

HOPE worldwide (PNG)

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

HOPE worldwide (PNG) is a Christian non-government organization founded in 1994. Our mission is to bring hope and change lives by providing medical, educational, and social services to the underprivileged in Papua New Guinea, a developing nation just north of Australia. We work in close partnership with communities and the Government within PNG.

We are affiliated with HOPE worldwide entities in USA, Australia, New Zealand and over 60 other nations. Notable programs of HOPE worldwide in other countries include the Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, extensive HIV/AIDS programs in Africa, and wide-ranging programs in India.

HOPE worldwide (PNG) has grown steadily in the last 13 years, and the organisation now has around 80 staff, all Papua New Guineans. During 2007, highlights included commencement of new programs in tuberculosis control, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and agriculture, as well as the opening of seven school computer classrooms.

● Tuberculosis control

Tuberculosis is common in PNG, killing more adults than any other infectious disease, as well as many children. However it is almost always curable if diagnosed in time and treatment is completed. The treatment is complex and takes 6-9 months, and so many patients do not finish it and become ill again. Cure rates in PNG are currently only around 50-60%, with many cases undiagnosed. For effective control of the epidemic, cure rates must be >85% and sputum-positive (infectious) patients must be identified and treated.

The "DOTS" strategy developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has

been shown to dramatically improve treatment outcomes. This involves direct supervision of medicine-taking by community volunteers or clinic workers. With funds from The Charitable Foundation, and now further support from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, we are now coordinating DOTS treatment across Port Moresby, in partnership with the Department of Health and the WHO. Strategies include strengthening of laboratory services, setting up of DOTS treatment points in the communities, improved communication of results and record keeping, and tracing of people who default from their medicine. Diagnosis and cure rates are now rising steadily.

● School library and IT program

During 2007, just over 200,000 books donated from Australia were distributed to schools in eleven provinces. The quality and range of the distributed books is steadily rising as donating schools in Australia respond to our requests for specific types of books. Seven computer classrooms were also established – at primary and high schools in Port Moresby, and Central, Simbu, Enga, East



Above: Ted Diro Primary School reading books from the Mobile Library.





The Nine Mile Urban Clinic

Sepik and Morobe Provinces. Some of the children at these schools have never seen, let alone used a computer before.

We thank NZAID who fund this program, and the many partners, in-kind donors, and volunteers.

● *HIV/AIDS programs*

HIV/AIDS is sadly tightening its grip on PNG – infection rates continue to rise. More and more people are falling ill and then dying from diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, gastroenteritis and cancer as the virus wreaks havoc on their immune system. Yet there is hope – the National AIDS Council and other agencies including HOPE worldwide (PNG) are committed in continuing to raise awareness, education and treatment.

The Helvim Bilong Yumi (“Our Help”) Program is tackling the problems of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases with a multi-faceted approach. It involves direct outreach and education in high-risk subpopulations, improvement



Above: Student nurses training at Nine Mile.

and streamlining in diagnostic and treatment services, and various novel education and prevention strategies. The program has now been expanded from the Nine Mile Clinic to the custom-refurbished Lawes Road Clinic close to the city centre and port. We thank Family Health International for the financial and specialist advisory support of this program.

We can now also provide specific HIV treatment (anti-retroviral medicines) at the clinics, and conduct training for community volunteers who administer this treatment in various provinces in PNG. As in previous years, our school education program continues, providing a reproductive health and HIV/AIDS program to students in Grades 6-8 in almost all Government primary schools in Port Moresby. Voluntary Counselling and Testing for antenatal mothers, people

with tuberculosis and other diseases associated with AIDS, and other concerned individuals is also done at the Clinics.

● *Primary health in the squatter settlements and rural areas*

Our Nine Mile Urban Clinic is now in its 13th year of service to the rapidly growing squatter settlement areas on the northeast edge of Port Moresby. The clinic is run in partnership with the Department of Health. Some patients come across the city or even from other provinces to attend the clinic and the staff triage, comfort, diagnose, advise, cure, and refer a myriad of medical problems



every day. We have one of the best laboratories and most well stocked pharmacies of any clinic in the country. Medical and nursing students from the University come to learn community medicine. The clinic is also a springboard for our work in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

In the highlands, we continue to assist the Aid Posts in the remote villages of Bokolma and Kalweri, as well as support the Health Centre and other Aid Posts in the area with funds from PNG Sustainable Development Ltd.

● *National Diabetes Study*

More and more Papua New Guineans are developing diabetes and hypertension, and are then dying from heart and kidney complications. With funds from the WHO, we are conducting a national prevalence study to determine the patterns and extent of these diseases, and contributing factors such as obesity and smoking. The questionnaire is extensive – 84 questions, plus measurement of blood pressure, height and weight etc are done, as well as a glucose tolerance test. 3.000 individuals are being tested in five representative sites around the country. This is the first study of its kind in PNG, and the results will guide future initiatives to address these problems.



Above: Children at the Six Mile School

● *Transforming lives through education*

Our 'quiet achiever' program is the Six Mile School, where our staff provides preschool and non-formal education to children in this impoverished area. One of the two classes - the Kisim Save ("Gaining Knowledge") class for children aged 8-14 years not enrolled in school, is unique in PNG as it places graduating students into the formal Government system in Grades 1-4. Some past graduates are now up to Year 10, and through the support of our school student sponsorship program, they have the opportunity to take their education to where their abilities and dreams lead. the sponsorship program also helps students in the highlands and other schools in PNG – around 200 are sponsored each year.



Above: Planning a pilot rice farm at Boregaina

● *Agriculture*

The sharp rises in world food and fuel prices are impacting the poor around the world. Rural development that both improves access to food (food security) and income (from cash cropping) is more important than ever. We are working with communities in the Hiri and Rigo districts of Central Province by introducing dry rice cultivation, vanilla growing, and duck husbandry. We are using strains of rice that have been shown by the National Agriculture Research Institute to be particularly suitable for PNG conditions.



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Major donors and partners

- Department of Health (via Churches Medical Council)
- NZAID
- National AIDS Council / NHASP
- Family Health International / USAID
- Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- The Charitable Foundation
- Malaysian Association of PNG
- World Health Organisation
- ANZ
- Nestle
- Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development and Australian Volunteers International
- Mobil Oil New Guinea
- National Library of PNG
- PNG Sustainable Development Ltd.
- Rotary Clubs of Ryde and Galston (in Sydney) and Port Moresby
- Chief Container Services / Swire Shipping Agencies
- Skills Development Trust Fund (ADB)
- Wheels
- DHL
- HT PNG
- Theodist
- HOPE *worldwide* in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, and Churches of Christ congregations in these countries.

Other donors and partners

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Without your generous support, our work could not continue.

HOPE *worldwide* (PNG) is registered as a charitable trust in PNG under Section 69E. Donations are tax deductible in PNG, and also (through HOPE *worldwide*) in Australia, USA and the UK.

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