Papua New Guinea
Urban Youth Employment Project (UYEP)

Making a difference in the lives of young people by increasing their employability through training and short-term employment opportunities.

Background
A large number of youth in Port Moresby are unemployed. Unemployment numbers for this demographic is anticipated to increase as the number of youths in Port Moresby increases alongside in-migration numbers and poverty rates. Overall, the poverty level in Port Moresby is likely to increase, with the growing inequality leading to rising social tensions and crime levels. The Urban Youth Employment Program (UYEP) is filling this critical gap as a public intervention addressing both the economic problem of unemployment and poverty, but also youth marginalization and crime in the city.

UYEP aims to strengthen human capital development and support youth transition from an unskilled into semi-skilled workforce. As a partnership between the government, the private sector, and civil society, UYEP will offer training and work placement opportunities for urban youth. Significant investments will be made in the training and the up-skilling of youth through the provision of life-skills, industrial technical and business services, financial literacy and banking services, identification and intermediary services and job placements, as well as professional counseling and peer mentoring for youth.

About the Project
The main objective of the UYEP is to provide disadvantaged urban youth between the ages of 16 and 35 in the National Capital District (NCD) with income from temporary employment opportunities, and to increase their employability. This will be done through three components:

1. Youth Job Corps: Community awareness, mobilization and screening campaign followed by basic life skills training and 40 days of labor-intensive employment for eligible youth;
2. Skills Development and Employment Scheme: Additional Pre-Employment Training (PET) and a further five months of on-the-job placements/training for eligible youth; and
3. Project Management: Implementation and technical support to NCDC.

The project aims to impact 10,500 beneficiaries in the NCD and produce more than one-million work days. Eighty percent of the project’s budget will be invested directly into the economy in the form of training, youth stipends, goods, and services through contracted public works.

The project will issue mobile phones and establish BSP Kundu bank accounts for almost all youth participants with the help of Bank of South Pacific, Digicel, and PNG Telikom. Exxon Mobil will provide supervision and monitoring support, valuable to improve the delivery of the project, the project’s youth and the future of PNG.

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Location: The project will provide employment opportunities in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Approval Date: 11 January 2011
Closing Date: 30 April 2016
Total Project Cost: US$17.98 million
Donors: World Bank (International Development Association) — US$125.8 million; National Capital District Commission — US$1.58 million; Republic of Korea — US$10.6 million; and ExxonMobil — US$0.9 million (additional funding)
Implementing Agency: National Capital District Commission