



BUILDING PEACE AND BOOSTING RESILIENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY (2025-2030)



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Published by the Department of Prime Minister
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
August 2025
ISBN 978-9980-925-25-1
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FOREWORD BY THE PRIME MINISTER



Since becoming Prime Minister, I have made it clear that enhancing the safety and security for our people is my Government's utmost priority. Safety and security are the foundation, not only for a stable and peaceful society but also for inclusive and sustainable development for all Papua New Guineans. This enables Papua New Guineans to thrive, reach our full potential and further enables us to realize the goals expressed in our Constitution for integral human development.

It is with great joy and a profound sense of responsibility that I present the "Building Peace and Boosting Resilience in Papua New Guinea: A National Prevention Strategy (2025-2030)". This document is the result of tireless efforts and unwavering dedication from our Government Departments, industry leaders, development partners, and committed officials. As we prepare to celebrate the 50 years golden jubilee of our independence, I am honoured to introduce this first of its kind milestone Strategy, that provides a practical and achievable roadmap to improve safety and security in our great nation and the region.

The National Prevention Strategy is the culmination of the work of many Government Departments and PNG's development partners over the course of 2024. The Strategy aligns with core government strategy, including PNG Vision 2050, PNG Development Strategic Plan (PNGDSP) (2010-2030), the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV), the Social, Law and Order Sector (SLOS) Strategic Framework and a wide range of sectoral policies. I commend the industry, development partners and government officials for their commitment and hard work to develop this Strategy.

What is in this Strategy? While our government has made efforts in addressing these challenges, we recognize that further efforts are needed to enhance our impact. We identify that the major drivers of conflict and violence in Papua New Guinea are complex. This includes frustrations over unequal access to services and opportunities, particularly for women and our young people as well as insufficient investment in curbing violence and urban insecurity. We recognize also the impact of natural disasters and displacement of our citizens by conflict and violence.

Recognizing this complexity and that there are no easy answers, we put in place important actions that we will take to tackle this scourge of violence and conflict. We will work to prevent violence against women and children, both of whom are critical to the success of our collective future. We will build improved community peace initiatives, restorative justice, and strengthen conflict resolution capacities. We emphasize improving the justice system, enhancing magisterial services, and support our police.

Safety and security are critical building blocks for a prosperous society. Government cannot do this alone. The Strategy recognizes this and outlines key initiatives to address these challenges. I call on businesses, churches, community leaders, civil society organizations, youth groups, women's organizations, and all other partners and stakeholders to do their part in making Papua New Guinea a strong, proud and prosperous nation.

Our collective commitment to this Strategy underscores our resolve to create a future where peace and security are paramount. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this vital initiative. Together, we will build a resilient and prosperous Papua New Guinea,

May God bless Papua New Guinea.

Hon. Chief James Marape, GCL, MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

CHIEF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the development of the National Prevention Strategy on Building Peace and Boosting Resilience in Papua New Guinea (2025 – 2030). This strategy represents a pivotal step towards fostering a peaceful and resilient nation, addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Papua New Guinea.

This strategy is the result of extensive consultations with stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, development partners and the media. It reflects our collective commitment to building a peaceful and resilient Papua New Guinea.

The key strategic objectives of the strategy promotes equity, conflict prevention, trust, accountability and disaster impact management as highlighted below.

1. Enhancing access to equitable services and opportunities for young people and women in conflict affected provinces.
2. Increasing investment in early warning and violence prevention systems and capacity.
3. Restoring public confidence in the benefit sharing process and outcomes of natural resource extraction.
4. Improving management of disaster impacts on displacement, lands and immigration.
5. Strengthening public accountability and transparency.

The Strategy therefore aims to foster peace and resilience in Papua New Guinea. The implementation of this strategy will require the concerted efforts of all stakeholders. I urge every citizen and development partner to actively participate in this endeavor. Together, we can build a more peaceful and resilient Papua New Guinea, where every individual has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our nation's progress.

As we reach 50 years of independence and celebrate our Golden Jubilee, let us also commit to the vision of a peaceful, resilient and prosperous nation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude again to all those who have contributed to its development. Your dedication and commitment are invaluable as we embark on this journey towards a brighter future for Papua New Guinea.

May God give His blessings on this strategy, and we seek His guidance as we implement this strategy successfully.

Ivan Pomaleu, OBE
Chief Secretary to Government

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



"Bel Isi Imas Istap Namel Lo Yumi Oltaim" – For a Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society

These important words are on the front cover of our 2024-2028 Corporate Plan. As I was thinking about what to write for this, our country's first National Prevention Strategy, I reflected that the words encapsulate what we are trying to achieve here too. The Strategy brings together a wide range of plans, including our very own Corporate Plan. It recognises that we – all in government, all in civil society, our long-standing partners – must work together, driving in the same direction to achieve this sacred goal of a safe, secure and peaceful society.

The plan is ambitious, and I welcome that. It is achievable if we all work together. There can be no passengers on this journey; we need to all work as one.

I encourage all who are invested in the future of Papua New Guinea to read this plan, heed the lessons contained therein and work tirelessly to ensure its achievement.

I am proud of the contributions that my DJAG staff have made to this plan over the last year. Working closely with the lead team from Department of Prime Minister & NEC, they represent the best characteristics of the public service.

The Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary have described clearly and accurately what is in the plan so I will not repeat their wise words. I add to them by reinforcing that we do not have any time to spare when it comes to implementation. The Strategy is not the end; it is just the beginning.

The Strategy names the specific milestones that we pledge to achieve as well as the indicators we have developed to measure our progress on this journey. These milestones are achievable, but they are ambitious. We must get started working on them forthwith. We cannot delay or wait. The time for action is now!

May God bless us all as we embark on this journey, together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ERIC KWIA".

Dr. Eric Kwa, LLB (Hon), LLM, PhD
Secretary
Department of Justice and Attorney General

01

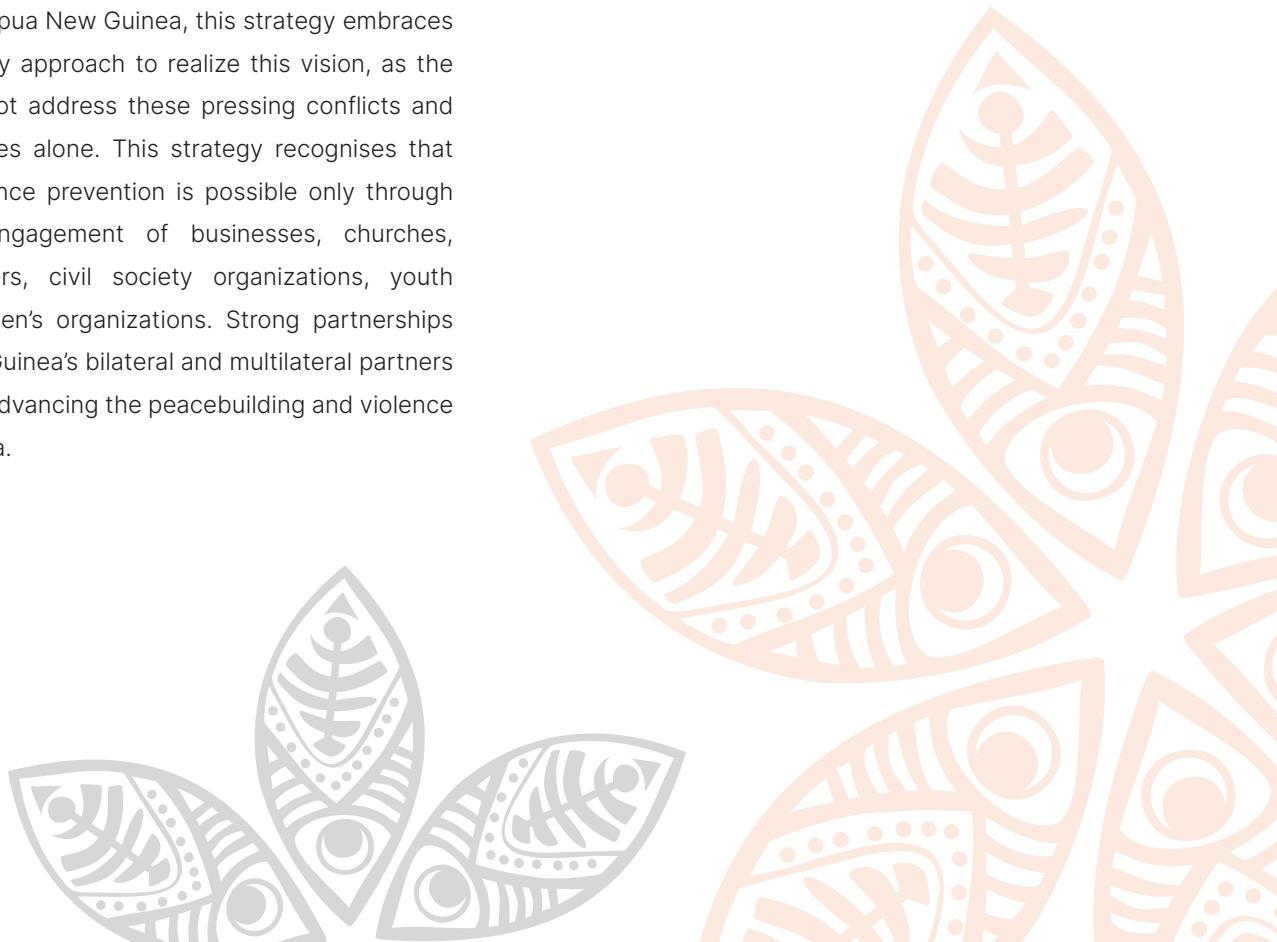
INTRODUCTION



As Papua New Guinea marks the 50th anniversary of its independence, the country faces rising subnational communal conflicts and increasing urban insecurity, with women and youth bearing the brunt of these challenges. While the country boasts many important sources of resilience that celebrate its diversity, the impact of conflict and violence puts enormous stress on communities and resources. The country's path to becoming a prosperous middle-income country demands urgent attention to stability and greater social cohesion. To tackle these complex issues, the government is committed to a comprehensive and multi-faceted strategy to address the root causes of violence and conflict and ensure a safer and more prosperous future for all.

Building on the key messages in Papua New Guinea's own vision and development plans as well as United Nations Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace (2023) as this strategy, "Building Peace and Boosting Resilience in Papua New Guinea: A National Prevention Strategy (2025–30)," outlines the government's vision to strengthen the national infrastructure for peace. As a call to action to all members of Papua New Guinea, this strategy embraces a whole-of-society approach to realize this vision, as the government cannot address these pressing conflicts and violence challenges alone. This strategy recognises that conflict and violence prevention is possible only through the collective engagement of businesses, churches, community leaders, civil society organizations, youth groups, and women's organizations. Strong partnerships with Papua New Guinea's bilateral and multilateral partners remain critical in advancing the peacebuilding and violence prevention agenda.

Under the leadership of the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council (DPM & NEC), the strategy has been developed by the Inter-Government Technical Working Group on the Prevention and Resilience Strategy (hereafter referred to as the Prevention Working Group), consisting of eleven government departments, over the course of 2024 in a series of working group meetings and a validation workshop. Other government departments in the working group include the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, Department of Treasury, Department of Finance, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Department of Community Development, Youth and Religion, Department of Education, Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, Sports Foundation, and Department of Health. Beyond these departments, other government departments have been involved in the process through the validation workshop and other bilateral meetings. Civil society groups, faith-based organizations, churches, media, and development partners provided their valuable insights, expertise, and input.



This strategy builds on government policies and plans based on the following principles:

- **Alignment with key government priorities:** The strategy aligns with core government strategies, including PNG Vision 2050, the PNG Development Strategic Plan (PNGDSP) (2010–30), the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV), the Social, Law and Order Sector (SLOS) Strategic Framework, and other relevant sectoral policies. The selected initiatives support the country's overarching development and peacebuilding goals.
- **Consistency with government commitments to partners:** The strategy reflects and bolsters the commitments Papua New Guinea has made with its partners in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, justice sector strengthening, security sector collaboration, governance, and development. This alignment demonstrates the government's dedication to fulfilling its obligations and strengthening partnerships.
- **Fostering a multisectoral and whole-of-government approach:** Strategic objectives are based on their potential to encourage collaboration across sectors and levels of government, promoting a cohesive, comprehensive approach to addressing conflict, security, and development issues. This ensures that interventions are well-integrated and have a broader impact.
- **Enabling partnerships with key stakeholders:** Strategic objectives create opportunities for collaboration with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, development partners, and private sector entities. Strong partnerships enhance resource sharing, capacity building, and the long-term sustainability of interventions.
- **Ability to demonstrate progress and impact:** Strategic objectives are based on realism, allowing for a clear capacity to show measurable progress and positive impacts on communities affected by conflict and violence. This includes the potential to track and report outcomes that improve vulnerable populations' safety, resilience, and well-being.
- **Alignment with the drivers of conflict and violence:** Strategic objectives tackle the root causes of conflict and violence, identified in various analytical work by government-commissioned studies as well as the knowledge products of development partners such as the World Bank Group and the United Nations.

02

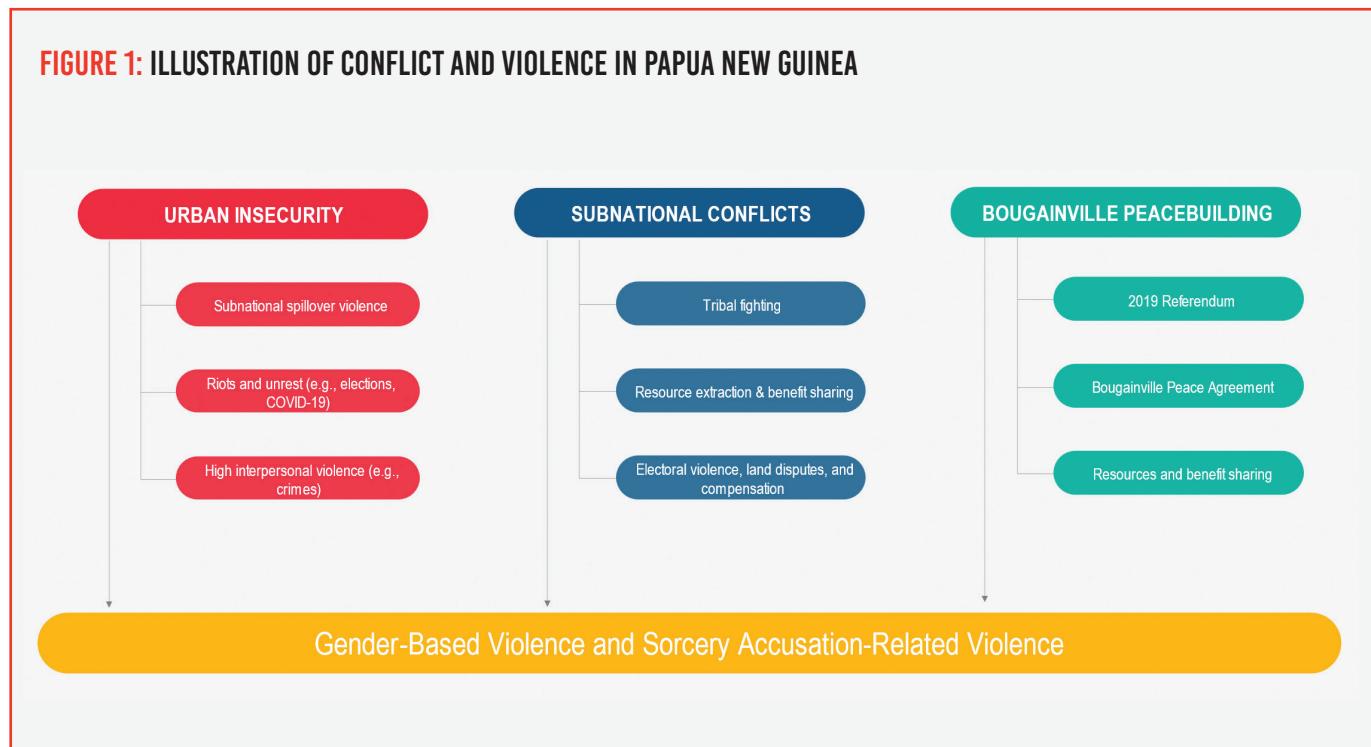
CONTEXT OF VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Papua New Guinea is one of the most conflict-affected countries in the Pacific region. The complexity of its conflict and violence dynamics defies conventional theories about how to tackle this problem effectively. Although the country's diversity and numerous important resilience sources have prevented a single issue from igniting large-scale ethnic or other conflicts, sporadic violence has worsened public security in the last few years, and communal conflicts have disconnected some communities from development benefits. This trend has significant implications, particularly in resource-endowed areas where conflicts have necessitated the intervention of police and defence forces.

Four types of conflict and violence characterize current dynamics (Figure 1). The repeated patterns of these conflict and violence incidents severely disrupt communities and vulnerable populations, demanding preventive action to reverse the escalating situation. They include (i) subnational communal fighting and resource conflicts, especially those in the Highlands region and other natural resources-endowed communities; (ii) urban insecurity, particularly prevalent in Port Moresby, Lae, and other provincial capitals; (iii) the peacebuilding agenda of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, which continues to play an important role in advancing the prevention agenda; and (iv) endemic and nationwide gender-based violence (GBV) and rising rates of sorcery accusation-related violence (SARV), which is a cross-cutting driver of the other three patterns.

FIGURE 1: ILLUSTRATION OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



- **Subnational conflicts:** The intensity and volatility of communal conflicts in certain provinces—particularly those endowed with resources and young populations—have reached new levels in recent years. Subnational-level communal conflicts, especially along tribal or intergroup lines, have become more endemic and escalated in their intensity. These conflicts and incidents of violence disproportionately impact marginalized communities—particularly children, youth, and women—and impose significant opportunity costs on human capital development and economic growth.
- **Urban insecurity:** Public security in urban settings, including Port Moresby and some provincial capitals, is reportedly deteriorating. Rising levels of interpersonal violence, crimes, riots, and the spillover of subnational conflict dynamics exacerbate these trends.
- **Bougainville peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery:** Implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement has yielded many important lessons; thus, this agenda remains a key element of the government's prevention strategy for peace.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV) and sorcery-accusation-related violence (SARV):** GBV and SARV are major concerns affecting vulnerable populations. More than 1.5 million people in Papua New Guinea are estimated to be survivors and victims of GBV each year. Seventy percent of women are estimated to experience rape or assault in their lifetime, and few perpetrators are brought to justice. Sexual and physical violence against women and children has been consistently high according to the National Department of Health's database, which began monitoring these incidents more systematically since 2018. Concerning anecdotes indicate that women and girls are increasingly targeted in subnational communal conflicts, either as a means of revenge or as compensation in forced marriages to settle disputes. Fear of retaliation makes it difficult to address these serious issues. The government is finalising an updated national strategy on GBV, which aims to address GBV and SARV trends and their impacts on ongoing conflicts and violence.

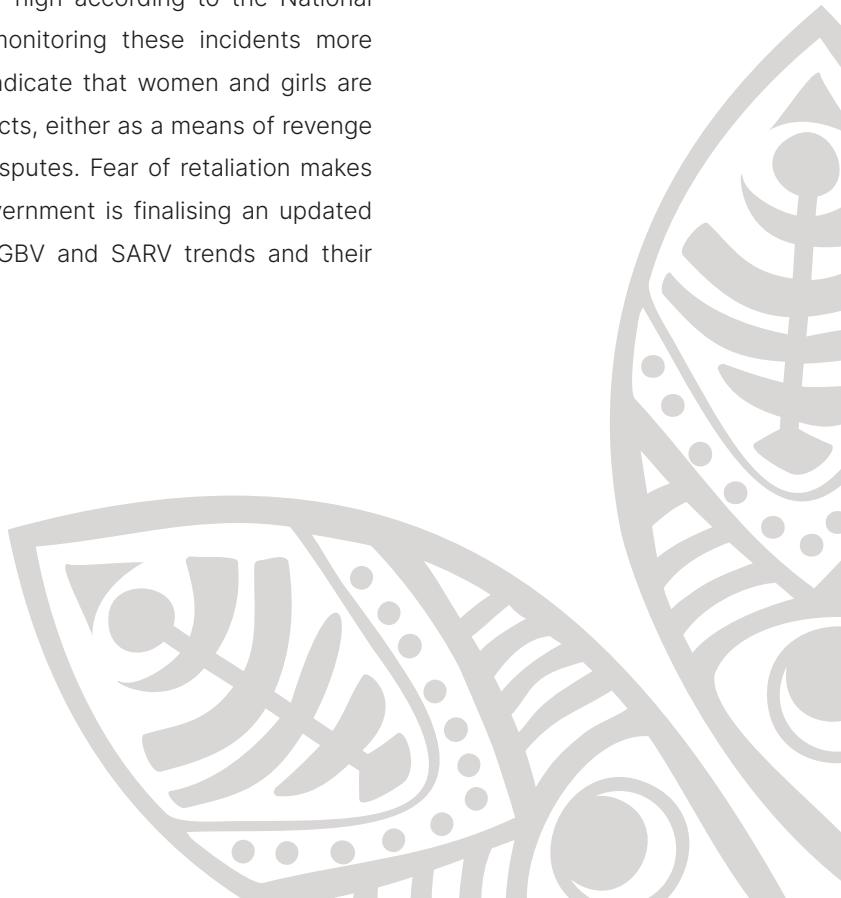
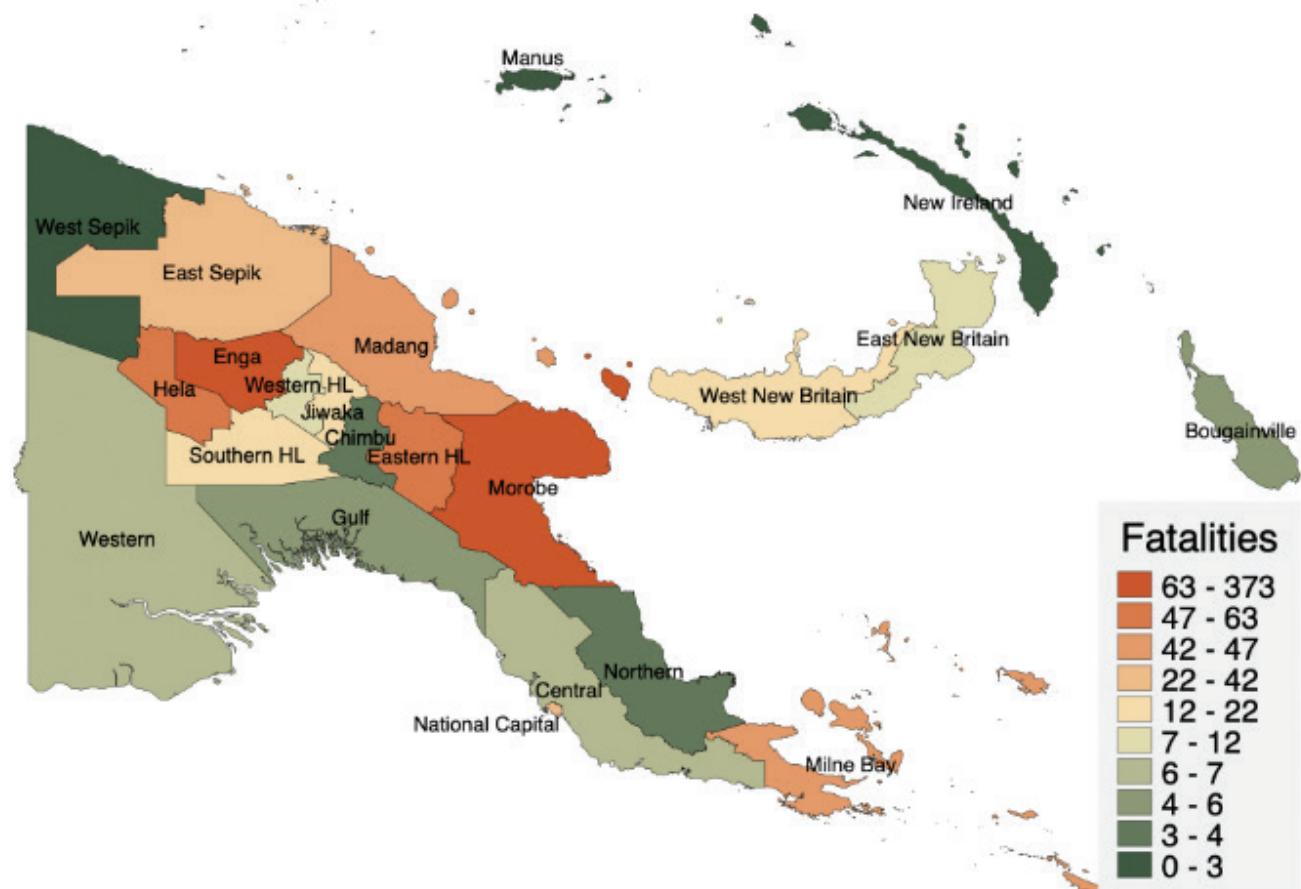


FIGURE 2: CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE FATALITIES PER PROVINCE, 2021–24

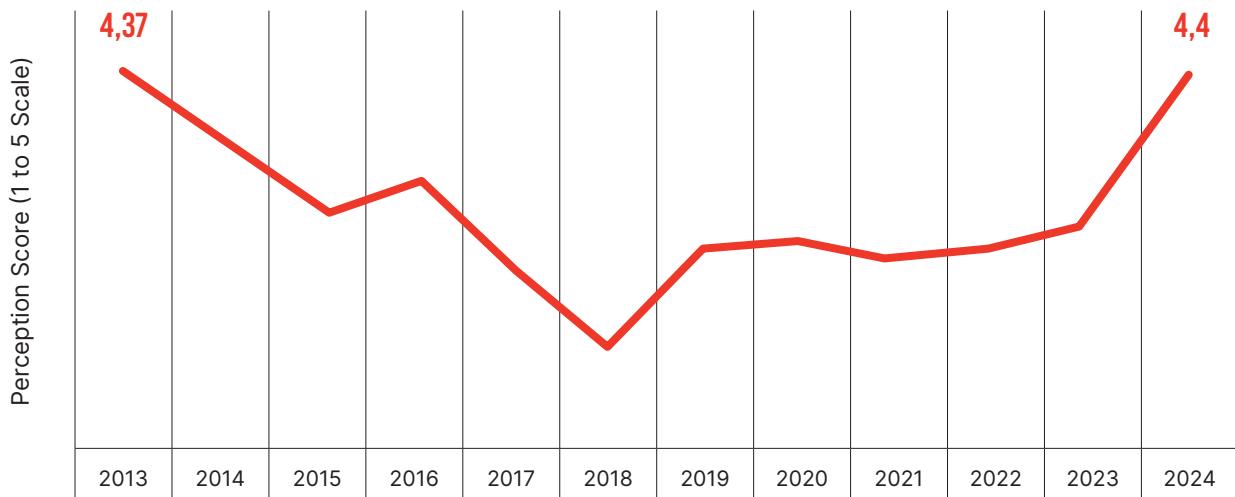


Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED).

While hotspots of violence are dotted across the country, conflicts in the Highlands have continued to increase, and other provinces endowed with valuable natural resources have also seen an increase in deadly communal fighting, exacerbated by the influx of guns (see Figure 2). Deteriorating conflict and violence contexts have led to the rise of fatalities and displacements: 332 conflict-related deaths were recorded over the 12 months leading up to September 2024, making an average of 3.21 deaths recorded per 100,000. Given limitations around data, this

number is likely to be a significant undercount of the true figure. While not all conflict deaths are attributed to tribal fighting, most of these fatalities are linked to subnational communal conflicts. In 2021, conflict-related displacement exceeded disaster-related displacement, adding challenges in finding durable solutions to frequent displacement and resettlement. Spillover effects from subnational violence has significantly contributed to deaths recorded in urban settings.

FIGURE 3: INCREASING PERCEPTION THAT WEAK LAW AND ORDER POSE A BUSINESS CONSTRAINT



Source: Westpac/Business Advantage 100 CEO Survey.

National and international media reports, together with existing perception surveys and anecdotal evidence, highlight deteriorating public security in urban areas, including Port Moresby, the nation's capital. Upward trends in violence and crime in urban areas in recent years, after a notable decline recorded in the mid-2010s, are particularly concerning. The University of Papua New Guinea's 2023 survey of Port Moresby residents' perception of crime levels indicates that 51 percent had experienced crimes in their community, with over 50 percent of the victims being a victim of crimes on more than one occasion. Deteriorating

urban insecurity together with the rising intensity of subnational conflicts have significantly impacted the private sector, with businesses viewing security as a major obstacle to doing business and a deterrent to investment (see Figure 3).

The country's conflict and violence have had a severe impact on women and children, who face heightened risks of GBV and displacement-related insecurity. Once primarily occurring between men, inter-group conflicts now increasingly target women and children.

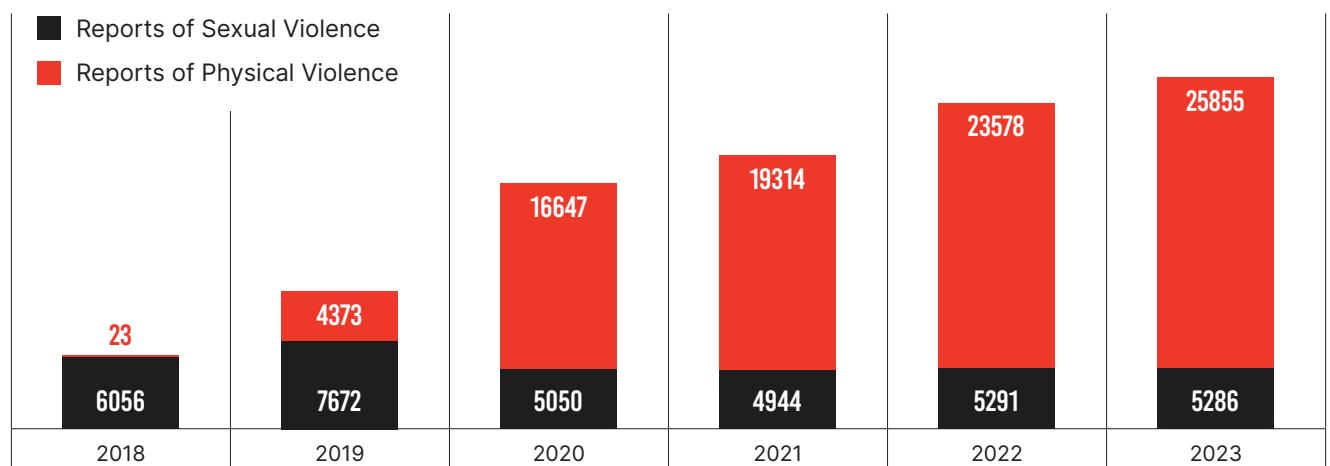
- **GBV:** In conflicts between tribes, women often become survivors of violence, enduring rape and physical assault as means of humiliating or seeking revenge against male adversaries. More than half of the victims of physical assaults are female, and the number is increasing (see Figure 4). Women are sometimes forced into marriage to settle disputes between conflicting parties. Between 2018 and 2023, increased reporting on sexual and physical violence has been observed in Southern Highlands and Hela.

- **SARV:** Instances of SARV remain unaddressed and perpetrators go unpunished. Violent incidents related to SARV nationwide numbered over 6,000, resulting in an estimated 3,000 deaths between 2000 and 2021. Although it affects both men and women, women are six times more likely to be accused of sorcery than men. They are often tortured (including being sexually assaulted) and murdered; cases involving SARV are less likely to be heard in court.
- **Violence against children:** At least 75 percent of children are victims of psychological violence, and 40 percent of the sexual abuse cases reported in the health services are children and teenagers.

Studies show that survivors of violence are 40 times more likely to become perpetrators of violence. Thus, one way to end the cycle of violence is to address the situation

of children being victims of violence. There also needs to be a clear approach to the cycle of violence and violence against children.

FIGURE 4: REPORTED CASES OF SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, 2018–23

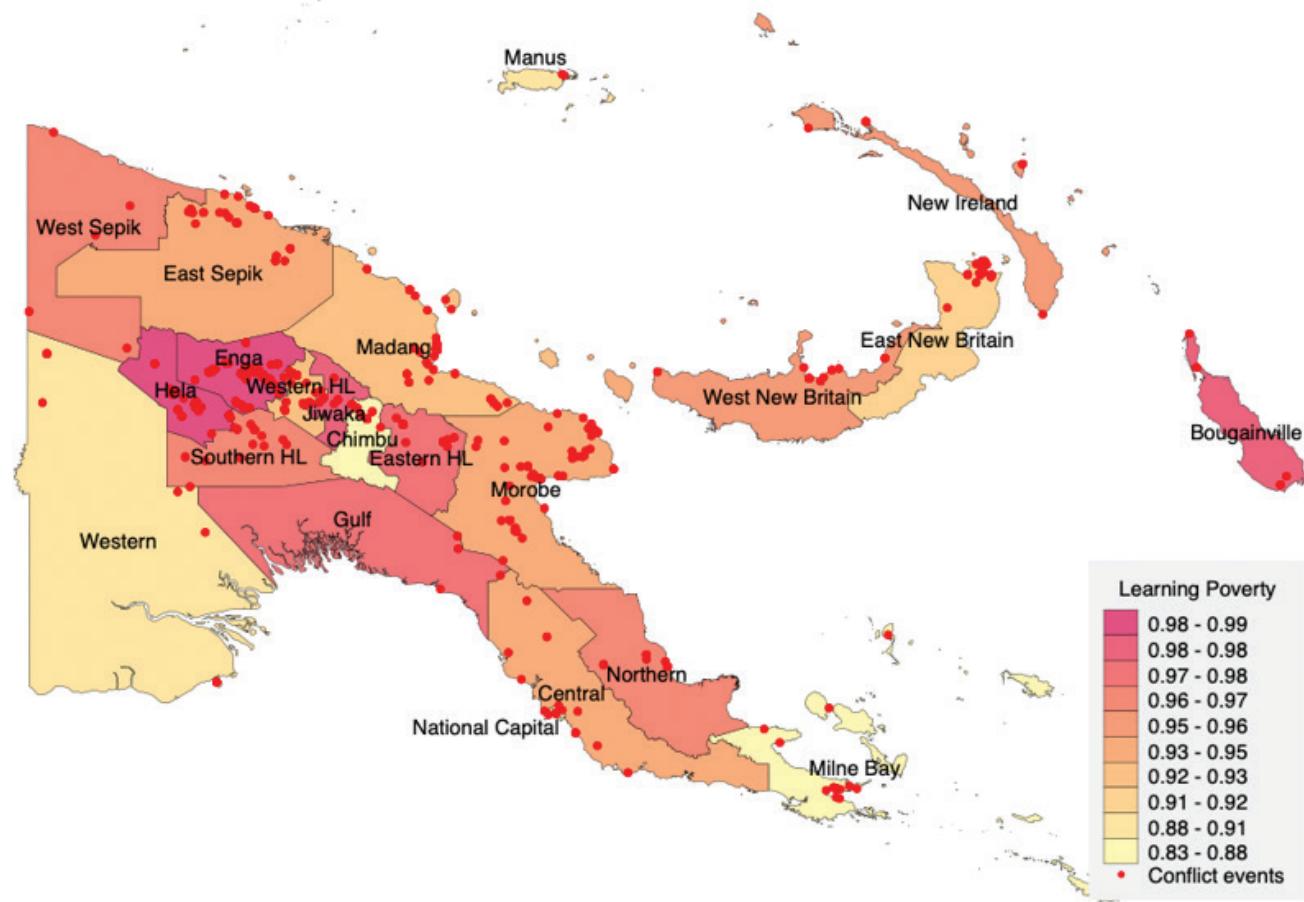


Source: National Department of Health, National Health Information System (as of June 2024).

Conflict-affected areas show low human capital outcomes and poor access to essential services, with communities facing fear, displacement, and loss of livelihoods (see Figure 5). Service delivery is also strained in violence-prone regions, where educational outcomes lag, and access to essential water, sanitation, hygiene, and

electricity services remains inadequate. A major highway in conflict-prone areas has further reduced the connectivity of conflict-affected populations, as these roads are frequently blocked during clashes and often serve as hotspots for violent crimes.

FIGURE 5: LEARNING POVERTY AND CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE FATALITIES BY PROVINCE



Source: ACLED and World Bank Group Risk and Resilience Assessment.

03

ONGOING EFFORTS TO MITIGATE CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE



Various efforts to provide a safe and secure environment for all citizens have been made, firmly anchored in Papua New Guinea's Vision 2050 Mission Statement, which states, "We will be ranked in the top 50 in the United Nations Human Development Index by 2050, creating opportunities

for personal and national advancement through economic growth, smart/innovative ideas, quality service, and ensuring fair and equitable distribution of benefits in a safe and secure environment for all citizens." Many important policies and strategies address these urgent challenges.

- **Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV) (2023–27):** The Government's MTDP IV – most particularly Strategic Priority Areas 5 (Rule of Law and Restorative Justice) and 6 (National Security) outlines several key priorities critical to addressing the rising communal conflicts and deteriorating urban security situation in the country. These include support to police, improved community peace initiatives, restorative justice, and initiatives to strengthen conflict resolution capacities.
- **Development Strategic Plan (2010–30):** The Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan 2010–30 (PNGDSP) addresses violence and conflict prevention through law and order, effective governance, social inclusion, and disaster risk management. It emphasizes strengthening law enforcement, improving the justice system, enhancing magisterial services, decreasing the incidence of crime, and enhancing community policing. The plan promotes transparency, accountability, and the rule of law to build public trust. It also focuses on social cohesion, reducing inequalities, and improving access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Additionally, the PNGDSP incorporates strategies for disaster resilience adaptation to mitigate the impacts of conflict and violence.
- **Social, Law and Order Sector (SLOS) Strategic Framework:** The implementation of the SLOS Strategic Framework is a critical effort for tackling the broader societal issues that fuel community unrest and violence. The goal of the framework is to frame, cluster and sustain an effective, coherent, cohesive, and coordinated approach for the Social Sector interventions. This intergovernmental effort, involving multiple key departments, is a crucial part of the country's strategy.
- **Department of Justice and Attorney General's Crime Prevention Initiatives:** The Department's strong emphasis on crime prevention, as illustrated in the Corporate Plan launched in 2024, indicates the government's commitment to expanding citizens' access to security and justice services, particularly in rural and remote areas. This approach has prioritized the establishment of community justice centres, making justice and security accessible to previously underserved communities. This decentralized approach encourages community involvement in crime prevention and resolution, reinforcing the justice system's presence and accessibility nationwide. Additionally, the Department plays an integral role in the National Co-ordinating Mechanism (NCM). Established in 2003, the NCM comprises heads of department from each law and justice agency.

- **Village Courts Policy (2020–30):** This policy affirms the pivotal role of Village Courts in PNG society and their contribution to resilience, particularly in strengthening non-violent dispute resolution. The policy aims to enhance the delivery of justice services to rural communities, offering hope for a more peaceful future. It also highlights opportunities available to Village Court officials, Land Mediators, and other stakeholders in community development, aligning resources and capacity to reduce and prevent lawlessness within communities.
- **Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) Community Policing:** The RPNGC emphasizes community policing and prevention to address incidents of violence and conflict. Firmly outlined in the Police's Corporate Plan (2020–30), this approach focuses on collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including government ministries, civil society organisations, and communities. Community policing goes beyond law-and-order interventions to encompass various social and economic activities that empower communities, helping the police build stronger partnerships with community members.
- **PNG National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2017–30):** This framework is designed to address immediate and longer-term disaster risk management challenges faced by communities and the country. With the Disaster Management (DM) Act of 1984 (revised 1987) under review for further reforms, the National Disaster Committee and its executive National Disaster Centre (NDC) lead government agency for disaster response. Additionally, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) plays a role in responding to civil disasters pursuant to the Constitutional emergency powers provisions.
- **National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2010–30):** The Government has taken major steps to promote anti-corruption to improve governance and promote transparency. The country rolled out the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and set up the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). Additionally, the Whistleblower Protection Act and the National Right to Information Policy were introduced in 2020. These initiatives, backed by international partnerships, aim to strengthen governance, build public trust, and create a more stable and prosperous society. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) and the Mutual Evaluation Report for the Financial Action Taskforce include several important anti-corruption measures.
- **National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) (2016–25):** As the first national-level GBV policy, it provides a roadmap for an inclusive whole-of-government response to gender-based violence through policy, legislative reforms, and programs. The strategy was developed under the leadership of the Department for Community Development and Religion (DfCDR) in partnership with the National Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC). The strategy is currently being updated.

- **National Youth Policy (2020–30):** This policy supports young people's psycho-physical, intellectual, cultural, and spiritual growth while addressing emerging challenges. It aims to integrate youth issues into governance, helping them become educated, employable, entrepreneurial, healthy, culturally aware, and positively engaged. The policy also seeks to empower youth to contribute to nation-building by engaging in human rights, climate action, food security, civic participation, disaster management, peacebuilding, and volunteer services.
- **Christian Citizenship Values Education (CCVE) Curriculum (2019):** Launched by the Department of Education, this curriculum aims to instill values like human rights and anti-corruption and foster social responsibility from an early age. As a standards-based curriculum, CCVE enables students to engage actively in their community's civic roles and promotes essential soft skills and behaviours, including diversity, respect, inclusion, social cohesion, and nonviolent problem-solving. Additional efforts by the Department of Education include the School Behaviour Management Policy, School-Related Gender-Based Violence Policy for schools, and Student Leadership Training. In certain conflict-affected provinces, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), including the International Committee of the Red Cross, are rolling out a module focusing on the humanitarian impacts of tribal fighting. The Department of Education has a Scouting Policy and program aimed at teaching young people to become good citizens.
- **National Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Clinical Guidelines (2021):** Launched by the National Department of Health, these guidelines aim to improve the healthcare response to SGBV survivors. They provide a comprehensive framework for healthcare workers and family support centres (FSCs). The National Health Plan 2021–30 refocuses the sector's priorities regarding GBV by taking health back to the communities through health promotion at the community level. The Village Health Assistants Policy (VHAP) has also been finalised. It will increase the number of community-based proxy health workers who will serve as links with the nearest health posts. Additionally, a Men's Health Policy is being developed to outline how men can actively engage in ending the cycle of endemic gender-based violence.
- **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Policy:** The GEWE Policy provides a comprehensive framework for promoting gender equality and empowering women across various sectors. It aims to address gender disparities and ensure that women have equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of society, including peacebuilding and conflict resolution. This policy is crucial for tackling issues such as GBV and SARV, which disproportionately affect women and girls in Papua New Guinea.

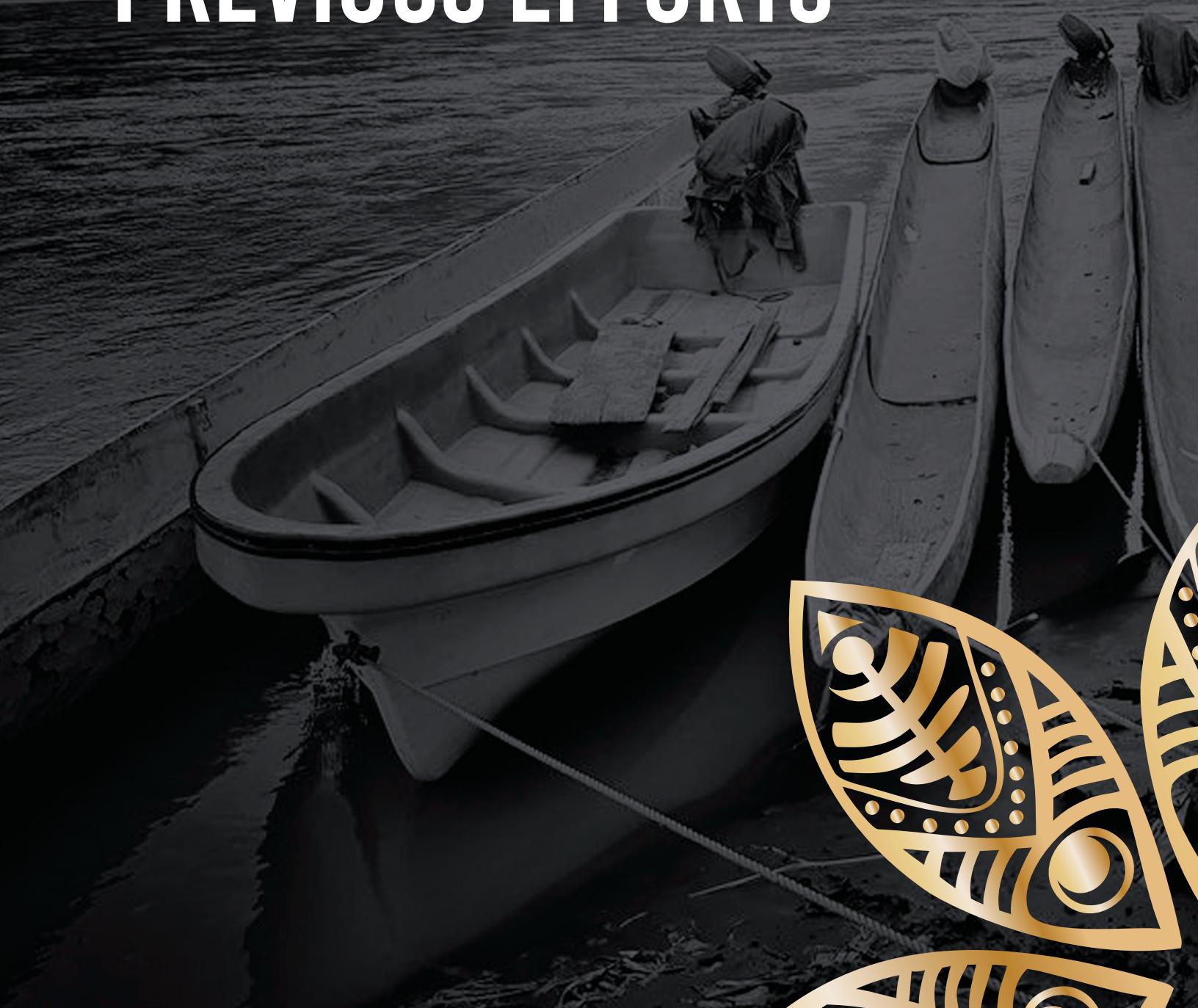
Recently, the Government has been developing the first National Internally Displaced Persons Policy (NIDPP) through the leadership of the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA) and the 2024 National Security Policy under the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council (DPM/NEC), which builds further momentum for the national prevention agenda for peace. Existing government-commissioned studies, such as those on the cost of policing, have provided valuable insights

to inform this strategy. Development partners—bilateral and multilateral organisations, faith-based organizations, private sector firms, academia, media, and civil society groups—have supported the government's ongoing efforts. Complementing these efforts, this strategy aims to further enhance the impact of its initiatives on conflict and violence prevention by bringing greater attention and coherence to the country's pressing challenges.



04

LESSONS LEARNED FROM CURRENT AND PREVIOUS EFFORTS



While existing efforts have laid the foundation, the complex and persistent nature of conflict and violence in Papua New Guinea demands a more comprehensive and strategic approach. This National Prevention Strategy represents a critical step towards achieving sustainable peace and security for all citizens. Despite the numerous efforts made and policies in place, significant gaps remain that hinder the effective mitigation of conflict and violence in Papua New Guinea. Many existing frameworks are reactive rather than proactive, focusing on immediate responses to violence rather than addressing the underlying causes. This approach fails to provide sustainable solutions and often results in recurring cycles of conflict. Current strategies often lack resources to enable the necessary coordination and integration across different sectors and levels of government. This fragmentation leads to inefficiencies and misses opportunities for comprehensive conflict prevention and resolution. The limited capacity and resources of local institutions further exacerbate these challenges, making it difficult to implement and sustain long-term peacebuilding initiatives.

Given these gaps, this National Prevention Strategy is both necessary and timely. It provides a cohesive and integrated framework that aligns with the country's broader development goals. It emphasizes a proactive approach, focusing on early warning systems, conflict prevention, and addressing the root causes of conflict and violence. It also provides the foundation for enhancing coordination among various stakeholders, including government departments, churches, civil society organizations, and international partners. By outlining high-level action points in need of fostering collaboration, the Government can use the strategy to consolidate efforts and strengthen the overall capacity to prevent and mitigate conflict. Additionally, it can be used to ensure that interventions are well-targeted and have a lasting positive impact on the communities most affected by conflict and violence.

The national government has identified several challenges in addressing the country's conflict and violence incidents in a holistic and integrated manner.

- **The fragmentary, localized, and complex nature of conflict and violence:** While conflict is not new to the country, its intensity has reached unprecedented levels, posing significant challenges and stymying broader development efforts. These complex dynamics—along with their sporadic, unpredictable, and volatile nature—have placed additional stress on the government's ability to respond effectively. The country faces the challenge of addressing a broad spectrum of conflicts and violence, ranging from subnational conflicts to high levels of everyday, normalized violence. These blurred boundaries and compounding causes complicate the identification of effective solutions. Capacity constraints within the government further inhibit the ability to tailor effective policy responses. Years of relative neglect have normalized criminal behavior, while inadequate maintenance and expansion of infrastructure to meet population growth have created widespread frustration. Weak enforcement and prosecution of offenders, with cases frequently dismissed due to insufficient evidence, contribute to animosity between offenders and victims. Additionally, a significant population increase has placed immense strain on existing services, compounding societal challenges.

- **Subnational concentration of conflict and violence:** While the national government can make important interventions in escalating subnational communal conflicts, durable and long-term solutions also require support at the community level. Where state institutions are weak, local activists and social innovators, many of them women, are driving violence prevention and resolution efforts. Their challenges relate to resourcing and knowledge. In terms of resourcing, local peacebuilding and resilience initiatives can be hamstrung by the most basic of expenses. In terms of expertise, many do not have formal training in conflict resolution and mediation.
- **Economic geography and service delivery:** The country's challenging geography also hampers efforts. The government faces the challenge of providing essential services; geographical dispersion, connectivity issues, and limited resources mean it is difficult to recruit frontline service professionals in places where they are needed most; this in turn fosters disconnection and isolation from government services. .
- **Diversity of local conflict-resolution practices:** The country's cultural diversity poses additional complexity in addressing the dynamics of conflict and violence at the subnational levels. With over 800 languages and numerous cultural groups, this presents challenges for the formal legal system, which may not align with local customs and conflict resolution mechanisms. This can lead to misunderstandings and resistance from communities. Integrating customary conflict resolution with the formal system requires a nuanced understanding of local traditions and a willingness to adapt formal processes to be more culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- **Humanitarian, security-oriented, and disaster management-focused response to conflict and violence:** Given the urgency to respond immediately whenever conflict and violence incidents arise within available resources and capacities, priorities have been given to humanitarian support, disaster response approaches, and security responses to stabilize the situations and provide immediate relief to affected communities. A recurring spiral of conflict and violence has also impeded the initiation and implementation of medium-term and long-term recovery and development activities in conflict and violence-affected communities.
- **Lack of data collection and analysis:** While crime prevention and resilience data have become more available, much remains scattered and inaccessible, hindering analysis and thus the potential for more targeted interventions. The lack of real-time, geospatial data on violence and conflict incidents and limited details on their impacts on vulnerable populations has severely hindered the identification of policy solutions to address these challenges. There is limited expertise in the analysis of conflict-relevant data. The unavailability of accurate and timely data, especially concerning district funding and its usage, exacerbates issues. More law-and-order data is needed

to inform policy decisions. Furthermore, unchecked social media propaganda fuels misinformation, highlighting the need for authorities to utilise established media outlets to disseminate accurate information. Foundational challenges with national ID and birth registration impede the development of a robust and modernised National Statistical System, which is a critical tool for informing the government with real-time data for planning and decision-making, particularly around the impacts of conflict and violence on people. A national census is ongoing.

- **Need for greater involvement of women and youth in peacebuilding efforts:** Women in Papua New Guinea encounter considerable obstacles in gaining sufficient recognition and opportunities to participate actively in decision-making and peacebuilding processes at both national and subnational levels. The representation of women in key leadership and decision-making positions in PNG has consistently been low. For instance, in the 2017 elections, the number of women in parliamentary decision-making roles dropped to zero from a previous 2.7 percent. Despite the significant contributions of women at the grassroots level during the Bougainville conflict, their formal participation during peace negotiations and post-conflict recovery processes has been limited. Similarly, young people—who are often portrayed as perpetrators of conflict and violence—have not been given sufficient opportunities to actively engage in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes.

Recent years have made it clear that these challenges cannot be tackled through a fragmented, reactive approach led by a single sector or ministry. There is a greater need for a systemic, multi-sectoral approach addressing the root causes of conflict and violence, which requires a longer time horizon and building networks of practice and expertise to tackle the issues in the midst. Given the multiple drivers of conflict in PNG, a broad, interconnected movement for change is needed from all sectors. This requires not only long-term perspectives and perseverance but also the allocation of adequate resources and expertise.

Both the pervasive nature and ever-escalating rates of violence have underscored to both the government and its partners the importance of ensuring the success of this strategy. This is not the first such strategy aimed at tackling Papua New Guinea's approaches to prevention and violence reduction. Differentiating it from past efforts, this strategy draws on several lessons from previous initiatives, including the importance of having a clear lead entity for coordination; strong partnerships with other key stakeholders such as faith-based organizations, civil society groups, and businesses; regular and targeted communications; outreach to the public on the strategy and its implementation; and coordinated support from development partners.

05

KEY CHALLENGES— DRIVERS OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE



Recent analysis of the country's conflict and violence, including the World Bank Group's 2025 Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA), highlights how key drivers of conflict and violence have reinforced the ongoing dynamics. Beyond their economic, social, and human toll, these drivers present significant structural barriers to development and economic growth. Contestation over inequitable benefit sharing in resource-rich areas has repeatedly contributed to community tensions and disputes. The perception of weak governance and unequal distribution of resources undermines the political process, which has been criticized for limiting progress in preventing recurrent electoral violence. The service delivery system remains challenging, particularly in those resource-endowed provinces with frequent exposure to violence. This is occurring as few formal employment opportunities beyond extractives and public jobs exist, intensifying a sense of exclusion and limiting social mobility, especially for the youth. Despite their significant and frequent impacts, capacity constraints of the state—especially at the subnational level—have not been able to adequately address tensions that could arise over land and displacement. In violence-prone areas,

vulnerable populations are left heavily reliant on community resources to survive amid pervasive poverty.

This lack of sustained investment in addressing fragmented and normalized violence has resulted in an intensification of recurring communal conflict in resource-rich provinces, urban insecurity, and worsening gender-based violence. The prevalence of highly violent communal conflicts, employing illegally smuggled high-powered weapons and using "guns for hire" recruited from disenfranchised youth with limited prospects for livelihoods and jobs, has resulted in mass casualties, internal displacement, and a reinforcement of cycles of violence. Long-standing trust deficits among citizens, combined with underfunded and overstretched law enforcement and justice services, have made citizen-state interactions highly conflictual and created law and order challenges across the country. Actively addressing the current trends around violence and conflicts at national and subnational levels is essential to support Papua New Guinea's pathways for greater stability, unity, and peace.

DRIVER 1
FRUSTRATIONS OVER
UNEQUAL ACCESS
TO SERVICES AND
OPPORTUNITIES,
PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE AND WOMEN IN
CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

There is growing disappointment over uneven access to services and opportunities and a limited sense of agency to express their disappointment, especially among youth. Uneven service delivery and opportunities, particularly for youth, fuel discontent across the country amidst rising cost of living pressures. Young people face considerable challenges in finding jobs and livelihood opportunities, suffering from a higher unemployment rate compared to older adults aged over 40 years. Conflict and violence further amplify these challenges, as many youths in conflict-prone communities have been frequently exposed to trauma and displacement. Many do not have the necessary literacy, numerical, or basic soft skills to be qualified for work in formal sectors. Many women and youth face unreliable access to essential services and economic opportunities, with few effective mechanisms to address their grievances. Social norms have limited women's participation in public life and contribute to exposure to violence. The risk of violence, including violence from partners at home and risks of sexual and physical harassment traveling to and at workplaces, affects women's labour market decisions. Demographic and Health Survey 2016–18 data reveals that employed women who have experienced intimate partner violence are twice as likely to report being absent from work in the previous week.

DRIVER 2

INSUFFICIENT INVESTMENT IN CURBING COMMUNAL VIOLENCE AND URBAN INSECURITY

The lack of consistent and adequate investment in the justice and law enforcement sector, limited oversight over the increased illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons and other transnational illicit activities, and weak enforcement environments over illegal substances and excessive consumption of alcohol have all contributed to the increasing intensity of a broad spectrum of violence that spans communal fighting and urban insecurity. Many citizens in Papua New Guinea lack both access to and trust in law and justice institutions. The government has faced challenges in recruiting and deploying the country's police, defence, and correctional services. Key sources of resilience against conflict and violence—including village courts, the informal courts system, and non-violence and conflict resolution skills—have not received adequate support amidst competing priorities. The increased illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons has increased the intensity of communal fighting and urban crimes. Continued impunity and a slow justice system are salient contributing factors.

DRIVER 3

CONTESTATION OVER UNEVEN BENEFIT SHARING AND WEAK RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Uneven benefit sharing and natural resources governance have been protracted challenges. The country's vast natural resources have consistently contributed to significant instability in resource-rich communities due to the population's discontent with the existing resource-sharing framework. Competition over these resources leads to disputes among local communities, businesses, and the government. Informalities within the extractives industry (such as alluvial gold mining) have led to illegal activities being carried out on customary land, which exacerbates the potential for violence and conflict. Furthermore, residents of provinces hosting major extractive projects do not see benefits from increased job creation or improved services. Uneven benefit sharing, youth unemployment, and limited social mobility in resource-rich provinces have created "perverse" incentives for communal fighting, which often results in settlement through financial compensation. The financial compensation, combined with impunity for those escalating violence and communal groups' need to recruit those willing to participate in fatal communal conflicts, has made fighting an opportunity to access social and economic standing for those who are unable to access and benefit from formal economic activities in the resource sector.

DRIVER 4

WEAK CAPACITY TO MANAGE IMPACTS OF DISASTERS AND COMPOUND RISKS ON DISPLACEMENT, LAND, AND MIGRATION

The country is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, landslides and floods, and the absence of a robust and functioning disaster management system at national and subnational levels compounds the impacts of these disasters. Mitigating and responding to the impacts of these events have become a challenge, especially when combined with ongoing risks like land disputes and displacement. Escalating communal conflicts and fighting also compound the risks, as vulnerable areas experience social and economic disadvantages. Uneven and insufficient governmental reach and services limit the country's ability to mitigate and adapt to these complex emergencies and crises.

DRIVER 5
**PERCEPTION OF WEAK
GOVERNANCE AND
REDISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

Perceptions of weak public institutions, accountability, and systemic unfairness, as well as concerns over the slow progress in improving inclusive governance, have eroded public confidence in both public sector institutions and large private extractives. Perceptions of weak governance persist partly because visible progress has not been seen or communicated. Perceptions of and actual corruption undermine the rule of law by weakening judicial and law enforcement institutions, resulting in the erosion of public trust in these institutions. Greater transparency of public finances would help improve trust in governance systems. Fiercely competitive elections and recurrent electoral violence have been attributed to weaknesses in the process and perceptions of unequal resource distribution during the electoral cycle.



06

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Conflict and violence act as “development in reverse,” and this strategy strives to guide cost-effective investments through a greater policy focus on conflict and violence prevention. Moving beyond a piecemeal and reactive response to the growing issues of violence and conflict, this strategy focuses instead on how medium- to long-term thinking can address the underlying drivers of conflict. To emphasize the importance of prevention, the strategy advocates for a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that tackles these issues at their roots. Building on experiences from other countries that have integrated prevention more fully into their policy prioritisation, the key principles underpinning this strategy are pragmatic ambition, synergies, partnerships, adaptability, and flexibility to ensure sustainable implementation, demonstrate progress,

and avoid duplication of existing efforts. While striving to maintain ambition and long-term perspectives, the approach remains practical to drive meaningful results.

With ambition balanced by realism, this strategy combines a long-term vision for policy reform and system strengthening with medium-term actions focused on delivering services and capacity-building to showcase developmental benefits to people in Papua New Guinea. Short-term responses provide immediate on-the-ground support, ensuring a balanced approach to immediate and future needs. The strategy pulls together all the key strands from major policies and strategies under the national prevention framework for peace and resilience to provide a more coherent structure.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

ENHANCING ACCESS TO SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED PROVINCES

Unemployment, underachievement of educational outcomes, and limited social mobility have contributed to a vicious cycle of conflict and violence. Youth across the country, particularly those living in conflict and violence-affected communities, are significantly deprived of access to development benefits. This strategy prioritizes actions that can bring more development benefits, services, and opportunities to conflict-affected communities and young people in those areas. Restoring the citizen-state compact requires tangible improvement in the quality and accessibility of basic services in marginalised areas, particularly conflict-affected subnational areas, with special emphasis on reaching vulnerable groups, including women and youth. This includes protection services for women, especially those related to health, policing, counselling, safe houses, and prosecution. Given the population’s incredibly strong community support and resilience in times of conflict and disasters, conflict-affected communities do not only include areas where conflicts and violence are most intensive but also those communities that are hosting those who are displaced and supporting family members who are experiencing escalated violence.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

INCREASING INVESTMENT IN EARLY WARNING AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

Papua New Guinea’s prevention systems are nascent. Not having them means the cost of intervention—when it occurs—is high. Investing in support to the security sector, law enforcement, and justice services is critical to demonstrating more visible improvements, while conflict prevention and conflict resolution education are crucial for changing mindsets to prevent conflict. Interventions will also target the prevention of violence against children, accompanied by better implementation of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Child Protection

Policy. Global best practices on developing robust prevention systems that bring security-peace-development actors together will help identify activities that enable the achievement of this priority. Investing in these prevention systems and societal capacity would help to address conflict and violence risks and reverse current escalatory trends.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

RESTORING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE BENEFIT-SHARING PROCESS AND OUTCOMES OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION

The country's rich natural resources present a significant opportunity for national development. Yet improving the negative perception of a benefit-sharing process and implementing measures that could help further ensure equitable benefit distribution have historically been a challenge. Thus, ensuring that local communities feel the economic benefits is essential for building long-term stability and trust in the government. Restoring public confidence in how resource revenue is shared can also help reduce subnational-level tensions and promote greater cohesion and harmony among communities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF DISASTER IMPACTS ON DISPLACEMENT, LANDS, AND MIGRATION

Displacement, land, resettlements, and migration have continuously been perceived as causing some social tensions in urban and rural settings. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) often experience violence and conflict within resettlement areas. Comprehensive management (including mitigation and adaptation) of both natural and man-made disasters and their impacts on key sources of communal tensions is critical for reducing the compounding effects of these events. This priority would highlight activities that could improve the management of displacement, migration, and resettlements, which often significantly impact land-related challenges. It also requires strengthened coordination at the national and provincial levels, accompanied by better data collection and dissemination on natural hazards.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

As exemplified in its National Anti-Corruption Strategy the government is committed to building effective public institutions and strong accountability mechanisms as the foundation of good governance. At the same time, governance reforms and improving transparency and accountability are long-term efforts that are not always easy to communicate to our people and communities. While continuing to advance key reforms and measures that would support greater accountability and transparency, this strategy would explore how best these efforts can be communicated to PNG citizens. This strategic priority allows an opportunity to present the country's ongoing efforts to improve transparency, reduce corruption, and enhance the efficiency of service delivery—all of which are fundamental to national prevention efforts for peace.

07

HIGH-LEVEL ACTION PLANS TO ACHIEVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



As this is the first national prevention strategy, the high-level action plan outlined in Section 7 maintains a degree of flexibility and adaptability, enabling adjustments as needed with a focus on the first three years of the implementation period (2025–27). The first phase, spanning a three-year cycle, sets out a prioritized set of actions and milestones that are critical to achieving these objectives. This strategy has specifically identified milestones that will be supported by activities already in progress by the government, in alignment with the MTDP IV and other relevant agreements and discussions currently being undertaken with development partners. As outlined in Section 8, regular meetings and annual progress reports through the Prevention Working Group will serve as mechanisms to facilitate ongoing learning and adjustments in meeting these 12 milestones.

While the strategy aims to support the nationwide promotion and advancement of conflict and violence prevention, some targeted geographical attention has been emphasized given their impacts on communities and vulnerable populations. In referring to communities facing violence and compound risks, available data on conflict fatalities, anecdotal reports, perception surveys, and other data analyses have helped identify specific geographical areas. These communities include those in East Sepik, Enga, Hela, Madang, Morobe, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. This designation applies uniformly across all communities identified in this framework. While conflict and violence dynamics remain highly fluid, the list of affected communities may be adjusted as the strategy is implemented.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: ENHANCING ACCESS TO EQUITABLE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED PROVINCES

HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES	LEAD DEPARTMENTS	TARGETS, TIMELINE, AND INDICATORS	DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
(1.1) Increase opportunities for young people from communities facing violence and compound risks* as demonstrated by creating jobs and livelihood opportunities to at least 7,500 young people	Department of Treasury; Department of National Planning and Monitoring; Department of Agriculture and Livestock; Lae City Authority; National Youth Development Authority	# of young people from communities facing compound risks with improved capacity to engage in productive, income-generating activities through training, mentorship, and other support Target: 7,500 (women to be 20 percent) (2,500 per year)	Governments of Australia and New Zealand, as well as the European Union, ADB, and WBG

<p>(1.2) Improved gender-responsive service delivery and greater protection of women's rights in conflict and violence situations as demonstrated by (i) establishing 30 safe houses; (ii) expanding psychosocial and mental health services and counseling; (iii) updating relevant protection-related policies; and (iv) providing social safety net benefits to at least 5,000 women and children</p>	<p>Department for Community, Development and Religion; Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Department of Health; Provincial Health Authority</p>	<p># of safe houses/referral centres established and offering services for people fleeing their homes due to various forms of violence, including SARV (% in communities facing compound risks) Target: 30 (10 in communities facing compound risks) (Yearly target is for 10 per year)</p> <p># of health workers trained on psychosocial and mental health services, Target: 100 (yearly target: 30 in first year, and 35 per year for remaining two years)</p> <p># of beneficiaries that have gained access to social safety net programs (Target: 5,000, yearly target with 1,000 first year, and 2,000 per year for the 2nd and 3rd year)</p> <p>Update to a National Anti-Human Trafficking Plan (Year 1)</p>	<p>CSOs, faith groups, United Nations, governments of Australia and Japan, and the WBG</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2. INCREASING INVESTMENT IN EARLY WARNING AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY

<p>(2.1) Improved control of the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) by publishing nationwide survey data on SALWs, developing the national action plan (NAP) on SALW control, and operationalising the NAP-SAWL control.</p>	<p>Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Department of Police, and ICAC</p>	<p>Finalization and publication of the Small Arms Survey (Year 1)</p> <p>Development of the NAP-SALW (Year 2)</p> <p>Operationalizing the NAP-SALW and publishing annual report on the status of commitments demonstrating progress year-on-year (Year 3)</p>	<p>Government of Australia, as well as the European Union and UN Agencies</p>
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<p>(2.2) Strengthening the understanding and application of conflict resolution and nonviolence skills by training at least 6,500 people working with communities facing violence and compound risks</p>	<p>Department of Education; Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs; Department of Health; Lae City Authority</p>	<p># of people trained in conflict resolution skills Target: 6,500 (20% women and 30% youth under 37 years old) with 1,500 (first year) and 2,500 per year (second and third year)</p>	<p>Government of Australia, US, WBG, UN agencies</p>
<p>(2.3) Increased investment in police, law enforcement, and justice services, especially in communities facing violence and compound risks, to improve public security and enhance access</p>	<p>Department of Treasury; Department of National Planning & Monitoring; Department of Police; Department of Justice and Attorney General; Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary</p>	<p>Total GoPNG expenditure on law and order, and justice services increased, year on year (disaggregated per budget items) Baseline: 1.7 billion Kina (2023 expense outcome) Target: 20% (7% increase per year from the previous year allocation) Disbursement rate of the proposed and approved expenditure on law and order, and justice services (yearly monitoring) (Year 1: Baseline setting; Year 2-3: Improvement target on an annual basis)</p>	<p>Governments of Australia and U.S.</p>
<p>(2.4) Promoting the culture of nonviolence, violence prevention and peace through a nationwide awareness campaign through multistakeholder partnerships</p>	<p>Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council and Department of Justice and Attorney-General (together with the Departments participating in the Prevention Working Group)</p>	<p>Development and launch of the popular and youth-friendly communication campaigns on the national prevention strategy (Year 1) Convening of annual meetings on conflict and violence prevention (Year 2 & 3)</p>	<p>CSOs, media, and Technical Assistance Committee members in the Prevention Working Group</p>

<p>(2.5) Enhanced participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution as demonstrated by increased number of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives at the subnational level</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Department for Community Development and Religion; Office for the Development of Women; Climate Change and Development Authority; and National Youth Development Authority; relevant provincial governments</p>	<p>Percentage increase in women's meaningful participation and leadership in conflict resolution and negotiations initiatives Baseline: 1,324 (UN Annual Results, 2023) Target: 7 percent increase per year (80% from communities facing violence and compound risks) Development of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (Year 3)</p>	<p>Faith-based organizations or other CSOs, UN agencies</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: RESTORING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE BENEFIT-SHARING PROCESS AND OUTCOMES OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION

<p>(3.1) More equitable benefit-sharing as demonstrated: (i) by at least 120,000 people in rural communities facing violence and compound risks* gaining access to infrastructures and services; and (ii) by at least 25,000 people in rural communities facing violence and compound risks benefiting from participatory community planning process</p>	<p>Department of Works and Highways, Water PNG, PNG Power, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Health</p>	<p>Increased number of people in rural communities facing violence and compound risks* benefiting from participating in community development initiatives Target: 25,000 (5,000 first year, and 10,000 second and third year) / % women and girls: 50% Increased number of people benefiting from improved access to basic infrastructure and services (including roads, health, nutrition, electricity, education, water and sanitation) in rural communities facing violence and compound risks* Target: 120,000 (30,000, first year, and 45,000 second and third year) / % women and girls: 50% / reporting per the types of services</p>	<p>Gov of Australia, US, European Union, ADB, WBG, and UN agencies</p>
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<p>(3.2) Improved transparency of extractive sectors as demonstrated by annual publication of reports and audited financial statements by key public institutions related to resource revenue and passing of all EITI-related legislations</p>	<p>Department of Treasury</p>	<p>Passing of all EITI related legislations (Year 1)</p> <p>Publication of annual reports and audited financial statements of key public institutions related to resource sector revenue, such as Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited and Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited (Years 1–3)</p> <p>Timely sharing of all required information for the EITI assessment on an annual basis (Years 1–3)</p>	<p>WBG</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF DISASTER IMPACTS ON DISPLACEMENT, LANDS, AND MIGRATION

<p>(4.1) Policy formally endorsed and operationalised by the government to improve management of internal displacement resulting from multidimensional risks compounded by conflict, violence, and climate shocks</p>	<p>Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs; National Disaster Center;</p>	<p>IDP Policy published (Year 1) and operationalized, as evidenced by tangible support provided to displaced persons in the country and 4 provincial action plans developed and implemented for the IDP Policy (Year 2 or 3)</p>	<p>United Nations agencies</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

<p>(5.1) Improved public sector accountability as demonstrated by increased transparency of the use of public funds by clearing annual financial statements in a timely manner</p>	<p>Department of Finance, Department of Treasury, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Ombudsman Commission, National Economic and Fiscal Commission (NEFC), Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD); Office of the Auditor-General, ICAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Timely* submission of annual financial statements to the Auditor General's Office (AGO) — Progressive clearing of the backlog of audits of annual financial statements by AGO — Timely presentation of annual audited financial statements to Parliament by the Finance Minister** — Publication of public accounts (Part I—Public Accounts of PNG) <p>*Timely = submitted by 30 April of the following fiscal year, in line with the 2016 PFM (Amendment) Act</p> <p>**At the first meeting of Parliament after their receipt by the Finance Minister, in line with the 2016 PFM (Amendment) Act</p>	<p>WBG</p>
<p>(5.2) Improved transparency as demonstrated by endorsement of Access to Information legislation and support to its implementation (capacity building, guidelines, design of monitoring and evaluation mechanism)</p>	<p>Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, ICAC, and Department of National Planning and Monitoring</p>	<p>Endorsement of the Access to Information legislation by 31 August 2025</p> <p># of public officials trained in access to information management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Baseline: 0 — Target: 60 	<p>United Nations Agencies</p>

08

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND MONITORING MECHANISMS



INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This prevention strategy strives to demonstrate its progress on an ongoing basis to communicate the government's strong commitment to this important agenda. With a whole-of-government approach, the implementation of specific activities under this national prevention strategy, outlined in Section 7, High-Level Action Plans to Achieve Strategic Objectives, will be undertaken by various government departments in close partnership with international development partners and national stakeholders. In the spirit of avoiding duplication, this strategy has identified the most relevant activities that are already works in progress by the government in line with the MTDP IV and other relevant agreements and discussions that the Government is undertaking with development partners. Implementing agencies of each milestone will continue to serve in the Prevention Working Group, and additional departments whose implementation efforts are critical will be invited to this intergovernmental working group.

To foster collaboration and regular information sharing, the Technical Secretariat, established for the Prevention Working Group, will continue to coordinate the monitoring of strategy implementation for the Prevention Working Group. The Secretariat, consisting of 2–3 officials, will be led by the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and the National Executive Council's Policy 2 Division, as was the case during preparation of the strategy. The Secretariat will convene meetings and coordinate monitoring of the government's commitments included in the strategy. In addition, these regular meetings and Secretariat support will enable the Working Group to identify areas for further support and discuss potential bottlenecks in implementing specific high-level action plans. Bilateral and multilateral partners, including Australia, the U.S., the United Nations, and the World Bank Group, in the Prevention Working Group's Technical Assistance Committee, will provide technical assistance to the Technical Secretariat in monitoring the strategy's implementation and developing progress reports.

PROGRESS REVIEW

The Inter-Governmental Working Group on the Prevention and Resilience Strategy (hereafter referred to as the Prevention Working Group), established in September 2024, will meet on a quarterly basis to review progress and milestone achievements. The Secretariat will organize these meetings with the Prevention Working Group to discuss progress on relevant milestones. Each government department's designated focal points will collect and share data to evaluate the performance of the appropriate indicators in their sectors as included in Section 7 of the strategy. Development partners and other key stakeholders with relevant data will be invited to these meetings. Recognizing that updated data for each indicator may not be available at every quarterly meeting, the frequency of review is still important to maintain momentum, provide updates where information is available, and guide efforts to ensure all necessary information is gathered in time for annual reviews. The

Secretariat will work closely with relevant departments in the Prevention Working Group and their key partners to collect information on the achievements of each milestone in the strategy. Once completed, annual reviews will be communicated with stakeholders and partners. The Secretariat will draw on the expertise of civil society organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, philanthropic foundations, community partners, media, national think tanks, and academic institutions to complement the information provided by the Working Group.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

All activities implemented in support of the Prevention Strategy—especially those high-level milestones in Section 7—will follow a similar communication strategy that will ensure a consistent brand image for the national prevention strategy for peace and resilience, showcasing the government's contribution to prevention. The achievements of this Strategy will be shared with key stakeholders, including civil society organizations, faith-based groups, business organizations, media, academia, and development partners, through an annual workshop organized following the yearly reviews. Upon the official launch of the Strategy, a communication action plan will be developed to raise awareness on the importance of conflict and violence prevention and non-violent conflict resolution to the public.



