



Project Update: *Health Care Manual for Community Health Workers in Papua New Guinea*

Fully revised and updated 3rd edition

Background to the project

- CHWs are vital for providing primary health care to the people. They are a first point of contact for those who need health care, and in rural and remote areas they are often the only available source of medical assistance and health education for the community.
- CHWs greatly value the Health Care Manual as a practical resource. The Health Care Manual has not been updated in 20 years, and is out-of-date, and out-of-print.
- The HCM3 project is led by the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea (BUPNG), and supported by its Project Management Team.
- Key stakeholders supporting the project include the Church Partnership Program (CPP), Christian Health Services (CHS), National Department of Health (NDoH), and Australian Government (DFAT).

Goals of the project

- To develop a fully revised and updated 3rd edition of the Health Care Manual (HCM3), based on current health care information and suitable for use by Community Health Workers (CHWs) to meet PNG health standards.
- To distribute 15,000 free copies of HCM3 to all CHW training schools and CHWs across PNG.
- To build knowledge and skills of publishing processes for all involved in the project. A high priority has been to ensure local participation in PNG in health content development and publishing processes. The 2017 project evaluation confirms that by the end of January 2018, we have exceeded the target of over 50 contributors involved in HCM3.

The project will take 3.5 years from mid-2015 to end-2018 to enable involvement and endorsement by the relevant parties in PNG. The total project investment will be PGK 3.31M (~AUD 1.5M).

Key contact

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Latest progress as at 8 June 2018

- Development and review of the HCM3 chapter content continues. To date 34 writers have been tasked for 52 chapters (with 46 chapter drafts delivered); and 38 chapters have so far been revised or drafted by project team members. Many subject matter experts (approximately 40) have also been consulted by writers and the project team. These processes will continue in an intense effort now to complete drafts of the remaining chapters. There is a huge volume of work to do for a book of this size and scale.
- Once the writing of all chapters is completed, and the Technical Review Panel has completed reviews of the content of all of the chapters, then the editing, publishing and production stages will reach their peak activity levels to finalise the book for printing and release.

Project extension to end of 2018

- As advised during our last update in April, the Project Management Team and the BUPNG Executive Leadership Team has revised the Year 3 work plan to accommodate a brief extension into the second half of 2018. This is designed to enable successful completion of the development of the content for the book, and to give the project time to secure the funding needed to complete Year 3 tasks.
- The current total budget over the life of the project is currently estimated at PGK 3.31M, which is a significant reduction from the PGK 3.75M estimated since the start of the project.
- BUPNG and the PMT have carefully marshalled all available resources and funding at each stage of the project. When necessary activity and expenditure have been delayed at earlier stages to suit the funding available at the time. This has been very challenging, but in faith and with a lot of support from our stakeholders, we continue to progress.
- We are working hard to secure the funding that is necessary to be able to complete HCM3. Ongoing updates will be sent as new information is available.