



The Grade 6A class at Kiunga Town Primary School are happy recipients of the Home Learning Packs. See more information on page 3.

OVERVIEW

By the end of November 2021, more than 278,000 people had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. These include over 14,000 health care workers and more than 264,000 people above the age of 18. In the 18 and above age group, more than 6,000 people have existing underlying health conditions that puts them at high risk of severe disease or death if infected with COVID-19. In addition, more than 210,000 people are fully vaccinated as of end of November 2021. The country, as of November, had recorded a cumulative total of 35,090 positive COVID-19 cases including 349 identified delta variant cases.

VACCINATION STATUS – NOVEMBER 2021		COVID-19 SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 2021	
People vaccinated with 1 dose	278,8802	Total cumulative cases	35,090
Health workers vaccinated with 1 dose	14,366	Recovered Cases	33,852
Persons aged more than 18 years (excluding health workers)	264,514	Active cases	692
People vaccinated with 2 doses	210,805	Known COVID-19 related deaths	545

HEALTH

Vaccine distribution by vaccine type in November 2021 in Papua New Guinea

■ AstraZeneca ■ Johnson and Johnson ■ Sinopharm

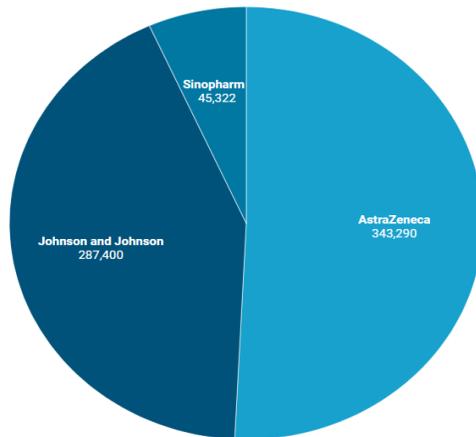


Chart: UNICEF-PNG • Source: PNG NDOH/NCC COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

- UNICEF has supported the backhauling and redistribution of vaccines to rationalize stock levels with utilization. Due to low consumption, about 30,000 doses of the J&J vaccines are being backhauled from Western Highlands, Madang, Jiwaka, Hela, West Sepik and West New Britain provinces. The doses are being redeployed to NCD and East New Britain due to increased demand and utilization in these provinces.

- UNICEF has participated in and provided technical support in the logistics and health operations Technical Advisory Group of the Ministerial Task Force on COVID-19 vaccine deployment. As part of this engagement, UNICEF has supported the Government in the forecasting for vaccine supply needs for the first quarter of 2022.

CHILD PROTECTION

- The 1 Tok Kaunselin Helpline operated by ChildFund and supported by UNICEF continues to provide on-going 24-hour services focused on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children, parents and caregivers through case management, referrals, counselling and crisis intervention support.
- The cumulative data from the Helpline for the reporting period include:
 - 1,349 children (740 male and 609 females) who received MHPSS support
 - 3,731 parents and caregivers (1,779 females and 342 males) who received MHPSS support
 - 1,038 children (657 females and 342 males, and 39 others) affected by GBV who received case management support.
- In addition, 28 children (17 females and 11 males) received assistance through the Emergency Fund as at 25 November for issues related to child sexual abuse; orphans neglected by guardians; physical abuse by parents; and children fleeing from homes with survivors or their mothers in need of protection. Funding support was provided to three safe houses in Port Moresby to pay for urgent medication, food and clothing needs for the affected children.

EDUCATION

With the support of Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Government of Australia, UNICEF in collaboration with partners - Save the Children, ChildFund and World Vision - continue to support the National Department of Education (NDoE) to implement PNG's Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (EERRP) in NCD, Lae, Madang, Western, Sandaun and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB).

- As part of the response and to support continuity of learning, essential school materials are being distributed to 35,000 students in the form of school in a carton, early childhood development kits and student and teacher incentive

backpacks containing basic school stationery, protection messaging, and solar radios to access broadcast lessons. In addition, 5,439 menstrual hygiene management kits have been procured, packed and distributed to female students and 150 female teachers (Total: 5,589).



Students from Catherine McAuley Playschool in Kiunga with their Teacher-In-Charge, Ms Paulina Bomdin receive school materials and incentive packs



Students from St Gabriel's Technical Secondary and Kiunga Secondary. Female students received their bags with MHM kits packed inside and all students and teachers received a solar light/radio in their backpacks.



Western Province PDoE staff assist UNICEF with distribution of school materials.

- The National Department of Education, in partnership with UNICEF and Save the Children, continues to roll out Home Learning Packs (HLP) that will reach 320,000 students across NCD, Lae, Madang, Western and Sandaun Province to help students catch up and progress their learning remotely with minimum supervision during emergency periods when classes are disrupted or when students are absent from school for an extended period.

“I think it’s (the HLP) a great resource for kids like me,” says Faith Toliman. “I reside in Wildlife Settlement and some of us don’t have money to own a phone or buy a textbook to help us with our studies. Even if I do have a phone, I don’t have enough budget to buy data to do school research and assignments.” Faith hopes to be a doctor one day and expresses his gratitude for the packs. His right to access education is now being realized. “I wish to be a doctor one day because I went through a lot of medical operations growing up,” says Faith. “Accessing the home learning pack will help.”



- Students in 27 schools across five targeted provinces are benefitting from Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning (RACHEL) devices. The RACHEL device is an offline Wifi hotspot application that allows students to access textbooks, journals, application forms and other knowledge products relevant to their studies. The device contains over 700 reading and reference books which can be accessed by students from a phone or laptop within hotspot proximity distance. [Read our story](#) about how students are using the RACHEL device to continue learning amidst the pandemic.

WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE

Through support provided by the Government of Japan for COVID-19 to facilitate prevention and response work in the area of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in schools, healthcare facilities and communities, UNICEF is supporting the implementation of Community Led Total Sanitation activities and improving water source in communities:

- More than 14 communities in Rigo District, Central Province have achieved an 'Open Defecation Free' (ODF) status following the construction of proper and safe toilets for each household that was carried out in November. This is impacting positively on more than 3,450 people who live in these communities. To date, 12,540 people living in 56 communities in the district are enjoying open defecation free environments and have proper handwashing facilities. An additional 12 communities in Rigo have also already started toilet constructions for households and are working hard to achieve an open defecation free status.



RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- UNICEF provided technical and funding support for the southern region advocacy workshop held with the PNG council of churches. The workshops objective was to influence church leaders to support the COVID-19 vaccine communication and awareness by engaging their spheres of influence. A total of 29 church leaders attended the two-day workshop and will be engaged going forward.
- UNICEF is supporting the Communications Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) of the Ministerial Task Force on Covid-19 Vaccine deployment with a Christmas campaign. The campaign is running on print and mass media channels and is aimed at influencing the population to avail of the vaccination. Part of this support involves placement of adverts in the local dailies on vaccination sites and a notice on where to get vaccine.
- UNICEF is leading the review of the Information, Education and Communication materials to make the messaging sharper and more relevant to the prevailing context.

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); Nutrition. 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	

For more information, contact:

Claudes Kamenga | Representative | UNICEF PNG | Email: ckamenga@unicef.org

Noreen Chambers | Communication Specialist | UNICEF PNG | Email: nchambers@unicef.org