



AUSTRALIA'S INVESTMENTS IN PNG'S HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORTING GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND STABILITY



Supporting Papua New Guinea's security, stability and prosperity is one of Australia's highest foreign policy priorities.

One key way in which Australia is investing in PNG's security, stability and prosperity is by supporting PNG's health system. A healthy population in PNG contributes to economic growth and development in PNG, to the mutual benefit of both countries. Healthy individuals and communities will be better placed to invest in their own education, businesses, and government. A strong health system can protect the people of Papua New Guinea from disease outbreaks, save money, and ensure the time and energy of PNG's people is directed at building a stronger nation for future generations.

The goal of Australia's investment in PNG's health sector is to support the Government of PNG to improve the health and well-being of its citizens in line with PNG's National Health Plan. In doing so we expect that a strong partnership on health will strengthen the overall Australia – PNG bilateral relationship. Our investment aims to improve the health of the citizens of Papua New Guinea on high priority health issues including communicable diseases, family planning, sexual and reproductive health, and maternal and child health.



SUPPORTING PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH

Australia recognises the Government of Papua New Guinea's sovereign responsibility to deliver health services to its population. Australia's investments will support PNG to achieve the goals set out in PNG's National Health Plan 2011-2020 and beyond. Australian investments align explicitly to the Key Result Areas set out in PNG's National Health Plan.

Papua New Guinea's own resources are providing most of the health care in the country: eighty per cent of health expenditure in Papua New Guinea comes from domestic resources. With limited resources, Australia does not and cannot seek to fund PNG's health sector. Our investments will focus on areas in which Australia's experience, expertise and funding can support PNG to achieve its own goals.

Australia's relationship with PNG is transitioning from a donor-recipient relationship to a partnership based on mutual economic and strategic interests. As such, Australia's engagement with PNG on health sector is evolving – away from parallel service delivery and towards assisting PNG to prioritise and utilise its own resources more efficiently. Australia recognises that in PNG's current economic climate some services cannot be delivered without external support and in those areas Australia is helping PNG put in place the foundations for future sustainability.

WHAT OUR HEALTH COOPERATION AIMS TO ACHIEVE

Australia will work towards achieving three broad health outcomes.

Outcome 1: Health Security and Major Communicable Disease

In support of Key Result Area 6 in PNG's National Health Plan (Reducing the Burden of Communicable Diseases'), Australia is helping PNG to protect itself from emerging public health threats and to reduce the burden of major communicable diseases. This includes supporting PNG to strengthen its capability to prevent and detect disease outbreaks, and to launch a rapid effective public health response where needed. It includes supporting PNG to address the tuberculosis epidemic with a focus on multi-drug resistant and extensively drug resistant TB. Australia continues to support PNG's efforts to prevent, detect and control malaria, and other communicable diseases.

Our major investments to deliver on this outcome include:

1. Tackling multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in National Capital District and Western Province and working with the World Bank to support the national Emergency Response to Tuberculosis (approx. A\$10 million per annum). In Western Province there has been vital improvement to multi-drug resistant TB treatment success rates. We will work to continue this and to reduce the incidence of new TB and multi-drug resistant TB cases.
2. Trilateral Malaria control with the Governments of Papua New Guinea, China and Australia (approx. A\$4 million over three years). This project is strengthening capacity for rapid, accurate malaria diagnosis and will build on this to support national malaria control objectives.

Outcome 2: Developing Health Systems with a focus on Rural Primary Health Care

In support of Key Result Area 1 in PNG's National Health Plan (Improve Service Delivery) Australia is supporting PNG to strengthen the systems which deliver primary health care to rural populations. We will continue to support the infrastructure and training needs of rural primary health centres. We will work with National Department of Health and other government departments to address the systemic constraints to adequately staff and finance rural health centres and aid posts. In doing so, we will ensure resources are directed to improving maternal and child health. We will continue to support the redevelopment of Angau Hospital as a provincial referral centre for hospital care.



Our major investments to deliver on this outcome include:

1. Co-financing of the ADB Health Services Sector Development Project (approx. A\$50m over six years). This project will strengthen rural primary health care by improving infrastructure, financing flows and medicines availability. It will increase immunisation and safe birth deliveries.
2. Support to World Health Organization's PNG Office (approx. A\$15m over three years). WHO is a key partner to the National Department of Health on policy, advocacy, systems and technical advice. The DFAT-WHO partnership aims to support national progress on improving health security including disease outbreak control, tackling tuberculosis, improving maternal health, strengthening health systems, in particular for the benefit of rural poor, and improving access to essential medicines.
3. Partnership to improve health planning and delivery in Hela and Southern Province with Oil Search Foundation (A\$7.4m over three years). In the wake of the 2018 Highlands earthquakes, this project will help these two provinces better plan and manage health resources to deliver better primary health care to rural populations.
4. The redevelopment of ANGAU Memorial Hospital in Lae, the Lae School of Nursing, and five primary health care facilities in Morobe Province (up to A\$200m over six years).

Outcome 3: Integrated Family Planning, HIV and sexual and reproductive health

In response to community demand and in support of Key Results Areas 4 and 5 in PNG's National Health Plan (Improve Child Survival and Improve Maternal Health), Australia is providing greater access to family planning services, sexual and reproductive health services, and HIV counselling, testing and treatment. We are supporting churches and non-government organisations to deliver family planning services and sexual and reproductive health care in a more integrated and results-focused manner across the country. These non-government health care providers are working as part of the health care system in partnership with provincial and district authorities. Australia is supporting low-cost, scalable interventions to improve maternal and child survival rates.

Our major investments to deliver on this outcome include:

1. Improving and integrating HIV treatment with other health care, implemented by a consortium led by Catholic Church Health Services in 18 provinces (A\$12.5 million over three years). This project is providing on-going treatment for HIV, supporting testing and counselling, and integrating these services with sexual health and primary health care to improve quality and sustainability.
2. Improving coverage of family planning and maternal and child health care in 14 provinces, implemented by Maries Stopes PNG and Susu Mamas (A\$23 million over three years). This project is delivering antenatal care, early childhood care including immunisation, and family planning services to many people in need through clinic based and outreach activities.
3. Improving Early Essential Newborn Care, implemented by UNICEF (A\$3 million over three years). UNICEF will work in over 80 districts to provide training, technical support, and medical supplies to improve the safety of deliveries and quality of neonatal care to improve the rate of health survival of newborns.



APPROACH TO DELIVERY

To deliver this agenda Australia will work with the National Department of Health, central agencies, and PNG's provincial governments and district administrations to align our support with national and sub-national plans. We will support the government's efforts to improve the coordination of all international donors to align with national priorities and strengthen national health systems.

Australian will deliver assistance through Technical Assistance, grants, scholarships and partnership models. We will work with other partners including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, churches and NGOs, and the private sector, drawing on the expertise of those organisations. We will seek to bring the experience of Australian institutions and individuals to bear where relevant and draw on global best practice as well.

MEASURING IMPACT

We will measure the impact of our health assistance in line with nationally used indicators, supported by regular independent evaluations. We will measure how our support helps strengthen health systems, as well as how it enables more people to use and benefit from health care. For example, we will measure our impact on the successful finding, and treatment of TB and in particular multi-drug-resistant TB. We will track how much rural people can use health care and how this contributes to improving the immunisation of children and the quality of antenatal care for mothers. We will continue to track how many people receive voluntary counselling and testing for HIV, and receive HIV treatment, and we will continue to measure how many women and couples choose and use family planning services. Throughout this work we will continue to support the strengthening of PNG's health information systems, including the rollout of the electronic National Health Information System.

