

Papua New Guinea Rural Communications Project

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Papua New Guinea

Quality score: 92/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

A US\$7.3M World Bank-financed subsidy paid operator Digicel to build 59 solar-powered base stations in unserved areas (2014-2015), giving an estimated 500,000 rural Papua New Guineans first-time telephony access and lifting rural coverage from ~20% to ~90%.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[National ICT Authority \(NICTA\) & PNG Department of Communication and Information](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[NICTA - PNG Rural Communication Project overview](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[World Bank Results](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

[1 World Connected - PNG Universal Service Fund case study](#) — accessed 2026-07-03

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