

CARE has been implementing the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), with funding from the Australian Government, since 2009. The project started as a pilot in Obura-Wonenara District in Eastern Highlands Province to test an approach that could potentially be expanded and replicated in other remote areas of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Building on successes to date the project has been expanded into Menyamya District in Morobe Province and Gumine District in Simbu Province.

The underlying premise of the project design is that by working with communities, government, local NGOs and the private sector to strengthen partnership, governance and mutual accountability, existing resources can be better utilised to sustainably increase the wellbeing of people in the remotest villages in PNG. CARE believes that poverty in PNG is not just the result of lack of resources but of issues in how these resources are allocated. CARE's role has been as a broker between government service deliverers, private sector services and villager service users. The project works across several areas including village court services, improved health and hygiene practices, safer footbridges, and the provision of protein (fish), but this *In Brief* focusses on just two areas. The first, access to education, demonstrates a model developed for working with government departments and communities to increase service delivery to remote areas. The second, improving coffee husbandry practices and marketing, shows how even in the remotest areas of PNG incomes can be increased through the improved quality of coffee and better market access. The two examples are from Yelia Local level Government (LLG), the most remote of the three LLGs in Obura-Wonenara. Yelia has no road access and CARE's 2010 baseline study¹ of the area found extremely poor indicators for health, nutrition, livelihoods and education.

ICDP works across four components called LEAD, LIVE, EARN and LEARN. LEAD is the primary component, with the project focussed on governance and planning in line with PNG's Organic Law. All wards in Obura-Wonenara now

have ward development committees and each now has a ward development plan (WDP). These WDPs have been consolidated into LLG development plans. Through being involved in the planning processes, CARE has created awareness within the wards of the government services that people are entitled to. This has led to increased demand for and expectations of service delivery. The limitations of each level of government in PNG to deliver services is emphasised to encourage community engagement and voluntary contributions.

CARE has found that, to varying degrees, each level of government (Province, District and LLG) has allocated funds in line with the LLG plans, and that community contributions of in-kind resources have increased. CARE tries to stimulate government and community contributions by limiting seed funding for activities under the LIVE, EARN and LEARN components.

As an example, a desire for improved education service has come up as a priority in every ward plan. In response, CARE has worked with communities to develop a model for early childhood literacy schools located in villages. Classrooms are built by local communities to provide easy access for young children's first three years of schooling. CARE has provided basic classroom resources such as blackboards and writing materials. The schools use a curriculum aligned with the government's elementary school curriculum such that children who graduate are then able to go into the formal primary school system. Unlike the formal system, teachers are unpaid but are motivated by the demonstrated potential that they may secure a funded role in the government system later on. Six early childhood literacy schools have been established, with current enrolments of 1,434 (752 boys and 682 girls); one community school has been upgraded and registered as a primary school; 36 new elementary schools have been registered with the National Department of Education; and an estimated 600,000 kina (AU\$260,000) has been leveraged from the government for tuition fees and teacher

salaries for new or upgraded schools directly supported by CARE.

Because more than 70 per cent of people have no education and only three per cent have gone to Year 10, it is difficult to find enough people from local areas with the qualifications needed to become a teacher. CARE identified several graduates living in the provincial capital of Goroka, and was able to persuade some of them to return to their villages as teachers. They returned with prestige and a willingness to help the local children. CARE then engaged a local organisation, LIFE (Literacy is for Everyone), who fly trainers into Yelia regularly to train a cadre of local teachers. CARE has a formal agreement of co-operation with the Provincial Division of Education and aims to register both teachers and schools so they can become part of the government system. Because of the training received by the local teachers, a disproportionate number of them from Obura-Wonenara are now being selected by the Division of Education for scholarships to Port Moresby where they can gain formal teaching qualifications.

Nonetheless, even as this education model continues to expand, the main constraint is the lack of Year 10 graduates who can become local teachers. In an attempt to overcome this, CARE works with Flexible and Open Distance Education to help local youth gain Year 10 certificates. The success of the elementary education program has encountered a second constraint: children who graduate from the program are ready to move into the formal primary school system, which, while accepting the greater numbers of enrolments, is not yet resourced to adequately provide for them all.

The second area of the ICDP provides market access and thus income for coffee growers in Yelia. Despite coffee being the main income earner in the district, virtually no coffee extension services have been provided there for 30 years. When CARE initially entered Yelia it found that people were not regularly harvesting their coffee, often preferring to let it rot on the tree. The main reason for this was high charges that made air freight uneconomical. The only other option was to carry coffee bags for several days to a neighbouring district to access road transport to a major town.

Therefore, one of the first activities under the EARN component was to train and work with farmers to rehabilitate crops and improve processing techniques so as to increase the quality of the coffee harvested and processed locally. This meant farmers could potentially get a better per kilo price for the coffee sold. The growers expected that CARE would market the coffee, but CARE encouraged farmers to take responsibility for this by informing them about existing marketing systems and the availability of freight subsidises for remote areas. This included a study tour for selected farmers to the Goroka. CARE engaged in dialogue with Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) officers in Goroka, which resulted in CIC helping growers to take advantage of the freight subsidy, and organising buyers to fly into Yelia during the harvesting period to buy coffee and oversee flights. Buyers have also been persuaded to offer prices that include subsidised freight charges. At the peak of the last coffee harvest season up to four flights a day were going in and out of Yelia. Between September 2013 and May 2014 CIC paid 302,481 kina (AU\$130,000) in freight subsidies for coffee coming from Yelia.

The ICDP model has recently been externally evaluated. The results will be taken into account in the design of the next phase. Initial findings confirm that various levels of government administration, the private sector and local communities can work together to plan and allocate resources to achieve mutual benefits. An agency such as CARE can play a critical brokerage role. CARE hopes to continue to work in Yelia for several more years to bed down the planning and decision-making processes. It also looks forward to replicating the model implemented in Menyama and Gumine elsewhere in remote areas of PNG.

Author Notes

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Endnote

- 1 Cate Rogers et al. 2011. [Rural Poverty in Remote Papua New Guinea: Case Study of Obura-Wonenara District](#). Canberra: Development Policy Centre, ANU, and CARE.

