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## Papua New Guinea

**Total area:**

462,840 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:**

7,059,653 (2011)

**Literacy:**

43%

**Official languages:**

English, Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu

**GDP (PPP) per capita:**

\$3,635 (2017 est.)

**Life expectancy:**

63 years

**Religions:**

68% Protestant, 27% Catholic, 4% other religions

### Prayer points

**Accusations of sorcery**

Accusations of sorcery are a constant community problem in many remote areas of Papua New Guinea (PNG). An article in PNG's The National Newspaper states, 'the United Nations has estimated that there are 200 killings of "witches" in PNG annually, while local activists estimate up to 50,000 people have been chased from their homes due to sorcery accusations.' Pray that this practice will cease and those involved can find peace in the truth of Jesus Christ. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - April 2020)

**National Leprosy Elimination Program**

The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea's (TLM PNG) role is to support the Government's National Leprosy Elimination Program to ensure people affected by leprosy are detected & treated with available & accessible leprosy treatment. There continues to be approximately 500 new cases of leprosy found each year in PNG, & many others are disabled by the disease. TLM PNG has a five-year Sustainable Livelihood Development project which helps individuals, communities & households affected by leprosy & disability to develop & implement improved & sustainable incomes. This is the third year of the project which has had considerable growth. Pray for the people affected by leprosy & disability who live in the 24 targeted leprosy-affected communities, as they start to engage in project activities. (The Leprosy Mission International - January 2020)

**WIFIBibles available on buses**

Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship (CRMF), a branch of Mission Aviation Fellowship based in Papua

New Guinea, is installing WIFIBible devices onto buses used by the public. The WIFIBible allows people to download a wide range of free Christian resources like music, the Jesus film and access the Bible in their own languages on their smartphones, without the need for an internet connection. Please join us in praying that, through these WIFIBibles, many people would get to read and hear the gospel, accept Christ into their hearts, and bring those they know into relationship with him too. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - September 2018)

### **Rebuilding**

In early March, Papua New Guinea (PNG) experienced a series of earthquakes which caused widespread damage to the infrastructure there and many lives were lost. People's homes were destroyed and their plots of land damaged, meaning a shortage of food supplies. MAF assisted in disaster response, helping distribute much needed food, water and other essentials to those areas worst affected. We ask you to pray for the people of PNG as they begin the process of rebuilding their livelihoods and peace for the families who are grieving loss of loved ones. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - July 2018)

### **Praise for Pilots**

In just two short weeks pilot Paul Woodington flew 14 medevac patients from the eastern Sepik River area of Papua New Guinea. A man bitten by a Death Adder "had lost his speech and some ability by the time I picked him up, praise God he survived! Then there was a retained placenta patient and another woman in childbirth who was also suffering a heart attack. Praise Jesus she lived!" Give thanks that these patients reached hospital in time remembering the many others who don't because they live in remote communities far from needed healthcare. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - May 2017)

### **Remote community reached**

A new airstrip into the remote community of Kaiam, Papua New Guinea, was opened earlier this year after fifteen years of hard work by local missionaries and the community. Give thanks that the airstrip was opened before a measles epidemic reached the community, allowing vaccinations to be administered. The community will benefit from increased services, including essential medevac flights of the ill and injured to hospitals. Pray for the remote community of Fiyawena, Papua New Guinea, home to several women accused of causing the deaths following the epidemic. An intervention team including a PNG School girl Nes, visited the community with proof that the accusations were false and persuaded the community to lay down their weapons and turn away from their 'pisai' beliefs. Pray that the cycle of fear and violence associated with witchcraft in the area will be broken once and for all. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - September 2015)

### **Evacuating the sick**

Last year MAF served people living in more than 270 remote locations in Papua New Guinea. One of the most important ministries is the evacuation of the sick and injured from remote communities with pilots often having to respond to requests for flights at very short notice. Pray for fast and effective treatment for their patients like Naha - a young boy recently medevaced from a remote village called Owena after suffering a bite from a venomous Death Adder. Naha was flown out to a main centre to receive successful treatment. Praise God for his full recovery and pray for positive outcomes for the hundreds of patients MAF flies in PNG each year. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK - September 2014)

### **Wantok Radio Light**

Almost the entire population of Papua New Guinea has links to a Christian denomination, although the old ethnic religions still have an underlying influence. 'Wantok Radio Light' is a network of local Christian radio stations operating across the islands in 14 different locations. One of the presenters receives 15,000 text messages each month and 40 percent of those are asking questions about salvation; an average of seven people a day are coming to Christ. Pray for funds to install ten new stations next year and for continuing fruit from Wantok Radio Light. (Reach Beyond - September

2011)

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