

PNG Facts 2007

Papua New Guinea is the largest developing country in the South Pacific region. It includes 600 separate islands with over 80% of the population living in rural communities based on the traditional village structure and dependent on subsistence farming.

PNG is made up of over a thousand different tribal groups speaking 816 languages many located in remote areas -no wonder PNG has been referred to as the world's most diverse and complex nation!

Around 40 per cent of PNG's population lives in poverty, that is, on less than US\$1a day. Papua New Guineans have low life expectancy and high infant and maternal mortality.

PNG now has the highest incidence of HIV in the Pacific region. It is estimated that 2% of the adult population, approximately 64,000 people, are now HIV positive.

This growing HIV/AIDS epidemic is alarming authorities and it is estimated that unless there are effective interventions, by 2025 over 500,000 people will be living with HIV/AIDS, 70% of all hospital beds will be needed for AIDS patients and there will be huge losses to the workforce with further deterioration in an already struggling economy.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papua_New_Guinea#Economy

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/png/hivaids.cfm>

Some Basic Facts About PNG

1. **THE PEOPLE**
Population = 5,190786 (2000 census)
Average annual growth rate 2.7%
The UNDP Human Development Index for 2004 ranks PNG at 133, indicating that Papua New Guineans have a poor quality of life as measured by life expectancy at birth (57:4)
Adult Literacy (64.6%)
The Human Poverty Index (HP1) places PNG 60th out of 90 developing countries (Last amongst all Pacific countries)
2. **LANGUAGES**
850 distinct languages
1000 plus dialects
The New Testament is already translated and published in 141 of these languages, with 151 translation projects in process (by SIL and BTA)
3. **CHRISTIANITY**
96% of the population claim to be Christians.
Recent survey (2005) by a study group of The Institute of Pacific Studies revealed that:
33.7% are Born Again
62.3% are nominal
4. **PNG SOCIETIES**
PNG is 80% rural
5. **HIV/AIDS**
PNG has the highest rates