



OVERVIEW

By end of September 2022, more than 353,277 people had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (6.9 % of total target population) while more than 293,579 people are fully vaccinated (5.74 % of total target population). The country had recorded a cumulative total of 44,981 positive COVID-19 cases and 664 COVID-19 related deaths.

VACCINATION STATUS (SEPTEMBER 2022)

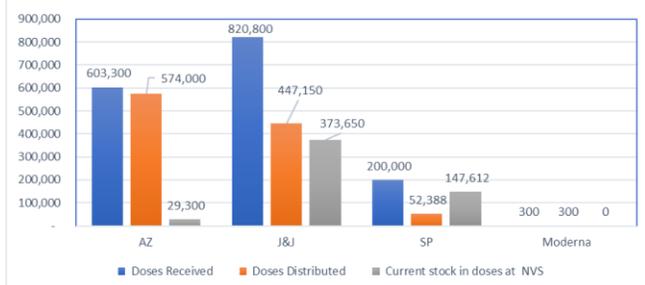
People vaccinated with 1 dose	353,277
People vaccinated with 2 doses	293,579

COVID - 19 SUMMARY (SEPTEMBER 2022)

Total cumulative cases	44,981
Known COVID-19 related deaths	664

HEALTH

Covid-19 Vaccine Stock Status- National level



UNICEF continues to provide technical support in the logistics and health operation Technical Advisory Group (TAG) around monitoring, evaluation, learning and documentations of the Ministerial Task Force on COVID-19 vaccine deployment. As part of this continued engagement, UNICEF shared bi-weekly vaccine stock balances and utilization reports with respective stakeholders ensuring all concerned parties were fully informed of vaccine stock and utilization status.

- In August and September 2022, UNICEF facilitated the distribution of 32,800 J&J and 30,700 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines across the country. These vaccines were provided by the Government of Australia Netherland and, COVAX facility.
- UNICEF continues to provide technical advice to the government and support advocacy efforts to sustain and integrate COVID-19 vaccination into the routine immunization program that will help increase coverage and prevent the emergence of virus variants.
- Through support provided by UNICEF Australia, UNICEF facilitated the development of training curriculum that will be used to train health workers in New Ireland province in early October in preparation for the roll-out of the integrated routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccination outreach program.
- Through support provided by the Government of Japan, the stock management tool (mSupply) was rolled out in 300 Health Facilities including 22 provincial vaccine stores and the National Vaccine store. It is expected that the learning from this initiative will help strengthen advocate efforts for the government, through the National Department of Health (NDOH) to promote sustainable investment in solutions that contribute to improving the logistics and supply chain management of supplies and commodities (beyond immunization) at all levels of the health system.
- As of September 2022, 93 per cent of functional health facilities around the country are equipped with cold chain equipment and 95 per cent of the installed cold chain equipment are fully functional. Made possible through support provided by GAVI, DFAT and the Government of Japan and facilitated by UNICEF, these equipments ensure uninterrupted supply of COVID-19 and routine immunization vaccines for many remote health facilities.

NUTRITION

UNICEF continued supporting the Government to ensure continuity of nutrition services in the country. During this reporting period:

- A total of 11,678 caregivers were reached with messaging on appropriate maternal and child feeding practices. The focus has been on ensuring exclusive breastfeeding for children under 6 months and appropriate complementary feeding for those 6-23 months.
- About 228 children under five years with Severe Acute Malnutrition were identified with 212 of them admitted for treatment.
- As part of Anemia and micronutrient deficiency prevention and control, 4,793 children 6-59 months received Micronutrient powder, 3,265 were dewormed while 3,388 received Vitamin A supplementation.
- About 2,331 school going children have been reached with nutrition education, 1,308 have been reached with deworming while 199 adolescent boys and girls have received Iron Folate.
- A total of 30 front line service providers from 10 provinces were trained on nutrition service delivery. The trainees comprised of Government and civil society organization staff. They have been deployed in provinces where they are supporting the roll out of nutrition services in health facilities, communities and in schools.



It is expected that the scale up of nutrition services to an additional seven province will increase coverage of nutrition interventions.

EDUCATION

UNICEF continues to work in collaboration with the National Department of Education and partners – Save the Children and Childfund – to implement the Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (EERRP) that is supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Government of Australia. The EERRP interventions are focused in five provinces (Morobe, Madang, Western and Sandaun Provinces and the National Capital District) across Early Childhood Education, Elementary, Primary, Secondary, Inclusive Education Resource Centres (IERCs) and Vocational Education Training (VET) centres.

- More than 110,500 students in the five project locations will each receive a Home Learning Pack (HLP). These HLP have been printed and are being distributed to help ensure that students catch up on lessons and continue learning. A total of 1,930 teachers have been trained on how to use the Home Learning Packs.

- To support ongoing data collection and feedback, 45 school inspectors at district level have been trained to support monitoring and evaluation of interventions in target schools to date. The trained school inspections teams and enumerators have visited 286 schools across all sectors in target provinces visit using the comprehensive ‘Global Monitoring’ tool to monitor EERRP interventions including the practice of New Normal Guidelines in schools, use of home learning and booster pack, disaster risk management plans included in the School Learning Improvement Plan and psychosocial support provided by teachers for students where needed. Key findings will be included in the planned endline study at the end of the EERRP program to measure impact since the baseline study was conducted at the inception. The exercise has built the capacity of national and provincial education officers on data collection and mentorship support provided to schools during their visits.

SECTOR	SCHOOLS VISITED
Early Childhood Education	24
Elementary	114
Primary	106
High Schools/Secondary	22
Flexible Open Distance Education	4
Vocational Education Training	8
Inclusive Education Resource Centre	8

- UNICEF facilitated the printing of 15,500 copies of Bilum books past exam papers which are being distributed to 29 high schools/secondary schools to help students familiarize themselves with exam standards. Using these resources, schools will provide relevant support to students to help improve learning aimed at contributing to higher rates of transition.
- A total of 6,051 (F: 3,089) teachers have been trained on how to use Booster Packs to help students catch up on lessons. Training of Trainers (TOT) in all locations is completed.
- The Technical Vocational Education Training Curriculum Division has developed courses on seven of 11 qualifications in five sectors namely, Workplace Skills, Tourism & Hospitality, Skills for Vocational Pathways, Agriculture/Horticulture and Automotive Vocational Preparation. These courses, contextualized to the PNG context, are part of an exercise to support the Department of Education offer alternative learning opportunities through Vocational Education Training at secondary level for high school and secondary school students to gain creditable trade qualifications. A total of 66 products have been drafted from 7 qualifications. Prior to course writing, 111 VET curriculum officers received inservice training on competency-based training and assessment.

WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE



- Through support provided by the Australian Government under Phase II of the Education in Emergencies Response and Recovery Plan, UNICEF in partnership with Anis Foundation, completed handwashing facilities with increased water storage capacity in 91 schools in NCD and Lae. Over 32,800 students (15,764 girls) are positively impacted by this intervention. In addition, students received key messages and information on handwashing and personal hygiene. A total of 1276 teachers, management board and school staff members were trained on the importance of hygiene and sanitation, operation and maintenance, and incorporation of WASH in School Learning Improvement Plans.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- More than 4 million people have been reached with vital information about the efficacy of vaccination against COVID-19 through the **“Election COVID-19 BE SAFE”** nationwide mass and social media campaign - 12 radio spots aired through FM 100, 97 Hot FM, PNG FM and NBC as well as 9 press advertisements placed in the Post Courier and The National dailies.
- 284,000 community people (149,000 males and 135,000 females) have been engaged in 22 provinces through a partnership with Save the Children, Touching the Untouchables and the Catholic Church Health Services to create awareness and increase demand for COVID-19 vaccine.
- More than 3,500 health workers, volunteers, community leaders, church leaders and influencers have been trained, sensitized and are engaged in COVID-19 community awareness building.
- Five additional national Health Promotion Officers were recruited, trained and deployed to provide technical and coordination support to Provincial Health Authorities and Lead Partners on the ground, including engaging and mobilizing communities towards increasing COVID-19 vaccine and Routine Immunization. The recent recruitment brings the total number of Health Promotion Officers to 14



THANK YOU – OUR SUPPORTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

UNICEF, with the generous and timely support of our donors and contributors, continues to work in collaboration with the Government of Papua New Guinea, WHO and development and implementing partners to fight COVID-19.

We express sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to our donors and contributors for their support that is enabling UNICEF to support the PNG Government's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategy and implement interventions that promote sustainable behavior change and strengthen the overall health system to be able to further respond to any future pandemics.

DONOR	AMOUNT (USD)	THEMATIC AREA FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE (2020 – 2021)
Australian Committee for UNICEF (including funding from Newcrest Mining Limited)	2,705,994	Provision of critical supply and logistics for improving Infection Prevention and Control (IPC); Child Protection Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS); COVID -19 vaccine deployment in New Ireland Province
European Commission	3,422,805	Water and Sanitation Hygiene; Provision of water systems and soap for prevention and control of COVID-19; Support for mass media campaign and RCCE interventions
GAVI	383,000	Provision of critical supply and logistics for improving IPC. Support human resources to generate vaccine demand and promote community engagement interventions
Global Partnership for Education	9,495,000	Support implementation of the PNG COVID-19 Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan
Government of Australia through PNGAus Partnership	19,541,432	Provision of critical supply & logistics for improving IPC; Child Protection Mental Health Psychosocial Support; ensure students and teachers return to school and are safe; prevention and control of COVID-19 through WASH in schools and safe teaching and learning in secondary schools. Support COVID-19 vaccines deployment nationally; expansion of Education in Emergencies Response and Recovery plan
Government of Japan	9,961,472	Risk Communication & Community Engagement; Provision of critical supply & logistics for improving IPC, WASH, Child Protection MHPSS
Government of New Zealand	2,309,183	Provision of critical supply & logistics for improving IPC
Government of Papua New Guinea (World Bank Pacific Financing)	8,294,910	Risk Communication and Community Engagement; Provision of critical supply & logistics for improving IPC, contact tracing, screening, human resource development for IPC
Temesak	224,000	Support for implementation of responses for Violence Against Children and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Interventions
UK Government (DFID)	231,900	Water and Sanitation Hygiene
UN Secretary General Fund for COVID-19 Response	308,517	Nutrition; A joint United Nations COVID-19 response integrating Water and Sanitation Hygiene, Nutrition, Maternal & Newborn Health interventions in Kiunga, Western Province.
US Government (USAID)	1,611,111	Water and Sanitation Hygiene; Risk Communication and Community Engagement; Socio-Economic Impact Assessment; Demand generation for COVID-19 vaccine deployment
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	58,489,324	

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