



- 25% of children in PNG have hearing problems, 1/3 of them have a form of hearing loss
- Child deafness is the leading cause of school drop-out and exclusion

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National Hearing Programme

In Papua New Guinea

34% of the population of Papua New Guinea (PNG) is under 15 years old. Child deafness is often referred to as the “hidden disability”, often caused by untreated malaria or meningitis and non-existing maternal health services.

Traditional belief systems and lack of awareness add to the barriers for accessing existing services.

The overall goal of the project is to empower deaf and hard of hearing persons to fully and equally participate in the social, cultural, political and economic life of PNG. Callan Services has been involved in this field for many years and has developed courses in special needs education for teachers including courses on PNG Sign

Language, CBR, physiotherapy, identification of persons with disabilities, and community participation. The project builds on previous work supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD and the European Commission.

Project Activities

- Further developing and formalising PNG Sign Language
- Strengthening CBR services
- supporting teachers and schools to deliver Inclusive Education
- Advocating for increased support for inclusion from governmental agencies

National Hearing Programme in PNG

Light for the World is a catalyst for system change, with the goal of enabling enable persons with disabilities in PNG to take part in society, access rehabilitation and education, and claim their rights. We invite you to join this initiative and improve the lives of others.

Partner: Callan Services
Time frame: 01.01.2018 – 31.12.2020
Budget: 150,000 annually

Targets

- Sign Language training for over 7.000 children and adults
- Development and distribution of the new PNG sign language dictionary
- Screening of 72.000 children and family members
- Training on Disability and Human Rights for the Deaf Community
- Training of teachers and community workers on early childhood development and care for deaf and hard of hearing children