

SIMBU PROVINCIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

APRIL | MAY | JUNE

Newsletter

Second Quarter | 2026 Edition

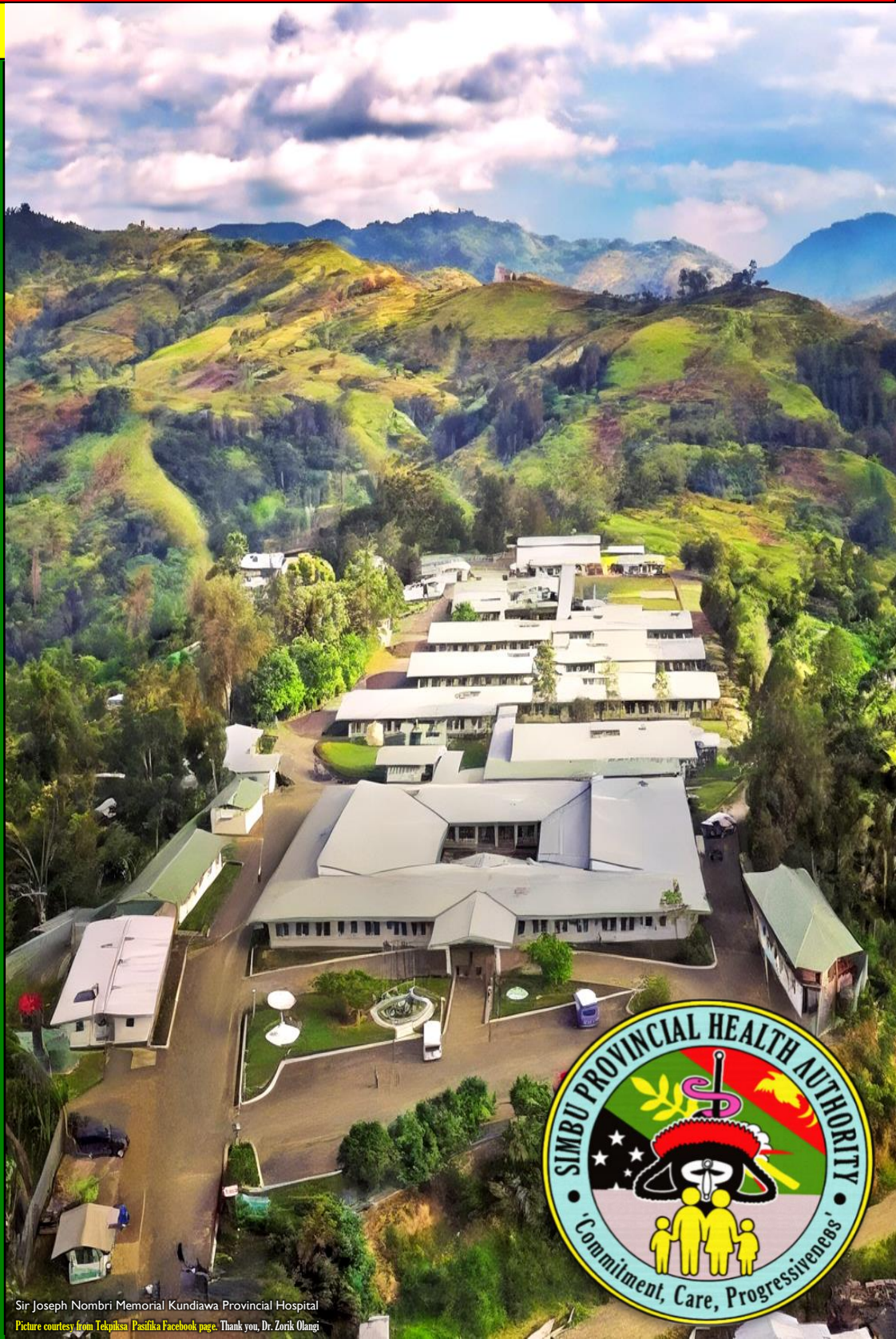
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| God Fearing | Teamwork | Commitment | Care | Progressiveness |

30th June 2026

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Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial Kundiawa Provincial Hospital

Picture courtesy from Telkipisa Pasifika Facebook page. Thank you, Dr. Zorik Olangi



IN FOCUS WITH THE CHIEF

DR. KEN KASSI

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OFFICIAL STATEMENT: 2026 SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE

The Second Quarter Report of 2026 presented here for Agency 621 Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) contained health service deliveries in Simbu Province by SiPHA from January to June of 2026. And in regular compliance with the legislative Section 8 of the PHA Amendment Act 2023, this Second Quarter report contained reports on implementations challenged by cash flow delays that is funding the 2026 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). Nonetheless, the funding from Treasury and Finance Departments respectively have been adequate and they are acknowledged for their good collaborations. And with good financial expenditure control from the SiPHA Finance Department and the Financial Committee governance, health services implementations have been progressive to date for operations and personal emoluments.

Project and capital expenditure has been uninterrupted and following due processes. Though, slow in progress, positive steps have been taken in planning, procurement and mobilizations. All these capital infrastructure progresses were largely due to aligned and available financial capital inherited from 2025 fiscal year.

The First Quarter Review by all lower, middle and top managers of SiPHA Organization in April was fascinating with highlights of, first, the SJNM-Kundiawa Provincial Hospital (Level 5) now able to capture health indicators of the clinical sections of the hospital and report timely. The Medical Records Unit now is fairly equipped in both equipment and manpower to achieve this reassuring progress. Second, agreements on certain policy reforms to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of health services delivery is achieved. Exempting fees on all antenatal and labouring mothers, banning misoprostol abuse by other health care workers apart from direct instructions from the obstetrician and gynaecologist (specialist medical officers), and corrections to the Patient Referral mechanisms.

So again, despite uncontrolled challenges, SiPHA still achieved its 2026 Second Quarter budgetary requirements with teamwork and network. And it is, hereby, my humble privilege to submit this Second Quarter Report of 2026 for SiPHA.

GOD Almighty be feared (Psalm 111:10 and 34:9) and praised always.

DR. KEN KASSI

Chief Executive Officer

Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA)

KUNDIAWA – The Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) has officially risen to the peak of Papua New Guinea’s health sector, marking a historic achievement during its 2026 First Quarter Performance Review. Held at the Mt. Wilhelm Tourist Hotel from April 7–9, the summit revealed that Simbu has surged to the top of the National Health Rankings, with an unprecedented three districts placing in the top five of the Sector Performance Annual Review (SPAR) report—a milestone never before seen in the province’s history.

Chief Executive Officer **Dr. Kassi Ken** initiated the three-day review with a strong call for **Unity**. Addressing the workforce, Dr. Ken said that the authority’s performance indicators—both the triumphs and the challenges—serve as a direct mirror of the staff’s collective commitment.

“SiPHA is more than just a name; it is an organization where every individual is responsible for the results we witness,” Dr. Ken stated. He defined the authority’s strength as being anchored by four critical pillars:

- **The Law**
- **Organizational Structure**
- **Strategic Partnerships**
- **Core Organizational Values**

The review was distinguished by a visit from **Governor Noah Kool**, who expressed sincere gratitude to the health workers for their tireless dedication to saving lives. In a significant move for provincial governance, Governor Kool introduced **Mr. Anthon Kuman** as the new representative for health from the Provincial Government and Administration to the SiPHA Board. Mr. Kuman succeeds Provincial Administrator Mr. John Punde in this vital oversight role.

The closing of the meeting served as a celebration of a "remarkable performance" that has rewritten the history books for the province. The 2026 First Quarter Performance Report confirmed Simbu’s surge to the top of the national leader board. Most notably, the celebration centred on the SPAR Report results, which saw **three Simbu districts dominate the national top five rankings**.

Dr. Ken acknowledged the SiPHA Board, management, and the entire workforce for ensuring "smooth and uninterrupted operations" throughout the quarter. He concluded with a spiritual tribute, stating, “We praise God Almighty for His leading in His healing ministry for the people of Papua New Guinea and Simbu Province.”

The 2026 Q1 Review stands as a turning point for Simbu, transitioning the province from a service provider to a national benchmark of excellence. By encouraging a culture of unity and securing strong provincial leadership through the appointment of Mr. Kuman, SiPHA has laid a strong foundation for the remainder of the year. As the authority celebrates its historic district-level success, the focus now shifts to sustaining this momentum and ensuring that "Unity" continues to translate into life-saving health outcomes for every citizen.



PNG Health System Finalizes 4th Consultation Review of Chart of Accounts

PORT MORESBY — The Department of Health successfully concluded the 4th Consultation Review of the Papua New Guinea Health System's Chart of Accounts (CoA), held at the Lamana Hotel from April 16 to 17, 2026. The two-day event served as a definitive milestone in the ongoing efforts to modernize and standardize financial reporting within the nation's health sector.

The proceedings were spearheaded by Deputy Secretaries Dr. Dora Lenturut-Katal and Mr. Ken Wai, alongside the Strategic Policy Division team leads. Their leadership facilitated a rigorous examination of the current fiscal frameworks to ensure better accountability and resource allocation.

The review saw active engagement from a broad spectrum of Provincial Health Authorities (PHAs), ensuring that the updates to the Chart of Accounts reflected the operational realities of frontline healthcare. Participating provinces included:

- **Western & Hela PHAs**
- **Southern Highlands & East Sepik PHAs**
- **East New Britain, Milne Bay, and Simbu PHAs**
-

The successful completion of the program was further bolstered by the presence of key technical and development partners. Representatives from the **National Economic Fiscal Commission (NEFC)**, the **World Bank**, **Santos**, and the **Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)** provided essential insights, highlighting the multi-sectoral support for PNG's health financing reforms.

With the conclusion of this 4th review, the Department of Health and its partners have established a clearer roadmap for financial transparency, aimed at improving service delivery across all levels of the PNG health system.



Simbu Province Hosts Critical Assessment of PNG Medical Supply Chain

KUNDIAWA – The National Department of Health (NDoH), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), has launched a comprehensive In-Country Assessment (ICA) of Papua New Guinea's medical supply chain. The month-long evaluation, running from **April 9 to May 8, 2026**, aims to gather essential data to inform the upcoming **Medical Supplies Strategic Plan (MSSP) 2026–2030**.

The technical mission recently reached Simbu Province, where the team, led by Mr. Willy Febi Kilepa, was received by Mr. Arnold Marme, Director of Public Health Services for the Simbu Provincial Health Authority.

Following initial briefings at the PHA headquarters, the delegation conducted site visits to assess frontline logistics. Key highlights include:

- **Site Visit:** *Evaluation of the Karilmaril Community Health Post (CHP).*
- **Logistical Focus:** *Assessing the "last-mile" delivery challenges in the geographically rugged Gumine and Salt Nomane Districts.*

The team also inspected additional designated health facilities within Simbu before transitioning to other provinces.

The assessments were pivotal steps in fulfilling long-term health sector objectives. It aligns directly with:

- **National Health Plan 2021–2030:** Specifically Key Result Area (KRA) 5.5.
- **Simbu PHA Corporate Plan 2025–2027:** Supporting Key Performance Area (KPA) 3, Objective 4.

By identifying current bottlenecks and infrastructure needs, the NDOH and WHO intend to build a more resilient procurement and distribution network, ensuring life-saving medicines reach even the most remote corners of the Highlands.



Simbu PHA Blood Transfusion Team Secures 80 Bags of Life-Saving Blood from Mt. Wilhelm Secondary School

Gembogl — The Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) team successfully collected 80 bags of blood during a mobile donation drive at Mt. Wilhelm Secondary School on April 23rd 2026.

The successful operation comes as the health authority issues an urgent, ongoing call for voluntary donors to visit the Kundiawa Provincial Hospital to help replenish critical blood reserves.

Led by Simbu PHA's Blood Bank Manager, Mr. Bonny Kagl, the BTS team travelled directly to the school campus to coordinate the drive. The school community responded with overwhelming support, yielding a vital boost to the province's medical supplies.

"We have to sacrifice to save a life," the BTS team shared in a statement, expressing gratitude to both the student body and the school administration. "When reserves are low, our team reaches out directly to communities. We deeply thank the Simbu PHA management for providing the crucial logistical support that made this trip possible."

Following a safe transit and a coordinated effort by the health officers on-site, the drive concluded late yesterday afternoon, marking a highly successful milestone for provincial public health outreach.

Blood cannot be manufactured synthetically; medical facilities rely entirely on the generosity of voluntary donors. In regional healthcare systems like Simbu's, maintaining a steady blood supply is a constant challenge, making mobile drives a literal lifeline.

Every single donation plays an indispensable role in critical care:

- **Emergency Medicine:** *Life-saving blood transfusions are required immediately for victims of severe accidents, trauma, and violence.*
- **Maternal Health:** *Safe blood supplies are vital for treating complications during childbirth, particularly severe post-partum hemorrhaging.*
- **Surgeries and Chronic Illness:** *Routine and emergency surgeries, as well as the treatment of severe anemia and cancer, depend on available blood products.*

While the 80 bags from Mt. Wilhelm Secondary School provide immediate relief, the demand for blood is continuous.

Simbu PHA is calling on all eligible citizens, business houses, and community groups who wish to save lives to step forward. If you are healthy and able, you can make a voluntary donation by visiting the **Blood Bank at Kundiawa Provincial Hospital**.

As the local phrase highlights the shared responsibility of community health: "*Yumi givim Blood na yumi savim laip*" (We give blood and we save lives).



Simbu PHA Launches Province-Wide Awareness Campaign for World Immunization Week

KUNDIAWA — The streets of Kundiawa town were brought to a standstill as the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) launched a high-profile convoy to mark World Immunization Week. The event signals the start of an intensive provincial awareness campaign running from April 24 to April 30.

Under the 2026 global theme, "**FOR EVERY GENERATION, VACCINES WORK,**" the campaign celebrates 50 years of immunization efforts that have saved an estimated 150 million lives worldwide. Local health officials are using the week to bolster public trust and improve access to life-saving vaccines across the province's rugged terrain.

Martha Kumul, the awareness team leader, spoke passionately during the launch about the strategic importance of the drive. She noted that the health of the nation's children is the foundation of its future, emphasizing that immunization is a vital tool in ensuring the next generation of leaders can thrive.

Before the teams deployed to Simbu's six districts, Dr. Kassi Ken, CEO of the Simbu Provincial Health Authority, addressed the assembled staff. He praised their unwavering dedication to their duties, acknowledging the immense difficulty of delivering healthcare services across the province's challenging geographical landscape.

"Your commitment to the line of duty, despite the obstacles we face, is what makes these life-saving missions possible," Dr. Ken stated during his address.

Dr. Ken also extended formal gratitude to the National Government and both local and international development partners. He specifically highlighted the **World Bank**, through its Impact Health Program, and **UNICEF** for their consistent logistical and financial support. These partnerships remain critical in maintaining the health systems necessary to reach remote communities.

The week-long initiative focuses on three core pillars:

- **Strengthening Public Confidence:** Utilizing transparent communication to address vaccine hesitancy.
- **Fostering Access:** Ensuring vaccines reach the most isolated regions of the six districts.
- **System Building:** Strengthening the provincial health infrastructure for long-term sustainability.

As the convoy departed Kundiawa, the message remained clear: vaccines are a proven success story for every generation, and SiPHA remains committed to ensuring no child in Simbu is left behind.



KEROWAGI – The Kerowagi District Care Unit (DCU) has announced a significant upgrade to its specialized medical facilities, following a successful collaboration with the SiPHA Administration.

In a handover facilitated by Provincial Disease Control Officer (PDCO) Mr. Steven Joe, the TB and HIV/AIDS ward received **two sets of new doors** and **two sets of solar lighting systems**. This infrastructure boost addresses a long-standing need for the facility, providing much-needed security and reliable illumination for both staff and patients.

The ward currently provides intensive care for seven TB patients. Beyond the structural improvements, the facility continues to support recovery through:

- **Enhanced Security:** *The new installations provide a safer environment for vulnerable patients.*
- **Consistent Support:** *Patients are receiving regular food rations and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies.*
- **Reliable Energy:** *Solar lighting ensures the ward remains operational and safe during night hours.*

Mr. Steven Gene, the Kerowagi District Health Manager, expressed his gratitude for the timely intervention.

"Assisting the Kerowagi TB and HIV/AIDS ward with these items is well-deserved and has been a priority since last year. Our patients will now feel much more secure as they undergo treatment."

The District Care Unit remains committed to improving health outcomes and facility standards for the people of Kerowagi.



Simbu Province Targets Stunting Crisis with Comprehensive Health Training

KUNDIAWA – The Simbu Provincial Government, in collaboration with the World Bank and the National Department of Health, has launched an intensive month-long training program focused on the implementation of Household Monitoring Tools to combat childhood stunting and improve rural health outcomes.

The **Child Nutrition and Social Protection (CNSP)** Project—a joint initiative between the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA), Save the Children Foundation, and the National Department of Health—is spearheading the training for Village Health Assistants (VHAs) and Community Development Workers (CDWs).

Papua New Guinea currently faces one of the highest stunting rates globally, estimated at **48%**. Since its inception in Simbu in 2024, the CNSP Project has moved beyond its primary goal of reducing stunting to bolster several key health indicators, including:

- Reductions in low birth weight and diarrheal cases.
- Increases in antenatal visits and supervised deliveries.
- Declines in perinatal and maternal mortality rates.

The workshop was officially opened by Simbu PHA Chairman Mr. David Herman Nime and CEO Dr. Ken Kassi. In their joint address, leadership emphasized the vital role of young CDWs and VHAs as "agents of change" within their communities.

The training is designed to equip these workers with the technical skills needed to bridge the gap between health policy and the **340 ward councils** across the province.

"Our goal is to empower our workforce to push nutrition and health policies directly into rural communities, where 80% of our population resides," stated Chairman Nime. "By strengthening these connections, we ensure our people grow up healthy, smart, and strong."

As the month-long training progresses, the CNSP Project remains a critical pillar in Simbu's strategy to transform provincial health standards and provide a scalable model for the rest of PNG.



Gembogl – In a significant boost to rural healthcare delivery, the Gembogl Health Centre (HC) District Management Unit has successfully received a comprehensive consignment of clinical equipment and essential supplies. The rollout, spearheaded by the Simbu Provincial Health Authority, marks a major milestone in the province's mission to decentralize specialized medical care.

The initiative was led by Provincial Disease Control Coordinator (PDCO), **Mr. Steven Joe**, whose strategic coordination ensured the delivery of high-priority resources aimed at strengthening the Disease Control Unit at the community level.

The delivery includes a suite of vital diagnostic tools designed to improve patient outcomes and monitoring. Key items received by the Gembogl team include:

- **Diagnostic Equipment:** *Sphygmomanometers (BP machines), stethoscopes, pulse oximeters, and medical-grade scales.*
- **Essential Rations:** *Support supplies for station operations and patient care.*
- **Stationery & Administrative Tools:** *Resources to improve data collection and reporting.*

Beyond clinical tools, the rollout placed a heavy emphasis on infection control. To ensure the facility meets international safety standards, SiPHA provided a full suite of waste management hardware, including:

- Pedal bins and specialized dustbins for medical waste.
- Industrial mop buckets and sanitation supplies to maintain a sterile environment.

This logistical success is part of a broader strategic push under the leadership of SiPHA CEO, Dr. Ken Kassi. The administration has focused on "smart" healthcare solutions—moving disease control efforts out of centralized urban hubs and directly into the heart of Simbu's rural communities.

"Together we can do it. Under this vibrant leadership, we are pushing disease control right to the community level, ensuring Simbu remains a top-level performer in the national health sector," stated a representative from the Gembogl Disease Control Unit.

By equipping frontline workers with the tools, they need, SiPHA continues to demonstrate its commitment to health equity and provincial excellence. With these new resources, Gembogl HC is now better positioned to monitor, treat, and prevent disease within the district, upholding the province's reputation for healthcare innovation.



Koge Health Centre Enhances Patient Care with Dedicated TB/HIV Ward

KOGE — In a significant move to improve infection control and patient outcomes, the Koge Health Centre (HC) Basic Management Unit (BMU) has officially re-established its dedicated TB Ward. This development marks a shift from previous years where TB and HIV patients were co-located with general ward patients, increasing the risk of cross-contamination.

The upgrades were made possible through the continued support of the SiPHA Administration, which has prioritized the modernization of the Disease Control Unit (DCU).

The newly re-established ward has been equipped with essential medical furniture and infrastructure to ensure a high standard of care:

- **Specialized Bedding:** *Delivery and installation of new patient beds, mattresses, and pillows.*
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** *Installation of solar lighting across the wards to ensure 24/7 operational capacity and improved safety for both staff and patients.*
- **Separation of Care:** *The facility can now provide specialized treatment for TB/HIV patients in a standalone environment, adhering to international disease control protocols.*

The SiPHA Disease Control Program expressed its gratitude to the SiPHA Management for their strategic vision. By investing in dedicated facilities and sustainable energy solutions, the administration is directly addressing the logistical challenges of rural healthcare delivery.

"This initiative ensures that our TB and HIV patients receive the focused care they require without compromising the health of the general patient population," the unit stated. "The support from SiPHA Administration is a vital step in our ongoing mission to control infectious diseases within the district."



Gumine Health Centre Bolsters Clinical Standards through Weekly CME Training

GUMINE – In a continuous effort to enhance healthcare delivery and clinical expertise, the Gumine Health Centre has successfully conducted its latest in-house Clinical Medical Education (CME) session.

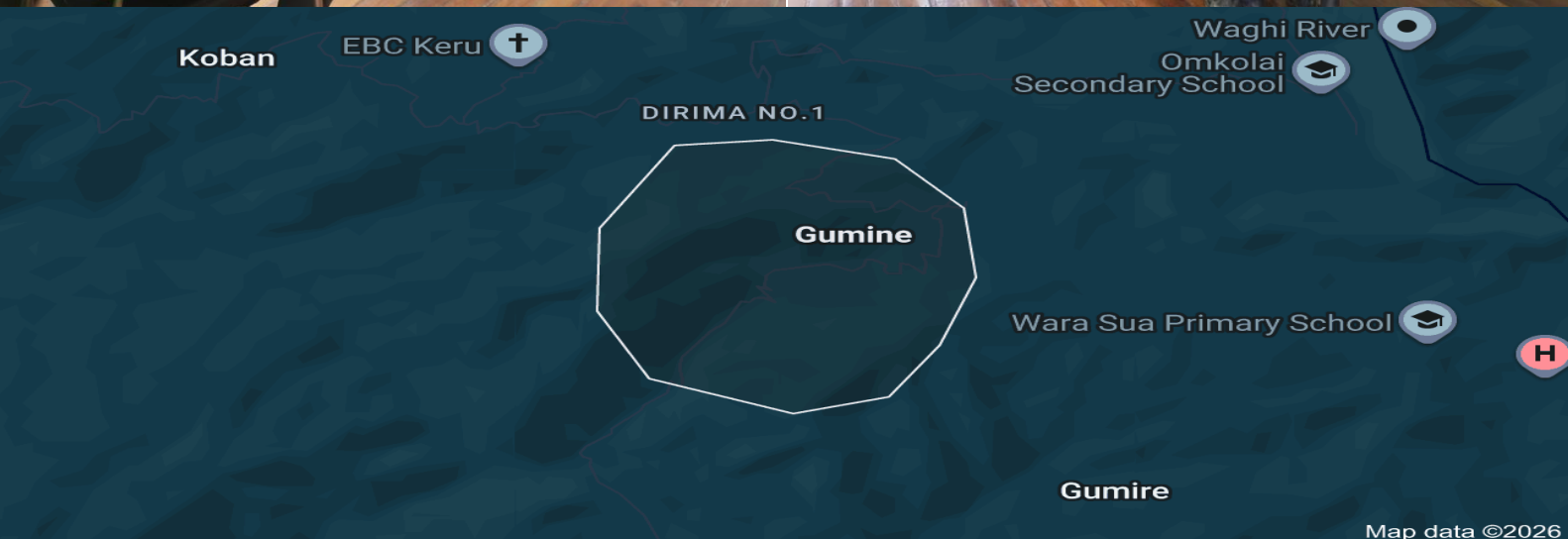
This week’s training featured a specialized presentation by Pharmacist Junior Kobe, who focused on the critical protocols of drug usage and pharmaceutical management. The session provided staff with updated insights into safe administration, dosage accuracy, and the latest guidelines for patient medication safety.

The CME program is a weekly initiative designed to keep frontline health workers abreast of evolving medical practices. By focusing on drug usage, the training addressed essential areas such as:

- **Rational Drug Use:** *Ensuring patients receive medications appropriate to their clinical needs.*
- **Adherence Protocols:** *Strategies to help patients follow their prescribed treatment plans.*
- **Safety Standards:** *Minimizing the risk of adverse drug reactions through rigorous screening and monitoring.*

These internal training sessions serve as a vital platform for knowledge sharing among the health centre’s multi-disciplinary team. By fostering an environment of continuous learning, Gumine Health Centre aims to ensure that every patient receives care that meets national health standards.

Leadership at the facility noted that consistent training, like the one led by Mr. Kobe, is fundamental to maintaining high-quality service delivery and ensuring that all staff—from nursing officers to community health workers—are equipped with the most current medical information.



Comprehensive Health Facility Audit Commences Across Simbu Province to Standardize Healthcare

The Simbu Provincial Health Authority has officially launched a comprehensive, province-wide audit of all health facilities to rigorously evaluate operational standards and accelerate infrastructure development. The first phase of this critical initiative commenced in Chuave District, spanning from April 27 to May 1, 2026.

The main aim of this provincial mandate is to establish a uniform baseline of high-quality healthcare across Simbu. By systematically assessing every tier of the local health network, the provincial delegation aims to:

Evaluate Service Delivery: Assess current healthcare operations against national performance standards to identify gaps in patient care, staffing levels, and clinical efficiency.

Audit Infrastructure and Logistics: Inspect the physical condition of facilities, medical equipment availability, and utility reliability (water, electricity, and waste management) to guide future capital investments.

Ensure Operational Compliance: Guarantee that all sub-centres and district health offices align with regulatory healthcare frameworks and provincial health policies.

Strengthen Local Governance: Foster closer collaboration between provincial health leadership and district officials to streamline medical supply chains and emergency responses.

The multi-disciplinary provincial delegation successfully completed its first leg in Chuave District, conducting comprehensive evaluations of the Chuave Health Centre, alongside the Monono and Wangoi Sub-Health Centres. Demonstrating exceptional operational agility, the Chuave District Health Office officials were highly commended by the delegation for their swift coordination, transparency, and active participation, despite the short notice provided for the exercise. Building on this strong momentum, the assessment team efficiently inspected the remaining three health facilities within the district over the following 24 hours.

The delegation driving this provincial accountability framework includes:

1. Mathew Kom
2. Alex Yule
3. Jack Waitao
4. Hubert Irai
5. Michael Kaupa
6. Bulu Yomba
7. Jack (Driver)
8. Lucas (Driver)

Following the successful conclusion of the Chuave District deployment, the team immediately transitioned into the next phases of its circuit. The audit team is systematically progressing through the remaining five districts of Simbu Province.

Ultimately, the data gathered from this comprehensive tour will conclude in a strategic provincial health report, serving as the plan for targeted funding, resource allocation, and facility upgrades over the coming fiscal years.

Phase One: Chuave District



Phase Two: Kerowagi District





Phase Three: Gembogl Constituents (KG District)



Phase Five: Sinesine Yongomugl District



Phase Four: Gumine District



Phase Six: Salt Constituents (SNK District)



KUNDIAWA – The Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) has officially taken delivery of a significant consignment of medical equipment, stationery, and sanitation supplies aimed at bolstering service delivery across several key health units.

The procurement, facilitated through the Provincial Disease Control Office (PDCO), includes specialized equipment for the **Biomedical Unit (BMU)**, the **Disease Control Unit (DCU)**, and the **Prapra Clinic**.

The delivery comprises a range of vital clinical tools designed to improve diagnostic accuracy and patient monitoring, including:

- **Clinical Equipment:** *Digital thermometers, BP machines, pulse oximeters, and foot scales.*
- **Waste Management:** *High-grade mop buckets, pedal bins, and dust bins to ensure stringent infection control and facility hygiene.*
- **Administrative Support:** *A comprehensive stock of stationery to assist in medical record-keeping and office operations.*

The SiPHA Management has formally acknowledged the receipt of these items, noting that the timely distribution of such resources is critical for maintaining the operational standards of the provincial hospital and rural clinics.

By equipping these units with modern digital tools and proper waste management hardware, the authority continues its mission to improve health outcomes and provide a safer environment for both patients and healthcare workers in Simbu Province.



Tema Mart Partners with Simbu PHA to Combat Tuberculosis Crisis

KUNDIAWA – In a significant move for public health, local retail leader Tema Mart Limited has officially partnered with the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) to bolster the province's fight against Tuberculosis (TB).

On Monday, May 4th, Tema Mart Managing Director Mr. Billy Chen met with SiPHA leadership to finalize a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement that will provide monthly essential supplies to the province's TB program.

The intervention comes at a critical time. Despite a provincial TB success rate of 82%, Simbu remains one of the hardest-hit regions in Papua New Guinea, ranking 6th in total cases nationwide. For more than ten years, TB has been the primary cause of death and hospitalizations in the province.

"Our TB services require consistent 'firepower' to meet our targets," stated the SiPHA CEO. "Funding challenges often cause delays in service delivery. This generous monthly support of food rations and household items from Tema Mart will alleviate those pressures and ensure our patients receive the support they need without delay."

Under the new arrangement, SiPHA's provincial health officers will coordinate monthly with Tema Mart to distribute supplies, including blankets, mattresses, and pillows, which are essential for patient care and recovery.



The SiPHA Board and Management expressed their deep gratitude to Mr. Chen, noting that such public-private partnerships are essential for overcoming the health challenges facing the Simbu population.



TVET Staff Empowered with Vital HIV/STI Training in Kerowagi

KEROWAGI, – The Kerowagi District Control Unit (DCU) successfully launched its district-wide health awareness campaign on **May 6, 2026**, conducting an intensive HIV/AIDS and STI education session for the staff of Kawa TVET in the Lower Upper Koronigle LLG.

The initiative, which specifically targets four TVET institutions across the district, reached **280 participants** on its opening day, including teachers and ancillary staff. By integrating health education into the TVET sector—traditionally focused on technical skills and workplace safety—the DCU is reframing HIV and STI prevention as a critical component of "life safety" knowledge.

The day-long program moved beyond the classroom to provide direct medical services, including:

- **Educational Workshops:** *Detailed indoor sessions on prevention and management.*
- **Professional Counseling:** *One-on-one support for staff members.*
- **On-site Clinical Testing:** *Voluntary "Duo" testing for HIV and Syphilis.*

Program coordinators reported a high turnout for the clinical phase, noting that the demand for testing was so significant that the team exhausted their initial supply of Duo test kits. A formal request for additional medical boosters has been submitted to ensure the program remains fully equipped for the remaining institutions.

The Kerowagi DCU extended its appreciation to the partners who made this health intervention possible:

- **SiPHA Administration** and the **Public Health Directorate** (specifically Senior Nera and PDCO Mr. Steven Joe) for vital funding and oversight.
- The **District Health Office (DHO)** for the provision of the Nogar Ambulance, which will support the team throughout the four-day mobilization.

The campaign continues tomorrow as the team moves to the next designated institution, maintaining its mission to safeguard the health of the district's vocational educators.



KUNDIAWA – Clad in vibrant purple, the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (PHA) stood in solidarity with birth practitioners across the globe to celebrate International Day of the Midwife on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

The event served as both a celebration of "miracles" and a sobering call to action, centered on this year's critical global theme: **"One Million More Midwives."**

While the popular image of a midwife is often limited to the moment of delivery, the celebrations highlighted the profound emotional and clinical depth of the profession. Midwives don't just "catch babies"; they are the guardians of first heartbeats, the first to hear a newborn's cry, and the steady hands that navigate the "anxious tears" and "unforgettable beginnings" of parenthood.

From the onset of the first contraction to the intimacy of the first cuddle, these professionals remain anchored in one of life's most powerful transitions.

The 2026 theme addresses a looming crisis in maternal health. With a rapidly growing population and the unique geographical challenges of the Highlands, the Simbu PHA emphasized that increasing the midwifery workforce is a necessity, not a luxury.

The authority noted several key drivers for the "One Million More" campaign:

- **Geographical Barriers:** The difficulty of reaching mothers in remote, rural settings.
- **Mortality Rates:** The urgent need to combat high maternal and perinatal mortality.
- **Quality Care:** Ensuring every pregnancy and birth is supported by specialized care to guarantee healthy outcomes for both mother and child.

The event was bolstered by the presence of senior medical leadership. **Dr. Willie Trane**, Specialist Medical Officer (SMO) of Obstetrics and Gynecology from Port Moresby General Hospital, attended the ceremony to show support for the Simbu team. Dr. Trane provided coverage for Senior SMO Dr. Gad Nassar and SMO Dr. Megan Kona, underscoring the collaborative spirit within the national obstetric community.

As the purple decorations are packed away, the message remains clear: to ensure the safety of the next generation, the investment in midwives must continue long after the festivities end.

Happy International Day of the Midwife 2026



Gumine Health Centre Set for Major Upgrade to District Hospital

KUNDIAWA – The push to bring specialized healthcare to Papua New Guinea's most remote regions reached a new milestone as technical teams conducted a vital clinical assessment of the Gumine Health Centre.

The visit, led by the **Health Services Sector Development Program (HSSDP)** in partnership with the **Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA)**, is a key step in transitioning the current Level 3 facility into a climate-resilient, Level 4 District Hospital.

This initiative aligns with the National Government's Vision 2050 and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP IV), which aim to bridge the healthcare gap through international collaborations. Supported by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the HSSDP project—soon to transition into the SHARE Project—focuses on overcoming "last mile" logistical challenges in the southern corridors of Simbu.

Once completed, the upgraded Gumine District Hospital will serve as a hub for both specialized curative and primary health services, benefiting the populations of Gumine and the rugged Salt-Nomane-Karimui District.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2026, HSSDP Consultant Mr. Trevor Goulding arrived in Mt. Hagen and was escorted by the SiPHA supervisory team to Kundiawa. Following a briefing with SiPHA Board Chairman Mr. David H. Nime, CEO Dr. Ken Kassi, and other senior officials, the technical team traveled south to Gumine.

Despite navigating active landslide zones, the team successfully reached the facility to complete a **Clinical Service Gap Assessment**. The mission saw high levels of participation from District Health Officer (DHO) Mr. David Moses, local health staff, and members of the Mian community.

Beyond infrastructure, the visit highlighted a significant improvement in local health management. Under the leadership of DHO David Moses, Gumine's integrated assessment score has risen from **75% in 2025 to 81% in 2026**.

"Health services are for our people," a SiPHA spokesperson stated. "SiPHA stands committed to improving quality across all corridors of Simbu Province, ensuring that no community is left behind."

The commitment to the region extends beyond Gumine. SiPHA confirmed that the PNG Government-ADB partnership will also target the upgrade of two Level 3 facilities within the Salt-Nomane-Karimui District, further strengthening the provincial health network against future environmental and clinical demands.



Community Health Initiative Sweeps Through Gembogl and SSY Districts

Simbu — Local health advocates and community leaders have concluded a successful two-day intensive health awareness campaign targeting schools and public markets across the Mitnande, Nilgkande, and Yongomulg LLGs. The initiative, led by Team Gembogl, focused on curbing the spread of infectious diseases through education and proactive community engagement.

Day 1: Youth Empowerment at SSY Mai High School

The campaign launched at **SSY Mai High School** in the Yongomulg LLG, where the focus was squarely on the younger generation. Health officers conducted comprehensive sessions regarding **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)**, covering:

- **Causes and Symptoms:** *Identifying the early signs of infection.*
- **Treatment Pathways:** *Encouraging early medical intervention.*
- **Prevention Strategies:** *The session concluded with a practical demonstration and the distribution of condoms to promote safe practices among the student body.*

Day 2: Market Outreach and Leadership Engagement

The second phase of the program moved to the **Goglme Market**, a central hub newly established to serve both the **Mitnande and Nilgkande LLGs**. This public forum expanded its scope to address a broader range of health challenges affecting the region, including **HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), STIs, and Typhoid**.

The event saw a significant turnout from ward counselors, community leaders, and local youth. Key educational pillars included:

- **HIV Transmission & Prevention:** *Breaking down myths regarding the mode of spread.*
- **Healthy Living:** *Promoting lifestyle choices that strengthen community resilience.*
- **Collaborative Change:** *Emphasizing that long-term health improvements are only possible through the active involvement of traditional and political leaders.*

The overwhelming interest from local leaders and youth at Goglme highlights a growing commitment to public health in the district. Organizers noted that involving ward counsellors is a strategic step toward ensuring health information penetrates every level of the community.

"Together, we can make changes," the team stated, reinforcing the message that community-led education is the most effective tool in the fight against preventable diseases.





KUNDIAWA — The Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) has finalized its draft Health Care Waste Management and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 2026–2030, marking a critical step toward standardizing clinical safety and environmental health within the province.

The document will be presented at the upcoming National Summit, where it will serve as a foundational component for the development of a unified National Policy Document.

The draft SOP is meticulously designed to align with both provincial and national health mandates:

- **National Health Plan 2021–2030:** Supports Key Result Area (KRA) 1, focusing on the sustainability and improvement of health service delivery.
- **SiPHA Corporate Plan 2025–2027:** Addresses Key Priority Area (KPA) 3, emphasizing operational excellence and environmental safety standards.

The initiative is led by SiPHA’s senior technical and executive team. Pictured during the finalization of the draft are **Ms. Dominica James**, Senior Environmental Health Officer, and **Dr. Ken Kassi**, Chief Executive Officer of SiPHA.

Their collaboration underscores the Authority’s commitment to ensuring that Simbu’s healthcare facilities operate under rigorous, modern waste management protocols that protect both patients and the surrounding community.

SIMBU HIV CASES SURGE: 24 New Infections in April Alone as Provincial Total Hits 6,000

The Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) reported 24 new HIV cases in April 2026, marking a sharp increase from earlier months this year.

Health workers raised the alarm today during an awareness session at Lodge Paia, urging residents to prioritize testing and prevention amid the rising threat.

Simbu now records a staggering total of 6,000 HIV cases province-wide, with approximately 3,000 in remission or inactive stages.

"This surge demands immediate action from our communities," said a SiPHA spokesperson. Officials called for safe practices, regular check-ups, and stigma-free support to curb the spread.



Gembogl BMU Intensifies TB Support to Combat Treatment

GEMBOGL – In a proactive move to improve recovery rates, the Gembogl District Medical Unit (BMU) has launched a targeted ration distribution program for patients battling Tuberculosis.

The initiative provides essential nutritional support to several key groups:

- **Inpatient Care:** Patients currently admitted to the wards for Multidrug-Resistant (MDR) and Pulmonary Tuberculosis (PTB).
- **Treatment Milestones:** Outpatients who have successfully completed six months of their Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) treatment.

By "complementing" standard medical care with nutritional assistance, the BMU aims to drastically reduce **Lost to Follow-Up (LTFU)** cases. Proper nutrition is a critical factor in ensuring patients remain adherent to their long-term medication schedules, ultimately strengthening the community's fight against TB.



Sexual Health Awareness Reaches Suai High School

SUAI, LLG – Health workers from the Koge Health Centre recently visited Suai High School to conduct a vital educational session focused on sexual health and HIV awareness.

The program aimed to equip students with essential knowledge regarding prevention, reproductive health, and the importance of informed decision-making. By engaging directly with the youth, the Koge H/C team continues to prioritize community wellness and the reduction of HIV transmission rates within the Suai LLG.

HIV AWARENESS STARTS HERE

You can't get HIV from:

- ✗ Sharing food
- ✗ Hugs or handshakes
- ✗ Using the same toilet

You can get HIV from:

- ✓ Unprotected sex
- ✓ Sharing needles
- ✓ From mother to child

Learn more from your school nurse or visit

schoolhealthinfo.org



Simbu PHA Staff Shine at UPNG 71st Graduation

Port Moresby - Ten employees of the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (PHA) have graduated with distinction at the University of Papua New Guinea's (UPNG) 71st graduation ceremony, marking a proud milestone for the organization and the province.

Among the graduates, Sr Angella Gull and Sr Stella Binape achieved the highest GPAs in their programs, earning the prestigious Dean's Award and the Australian High Commission Award.

The graduates and their qualifications are:

- **Mr John Issach** – Master of Arts in Executive Management
- **Sr Angella Gull, Sr Stella Binape, Sr Macklyn Kimbe, Sr Shirley Wena** – Bachelor in Management and Education
- **Sr Linda Kagl** – Bachelor in Clinical Nursing (Mental Health)
- **Sr Josana Bau** – Bachelor in Clinical Nursing (Peri-operative)
- **Sr Ruth Karao** – Bachelor in Clinical Nursing (Community Health)
- **Sr Maria Kuglmo** – Bachelor in Clinical Nursing (Critical Care)
- **Sr Lisa Joe** – Bachelor in Clinical Nursing (Critical Care)

The Simbu PHA Training Division, under the leadership of Cecillia Tobias, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the management team and Simbu PHA for sponsoring the postgraduate studies in 2025. “We thank God for the wisdom upon the management and the knowledge bestowed upon the graduates. May His guidance continue to lead them in the ministry of healing,” the division noted.

The CEO and management team also extended congratulations to the graduates and their families, acknowledging the sacrifices made to achieve this success.

With this achievement, Simbu PHA looks forward to advancing its mission of serving the sick and carrying the organization “to another mile together.”



In a small but remarkable ceremony on Wednesday 29th April 2026 in Port Moresby, 8 brand new Land Cruiser 10-seaters were given to Impact Health piloted PHAs of East New Britain PHA, East Sepik PHA, Central PHA and Simbu PHA.

Officiating the ceremony was Health Secretary Mr. Pascoe Kase and Impact Health Project Coordinator Mr. Billy Naidi. And present among the audience was Dr Ako Yap (CEO, ENBPCHA), Mr. Simon Ora (Acting CEO, Central PHA) and Dr. Ken Kassi (CEO, Simbu PHA).

Secretary Kase praised the Impact Health Project and its impacts, a project he assisted in its design in his first tenure as Health Secretary, and express satisfaction seeing the improvements in Health services and indicators the project is influencing.

While expressing the challenges and success in rolling out Impact Health Project, Mr. Naidi highlighted that the vehicles presented are part of the overall plan to continuously improve Health services in the district to rural regions where majority of the people are, carrying on from the remarkable progress the Project is already doing.

Representing the Impact Health PHAs, Dr. Ken of Simbu PHA thank the PNG Government, National Department of Health and World Bank for initiating this effective Impact Health Project and the 8 LC 10-seaters presented.

Each Impact Health PHAs will receive 2 vehicles each and operationalize them as soon they receive them.



The Level 5 Hospital of Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial (SJNM) Kundiawa Provincial Hospital of the Simbu PHA was graced with a visit by Chief Paediatrician Dr. Cornelia Kilalang (SSMO, Child Health) and Chief Obstetrician, Gynaecologist (O&G) Dr. Arthur Elijah (SSMO, O&G), UNICEF Rep Paula Kongua, World Bank's Impact Health Rep Steven Yangi and team from Monday 20th April to Friday 24th April 2026.

The week-long visit was titled Newborn Mentoring Program (NMP) and it was aimed at strengthening the hospital capacity to care for antenatal to labouring mothers and the newborn babies requiring special treatment when sick. The NMP is a UNICEF driven program ably supported by the Standards Division of the National Department of Health (NDOH) and Impact Health. The NMP involved assessments of the hospital facility and services that can acquire Neonatal ICU (NICU) Level 2 according to health standards NHSS 2021-2030. Some practical Interventions were practiced and recommended.

Simbu PHA is embarking on constructing a new Neonatal Unit and Labouring Unit in infrastructure terms to alleviate and resolve some pressing challenges of space and infection prevention and control (IPC) practices in the existing maternal unit.

Simbu PHA Board and Management thank NDOH, UNICEF, Impact Health and partners through Dr. Kilalang, Dr. Elijah, young Paediatric Registrar Dr. Yinil, Paula Kongua, Steven Yangi and Sr. Koral from Port Moresby General Hospital.

While thanking them CEO Dr. Ken Kassi mentioned such routine visits to uphold and maintain clinical health service standards is critical to upgrade services and infrastructures, to deliver high quality patient care and health services, in line with KRA 5.2 of the National Health Plan 2021-2030 and KPA 1.4.6 of the Simbu PHA's Corporate Plan 2025-2027.



World Bank-Funded CNSP Project Strengthens Household Monitoring in Simbu

On Monday 27th April 2026, The Child Nutrition and Social Protection (CNSP) Project, funded by the World Bank and implemented in partnership with the Simbu Provincial Government, Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA), Save the Children Foundation, and the National Department of Health (NDOH), has launched a month-long training on Household Monitoring Tool Training and Implementation.

Launched in Simbu Province in 2024, the CNSP Project is designed to reduce child stunting, a condition affecting nearly 48% of children in Papua New Guinea, one of the highest rates globally. Beyond its core goal, the project has already contributed to improvements in other critical health indicators, including low birth weight, diarrheal cases, antenatal visits, supervised deliveries, perinatal mortality, and maternal mortality.

The training equips Village Health Assistants (VHAs) and Community Development Workers (CDWs), who serve as vital links to the province's 340 ward councils, with enhanced skills to monitor and support households. Their role is central to ensuring that health policies reach communities effectively and sustainably.

Opening the workshop, Simbu PHA Chairman Mr. David Herman Nime and CEO Dr. Ken Kassi emphasized the importance of empowering young CDWs and VHAs to be agents of change. Their message was clear: by strengthening grassroots health workers, communities can drive forward national health policies and achieve lasting success.

Stunting and child malnutrition remain urgent problems, and the CNSP Project is helping Simbu Province and Papua New Guinea by training community health workers to build healthier families and stronger communities.



Kebil Primary School Leads Community Charge Against Regional Health Challenges

KEBIL – In an era where health is often viewed through a clinical lens, Kebil Primary School is proving that the strongest medicine is community awareness. The school recently launched a comprehensive health drive, positioning diseases like Typhoid, STDs, and Tuberculosis not just as medical diagnoses, but as shared social responsibilities.

The program brought together an unlikely coalition: students, faculty, and parents. By breaking the silence on often-stigmatized conditions, the initiative aims to transform the school into a hub for preventative education.

"Health is everyone's business," the school noted in a statement following the event. The drive emphasized that when students and parents are equally informed, the cycle of transmission for preventable diseases can be effectively broken. Through workshops and open dialogue, the Kebil community demonstrated that awareness is a collective duty, setting a new standard for local educational institutions.

Kebil Primary School is going beyond the standard curriculum to tackle some of the community's toughest health hurdles. Their latest awareness drive focused on three major threats: Typhoid, STDs, and Tuberculosis.

The Strategy:

- **Inclusive Education:** *Involving parents and teachers alongside students to ensure the message reaches every household.*
- **Stigma Reduction:** *Addressing serious medical issues openly to encourage early detection and prevention.*
- **Shared Responsibility:** *Moving the conversation from "medical problem" to "community challenge."*

By fostering an environment where prevention is a shared goal, Kebil Primary is doing more than teaching—they are protecting the future of their community. A huge thank you to the staff and families of Kebil Primary for leading by example.



Police Recruits Trained on Gender-Based Violence Referral Pathway

Simbu - Newly recruited police officers have received vital training on the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) referral pathway, focusing on the first-line response and the urgent need for medical care for survivors of sexual abuse.

The training emphasized that any sexual abuse case reported to police must be referred to a hospital within 72 hours. This timeframe is critical for survivors to access emergency medical services such as post-exposure prophylaxis, emergency contraception, and other lifesaving interventions.

Facilitators included Mrs. Jean Kupo, Coordinator for the Family Support Centre, Mr. Keisy Kiri, Officer-in-Charge of Prapra Clinic, and Mrs. Nere, Provincial HIV/AIDS Coordinator, who guided recruits through practical steps in handling GBV cases. They highlighted the strong link between GBV response and HIV prevention, stressing that police play a key role in ensuring survivors are connected to health services quickly and compassionately.

Mrs. Jean Kupo underscored the importance of collaboration between law enforcement, health facilities, and community support systems. “Police are often the first point of contact for survivors. Their ability to respond with empathy and urgency can make the difference between trauma and recovery,” she said.

This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Simbu Province’s GBV response framework, ensuring survivors are treated with dignity and provided access to medical care, psychosocial support, and justice.



Port Moresby - World Bank through Impact Health had run a week-long Primary Health Care Management Workshop in Port Moresby Hilton Hotel on Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April 2026. The Workshop officiated and carefully followed by Health Minister Hon Elias Kapavore MP and Health Secretary Mr. Pascoe Kase signified upgrading of critical middle managers, the District Health Managers, in their key roles of improving majority of all the health indicators embedded in the NHP 2021-2030. Hon Kapavore stated, "80 for 80", level of Health services where 80% of population are must receive 80% of resources so improved and successful Health service delivery is achieved.

The Workshop witnessed its First Graduation on Wednesday 15th April 2026 where all District Health Managers from the four (4) pilot implementing Impact Health (World Bank) provinces of East New Britain, East Sepik, Central and Simbu graduated. Among them for Simbu PHA were **Mrs. Carol Waipapa Kerriyal Pean** (Chuave), **Ms. Jerry Wagi** (Kundiawa-Gembogl), **Ms. Norah Kumo** (Karimui-Nomane), **Mr. Mark Olam** (SSY), **Mr. Steven Gene** (Kerowagi) and **Mr. David Moses** (Gumine). Among them as their leader of the pack is the SiPHA's Director Public Heath **Mr. Arnold Marme** and also the key SiPHA's Impact Health Focal Person and Provincial Health Information Officer **Mr. Mathew Kom**.

The workshop concluded on Friday 17th April 2026. Simbu PHA thanks World Bank's through its Impact Health programs, the National Department of Health and integral partners and consultants for this upskilling Workshop for the critical middle Health managers.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



Health Equity



Public Health



Health Access



Primary Care



Hospital



Community Health



Global Health



75 Health Workers Complete Training to Boost Community Health in PNG

PORT MORESBY — A cohort of 75 health workers from across Papua New Guinea recently concluded a intensive two-week Village Health Assistant (VHA) Training of Trainers (TOT) program. The initiative, held from March 9–20, marks a significant step in strengthening sub-national health capacity.

Representatives from Central, Simbu, East New Britain, Madang, Western, and Western Highlands Provincial Health Authorities (PHAs).

The objective of the raining was to equip trainers with adult learning skills and practical health education tools, enabling them to mentor VHAs and frontline workers in their respective provinces.

The training supports the **National Health Plan 2021-2030** and the draft VHA Policy, positioning community health assistants as vital "change agents" for nutrition and primary care.

The program was led by the National Department of Health (NDoH) with support from two major World Bank-financed initiatives:

- **CNSP Project:** *Targets child stunting and supports vulnerable families through nutrition education and cash programs.*
- **Impact Health PNG Project:** *Focuses on strengthening service delivery in rural areas, specifically for maternal, newborn, and child health.*

Collaborative Effort

The TOT was facilitated by 23 technical officers from a broad coalition of partners, including **UNICEF, the World Bank, Save the Children, FHI 360, World Vision, CHAI,** and the **Catholic Church Health Services.**

In the coming months, the **Impact Health PNG Project** will continue upskilling health workers to ensure the delivery of high-quality reproductive and nutrition services across remote regions.



Australia and PNG Partner to Strengthen Frontline Response to Gender-Based Violence

PORT MORESBY – Frontline workers across Papua New Guinea have concluded a specialized three-day training intensive focused on vicarious trauma and mental wellbeing, marking a critical step in strengthening the nation's response to family and sexual violence.

The training brought together a diverse group of essential service providers, including:

- Safe house managers and counsellors
- Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary officers
- Church-based service providers
- Family Support Centre staff

Those working in the sector are frequently exposed to high levels of trauma and emotional fatigue. Operating in resource-constrained environments, these workers face relentless demands while providing life-saving support to survivors.

The program was designed to provide these professionals with the psychological tools necessary to manage the "vicarious trauma" that comes from secondary exposure to difficult cases, ensuring they can continue their work without burnout.

Delivered through the PNG Women Lead Program in partnership with the Department of Community Development and Religion (DFCDR), the initiative is a key component of the ongoing PNG-Australia partnership.

"Australia is committed to supporting the PNG government and Civil Society Organizations in building a professional, trauma-informed frontline workforce," a representative noted during the event. "Supporting the wellbeing of those who protect the vulnerable is essential to our shared goal of ending violence against women and girls."

This training underscores a long-term commitment to human rights and community safety. By investing in the health and professional capacity of first responders, the partnership aims to create a more resilient support system that benefits all members of Papua New Guinean society.

Australia continues to work alongside PNG to implement programs that not only respond to violence but actively work toward its prevention.



Major Dental Awareness Drive Launches in Simbu Schools

KUNDIAWA – A provincial dental health initiative officially launched on Friday at Gon Kambua Primary School, marking the start of an ambitious campaign to reach over 200,000 students across more than 140 schools in the region.

The program is a collaborative effort between dental specialists from Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial Kundiawa General Hospital and Colgate-Palmolive. It seeks to combat rising rates of oral disease through early education and the promotion of proper hygiene habits.

Lead Dental Officer Dr. Sailas Tumun addressed the students, citing a concerning increase in oral cancer cases within the province. He emphasized that early intervention is the most effective way to reverse this trend.

"Students need to be educated as early as possible to look after their oral hygiene," Dr. Tumun stated.

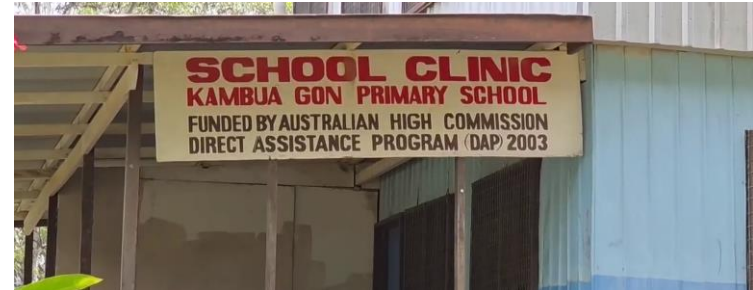
He issued a stern warning against the consumption of alcohol, cigarettes, and betel nut, noting that these substances act as primary irritants that contribute significantly to the development of oral cancers and long-term gum disease.

During the launch, Resident Dental Specialist Dr. Cynthia Gabriel provided practical demonstrations on correct brushing techniques. She warned the youth that neglecting dental care in their formative years often results in:

- Painful chronic infections
- Premature tooth loss
- Severe systemic health issues later in life

Mrs. Atomo, the event coordinator at Gon Kambua Primary School, expressed her gratitude to the medical team and their corporate partners. She reinforced the message that understanding the value of oral health is essential for primary-aged children, particularly in resisting harmful local substances.

The event concluded with Colgate-Palmolive distributing toothpaste and toothbrushes to the entire student body, ensuring every child had the necessary tools to apply their new knowledge immediately.



Team Koge Spearheads HIV and Sexual Health Awareness

KOGE – Team Koge has successfully concluded a intensive three-day health advocacy mission, focusing on HIV awareness and sexual health education at Muania Secondary School and the surrounding Dumun community.

The centerpiece of the campaign was a comprehensive three-day program hosted at Muania Secondary School. Recognizing the vulnerability of the student population, Team Koge delivered targeted sessions on:

- HIV/AIDS Prevention: *Understanding transmission, the importance of testing, and debunking common myths.*
- STI Education: *Identifying symptoms and seeking early treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections.*
- Sexual Health Advocacy: *Promoting responsible decision-making and providing students with the tools to manage their reproductive health safely.*



Following the school program, the team extended its reach to the Dumun area. This grassroots initiative ensured that vital health information reached the wider community, fostering an environment of support and reducing the stigma often associated with HIV/AIDS.



CHUAVE – To ensure the uninterrupted delivery of life-saving medication, a supervisory team recently conducted a critical field visit to Chuave District to monitor and strengthen the supply chain for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients.

The mission focused on verifying that the specialized pharmaceutical pipeline remains robust, preventing drug stockouts that could jeopardize patient recovery and increase the risk of community transmission.

The visit was led by **MDR-TB Nurse Julie Anambo** and **District Disease Control Officer (DDCO) Andrew Kumura**. Their presence underscored the Simbu Provincial Health Authority's commitment to reaching patients in rural districts, ensuring that those undergoing the rigorous MDR-TB treatment regimen have consistent access to their prescriptions.

During the visit, the team evaluated local storage facilities, reviewed patient adherence logs, and coordinated with community health workers to streamline the distribution process.

The supervisory team extended their gratitude to the healthcare workers on the ground in Chuave. Nurse Anambo and DDCO Kumura formally acknowledged the dedication of the local staff, noting that their daily commitment is the backbone of the provincial TB response.

"Maintaining the supply chain is about more than logistics; it is about the promise we make to our patients that their treatment will not be interrupted," the team noted during the inspection.

Key Highlights of the Visit:

- **Supply Chain Integrity:** Verification of inventory levels to ensure no patient in Chuave faces a shortage of MDR-TB drugs.
- **Technical Supervision:** Providing clinical guidance to district staff on managing complex MDR-TB cases.
- **Partnership:** Strengthening the link between provincial specialists and district-level implementers.

As the Simbu Provincial Health Authority continues to monitor TB hotspots, visits like these remain vital to achieving the goal of a TB-free province.



**WHY
MDR-TB
HAPPENS?**
THE 5 BIGGEST REASONS



**MDR-TB
DOESN'T HAPPEN
OVERNIGHT**

Feeling better doesn't mean TB is gone.
Stopping medicines too soon can lead to drug resistance.



Kerowagi HIV/AIDS and STI Awareness Campaign Moves to Urban TVET for Day Two

KEROWAGI – The Kerowagi District Control Unit (DCU) successfully rolled out the second day of its intensive HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) awareness campaign on Monday 11th May 2026, shifting its focus to the students and staff at Kerowagi Urban TVET.

Following a successful launch, the Day 2 program emphasized the critical importance of early detection and education among the district's youth and vocational trainees.

A central feature of today's activities was the implementation of **"Duo Testing"** on-site. This dual-testing approach allows health officers to screen for both HIV and Syphilis simultaneously using a single rapid diagnostic kit. This method is considered a vital tool in modern public health, providing immediate results and allowing for instant counseling and referral pathways.

The DCU team conducted several key activities throughout the day:

- **Integrated Counseling:** *Health experts provided one-on-one sessions to address misconceptions regarding sexual health.*
- **Voluntary Testing:** *Dozens of students took advantage of the confidential, on-site Duo Testing services.*
- **Educational Seminars:** *Presentations focused on prevention strategies, the reality of living with HIV in the modern era, and reducing the social stigma often associated with STI screenings.*

"Reaching our students at the TVET level is a priority," noted a representative from the Kerowagi DCU. "By bringing these services directly to the campus, we remove the barriers of distance and fear, empowering the next generation of our workforce to prioritize their health and the health of their partners."

The Kerowagi Urban TVET administration welcomed the initiative, noting that such partnerships between health authorities and educational institutions are essential for fostering a healthy, informed community.

The awareness campaign is expected to continue throughout the week, targeting various community hubs and high-traffic areas across the Kerowagi District to ensure maximum outreach and impact.



Health Workers Across Simbu Complete Malaria Protocol Training at Mt. Elimbari

CHUAVE — A vital four-day Malaria Treatment Protocol Training successfully concluded at the Mt Elibari Eco-Tourism Hotel, drawing healthcare staff from all six districts of Simbu Province.

The intensive workshop, which ran from May 11th to May 14th, 2026, was facilitated by Mr. John Kerenga, the Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (PMEO). The program wrapped up with an official ceremony where participants from across the province were awarded certificates of completion.

In a targeted effort to boost provincial healthcare coordination, members of the Sinasina-Yongomugl (SNK) team were also issued mobile phones by their District Health Officer (DHO). The devices are set to streamline field communication and ensure the timely reporting of critical health data.

Participants and organizers extended their gratitude to the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) for backing the province-wide initiative to standardize and improve malaria management.



Simbu PHA Explores Advanced Modular Healthcare Solutions in the Middle East

Egypt - In a significant step toward advancing local healthcare infrastructure, a high-level delegation from Simbu Provincial Health Authority recently conducted an official visit to the Middle East Caravan Factory.

The delegation, led by **Dr. Ken Kassi**, CEO of Simbu PHA, and **Dr. Gadelkareem Nassar**, Head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial Kundiawa Provincial Hospital, was received by the facility's executive team to explore state-of-the-art infrastructure solutions.

The visit included a comprehensive, behind-the-scenes tour of the factory's production lines, showcasing the latest innovations in **modular units and prefabricated medical solutions**.

The Simbu PHA team inspected specialized, rapidly deployable structures designed to meet rigorous global clinical standards. These modular units present a highly efficient, scalable solution for expanding rural health clinics, specialized wards, and diagnostic spaces across the province.

Beyond the facility tour, leadership engaged in strategic discussions focused on future collaborations. The dialogue centred on leveraging prefabricated technology to accelerate the modernization of Simbu's healthcare network, potentially reducing construction timelines for vital medical facilities.

"We truly value this opportunity to exchange expertise and explore potential partnerships that contribute to advancing medical facilities and services globally," a representative from the Middle East Caravan Factory stated, expressing deep gratitude to Dr. Kassi and Dr. Nassar for their visit and trust.



ADB Consultants Conduct Safeguard Assessments in Gumine and Salt-Nomane

Gumine/SNK - Two consultants from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have completed critical safeguard and risk assessments at the Gumine and Kilau Health Centres. The evaluations, completed on May 19, 2026, are a vital step toward upgrading these rural facilities into climate-resilient district hospitals.

The ADB consultants, Ms. Daniela Kraemer (Gender & Social Safeguards) and Ms. Dorothy Keyser Pais, arrived via Mt. Hagen before traveling to Kundiawa.

They partnered with a senior team from the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA), which included:

- **Mr. Arnold Marme** (Acting Director of Public Health)
- **Mr. Jerry Kubu** (Acting Director of Rural Health Services)
- **Mr. Mathew Kom** (Technical Group Team Leader)

Due to the remote locations, the delegation was escorted safely throughout the journey by police personnel from Mobile Squad 08 (MS8).

The team visited Kilau Health Centre in the Salt-Nomane District and Gumine Health Centre in the Gumine District. This trip followed an initial site assessment on May 7 by ADB consultant Mr. Trevor Goulding.

The main goals of this follow-up mission were to:

- Evaluate potential land sites for construction.
- Consult directly with local health facility staff.
- Engage with rural communities to ensure the project meets strict international safety, social, and environmental standards.

Local communities warmly welcomed the delegation. Speaking on behalf of the Mian Tribe, Gumine Station Ward Councillor Hon. Daniel Kale thanked both the ADB and SiPHA for prioritizing their district. He emphasized that the community is eager for the redevelopment and has pledged full cooperation to ensure its success.

During the community forums, Ms. Daniela Kraemer explained that the project will receive formal approval once all required documentation and safeguard assessments are successfully completed and submitted.

The consultants praised SiPHA's management and technical teams for organizing a highly coordinated visit and executing smooth community consultations.

SiPHA's Board and Management extended their gratitude to Mr. Rob Akers, the ADB Health Services Sector Development Program (HSSDP) Project Manager, alongside the visiting consultants and frontline district health officers.

"Partnerships like this are vital to overcoming 'last mile' challenges in Simbu's southern corridors," stated SiPHA CEO Dr. Ken Kassi. "Once approved and built, the redevelopment of the Gumine and Kilau facilities will drastically improve access to quality healthcare for our most remote populations."



Simbu PHA Delivers Five Years of Financial Statements to Auditor General

The Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA) has officially submitted its outstanding financial statements spanning a five-year period (2021–2025) to the Office of the Auditor General. The presentation took place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Key Highlights & Governance Framework

- **Post-COVID Resilience:** As a designated government agency (Agency 621), SiPHA successfully reconstructed and substantiated its complete financial records following the administrative disruptions of the post-COVID-19 era.
- **Collaborative Management:** The achievement is attributed to rigorous financial management by the SiPHA Board's Finance Sub-committee, streamlined operations within the Finance Department (spanning planning, revenue, accounting, auditing, and reporting), and strict oversight by Senior Executive Management.
- **Inter-Departmental Support:** Financial governance was further strengthened through close collaboration with the National Departments of Finance, Treasury, National Planning & Monitoring, and Health, alongside key development partners.

The successful submission aligns directly with national and provincial healthcare benchmarks:

- **National Alignment:** Key Result Area (KRA) 5 of the National Health Plan.
- **Provincial Alignment:** Key Performance Areas (KPAs) 1 and 4 of the SiPHA Corporate Plan 2025–2027.
- **Statutory Compliance:** This milestone fulfills SiPHA's legal obligations to ensure state and public accountability under Section 39 of the *Provincial Health Authorities Act 2007* and the *Audit Act 1989*.

Through this submission, the SiPHA Board and management reaffirm their commitment to transparent financial governance while continuing to deliver vital health services to the people of Simbu.



Kundiawa Provincial Hospital has taken a major step toward securing clean, safe drinking water for its patients and staff through a new partnership with Canadian technical and media experts.

The initiative, funded by international donors and a successful grassroots GoFundMe campaign, has successfully installed three advanced ultraviolet (UV) water purification systems within critical areas of the hospital facility.

Below are the official statements from the project launch:

Dr. Raymond Saulep Coordinator and Local Liaison

"I am delighted to share the progress of our current project and welcome our Canadian partners, Kristian Bogner and Alex Zammit, to Papua New Guinea. As the on-ground contact person, I am supporting this initiative to ensure its smooth and successful implementation.

The story behind this project began with observations from a Swiss humanitarian group working in the Pacific, particularly in the Solomon Islands. At that juncture, Petra Running reached out to contacts back home in Switzerland, highlighting the urgent need for clean and safe drinking water projects in the Pacific region. This led to discussions with Dr. Desmond Soares from Brisbane, who is one of our trainers at the Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association.

Following these discussions, an agreement was reached to raise funds. A GoFundMe campaign was rolled out, drawing contributions from 10 donors in Switzerland, alongside several other key supporters. Ultimately, Alex Zammit and his company in Canada agreed to back the project. Alex generously volunteered to travel to the island to personally oversee the installation and commissioning of the units.

It has been a wonderful experience hosting both gentlemen. Kristian has been documenting the entire installation process. So far, three ultraviolet purification units have been set up around the Kundiawa Hospital. As the resident expert, Alex has been affectionately nicknamed 'Dr. Wara' (Dr. Water) by the local team over the last few days.

Mr. Zammit will provide expert insight into the system and explain how we can empower our community. This system will ensure that not only the people of Chimbu (Simbu), but anyone who steps through our doors, will have access to clean, safe drinking water.

Additionally, Kristian will share insights into his documentation work and reflect briefly on his previous global projects, which have positively impacted lives in similar developing regions. I will now hand over to these gentlemen to share their thoughts on the project so far."

Continue next page.....



"I want to thank Dr. Saulep for the wonderful introduction and for welcoming us to Kundiawa. It is an extremely beautiful place.

Our company was initially approached by a Swiss foundation, who contacted Mr. Rafael Lima, our Director of Sales and Marketing in Canada. When Rafael brought the project to me and asked if it was feasible—and if I would be interested in helping—I did not hesitate for a second. I immediately said, 'Yes, let's do this. Let's get out there and get this hospital clean water.'

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet so many fabulous, friendly people here; they truly have some of the warmest smiles in the world.

Currently, we have three Halop 500P units fully operational: one in the patient mess (where meals are prepared and served), one in the Emergency Room (ER), and one in the Operating Theatre. While this is an excellent start, there is still more work to be done.

During my time here, I have toured the facility and inspected both the incoming municipal supply and the backup water cisterns. On my 39-hour journey back home, I will compile my final commissioning report alongside a formal set of recommendations. As I mentioned, these three units are just the beginning."

Kristian Bogner Master Photographer, Director, & Nikon Canada Ambassador

"I am truly honoured to be here in amazing Kundiawa, photographing and filming the water installation project. Working alongside UV Pure, the local community, and the hospital management—who are doing incredible work—has been a privilege.

My role is to document this project to capture the essence of what is happening here and to help generate future funding. I have had the opportunity to produce films and lead projects in developing regions worldwide, including the poorest areas of Rwanda and Bhutan, which have helped raise millions of dollars for vital causes like clean water.

Clean water is the bedrock of sustainability. The people of Kundiawa are incredibly friendly, inspiring, and full of gratitude for this initiative. I look forward to telling their story to the world in a meaningful way to secure more funding. This hospital is a very special place with wonderful energy, and I am thrilled to partner with UV Pure and Kundiawa Hospital on this journey."

Dr. Kassi Ken CEO, Simbu Provincial Health Authority

"It is a true honour to welcome our friends, Kristian and Alex, from Canada. As a developing nation, Papua New Guinea requires strong support networks to advance our infrastructure.

The technical explanations and demonstrations provided by Alex Zammit of UV Pure Technologies—combined with the immediate experience of drinking clean water directly from the systems in our patient mess, emergency department, and operating theatre—prove that technology can fundamentally transform our operations. This is precisely the kind of support we need to drive healthcare forward for our population.

This partnership will continue until every single water outlet at Kundiawa Provincial Hospital is fitted with a UV Pure system, and the service is expanded to other health facilities across Simbu Province.

I also want to extend our deepest gratitude to Kristian Bogner for his professional photography, videography, and documentation services. Kristian has used his talents to benefit vulnerable populations globally, and we are honoured that he is now here in Simbu. The stories he tells through his network will undoubtedly bring long-term benefits to the people of Papua New Guinea who rely on our healthcare services."



CNSP Project Implementation & Rural Outreach

A major healthcare and data collection initiative is underway across the Child Nutrition and Social Protection (CNSP) impact areas in Simbu Province, marked by a highly successful two-week training program and an intensive household monitoring exercise.

The initiative, which reached more than 3,200 households over a recent two-week period, represents a critical step forward in integrating remote communities into meaningful national development efforts.

Recognizing the vital importance of the mission, organizers expanded the standard five-day "training of trainers" curriculum into a comprehensive two-week program in Port Moresby. Following this, an intensive village health assistance training was launched in the Kundiawa-Gembogl district.

These sessions successfully prepared frontline workers to roll out a new household monitoring tool and execute an extensive data collection exercise.

Operating under the banner of "Teams Underground," field workers braved challenging terrain to conduct the household visits. The massive undertaking was made possible through close collaboration between:

- **Save the Children PNG (SAHB Grantee)**
- **Simbu Provincial Health Authority (PHA)**
- **Simbu Provincial Administration**
- **Department of Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs**

The intensive monitoring exercise has done more than just gather data; it has served as a vital bridge to the community. By making vulnerable families feel seen, valued, and respected, the initiative has encouraged residents to actively participate and step forward for formal registration under CNSP Component 2 activities, which are facilitated by the Department for Community Development and Religion.

The milestone coincided with a World Bank Implementation Support Mission on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. The visit drew high-level representation from key government bodies, including the implementing agencies of the National Departments of Health, the Department for Community Development and Religion, and the Department of Justice and Attorney General.

Notably, officials from the Department of Treasury were also in attendance to witness firsthand the execution of the CNSP project and assess its value within the remote regions of Simbu Province.

Officials noted that building trust at the village level remains the most effective pathway for delivering long-term, impactful social and health benefits to the nation's most vulnerable populations.



Senior Officers Formalize Working Contracts with Simbu PHA

KUNDIAWA — In a significant move to solidify leadership continuity and stabilize operations, 16 senior officers of the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (PHA) formally signed their employment contracts on May 7, 2026.

The cohort represents key administrative and clinical leadership within the authority, with the contracts covering the 2024–2026 period.

Among the 16 senior personnel, four officers possess current, ongoing agreements that will naturally extend beyond the 2026 threshold. The remaining 12 senior officers participated in a second signing ceremony. This administrative renewal was necessary as their initial terms had officially elapsed between January and March of this year.

The signing ceremony was heavily attended by the management team and peers. Dr. Kassi Ken, Chief Executive Officer of the Simbu PHA, was present alongside the Human Resources team to oversee the proceedings and officially sign the documents as the witness.

Belinda Kabia, the acting Human Resource Manager of Simbu PHA, emphasized that the formalization of these contracts represents a major milestone in strengthening corporate governance and service delivery within the province's health sector.

"The formal signing of these contracts is not just an administrative formality; it is a binding commitment to the people of Simbu," Ms. Kabia stated. "By securing the tenure of our senior administrative and clinical team, we are ensuring leadership stability and maintaining the momentum of our current healthcare initiatives. This process reinforces accountability, and we fully expect our senior officers to lead by example, driving performance and delivering high-quality health services across our provincial network."

The successful execution of these contracts sets a stable operational foundation for Simbu PHA as it continues to roll out its strategic health plans for the remainder of the year and into the future.



MINGENDI — In a major boost to the province's healthcare capacity, front-line health workers from across Simbu Province have completed an intensive, week-long refresher workshop on the Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (PMDT).

The training, hosted at the (L4) St. Joseph Mingendi District Catholic Hospital, concluded with a graduation ceremony where Disease Control officers representing facilities from all six districts in the province were awarded certificates.

The initiative was delivered by the National Department of Health (NDOH) in close collaboration with key international and faith-based partners, including:

- **World Vision**
- **The World Bank**
- **Catholic Health Services**
- **Christian Church Health Services**



The workshop was spearheaded by a team of leading public health experts. NDOH Disease Control technical specialists Dr. Petronia Kaima, Dr. Margaret Kal, and Ms. Ladong Belari led the facilitation alongside Simbu Provincial Health Authority's own local experts, Dr. Dimitry Kep and TB Officer Ms. Rose Talpa Pari.

This timely training comes on the blackguards of significant breakthroughs in the province's fight against the disease. Healthcare officials revealed that Simbu's TB treatment outcomes have seen steady, encouraging progress over the last few years:

While the province is celebrating this reassuring upward trend, officials emphasize that the ultimate goal remains hitting the national benchmark of 90%.

Metric	2023	2025	National Target
TB Treatment Success Rate	76%	83%	90%

"This training workshop is essential to equip frontline health workers to efficiently identify and manage both standard TB and complex Drug-Resistant TB strains," organizers noted. "The credit goes to the dedicated health staff of Simbu PHA, particularly those in Disease Control Services. This training ensures that the improving trend continues so the population is better protected."

With the workshop concluded, the focus now shifts to field implementation. Public health leadership extended deep gratitude to the facilitators and participants, urging the newly certified officers to translate their upgraded skills into immediate, enhanced clinical care across Simbu's health facilities.



Over 500 Highlands Residents Regain Sight in Major Eye Care Outreach

KUNDIAWA, SIMBU PROVINCE — More than 500 people from Simbu Province and the wider Highlands region have had their sight restored following a major regional eye care outreach at the Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial Kundiawa Provincial Hospital, held from June 8th to 26th, 2026.

The initiative—the Highlands region’s largest eye care outreach of the year—was delivered by The Fred Hollows Foundation PNG in partnership with the Simbu Provincial Health Authority (SiPHA). Demand for the service was immense; during the initial weeks of the campaign, the team screened over 1,868 people and conducted more than 2,499 consultations, ultimately booking 570 patients for life-changing cataract surgeries.

To ensure geography and financial hardship did not prevent vulnerable populations from receiving treatment, the two organizations implemented critical support measures. SiPHA waived all surgical fees, while The Fred Hollows Foundation PNG provided accommodation and meals for patients traveling from afar. Together, these initiatives removed the primary barriers to healthcare, particularly for women, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.

Screening networks extended across all six districts of Simbu Province, with additional patients traveling from across the broader Highlands region.

Priscilla Sine Mal Peter, Country Manager for The Fred Hollows Foundation PNG, said that the high patient turnout highlights a significant, ongoing need for accessible eye care.

“What we are seeing in Kundiawa is a plain reminder of the scale of unmet need for eye care across the Highlands and the country,” Ms. Mal Peter said. “This is why outreach services are so critical. They bring immediate care to people who would otherwise miss out, while simultaneously strengthening the local eye health systems and partnerships required for long-term accessibility.”

For many patients, the outreach marked the end of months or even years of blindness.

“When someone regains their sight, the impact ripples far beyond the individual,” Ms. Mal Peter added. “It relieves the burden on families, strengthens communities, and allows people to return to daily life—whether that means working, gardening, moving safely, or participating in church and community activities.”



This year’s initiative builds on a successful 2025 outreach that restored sight to nearly 300 people. The collaboration was formalized in October 2025 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at reducing avoidable blindness and improving eye care infrastructure in Simbu.

For SiPHA, the overwhelming demand highlights the urgency of establishing permanent, accessible eye care services.

“This outreach demonstrates what can be achieved when partners unite to address a critical health deficit in our communities,” said Dr. Ken Kassi, Chief Executive Officer of Simbu PHA.

“Many of our people have been living with avoidable blindness simply because specialist care was out of reach. Because the Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial Kundiawa Provincial Hospital does not currently have a dedicated ophthalmologist, our partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation PNG is vital to filling this service gap. By waiving surgical fees, we are ensuring patients get the care they need closer to home—resulting in restored independence for families and a stronger health service for our province.”

The scale of the outreach was made possible by a dedicated contingent of 30 eye care professionals and community leaders from across the Highlands.

Surgical leadership was provided by Dr. Mulusew Melesse (The Foundation’s Teaching Ophthalmologist), Dr. David Pahau (The Foundation’s Ophthalmologist), and Dr. Waimbe Wahamu from the National Department of Health. They were supported during the opening week by Dr. Linda Lep from the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority.

The Fred Hollows Foundation PNG and SiPHA extend their gratitude to the network of provincial health authorities, community leaders, and national partners who released staff, shared expertise, and supported patients throughout this milestone mobilization.

