In 1994, the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) embarked on a National Education Reform with the main objective of establishing a nine-year basic education stream. This reform has created a new three-year elementary plus six-year primary school system. A new reform curriculum, culturally relevant to PNG and based on an outcomes approach to teaching and learning, has also been developed for the elementary and primary stages of basic education.

This reform resulted in a significant increase in the number of teachers and student enrolments, as well as an increased demand for texts, equipment and other learning materials in schools. The Government of PNG has received support from various donors to provide texts and curriculum materials. This includes the Education Capacity Building Program (ECBP), a ten-year integrated program of development assistance between the Australian and PNG governments. CCI Australia is engaged by SAGRIC International under the ECBP to review the provision of curriculum materials for the reform in PNG.

Review of curriculum materials in PNG

Engagement with stakeholders: opinions that matter

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Initiative

CCI Australia is collaborating with National Research Institute, a PNG-based statutory research body in this project. CCI Australia’s team of international and national experts is undertaking this review project in 2005-06.

The main objectives of this project are to conduct intensive review and in-depth analysis of the reform curriculum. This will assist the stakeholders to have a clear understanding on how the supply of curriculum materials for basic education can match the demand generated by the requirements of the reform curriculum, taking into consideration the fiscal and policy context of the reform. Stakeholders are also keen to see if the current interventions and systems are sustainable from a long-term perspective.

Some key elements of CCI Australia’s work include:
> consulting various donor agencies involved in PNG education reform to review the lessons learnt
> reviewing current policies, processes and plans for the development, procurement and distribution of curriculum materials, with a view to identify the policy parameters, responsibilities of the different levels of education, prioritisation of needs, main funding sources and deficiencies in provision
> analysing policies that govern the provision of curriculum materials to schools, both at the national, provincial, district and school levels
> reviewing the capacity of the national education system to sustain the provision of textbooks in the future
> conducting a cost-benefit analysis about the feasibility and sustainability plan for the provision of curriculum materials
> conducting risk analysis of current and future procurement and supply processes
> proposing the design of a capacity building program for the PNG Department of Education in managing the development, procurement and supply processes of curriculum materials.

CCI Australia is working closely with a number of key stakeholders in PNG in this review process, including the Curriculum Development Division of the Department of Education.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact international@curriculum.edu.au