

## Additional material on notice: MSI's impact in PNG

### Context

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has some of the poorest health outcomes in the Asia Pacific region. This is particularly true in terms of maternal and child health and sexual and reproductive health. Maternal mortality is extremely high; approximately one woman dies for every 130 babies born<sup>1</sup>. In Australia, this is less than one in 14,000<sup>2</sup>.

Contraception is widely considered as one of the most cost effective interventions to improve maternal health and promote sustainable and equitable economic development<sup>3</sup>. However, only 20% of married women in PNG use any modern method of contraception, and consequently most women have around four children in their lifetime. In fact, nearly half of all women of reproductive age in PNG would like to use contraception but aren't able to, either due to lack of access or lack of awareness. This means that almost 40% of births are unplanned<sup>4</sup>.

### Marie Stopes in Papua New Guinea

Marie Stopes Papua New Guinea (MSPNG) has been providing quality sexual and reproductive health services to women and men across PNG since 2006. We presently deliver services in eleven provinces. MSPNG also trains government health workers in quality family planning service delivery in partnership with National Department of Health.

Since beginning our work in PNG, family planning has become a key issue of public importance. Most notably, government investment in this area has increased significantly over the last few years. This includes a recent PGK 5 million direct contract to MSPNG to deliver family planning services across the country. MSPNG also receives funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to undertake this vital work.

### Our Impact

Since beginning operations in 2006, MSPNG has delivered contraceptive services to **over 100,000 women and men** across PNG. Analysis of client demographics consistently indicate that **40% of clients are under 25 years, 50% are poor, and over half are first-time users of family planning**. With a focus on reaching communities with high unmet need for contraception, MSPNG's work directly contributes to increasing contraceptive prevalence in PNG. We also currently provide **over 50% of long-acting and permanent methods of contraception** in the country.

**MSPNG is able to estimate the health and social benefits** of services provided. Because long acting contraception is used continuously for a number of years after the service is initially delivered, our figures include the impact of these services both now and in the future. As such, we estimate that the services provided by MSPNG between 2006 and 2013 **will have the impact of averting approximately:**

- **93,800** unintended pregnancies
- **2,150** unsafe abortions
- **130** maternal deaths
- **154,300** Disability Adjusted Life Years (a measure of years of productive life lost to disability).

We are able to quantify the impact of our work in this way by using an innovative model – **Impact 2.1**<sup>5</sup>. The model, pioneered by Marie Stopes International, estimates the health and economic impact of contraceptive services on populations. The tool is open source, and has been peer review by DFID, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UNFPA, Guttmacher Institute, Population Council, Futures Institute, EngenderHealth, IPAS, and Population Services International.

<sup>1</sup> National Department of Health, Ministerial Taskforce on Maternal Health in PNG Report May 2009

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA, State of the World's Population Report 2013

<sup>3</sup> Singh, S et al. *Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning & Maternal & Newborn Health*. 2009

<sup>4</sup> National Department of Health, Ministerial Taskforce on Maternal Health in PNG Report May 2009

<sup>5</sup> <http://mariestopes.org/impact-2>.