



PRESS STATEMENT

IMR6/12

PNG MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM 2012 3 September 2012

PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH: MONITORING CHANGES IN PNG

Large projects can mean large changes, as people in Hides in Southern Highlands Province and Hiri West in Central Province, know. Their communities are home to the PNG Liquefied Natural Gas (LNP) project, which is led by Esso Highlands Limited.

Anticipating major changes in Hides and Hiri West, IMR and Esso Highlands Limited have developed the Partnership in Health (PiH) project to monitor the impact on health and well-being of people living around the two sites. Two comparison sites – Asaro in Eastern Highlands Province and Karkar Island, Madang Province – have been selected.

Hebe Gouda, a post doctoral research fellow from the University of Queensland, is working with IMR on the study.

“To gather our data, we monitor and compare 10,000 to 20,000 people through an annual census, and we conduct follow up surveys to record births, deaths, people coming and going, changes in marital status, address, education and employment,” Dr Gouda said.

“Preliminary results indicate that some populations are growing rapidly and in some places, there are many more men than women, but no conclusions can be drawn yet,” she said.

“Levels of education and employment vary between sites,” she said.

“The study allows us to look for trends, changes and issues in these four sites, primarily in health, and will help us guide further research and to inform future policy and interventions” she said.

Symposium Paper: The Partnership in Health Demographic Surveillance System in Papua New Guinea: results and conclusions from the first year

Contributors: Gouda, HN^{1,2}, Phuanukoonnon, S¹, Brown, P¹, Kakazo, M¹, Maraga, S¹, Namosha, E¹, Riley, I², Siba, P¹.

Institutions: ¹ PNG Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, ² University of Queensland, School of Population Health, Brisbane, Australia

Media contact: Geraldine Vilakiva – phone: +675- 7205 6686

Email: geraldine.vilakiva@pngimr.org.pg Or Wendy Levy – phone: +675-7201 7264