

NEWSLETTER

WESTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY- Psalms 118:8 In God We Trust

QUATERLY NEWSLETTER

MAR-MAY 2025



Our Growth & Success in Mar-May 2025

Quarterly updates are in! WHPHA has made significant progress, and we're excited to share the highlights with you.

- Public Health Services
- Nurses' Stories and more



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CONTACT US:



Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province



541 1200



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@Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority



Our Vision

A healthy Western Highlands with high-quality services valued by people who access them, including regional hospitals.

Our Mission: Working with the community, service partners and other stakeholders, WHPHA will lead the goal of a healthy Western Highlands by:

- Increasing the success of the health promotion and disease prevention programs
- Providing safe and relevant clinical services that meet the community's needs
- Bringing relevant services closer to where people live
- Striving to constantly improve standards through strong clinical and organizational governance, research and best practices

Our Values: Core values are integral to our activities and relationships as healthcare professionals and providers at the WHPHA:

- Patient-Focused Care – We demonstrate a high level of commitment and compassion in our roles and acknowledge that patients drive our unrelenting focus on doing whatever it takes to improve their health.
- Accountability – We uphold and demonstrate honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, consistency, and accountability in our decisions and actions in our professional work life.
- Quality – We strive to exceed the expectations of all of our constituents by committing to deliver quality and value in every aspect of our work.
- Leadership – We demonstrate a clear understanding of our vision and showcase this knowledge through our interactions with staff and all constituents, serving as role models and agents of change.
- Inclusion – We foster a spirit of collegiality, encourage team cohesiveness, collaboration, cooperation and openness, and respect each staff as an integral part of the Organization

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



Jane Holden- Acting Chief Executive Officer-WHPHA

To all Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority and Stakeholders,

I am thrilled to welcome you to our first newsletter of 2025, a space where we celebrate the incredible efforts and achievements of our team. As the Acting CEO of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, I'm proud to share with you the progress we have made towards our mission of providing high-quality healthcare services to the people of Western Highlands Province and gratitude to reflect on how far we have come.

This quarter has seen meaningful achievements from enhancing patient care and launching key development projects to building stronger partnerships that help us address our most pressing health challenges. These milestones are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the guidance of our Board, and the support of the Western Highlands Provincial Government, our implementing partners and stakeholders.

To all who contribute to our shared vision, thank you. Your commitment and collaboration are the foundation of our success.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on innovation, service, and partnership. Together, we are building a healthier, more resilient Western Highlands.

Best wishes,

Jane

The Mount Hagen Hospital stands as a critical hub for healthcare services, serving an estimated 500,000 people. Many travel from neighbouring provinces with, both referred and non-referral cases. The non-referral cases seek assistance through the Emergency Department, the COPD clinic, or other entry point clinics. With 308 beds, the hospital operates at the heart of a busy and growing healthcare network, responding daily to the diverse and urgent needs of the communities it serves.

Story Corner

Commissioning of the Mt Hagen Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) Oxygen Plant- 17th March, 2025

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has become the first PHA in the country to operate a pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plant. This facility will enable oxygen to be produced safely on site at medical quality standards with higher production capacity. This oxygen plant marks a major step in patient care, ensuring a steady supply for those in need. More read on: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/03/commissioning-of-mt-hagen-pressure-swing-absorption/>



Dr Dora Lenturut-Katal, the Acting Deputy Secretary of National Health Standards and Compliance, visits the interior of the plant accompanied by hospital staff, delegates and guests

The National Heart Foundation donates almost K70,000 to children with heart disease at the Mt Hagen Hospital – 21st March, 2025

The National Heart Foundation (NHF) has generously donated K69,661.89 to support children battling heart problems at the Mt Hagen Hospital yesterday, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Unfortunately, this donation marks the foundation's last contribution, as it has decided to close its operations. Thus, the NHF plans to use the remaining funds to support the Loo Pok Clinic in an effort to reduce the number of patients, particularly children suffering from heart diseases. More read on: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/03/nhf-donates-almost-k70000-to-the-cardiac-services/>



School Students happily showing off their hygiene gifts from CPL

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority brings clean water to Tengtenga Community-31 March, 2025

More than 20,000 people in the Tengtenga community, located outside Mt. Hagen City, benefited from access to clean and safe drinking water, thanks to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA). This initiative coincided with World Water Day and is expected to have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of the community, particularly the younger generation, helping them grow up strong and healthy.

During the opening ceremony, WHPHA Acting Chief Executive Officer Jane Holden, officiated the event, along with PHA staff. On that same day, a memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Tengtenga Health facility and the WHPHA.

The water supply was established to ensure that the communities and neighboring villages have access to safer and cleaner water. More read on:

<https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/03/tengtenga-community-receives-water-supply/>

School health integrated programs in Western Highlands Province- 02 April 2025

The Health Promotion Team of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) has made significant strides in monitoring the health and well-being of school children through the school health integrated programs carried out in both elementary and primary schools in the province. More read on: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/03/school-health-integrated-programs-in-western-highlands-province/>

Electronic Monitoring of Medical Drugs and Supplies Inventory System- 17th April, 2025

Six health facilities in the Tambul-Nebilyer district of Western Highlands Province were the first to trial out an electronic Monitoring of Medical Drugs Drug Stock (eMMDS) and Vaccines. This initiative is essential for ensuring that health facilities have adequate medical supplies.

The system aims to generate reports to aid management in making evidence-based decisions on, drug stock levels at health facilities, drug usage, drug expiration dates, updates on medical consumables, status of selected health standard indicators and time-saving measures

The system was initially rolled out at six health facilities in the Tambul-Nebilyer district, including: Gia, Kiripia, Alkena, Tambul, Paiakona, and Pabrabuk health centres. More read on:

<https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/04/electronic-monitoring-of-medical-drugs-supplies/>

World Malaria Day and World Immunization Week- 30 April, 2025

Two weeks ago, Mt Hagen City was buzzing with excitement as our Public Health Team in collaboration with the City Pharmacy Ltd, celebrate World Malaria Day and World Immunization Week.

This year's theme for World Malaria Day is "Malaria ends with us- Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite", while World Immunization Week emphasized that "Immunization for all is humanly possible". More read on: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/04/celebration-of-world-malaria-day-and-world-immunization-week/>

Imported Chicken Cocktail disposal- 02nd May, 2025

Imports of fresh and frozen chicken products from abroad have been banned for sale in shops since 2023. Despite this ban, the Pick N Pay supermarket in Mt. Hagen imported 200 unlabelled cartons of chicken cocktails this year, but they were condemned and burned. Read more on: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/05/imported-chicken-cocktail-disposal/>

Nurses in the Western Highlands Province celebrate International Nurses Day- 12th May, 2025

In a profession that demands resilience, empathy, and tireless devotion, nurses from across the four districts of Western Highlands Province proved once again this year that their strength is the backbone of their province. Read more on: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/05/nurses-in-the-western-highlands-province-celebrate-international-nurses-day/>

WHPHA Nurses Interest Story Corner

Sr. Edith Namba's recognition on the Global stage- A testament to dedication and Care

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) stands proud as one of our own, Edith Namba, a senior nurse and Deputy Director for Clinical Nursing Services, has secured a top 10 finalist position in the prestigious Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2025. Her leadership and excellence in patient care have earned global recognition, as she carries the flag of WHPHA and PNG onto the world stage, proving that Papua New Guinea nurses are leaders in healthcare.

Read more on our website link: <https://www.whhs.gov.pg/2025/05/sr-edith-nambas-recognition-on-the-global-stage-a-testament-to-dedication-and-care/>

30 Years of Love, Care and Commitment

After three decades of care, healing, and resilience woven into the lives of people, Community Health Worker Irene Malacky, continues to be a pillar of strength and compassion at Mt Hagen Hospital's Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) Ward.

Her story starts from the humble roots of Tutam village, nestled in the Imbonggu District of Southern Highlands, to the bustling wards of Mt Hagen Hospital. Irene blossomed with a heart full of dreams and a spirit to serve people.

On October 16, 1995, she stepped into the professional world, marking the beginning of a journey fueled by dedication and love. She has worked across various wards, including Emergency, Eye, and Nursery, before settling in the O&G Ward, which she describes as one of the hospital's busiest and most demanding.



Nurse Irene Malacky

Now 51, Malacky is a mother of three and a grandmother to a two-year-old. As a single mother, she acknowledges the challenges of balancing professional and personal life, but says her children and passion for serving patients have always kept her going.

"Sometimes you feel overwhelmed and depression creeps in," she said. "But I choose to see the good in every situation because it keeps me focused."

She stated that the O&G Ward often receives direct referrals from rural clinics and other urban health centres across the province, and due to limited space, many patients are left to sleep on the floor. Despite this,

Malacky remains committed to providing patient care.

"When I see a mother in pain, I respond immediately," she explained. "It may not be in my job description, but I act first to stabilize the patient and wait for the doctors to take over. I cannot ignore suffering."

With the demand for maternal health care growing in the Highlands region, Malacky's steadfast service stands as a powerful example of frontline dedication. As she reflects on her 30-year career, she remains hopeful and steadfast as she continues serving and saving lives. Ends/

Picture Caption Stories



DDPH Freda Pyanyo stood as a strong voice during the World Hypertension Day event at Pope's Oval



WHPHA's Public Health Team and City Pharmacy Ltd Team Pose for a group photo after celebrating World Malaria Day and World Immunization Week in Mt Hagen recently.



Male Nurse Michael Namba doing a home visit to a patient who has been discharged to make sure she is doing okay.



Nurse Lewa Onim is talking to mothers during their visit to the Well Women Clinic for Cancer Screening



Sr Josephine Kuk, giving out health information to mothers inside the Well Women Clinic, who came in for cancer screening.



L-R: WaSH OIC Stephanie Steven and Health Inspector Melissa Steven are displaying nutritional food from the three food groups & giving health talks to the public.



Director Public Health Dannex Kupamu and WHPHA Board Member Agnes Mek, join retiree Henry Timini (centre) in celebrating his contribution to health services in WHP.



Nurse Rodman giving HPV Vaccine to a little girl



Nurses in Western Highlands Province commemorate Nurses Day



VHAs gather for a group photo after their refresher training

Caring beyond the Hospital Walls

Since 2024, the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority started identifying and supporting patients with special needs during their hospital stay and beyond. With dedication from staff and determination to provide holistic care, 44 patients have received follow-up support at home.

This incredible journey has been made even more meaningful, thanks to the generous partnership with **Someone Who Cares (SWC)**, a compassionate organization from Australia. Through their ongoing support, providing essential medical equipment, instruments, and consumables, our staff have been better equipped to care for those in need.



Just recently, a wheelchair was donated to a long-term patient, Ismael Paul (pictured left), and whose mobility had been significantly limited. This gift made possible through the generosity of SWC, has brought new independence to Ismael, allowing him greater ease moving around.

Ismael and his parents have expressed heartfelt thanks to both WHPHA and SWC. Their gratitude reminds us that a small act of kindness can create life-changing impacts.

From all of us at WHPHA, we extend our special thanks to **Leanne Barnett**, whose direct contributions of wheelchairs, crutches, and other vital supplies have made a visible impact in the lives of our patients.

Thank you for being a partner in improving health and restoring hope.

Below are two pictures of patients in wheelchairs donated by Someone Who Cares



Recent Achievements for the Hospital

We are proud to announce a series of transformative developments at the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority that mark a new chapter in healthcare service delivery for our region.

On *March 13, 2025*, we commissioned our very own **Oxygen Plant**, a critical step toward self-reliance in essential medical supplies. Just two weeks later, our Project Management Unit (PMU) team successfully refilled 18 full oxygen cylinders, bridging a vital gap when external supplies from Lae were delayed. We are now producing oxygen not just for our hospital, but also for rural health facilities.

This achievement would not have been possible without the support of the Board, dedicated efforts from acting CEO Jane Holden, the Management Team, and the outstanding leadership of Abhishek and his team. Thank you for making this vision a reality.

We are also making strides in infrastructure and lighting upgrades. Three high-volume lights have already been installed, with two more currently underway. These enhancements will support night-time operations and improve overall hospital safety.

Our Pathology Department recently underwent a much-needed refurbishment, made possible by the generous support of the Fleming Fund. We sincerely acknowledge their ongoing commitment to quality healthcare.

Looking ahead, construction of a new Radiology/X-ray clinic, Laboratory, Dental Clinic, and other key facilities will commence on the grounds adjacent to the main hospital morgue. This expansion will alleviate congestion, minimise unnecessary public access, and streamline patient and vehicle movement, ultimately enhancing the overall hospital experience for all.

Together, these efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more resilient healthcare system for the people we serve.

....End of Q1 Newsletter

As the face and voice of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, our Public Relations Officer is ready to strengthen the bond between the hospital and the people of Western Highlands. If you reside in Western Highlands Province and have a health-related story, patient journey, community health success, or medical outreach to share, we'd love to feature your experience.

Reach out to Rita PEKI, our Liaison & Public Relations Officer, to help highlight the stories that matter in healthcare. ✉ rita.peki@whhs.gov.pg 📱 WhatsApp: + (675) 7435 1005