



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

Fully revised and updated 3rd edition

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.

The project will take three years from mid-2015 to mid-2018 to enable involvement and endorsement by the relevant parties in PNG. The total project investment will be PGK 3.75m (AUD 1.67m).

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 The Health Care Manual has not been updated in 20 years, and is out-of-date, and out-of-print.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).

Latest progress as at 31 March 2017

- We are now in the second half of Year 2 of the HCM3 project.
- BUPNG acknowledges funding commitments to the project from the Christian Health Services, Church Partnership Program (and Australian Government) under BUPNG Health Dept., and the National Department of Health.
- We also wish to acknowledge the generous commitments of our latest funding partners in the Salvation Army and Seventh-day Adventist Churches.
- Development of the chapters of HCM3 has begun, with the first batch of chapters in progress and more being tasked to writers in PNG each week.
- The Technical Review Panel has begun to review the first chapters developed for HCM3.

Opportunities for CHW participation

- CHWs in health facilities or training schools can still provide information over the following 3 months to the HCM3 Project Management Team about the work of CHWs and what you believe is most needed in the 3rd edition of the Health Care Manual.
- CHWs and staff in CHW Training Schools can answer either the Questionnaire for Health Facilities or the one for Training Schools.
- CHWs can also provide Case Studies of their best stories, experiences, and advice to help students and CHWs learning the skills of working in rural communities to understand how to apply what they have learned in real situations of community health.
- This important feedback will ensure that the new HCM3 will be current and relevant for CHWs throughout the country.

Key contact

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