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PROJECT DOCUMENT

Papua New Guinea

Project Title: Bougainville Referendum Support Project
Project Number: 00103472
Implementing Partner: UNDP/Papua New Guinea
Start Date: 1/1/2018 **End Date:** 31/12/2019 **PAC Meeting date:**

Brief Description

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB, population est. 300,000) is an autonomous region within the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG), with its own constitution and legislature as well as representatives in the National Parliament. Following nearly a decade of conflict (1988-1998) and the deaths of an estimated 20,000 people and displacement of many more, the PNG National Government and various Bougainville actors signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) in August 2001. Key provisions of the BPA were subsequently reflected in the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville, Autonomous Bougainville Government, and Bougainville Referendum 2002.

The BPA has three main pillars: a deferred referendum on the future status of Bougainville (including an independence option); a special high level of autonomy for Bougainville; and an agreed weapons disposal plan. The referendum is to take place between June 2015 and June 2020 and is subject to ratification by the National Parliament of PNG.

Under the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) established through the BPA, which includes representatives of both the PNG Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), a Joint Bougainville Referendum Committee (JBRC) was set up. In 2014, the JBRC developed a number of work streams to guide discussions on the referendum. The implementation of these work streams has lagged and requires support, momentum, and commitment by both governments to move them forward.

In February 2015, the UN deployed an electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) at the request of the national government and the ABG. The mission concluded that the referendum preparations require a significant investment of time and attention, with several key decisions to be made jointly by the national government and the ABG (such as decisions on date, Referendum Commission chair, voter eligibility, and referendum options). It also recommended that women, youth, and persons with disabilities be included in key discussions on the referendum.

The Joint Supervisory Body met on 20 May 2016 and reached a number of key agreements, the most important one being an initial target date (15 June 2019) for the referendum. Another decision was to endorse the option of establishing an independent administrative authority (the Bougainville Referendum Commission) to organize and carry out the referendum on behalf of the respective electoral authorities (the PNG Electoral Commission and the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner). The two governments formalized that decision at a January 2017 signing ceremony, and the Governor-General issued the charter of the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) on 30 August 2017.

The UN has played an important role in the BPA process since its earliest days, and the two governments have sought UN assistance in preparing for the referendum on a number of occasions, including an 11 November 2014 request from the national Chief Secretary and a 20 May 2016 Joint Request for the UN to provide support to the referendum preparations and to assist the weapons disposal strategy of the two governments. In response to those requests, UNDP/Papua New Guinea has prepared this Project Document in consultation with authorities in Port Moresby and Buka. In light of the early stage of referendum preparations, the proposed approach maintains high flexibility to deploy resources where they will have maximum impact in moving the process forward. A Project Board, to include UNDP, the two governments, donors, and the BRC, will continue to guide the allocation of resources as the project moves forward.

<p>Contributing Outcome (UNDAF 2018-2022): Outcome 4: Peace</p> <p>Sub-Outcome 4.1 By 2022, government agencies and non- government organizations working on good governance, peace and security have capacity and leadership to undertake measures to combat corruption, prevent violence and provide access to justice</p> <p>PNG CPD 2018-2022 By 2022, government and non-governmental institutions demonstrate improved transparency, accountability, delivery of justice and promotion of peace and security.</p> <p>CPD Indicative output 1.3 The Bougainville Referendum Commission is supported to conduct a free and fair referendum.....</p>	Total resources required:	\$ 4,319,621	
	Total resources allocated:	USD	
		UNDP TRAC	
		New Zealand	1,000,000
		Japan	891,360
		EU	
		Australia	711,310
	Unfunded:	Government	
In-Kind			
	Unfunded:	\$ 1,716,951	

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April 20, 2019