



Behind the scenes – UNICEF Youth Advocate, Leoshina Kariha recording a video at the National Football Stadium in Port Moresby to promote COVID-19 awareness and prevention.

OVERVIEW

Papua New Guinea has reported 531 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and seven COVID-19 related deaths as of September 20, 2020. Between 14 and 20 September, 15 new cases were reported, NCD – 11; Western Province – 22 and one reported death. To date, 13 provinces in the country have reported confirmed cases. A Health Situation Report stated that Provincial Surveillance Teams are leading the case investigations and contact tracing for all confirmed cases in 13 provinces.

While testing is critical in assessing the transmission of COVID-19 in the country, various aspects of the response remain uninformed due to minimal testing and low reporting in provinces. The public continues to be strongly encouraged to present themselves immediately for testing if COVID-19 symptoms are experienced.

The National Control Centre (NCC) continues to implement key strategies in the areas of strategic leadership and overall oversight of the response, awareness raising, prevention of further transmission, and partnership.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNICEF delivered 10 ventilators and 20 Oxygen concentrators to the National Department of Health last week as part of on-going support for the country's COVID-19 response. These essential life-saving equipments procured by UNICEF through funding support provided by the Government of New Zealand and Government of Japan will be allocated by the National Department of Health (NDoH) to Intensive Care Units of major regional hospitals around the country. Please read our press release for more information – [UNICEF hands over essential life-saving equipment to PNG Government](#)



Ventilators and oxygen concentrators ready to be distributed

- As part of the risk communication and community engagement activities under the World Bank Financing support to the Government of PNG's COVID-19 Emergency Response Project, UNICEF in collaboration with Touching the Untouchables and with the technical support of WHO, supported the training of 583 (352 males and 231 females) front line health workers in 12 provinces in infection prevention and control (IPC) clinical management of COVID-19 cases, surveillance and contact tracing, and risk communication. As of 26 September, 36 batches of trainings have been successfully completed.
- UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance to the National Control Centre in the key areas of Health Coordination and Risk Communication for COVID-19 response.
- With the funding support provided by UNICEF Australia and in collaboration with NDoH and EHPHA, UNICEF is supporting Nutrition trainings in the context of COVID-19 for health workers in Eastern Highlands Province. To date,

30 participants (18 females and 12 males) have been trained to provide information and support to caregivers, pregnant and lactating women on how to protect themselves, their infants and children from COVID-19. The training also educates mothers on the importance of continuous breastfeeding practice, even in case of suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Medical evidence indicates that the virus has not been



found in amniotic fluid or breast milk which means the virus is not being transmitted during pregnancy or through breast milk but rather some mothers may need extra support in feeding their infants while recovering from COVID-19.

CHILD PROTECTION

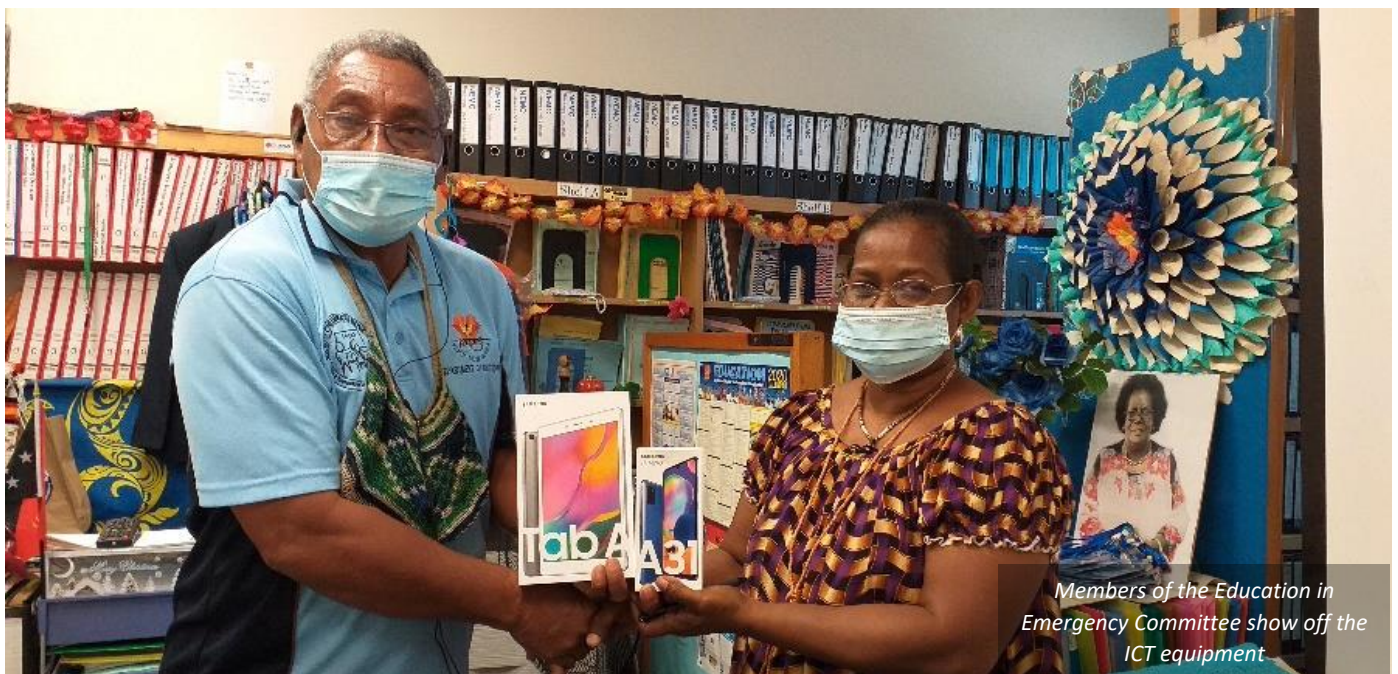
- Between the period of 12 August and 9 September, a total of 567 people including children, adolescents and adults at risk of violence and other protection related issues received counselling support through the 1 Tok Kanselin Helpim Lain – a ChildFund helpline service that is being facilitated through an ongoing UNICEF-ChildFund partnership and is supported by the Government of Japan and UNICEF Australia.

1 TOK KANSELIN HELPIM LAIN SERVICE - AUGUST 12 TO SEPTEMBER 9	
Number of beneficiaries	Services provided
51 adolescents (14 boys, 37 girls)	Remote counselling and mental and psychosocial support
380 adults (144 males, 236 females)	
136 children (78 girls, 58 boys)	Case management services

- With the financial support from UNICEF Australia, 500 sets of information materials on good parenting practices and Violence Against Children prevention were distributed to households of the most vulnerable families in Eastern Highlands Province. These materials provide important Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) information for parents and children impacted by the COVID-19 isolation measures.
- The Disaster Management Team (DMT) revised the COVID-19 Multi-Sector Response Plan, which highlights key immediate response actions for the period to December 2020 including WASH in health facilities and amplifying child protection sub-cluster actions.
- The Child Protection sub-cluster submitted its plans to the Protection Cluster and the Disaster Management Team (DMT), highlighting key immediate response actions to December 2020, as part of the Disaster Management Team COVID-19 Multi-Sector Response Plan.

Education

- To enable effective communication with our key government partners, the National Department of Education, UNICEF has procured and distributed to the Education in Emergency committee a number of information and communications



Members of the Education in Emergency Committee show off the ICT equipment

technology devices (smartphones, tablets and laptops including accessories) to enable virtual Education Cluster meetings and to support effective COVID-19 pandemic coordination and response related work.

- One thousand children (500 males and 500 females) in 26 Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) centers in Morobe Province to benefit from the use of 26 handwashing facilities now installed. Also, 26 teachers (13 females) and 26 board of management members (13 females) are benefitting from awareness training on how to protect themselves and children from COVID-19 virus. This UNICEF and Ginigoada, a national NGO, partnership for COVID-19 response in IECD centers is supported by UNICEF Australia.

WASH

- Through funding support provided by USAID and the UK government, UNICEF in partnership with implementing partner, Touching the Untouchables, continues to increase awareness on WASH and COVID-19 and strengthening infection, prevention and control of COVID-19 through the capacity development of 107 health workers, teachers, and community mobilisers in Goroka and Mt. Hagen.

COVID-19 INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL AWARENESS TRAINING		
Date	Number of Participants	Location
21 August	39 teachers, (21 males, 18 females) from 17 selected schools (11 Elementary, 5 Primary and 1 Secondary)	Goroka - Eastern Highlands Province
27 August	43 participants including 21 health care workers (6 males, 15 females) from 10 urban health facilities and 22 church pastors	
2 September	25 health workers from selected urban health facilities	Mt. Hagen - Western Highlands Province

- An estimated 56,000 people in the highlands were exposed to critical behavior change hygiene messages promoting hand washing through awareness campaigns, community engagement activities and a Public Motor Vehicle campaign mobilized along the Highlands highway in the reporting period.
- Nearly 70,000 children in 55 schools in Port Moresby continue to benefit from established hand washing units, hygiene clubs and awareness campaigns that are being supported by the Government of Japan, USAID and the UK Government.

- Hygiene kits including information and hygiene products to help stop the spread of virus and increase COVID-19 behaviour change knowledge have been distributed to 500 vulnerable families through support provided by USAID.



- Schools, communities and health care facilities in four districts (Nawaeb in Morobe Province, Goroka in Eastern Highlands Province, Hagen Central in Western Highlands Province and Central Bougainville in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville) continue to receive COVID-19 behaviour change prevention messages through the hygiene promotion work that our implementing partners are facilitating through support provided by the European Union.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Under the World Bank financing support to the Government of PNG COVID-19 Emergency Response Project, UNICEF is facilitating a series of sensitization workshops on the **Niupela Pasin** (new normal way of life) in the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - On 28 August, the PNG Council of Churches concluded the first of a series of five regional church leaders' sensitization workshop which was attended by 60 church leaders. A broad goal of this workshop being for church leaders to coordinate church leadership involvement in raising awareness on the *Niupela Pasin* and public health interventions within their spheres of influence. Similar targeted workshops are planned to be conducted during October for the New Guinea Islands, MOMASE, Highlands and Southern regions.
 - A campaign by the National District Commission (NCD) Provincial Health Authority (PHA) targeting community leaders to promote and ensure adherence to the New Normal health and social aspects of the COVID-19 response among NCD communities, reached 1,240 people in 232 NCD sites in its first week. The campaign also provides valuable information on undertaking contact tracing, swabbing, testing, home quarantine and the importance of wearing masks to control the impact of community transmission of the virus.
- Over 5,000 people visited COVID-19 awareness booths and utilized handwashing facilities at the Boroko and Gordons markets, Waterfront shopping centre, Vision City mall and the domestic and international terminals at Jackson International Airport in the first week of its installation by the NCD PHA. The project aims to provide vital current information around the New Normal, facts on transmission and protection practices for people who are at high risk of infection such as those, who frequently visit busy city markets and travelers, flying in and out of Port Moresby.

- A couple of highly impactful short videos and public service announcements promoting COVID-19 key awareness and prevention messages have been developed with the support of UNICEF Youth Advocate and former Miss Pacific Islands, Leoshina Kahira and Captain of the 2020 SP PNG Hunters rugby league team, Ase Boas. These videos, produced with funding provided by USAID, UK Government and UNICEF Australia are being broadcasted on seven radio stations and three TV stations starting this week. Read our story for more information: [Former Miss Pacific Islands supports fight against COVID-19](#) and see our short videos on Youtube: [COVID-19 could affect me](#) and [We can beat COVID-19](#)



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	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 (WASH)
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 (MHPSS); 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 (RCCE); 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	RCCE; Provision of critical supply & logistics for improving IPC, contact tracing, screening, human resource development for IPC
UK Government (DFID)	231,900	WASH
UN Secretary General Fund for COVID-19 Response	308,517	Nutrition; A joint United Nations COVID-19 response integrating WASH, Nutrition, Maternal & Newborn Health interventions in Kiunga, Western Province.
US Government (USAID)	1,110,000	WASH; RCCE; Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	25,282,777	

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