

## Papua New Guinea

### Update on the context and situation of children

In 2022, Papua New Guinea (PNG) continued to feel the shockwaves of the global COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and inflation. PNG is a middle-income country with a high degree of income inequality. With an estimated population of 10.3 million[1], 40% of people live below the extreme poverty line, and 41% of children live in poverty[2].

The PNG economy continued well through 2022, despite facing many challenges. The projected real 2022 GDP is 4.0%, a projection near the pre-pandemic level in 2019 of 4.5%. The real non-resource sector continues to be strong, from 4.8% in 2021 to 4.5% in 2022 and is forecasted to be 4.8% in 2023. Further, higher levels of investment in the resource sector are expected to translate into high revenues, resulting in a positive medium-term outlook.

Contributing to the economic outlook is that the war in Ukraine caused higher commodity prices and inflation. With higher global commodity prices for PNG's major export commodities, revenues have increased throughout the year. Also, the high inflation hit PNG the hardest in the region, at 6.6%, challenging households to afford everyday items. This is concerning due to the demonstrated negative impact of high inflation on children's height and weight.[3]

Employment increases in the non-resource and resource sectors have helped to counter the inflation pressure on households. Overall total employment increased by 3.7% from June 2021 to June 2022. At the start of 2022, the resumption of mining operations largely drove the increase following the removal of COVID-19 restrictions in late 2021, coupled with the rise in prices and demand. The resurgence in mining operations raises concerns about the impact of mining on children. Some research has linked positive child health outcomes with the activation of mining projects related to improved livelihoods. [4] In contrast, later mining phases have mixed health outcomes offset by food insecurity and environmental pollution.[4] Further, as employment opportunities remain few, especially for unskilled adolescents, there is a high risk of exploitative child labour, recruitment into criminal gangs and an increasing the population of children living on the streets in urban areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated challenges also continued this year. As of December 2022, PNG has officially reported 46,631 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 669 confirmed COVID-19 deaths. PNG has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the world[5]; 6% of the population has been fully vaccinated. As of December 2022, 306,966 people have been fully vaccinated, and 367,204 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine.[6] Not only are the low vaccination rates challenging, but the prioritization shift away from COVID-19 has meant that regular testing and reliable reporting are limited, significantly posing challenges to understanding the pandemic's ongoing impact on children.

In many parts of the country, the elections were carried out without incident throughout the official campaign period (12 May to 9 August). Prime Minister Marape won the election, leading a coalition government which included at least 17 parties and independents. The new Parliament consists of two women, more than the 2017 election, which resulted in zero successful women candidates.

Between May and July 2022, during the national general election period, violence in three Highlands provinces escalated on an unprecedented scale and intensity, specifically concentrated in Enga, Southern Highlands, and Hela Provinces. The violence included significant cases of GBV, high levels of displacement, and caused the indefinite closure of schools, health facilities, other government services, banks, businesses, and markets.

As a result, an estimated 50 people died, and violent outbreaks displaced 90,000 people, including health workers, teachers, social workers, and other public servants fled. Additionally, learning was seriously disrupted, with school closures affecting upward of 26,000 students.

Children were especially affected by election-related violence. Displaced families and families who have experienced home and livelihood loss, injury, death, or experience of sexual violence or abduction kept their children home from school, sent them away, or sought opportunities for the children, especially adolescents, to be employed. Affected children, including adolescents, could not reach safe spaces to reduce their anxiety and stress and get referrals and assistance to access such possible services, as few social workers and other social service providers in the Highlands remained.

Further, exacerbating the challenges faced this year was an earthquake in September 2022. The 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck the northern part of Morobe Province, also affecting Madang and Eastern Highlands Provinces. Twelve people died, and 42 were injured, including an estimated 8,000 children displaced. The number of affected reached several thousand. The National Disaster Centre nor other Government entities formally requested emergency assistance from the United Nations through the Disaster Management team.

Although it was an election year, legislative and policy frameworks for children and adolescents advanced. For example, an important development this year was the launch of the National Health Plan 2021 – 2030. This is critical for the health of children, adolescents and women because it sets out a clear vision, goals and priorities. Importantly, it champions all aspects of health in the early years of life to transition well into adulthood, including maternal and child health, mental health, and routine immunization.

This year PNG also saw an increase in geopolitical interests providing an opportunity to advocate for child and adolescent development. The increasing bilateral interest from China was demonstrated by a memorandum of understanding on various programmes to provide economic and technical assistance to PNG, including green development, COVID-19 assistance, and establishing an anti-narcotics centre. Similarly, the United States (U.S.) prioritized PNG as one of the focus countries under the Global Fragility Act (GFA) to implement the 10-year U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability. And the close relationship with Australia continued as several high-profile visits occurred. As PNG is Australia's largest trade partner, the Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared interests following the elections in both countries in 2022. In addition, the countries reaffirmed their commitment to continue close cooperation and dialogue.

[1] <https://data.unicef.org/country/png/>

[2] <https://data.unicef.org/how-many/how-many-children-live-in-poverty/>

[3] <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/766351495654703618-0010022017/original/B1InflationChildHealthABCA.pdf>

[4] <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-022-00797-6>

[5] <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>

[6] NDOH COVID-19 Surveillance Update.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

For nearly three years, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted PNG in numerous ways. Coupled with slow or stagnant pre-pandemic progress in some areas, COVID-19 has seriously challenged progress toward achieving key national targets. However, despite the challenges confronting the development context of PNG in 2022, UNICEF directly supported over one million children through

its programmes contributing to transformational changes in their lives towards reversing negative development trends and bolstering positive developments.

In the health sector, in collaboration with partners, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the National Department of Health (NDOH) to revamp health services. As a result, negative health trends witnessed in 2020 and 2021 have started to turn around, particularly related to maternal and child health, including vaccine processes and safe births.

In collaboration with WHO and other partners, UNICEF supported catch-up vaccination sessions, which improved the 2022 routine immunization coverage by 4% from the previous year. As a result, the number of children under one year receiving DTP-containing vaccine has increased from 36% to 40%, returning to pre-pandemic levels (39% in 2019). Also, the percentage of planned immunization sessions has increased to 60%, approaching pre-COVID-19 levels (62% in 2019 and 50% in 2021). In 2022, 30% of pregnant women had a supervised delivery in a health facility (73,432 of 241,862 births), six thousand more than in 2021, through the DFAT-funded UNICEF Saving Lives and Spreading Smiles Programme (SLSS). Of the 2022 births, 62% of newborns and their mothers (45,245) received an integrated package of maternal and newborn health services through the scale-up of SLSS to 22 provinces, 4,000 more than in 2021. In addition, 53 more health facilities are fully equipped to deliver essential newborn care because of UNICEF's SLSS programme, bringing the total to 413 facilities nationwide.

Further, UNICEF supported increasing the availability and accessibility of nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions with the horizontal expansion of services through the nutrition scale-up programme. This expansion has contributed to the decline in the malnutrition case fatality rate in Mt. Hagen General hospital in Western Highlands Province, from 16% in 2021 to 6% in 2022. (SAM Inpatient Audit, Mt. Hagen Hospital WHPHA, 2022) In addition, ten provinces are now providing a comprehensive package of Direct Nutrition Interventions to increase service access and coverage due to the UNICEF-supported nutrition programme's scale-up from the initial three provinces (National Capital District, Western Province and Western Highlands Province). The new provinces are Madang, Morobe, Eastern Highlands, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Hela, Eastern New Britain, and Simbu.

In the Education sector, the pandemic caused a significant disruption in schooling. Still, it also allowed UNICEF PNG to mobilize public financing for the sector and expand access to quality education. As such, UNICEF's systems strengthening work continued to advance primarily through implementing the COVID-19 Education Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (EERRP).

In May 2022, the Government of Papua New Guinea activated the Education Cluster to draft the pandemic response plan. With UNICEF providing leading technical support, the resulting EERRP was a collaboration with several local partners. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the Australian High Commission (AHC) under the PNGAus Partnership, and the Government of Australia financially supported the National Department of Education (NDoE) to implement phase one of the plan. This phase focused on the urban areas of Lae, Madang and the National Capital District, where population density and total cumulative COVID-19 cases were highest and Western and Sandaun Provinces on the border with Indonesia.

A total of 382,694 students (185,060 females) continued remote learning safely with the successful distribution of 191,347 Home Learning Packs. Additionally, 10,695 students (4,060 females) received backpacks and school stationaries from School-in-a-box and early childhood kits with individual education/early learning materials distributed by UNICEF. In addition, 9,171 teachers (5,610 females) participated in UNICEF training on using the Packs and other training materials.

UNICEF supported students' and teachers' safe return to school as well. A total of 28,820 students (13,070 females) were supported by UNICEF's distribution of 15,500 copies of Bilum Books past exam papers, which will contribute to high transition rates as one copy can support two students. In addition, 5,775 (2,839 females) teachers in 418 schools completed Psychosocial Support training. The teachers and counsellors will use the results of an emotional well-being assessment completed by 104,000 students for ongoing monitoring and support. 'Parenting in Emergencies' training was delivered to 8,574 parents and caregivers (5,422 females) for increased understanding of child development, caring for children, stress, self-care and problem-solving.

Implementing the EERRP also contributed to improving equity of learning with a focus on inclusiveness. Two-hundred and sixty-three students (125 females) accessed assistive devices, including mobility, visual and hearing aids. Eight Inclusive Education Resource Centres received 120 copies of adapted HLPs for students with visual impairment. Meanwhile, 24 (14 females) teachers were trained on Reach and Match sensory kits, Melanesian sign language, COVID-19 awareness and assistive device fitting and maintenance.

The contributions mentioned above in the Education Sector supported positive trends in the education sector. For example, the latest Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (2021) result indicates that the average learning outcome score increased to 45, compared to the 2017 baseline of 25, signifying a 20-point increase. Further, the transition rate from Grade eight to Grade nine has also risen to 64 this year, nearly an eight-point increase from 2019.

On WASH, in 2022, UNICEF continued building on past interventions to increase the proportion of people using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services in communities, facilities and with individuals.

At the community level, 34,978 people, including 16,383 females, live in 184 communities now declared Open Defecation Free through the UNICEF-supported Community Led Total Sanitation Programme. Eighty-five percent (29,731 persons) have progressed up the sanitation ladder, moving from poor unimproved sanitation to basic sanitation. To be certified as Open Defecation Free, all the community households must have a latrine and handwashing facilities.

In UNICEF targeted areas, all schools (100%) and 57% of health facilities now have basic WASH services, an increase of 33% and 47% since 2019. In schools, 150,562 students, including 72,751 girls, gained access to basic water and hygiene services offered in 353 schools supported by UNICEF. And twenty-eight of those schools benefitted from a complete WASH package (basic water and sanitation services and basic handwashing facilities). This substantially increased from 2016, when only six schools practiced group handwashing daily. In addition, 4,000 girls from 28 schools have access to gender-segregated WASH facilities, including menstrual hygiene management rooms.

Additionally, 182 schools now have Hygiene Clubs. Members were trained to promote frequent handwashing with soap and the use of toilets in schools and homes. To ensure the compliance of WASH facilities with WASH in school policy and standards, UNICEF and NDoE have developed a checklist to verify all new school WASH infrastructure before handing it over to the school.

Capacity development by UNICEF has contributed significantly to the improvements in school WASH facilities stated above. A total of 5,533 individuals (49% girls and women) were trained to maintain the school WASH facilities to ensure proper, effective and sustained use, including students, parents, teachers, and school boards of management. This training includes the delivery of gender-sensitive health and hygiene messages and improving WASH facilities through the incorporation of maintenance in the School Learning and Improvement Plans, the annual management plan for each facility.

On gender-equity programming, UNICEF in 2022 focused on transformational systemic changes to prevent violence against children in all settings where children and adolescents grow, including at home, in school, and in the community. As such, UNICEF continued to work to build a protective, equitable environment by employing the multi-faceted community engagement, social and behavioural change strategy:

At home, UNICEF accelerated the implementation of the Parenting for Childhood Development (P4CD) Programme working with 4,452 parents and caregivers (1,773 males and 2,679 females) to improve parenting skills and behaviours towards their children in Morobe, Western Highlands, NCD and Jiwaka. This increase is 50% from 2021. Accordingly, the parents and caregivers can now use their positive parenting skills to support better their 9,236 children (4,572 males and 4,664 females).

1) The success of the P4CD Programme is gaining momentum across sectors. There are a growing number of UNICEF-trained community parenting facilitators/experts. At the end of 2022, 418 facilitators/experts (199 male and 219 female) partnered with seven community leaders from local FBOs and CSOs, engaging parents on preventing violent disciplining and positive parenting. In addition, 200 parenting facilitators are schoolteachers, further expanding positive parenting via the education sector.

2) In schools, using the social and behavioural change strategy, UNICEF implemented the Safe School Initiative and supported implementing the Behaviour Management Policy. A total of 3,564 students (1,777 females) participated in Safe School clubs, with 80 teachers (38 female) supporting the Initiative in 30 primary schools in the National Capital District, Western Highlands Province and Morobe. The school clubs advocate healthy relationships, equitable gender norms, attitudes and behaviours and support students to build capacities to exercise their rights, including reproductive rights. The Initiative is reaching positive results; the self-assessment survey indicated that all participating teachers and over 3,000 students (1,672 females) reported a positive change in their gender-equitable attitudes.

Concurrently, UNICEF supported implementing the Behaviour Management Policy, which promotes students' positive behaviours and welfare in schools. With the shift in implementation focus last year, UNICEF focused on sustaining capacity development by developing a teacher in-service programme, including the facilitator's guide, a participant's manual and teacher pre-service program manuals. This training programme will target 5,000 teachers annually from 16 training institutions. Further, as part of the EERRP, 5,775 teachers (2,839 females) in 418 schools completed the psychosocial support training developed by UNICEF in partnership with Griffith University (Australia), ChildFund and NDoE. The teachers will support the 104,000 students who completed the emotional well-being assessment.

3) In the community, UNICEF continued efforts to change attitudes and behaviours condoning violence against children and women. UNICEF reached over 150,000 people (73,500 females) through multiple traditional and social media initiatives, including U-report. These initiatives continue to be an essential component for social and behavioural change towards prevalent norms of violence against children and women.

Further, with the strengthened service delivery capacity available in communities, 3,844 individuals, including children and women who experienced violence, abuse and neglect, were reached with comprehensive care services through the case management process, including 1,250 cases in NCD, 350 cases in Enga province and 2,244 cases in Morobe province. A total of 788 children (471 males, 317 females) were survivors of violence, and GBV and 774 parents/caregivers (274 males, 466 females, one transgender person, 33 unspecified) were affected or at risk of violence received GBV, MHPSS and child protection case management services by the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain (HelpLine) run by ChildFund and supported by UNICEF. Furthermore, capacities of GBV service were enhanced by providing cash vouchers for essential supplies and GBV services by seven trained Service providers. In addition, UNICEF established a pool of 16 CPIE experts in cooperation with OCFS.

A total of 833 survivors of violence and abuse in NCD received UNICEF-supported case management services, including 20 child abuse cases. These services were provided by 43 case workers (20 male and 23 female) from the National Office of Child and Family Services and the NGO Child Fund, whom UNICEF trained in the Southern and Momase Regions to deliver quality case management services. This training is part of UNICEF's sustained capacity-building approach with partners, the Pacific Institution for Leadership and Governance (PILAG) and the National Training Council, who endorsed the Child Protection Case Management Facilitator Manual and a Case Management Competency Assessment and Learner Guide to train and certify case workers, with UNICEF's support. The partnership further supports the trained caseworkers in establishing the first level of child protection notification of cases in their respective agencies.

UNICEF contributed significantly to the country's data, research, evaluation, and knowledge management. UNICEF focused on strengthening administrative data systems across key sectors related to children. For example, UNICEF trained 43 Provincial Child Protection Officers and Community Child Protection Volunteers (20 males and 23 females) on PRIMERO, the case management system. In the Nutrition Sector, UNICEF is supporting the deployment of the reporting modules in seven additional provinces using the UNICEF technological solution, InForm. Similarly, the first-ever rural WASH MIS continues to be strengthened as it has accumulated WASH data for more than 83,700 households, 1,989 communities, 887 schools and 228 healthcare facilities covering 17 districts. In addition, UNICEF commissioned three evaluations and 13 studies. An example of one of the most impactful studies is the Papua New Guinea Country Report on 'Strengthening Mental Health &

Psychosocial Support Systems and Services for Children and Adolescents in East Asia Pacific Region (2022). UNICEF launched the report with NDOH, with the engagement of the NDOH, the National Office for Family and Child Services, WHO, and the Burnet Institute.

This multi-sectoral report sheds light on mental health, an area with minimal evidence on risks for children and adolescents aged 0–18 years in PNG. Critically, the report estimates that adolescents experience a high burden of poor mental health, with mental disorders and self-harm accounting for 10 percent of the total disease burden of 10- to 19-year-olds and around one in seven of 15- to 19-year-olds living with a mental disorder.

Other examples of impactful UNICEF studies include the three completed to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base of the WASH sector. This research provided strong evidence and learning to support advocacy for children and adolescents' rights to live in a safe and healthy environment in PNG and access to basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

The Economic Impact of Poor Sanitation in PNG study shows that losses attributed to poor sanitation in PNG are more than USD 734 million per year, equivalent to about 3% of the country's gross domestic product for 2020. This evidence provides strong advocacy to the government and partners to make a case for prioritization and increased funding for the sanitation subsector in PNG. UNICEF will continue this advocacy while supporting the development of a PNG Open Defecation Free 2030 Road Map.

The findings from a Potters Without Borders feasibility study on ceramic water filters revealed that PNG could produce Ceramic Pot Water Filters. In addition, a market assessment found that 64% of households do not consider their water safe, and 98% are interested in buying a ceramic water filter to treat their drinking water. Based on these findings, UNICEF will advocate and support the development of the filter market in PNG.

The third study in the WASH sector analyzed the source and dynamics of conflict due to WASH or linked to WASH and proposed an intervention to reduce tensions and build trust and social cohesion. Goroka district was the case study. And, given that WASH conflicts may become more acute in the future with climate change, the project findings were shared during an advocacy meeting with Water PNG, district and national multi-sectoral governmental authorities, and civil society organizations from the sector.

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

In the face of the mounting challenges of COVID-19, election-related violence, the global impact of the war in Ukraine and other threats, UNICEF continued to advance child rights and address the multiple vulnerabilities of children in PNG. Together with partners, UNICEF stressed collective action to deliver results for children through strategic partnerships and engagements with Governments (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, United States), regional organizations (E.U.), international financial institutions (World Bank), Gavi, Global Partnership for Education, NGOs, CSOs, FBOs, academia, young people, UNICEF National Committees (Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, the United Kingdom), and U.N. Agencies.

UNICEF continued coordinating the U.N. People Priority working group (PWG). As the largest coordination group under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2023, UNICEF chairs and is the secretariat for the group. This group was critical this year, as UNICEF led the contribution of the People PWG to the finalization of the UNDAF review, the CCA, and the UNSDCF Roadmap.

UNICEF launched an initiative to establish a Youth and Adolescent taskforce in the U.N. System of Papua New Guinea. After approaching UNFPA to present a joint proposal to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), UNICEF drafted a ToR for discussion. The idea aims to advance PNG's commitment to Youth 2030, the UN System-wide Youth Strategy launched by the Secretary-General in 2018. Underpinning this Strategy is a UNCT Scorecard, a strategic planning, performance, measurement, and accountability tool for joint action. The objective of the Task Force is to create a more youth-responsive and inclusive U.N. through meaningful participation of young people in U.N. programmes, advocacy, and research and to increase knowledge sharing between young people and the UNCT.

Under the Spotlight Initiative, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and UN RCO successfully supported the Government in adopting a systematic approach to promote the protection of women and children from violence, abuse, and neglect. UNICEF successfully rolled out the Parenting for Child Development Programme in Morobe, Western Highlands, NCD, and Jiwaka Provinces.

Outside of the U.N., UNICEF worked with several partners to achieve results for children. For example, UNICEF collaborated with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) when they became the Local Education Group Co-Chair and GPE Coordinating Agency. As UNICEF formerly was in these roles, the Office was strategically placed to partner with JICA to strengthen the coordination and accountability mechanism. As a result, this partnership enabled JICA to become the GPE Coordinating Agency for the first time globally, leading this key development partner to engage actively and lead in sectoral coordination.

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

Several innovations and lessons learned emerged as essential adaptations for service continuity. Many have become potential game changers, showing promise in making essential services more effective, efficient, and equitable, making access more reliable, especially for more vulnerable groups.

Digital solutions have helped to improve UNICEF programme implementation, streamlining operations and processes and enhancing outreach. For example:

- 1) Digitizing knowledge products as part of the EERRP ensured that the most up-to-date teaching, learning and training materials were available to students, teachers, school boards of management, parents and caregivers. A total of 4,147 pieces of content developed by UNICEF are now available as part of the National Department of Education's "My PNG Home Study" webpage. Further, the products were uploaded to 2,000 micro-SD cards as a Media Package to support continuous learning. Micro-SD cards can be used in mobile phones or tablets and passed to different devices, increasing access to the products in areas with low internet connectivity.

2) Further looking to expand educational services in hard-to-reach areas, UNICEF reached 46,042 students (21,921 females) and 46 teachers with 27 Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning (RACHEL) devices installed in selected schools. These portable, battery-powered devices store materials in an offline format, requiring no internet or mobile data. Coupled with a solar charger to provide continuous power, Library for All kits, the developed training manual and 64 training-of-trainers sessions were installed on the devices, providing students and teachers with the materials to improve students' reading and literacy skills.

3) Digital solutions have made critical developments in vaccine and logistic management. For example, the electronic logistics management system, mSupply, was rolled out in all 22 provincial stores and select 300 health facilities in nine provinces to improve vaccine and logistics management. And UNICEF installed remote temperature monitoring devices in 63% of provincial vaccine stores. Based on these devices, important decisions may be made, considering if the vaccines have been stored appropriately. In addition, these devices strengthen mSupply, simultaneously improving procurement, forecasting, warehousing, and distribution.

Another key lesson learned by UNICEF is Influencing sub-national governance to ensure alignment with national and international frameworks. For example, under the UNICEF-supported Provincial Engagement Framework, five provinces approved and committed to implementing the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA), the national child protection legislation. The provinces have increased human capacity and are developing by-laws to protect children at local levels. In addition, the decentralization framework bridges the gap in child protection service provision, giving visibility, prominence, institutional reform, commitment, and resourcing of the LPA in the four levels of Government.

Similarly, UNICEF supported the review of the national WASH in schools policy, engaging several subnational and national stakeholders. The consultations highlighted the need for updated data, and the inexistence of clear milestones and strategies limits the demonstration of measurable progress against achieving the targets in the policy. The Policy consultation stressed the need for a publicly funded WASH in School Strategic costed plan to accelerate progress toward the national target of all students and teachers having access to clean, safe, inclusive, and functional WASH facilities by 2030, aligned with the SDGs.

This points to the challenge facing most child and adolescent-related sectors to ensure appropriate national budget execution for service delivery. Since 2017, social sector spending has only reached a high of 4.5% of the GDP. With inadequate reliable funding, service delivery remains unsustainable and aid-dependent, tenuous considering the global context. UNICEF's draft Public Financing for Children Strategy aims to advocate for national public expenditure for child-related sectors by monitoring key economic trends and fiscal policy responses, maxing out the impact of available resources and leveraging partnerships to mobilize resources.

Looking forward, UNICEF PNG will fully embrace its focus on adolescent programming, in line with the organization's adolescent development and participation (ADAP) agenda. In 2023, UNICEF PNG will launch a Youth Advisory Group under the Social Policy Outcome area. This group will support the office in strengthening a network of adolescents and youths to promote and advocate for adolescent voices in sub-national governance mechanisms, helping young people to be agents of change.

The PNG Teenpreneurs Programme furthers the ADAP agenda. The programme aims to strengthen entrepreneurship skills development in the national PNG Making a Living Curriculum. The Programme targets the Grade six level. This programme is also innovative as the country has yet to have a programme like this.

Importantly, UNICEF will continue its multisectoral and cross-cutting focus to ensure alignment and



progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action. With this, UNICEF will focus on the totality of children's needs through partnerships between the Member States, among other things, like the joint funding from the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand for the UNICEF area-based programme, called the Convergence Programme, and the emergency response to the election-related violence funded the same.

UNICEF will continue to explore new funding streams and work more closely with partners in every sector to mobilize resources for children, specifically the private sector. In 2023, the Office will focus on internal capacity building for Business for Results. In addition, the office will expand on UNICEF's child rights and business approach with the private sector and leverage businesses' power to integrate child rights considerations in business operations and mitigate the adverse business impact.

In 2023, UNICEF's programming will build on these lessons learned, revisiting programmatic approaches and new designs. The learnings will also complement the completion of the Country Programme Document 2024 – 2028, which will be presented to the Executive Board in 2023. Under this new framework, UNICEF will focus on systemic changes critical to addressing the underlying causes of children's mortality, poverty, vulnerability, gender inequality and exclusion. Furthermore, UNICEF will ensure alignment with the U.N. Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, continuing its leading role to deliver system-wide results for greater coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness in contributing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, it will ensure that UNICEF and all development partners continue to prioritize the development of children and adolescents in PNG.