



Supporting Private Sector Development in PNG Innovation and Partnerships

The Australian Government’s aid policy places private sector-led economic growth at the heart of the aid programme. All new aid investments must consider ways to engage the private sector and promote private sector growth — to create jobs and reduce poverty.

- PNG has dynamic potential for innovation. According to the World Bank, nearly half of the population in PNG is under the age of 20. The rate of technology adoption is also high – with the use of mobile phones increasing.
- Australia’s aid program is seeking to harness new opportunities, like those presented by existing and emerging technologies, to address social and economic challenges.
- We are actively seeking to learn from, and engage with, partners and creative thinkers through dialogue and regular exchange.



The four pillars of Australia’s Private Sector engagement in PNG



Key Initiatives

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED
Innovation and Partnerships Grants Facility	Small grants program designed to support innovative partnerships to catalyse inclusive economic growth, address a market failure or deliver a public good.	\$3 m (2015–16)
ADB Pacific Business Fund	Support medium sized businesses to gain access to finance by linking to the banking sector and provide technical assistance to increasing sustainable businesses.	\$3 m (2015–17)
PNG Bilum Pilot Project (ITC)	Supports rural women to utilise traditional knowledge and create new markets for bilum products. This will increase incomes and greater participation in formal markets.	\$1.8 m (2013–2016)



Kumul GameChangers Initiative

The UNDP GameChangers Initiative aims to unleash creative private sector-led solutions to Papua New Guinea's development challenges.

Participants must demonstrate an innovative solution to an environmental or social issue.

As at April 2015, out of an initial 638 expressions of interest, 42 finalists had progressed to the next phase of the program, which includes intensive business training and mentoring.

The Initiative covered the following sectors: gender; agriculture; fisheries; financial inclusion; renewable energy; health; water and sanitation; and education.

PNG Bilum Pilot Project (ITC)

This project is exploring opportunities for women in PNG (initially Mt Hagen and Goroka) to export bilum bags to international markets.

A survey by the International Trade Centre showed that up to 85 per cent of participating women lacked basic literacy and numeracy skills. The survey also identified that women would be able to fetch a higher price for their products on the international market, rather than sell into the domestic market where women struggle to cover the production costs of their work.

The PNG Bilum Pilot Project aims to meet the quality and standards of different market segments including the high-end international market; thus economically empowering women of PNG.

Top: Kumul GameChangers entrepreneurs at the Bootcamp training to pitch their business concepts to investors.

Photo: Kembol Kaikipae, IBBM

Above: Rosie Boylan, Australia based hat making expert giving one on one training to Bilum makers.

Photo: Torek Farhadi, ITC

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