



In July 2008, Light Up Papua New Guinea: The Captain Nichola Goddard Project (LUPNG) was launched when the first light systems were installed in medical centres in the Milne Bay province of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Since that time, LUPNG has installed **over 100 solar light systems in more than 80 health facilities which collectively serve over 200,000 people** in the provinces of Milne Bay, Eastern Highlands, Western Highlands and Oro. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the awareness and fundraising efforts of Tim and Sally Goddard, and the work of ATprojects Inc. – Light Up The World’s implementing partner in PNG – LUPNG has had a very successful first year of development.

Over the course of the first year, LUTW has learned that lighting system partners (and future partners) in PNG are divided into government and church-based health facilities. There is no national coordinating body for either group and often no collaboration between partners. Government health facilities are administered directly by 20 provincial administrations that have greatly different levels of capacity in delivering basic health services to their constituents. Politically, health is seen as a priority but in many cases this does not translate into budget allocations. This has created unique challenges for our NGO partner - ATprojects - in the coordination of the LUPNG project, but it has also further highlighted the need for the support that Light Up The World is providing.



A recent letter seeking support from the LUPNG project indicates the challenge health units face with their current lighting situation. “One of the biggest problems we encounter in our health facilities each day is easy access to proper lighting system(s) especially for night delivery and other emergencies. Our sources of lights are lantern lamps/Colman or battery operated torch. When our kerosene and battery run out, we resort to bamboo lights as a source of light.”

Thank you for your generous support of LUPNG!

“The solar lights which you are providing have made a lot of impact in our service delivery to our rural population ... people are benefiting from the lights, especially pregnant mothers for delivery at nights.”

- Nupurum Health Centre



“... thank you very much for your great help towards our community by choosing and installing the solar light at our Aid Post. You have seen our very need and the community ... appreciates your work.”

- Community Health Worker



ATprojects continues its work on the LUPNG project on the ground in Papua New Guinea by conducting training workshops, completing installations and making connections with other local NGOs, businesses and churches that will become partners in the project and expand its reach into new target areas.

Future training strategies include continuing to train individual technicians attached to small church groups. This may be the best and sometimes only way to reach and provide solar lighting systems to the smaller health facilities that are often located in the most remote areas of the country. Groups operating 5-10 health facilities will have one or two members (with the basic technical background to carry out installations) trained through participation in on site installations.

Strategies are also being developed around opportunities to work with government, NGOs and private enterprise groups in PNG that have the capacity and demonstrate an interest to work with ATprojects on installation implementation. This will maximize opportunities to facilitate installations and support more rapid advancement of the LUPNG project.



Plans for 2010 include expanding and increasing the reach of the project with the installation of over 150 more light systems. This will bring the LUPNG project to nearly 25% completion by the end of its second year.