



**Forum on Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS in PNG**  
13 October 2005, National Botanical Gardens, Canberra

# Health Systems in Fragile States – Implications for reproductive health, sexual health and HIV in PNG

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October 2005



# 30<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary at Ela Beach September 2005



# Content

- Definition of fragile state
- PNG fragility setting
- Fragility issues in relation to health systems and reproductive health
- Is there optimism for PNG?



# What is a fragile state?

- NO state likes to be labelled a fragile state
- Some states move in and out of fragility
- Fragility is derived from World Bank's Country Policy Institutional Assessments (CPIA scores) low income countries divided into 5 categories
- 46 fragile states in a separate unranked group are deemed fragile – PNG is among this group
- DfID definition “countries where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to majority of its people including the poor”



## Box 1: Indicative features of fragile states

	Capacity	Willingness
State authority for safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The state lacks clear international sovereign status.</li><li>• The state cannot control its external borders or significant parts of its internal territory.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One or more groups are systematically subjected to violence or deliberately not provided security by the state.</li></ul>
Effective political power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The power of the executive is not subject to controls, either through informal (political party) or formal (legislature) channels.</li><li>• There are no effective channels for political participation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major groups are systematically excluded from political processes.</li></ul>
Economic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weak or partial public financial management tools, such as a budget cycle and planning processes.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is no transparency in the public management of natural resource extraction.</li></ul>
Administrative capacity to deliver services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The state levies less than 15% of GDP in tax.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to public services for specific regions of the country or groups is deliberately limited.</li></ul>

# Fragility issues in PNG

- Governance and corruption
- Challenges in creating an environment for economic growth
- Population demography and population growth
- The threat of HIV and AIDS
- The need for nationalism



# Fragility issues in PNG cont.

- Peace and Security (violence)
- Infrastructure
- Challenges in services delivery to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
- Poor health status of the population
- Address alcohol and drug abuse
- Short and long term implications of the Bougainville experience



# Functional Expenditure Review 2001

## Main challenges for service delivery (1)

- Where capacity remained, the breadth and quality of services was diminishing
- Patrols were less frequent or no longer occurred
- Immunisation coverage was not improving, and was insufficient to provide proper cover



# Functional Expenditure Review 2001

## Main challenges for service delivery (2)

- Basic life-saving equipment, such as suction pumps and oxygen were broken or absent
- Transport was unreliable and patient evacuation intermittent and tardy
- Many aid posts and health centres were without water, electricity and a means of communication



# Functional Expenditure Review 2001

## Main challenges for service delivery (3)

- Many aid posts were un-staffed because positions have been cut or because staff cannot be housed
- Health centres were under-staffed and were operating out of buildings that are on the verge of collapse and which are impossible to keep hygienic



# Functional Expenditure Review 2001

## Main challenges for service delivery (4)

- Changes to provincial health structures have often been arbitrary and, as a result, supervision was erratic and was not undertaken by people with the technical skills to understand the essential requirements of delivering health services
- Funding was intermittent, erratic, and poorly targeted



# Governance in relation to health

- Pre 1997 – Centralized Ministry of Health, Systems managed at the national level with churches receiving national grants, and single source of financing from treasury
- 1997-1995 – Organic law on provincial governments decentralization of some powers including health to provincial level, churches receive provincial government grants, funding was channelled through the provinces
- 1994 – Hospital made autonomous with national funding
- Post 1995 – New organic law on provincial governments, decentralization to the district level and districts were constitutionally established, multi-funding sources were available at provincial level



# Key health indicators

INDICATOR	1990	1996	2003
Life expectancy at birth	55		61
Infant mortality rate/1000 live births	74		69
Under five mortality rate/ 1000	99	93	90 (2000)
Maternal mortality ratio/100,000 live births	345	390 (1995)	330 (2000)
Crude birth rate/1000 people	33		31
Total fertility rate (births per woman)	5.6		4
Annual population growth	2.37		2.11 (2005)

**Sources:**

Asia Development Bank. Key Indicators 2005: Labor Markets in Asia: Promoting Full, Productive, and Decent Employment.

[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key\\_Indicators/2005/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2005/default.asp)

SPC MDG Database (Regional MDG Report 26/10/2004 . [http://www.spc.org.nc/mdgs/MDG\\_DB/G5\\_T6.asp](http://www.spc.org.nc/mdgs/MDG_DB/G5_T6.asp)

Gobalis – Papua New Guinea [http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=29&Country=PG](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=29&Country=PG)



# Addressing Maternal Mortality

- High fertility rate 5.6 births per woman
- Access to health services
- Inadequate trained midwives
- Develop simple techniques to address sepsis and post partum haemorrhages
- Education of women
- Addressing infectious diseases i.e. Malaria



# Sexual health indicators (Rural - STI)

	<b>Gonorrhoea</b>	<b>Chlamydia</b>	<b>Trichomonas</b>	<b>Mixed infection</b>
<b>Porgero</b> (eligible in school youth 15-24yrs)	6.6%	6.6%	n/a	4.9%
<b>Kikora Gulf</b> (General population)	13%	11%	2.6%	n/a
<b>Moro Gulf Province</b>	15%	18%	20%	n/a

Source: Geralinine Maibani, PNG PNG IMR



# Sexual health indicators (Rural)

Behavioural survey data from Porgera - youth aged 15-24 years

- 56% had sexual relations
- 98% have seen or heard of condoms
- 8.7% use condoms consistently
- 60.9% never use condoms

Source: Geraldine Maibani PNG IMR, 2005 Medical Symposium abstract



# Sexual health indicators (Urban)

## Sero-surveillance findings on HIV prevalence in antenatal clinics

- Port Moresby 1.35%
- Goroka 0.9%
- Lae 2.5%
- Daru 0.66%

*Source: PNG Ministry of health, National AIDS Council, NHSP 2004*



Improving service delivery to the bulk of the population through well managed health systems will remain a challenge for improving sexual and reproductive health services in the country



# Some Positives

- PNG does not lack potential for strong economic growth
- PNG is one of few countries that has a National Health Strategy (the 6<sup>th</sup> one in place)
- Has a good history of health extension and preventive medicine
- Model legislation on bottle feeding of children
- Model for standard treatment books and integrated management of childhood illnesses



# Some Positives cont.

- Has the only government core funded medical research institute in the developing world
- Has a multi-sectoral response to HIV fully backed by legislation
- Legislative reforms i.e. Registrar of political parties and preferential voting systems
- The initiatives of the public sector reform management unit are in the process of streamlining core government activities



# Yes! There is optimism for PNG

- Long term commitment to partnership
- Capacity building to enable PNG to be an equal partner
- Understanding, working with and through government system
- Encourage people-to-people contacts between PNG and Australia



# Yes! There is optimism for PNG cont.

- Addressing key issues of concern
  - Addressing corruption and improving efficiency of governance
  - Addressing insecurity and violence
  - Strategic approach to poverty alleviation
  - Improving infrastructure
  - Ensuring an educated and healthy population
  - Addressing HIV and AIDS



# Hiri-Moale festival and Queen contestants September 2005

