

# Our Development Cooperation with Papua New Guinea



In 2018, Papua New Guinea (PNG) launched a new Medium Term Development Plan which prioritises investment in economic sectors and infrastructure, health, education, law and justice.

New Zealand will work with PNG in these areas, as well as with regional and multilateral partners. We seek to promote and support activities in PNG that encourage the inclusion of all PNG society, including inclusive sustainable economic growth.

Our priorities are agriculture, energy, health, Bougainville, higher education (primarily through scholarships), public sector strengthening, gender equality and access to services.

## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is vital to the PNG economy, contributing to about 30% of GDP. Up to 80% of the population is involved in agriculture. Our support is focused on increasing and broadening economic benefits, and food security. We are working directly with the private sector to diversify and improve value-chains to improve returns for farmers, support programmes that are working with cash crops, and work with local authorities to improve fresh produce markets.

## ENERGY

PNG has a goal of connecting 70% of its people to electricity by 2030. Our work in the energy sector has increased in the last few years with greater coordination with other partners. We are seeing a growing number of household connections that is set to increase in 2019. This will not only expand access to affordable energy in households but also to much needed social services such as schools and health facilities that work to improve lives.

## PUBLIC SERVICE STRENGTHENING

We work with government agencies to increase skills and capabilities to strengthen the public service. Our objective is increasing evidence-based policy and budgetary decision making.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship programme provides a valuable opportunity for Papua New Guineans to have access to quality education in New Zealand, and by doing so, developing the human resource capacity of PNG. Those who return after completing their studies have the skills to contribute to their country's development.

## BOUGAINVILLE

We have been working with the Autonomous Government of Bougainville to strengthen governance, increase opportunities and investments for economic growth, and support the local police service to

address law and order issues. New Zealand volunteers and NGOs works on community health, agriculture and sustainable livelihood projects to build resilience.

Through our partnerships with NGOs and regional programmes we also support other areas such as health, education, gender, fisheries, tourism and labour mobility.

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## Recent achievements

- ✘ We partnered with local authorities in Port Moresby to make improvements to fresh produce markets, which are hubs of economic and social activity in PNG but can often be unhealthy and unsafe. We have supported improvements to three markets to date: Gerehu, Saraga and Gordons Market, the latter also in partnership with UN Women's Safe Cities programme.
- ✘ Support through the New Zealand Electoral Commission led to the rollout of a Temporary Election Worker system for PNG's national election in July 2017. The system fast-tracked the recruitment of an estimated 25,000 workers, improved payroll management and saved the PNG Electoral Commission a reported K30 million.
- ✘ New Zealand Electoral Commission's work with the Office of The Bougainville Electoral Commissioner also contributed to the office successfully conducting urban community elections with limited external support in 2018.
- ✘ The New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Defence Force supported the Royal PNG Constabulary to ensure a safe and secure Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in PNG in 2018.
- ✘ A Rural on Grid Extension Project supported by New Zealand, provided 5,000 households, six schools and four health centres in the Central Province with electricity.

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## Current development priorities

The long term outcomes that we want to achieve are:

- ✘ A more secure and safe PNG.
- ✘ Reduced inequality alongside economic growth.
- ✘ Improved governance.
- ✘ Increased bilateral trade.

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## What we're working on now

- ✘ The PNG Electrification Partnership (PNG, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the US) aims to connect 70% of PNG's population to electricity by 2030 (connectivity is currently at 13%). In April 2019, the Partnership's first project was announced in Enga province. Supported by New Zealand and Australia, this project is a line extension from the Ramu grid in the Tsak Valley in Enga, connecting 5,500 households.
- ✘ We're working on initiatives aimed at improving the supply chain for fresh produce and cash crops from farmers to end markets in PNG and internationally. We work with partners such as Fairtrade and the Pacific Horticultural and Market Access Plus programme.
- ✘ We work with partners to ensure quality and accessible health and social services. That includes support for survivors of gender-based violence, through a partnership with ChildFund and the PNG Family Sexual Violence Action Committee, improving vaccination outcomes and curbing the spread of polio, and a partnership with Oxfam improving water, sanitation and hygiene.
- ✘ We support social and economic development in Bougainville, including a long-standing community policing programme implemented by New Zealand Police, support to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to strengthen governance and economic development, and partnering with Leprosy Mission to support public health and village-level governance. We are also providing targeted support for preparations for the non-binding referendum.



**2018-2021  
Development  
funding**

**Our planned aid  
expenditure**  
(NZD)