

# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL THEME: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

### **The Context (4 minutes):**

Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, which is just south of the equator and 150 kilometres north of the tip of Australia. Papua New Guinea comprises over 600 islands but 85 per cent of its land area of 463,840 sq km is on the mainland. This is mostly covered by tropical rain forests and divided by massive mountain ranges. Sustainable use and protection of its natural resources, which are of global significance, have attracted worldwide interest in recent years particularly its large gold and copper deposits, oil and natural gas reserves, large areas of arable land for potential agricultural production, an abundant supply of fresh water, large tropical forests, and extensive maritime fisheries. Papua New Guinea's population is about 7.3 million and 85 per cent live in rural areas. Over 800 different languages are spoken throughout the 20 provinces. 45 per cent of the population is estimated to be below the age of 15 years.

### **The Development Challenge (15 minutes):**

Papua New Guinea's Primary School completion rate of 57% reflects a high number of children who do not have access to basic education. Quality education for all is an important component of long-term sustainable development. Your task in this desktop exercise is to consider what elements must be addressed in order to give young people in Papua New Guinea the best possible access to educational opportunities. To focus your thinking, review 'Figure 6' from the Papua New Guinea Universal Basic Education Plan 2010-2019. It highlights some of the reasons why so many children in Papua New Guinea do not complete primary school.

### **Desktop Exercise – Stage 1 (4 mins):**

First of all, read the information on this activity card along with 'Figure 6' of the Papua New Guinea Universal Basic Education Plan 2010-2019. Working alone, develop a list of all of the elements which should be considered in order to improve the quality and accessibility of education in Papua New Guinea.

For example, your list might include opening new schools and training of teachers. Come up with as many elements as you can think of.

### **Desktop Exercise – Stage 2 (3 mins):**

Most of the elements on your list will require money. Prioritise your list in order from most important to least important to ensure that high priority areas will receive funding first.

### **Desktop Exercise – Stage 3 (8 mins):**

Meet together in your assigned group with other education planners. Working together, agree on one list of national education priorities for Papua New Guinea, listed in order of priority.

### **Post Activity Discussion & Evaluation (6 minutes):**

Join the discussion lead by your facilitator about the approach taken by agencies like UnitingWorld and the Anglican Board of Mission as they work with overseas partners towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Complete the Questions relating to this activity on your sheet.**

### **Question:**

Why is it hard to ensure that every child in the world has access to a basic education?

*continued over*

Figure 6. Overview Status PNG Universal Basic Education

