



UN  
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UNDP Papua New Guinea

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024





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D P



MY FUTURE  
YOUR  
DECISION

Jessica:IKELATU class 3A in 2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword.....	4
2024 at a Glance.....	6
<b>1. Equality for women and girls.....</b>	<b>8</b>
◦ Annabelle: a survivor of sorcery accusation.....	14
<b>2. Peace, governance and social cohesion.....</b>	<b>16</b>
◦ Frank John: from youth combatant to peace advocate.....	22
<b>3. Sustainable economic transformation.....</b>	<b>24</b>
◦ Kandes Niya: a coffee farmer on a mission.....	28
<b>4. Environment and climate change.....</b>	<b>30</b>
◦ Jacky Yandala: a mercenary fighter turned forester.....	34
<b>5. Disaster risk management.....</b>	<b>36</b>
◦ Edlyn Yaki: a survivor of the Mulitaka landslide.....	42
<b>6. 2024 financial performance.....</b>	<b>44</b>





## FOREWORD

The year 2024 marked the beginning of UNDP's new Country Programme in Papua New Guinea for 2024-2028. In alignment with the Papua New Guinean Government's development goals, the new Country Programme focuses on four key outcome areas: Equality for Women and Girls; Peace, Governance and Social Cohesion; Sustainable Economic Development; and Environment and Climate Change.

The vision of the programme can be summarized in a simple message: there can be no sustainable development in Papua New Guinea without peace, women's empowerment, and a pivot towards a green and blue economy which preserves and leverages the country's extraordinary natural heritage. Throughout the year, we had the privilege of working closely with our government partners, civil society, and community-based organizations across the country to achieve these objectives.

In the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, we continued to mediate long-standing tribal conflicts and train a new generation of local peacebuilders. In New Britain, we introduced more sustainable resource management practices to protect the island's unique rainforests and coral reefs. In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, we completed three Innovation Hubs that will support local women and youth-led enterprises in expanding their operations. We supported the Joint Women's Parliamentary Caucus to design bold strategies to help women leaders get elected to office. We also stood by Papua New Guineans during moments of extreme adversity, as we coordinated humanitarian response efforts to an unprecedented landslide in Enga, a major earthquake in East Sepik, and continuous flooding in Western Province.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the generous support of our donors and partners. While it is evident that many challenges still lie ahead of us, the positive changes that our joint interventions have achieved in communities across the country should serve us as a potent reminder that a more peaceful, equal and sustainable Papua New Guinea is possible.

I hope the results and human stories detailed in this report will motivate us to work even harder towards realizing it.

*Nicholas J. Booth*

**Nicholas Booth**  
UNDP Resident Representative

## 2024 AT A GLANCE

**33,500** hectares of rainforest around Mt. Wilhelm brought under community-led conservation

**31,000** people benefitted from community peace and development plans in Hela and Southern Highlands Provinces

**60,000** people benefitted from solar energy installed in schools and hospitals in the Sepik Region

**4,390** survivors of gender-based violence received support from UNDP-trained GBV responders

**3** Innovation Hubs completed to boost entrepreneurship in Bougainville

**469** Government officials trained on combating corruption and anti-corruption legislation

**6** women-led MSMEs financed and supported to strengthen the Blue Economy of Kimbe Bay

**30** community based organizations in Enga supported for strengthened food security and climate resilience

**US\$2.3 million**

worth of grants provided to community-led conservation and climate change adaptation initiatives through the PNG Biodiversity and Climate Fund and other channels





## 1 EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Papua New Guinea remains among the most unequal countries for women and girls. In the UNDP Gender Inequality Index, the country ranks 151st out of 166 countries. Over two thirds of Papua New Guinean women are estimated to have experienced intimate partner violence at some point in their lives and the country is facing a concerning rise in cases of sorcery accusation related violence, which mostly targets women.

In addition, women's representation in politics and decision-making roles remains low. Only three out of the 118 members serving in the Parliament of Papua New Guinea are currently women. Furthermore, the average Papua New Guinean woman receives only around 4 years of schooling and under half of Papua New Guinean women are estimated to currently participate in the country's labour force.

In 2024, UNDP continued to work hard to improve the status of women and girls in Papua New Guinean society. Together with our partners, we equipped women from vulnerable backgrounds with critical income-generating skills and supported women-led micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises. We trained safe house workers on responsible forms of counseling and build the capacity of civil society organizations to respond to the needs of the country's women and girls. In addition, we worked with women members of the Papua New Guinean Parliament and Bougainville House of Representatives to actively advance solutions to empower the country's women and girls.

## ► Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- 89 frontline GBV responders completed a psychosocial first aid training and 30 an introductory course on counselling to improve their skills in providing safe psychosocial support to survivors of GBV and sorcery accusation related violence. The participants supported 4,390 women, children and men with their newly acquired skills after the trainings.
- With UNDP's support, the National GBV Secretariat and the Department of Community Development and Religion undertook a study tour to Darwin, Australia to learn about best practices of government support to safe house services, models of infrastructure for remote services, and collaboration between government and civil society organizations for the delivery GBV services. The study tour informed the Government's national baseline assessment for the safehouse sector and prompted the development of national standard operating procedures for safehouses.
- 43 safehouse managers and provincial GBV focal points were consulted on the development of national standard operating procedures for safehouses.
- US\$80,000 worth of ICT equipment was provided to Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) to support the launch of a new Information Management System for tracking and recording cases of GBV. 42 staff members from FSVU were also equipped with the required skills to operate the new system.
- 9 civil society organizations received grant funding to carry out interventions to respond, prevent and advocate against cases of GBV across Papua New Guinea. The interventions focused on supporting people with increased vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities, individuals with stigmatized health conditions, victims of sorcery accusation related violence, and women and children living in remote settings with limited access to formal referral pathways.
- 23 frontline staff from the funded civil society organizations undertook capacity building trainings on reporting, monitoring and evaluation; protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment; and communications strategies.
- Over 300 people participated in the first-ever UNDP-supported rally against sorcery accusation-related violence in Mendi, Southern Highlands Province. Former survivors and perpetrators of sorcery accusation-related violence, policemen, priests and nuns, government officials, and representatives of women's and youth-led organizations all participated in the rally.





### ➤ Women's Economic Empowerment

- US\$500,000 worth of grants were pledged and began to be dispersed to six women-led micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises through the newly-established Blue Economy Enterprise Incubation Facility in Kimbe Bay.
- UNDP completed the building of three Innovation Hubs in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, providing a solar-powered and digitally-enabled cocreation space for women-led MSMEs, microfinance institutions and female members of the Bougainville House of Representatives to advance the economic development of Bougainville.
- Over 100 women received financial literacy and business management training, equipping them with essential skills to manage resources and explore economic opportunities.

### ➤ Women's Political Empowerment

- UNDP hosted two consultations of the Papua New Guinea Joint Parliamentary Women's Caucus to devise a strategic action plan for enhancing women's parliamentary representation, amending electoral laws, and implementing gender-sensitive budgeting in Papua New Guinea. A technical advisory committee was established to oversee these reforms.
- 18 women insider mediators were selected and trained to strengthen women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Highlands.
- A provincial design workshop was held to foster women's access to justice in Hela Province. The activity, which engaged government and civil society stakeholders, resulted in the first ever provincial framework to increase women's access to justice and meaningful role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and post-conflict recovery.
- To ensure women's participation in decision making processes related to the use of natural resources, 45% of participants in UNDP-led consultations on sustainable land use and marine conservation on New Britain were women.

## Annabelle\*: a survivor of sorcery accusation

"A big leader in our village died. When we went to the funeral, everyone suddenly accused us of being witches and having eaten his heart. Suddenly, the drug addicts in our area came and started beating us. They burned us with iron rods, hit us with machetes, and burned our houses. Of the nine of us who were attacked, only five survived."

Every year in Papua New Guinea, hundreds of innocent women are falsely accused of witchcraft. The accused often face death, torture, or complete ostracization from their families and communities.

In 2014, Annabelle survived a mass attack on nine suspected women in Enga Province. In the past decade, cases of sorcery accusation have rapidly increased in the province. UNDP is working with the Catholic Diocese of Wabag to address this epidemic of violence by providing shelter, medical care and counseling for survivors, and conducting advocacy against the practice among local communities.

"The morning after the attack, the Bishop came to our village and rescued me. I was admitted to the hospital. Once I was better, I was taken to the safe house, where I spent almost five months. In the meanwhile, the Bishop negotiated with the community whether it would be okay for me to return to my village. Once they agreed, I was reintegrated back with the support of the army and police," Annabelle recounts.

After the attack, the Catholic Diocese conducted a series of advocacy trainings in Annabelle's village. In Papua New Guinea, poor understanding of health is a common driver of sorcery accusation related violence, as sudden deaths of prominent leaders and young people are frequently attributed to sorcery.

"When I returned, things had returned to normal. People realized they had believed lies. I cooked for them and they cooked for me. While I am happy to be back, I am still suffering from my injuries and it is hard for me to work in the garden. I want people to hear my story, so we can all come up with a solution to help survivors and put an end to these accusations," Annabelle says.

*\*name of the survivor has been changed to protect her anonymity*





## 2

## PEACE, GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL COHESION

Papua New Guinea faces a unique set of challenges to peace and social cohesion. The country's Highlands region suffers from dozens of prolonged and armed intercommunal conflicts and rates of crime and violence remain high throughout the country. Despite a high proliferation of small arms, only 12% of weapons in the country are estimated to be licensed and registered, which complicates tackling ongoing armed violence in Papua New Guinea.

Furthermore, Papua New Guinea continues to grapple with challenges related to rule of law, corruption and institutional efficiency. Disputes among citizens are often not settled through the formal legal system and the presence of law enforcement remains low in most areas of the country. The country also still continues to recover from the Bougainville Crisis of the 1990s, which severely harmed the economic trajectory of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

In 2024, UNDP continued to actively work with its partners to address these issues. Together with faith based organizations, we continued to mediate ongoing intercommunal conflicts in the Highlands. We trained hundreds of public officials on combating corruption within their branches of government. We also remained an active partner in facilitating the post-referendum process between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

## ► Peacebuilding

- 5 mediation teams mediated four conflicts, with one peace agreement signed in Mariste, Margarima District of Hela Province, and the parties in the other conflicts expressing their readiness to sign peace agreements in 2025.
- 13 peacebuilding forums conducted in Southern Highlands Province to bring together isolated communities to engage in discussions, share insights, and extend support to one another.
- 28 community peace and development grants, benefiting approximately 31,300 individuals, were operationalized in Hela and Southern Highlands provinces.
- 6 peace and development dialogues held between the provincial and district authorities and community representatives to foster collaboration, share information, articulate expectations from the local government, and address grievances at the community level.
- 39 insider mediators were selected and trained to help mediate five conflicts in Southern Highlands Province. 21 of the selected mediators were women and 30% of the mediators young people.
- Based on an assessment conducted with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, a prototype for a web-based risk monitoring platform was developed. The platform will provide the Government, the UN system, and other partners in the country regular updates on emerging and persistent risks to development in Papua New Guinea, and thus enable them to make evidence-based and risk-informed strategic and programmatic decisions.
- Two Agriculture Labs were opened in Hela Province to promote peace, social cohesion and trust-building in the conflict prone communities of Idauwi and Paipali. The facilities provide local communities, particularly women and youth, with a collective space to learn about climate resilient agriculture, disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding, gender equality, and useful income generating skills.





## ► Anti-corruption and transparency

- 469 government officials from across the country participated in UNDP-held workshops on anti-corruption legislation, managing corruption risks and conducting corruption risk assessments.
- 103 judges, magistrates, court staff, and legal practitioners participated in trainings and workshops on judicial integrity, human rights, and anti-corruption.
- 25 media personnel in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville were trained on ethical journalism, investigative reporting, and corruption investigation.
- 58 youth participated in workshops and legislative simulations to prepare for real-life civic roles during the National Youth Mock Parliament 2024, co-hosted by UNDP and UNFPA.
- 30 young people learned about key democratic processes at the Youth Mike Manning Democracy Camp hosted by Transparency International PNG and supported by UNDP.
- 36 representatives of civil society organizations were trained in Buka and Port Moresby to effectively address corruption and promote transparency and accountability.
- A batch of IT equipment was handed over to the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council for the establishment of an whistleblower call center within the department.
- UNDP and UNODC supported delegations from Papua New Guinea in attending the International Anti-Corruption Conference 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania, various UNCAC implementation review group meetings in Vienna, Austria, Australian Public Service Anti-Corruption Conference in Darwin, and the Seminar on Government Incentives for Corporate Anti-Corruption Compliance in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- On International Anti-Corruption Day, UNDP supported Transparency International PNG in hosting a youth roundtable discussion on Engaging Young People in Political Processes in Port Moresby.
- Over 60 participants from the government and CSOs attended a co-creation workshop on drafting PNG's next Open Government Partnership National Action Plan, held in partnership with Department for National Planning and Monitoring and Transparency International PNG in December 2024.

## Frank John: from youth combatant to peace advocate

“For 15 years I lived through conflict. I saw so many houses being burned. Women, men and children being killed. The fighting forced me drop out of school after third grade. By the age of 12, I was holding a gun to protect our land from our enemies.”

This is how 25-year-old Frank John describes his childhood growing up amidst severe tribal fighting in Paipali, Hela Province. Frank lost his father when he was five and was forced to flee his home with his mother. Later, Frank was orphaned after her mother was accused of sorcery and killed.

For 10 years, Frank was forced to participate in the conflict between the warring clans. Throughout the fighting, he dreamed of peace and a way out of a life of violence. “After 10 years of fighting, I refused to continue carrying weapons. I wanted to become a youth leader and teach our youth better ethical principles,” Frank remembers.

In 2023, Frank took a step closer his dream when he was chosen as a participant of UNDP’s first ever youth leadership training in Hela. The training connected Frank with youth from rival clans for the first time in years. Together, they learned about the role of youth in building peace, as well as issues like gender equality and climate change.

The training inspired the participants to establish their own youth organization, which would carry out trainings on peace, climate change and gender equality for youth across the province. Frank volunteered to serve as the leader of the organization.

In July 2024, UNDP constructed an Agriculture Lab for the formerly warring clans in Paipali. In addition to providing local women and youth a testing ground to learn about climate resilient agriculture, the facility also included a dedicated space for the newly founded youth organization to carry out their trainings.

“My dream is to raise awareness among the youth who were lost like I was. Those 10% of our youth who are living aimlessly. We will teach them what we have learned and after that, we will enroll them in vocational trainings, so they will no longer continue to cause trouble in our communities. If we are able to do this, we will have peace and development in Hela. That is the vision of Hela youth! That is our dream!” Frank concludes.





### 3

## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Despite steady economic growth, Papua New Guinea has not succeeded in improving its human development indicators at the same rate in the past decades. The average citizen completes only around 5 years of schooling during their lifetime and due to limitations of the national health system, the country's life expectancy remains low at 66. Rates of unemployment are high throughout the country, particularly among young people, and most of the population depends on subsistence farming for daily survival.

Historically, the economic growth of Papua New Guinea has been spearhead by the country's extractive industries. Despite some successes, this economic model has not proven to be successful in promoting inclusive, pro-poor growth and protecting the country's vast natural resources. Financial literacy among the population remains low and the infrastructure for establishing micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises remains undeveloped and inaccessible for most citizens.

UNDP is a key partner in facilitating Papua New Guinea's transformation towards a more sustainable green and blue economy. In 2024, we continued to support the Government of Papua New Guinea in this transition by building various facilities for training people on useful income generating skills. We also continued to support local MSMEs in scaling up their operations through grants, capacity building, and linking them with new markets and supply lines. Finally, we continued to improve access to reliable electricity through renewable energy solutions.

## ► Decent Livelihoods

- 209 fishponds, 10 pig farms, and 8 poultry farms were established in Enga Province to provide income-generating opportunities and to decrease malnutrition among vulnerable communities in Enga Province.
- With UNDP's technical and financial support, a dairy farm with 90 cattle, a sheep farm with 50 sheep, and six coffee nurseries were able to expand their operations in Enga Province.
- 3 Innovation Hubs were completed in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The Hubs will help stimulate the local economy by supporting Bougainvilleans in starting and expanding their own micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses, and providing trainings on financial and digital literacy for marginalized groups.
- US\$500,000 worth of grants were pledged and begun to be dispersed to 6 women-led small and medium-sized enterprises through the newly-established Blue Economy Enterprise Incubation Facility in Kimbe Bay, West New Britain Province. The facility will aim to preserve the region's coral reefs and marine ecosystems by strengthening Kimbe Bay's sustainable blue economy.

## ► Renewable Energy

- Over 60,000 people benefitted from solar power systems installed in three health facilities and six schools in East and West Sepik Provinces. The solar power systems will ensure continuous supply of electricity to critical public services in remote and rural areas.
- 5–10 technical staff at each site in East and West Sepik Provinces were equipped with the necessary technical skills to maintain and operate the solar energy systems.
- UNDP's Innovation Hub in Buka was successfully equipped with solar energy. The facility will help build the financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills of local women and youth and provide them access to online resources.
- UNDP began constructing a 1MW solar farm in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, which will provide reliable around-the-clock electricity to the entire town of Buin. Once completed, 10,000 inhabitants will directly benefit and 30,000 indirectly from the solar farm.



## Kandes Niya: a coffee farmer on a mission

“Coffee is a long lasting investment. It will last for 50 years. When I plant coffee trees, I am planting them for my sons and daughters who will reap the benefits from them for the rest of their lives.”

Coffee farmer Kandes Niya currently serves as the chairman of the Wabag Coffee Growers Cooperative Society. In recent years, Kandes and his cooperative of over 200 local coffee farmers has worked closely with UNDP to modernize coffee production in Enga Province.

“With UNDP’s financial and technical assistance, we built a permanent fermenting center. We were able to install permanent water supply and build a water dam with a generator. These new facilities will enable us to process premium coffee, which we will hopefully be able to trade to the best markets available,” Kandes explains.

In total, Kandes and his fellow farmers have planted 30,000 coffee trees in Wabag District with UNDP’s help. In addition to strengthening business prospects, this has helped rehabilitate hectares of degraded grassland and increased the resilience of local communities to natural disasters like landslides and flooding.

“Planting trees is very important. It is important for preserving the fertility of the brilliant soil we have here in Enga and to protect our people from the impacts of climate change,” Kandes says.

In the past years, Enga Province, including Kandes’s region in Wabag District, has suffered from frequent armed tribal conflicts. By involving as many youth as possible in the cooperative’s activities, Kandes hopes to build peace in his area by preventing them from joining the fighting.

“Engaging young people in productive activities is very important. If they have nothing to do, people will be able to persuade them to join the fighting. The youth will even fight for a Coca Cola or a few dozen Kina. We need agencies like UNDP to encourage every tribal group to form their own associations. Some will go to pig raising, some to chicken raising, and some to coffee farming. These initiatives will help us to keep our children from going to the battlefield,” Kandes exclaims.





## ④ ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Papua New Guinea is among the world's 17 megadiverse countries. Despite making up only about 1% of the world's land mass, as much as 9% of the world's biodiversity is estimated to be found in the country. Over 90% of Papua New Guineans depend on this spectacular natural heritage for their daily survival.

Despite this abundance of natural resources, Papua New Guinea has faced significant environmental challenges in the past decades. Harmful extractive practices, unsustainable land use, climate change, pollution, and various other factors have contributed to serious environmental degradation in the country. This has had adverse effects on the country's economy and people's health and livelihoods.

In 2024, UNDP continued to work with local communities and the Government of Papua New Guinea to protect the country's natural heritage. Together, we expanded the coverage of protected areas across the country and began reclaiming thousands of hectares of degraded land through reforestation efforts. On New Britain Island, we continued to develop systems for sustainable land use planning and to support local MSMEs in developing livelihoods to preserve local coral reefs. Finally, UNDP continued to help raise finance for conservation efforts in the country as a key supporter of the PNG Biodiversity and Climate Fund.

## ► Environmental Conservation

- 33,500 hectares of high altitude rainforest around Mt. Wilhelm in Simbu Province was brought under protection as 3 major tribes in Mitnande LLG signed conservation deeds to protect their customary lands.
- 29,555 community members living in Protected Areas had their sustainable livelihoods supported by the UNDP-funded Biodiversity and Climate Fund.
- 8 management plans were developed and funded to ensure the effective delivery of conservation initiatives around the country.
- US\$402,339 worth of grants were provided for the management of Protected Areas around the country.
- Over 500 subscribers of the Lukim Gather mobile application continued to collect and upload biodiversity data from their Protected Area sites. The data collected through application was used to help track the progress of current management actions, monitor the changes in environmental threats, and support future planning of conservation initiatives.
- Over 200,000 trees and 60,500 coffee seedlings were planted in six districts of Enga Province to reclaim over 240 hectares of degraded land.
- Land degradation assessments were conducted in Nakanai and Pomio Districts of West and East New Britain to guide future interventions on restoring 50,000 hectares of degraded land on New Britain Island.
- Two roadshows were conducted on New Britain Island to educate local communities on the Government's National Sustainable Land Use Policy, which was developed and launched with UNDP's support in September 2023.
- Two training sessions on sustainable cocoa farming practices were given on New Britain Island.
- Through the UNDP-supported PNG Biodiversity and Climate Fund, US\$269,000 worth of grants were provided Wildlife Management Area committees of six Protected Areas to support the development of management and business plans, and livelihoods initiatives.



## Jacky Yandala: mercenary fighter turned forester

“By the age of 13, I was learning to fight. Even before I reached adulthood, I had become a mercenary fighter. When I was fighting, I had money, pigs and women, but I slowly saw that nothing good would come out of it. The fighting ruined our villages and community projects. If I continued on that path, I knew that I would die at a young age. So I decided to leave that life behind and become a forester.”

Jacky Yandala grew up amidst constant tribal fighting in Enga Province’s Kandep Valley. Like many local teens devoid of prospects, Jacky ended up making a living by hiring himself out as a fighter for the various tribal conflicts happening across the province. “At that time, I saw no other way of making a living. If I wanted money, I could only get it through fighting,” Jacky remembers.

In Kandep Valley, the fighting has not only damaged local livelihoods, but also the entire ecology of the valley. Trees have been cut down as part of the fighting and agricultural land has been left unmanaged due to communities being repeatedly displaced from their homes. As a result, much of the valley has been taken over by grassland, which threatens the food security of the local communities and makes them more vulnerable to climate change induced natural disasters.

In partnership with the European Union and the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority, UNDP is trying to rehabilitate the land by planting 100,000 trees in the valley. Jacky serves as a supervisor of the initiative, which is bringing communities together for a common cause.

“I think climate change is changing the mindset of our people. When we are working together and spending most our time in the tree nursery, people will not have the time to engage in troublesome activities. If we do not have initiatives like this, the youth find themselves on the streets drinking moonshine and smoking marijuana. That’s when trouble begins,” Jacky explains.

Above all, supervising the initiative is Jacky’s way of making up for his community for the destruction he used to cause in the past. “When I plant trees in my community, I am creating the conditions for a happier future. I failed my first attempt at life, and I want to try again by improving people’s lives this time. All that energy I used to devote to fighting, I will now devote to forestry and serving people,” Jacky concludes.



An aerial photograph of a mountainous region in Papua New Guinea. The foreground shows a steep, rocky slope that has been the site of a large landslide, with a large area of exposed, light-colored earth and rock. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green forest. In the background, more mountain ranges are visible under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene depicts the aftermath of a natural disaster in a rugged, mountainous terrain.

## 5 DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Papua New Guinea is a country vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters. Earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis have frequently devastated the country in recent decades. The frequency and intensity of such disasters is likely to worsen with the intensifying impacts of climate change. In addition, the country's Highlands region is vulnerable to frequent armed intercommunal conflicts, which often lead to the displacement of thousands of people for extended periods of time.

As the host of the United Nations Humanitarian Advisory Team In Papua New Guinea, UNDP has played an active role in coordinating the collective emergency response of different UN agencies in Papua New Guinea. UNDP also works to enhance the disaster resilience and preparedness of local communities by introducing early warning systems and conducting capacity building trainings across the country.

In terms of natural disasters, 2024 was a challenging year for Papua New Guinea. In May, an unprecedented landslide struck the Milneba region of Enga Province, impacting thousands of people in a volatile region vulnerable to frequent tribal fighting. Furthermore, the country's East Sepik Province was devastated by a 6.9 magnitude earthquake in March, while unprecedented flooding impacted the country's remote Western Province.

During each of these crises, UNDP worked closely with the national and provincial authorities to address the immediate needs of the affected people and devise solutions to support their long-term recovery.



## ► Mulitaka Landslide

- Humanitarian Advisory Team was deployed to the disaster site within 48 hours to help coordinate the emergency response alongside the Disaster Management Team of the Government of PNG and other partners.
- The Humanitarian Advisory Team supported the Enga Provincial Government with identifying a methodology to rapidly assess the number of affected people.
- With the support of Australia, the team was reinforced with a Humanitarian Logistics Advisor who supported the Enga Provincial Government in managing the reception, storage and transportation of emergency relief items.
- UNDP's Early Recovery specialist supported the Enga Provincial Government with creating a comprehensive government-led recovery plan, the Mulitaka Disaster Recovery Plan, for the communities affected by the landslide.
- In November, the Enga Provincial Government and UNDP officially launched the Mulitaka Disaster Recovery Plan, which outlines a comprehensive framework for rebuilding the impacted communities through interventions in 11 different sectors, including housing, education, and health.
- On November 28, the Parliament of Papua New Guinea passed the Mulitaka Resettlement Act to validate the Mulitaka Disaster Recovery Plan. UNDP was made the co-chair of the Mulitaka Resettlement Authority and the lead of the newly-activated early recovery section to help oversee the implementation of the plan in 2025.

## ► East Sepik Earthquake

- The Humanitarian Advisory Team monitored and coordinated the response to a 6.9 magnitude earthquake that struck East Sepik Province on 24 March. The team supported the Provincial Disaster Coordinator and PNG Defense Force with running the Emergency Operations Room in Wewak Stadium, receiving relief items, planning the distribution of donations, and advising the Provincial Disaster Coordinator with information management tools.

## ➤ Western Province Floods

- The Humanitarian Advisory Team monitored unprecedented flooding in Western Province from its beginning in February and advocated for the importance of a collective response among the National Disaster Center and other national authorities.
- In June, the authorities officially requested UNDP to lead an assessment in the province to determine the extent of the damage, which was completed and provided to the Government in three weeks.

## ➤ Humanitarian Information Management

- UNDP continued to maintain a dashboard for track both natural and human-induced disasters on a daily basis to provide regular updates to the PNG Disaster Management Team on disaster incidents in the country. As part of this tracking activity, UNDP also maintained close relations with the most important media groups in Papua New Guinea to regularly cross-check and verify information on crises affecting the country.
- In total, UNDP monitored and shared flash updates on at least 17 risk situations and emergencies in 2024, including minor volcanic eruptions, floods, and internal conflicts.

## ➤ Disaster Risk Management

- UNDP contracted Digicel PNG to conduct two rounds of multi-hazard surveys. The surveys reached out to more than 3,000 respondents about prevalent hazards in their regions, the ways in which they affect them, and sources of aid available to them in times of crises. Data collected from the surveys was used to create provincial hazard maps and refine disaster preparedness and response strategies in different parts of the country.
- Four provincial Disaster Risk Management and Mapping trainings were conducted in West New Britain, West Sepik and Western Provinces to enhance provincial capacities on conducting disaster needs assessments and using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools for disaster risk management planning and decision-making.





## Edlyn Yaki: survivor of the Mulitaka landslide

"I was sleeping when the rocks started falling at 3AM. The landslide covered the entire village. I ran away to the road in complete darkness as my husband, father and three children got left behind. At dawn, I went to see who all had gotten into safety. I was sure I would find my family members, but I was told none of them had survived."

This is how 28-year-old Edlyn Yaki describes the horror that struck her on the Friday of 24 May 2024, when a massive landslide suddenly destroyed her home village of Yambali in the Mulitaka region of Papua New Guinea's Enga Province. The landslide, unprecedented in scale, directly impacted over 5,600 community members and resulted in at least 163 deaths. Edlyn's father, three children and husband, all perished in the tragedy.

"All my property and belongings were damaged. Even the shirt, trousers and slippers I am wearing now people gave me out of sympathy," Edlyn explained a week after the disaster.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, UN agencies were immediately mobilised to meet the immediate needs of the affected population. UNDP's early recovery experts also worked with the Provincial government to ensure that humanitarian aid would involve long term solutions that would enable the communities to rebuild their lives.

In November 2024, the Enga Provincial Government and UNDP jointly launched the Mulitaka Disaster Response Plan and the Parliament of Papua New Guinea passed the Mulitaka Resettlement Act. The recovery plan has set an ambitious target of mobilizing over 20 million USD towards rebuilding the survivors' homes, livelihoods and essential services and ensuring their resilience in the face of future calamities. As the co-chair of the newly established Mulitaka Resettlement Authority, UNDP will play an instrumental role in coordinating and supporting the recovery process.

"If we receive the support we need, my community can once again become the busy place it once was. At this stage, I am still grieving, but if my village is ever rebuilt, I will regain my strength. If my Yambali returns to what it once was, I will recover," says Edlyn.



# 6

## 2024 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The year 2024 marked the first year of UNDP's Country Programme in Papua New Guinea for 2024-2028. The Country Office was able to deliver 92% of its budget on interventions focusing on key four outcome areas: Equality for Women and Girls; Peace, Governance and Social Cohesion; Sustainable Economic Development; and Environment and Climate Change.

**2024 PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE: US\$20,960,000**



Crosscutting Projects

2.8%



Environment & Climate Change

42%



Equality for Women and Girls

6%



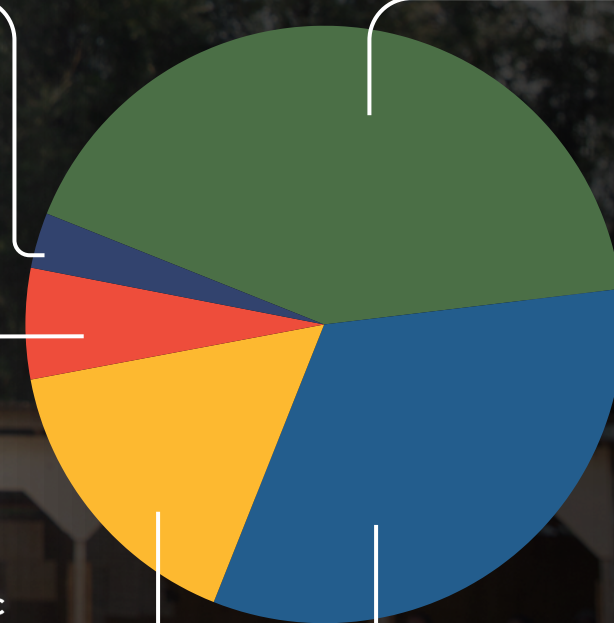
Sustainable Economic Development

16.3%



Governance, Peace & Social Cohesion

32.9%





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