

## **Background**

In the wake of civil conflict, Papua New Guinea (PNG) was faced with significant poverty and injustice. To help address this, Oxfam New Zealand (ONZ) committed to work in partnership with Community Based Organisations (CBO), establishing the Oxfam Highlands Programme (OHP) in 2003. This programme aimed to promote: inclusive, equitable, gender sensitive development; improved security; and the fulfilment of human rights in the highlands of PNG. In 2007, the New Zealand Aid Programme contributed funding to the OHP programme. OHP supports four local NGO's through the provision of funding; technical and management support, through facilitating training; and linkages with other national and regional NGOs

## **Purpose and Objectives**

A collective review of OHP was undertaken by ONZ and the New Zealand Aid Programme. This review assessed the:

- Relevance of OHP's programme design to the needs of partner organisations, stakeholders, and the Highlands people
- Effectiveness of the programme in achieving its objectives
- Efficiency of funding, OHP systems and management procedures
- Impact the monitoring, evaluation and learning system (MEL) had in assisting partner organisations to evaluate and improve their own work
- Risks to the sustainability of the programme with mounting pressure to expand.

## **Main Findings**

Overall, it was found that the OHP supported New Zealand's objectives for its PNG development programme. The programme engaged local partners and combined change with practical assistance in health and livelihoods. Further benefit to the programme could have been achieved with increased gender focus and rethinking of the programme to help achieve greater coherence of the objectives. All planned activities were carried out. However, relevant findings from research were not utilised throughout the programme to help improve the work. Efficiency around programme administration and partner support would be improved with an increase in available funds. The programme used a model of support to indigenous organisations that is likely to have a long term positive impact. Problems existed getting the monitoring systems running well, and there appears to be a weakness in the monitoring model itself. Sustainability is a key issue for the programme. Further expansion in the scope of work means the risks involved will need to be carefully considered.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

OHP operates in a difficult development environment and this has posed significant challenges to implementation. A number of recommendations were made to ONZ, PNG and the New Zealand Aid Programme. Recommendations included continued support to the OHP and consideration should be given to convening a workshop involving ONZ and other development NGOs with a specific focus on programme design, monitoring and evaluation. This would help achieve a consensus on best practice and improve the overall logic of the design, modifying the original focus with more emphasis placed on civil society

building. Reviewers are confident that this evaluation has provided ONZ and OHP with valuable information that can be utilised to improve the programme.