Improving service delivery for rural communities.

Develop a community-driven development model to improve access to, and the quality of, basic services in rural communities, which will be scaled-up by government.

Communities will be empowered to identify and prioritize their needs in an inclusive manner, and to design, and implement their own projects.

Locations: Western and Central provinces.

Approval Date: 8 January 2014
Closing Date: 31 August 2016
Total Project Cost: US$5.3 million
Donors: PNG Sustainable Development Program, World Bank, Australian Government
Implementing Agency: Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs

Background
Papua New Guinea has experienced strong, resource-led, economic growth over the past 10 years, yet basic development outcomes have remained the same or improved only marginally over the same period. Efforts from the government and key partners to improve systems and capabilities are helpful but are yet to reach the local-level government (LLG) and ward levels where the most basic services are needed.

Often the lowest levels of government do not have the resources or staff to provide regular or adequate social and economic services to the community.

About the Project
This project will pilot a community-driven approach to improve the access, quality and management of basic public services delivered in rural communities. The pilot will work with eight LLGs in the two pilot areas of Western and Central provinces. It will provide important information to government on how successful the approach is and whether it could be used elsewhere in the country.

The project has three components:
Component 1: Systems and Financing of Ward Development Grants — this will provide sub-grants for local projects, such as the construction of latrines, water supply, rehabilitation of local roads, and construction or repair of schools. Projects will be selected by needs-basis in one province and competitive selection in the other.

Component 2: Capacity Building of National and Sub-National Entities — activities that strengthen the capacity of government entities to provide basic service delivery and to manage and implement the project.

Component 3: Project Management — activities that will strengthen the project management team at the national level and project management teams in targeted provinces around the day-to-day management of the project. It will include a real-time management information system to allow the uploading of progress reports and photos to a website directly from rural communities as well as other mobile phone-based systems to enhance project accountability.

In addition to monitoring and evaluation conducted by the project management team, an independent monitoring group will be contracted to periodically visit communities to assess the extent to which the project is being implemented as designed, and to recommend ways to adapt the project to be more responsive to community needs.

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