

Quarterly Newsletter: April - June 2025
Issue 24

Vision

To improve the healthcare of the people of Papua New Guinea whom we serve regardless of age, religion, gender, or ethnicity.

Mission

To provide comprehensive, compassionate, and equitable health care, health promotion and disease prevention to the people whom we serve throughout PNG.

Principles & Values

Our standards apply to everything we do as CCHS. We live and practice by our "I CARE & COMPASSION" motto which exemplifies our mission and vision. In addition, CCHS staff and volunteers practice the values of:

- * **Integrity:** Honesty and responsibility to oneself and others
- * **Justice:** Defend and advocacy for the rights of the poor and vulnerable
- * **Compassion:** Genuine care and heartfelt concern for those we serve
- * **Excellence:** Professional competence and responsible stewardship

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St. Mary's Vunapope Kokopo District Hospital Accredited to Level 4 Facility



Right: Dr Dora Lenturut Katal, Deputy Secretary Compliance and Standards, Health Minister Hon. Elias Kapavore, Archbishop Rochus Josef Tatamai, CCHS CEO Sr. Jadwiga Faliszek, Member for Kokopo Hon. Eremman ToBaining, and ENBPHA CEO Dr. Ako Yap at the Launching of the NHSS certification to Level 4 Saint Mary's Vunapope Kokopo District Hospital.

The Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) has celebrated a major milestone with the official launch of Saint Mary's Vunapope Kokopo District Hospital as a certified Level 4 Health Facility in East New Britain Province.

Held at the Archdiocesan Hall in Vunapope, the event began with a Holy Mass and marked 95 years of dedicated service by the hospital, which was founded in the 1930s by the German Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The hospital continues to serve all four districts of East New Britain and receives patients from neighboring New Ireland Province.

The occasion also included the signing of partnership agreements between CCHS, the East New Britain Provincial Health Authority (ENBPHA), and other key health organizations such as Burnet Institute, Marie Stopes, SDA Health Service, United Church Health Service, Divine Word University Rabaul Campus, PNG Family Health Association, Rotary Against Malaria, and Mustard Seed Global.

Present at the launch were Health Minister and Pomio MP Hon. Elias Kapavore, Rabaul

Archbishop Rochus Josef Tatamai, National CCHS CEO Sr. Jadwiga Faliszek, ENBPHA CEO Dr. Ako Yap, and Kokopo MP Hon. Eremman Tobaining Jr. A K2 million cheque was presented to the hospital by the Health Minister on behalf of ENBPHA and Impact Health, signaling strong government support.

This accreditation marks a new chapter for Saint Mary's Vunapope, strengthening its position as a leading healthcare provider in the province and reflecting a legacy of service, sacrifice, and partnership.

Signing of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between CCHS Rabaul Archdiocese and ENBPHA by Archbishop Rochus Josef Tatamai.



CCHS NATIONAL HEALTH SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Dear Team,

I would like to begin by congratulating the Catholic Church Health Services of Alotau-Sideia Diocese for successfully hosting the 2nd Southern Regional Conference, and the Wewak Diocese for hosting the 3rd Momase

Regional Conference. As you are all aware, the theme for this year's regional conferences is: "KRA1: Empowering Health at Every Level – Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Stronger Communities for a Healthier Population."

As we look ahead, the 2nd New Guinea Islands (NGI) Regional Conference will be held in July in Kavieng, followed by the 2nd Highlands Regional Conference in October in Jiwaka. I encourage all participating dioceses to come well-prepared to share your experiences—especially your efforts in health promotion, integrated service delivery, and innovative community health initiatives.

I am pleased to see encouraging progress in the integration of services, particularly in HIV and TB care, and I urge other dioceses to follow this example. Do not wait for separate program-specific funding—make the most of the resources you have. If you are planning an immunization patrol, consider incorporating Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Antenatal Care (ANC), TB, Malaria, HIV services, and health promotion activities. Our people need to be empowered to take ownership of their health, environment, and overall well-being.

In terms of partnerships, I commend the Goroka Diocese for formally signing its Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority. For dioceses that are still working toward

this, I encourage you to keep engaging with your local authorities until these formal agreements are signed. For those due for SLA reviews, keep advocating—your persistence matters.

Finally, a reminder that the Independence Golden Jubilee Challenge remains open. I encourage dioceses that have not yet submitted their short story and accompanying photos to please do so. For further details, you may reach out to Ms. Jelilah Kum, our Communications and Advocacy Officer, at comsadvocacy@catholichealthpng.org.

Thank you all for your commitment and hard work. Let us continue working together to serve with care and compassion. Wishing everyone a fruitful and impactful Quarter 3.

Yours in Christ

Sr Jadwiga Faliszek

CCHS National Secretary

Catholic Church Hwealth Services of PNG



PNG 50th Independence Golden Jubilee Competition



Theme: "50 Years of Independence, 10 Years of CCHS, and a Future of Hope"

In 2025, Papua New Guinea will celebrate 50 years of independence while the Catholic Church marks the Jubilee Year of Hope, declared by His Holiness Pope Francis. As part of this historic milestone, Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) is launching a nationwide competition for all 21 dioceses to honor the legacy of Catholic healthcare in PNG.

Each diocese is invited to submit a inspiring/ impactful photograph and a 300-500 word abstract showcasing the journey of Catholic healthcare—from its missionary roots to today. Submissions should capture moments of care, resilience, and dedication in serving communities.

Winning dioceses from each region will receive K5000 to support their 2025 Independence Day celebrations. The best

entries will also be featured in the CCHS Golden Jubilee Video in 2026.

- Submission Deadline: 30th July 2025
- Email: comsadvocacy@catholichealthpng.org
- Contact: Jelilah Kum, Communications & Advocacy Officer

Join us in celebrating care and compassion—our mission of hope for the future!

CCHS Wewak Successfully Hosts 3rd Momase Regional Conference



Bishop Józef Roszyński, SVD of Wewak Diocese and Health leaders from across the 5 Dioceses across the Momase Region at the opening of the 3rd CCHS Regional Conference in Wewak.

The Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) of Wewak Diocese has successfully hosted the 3rd Momase Regional Conference at the House of Prayer in Wewak, uniting health leaders from across the Momase region for a week of collaboration, learning, and strategic planning.

The regional gathering drew participants from the Archdiocese of Madang, Diocese of Vanimo, Diocese of Aitape, Diocese of Lae, and the host Diocese of Wewak. Health Managers and Officers in Charge (OICs) from each diocese were joined by representatives from the National Catholic Church Health Services (NCCHS) office, the East Sepik Provincial Health Authority (ESPHA), and His Lordship Bishop Jozef Roszynski of Wewak Diocese, who officially opened the event.

Themed “Empowering Health at Every Level: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Stronger Communities for a Healthier Population”, the conference focused on strengthening community engagement in health service delivery. It also aligned with Key Result Area 1 (KRA 1), one of the national health priorities for integrated service delivery at the grassroots level.

The Health Manageress of CCHS Wewak, Sr. Anna Sanginawa, in her welcome remarks, thanked all diocesan teams for their commitment to the mission and emphasized the importance of collaboration. “This week is not just

about sharing challenges; it’s about building relationships, supporting one another, and coming up with shared solutions to improve the health of our communities,” she said.

Bishop Roszynski, in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of unity and mutual support among the dioceses. “The motto of this conference will help us reflect deeply on our mission and recommit to building a stronger, more responsive Church health system,” he said.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in dynamic discussions, presentations, and planning sessions that highlighted innovative approaches to health promotion and integrated service delivery. Key objectives included identifying public health challenges, strengthening reporting under KRA 1, and establishing a regional Health Promotion Committee to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration, including a WhatsApp group for real-time updates.

A standout moment during the conference was the Health Promotion presentation on the Healthy Island Concept. Max Tane, Officer in Charge of Lalou Health Post in Raikos District (Diocese of Madang), shared a local success story. His community health initiative, Bilasim Raikos Model, is anchored in the powerful slogan “Rausim Sik Yumi Yet Kamapim”, which promotes proactive community

participation in hygiene and sanitation. “Cleanliness is next to godliness,” Max reminded attendees, calling on CHWs and OICs to promote practical and spiritual cleanliness as a foundation for better health.

The 3rd Momase Regional Conference concluded on Friday, June 21, with renewed energy, strengthened partnerships, and concrete action plans aimed at elevating the delivery of health services in rural and remote communities served by CCHS across the Momase region.

At the closing of the conference, it was decided that the 3rd CCHS Regional Conference will be hosted by CCHS of Vanimo Diocese in 2027.



Sr. Anna Sanginawa giving her opening speech during the conference in Wewak.

CCHS of Alotau-Sidea Hosts 2nd Southern Regional Conference



CCHS of Southern Region participating in the Southern Regional Conference in Alotau, Milne Bay Province.

Health representatives from Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) across Papua New Guinea's Southern Region convened in Alotau from May 15 to 17 for the 2nd CCHS Southern Regional Conference, aimed at strengthening community health services and sharing public health strategies.

Hosted by the Alotau-Sideia Diocese, the three-day event brought together delegates from the dioceses of Alotau-Sideia, Kerema, Daru-Kiunga, Bereina, and the Archdiocese of Port Moresby, alongside officials from the National CCHS Office and their respective Provincial Health Authorities.

The conference focused on identifying critical health issues affecting rural communities, sharing health promotion activities, and designing innovative, cost-effective solutions to improve health outcomes. Key public health concerns discussed included tuberculosis, malaria, pneumonia, gender-based violence (GBV), road accidents, hypertension, and cancer.

Chief Executive Officer of the Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority, Dr. Perista Mamadi, and Director of Curative Services, Dr. Michael Dokup, also attended, offering expert insights and

support throughout the discussions.

A highlight of the event was a presentation by NCCHS Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator Ms. Sally Laka, who emphasized the value of accurate data collection and reporting. She commended health managers and Officers-in-Charge (OICs) for their ongoing reporting efforts, stressing that monitoring enables data-driven decision-making to improve healthcare delivery.

"From this data, we can learn from the past and move forward," Ms. Laka stated, as she introduced a new monthly reporting template for health promotion officers aligned with Key Result Area 1 (KRA 1).

The conference also served as a platform to promote preventive health practices, community engagement, and integrated service delivery approaches. Participants agreed that collaboration and innovation are essential for building resilient and sustainable healthcare systems.

In his closing remarks, NCCHS Director of Projects Mr. Graham Apian expressed appreciation to the Alotau-Sideia Diocese for hosting the event and acknowledged the contributions

of all participants. He announced a K10,000 commitment toward the Daio Health Centre infrastructure project and shared updates on logistics support, including the procurement of two vehicles for NCD and one for Bereina through additional funding from the Sexual Reproductive Health Integration Project.

The conference concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work together to advance health outcomes for communities across the Southern Region of PNG.



Staff from the CCHS National Office attending the Conference in Alotau, Milne Bay Province.



Left: Chief Executive Officer for Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority Dr Perista Mamadi giving the opening remarks during the CCHS 2nd Southern Regional Conference in Alotau, Milne Bay Province.



Solar Lighting to Transform Kanabea Hospital



Solar kits airlifted to Kanabea Health Center in Kerema Diocese by chopper.

Kanabea Health Centre, located in the mountains of Gulf Province under the Kerema Diocese, will soon have solar-powered lighting for the first time, ending decades of reliance on costly fuel generators and limited access to electricity.

The remote facility, which can only be reached by small aircraft or a three-day walk, has long struggled without a reliable power source. This has posed challenges for healthcare delivery, especially during night-time emergencies.

Thanks to the generous support of *Opesa Memero*, a full solar system—including 120 panels, inverters, batteries, and over 300 energy-efficient lights—was delivered by helicopter on May 27. The system will supply electricity to the health centre, 54 staff houses, and the nearby Kanabea Primary School.

“Light has been a great need for Kanabea for many years,” said Robert Miakore, Health Manager for Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) in Kerema Diocese. “Now, our health workers can provide care throughout



Solar kit materials all set for installation.

the night without interruption.”

This milestone marks a significant improvement in patient safety, emergency response, and the learning environment for students. It is also a powerful example of how sustainable energy solutions can transform lives in Papua New Guinea’s most remote communities.

Kanabea Health Centre is one of CCHS’s most isolated facilities, yet it continues to serve a population of over 40,000 with dedication and faith.

CCHS Goroka Signs SLA with EHPHA



From left to right: Husllor Soso, Albira David, Liaison Officer Mr. Philip Wanua, Acting Director of Public Health Dr. Pomuso Warima (EHPHA CEO), Most Rev. Bishop Walenty Gryk SVD CCHS Goroka Chairman and Mr. Alfred Koko Acting DHM during the official signing of the SLA.

Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) of Goroka Diocese has officially signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA), formalizing a partnership that aims to enhance healthcare delivery across the province, particularly in remote and underserved communities.

The agreement, signed on May 13, 2025, marks a significant milestone in strengthening collaboration between faith-based and government health providers. It affirms both parties’ shared commitment to providing quality, equitable healthcare to all, in line with the National Health Plan.

EHPHA Acting CEO Dr. Pomuso Warima welcomed the partnership, describing it as “a meaningful and strategic step” toward improving service reach and coordination. “Through partnerships like this, we can reach areas where government services alone cannot,” he said. “We are pleased to officially strengthen our working relationship with CCHS Goroka.”

The successful signing was made possible through the leadership of Mr. Michael Muri, Manager for Integrated Health and Partners, whose dedication was instrumental throughout the negotiation and coordination process. He was supported by his team,

Mr. Husllor Soso and Ms. Albira David, who played key roles in ensuring the SLA became a reality.

Representing the Church, the Bishop of Goroka and Chairman of CCHS Goroka, Most Reverend Walenty Gryk SVD, witnessed the signing alongside CCHS Acting Diocesan Health Manager Mr. Alfred Koko and Liaison Officer Mr. Philip Wanua. Their presence underscored the Church’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of all people, especially those in difficult-to-reach areas.

“This partnership reflects the Catholic Church’s mission to serve with compassion, justice, and respect for life,” said Mr. Koko. “We are committed to working together with EHPHA to extend God’s healing to the people of Eastern Highlands.” With the SLA now in effect, both CCHS Goroka and EHPHA look forward to enhanced collaboration through joint planning, resource sharing, and service delivery efforts. The agreement reinforces the value of public-faith partnerships in strengthening Papua New Guinea’s health system and ensuring no one is left behind.

Nurses Celebrated at Baima Health Centre



Sr. Nomita Rozario Diocesan Health Manager for CCHS of Alotau Diocese and Sr. Philomene Sanduku (in purple) DHM of Daru-Kiunga Diocese, presenting the certificate of the three long serving community health workers.



Sr. Nomita Rozario and the three long service staff cutting the cake during the World Nurse Day celebration in Basima Health Center.

Nurses, health workers, and community members gathered at Baima Health Centre in the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia on May 12, 2025, to celebrate World Nurses Day and honour the vital contributions of nurses to Papua New Guinea's healthcare system.

Held under the global theme "Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies," the event recognised nurses' essential role in strengthening health services, especially in remote and rural communities.

The celebration was attended by Sr. Philomene Sanduku, the CCHS Health Manageress for the Daru-Kiunga Diocese, who was in Alotau for the 2nd CCHS Southern Regional Conference.

Sr. Nomita Rozario, Health Manageress of the Alotau-Sideia Diocese, delivered a heartfelt speech, thanking nurses for their tireless service and calling them the backbone of the Catholic Church Health Services.

"Your work goes beyond clinics, it brings hope and healing to the people," she said, highlighting nurses' impact on both patient care and national health

system resilience.

A key moment of the celebration was the recognition of three long-serving community health workers: Augustine Dibilai, Emma Sapelo, and Labenia Sabedi. Each has served for over 20 years within the Diocese, making significant and lasting contributions to community health.

The event not only acknowledged the current dedication of nurses but also honoured the legacy of those whose decades of service have transformed lives through compassion and care.

Wewak CCHS Marks WND at Kunjingini HCS



Wewak Diocese Health Manager Sr. Anna Sanginawa with Nurses commemorating the World Nurses Day at Kunjingini Sub Health Centre, East Sepik Province

The Wewak Diocese of East Sepik Province marked World Nurse Day on the 12th of May with a heartfelt celebration at the Kunjingini Sub Health Centre. The event was held in recognition and appreciation of the dedication and invaluable

contributions of nurses at Kunjingini, as well as nurses across the globe.

Nurses, health workers, staff, and members of the surrounding community gathered to commemorate this significant occasion under the global theme, "Our Nurses. Our

Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies." This theme highlights the essential role nurses play in healthcare systems and the need to support their well-being for a healthier and more resilient society.

The Catholic Church Health Services, a long-standing provider of healthcare in Papua New Guinea, continues to serve the people through faith and compassion. At the heart of this mission are nurses who work tirelessly to ensure patients receive quality care. Their dedication is a cornerstone in the journey towards a healthier Papua New Guinea.

The celebration at Kunjingini not only honored nurses' commitment but also reaffirmed the community's collective support and gratitude for these frontline heroes.

Bishop Blesses New Staff Building for Health Workers



Most Reverend Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM, with the CCHS Lae staff in front of the new staff building at Centre of Mercy Clinic, Kamkumung.

Most Reverend Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM and Vicar-General Fr Roland Matoyi blessed a new ambulance and officially opened a four-unit staff building at the Centre of Mercy Clinic in Kamkumung, Lae, on May 10, 2025.

In his keynote address, Bishop Menezes emphasized that health services are an extension of the Church's pastoral mission. "The health workers at Centre of Mercy show mercy to their patients who are sick and suffering," he said. He commended the staff for their dedication, noting that "the nurses and staff treat patients with God's love and reflect the healing presence of Jesus. They extend the compassion of Christ."

Bishop Menezes also acknowledged the generosity of Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS), the Diocese of Lae, and the National Office. He thanked the National Health Secretary,

the Bishop Deputy of Health Services under the Catholic Bishop Conference, and the Board Members of the National Catholic Health Services for their ongoing support of the new facilities.

Diocesan Health Manager Sr Knowledge N'dlove welcomed the presence of Bishop Menezes, Fr Roland Matoyi, five priests, the Director of Public Health, Mr Kelly Mesere, and other officials from the Morobe Provincial Health Authority who attended the event. She expressed gratitude to all board members and guests, highlighting that the blessing coincided with Workers' Day celebrations.

Sr Knowledge described the new staff building as more than just timber and roofing iron, but "a place of rest, safety, and dignity for the hardworking staff who serve tirelessly day and night."

Mr. Mesere, Director of Public Health,

praised CCHS as a key partner in delivering health care in Morobe Province. "We value the services provided by CCHS over the years," he said. "We look forward to continuing our partnership, sharing resources, and working together to improve health outcomes for the people of Morobe."

The ceremony culminated with the blessing of the ambulance, a vital resource for the Centre of Mercy urban Clinic, and the official ribbon-cutting for the new staff building by Bishop Menezes, Fr Matoyi, and Mr Mesere. The event was a collaborative celebration between MoPHA officials and CCHS health workers.

Mothers from St. Therese Parish provided musical entertainment, creating a joyful atmosphere of hope and gratitude for the enhanced healthcare resources now available to the community.



Most Reverend Bishop Rozario Menezes SMM blesses the new ambulance donated to Centre of Mercy Clinic in Lae, Morobe Province.

Catholic Communities of PNG Mourn the Passing of Pope Francis

The Catholic Bishops Conference (CBC) of Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, alongside Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS), Caritas PNG, and other agencies, held a solemn commemoration in Port Moresby following the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis on April 21 at the Vatican.

The day began with a ceremonial convoy from the CBC Headquarters to the Vatican Embassy in Korobosea, where a traditional haus krai (mourning house) was held. In true Melanesian spirit, the group presented a live pig, bananas, and food as a sign of mourning and solidarity.

CBC President Bishop Otto Separy offered prayers and thanks for the Pope's life, stating, "We come with pig

and food to contribute to the mourning period in the Melanesian way." Bishop Rozario paid tribute to Pope Francis' humility and service, recalling his outreach to Papua New Guinea during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special calendar featuring photos from the Pope's historic September 2024 visit to PNG was presented to the Vatican Ambassador, symbolizing the nation's deep appreciation. Messages of condolence from Catholic agencies will also be formally sent to the Vatican. Vatican Secretary Fr. Federico Boni expressed gratitude, stating the food will be shared with the poor and homeless in Port Moresby, honoring Pope Francis' legacy of charity.

As mourning continues across the

nation, PNG's Catholic community remembers a humble servant of God whose compassion touched the lives of many.



Catholic agencies in Port Moresby visited the haus krai of His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican Embassy, Korobosea.

CCHS of Daru-Kiunga Diocese Marks World TB Day



Communities around Tarakbits Health Subcenter showed up in numbers to celebrate World TB Day with the health workers.

Health workers from the Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) in the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga (DKD) celebrated World TB Day on March 24th with this year's theme, "Commit, Invest, Deliver – Yes, we can end TB."

The main event took place at Kiunga Oval in Kiunga town, where CCHS staff from Monfort Catholic Mission Urban Clinic (MCM UC) came together with partners to advocate to students and the public about tuberculosis (TB) on how it spreads, how to prevent it, and why it's important to complete treatment.

Sr. Philomene Sanduku, the Health Manager for CCHS DKD and the team used dramas and short plays to explain the causes of TB and how people can protect themselves by staying healthy and seeking early treatment.

Sr. Philomene encouraged everyone to take care of their health and reminded the crowd that "prevention is better than cure." She also urged people to be responsible and support each other to stop the spread of TB.

Other health facilities in the Diocese also participated in the day's activities in their respective facilities.

Staff from Iowara Health Subcentre and Bosset Health Subcentre ran outreach programs. They visited Mipan Aid Post for leprosy awareness and screening and went to Manda Aid Post to carry out TB, leprosy, and immunization outreach.

These events helped people in both towns and rural areas learn more about TB and get tested if needed. Health workers also collected sputum samples for testing.

Earlier this year, some DKD CCHS staff attended Drug-Sensitive TB training run by World Vision, helping them to better manage TB cases in their respective health facilities.

A big step forward this year was the recognition of Monfort Urban Clinic as a Basic Management Unit (BMU) for TB. This is important because North Fly District in Western Province has many TB cases, especially drug-resistant TB, which is harder to treat.

CCHS in DKD is continuing to work with partners, carry out health outreach programs, and provide treatment. With help from village health assistants, they are also making sure patients in remote communities receive TB medicine and complete their treatment.

Kundiawa Marks World TB Day With Public Awareness



CCHS, Simbu PHA, and nursing schools giving TB Awareness to the population in Kundiawa town.



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day was commemorated in Kundiawa on March 24 with an awareness campaign organized by the Simbu Provincial Health Authority, Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS), and local nursing schools. The campaign aimed to educate the public on TB prevention and the importance of early detection and treatment.

This year's event followed the global theme, "Commit, Invest, Deliver – Yes

We Can End TB," and featured a town-wide convoy of ambulances displaying the message to raise public attention.

Sr. Josita Savari, Health Manager of CCHS of Kundiawa Diocese, led her team of health workers during the event. She called for stronger community involvement and sustained support for TB control efforts in the province.

Participants included healthcare staff, students, and community members who engaged in educational activities to raise awareness of TB symptoms, treatment availability, and the need for healthy lifestyles.

Organizers emphasized that ending TB in the country will require continued public health investment, awareness, and collective commitment from all sectors.

Yampu Health Centre Reaches Remote Keman



Fred Kapiyo administering the HIB treatment to young men at Keman Village.



A mother and her children receiving medical attention from a healthcare worker.

From March 28 to April 1, 2025, a team from Yampu Health Centre in Enga Province traveled on foot to deliver critical health services to remote villages in Keman, Ambum Kompiam District. With no roads connecting these isolated communities, the health patrol brought essential care including maternal health, tuberculosis screening, nutrition programs, and vaccinations.

Health Extension Officer Mevis Kanako said the team faced tough terrain and logistical challenges. "We had to walk steep, rugged paths carrying limited medical supplies," she explained. Despite these obstacles, local leaders helped the team find safer routes and support their efforts.

Nursing Officer Jocelyn John praised

the community's cooperation. "When we announce our visit, the people of Keman do everything they can to help. It shows how much they need these services," she said.

The patrol collected health data and recommended regular visits, training local volunteers as Village Health Assistants, and restoring the neglected Keman aid post with permanent staff under the Catholic Church Health Services.

For decades, the Catholic Church Health Services has been the main provider of health care in PNG's remote areas. The Keman patrol shows that with careful planning and dedication, even the hardest-to-reach communities can receive life-saving care.



Health care workers and their bag carriers trekking through the bush and streams to Keman.



Staff from Yampu attending to school children at Keman Primary School.

CCHS Jiwaka Staff Retreat 2025 Fosters Unity and Faith



Team CCHS Jiwaka posing for a picture with Fr. Peter Hardro at the National Shrine Mercy in Ruqust, Jiwaka Province.

Health staff from five Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) facilities: Fatima, Banz 2, Norba, Ketepam, and Ambullua, participated in a three-day staff retreat from March 10–12, 2025, held at the National Shrine Divine Mercy in Ruqust. The retreat was coordinated under the guidance of Fatima TVET's Diana.

Held under the theme "Compassion, Respect and Trust," the retreat aimed to provide participants with time away from daily duties to reflect on their roles, foster team unity, and engage in personal and spiritual development.

Sessions were led by Fr. Peter Hardro and Catechist Francis, who guided discussions on living out values that reflect dignity and respect in both professional and personal relationships. Emphasis was placed on the importance of faith, compassion, and trust in God, particularly within the context of delivering health services.

Participants took part in daily Mass, personal reflection, and confession. These moments allowed staff to evaluate their individual journeys and reaffirm their commitment to service.

The retreat also provided a platform for open inter-denominational dialogue. Mr. Thomas John, Officer-in-Charge of Fatima Health Sub-Centre, facilitated a discussion addressing questions from non-Catholic participants on Catholic teachings and practices. Topics included the Divine Mercy prayer at 3:00 PM, the role of Mary and the saints, and the importance of theological grounding in preaching.

The exchange, supported by explanations from Fr. Hardro, fostered mutual understanding and respect among participants. The retreat concluded with expressions of appreciation from staff who described the experience as both enriching and unifying.

CCHS Jiwaka staff thanked Sr. Vinitha Veedi, Fr. Andrew Falet, Fr. Peter Hardro, and the support team for organizing the event. The retreat served as a reminder of the shared mission among health workers and the value of spiritual reflection in sustaining compassionate care.

Alotau Hosts EMOC Training



Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) training participants in Alotau observed a demonstration of respiratory assistance being provided.

A week-long Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) training was held from March 31 to April 5, 2025, at the Holy Family Catholic Community Centre in Alotau, Milne Bay.

Funded by Caritas Australia, the training was a joint effort between Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS), the Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority (PHA), and its Sexual & Reproductive Health and Obstetrics & Gynaecology teams.

The training aimed to build the clinical capacity of frontline health workers to manage obstetric emergencies and reduce maternal and newborn mortality in Papua New Guinea.

Professor Glen Mola from the UPNG School of Medicine and Health Sciences oversaw the course manual to ensure its relevance.

Participants rotated through six intensive skills stations, covering modules such as Active Management of Third Stage Labour (AMTSL), Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH), EMOTIVE protocol, Manual Removal of Placenta (MROP), Preeclampsia management, neonatal resuscitation, and vacuum extraction.

"All participants demonstrated competency through full attendance and successful assessments," said Dr.

Athanasius Kari, Rural Health Director. He confirmed that certificates were issued, and follow-up visits will be conducted in six months to assess implementation.

CCHS and the Diocese of Alotau expressed deep gratitude to Caritas Australia, the Australian Government, and Milne Bay PHA clinical teams for their support. Special thanks were given to Bishop Rolando Santos and the Diocese for hosting and logistics.

This EMOC training represents a major step forward in improving maternal and newborn care across Milne Bay and beyond.

Bogo Sub Health Centre Receives Ambulance



Fr. Luke and Health Manageress Sr. Josita Savari presenting the ambulance key to the OIC of Bogo Health Sub Centre Mr. Seine Kupul, CHW Karen Kiake and Driver Mr. Dilu Siwi.

After 15 years without one, Bogo Health Sub Centre in Simbu Province received a much-needed ambulance on March 18, 2025. The handover ceremony was attended by community members, health staff, Catholic Church Health Services of Kundiawa Diocese management, and local leaders.

Without an ambulance, patient referrals relied on vehicles from Mingende Rural Hospital or Kundiawa hospital, often causing delays. Staff also faced difficulties transporting

vaccines and supplies, limiting outreach services.

Funded by the District Services Improvement Program, the new ambulance will improve patient transfers, supply delivery, and outreach clinics in Bogo and nearby areas. Referrals can now reach Mingende (22 km) or Kundiawa General Hospital directly, improving emergency care.

The Health Manageress Sr. Josita Savari, thanked the local MP for supporting ambulance donations to both government and church health



The newly donated Ambulance funded by the Member for Simbu through DSIP presented to Bogo Health Sub Centre.

facilities. She said, "We are very grateful."

This ambulance marks a vital step in improving healthcare access and emergency response for the Bogo community.

Water Tanks Installed at Yampu Health Centre

Yampu Health Centre has received two new Tuffa water tanks, addressing long-standing water access challenges that affected hygiene, patient care, and daily operations.

The installation was made possible through a partnership between Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) and the Enga Provincial Health Authority (EPHA). The tanks have been connected to taps around the health centre and staff residential areas, improving access to clean water.

CCHS Enga Health Manager, Emmanuel, witnessed the installation and expressed appreciation for the collaboration. "This partnership with EPHA is the way forward in improving health services for the people of Enga," he said.

For years, the facility struggled with limited water supply, impacting patient hygiene, staff welfare, and clinic operations. The new tanks now provide a reliable water source, ensuring safer and more efficient healthcare delivery in the area.

The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen health infrastructure and service delivery in rural parts of Enga Province.



Newly installed water tanks at Yampu now provide access to clean water within the hospital vicinity and staff residential houses.

Karimbelle Charity Continues to Support Maternal Health

The Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) of Papua New Guinea has received a second round of donations from the Karimbelle Charity Organisation, including 12 delivery beds and 12 delivery kits to support maternal health in six provinces.

The donation was coordinated through City Pharmacy outlets across the country and delivered to Bougainville, Goroka, Mendi, Kavieng, Kundiawa, and Kimbe. Each province received two delivery beds and two sets of delivery kits.

Karimbelle is a small charity group made up of women committed to raising funds to improve maternal health outcomes in rural communities.

CCHS National Health Secretary, Sr Jadwiga Faliszek, expressed gratitude for the continued support.

"Last year, we were fortunate to receive ten delivery beds that were allocated to different provinces," she said. "This year, we are even happier to receive additional delivery beds, along with delivery sets and scales. This response to our rural needs is truly great. I am very grateful for the

support given to CCHS, and we will continue to do our best to cherish and utilize these resources effectively."

Sr Jadwiga also thanked Sara Hillman and the Karimbelle team for their generosity, urging health facility staff to follow up on items if contacted by City Pharmacy or a representative.

The CCHS of Bougainville Diocese confirmed receipt of their allocated items through CPL Buka on Thursday, 5 June 2025.

Mr Fabian Sembi, the newly appointed Health Manager for Bougainville CCHS, acknowledged the impact the donation will have on local health services.

"On behalf of the Catholic Church Health Services of Bougainville Diocese, I just want to say a big thank you to Sr Jadwiga and Karimbelle for the delivery beds and kits. The package was well received. Our rural health facilities will truly appreciate the support, and it will contribute to improving maternal health outcomes," he said.

The donation marks Karimbelle's continued partnership with CCHS

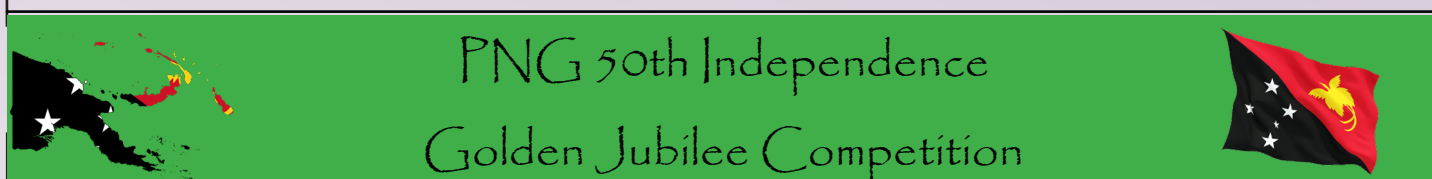
to strengthen maternal health care, especially in remote and under-resourced areas of Papua New Guinea.



Right: Fabian Sembi, Diocesan Health Manager for CCHS Bougainville standing with the delivery kits.

2025 Quarter 3 Important Dates

July	August	September
6th May World Asthma Day	5-6th World Environment Day	4th World Sexual Health Day
12th May International Nurses Day	15th Father's Day	6-7th National Prayer Day
15th May International Day of Families	26th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	16th Independence Day
	10th Human Rights Day	17th World Patients Day



Theme: "50 Years of Independence, 10 Years of CCHS, and a Future of Hope"

In 2025, Papua New Guinea will celebrate 50 years of independence while the Catholic Church marks the Jubilee Year of Hope, declared by His Holiness Pope Francis. As part of this historic milestone, Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) is launching a nationwide competition for all 21 dioceses to honor the legacy of Catholic healthcare in PNG.

Each diocese is invited to submit a inspiring/ impactful photograph and a 300-500 word abstract showcasing the journey of Catholic healthcare—from its missionary roots to today. Submissions should capture moments of care, resilience, and dedication in serving communities.

Winning dioceses from each region will receive K5000 to support their 2025 Independence

Day celebrations. The best entries will also be featured in the CCHS Golden Jubilee Video in 2026.

- Submission Deadline: 30th July 2025
- Email: comsadvocacy@catholichealthpng.org
- Contact: Jelilah Kum, Communications & Advocacy Officer

Join us in celebrating care and compassion—our mission of hope for the future!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

In the case of emergencies, do not hesitate to contact these emergency numbers.

COVID-19 Hotline: 1 800 200

Domestic Violence: 715 8000

Reporting on Rape: 321 1714 / 320 3728

Family and Sexual Violence Unit:

3211397 or 3211714

Human Trafficking: 7100 7777

1 Tok Kaunseling: 7158000

The CCHS PULSE, a quarterly newsletter by Catholic Church Health Services of Papua New Guinea, offers insights into our activities, challenges, and impact, showcasing our dedication to serving communities nationwide. We encourage our dedicated health workers to share your stories with us at:

comsadvocacy@catholichealthpng.org

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