

Kokoda Initiative



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About the Kokoda Initiative

The Kokoda Initiative is a flagship program for the Australian and Papua New Guinea Governments under a Second Joint Understanding (JU2) 2010-2015. The initiative is to further support the sustainable development of the Owen Stanley Ranges, Brown River Catchment and Kokoda Track Region. There are a range of interest areas including environmental protection, community development, service delivery, tourism and trekking, military heritage. A number of partners work together to achieve five goals under the JU2.

The Development Program

The Kokoda Initiative Development Program (KIDP) works closely with the Oro and Central Provincial Administration to support improvements to critical service delivery - health, education and safe access to water and sanitation. Our work extends beyond the historic Kokoda Track and reaches communities in 17 wards located within the two provinces and three catchments; Sogeri, Mt Koiari and Kokoda. In collaboration with the provincial and district divisions, the program supports the training of teachers, construction of schools and health facilities, delivery of material and supplies, training and supervision of Village Health Volunteers and Community Health Workers, installation of safe water supply and toilets.

KIDP is implemented by Coffey through the Provincial and Local-Level Governments Program (PLGP) on behalf of the Australian Government.

Our Approach

The remoteness of communities, rugged terrain and international tourism interests of the Kokoda region present a unique and challenging environment to support service delivery improvements. The KIDP is a unique model which blends top down and bottom up development approaches to reduce poverty and promote sustainable growth. The program models efficient and effective service delivery mechanisms, and provides support to PNG Government (at various levels) for sector and service delivery planning, implementation and monitoring. The KIDP works in close consultation with both the Oro and Central Provincial health and education administrations to ensure all work carried out in the region is consistent with and strengthens their five year provincial development, district, LLG and ward plans.

Our engagement across all levels of government from community to national levels, is fundamental to the planning, implementation and monitoring process. Development projects and activities proceed only after substantive community consultation and with the endorsement of multi-level PNG Government stakeholders. Our strong formal and informal relationships with our stakeholders have been important in addressing the many constraints to effective service delivery. Our stakeholders are wide ranging and include:

- national, provincial and district administrations (divisions of health and education)
- local-level governments
- ward development councils

- communities and community leaders
- schools
- health centre staff
- non-governmental organisations
- tour operators
- churches
- other Kokoda Initiative partners in PNG and Australia

What we seek to achieve

The overall aim of the program is to improve education and health outcomes of track communities, which is critical to achieving sustainable livelihoods and basic living standards.

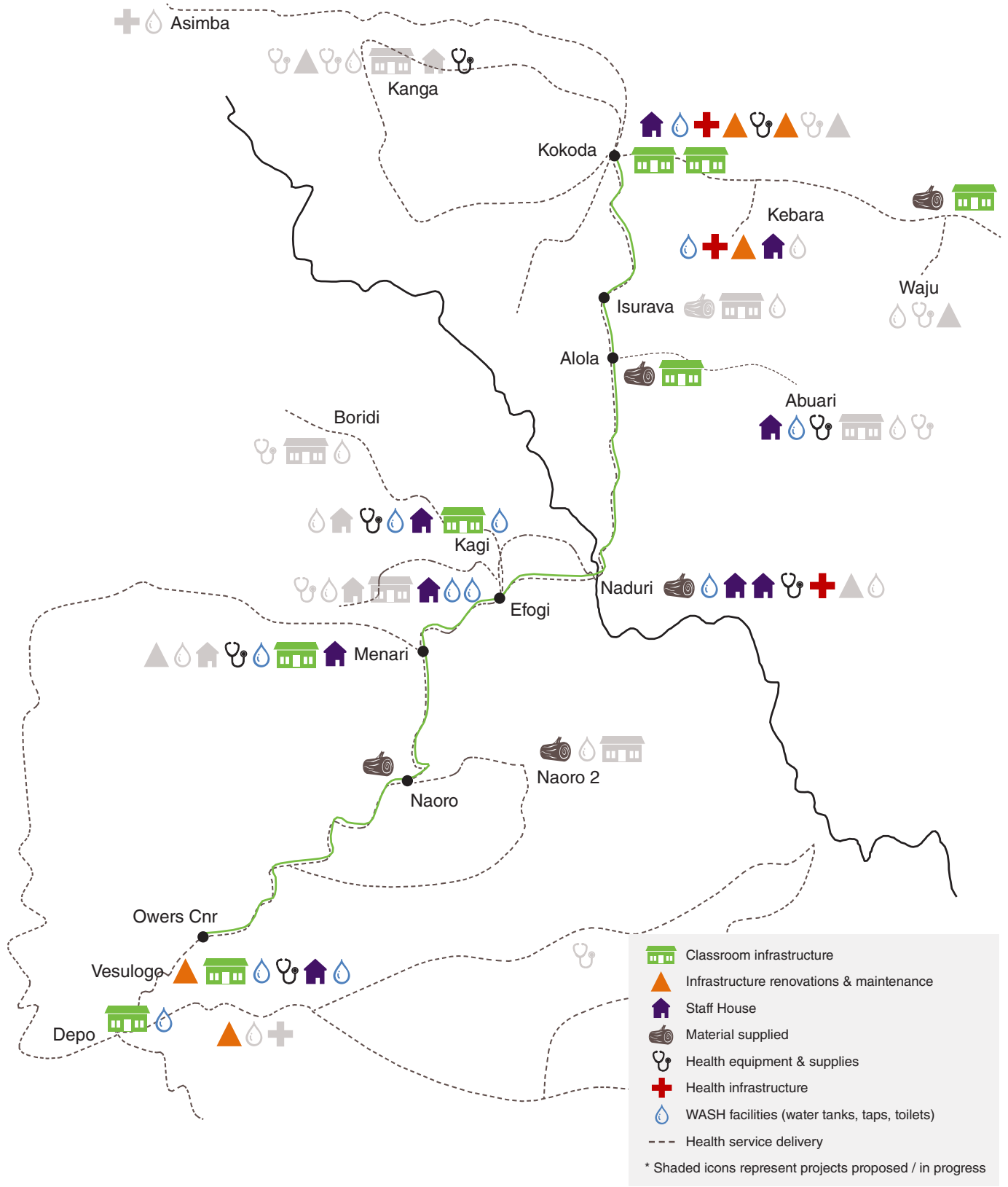
KIDP has 3 outcome areas:

1. Increased access to quality health, education and safe water services
2. Improved skills and standards of key health and education professionals and volunteers
3. Improved multi-level service delivery management and coordination

Women's Empowerment and Social Equity

The proactive identification of females in the recruitment of Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) through the Kokoda Initiative significantly assists with childbirth and postnatal treatment in remote communities. Of the 80 VHVs KIDP train and support, 51% are female. KIDP construct pit toilets specifically for girls as part of its infrastructure support for school facilities. International research has identified that access to a clean, safe toilet can increase girls' attendance at school.





KIDP Case Studies 2014

Local Partnerships

Two elementary double classrooms were officially opened at Vesulogo and Depo (Sogeri catchment) in 2015 as a result of the strong partnerships with local-level government and local communities. Through the direct involvement of local community construction and labour teams, the project was completed in less than four months. The new school includes safe water and sanitation facilities – two 2000 litre water tanks, water taps and four pit toilets. The classroom and facilities at Vesulogo replaced a 4x6metre classroom which had previously been used for up to 80 students aged six to nine years. The whole community were involved in the project with the women providing food and cleaning the site, while men were mixing gravel to help local builders. The Koairi Local-Level Government provided a substantial financial contribution towards the construction of the two schools including the procurement of chairs and desks. The opening of the schools received significant attention in the national media which highlighted the important partnership of the Central Province and Local-Level Governments in improving service delivery in the region.

Off the beaten track

The program work extends beyond the 96km historic Kokoda Track and works towards supporting communities in surrounding areas. Kebara is located north of well-known village Kokoda and was the focus for a range of health initiatives in 2014.

Over 1,200 people living in Kebara, Oro Province, and the surrounding community will have access to improved health services following the completion of new facilities built through the Kokoda Initiative.

Australia's High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea Ms Deborah Stokes opened the K300,000 refurbishments to the Kebara Aid Post in a ceremony in August 2014. The facilities, which were built with the support from Oro provincial and Sohe district administrations, include a refurbished Aid Post, a cook house, clean water systems, a new staff house, patient waiting house and new ablution block.

The Kebara Aid Post is much more than an Aid post, it is an integrated health facility that will enable the delivery of better health services to the community so that women, men and children can access better health services.

The facilities will provide better family planning, quality maternal and child health and improved management and prevention of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. Kebara is a two hour walk north of Kokoda.



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