



*Students from Sacred Heart Primary School in Port Moresby show off the soaps that were donated to their school through a UNICEF Colgate Palmolive engagement. See story on page 4. ©UNICEF PNG/2020/Chambers*

## OVERVIEW

As of 13 December 2020, Papua New Guinea has recorded 725 confirmed COVID-19 cases and eight COVID-19 related deaths. PNG's Health Situation Report # 51 highlights that 44 new cases were recorded between 7 and 14 December: 35 from West New Britain, 4 from Western Highlands, 3 from National Capital District, and 2 from East New Britain. The total number of provinces that have reported COVID-19 cases to date is sixteen, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Despite low rates of testing nationally, there has been a large increase in the number of new cases in recent weeks. Sixteen of the country's 22 provinces have reported one or more cases since March 2020. Nationally, PNG remains in Stage 3 – large scale community transmission. In the past three weeks, there have been two growing clusters of cases in West New Britain Province, with healthcare workers and community members impacted.

With ongoing population movement, increasing mass gatherings, and low compliance to non-pharmaceutical interventions, increasing cases are expected, especially over the holiday period. Movement out of provinces with higher caseloads (NCD and WNB) to other provinces has led to sporadic cases and local clusters reported by other provinces. Testing in all provinces remains critically low, and there are large significant delays in receiving test results. This has implications for isolating positive cases and undertaking contact tracing, increasing the risk of larger outbreaks and widespread community transmission as population mobility increases.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNICEF has handed over 20 sets of supporting equipment for ventilator machines to the National Department of Health this week. This equipment, procured by UNICEF through funding support provided by Newcrest Mining Limited through UNICEF Australia, will be used by health workers to respond to and manage critically ill patients in hospital intensive care units including those affected by COVID-19. The equipment includes 10 Arterial Blood Gas Analyzers, 20 Laryngoscopes, 5 ECG machines, 20 Pulse Oximeters, 20 Patient Monitors, 4 Clinical Chemistry Analyzers with computers and reagents, 4 Ultrasound Scanners, 20 Infusion Pumps and 2 Gas Flow Analyzers.



UNICEF and Newcrest Mining Limited hand over essential supporting equipment to the National Department of Health.

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- Using recently updated training materials, UNICEF continues to support training for health workers at district levels on infection, protection and control, risk communication and community engagement, Niupela Pasin, and clinical management and surveillance including contract tracing. District health workers in Manus were the latest batch to be trained this month.



Health workers in Manus undergo an IPC training.

## CHILD PROTECTION

- Through UNICEF's continued support and collaboration with other partners, the Child Fund 1 Tok-Kauselin Helpline has now extended its services by operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This will open up more opportunities for women and children to reach out for help and support. This is a positive collaboration between partners that is making a real difference in the lives of many women and children in PNG.
- Child Fund counsellors responded to 328 messages on U-Report- U-Partner chat-based platform and provided information on the 1-Tok Kauselin Helplim Lain service. A total of eight children were also assisted through the Emergency funds provided by the following service providers who are supporting the protection of children - NCD Welfare, Lifeline PNG, and June Valley – House of Care.

### 1 TOK KAUSELIN HELPIM LAIN SERVICE - 2 DECEMBER TO 17 DECEMBER 2020

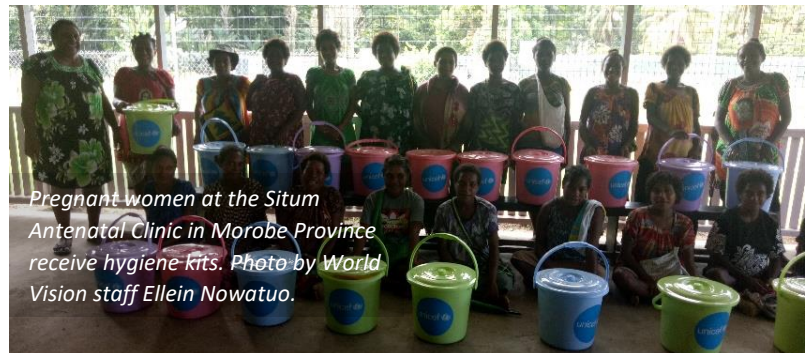
Number of beneficiaries	Services Provided
6 adolescents (2 boys, 4 girls)	Remote counselling and mental and psychosocial support
174 adults (76 males, 98 females)	
142 children (48 boys, 88 girls, 6 unspecified)	Case management services

## Education

- The Australian High Commission is sponsoring WaSH facilities in secondary schools to compliment the basic education programs delivered with support from the Global Partnership for Education for the Covid-19 response. UNICEF continue to progress a partnership with World Vision, the WaSH cluster lead to deliver various WaSH components in support of the Emergency Education Response and Recovery Plan (EERRP). This body of work will support students, particularly girls to return to school safely and with dignity.
- A total of 66 teachers (24 female and 42 males) from the PNG Education Institute were provided professional development on basic and accidental counselling skills in December. These skills are especially relevant following extended school closures during Covid-19 which have resulted in increased social, financial and psychological pressures for families and children.

## WASH

- Through funding support provided by the EU, USAID and the UK Government, UNICEF supported the following activities in Goroka, Mt Hagen and Lae:
  - Rehabilitation work on ten health centers were completed in Goroka and Lae. These ten health centres serve an estimated 120,000 people in their catchment area (52% male and 48% female beneficiaries).
  - An estimated 13,932 people have been reached through an ongoing targeted COVID-19 prevention and response in Lae, Goroka and Mt Hagen. Highlights of the campaign include the dissemination of key WASH and COVID-19 prevention and response messages and information, and the distribution of hygiene promotion products - posters, stickers, banners, hygiene kits, and reusable menstrual hygiene pads.
  - A total of 4,435 people were reached through community dialogue and awareness; 9,955 were reached through the delivery of hygiene kits; 456 teachers and board members reached through school visits; and 596 people reached through health care facilities visits.
  - In addition, 500 families (estimated 2,500 people) were provided with hygiene kits containing personal hygiene material and messages on COVID prevention, mitigating the spread of the virus and violence prevention.
  - 34,022 students (18,189 boys, 15,833 girls) in 36 schools in Mt Hagen and Goroka were reached with targeted messages and information on COVID-19, personal hygiene and improved sanitary practices. The installation and repair of handwashing stations in two school is also enabling 950 children (50% male, 50% female) to have access to clean water and group handwashing facilities.



*Pregnant women at the Situm Antenatal Clinic in Morobe Province receive hygiene kits. Photo by World Vision staff Ellein Nowatuo.*

- UNICEF continues to facilitate the distribution of 250,000 bars of soap donated by Colgate Palmolive to children and people in five targeted districts (Nawaeb, Goroka, Hagen Central, Central Region of Bougainville, and the National Capital District) by World Vision, Oxfam, Care International in PNG, Anis Foundation, Touching The Untouchables and LD Logistics. These soap bars, donated by Colgate Palmolive in support of WHO's #SafeHands global campaign to help

stop the spread of COVID-19, are being distributed to 290 schools, 55 health centres and 800 communities in the five districts.



Soap distribution at Sangu Primary School in the Labuta Local Level Government area, Nawaeb District, Morobe Province. Photo by World Vision staff Ellein Nowatuo

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Through the World Bank Financing support to the Government of PNG's COVID-19 Emergency Response Project, UNICEF continues to facilitate risk communication and community engagement activities.
- An ongoing mass media campaign has reached millions of people throughout the country with key hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention messages. The campaign was delivered by print and broadcast media organizations in PNG.

COVID-19 MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2020			
MEDIUM	ORGANISATIONS	# OF SPOTS	# OF PEOPLE REACHED
Television	EMTV	1926	4.4 million
	TV WAN	487	1.2 million
	TV WAN PLUS	487	1.2 million
<b>Cumulative total for Television</b>		<b>2900</b>	
Radio	FM 100	674	Combined listenership of 2 million
	Hot FM	674	
	Yumi FM	980	2.9 million people
	Wantok Radio Light	710	Over 1 million
<b>Cumulative total for Radio</b>		<b>3038</b>	
Print	Post Courier	23	1,370,000 readers a week
	National Newspaper	8	1,860,000 readers a week
	Wantok Niuspepa	28	100,000 readers a week
<b>Cumulative total for print</b>		<b>59</b>	

- Over 600 community leaders including pastors, influencers and councilors in 12 provinces were sensitized and trained on potential risks of COVID-19 and the impact of communities providing ongoing awareness in their communities. In NCD, 42,330 people including children were reached with key prevention messages between September and December 2020.

RCCE OUTREACH			
3 SEPTEMBER TO 12 DECEMBER 2020			
PROVINCES & DISTRICTS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
Central	22	18	40
Chimbu	135	25	160
Eastern Highlands	24	71	95
Hela	18	22	40
Jiwaka	18	7	25
Manus	25	26	51
Southern Highlands	33	30	63
Western Highlands	74	28	102
Kokopo	32	12	44
Madang	32	1	33
Talasea	22	19	41

## THANK YOU – OUR DONORS 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, 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 as well as implement interventions that promote sustainable behavior change and strengthening 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)	861,550	Provision of critical supply and logistics for improving Infection Prevention and Control (IPC); Child Protection Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS); Nutrition
European Commission	148,892	Water and Sanitation Hygiene
GAVI	125,000	Provision of critical supply and logistics for improving IPC
Global Partnership for Education	9,495,000	Support implementation of the PNG COVID-19 Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan
Government of Australia	3,037,093	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.
Government of Japan	1,035,000	Risk Communication & Community Engagement; Provision of critical supply & logistics for improving IPC, WASH, Child Protection MHPSS
Government of New Zealand	281,608	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
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)	1,110,000	Water and Sanitation Hygiene; Risk Communication and Community Engagement; Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>25,282,777</b>	

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