Baptist Union PNG
Believing God and Serving Holistically

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

Fully revised and updated 3rd edition

Background to the project

- Community Health Workers (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 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 The Health Care Manual has not been updated in 20 years, and is out-of-date, and out-of-print.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 commenced in 2015 and is led by the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea (BUPNG) and supported by its Project Management Team (Project Coordinator, Commissioning Editor, Publishing Specialist and M&E Adviser).
- Key stakeholders supporting the project have included the Church Partnership Program (CPP), Christian Health Services (CHS), National Department of Health (NDOH), and Australian Government (DFAT).

Goals of the HCM3 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.

Key contact

Ruth Injo
HCM3 Project Coordinator, Baptist Union of PNG
Mobile: +675 70866125/79580675
Email: rinjo@bupng.org.pg

Latest progress as at August 2019

- Following scheduled meetings in April 2019 with the project's Technical Review Panel of medical and public health specialists and CHW Training School Principals, as well as the project Steering Group, and NDOH experts, further detailed feedback and information from the validation process has been incorporated into the manual.
- Hundreds of necessary copyright permissions have been requested, and final follow-ups and checks are currently underway. This enables final layout and production of chapters into the two-volume manuscript, as well as final editing and proofreading. The manuscript is planned to be print ready in September 2019, which means this is an intense period for the publishing team.
- Quotes for printing were obtained in PNG and Australia, and a printer in Sydney was selected.

Funding situation and distribution

- Project partner, HealthServe Australia (HSA), has continued to provide extraordinary support for the project, raising many of the funds required to finish HCM3 production over the past year, as well as funds towards the first print run. HSA's financial support, together with ongoing extensive volunteer efforts of BUPNG's Project Management Team, has enabled the project to continue during very difficult budgetary times.
- HSA has also worked with Australian Aid to secure approval of a variation for the bulk of the Friendship Grant funding to be redirected to print 2,000 copies of HCM3. This will enable all students, teachers, and libraries in 17 CHW Training Schools to receive a copy this year.
- However, the project still requires approximately PGK40,400 to achieve this outcome.
- BUPNG is currently applying for an exemption to any customs or VAT duties for this print run. Research will determine the most cost-effective freight into PNG, and safe and secure storage.
- Further copies of HCM3 for the Provincial Health Authorities, rural health centres, aid posts, and church-run and other health facilities will require extra print runs, and funding still to be secured.