



Introduction of training of trainers' approach to improve and accelerate access to SARS-CoV-2 testing: A Papua New Guinea Experience

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Training of trainers approach provided an opportunity to support the government to accelerate trainings and uptake of SARs-CoV-2 testing

Key gaps in the country during the pandemic:

- poor availability and accessibility to SARS-COV-2 testing
- testing is limited to laboratory-based setting
- effective surveillance interventions were affected for care and prevention of SARS-CoV-2

In April 2021, SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid diagnostic test (Ag RDT) was introduced in PNG at the regional/provincial level only

Ability to perform tests accurately at lower levels was lacking

Intervention to support the Government

CHAI worked with Provincial Health Authorities (PHAs), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the COVID-19 National Control Centre (NCC) to introduce the Training of Trainers (TOT) approach to accelerate trainings and uptake of SARS-CoV-2 Ag-RDT testing in the four-focused provinces:

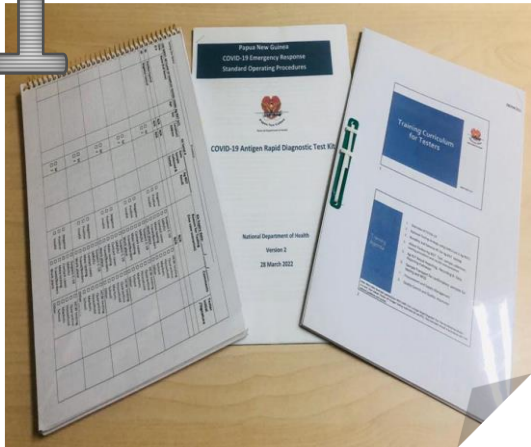
Central, Milne Bay, Morobe, and Oro



Map of Papua New Guinea showing the four focused provinces in PNG where TOT was introduced

Training of trainers approach ensured testing accessibility, promoted provincial ownership and less reliability to the national level

1



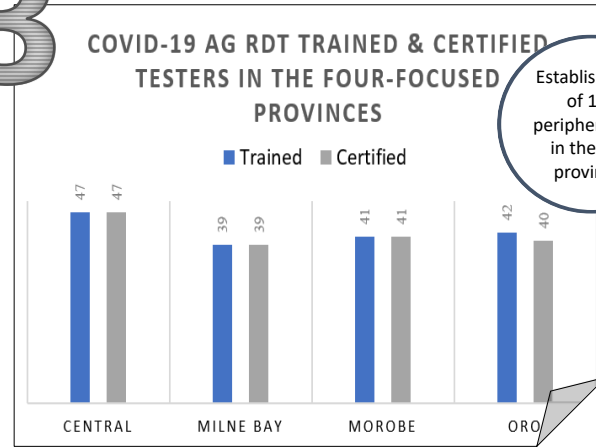
Worked with **Stakeholders; updated and tailored** the FIND/WHO training curriculum **to country's context** in close collaboration with the NCC and the WHO

2



Developed training plan and built capacity of **11 provincial level MoH staff across 4 provinces** as trainers. Out of 11 trained, **10 staff** were **certified as trainers**

3



Trainers **trained 180 MoH staff** across 4 provinces. Out of those trained, **177 (98%) staff were certified as testers** which resulted in activation of **108 sites**

4



Trainers were also trained as **supervisors** using a pre-designed checklist providing oversight and supervision to the peripheral sites in collaboration with the Central Public Health Laboratories (CPHL)

Recommended to utilize the TOT approach to further expand access to testing services across the other 18 provinces of PNG

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