UNFPA IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
YOUR RIGHTS. OUR MISSION.
6th Country Programme
2018 - 2022
After a systematic analysis of available evidence, UNFPA in Papua New Guinea (PNG) will focus on a measurable reduction in preventable maternal deaths through increased access to sexual and reproductive health services particularly for women, adolescents and youth.

PNG’s high maternal mortality ratio at 171 per 100,000 live births, is among the highest in the world. About 88 per cent of maternal deaths are due to the lack of skilled birth attendants and essential life-saving medicines. One maternal death is one too many, no woman should die giving birth to life.

The country programme is strategically positioned to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal targets (SDG1, poverty; SDG3, good health; SDG4, quality education; and SDG5, gender), particularly to reduce preventable maternal deaths, ensure universal access to reproductive health services and end violence against women and girls.

PNG has a low Contraceptive Prevalence Rate of 24.1%, a high unmet need for Family Planning at 30%, low coverage of skilled birth attendance and a high HIV epidemic prevalence at 0.8%. This evidence indicates that antenatal, reproductive health and family planning services in PNG must be drastically improved, if unmet need for family planning is to be met, and if reproductive rights are to be realized, particularly in the rural sector, where 85% of the population reside.

Under the coordination of the Planning Department, and framed under the UNDAF, the country program will be jointly implemented by strategic national partners including government agencies, donors, private sector, faith-based organizations, traditional and community leaders, civil society organizations, non-government organizations and media houses.
Our vision for PNG is by 2022, fewer women & girls die while giving life, & young people are actively engaged in the development of their country.”
The country programme focuses on five priority provinces (Central, Milne Bay, Eastern Highlands, Morobe and Bougainville) through upstream advocacy, capacity development and knowledge management interventions. The priority provinces were selected based on a commitment from relevant authorities, as well as poor reproductive and maternal health indicators, and synergy with other UN agencies.
SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Every woman, every adolescent and youth everywhere, including the furthest behind, fully exercise their reproductive rights and are able to use integrated sexual reproductive health services, including family planning, comprehensive maternal health and STIs and HIV services, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

OUTPUT 1

Government and civil society capacities are strengthened in priority provinces to deliver integrated sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, including in humanitarian settings.

- Conducting operational research on barriers to family planning access and utilization, to inform advocacy, policies, strategies and implementation plans;
- Advocacy with parliamentarians and decision-makers to increase resources for family planning, especially at the sub-national level;
- Capacity development of health workers in supply chain management and provision of quality family planning services;
- Partnering with civil society to increase awareness of sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights and demand for services;
- Supporting the government to work towards a sustainable national financing mechanism for reproductive and maternal health commodities;
- Capacity building on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), including pre-positioning and distribution of reproductive health kits for emergency response.

OUTPUT 2

Increased institutional capacity in priority provinces to deliver comprehensive maternal health care services.

- Supporting the scale-up and strengthening the provincial maternal death surveillance and response;
- Strengthening health systems to respond to GBV, in line with the Essential Service Package for women and girls;
- Supporting the scale-up of emergency obstetric care;
- Institutionalizing a comprehensive midwifery training program to facilitate increased coverage of skilled birth attendants during deliveries.
UNFPA will play a convening role on issues related to ending gender-based violence.

- Providing technical assistance to strengthen the implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV, including on data collection, analysis and dissemination;

- Coordination of the GBV sub-cluster and implementing the UNFPA Minimum Standards on GBV in emergencies;

- High-level advocacy for increased political and funding commitments to implement gender-related legislation and national strategies, and gender-responsive comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in and out of schools;

- Advocacy with the community and religious leaders, CSOs, the Department of Justice and Attorney General, and the Ombudsman Commission, to address harmful social norms and practices.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment requires a multi-sectoral approach and comprehensive linkages with other program areas such as family planning. UNFPA will work with UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and stakeholders to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, especially in the areas of reproductive rights and gender-based violence prevention and response.
DATA AND EVIDENCE ARE PREREQUISITES FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY ADVOCACY AND POLICYMAKING. UNFPA WILL FOCUS ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR DATA, INCLUDING INCREASED AVAILABILITY AND UTILISATION OF DATA FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, AND MONITORING ON POPULATION-BASED SDG INDICATORS.

OUTPUT 1

National institutions have the capacity in place for high-quality data collection, analysis and utilization.

- Supporting the dissemination of the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey findings and recommendations;
- Resource mobilization and technical assistance to conduct the 2020 Census;
- Creating an enabling environment for the government to fully implement and monitor the National Population Policy for strengthening and accountability;
- Providing technical support to the National Statistical Office and provincial administrative units in the priority provinces to generate, analyse and disseminate data (including data on GBV) for monitoring of population-based SDG indicators;
- Documentation of good practices as part of knowledge management and sharing.

Marielle Sander
Representative

sander@unfpa.org
(675) 7207 2 007
png.unfpa.org