

Independent Evaluation of Women's and Child Health Program in Papua (WCHPP)

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND LEARNING AND DISSEMINATION PLAN

Aid Activity Objective

The Women's and Child Health Program in Papua (WCHPP) was implemented in Papua and West Papua Provinces from July 2006 to March 2010 to build on the previous Improving Maternal Health in Eastern Indonesia (IMHEI) Project in Papua and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). The program aimed to improve the health and nutrition status of women of reproductive age and children under five in the catchments of 17 health centres in Papua and West Papua. Implementation of the AUD\$6.25 million program was managed by UNICEF and operated in two districts and seven subdistricts of Papua (Jayapura and Jayawijaya) and in two districts and six subdistricts of West Papua (Manokwari and Sorong).

Aid Activity Summary

Aid Activity Name	Women's and Child Health Program in Papua (WCHPP)		
Commencement date	1 July 2006	Completion date	31 March 2010
Total Australian \$	\$6,251,228		
Total other \$	\$0		
Delivery organisation(s)	United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)		
Implementing Partner(s)	Ministry of Health, Bappenas, Papua and Papua Barat Bappeda, Papua and Papua Barat Provincial Health Office		
Country/Region	Indonesia		
Primary Sector	Health		

Independent Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Objective: The evaluation was commissioned to assess: 1) to what extent the Women's and Child Health Program in Papua (WCHPP) had met its objectives and outputs as set out in the design and the annual project and district monitoring and evaluation frameworks; 2) whether the Project should be extended for a further two years from July 2009 to June 2011 and if appropriate recommend any changes to the program design accordingly; 3) the possibility of integration of the UNICEF approach with the Australia Indonesia Partnership in Maternal and Neonatal Health (AIPMNH).

Evaluation Completion Date: In-country mission completed November 2008. Final report submitted February 2009.

Evaluation Team:

- Lea Shaw, Team Leader Evaluation and Health Development Specialist
- Jenny Kerrison, Maternal and Neonatal Health Specialist

Management Response

AusAID agreed with the recommendation provided to UNICEF in relation to the management and implementation of the Women's and Child Health Program in Papua.

A nine months no-cost extension was granted to UNICEF to consolidate work in the four focal districts.

The difficulties encountered by UNICEF in program implementation included recruitment and retention of staff in the provinces which the evaluation noted did not auger well for continuity of implementation. This had implications for having adequate management capacity and support for the field office and District Health

Office, Additionally the program needed to be more strongly aligned to the Papua and West Papuan Provincial context. While the evaluation noted that there was some evidence of women's and child health improvement in UNICEF supported locations, evidence suggested that in some aspects of MNCH knowledge and intended pregnancy practice there was no difference between focal and control areas even though UNICEF had worked in those same areas for ten years. This was seen as much due to the nature and context of Papua and West Papua as a reflection on the effectiveness of implementation of the WCHPP and previous MNCH projects. Furthermore any gains may have been negated by the difficult implementation environment.

AusAID decided that broader health assistance in Papua and West Papua would need to be developed specifically for the context in these Provinces, and that this would be carried forward under the new Australia Indonesia Partnership for Decentralisation program (AIPD) which was designed to achieve improved public service delivery outcomes, including in health services such as MNCH. Future support will be also considered with the Government of Indonesia for options under the new Health System Strengthening Program (HSS). The HSS program will be implemented at the national level and in selected provinces over the next five years to improve poor people's access to primary health care services, particularly women and children.

AusAID agreed to all recommendations except for the medium- and long-term recommendations under Recommendation 4 (sub-recommendations 4-8). AusAID's decision was to wait for the AIPMNH program to mobilise in NTT and its progress assessed by an independent mid-term review to determine whether it was feasible for the program to expand to other provinces. The independent review of AIPMNH review recommended that the program needed to consolidate in NTT rather than expand to another province.