

## Papua New Guinea Country Office

### COVID-19 Situation Report

SitRep No: #3

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

#### 1. Situation in Numbers

Total Confirmed Cases in Country	Total Confirmed new cases in Country (since last SitRep)	Total deaths in Country
2	0	0

Please refer to WHO Sit Reps to populate this table. Available [here](#).

#### 2. Key Issues

- **Cases** – no new suspect cases. Currently 289 ‘persons of interest’, of which several were triaged under the case definition and cleared. There are no ‘persons under investigation’.
- **Tests** – 348 tests undertaken, 301 of those analysed to date and 2 Positive. 46 tests results pending.
- **Concerns in NCD** – Generally quiet with eased restrictions, but anticipate increased law and order issues arising from the loss of income; Police concerned about operating without PPEs and general public not following government directives
- **Stigma and discrimination** is a major issue in the community following the announcement of the case in East New Britain. The PHA communications team is addressing them at the local level with while the churches are supporting in religious messaging to help the public manage fear and prevent stigma.
- **National Emergency Orders and travel** – Order 7,13 and 14 issued. NEO 7 : Specific list of approved persons, organizations , goods entering PNG and traveling to border provinces. Includes PPEs, Educational materials, PNG government and UN communication materials, water and sanitation materials or related products, etc . Can seize vehicles, aircraft, vessels and perishable goods not compliant .
- **Domestic Travel** – exploring options to ease this per province. Some more restricted than others. **Roadblocks** in Central province and NCD will be relaxed primarily to ensure that there is fresh food supply for people living in NCD.
- **Helpline** received 331 calls from 06-12 April (Valid Call = 169 Invalid Calls =162). 16 callers presented with GBV issues and 1 child protection case. 1 caller advised they were experiencing intimate partner violence due to COVID19 restrictions and increase stressors including shortage of food and husband job loss.
- National Communication Plan is under development and has included the communication package inclusive of vulnerable groups and will cater for needs of people living with HIV and others on chronic care.
- Trainings targeting Health Care Workers rolled out to 5 Districts. Funding has been made available through the National Department of Health (HISP account) for PHAs to access and implement the response. While COVID 19 is on the agenda all other routine health services have scaled down, allowing HCWs to be pulled to address the response.
- Major Government Health Centres in central province like Bereina and Kwikila are open but only for emergency purposes. There have been no outreach services since the start of the SOE. Health workers have reported that there is still no availability of PPEs at the facility

level. This is a risk and CF keen to ensure ongoing delivery of health services including TB treatment and immunisation

### 3. Operations Update

#### 3.1 People and Organisational Development

- As of 01 April 2020, CFPNG has a total of 45 employees. No staff are in self-isolation and there are no known cases of COVID in the team.
- 1 international staff member and one family member have been repatriated.
- During the initial State of Emergency, there were some challenges related to communication when working from home. Depending on the location of staff members, a number experienced limited access to electricity.
- On 7th April, the ChildFund office re-opened following relaxed restrictions and observing limited return to work and team rotation. The office arranged for staff pick up and drop off by CF drivers due to challenges with PMV buses. This is possible as not all staff work in the office every day. Staff are observing health and safety and COVID protocols. All NGO partners following similar arrangements and there is a schedule in place for who is in the office, when and why. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

#### 3.2 Finance, IT and Administration

Finance staff working on a rotational basis. Payment processing on Mondays. Priority last week was reforecast. IT continuing to support WFH and to address specific changes staff face. Repurposing drivers and admin to support program teams prepare packages for distribution to the field

#### 3.3 Security -

- Calm at the moment.
- Staff being picked up to come to work on their specific day in the office. Possible law and order issues arising from the loss of income; Police said that they will not hesitate to use force if needed. Police are also facing issues with operating without PPE and general public not following government directives.
- Preparing security management brief for any staff still travelling to the field this week.
- Further work required on scenario planning for a more deteriorated situation

#### 3.4 Office Status

OFFICE	OFFICE STATUS			
	Open, Fully Operational	Majority of staff working from home	100% Working from Home	Shut down, non-operational
PNG	Semi	x		
All Helpline staff in the office. Other staff in the office on a rotational basis per team and with some specific admin and finance support. Observing social distancing and hygiene measures.				

### 4. Programs Update

#### 4.1 Programs Activity Level (indicator of current programming level)

OFFICE	PROGRAM OPERATIONS				
	75 - 100%	50 - 74%	25 - 49%	< 25%	0%
Health	x				
Education	x				
Gender, Child Protection and Resilience ( DRR)		X			
RRR			X		
Stopim Hevi			X		
Helpline	x				

#### 4.2 Overview of ChildFund Activities (with a focus on COVID work)

<i>Summary:</i>	<p>Program Teams replanning , rephasing and reforecasting activities April – June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects now focussed on supporting COVID response within the scope of their projects</li> <li>Identified what can be rolled over to new FY for some specific activities ( see attached)</li> <li>Still negotiating these options with donors</li> <li>Mapping options and ensuring alignment with Govt PNG response</li> <li>Attending cluster and coordination meetings remotely to ensure alignment and awareness and influence on govt response ( Clusters include Education, Protection, CP, gender, Disaster management, health , communication )</li> <li>Risk assessment and security strengthening and scenario planning continuing</li> <li>Mapping scope for response and operations during current opening window and future worst case scenario</li> </ul>
<i>Education:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing for project completion tasks and redesigning some that may not be possible during increased COVID lockdown. Front loading some activities that can be done within the next weeks – if access to the field is possible directly or by others eg delivery of consignment of Bilum books that could be used by children even if schools are not opened</li> <li>Preparing proposition on COVID response activities aligned with Education cluster and N DoE to support schools currently part of T4E project to support elementary education.</li> <li>Increased participation in Education cluster and coordinating with district education officials</li> <li>Update: Map out work plan for Admin. Staff and other staff not working from home to pack LFA books for delivery to schools in the next couple of weeks.</li> </ul>
<i>Gender and Child Protection:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN women proposal approved – to support scale up of service and strengthening capacity of counsellors to deal with more varied callers over coming months.</li> <li>Negotiating with UNICEF on concept submitted to strengthen and extend the Helpline services to respond to CP.</li> <li>Participating in the protection cluster, GBV and Child protection sub clusters</li> <li>In past week 81 callers were seeking COVID 19 information and referral and 1 caller seeking TB support.</li> </ul>

<i>DRR/ ER:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funds 21 000 AUD received for AHP COVID response</li> <li>• More funds announced yesterday and team now working on further options</li> <li>• Decision to integrate AHP project (prior and current new funding ) to focus on COVID response in Central province and NCD</li> <li>• Coordinating with the consortia on options for response</li> </ul>
<i>Health:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCH project supporting COVID response through sustaining integrated community health outreach services ICHOS and increased awareness raising.</li> <li>• Awareness sessions have been conducted in the communities by the Health Workers and the LLG managers however not all villages were reached. There have been verbal reports and information from the District Health Care workers that there are no PPE at the facility level.</li> <li>• Team being deployed this week to 3 districts to undertake mapping and , training of VHV's on COVID and working with district health officials to ensure ICHOS session continue</li> </ul>
<i>SEL:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RRR / GAP staff attended the IPC Training in preparation for the integration of COVID Awareness in their activities. Contact is also being made with teachers to explore options. The youth from the 1<sup>st</sup> project Stopim Hevi could be mobilised to support COVID and plans have been made to engage the Dept Justice in anticipating COVID impacts on communities.</li> <li>• GAP team still confirming scope of work possible under school lockdown though this may change after 27 April.</li> <li>• Stopim Hevi meeting EU this week to confirm their months to confirm their support for focus on CP and stigma prevention COVID response</li> </ul>

#### 4.3 Partnerships

*Include a brief statement on each of the following:*

- The status of partner organisations and to what extent they have been able to continue operations during the reporting period.
- What, if any, support, monitoring, information sharing and/or collaboration has taken place with local partners during the reporting period?

**CIMC-FSVAC:**

- During SOE period FSVAC are continuing to operate however, reducing their operational capacity with only a skeleton staff. They are delaying activity implementation until the foreseeable future and in line with Government restrictions as they are not considered essential services.
- Information shared on COVID 19 office hygiene procedures and communication materials
- Face to face debriefing support to Helpline counsellors during lock down period as needed.
- FSVAC will be undertaking a communications campaigns re: COVID 19 and protection and access to vulnerable populations including women and children and have requested funding support from ChildFund. This is being considered in reforecast.
- FSVAC participating in start-up planning for expanded Helpline service and will hold the contract with UN Women
- The Helpline reforecast is considering the FSVAC request for support to undertake a communications campaigns re: COVID 19 and protection and access to vulnerable populations including women.

YWCA:

- YWCA is planning to utilize its existing youth network and program to raise awareness on COVID 19. Staff are working from home with specific deliverables
- Project teams are working closely with ChildFund to do realistic planning which includes what activities can be done during the COVID 19 emergency where face to face activities will be reduced; how activities can be repurposed to include COVID 19 emergency response; and what activities can be postponed. Planning also included budget reforecast.
- Worked with the partner on forecasting together on the reforecasting. It is currently recruiting for the Consultant for the manual, with support from the CF HR Manager as part of the Capacity Development Plan.

4.4 Safeguarding

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING**

Number of child safeguarding incidences reported since the last SitRep:	0
Number of cases open and in progress:	0
Number of cases closed:	N/A

**PSEAH**

Number of PSEAH incidences reported since the last SitRep:	0
Number of cases open and in progress:	0
Number of cases closed:	N/A