

Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nonga Provincial Hospital Boosts Public Health Resilience with New Medical Waste and Laboratory Facilities

RABAUL, East New Britain 12 September 2025 – The National Department of Health (NDoH) in collaboration with the World Bank and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), announced today the successful installation and commissioning of a state-of-the-art medical waste incinerator and a modular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratory at Nonga Provincial Hospital. As the implementation partner for the Papua New Guinea COVID-19 Emergency Response Project financed by the World Bank, UNOPS managed the procurement, installation, and commissioning of these critical health facilities.

This initiative covers a country wide upgrade in the national capacity to address health needs during pandemics and marks a significant step forward in strengthening the nation's public health infrastructure. UNOPS's project management and technical expertise ensured the delivery of these facilities, which are poised to deliver critical long-term benefits to the East New Britain province. The project enhances local capacity for infectious disease control and improves environmental safety through sustainable waste management.

Under UNOPS's implementation, the 50kg medical waste incinerator, equipped with a scrubber to minimize environmental impact, was installed to provide a safe and effective solution for the disposal of hazardous medical waste. UNOPS also oversaw the installation of the modular, container-based PCR laboratory, built to Biological Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) standards. This self-contained facility will significantly enhance the hospital's diagnostic capacity and bolster its resilience during public health emergencies.

Following successful installation and testing managed by UNOPS, the incinerator and the PCR laboratory were commissioned for use. To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of this critical diagnostic tool, the PCR laboratory is supported by a five-year post-installation service agreement for routine maintenance carried out by the supplier.



The UNOPS Country Manager.

Sirpa Jarvenpaa, UNOPS Country Manager in Papua New Guinea, expressed pride in partnering with the Government of PNG (NDoH) and the World Bank to deliver sustainable infrastructure that benefits people and supports the Sustainable Development Goals.



The Minister for Health, Government of Papua New Guinea

The successful completion of this project, achieved through our partnership with the World Bank and implemented by UNOPS, represents a major advancement in reinforcing the health sector. This initiative has strengthened Papua New Guinea's readiness and capacity to address disease outbreaks and public health emergencies.

It aligns closely with the National Health Plan 2021–2030 and contributes directly to Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals: *‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.’*

Stephen N. Ndegwa, Acting World Bank Division Director for Papua New Guinea *“The World Bank is proud to work with the Government of Papua New Guinea and partners like UNOPS to strengthen the country’s health system,”* said **Stephen N. Ndegwa, Acting World Bank Division Director for Papua New Guinea.** *“Together we are delivering support that improves services, builds resilience, and helps more Papua New Guineans get the care they need, when they need it.”*

****ENDS****

Notes to the editors:

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About UNOPS: UNOPS' mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments, and other partners to manage projects and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more at www.unops.org and follow UNOPS on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [WhatsApp](#).

About the National Department of Health (NDOH): NDOH is the central government agency responsible for formulating health policy, providing leadership, and overseeing the delivery of health services across Papua New Guinea. Its mandate includes developing national health strategies, managing public health programs, regulating medical standards, and coordinating with provincial health authorities and development partners. Read more at <https://www.health.gov.pg/>



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