



# EVALUATION OF THE EU'S COOPERATION WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA (2014-2021)

## CONTEXT

Since the creation of the **Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG)** in 1975, the **European Union (EU)** has been building a solid **partnership** with the country. This partnership has been guided by the principles and objectives of the African, Caribbean and Pacific-EU Partnership Agreement ('**Cotonou Agreement**'), which covers areas such as political dialogue, trade, and development cooperation, including respect for democracy and human rights principles.

The EU's development cooperation with PNG was mostly financed through the **European Development Fund** during the period under review and is based on joint policy priorities and objectives.

PNG is a **key partner** for the EU to pursue its foreign, security and development policy agenda in the **Pacific region**. The EU's **strategic objective** is to build stronger political relations with PNG, while supporting good governance, security and sustainable development.

The present **evaluation** provides a **comprehensive and independent assessment** of **what EU-PNG cooperation has achieved** during the period 2014-2021, as well as **key lessons learnt and recommendations** for the future, including in relation to consolidating democracy, stability, peace and prosperity, and to strengthen PNG's commitment to respect and promote a multilateral and rules-based global system.

The evaluation covers **all sectors of cooperation**.



**Rural development and Trade**



**Forestry, Climate Change and Biodiversity nexus - FCCB**



**Governance (including Public Financial Management - PFM), support to non-state actors and cross-cutting priorities**



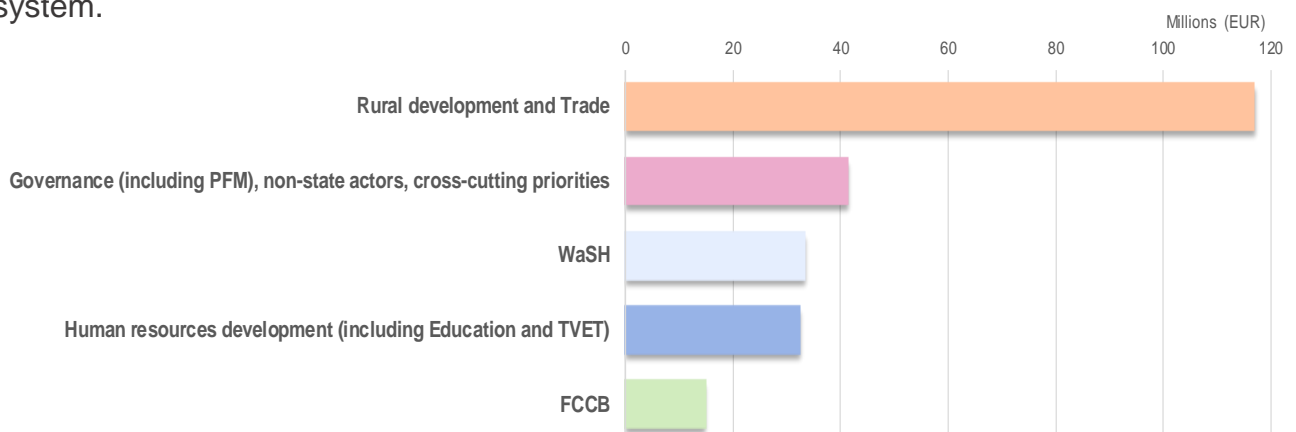
**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)**



**Human resources development (including Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training - TVET)**



**EUR 239 million** were contracted by the EU via bilateral support to PNG between 2014 and 2021



## CONCLUSIONS

<b>Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ EU support has been <b>embedded</b> in national reform agendas and policy frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The limited choice of implementing partners in PNG has led to <b>costly approaches to implementation</b>, although the EU-funded interventions implemented through international organisations were mostly successful.</li> <li>▶ Despite an overall good coherence in design, EU support was predominantly implemented in a <b>fragmented way</b> and achieved <b>few synergies</b> across project boundaries.</li> <li>▶ Nearly every <b>intervention encountered challenges</b> due to internal, external, or both sets of factors. Nevertheless, none of the interventions failed.</li> <li>▶ Approaches to <b>monitoring and evaluation have gradually become more comprehensive and collaborative</b>, but there is scope to strengthen the <b>involvement of national stakeholders</b> and the <b>quality of these assessments</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ While actions focussing on the short-, medium-, and long-term could be better articulated, EU support has consistently led to <b>tangible benefits for the targeted population</b>.</li> <li>▶ EU support contributed to <b>improved public policies and regulatory frameworks</b>. It strengthened capacities which resulted in <b>better service delivery</b>, although challenges persist in all sectors.</li> <li>▶ EU support contributed to more <b>transparent, accountable and effective governance, an enhanced business environment, and better quality (vocational) education</b>. The <b>sustainability</b> of EU-funded interventions and their <b>replication and upscaling</b> would have required a higher level of government commitment.</li> </ul>

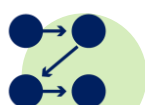
## RECOMMENDATIONS

### STRATEGIC APPROACH



**R1**

Continue with current support and consider re-introducing support to TVET



**R2**

Introduce sequenced approaches for the implementation of the country cooperation strategy



**R3**

Put suitable approaches in place to increase the synergies between interventions



**R4**

Increase the efficiency of projects and strengthen the approach to risk mitigation and monitoring

### SECTOR-SPECIFIC



**R5**

Develop firm approaches for the replication and scaling-up of interventions in the WaSH and rural development sectors



**R6**

Intensify efforts to operationalise the PFM framework within the governance sector budget support



**R7**

Ensure that the Spotlight Initiative (or a suitable follow-up) continues in the country



**R8**

Strengthen institutional capacities for law enforcement in forestry, climate change and biodiversity, and commit to long-term support

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More information on EU-PNG cooperation can also be found on the internet ([https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/papua-new-guinea\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/papua-new-guinea_en)).