

## Papua New Guinea Country Office

### COVID 19 Situation Report

SitRep No: #8

Date: 18 May 2020

#### 1. Situation in Numbers

Total Confirmed Cases in Country	Total Confirmed new cases in Country (since last SitRep)	Total deaths in Country	Total Cases Recovered
8	0	0	8

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

#### 2. Key Issues

PNG rates at Stage 2: Containment Level. No new cases identified; all identified cases are fully recovered. SoE will continue until 2 June. Prevalence of infection still unclear so this will be determined using WHO donated GeneXpert cartridges for testing in each province where confirmed cases were identified, including border provinces. As of 14 May, sampling has been conducted along the PNG/Indonesian border from Ok Tedi/Tabubil down Kiunga onwards to Bosset in the Middle Fly River District in Western Province. There is a high risk in border areas as people cross for various trade. Awareness campaigns in border provinces have been boosted. The 'new normal' is now operational with private and government agencies returning to work following National Operations Centre Guidelines. Universities and schools have resumed and are adapting to new requirements regarding social distancing and hygiene management. Universities are using tents to socially distance students and some classes are being run online. Schools are adopting different modalities –some children attend school on a rotational basis. Most schools in NCD have started well but it is unclear how this is working in remote schools in Central Province. Teachers are being equipped and supported to manage new requirements. Public transportation: buses/taxis operating but many failing to comply with social distancing (eg limited number of passengers) largely due to demand and cost implications. Domestic flights operating with restrictions including written authorisation from the SoE controller to 'resource sector sites'. International inbound flights resumed with continued restrictions; mainly bringing cargo and returning PNG citizens/permanent residents. Non-citizens require approval from SoE controller and are required to quarantine at designated facilities for 14 days. Corporates have commenced returning some key personnel. Diplomatic personnel are permitted to self-isolate at their residence for 14 days. Curfew has been lifted excepting East New Britain and Western Provinces from 10pm-5am. Local church services resumed and are following social distancing measures and hygiene protocols and, where possible, using online mediums. Large gatherings not permitted. Restaurants open with social distancing and hygiene protocols in place. Clubs and sporting facilities are still restricted. Liquor shops now required to close Friday-Sunday. PPE supplies have increased with a large shipment arriving from China this week. Staff conduct COVID-19 Response more so this week. No passes required. Health facilities encouraged to resume full services. Testing and contact tracing for confirmed cases ongoing. Clusters working well and coordinating around COVID-19 implementation plans for each sector and coordinate through the DMT to escalate challenges. PSEAH guidelines shared across clusters with strong leadership from CP sub cluster. Immunisation risks highlighted at Health cluster, showing a very sharp decline during COVID-19. Central Province among those with very low coverage, adding impetus to our work to re-institute these services. This has been highlighted as a key priority for NDoH. Food security is an increasing challenge and options are also being addressed via the food security cluster.

#### 3. Operations Update

##### 3.1 People and Organisational Development

No staff in self-isolation; no known cases of COVID-19 in the team. 1 international staff member and one family member repatriated and working from home. During the initial SoE, some challenges in relation to communication when WFH. Some staff experienced limited access to electricity. Reviewed arrangements so staff have greater access to the office which has led to improved team outputs. Since 7 April, ChildFund office re-opened following relaxed restrictions and observing limited return to work and team rotation. Arrangement for staff pick-up and drop off by drivers continues and will be reviewed. While public transportation has resumed, the lack of regard for preventive measures creates a risk. Staff continue to observe health and safety COVID-19 protocols in the office. Staff schedule of rotation days is still being observed. Teams have increased days spent in the office to 3-4 days. Admin continues to monitor and review arrangements weekly. Large office and reduced staff numbers make distancing feasible. Staff briefing on 12 May regarding anticipated changes in organisational structure. Individual meetings with staff to commence this week and further discussion with SMT to operationalise changes.

### 3.2 Finance, IT and Administration

Finance staff have increased office time to support increased activities. Payment processing is done online; on Mondays physical approvals sought when SMT in the office. IT continues to support WFH arrangements and address staff challenges. Increased focus on supply of software/hardware to strengthen capacity and resourcing to work remotely in the event of further lockdown. Drivers resuming more regular driving as more staff travel to the field. More careful coordination in Admin around driver allocation has been required with increased fieldtrips now taking place in addition to staff pickups.

### 3.3 Security -

Since the reopening of alcohol vendors on 4 May, neighbourhoods have been reported to be rowdy (staff observations). Restrictions now in place for closure of outlets from Thursday-Monday. Internal Affairs Directorate of the RPNCG continues to receive numerous reports against the Police Force via the tollfree number released last month; mostly around NCD police alleged to be involved in criminal/abusive behavior. A joint Investigations and Task Force Team has been set up to investigate several major allegations in NCD. Challenge still remains around sustaining operations of both security and health personnel around the country. Helpline counselling team are picked up by secure transport to ensure safety. Preparation of security management brief for any staff still travelling to the field continues. Increased measures for health and safety. Staff required to sign off RCCE guidelines and Humanitarian Code of conduct as per guidance via clusters. HRM coordinating this. Finalising of scenario planning for a more deteriorated situation, financial and contextual this week.

### 3.4 Office Status

OFFICE	OFFICE STATUS: During lockdown			
	Open, Fully Operational	Majority of staff working from home	100% Working from Home	Shutdown, non-operational
PNG	Semi			
	All Helpline staff operating the usual hours from 7am to 7pm. Increased staff days in office on a rotational basis and with some specific operational support in Admin, Procurement & Logistics, Finance and MEL support. Observing social distancing and hygiene measures. Health team and drivers in the field this week to support volunteer training and preparation for upcoming integrated community health outreach service. DRR and RRR continue fieldwork this week. Education preparing for fieldwork next week. Most staff in the office 3 days a week and some more often dependent on roles.			

## 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			
Gender, Child Protection and Resilience: RRR		x			
Gender, Child Protection and Resilience: Stopim Hevi		x			
Gender, Child Protection and Resilience: Helpline	x				

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

<b>Summary:</b>	<p>Reduced movement restrictions in NCD and Central have resulted in increased field activities. Context still unpredictable but programs have maximised increased access. Strong engagement with government/cluster plans and provincial-led responses. ChildFund needs to continue building these relationships while exploring different ways in support of PHAs and PAs. SMT meets twice weekly where face-to-face coordination and planning is prioritised, and additional when relevant. Focus is on regular deliverables as well as COVID-19 programming. This week's focus is expenditure tracking for reforecast, and budget and staffing arrangements and changes related to scenario 2 in the new FY. Team meetings occurring with evidence of improved cross team coordination especially in relation to COVID-19 activities, with teams drawing on the each other's sectoral expertise.</p>
<b>Education: T4E</b>	<p>On track with implementation of Q4 activities for the T4E. Delivering as per revised workplan on activities to fast track delivery of books to schools. Ongoing engagement with Central Provincial Education Dept to coordinate procurement/dissemination of COVID-19 IEC materials to schools and response activities. Preparing capacity building activity on awareness with teachers/community representatives to be implemented with the health team next month. Have more clarity from WV on funds that can be used for COVID-19 from current T4E. Undertaking assessment for RCCE with support from MEL. Active involvement in education cluster/LEG planning for COVID-19 and return to school. Actively planning COVID-19 awareness for Central Province Procurement of PPE and other supplies for COVID-19 awareness. Preparation and signing of Terms of Agreement for delivery of LFA books in Rigo district and video production on Tippy taps construction. Compilation of COVID-19 awareness materials supplied by MCH and incorporating NDOE guidelines and CFA Standards. Incorporate workplan of the District Education Office on COVID-19 Response. This week: continue packing of hygiene kits for distribution to schools; finalise logistics for awareness in Rigo and Kairuku; communication with PEA/DEA; accreditation work; finalise M&amp;E for COVID response activities; work on COVID-19 prevention video scripts for school setting and submitting to WV. Video is giving good profile to ChildFund in the education sector. Fieldwork: 2 T4E project staff conduct COVID-19 awareness; 1 Helpline staff will speak on PSS service to children; 1 RRR staff speak on support for youths in Rigo district schools; 2 staff conduct COVID-19 Awareness and refresher for Reading club volunteers in Kairuku. Kairuku team also conduct slip analysis and select 25 schools for</p>

	Tippy tap construction under WASH theme. Teams in both districts will identify schools to stage events in June. Coordination between PGO2 and PGO3 has been very positive and productive for both programs. Office: Closure Report preparations, accreditation work, plan reflection exercise and planning meeting for phase 2.						
<i>Gender and Child Protection</i>	All projects have resumed activities and continue active participation in relevant clusters: Protection Cluster, GBV and CP sub-clusters and SRH sub-cluster. One development from CP cluster is the approval of the National Strategy for Child Protection in emergency. This will serve as framework for government and NGO engagement in the sector. Given the priority for CP and SEL in the interim Strategy Paper, this is an area where ChildFund can play a significant role.						
<i>HELPLINE</i>	<p>Fully operational and expanding reach to support and respond to COVID-19 impact and likely increased demand. Staff providing basic COVID-19 and TB information and referral. UN women proposal to support extension of Helpline service hours and strengthen GBV response is approved in principle; final budget and proposal submitted and due diligence completed and awaiting feedback from their regional office. UNICEF project commencing to extend Helpline services to respond to CP including more personnel, training, strengthened coordination with key child services, and support to parents and caregivers to support prevention of CP issues and ameliorate psychosocial distress. Recruitment has commenced; applications to be short-listed and interviews commence from 21 May. Communications activity will commence following meeting with UNICEF to ensure collaboration. Increased Management, HR and MEL support to assist project management and personnel arrangements for scaled up operations over coming 6 months. Completed Induction with UNICEF on procurement and financial processes and discussed new risk of no scale up of calls if COVID-19 incidence does not increase. Exploring options on how to use this resourcing and time to skill up and test different models for providing this service. Helpline team participating in Protection cluster and CP and GBV sub-clusters as well as the NCD FSVAC COVID-19 response group (via WhatsApp). Helpline completed initial mapping of GBV essential services across PNG and identifying any PPE or COVID-19 specific support needs. Senior counsellors participated in interview with UNFPA to provide anecdotal accounts of COVID-19 impacts on GBV essential services and will support partners to complete same via online survey. Activities with ENB GBV secretariat to support COVID-19 response activities in ENB that include awareness raising (COVID-19 and protection) and direct material aid support for key service providers have commenced. As of the 11-17 May 2020 summary of calls include:</p> <p><b># Overall calls for week:</b> 727 (Valid Calls: 292 &amp; Invalid calls: 435)  <b>Top 3 Provinces calling:</b> Morobe 63 call, NCD 56 calls &amp; Southern Highlands 563calls  <b># COVID related calls:</b> 86  <b>Breakdown of presenting issues and referral to COVID:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>COVID-19 Information &amp; Awareness</th> <th>GBV case related to COVID-19</th> <th>Referral to COVID-19 Hotline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>86</td> <td>4 IPV due to work loss</td> <td>86 all callers are referred</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the past week key partners including FSVU- Police and CIMC-FSVAC have conducted awareness activities about COVID-19 and GBV/FSV and included Helpline number. This has significantly increased the volume of calls. Key activities under MFAT project and reforecast also progressing with start-up meeting for database upgrade project and initial check in with NRI regarding partnership completed.</p>	COVID-19 Information & Awareness	GBV case related to COVID-19	Referral to COVID-19 Hotline	86	4 IPV due to work loss	86 all callers are referred
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<i>DRR/ ER:</i>	Team has conducted consultation and mobilisation of volunteers in Central Province; now supporting volunteers with training and distributing IEC materials. This is in partnership with district and provincial officials.						

<i>SEL:</i> GAP / RRR	All remaining activities are being implemented, eg school visits and refresher courses for HRDs and Peer Educators. COVID-19 related activities also being implemented. Training for PEs and HRDs included sessions on COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention. The team will continue rolling out training and distribution of IEC materials. Team is also coordinating with the Education team in targeting school and communities around the schools to maximise impact.
Stopim Hevi – EU	The team is providing technical support to other programs to ensure CP is integrated and violence due to discrimination regarding COVID-19 is avoided. The team has conducted field assessment and identified the gaps on information regarding COVID-19 and has developed the session to be integrated in the training.
Spotlight proposal	We have received confirmation of the award.
<i>IMPACT proposal</i>	Detailed DIP for the first 18 months activities integrating COVID-specific risk assessment has been submitted to CFNZ, additional requests for mapping of beneficiaries and location has been provided.
<i>Health:</i>	The PG01 team is fully functional. A reporting database has been developed by the Program Manager including a generic reporting template with the assistance of MEL. This has been distributed to all volunteers to report on COVID-19 activities. CHVs have started submitting activity reports. Lessons learned from the data entry will be used to further refine forms. Volunteer reports indicate need for more training on conducting awareness sessions and more IEC materials. The team plans to include this moving forward. In the past week, COVID-19 awareness training was conducted in Nabuapaka, Delena and Poukama wards. CHVs were trained and have extended awareness sessions. Number of tippy tap constructions in Galomarubu community has increased including the local school. CHVs mention that community members have expressed their appreciation in learning this new innovation. Hand-washing stations set up at Porebada and Boera Health Facilities. The project realises that incentives should be given to the CHVs for their COVID-19 response work. SPO Varage Geno was in Kairuku overseeing the Essentials of Newborn Care training. This is an in-house training for Bereina and Waima staff. 3 female CHVs who attend village deliveries participated at Waima SHC. Output indicator data collection was done with the Health facility reports at Bereina. CHVs have compiled reports using the template provided. Rigo Coast ICHOS was planned and TORs for partners have been developed for Rigo inland. The ICHOS for the Rigo coast is scheduled for this week (18-22 May). Consultations with Hiri Health facilities staff for ICHOS is underway. 2 wheelchairs delivered to 1 child and 1 youth in Kairuku District. It was discovered that TB patients need support to get to the nearest BMU for proper case management and prevent cross infection especially MDR patients. Meeting held with the Deputy Provincial Administrator on how ChildFund can work better with the Province. The outcomes of this meeting: 1. Develop an MOU and share draft for Review with Deputy Provincial Administrator 2. To arrange a networking meeting with provincial representatives.
<i>Immunisation proposal under PPF</i>	Informed of successful outcome of Immunisation proposal submitted through Clinton health initiative (CHAI) for program in Central province. Start date 1 July (\$800,000 AUD for 18 months). Preparations underway to align this with MCH project coverage. Yet to receive final contract.

#### 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: FSVAC have returned to normal operations but are not implementing field-based activities. Information shared on COVID-19 office hygiene procedures and communication materials. FSVAC will undertake a communications campaigns re COVID-19, and protection and access to vulnerable populations (including women and children). They have requested funding support from ChildFund. A plan has been submitted and awaiting MoU with funding arrangements to transfer funds as per reforecast.

YWCA Stopim Hevi and RRR project partner: Orientation of the Consultant for the Peace Manual has been done, drafting has commenced.

RRR: Mapping of activities until end of project has been revised after the field assessment. Last tranche disbursed.

#### 4.4 Safeguarding

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