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January 2016

## WHO CC Regional Update

Dear Colleagues,

This special edition provides an update to our PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative Phase II wrapping up. Please see below to read the full report. We thank everyone for their hard work and contribution to this project and all the best. Happy New Year to everyone!

We welcome your feedback or comments regarding this newsletter or the work of the WHO CC UTS. Please contact us at [whocc@uts.edu.au](mailto:whocc@uts.edu.au), or follow us on Twitter by adding the Twitter names [@whoccmichele](https://twitter.com/whoccmichele) and [@gnwhocc](https://twitter.com/gnwhocc) to your contacts.

### The PNG Maternal and Child Health Initiative: the four year project comes to an end

*Location: Papua New Guinea*

The Maternal and Child Health Initiative (MCHI) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was a multi-stakeholder Initiative that commenced in 2012 - led by the PNG National Department of Health (NDoH) and funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with support from the WHO CC UTS. Through improvements to the standard of midwifery clinical teaching and practice in the five midwifery schools in PNG, and the quality of obstetric care in two regions of PNG, the aim of the Initiative was to make a positive impact on PNG's high rates of maternal and newborn death.

Ten clinical midwifery facilitators (CMFs) were placed in the four existing midwifery schools, and one new midwifery school that commenced its program in the second half of 2015, to support PNG clinical midwifery educators through mentoring, capacity building and development. A Clinical Midwifery Educator (CME) was also placed in the Maternity Unit of Port Moresby General Hospital in 2015 to provide professional development for clinical staff, assist with quality improvement and to support the PNG Midwifery Society. The CMFs and CME worked closely with academic and clinical personnel in the midwifery schools and hospitals to support capacity-building of educators, clinical supervisors, and preceptors, through supportive mentoring, clinical supervision and role modelling. They also worked closely with clinicians to enhance midwifery education and practice. Throughout the process, peer support, mentoring, and the provision of relevant evidence-based educational and practice materials has been provided, while working side by side with designated national midwifery counterparts and other health care workers.

Click for feedback



## New Resources

Health Workforce Regulation in the Western Pacific Region, [click here](#).

WHO - Global Health and Foreign Policy in the UN, [click here](#).

P138th WHO Executive Board Meeting (25-30 Jan) - Provisional Agenda & Background Docs, [click here](#).

Lancet (Global Health) - Implementing Pro-poor Universal Health Coverage, [click here](#).

WHO - COP21 Climate Agreement - Moving Towards Healthier People and A Healthier Planet. [Click here](#).

ODI (paper) - National MDG Implementation: Lessons for the SDG Era. [Click here](#).

Chatham House -

Two obstetricians were placed in regional hospitals. WHO CC UTS undertook the role of organisation of workshops, support for ongoing regulation and registration processes, and to provide support to midwifery educators and course coordinators recruiting MCHI staff (CMFs and obstetricians), provided mentoring, support and capacity building to the MCHI team and their counterparts, and monitoring and evaluation of the Initiative.

Through three education and capacity building workshops per year, the MCHI brought together different stakeholders working to build capacity and improve maternal health outcomes in PNG, specifically national midwifery educators, obstetricians, course coordinators, clinicians and CMFs.

The first two years (Phase One - 2012 to 2013) contributed to increasing the quality of midwifery education in PNG and more midwives graduating in these two years than the previous decade. Phase Two (2014 to 2015) saw the continuation of this work - incorporating lessons learned through monitoring and evaluation of Phase One, while strengthening successful strategies already in place. As of the end of 2015, 451 midwives have graduated, and 129 midwifery students are soon to graduate from the 2015 program.

Although the MCHI comes to an end in December 2015, it is hoped that the provision of mentoring, evidence-based educational and practice materials and continuous competency development and capacity building for national obstetricians and midwives will continue to increase the number and skills of graduates and improve the quality of services being delivered.

### Stakeholder Forum for the end of the Initiative

The Maternal and Child Health Initiative (MCHI) Stakeholder Forum was held at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Wednesday 25 November 2015. The Forum brought various stakeholders together to conclude the Initiative and reflect on the achievements and challenges of the MCHI over the past four years and consider the way forward for midwifery education in PNG.

Over 50 stakeholders attended the Forum with representation from NDoH, WHO PNG, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia Awards, Deans/Heads of Schools, Church Health Services, Susu Mamas, Reproductive Health Training Unit (RHTU), national midwifery course coordinators, midwifery educators, clinicians and the MCHI obstetricians, clinical midwifery educator (CME) and clinical midwifery facilitators (CMFs). The Forum was officially opened after an opening prayer by MCHI key stakeholder Ms Mary Killilo - Technical Advisor Pre-service and Health Training, NDoH.

Presentations followed from Dr Lahui Geita, Technical Advisor Family Health Services, NDoH; Professor Caroline Homer who gave an overview of the real and potential impact of strengthening midwifery in PNG and globally; Professor Pat Brodie AM who summarised the development of the MCHI, its design and implementation. Professor Mola followed with an informative talk on increasing obstetric care in PNG regions; Mrs Jennifer Pyakalia and Ms Ann Yates spoke about strengthening the PNG Midwifery Society; Ms Amanda Neill summarised key findings from the MCHI monitoring and evaluation work; Ms Alison Moores, Mrs Paula

Universal Health Coverage Policy Forum. [Click here.](#)

Adelphi - Urbanization and Climate Diplomacy - The Stake of Cities in Global Climate Governance. [Click here.](#)

Washington Post - Global Cancer Hotspots: Burden of Disease is Shifting to Developing World. [Click here.](#)

Policy Brief on NHWA [Click here.](#)

68th World Health Assembly Concludes With Actions On Range of Issues. Access the Article [here.](#)

The Role of World Health Organization Collaborating Centers: Perspectives of Future Global Nurse Leaders. Access the Article [here.](#)

Building Nursing Leadership Capacity: An Australian Snapshot. Access the Article [here.](#)

51st Annual Symposium of the PNG Medical Society Press Release: Advancing Women's Health Through Innovation. Access the Article [here.](#)

The World Bank Group A to Z 2016 Report can be accessed [here.](#)

Global Health  
Office News: October  
Update, [click here.](#)

Puawe and Dr Nancy Buasi then presented an overview of progress of the Midwifery Graduate Study.



*Ms Mary Kililo with the course coordinators and educators, Clinical Midwifery facilitators, and MCHI obstetricians (Ann Yates missing from photo)*

Key achievements in midwifery regulation were reported on by Dr Nina Joseph from the PNG Nursing Council, and Ms Michele Rumsey from the WHO Collaborating Centre at UTS.

The course coordinators from each of the five midwifery schools also gave short 10 minute presentations focussing on strengthening midwifery that included stories illustrating their midwifery education experiences.

Ms Christine Sturrock presented on the Australian Government's support for the PNG health workforce and the Forum concluded with discussions on the way forward.

Attendees at the forum had an opportunity to share knowledge and information on the MCHI and the way forward. They also had the chance to discuss outstanding issues for the future of midwifery education, and look at ways to continue to develop the PNG midwifery workforce and ensure quality midwifery care.

This was the final workshop activity for Phase II of the MCHI. The final Steering Committee meeting was held on Friday 27 November which marks the end of the workshops and meetings for MCHI Phase II. The MCHI officially finishes on 31 December 2015.

What do our 7 billion world population do every day? Find out [here.](#)

WHO Bulletin (news) - Don't Wait for Paris Summit to Improve Health. [Click here.](#)

How One of the Most Obese Countries on Earth Took on the Soda Giants? This is a story of how Mexico defied its own powerful fizzy drinks industry to impose a tax on soda. Find out [here.](#)

WHO Bulletin (Editorial) - Gender, Health and the Sustainable Development Goals. [Click here.](#)

Health Research Policy & Systems - National Health Research Systems in the WHO African Region: Current Status and the Way Forward. [Click here.](#)

UHC Day - Starter Toolkit. [Click here.](#)

Guardian - Pacific Islands Make Last-Ditch Plea to World Before Paris Climate Change Talks. [Click here.](#)

JLN - UHC Primary Health Care Self-Assessment Tool. [Click here.](#)



*The team from the UTS WHO CC - Michele Rumsey, Amanda Neill, Christine Catling, Caroline Homer, Pat Brodie and Alison Moores*

### **PNG Midwifery Society's Symposium**

The PNG Midwifery Society's Symposium preceded the Stakeholder Forum, held from 23-24 November. Over 260 midwives attended this inaugural event which was deemed a great success for the midwives of PNG. The MCHI has provided ongoing support of the PNG Midwifery Society, through the work of the CME and supported by the CMFs. More than 260 delegates attended the Symposium. It was an amazing two days of learning and sharing with incredible energy and enthusiasm. The symposium showed that the PNG Midwifery Society is a vibrant and important association that has real capacity to make a big difference to maternal and child health in PNG.



*Some of the delegates at the 1st PNG Midwifery Society Symposium*

WHO Financing dialogue in Geneva (5-6 November 2015). Please [Click here.](#)

CFR (memo) - Prospects for Climate Success in Paris. [Click here.](#)

WHO Bulletin (Editorial) - Local Innovations and Country Ownership for Sustainable Development. [Click here.](#)

2015 Global Health Forum in Taiwan. [Click here.](#)

Devex - Ebola's Footprint on Health System Strengthening. [Click here.](#)

OECD - Health at a Glance 2015. [Click here.](#)

Lancet (Editorial) - Climate and Health: Preparing for Paris. [Click here.](#)

Lancet (World Report) - Global Financing Facility: where will the funds come from? [Click here.](#)

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