

<p align="center">2003 ACCU-APPEAL Joint Planning Meeting on Regional NFE Programmes in Asia and the Pacific Tokyo, 2-5 December 2003</p>
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Country Report

Papua New Guinea

EFA National Plans of Action
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Background

ACCU conducts annual meetings for member States, through Japanese National Commission for UNESCO and supported by ACCU Invitation Programme for International Education Exchange of Teachers and professionals in Tokyo. This is a planning and consultative meeting for Heads of NFE in each member State in Asia and the Pacific.

This meeting gives each member State an opportunity to share ideas and views on the status of NFE in the framework of Education for All call by all stakeholders in education and human resource development through stronger network amongst the member States.

A special call for EFA in PNG is focused on the call for literacy providing agencies to add another call by UN through the notion of the Literacy Decade 2003- 2012. The PNG government is now in the process of piloting literacy sites to build a literacy project called LIFE – Literacy Is For Everyone. This project will tie in EFA with focus on adult literacy. The Project will be funded by ADB

Status

Non-formal education in Papua New Guinea over the years have been changing houses especially in the government arena. Trading partners for NFE has been between the Education Department and Social Welfare & Development.

While this change of a home for NFE in the government is going and its activities are done in adhoc, the Churches and NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) as well as concern individuals have been carrying on NFE programmes wherever they find themselves and based on communal needs.

In the last 8 months, PNG has had developmental policy shifts at the political level with focus on informal/non-formal sector. This puts NFE into a better situation where it will be housed in a government department that deals with human resource in all sectors which is the Social Welfare & Development.

The Department is going through restructure and getting Cabinet to change it's title to Community Development to address the bulk of the population engaged in the NFE sector.

PART I: NFE and EFA Components of National Plan of Action

Education For All – EFA

PNG has its national plan of action (NPA- EFA) 2004-2015 in place. With much shift in policy and implementation focus this plan will keep changing in the different phases of implementation. For instance the Education Department will focus on basic and primary education and other formal

education innovations while the NFE sector will be left with the Department of Community Development. The Department is being supported by donor agencies to implement programmes in the informal /non-formal sector.

To archive EFA goals in PNG is a shared responsibility. All stakeholders need to play their roles in given small ways so that the people feel acknowledged and belonging to a group or community.

- Expand education to disadvantaged children
- Ensure access and free compulsory primary education by 2015
- Equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills for all young and adults
- Achieve a 50% improvement of adult literacy by 2015
- Eliminate gender disparities in basic education by 2005
- Improve quality of education with measurable learning outcomes.

National EFA Forum

PNG has a National EFA Forum. The National Education Board (NEB) plays the role of the Forum as a consultative and coordinating body. A role this Forum plays is to identify problems and limitations that restrict the achievement of EFA goals and propose workable solutions.

EFA National Plan.

The EFA plan is build into the National Education Plan (NEP). The rationale is that EFA would be achieved when the NEP is being implemented. PNG 's education system starts at elementary level in the child's' own language, this can either be vernacular or the mother tongue (MT). Similarly this applies to the adult learning and acquit ion of literacy and numeracy skills.

National Literacy Week (NLW)

In the field of literacy and numeracy a venue is also in place to promote EFA. This is through our literacy programmes that are community based. This is build into the national event which occurs annually. That is the National Literacy Week (NLW). A plan to carry this out in the next 20 years – 2004 – 2024 has been formulated.

The first NLW for PNG was started in 1996. Most National events are marked in NCD and not outside the Nation's Capital. Port Moresby. Literacy programmes in PNG is LIFE- Literacy Is For Everyone. Therefore, NLAS has decided to take the vent out of Port Moresby to Regions, Provinces, Districts, LLG Wards and Villages. Rationale is that this is a national event and the people must be part of it by participating in it and have ownership of it.

YEAR	REGION	PROVINCE	DISTRICT
1996	Capital	NCD	
1997	Capital	NCD	
1998	Momase	Lae	
1999	Southern	Alotau	
2000	Highlands	Enga	
2001	Islands	Kimbe	
2002	Momase	Madang	
2003	Southern	Central	Bereina/ Veifa'a Kupiano
2004	Islands	Bougainville	Arawa Buka
2005	Highlands	Goroka	Goroka Henganofi
2006	Southern	Daru	Kiunga Daru
2007	Islands	Manus	Lorengau
2008	Momase	Vanimo	Nuku Vanimo
2009	Highlands	Mendi	Tari Mendi
2010	Southern	Popondeta	Popondeta Tufi
2011	Islands	New Ireland	Namatanai Kavieng
2012	Momase	Wewak	Maprik Wewak
2013	Highlands	Mt Hagen	Banz Mt Hagen
2014	Southern	Kerema	Ihu Kerema
2015	Higlands	Simbu	Kerewagi Kundiawa
2016	Momase	Lae	Finch Bulolo
2017	Southern	Alotau	Sagarai East Cape
2018	Highlands	Enga	Pogera Wapanamant
2019	Islands	Rabaul	Pomio Rabaul
2020	Momase	Madang	Raicoast Bogia
2021	Southern	Central	Tapini Magarida
2022	Highlands	Goroka	Kainantu Asaro
2023	Islands	Bougainville	Boku Arawa
2024	Momase	Vanimo	Aitape Lumi

Literacy Situation

PNG embarks in providing basic education to her people in the language the people speak and understand. This has to happen in all 854 plus languages. The rationale is to give every citizen the opportunity to acquire basic literacy skills. This effort in the last decade made little progress compared to census figures of 1990, that is 45.1 % literacy and 55% illiteracy. In the 2000 census it is showing some change to 54.4% literacy and 46% illiteracy. Information in the table below shows where PNG is at with her literacy rate nationally.

National Literacy Rate

Literacy Rate	Male	Female	Total
National Literacy Rate	59.5%	49.5%	54.4%
Urban Literacy Rate	86.6%	81.2%	83.9%
Rural Literacy Rate	55.2%	44.8%	50.0%

PNG has not done well as yet to bring her literacy level up to realistically relate it to the millennium goals of EFA. The indication here is that PNG is taking very small steps, only one percent per year to eradicate illiteracy in the last ten years.

With the EFA national Forum in place it is advocating on networking with all literacy providers to provide basic education to all, both young youths out of school and adults.

Way Forward for NFE-EFA

Papua New Guinea now has given serious thoughts on the role of NFE and its links to positive development. To start with NFE now has a firm location within the Government. The Department of Social Welfare is now responsible for NFE. This means all NFE related issues can be aired through this Ministry to Cabinet for deliberations and decisions.

Donor agencies are coming on board to assist the Social Welfare and Community Development Department (DSWD) to address issues on NFE and EFA. This will be done at village levels with support coming from the Government through the DSWD.

Starting 2004 the ADB and European Union (EU) will be assisting the DSWD to take the NFE programmes to Communities. This will start with literacy as it is the vehicle through which to take other programmes to the needy and disadvantaged communities in PNG. Through this initiatives PNG hopes to raise the level of literacy from 54%, current status to 85% by 2015.

The Churches, NGOs, CBOs involve in NFE programmes will also be assisted from these donor assistance.

Donor assistances are not always easy as it requires repaying of loans by the PNG Government. However, wise decisions are a must from the implementers of NFE programmes. If the out comes out did the loans then it is worth repaying the borrowed money from the donor agencies.