2020



*The first shipment of tents that arrived in the country in March have been installed in 5 sites in Port Moresby for pre-triage screening activities.*

## OVERVIEW

UNICEF has been supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 response since the end of January 2020 when the Government initiated its preparedness and response plan.

The Prime Minister declared a State of Emergency (SOE) on 20 March following the announcement of the first confirmed case where the country observed a two-week lockdown from 22 March – 5 April. The SOE was extended to two months on 7 April after a second case was confirmed. New SOE orders were issued on 17 April after five more new cases were confirmed.

UNICEF PNG expresses deep gratitude to all public and private sector donors - the Governments of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America, European Union, Global Partnership for Education, UNICEF Australia and GAVI for the contributions and pledges received, which are making UNICEF's support to the Government's response to COVID-19 possible.

## HEALTH

- An initial distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including 500 face shields, 1,000 heavy duty gloves, 5,000 surgical masks, 20,000 examination gloves, 1,500 protective gowns for frontline health workers in 22 provinces was conducted in March.
- An additional supply of PPE and Infection Control (IPC) equipment including surgical and medical masks, face shields, gloves, goggles, surgical gowns and aprons,



*One of 6 tents pitched at the Port Moresby General Hospital grounds for pre-triage screening activities.*

overall protective suits, infrared thermometers and 10 ventilators worth USD 1 million have been ordered and are expected to arrive in PNG in late April

- Procured and installed six (72 sqm) tents in five Port Moresby sites for pre-triage screening activities which are in use now.
- Provided an additional 24 72 sqm tents, 25 42 sqm tents and 1200 accessories (chairs, tables, waste bins etc) to establish pre-triage screening centres in all provincial hospitals.

## EDUCATION

- Successfully advocated with the Government to release Tuition Fee Subsidy school grants (almost USD 15 million) for teachers in more than 13,000 schools to prepare learning materials for students during COVID-19 and to enhance WASH practices in schools.

- With UNICEF’s financial support, continuity of learning has been ensured through the establishment of an ICT platform for online teaching and learning for nationwide daily TV and radio broadcasts of lessons for elementary/primary and secondary schools benefitting over 370,000 children including more than 168,000 girls.

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	MEDIA	TOTAL	GIRLS
Primary (Year 1 - 6)	Radio	351,803	160,439
Secondary (Year 7, 8 and 11)	Television	18,974	7,660
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>370,777</b>	<b>168,099</b>

## CHILD PROTECTION

- With UNICEF technical and financial support, a rapid assessment of residential care and correctional facilities to identify number of children in these institutions, their needs and potential risks has been completed and the findings are being finalized.
- Supporting the Government in finalizing alternative care guidelines and procedures to respond to children in need of alternative care during COVID-19.
- High level advocacy on the rights of children deprived of their liberty during COVID-19 is ongoing to ensure the release of children currently in correctional facilities for petty crimes, and to stop new entries during this time.
- As a result of UNICEF high-level advocacy and financial support, the social welfare sector remains operational during the current State of Emergency to provide care and protection to children, especially case management services to children affected by abuse and violence averaging ten children per day in Port Moresby.

## WASH

- Through WASH global thematic funding, supported a week-long school awareness and hygiene promotion campaign in February that reached 80,000 students in 82 elementary, primary, secondary, national high schools and tertiary institutions in Port Moresby.
- UNICEF, with funding from the European Union, has expanded the scope of the ongoing ‘EU-UNICEF *Klinpela Komuniti Projek*’ WASH interventions with the provision of clean water to over 2,000 households and hygiene kits to over 1,400 households in 800 communities in four districts.
- Through support from the Japanese Government, implementing hand washing points and a hygiene campaign in 39 high density schools in Port Moresby. Planning is ongoing to extend the hygiene campaign to schools in Morobe Province.

- With support from USAID, UNICEF will provide WASH services and hygiene campaign in 13 healthcare facilities in NCD and 10 health care facilities in Morobe Province.

## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In collaboration with the Government, WHO and other partners:

- Developed a national communication plan focusing on risk communication and community engagement that is currently being implemented and has guided the communications planning of 22 provinces.



*Official opening of the COVID-19 isolation tents in Port Moresby that UNICEF helped set up*

of key prevention messages and promotion of key messages on the secondary impacts of COVID-19.

- Developed a national Risk Communication and Community Engagement plan to address public anxiety, build trust and facilitate community participation.
- Supported a month-long radio campaign on FM 100 radio station that reached 95 percent of the country's population with awareness and key prevention messages.
- Printed and disseminated 100,000 A2 format posters on COVID-19 to all 22 provinces in the country.
- Finalising a 6-month national media engagement plan across all sectors for COVID-19 awareness, dissemination

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- Interview done by UNICEF Representative on 11 April highlighting UNICEF's support to PNG's COVID-19 response for a 30-minute EMTV documentary.
- UNICEF Nutrition Officer, Margaret Rombuk, participated in a live EMTV discussion on nutrition aspects in relation to COVID-19 and promoted key messages on infant and child young feeding.
- UNICEF invited to participate in an upcoming documentary by soon-to-be-launched Tribe TV.



*UNICEF Rep, David McLaughlin talks to EMTV about UNICEF's support*

## LOGISTICS

- Supporting the distribution of tents for pre-triage and isolation units and risk communication and community engagement posters to all provinces in the country