

Education Services Report 2019 - 2021

1. Introduction

This is a brief report of the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea Education Services. The report summarises the work done at the National Education Office and its fields, the progress and challenges faced for 2019 – 2021 with recommendations for the way forward.

2. Achievements

Baptist Education Agency runs 40 schools in four provinces, namely; Western Highland, Enga, Sandaun and Southern Highland Provinces. The later province has been recently included with the establishment of one school (Kaka Light Education Academy) in Imbongu District. The increase of the total number of schools is a result of three new being established since 2019.

(i) Kaka Light Education Academy

The new school in Southern Highland Province was established in 2018 as a result of the series of LEM Phonics trainings provided by Baptist Education Services under CPP program in 2015 - 2016. A recipient of one of the trainings at Christian Leaders Training College (CLTC) started the elementary and early childhood learning centre which has turned out to be very successful. The first graduation of Grade 2s was attended by Mr Pepa Bala and Heather Mapusia in 2020. The graduation was also attended by Mr Alois Rema, the Highlands Regional Director for School Inspections. This initiative is directly in line with the Government and National Department of Education's Standard Based Curriculum (SBC) replacing Outcomes Based Education (OBE), the new 1-6-6 structural policy and Early Childhood Education (ECE) policies. Mr Rema commented on the LEM Phonics training program and welcomed Baptist Union to establish more schools in Southern Highland in order to provide quality education. BUPNG is yet to meet with Southern Highland Provincial Government for possible MoU in the near future.

(ii) Ukini Maiwa Baptist High School

Ukinini Maiwa is one of the new high schools established in 2019 in the Baiyer sub-district. The first intake of two grade 9 classes was in 2020 and this year we have the first grade 10's who will be sitting the National Examinations. The establishment of the school was made possible by Western Highland Provincial Government and Mul-Baiyer Lumusa District Development Authority (DDA). The WH Provincial Government provided the hardware materials while funding assistance was provided by the DDA. Ukini Baptist High School is established on customary land on the understanding that the community needs a high school and the service was welcomed. BUPNG and WHPG/DDA signed a MoA with the community leaders for the release of the land. The school is established in Lutheran dominated community but BUPNG has been received with open arms. There are requests from the community for establishment of primary schools by BUPNG to feed the high school. This is an opportunity to extend BUPNG ministry in the Ukini Maiwa area.

The school is newly established and there are lots more that need to be done. Immediate needs are a double classroom, more teachers' houses, a science laboratory and library.

(iii) Lumusa Baptist High School

Lumusa is the other new Baptist High School established in 2019. It is established in the mission station land despite some resistance from Pastor Siki Lipu. The first two grade 9 classes were enrolled in 2020 and this year they will sit the Grade 10 National Examinations. Again this school was cofounded by Western Highland Provincial Government and Mul-Baiyer Lumusa DDA.

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(iv) Kumbareta Baptist Secondary School

Kumbareta Baptist Secondary is the first secondary school for Baptist Education. The elevation to secondary level was done in 2018 and this year will be the 4th graduation for Grade 12.

(v) Policies

All Baptist Education Department policies were reviewed and these include Finance Management, School Board of Management and Child Protection. High/Secondary Schools Board of Governors policy was additionally written last year while establishing the two new high schools.

(vi) Strategic Plan

The 2011 National Strategic Plan for Baptist Education called “Growing our Children, Impacting a Nation” was reviewed in 2018 is currently being used. It is due for review in 2003.

(vii) NCEC/NEB

One of the milestone achievements for BUPNG was our successful application for Baptist Education Agency to be recognised member of the National Churches Education Council (NCEC) rather than being recognised under Evangelical Alliance. This year through the NCEC I was nominated to be an Alternate Member of the National Education Board (NEB) which is a great recognition for BUPNG at the national level.

3. Statistics

The table below shows a summary of the number of schools run by Baptist Education Agency.

(i) Baptist Agency Schools Statistics Summary (2020 data)

PROVINCE	TYPE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Western Highland Province	Elementary	14	41	2,588
	Primary	13	149	2,489
	High	2	16	300
	Secondary	1	41	661
	TVET	In progress	0	0
	International	1	8	83
	Tertiary	0	0	0
Enga Province	Elementary	1	3	43
	Primary	2	14	330
	High	0	0	0
	Secondary	0	0	0
	TVET	0	0	0
	International	1	6	0
	Tertiary	0	0	0
Sandaun Province (West Sepik)	Elementary	0	0	0
	Primary	4	22	760
	High	0	0	0
	Secondary	0	0	0
	TVET	0	0	0
	International	0	0	0

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Southern Highland Province	Bottom Up Primary	1	2	44
TOTAL		40	302	6,538

(ii) Baptist Agency Schools Statistics – 2020

The table below shows the number Baptist Schools and the estimated teacher and student population in 2020.

4. Partnership

Partnership with the government and other churches is pivotal to BUPNG's activities.

- **Provincial Governments** - Church State Partnership is working well, especially with the Western Highland Provincial Government. Baptist Education Agency is represented at the Provincial Education Board and the agency's voices are heard at the provincial level. However, Baptist Education Agency is not fairly represented in Enga and Sandaun Provinces. The challenges faced are due to geographical locations, logistics and some level of political interference.
- **Teaching Services Commission (TSC)** – The TSC being the employer of the teachers in all of the unified system schools have been a relief to the Agency. The teachers in the private and permitted international schools are paid by the school boards. In the case of the unified system schools, teachers generally have the perception that because they are paid by TSC and not by the Church agency they overlook the church codes in schools. Such attitude has been common among the Church agency schools in PNG and therefore the TSC in its Revised Disciplinary Policy and Procedures Manual within the powers conferred under Sections 84, 85 and 90 of the Teaching Services Act 1988 gave powers to the Church Education Secretaries to charge teachers and bring teachers to account through disciplinary process. This has been a great initiative by the TSC. Hence, the Commission needs to formally by way of policy direction or minutes announce the devolution of powers as stipulated in the revised disciplinary policy handbook.
- **Church Partnership Program (CPP)** – BUPNG has played significant roles through the CPP program. Some of the important education programs under CPP include Adult Literacy Training, LEM Phonics Training and Special or Inclusive Education Programs to enrol children with disabilities (special needs) in normal existing schools. However, the funding assistance was stalled in 2018 due to internal governance issues. BUPNG is currently addressing the due diligence processes and should re-enter the CPP program in the new 2021-2022 financial year.

5. Chaplaincy

BUPNG Education Services has its own approved Christian Religious Education (CRE) Syllabus for Elementary Prep to Grade 10 and schools are using it. Grades 11 & 12 syllabuses are yet to be developed. In order to teach these CRE syllabuses we need trained pastors who have qualifications in theology and Postgraduate Diploma in Education. The challenges are that there are shortages of trained pastors to fill the chaplaincy roles.

The lack of effective chaplain work in some schools has resulted in negative students' and teachers' behaviours. The moral and ethical standards of some schools are declining and it is a huge challenge for the Agency.

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N O.	Name of School	Province & District	Teacher information			Student Information		
			No of Male Teachers	No of Female Teachers	Total No. of Teachers	No of Male Students	No of Female Students	Total No. of Students
	Secondary/High & International Schools							
1	Kumbareta Baptist Secondary School	W.H.P., Baiyer	22	12	34	410	249	661
2	Lumusa Baptist High School	W.H.P., Lumusa	7	1	8	87	65	152
3	Ukini Baptist High School	W.H.P., Baiyer	3	5	8	84	61	145
4	Highlands Christian Grammar	W.H.P., Hagen Central	4	6	8	41	32	73
5	Kompam International School	Enga, Kompam	2	5	7	18	13	31
6	Kaka Light Education Academy	S.H.P., Imbongu	1	1	2	26	18	44
	Primary & Community Schools							
7	Kwinkya Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	14	12	26	393	198	591
8	Kumbareta Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	9	7	16	267	107	374
9	Sikisa Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	8	5	13	243	103	346
10	Dalapana Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	10	6	16	208	160	368
11	Winyi Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	8	6	14	147	96	243
12	Lumusa Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	10	6	16	298	126	424
13	Mulani Bottom Up Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	5	3	8	136	71	207
14	Wabia Bottom Up Primary	Sandaun, Telefomin	1	2	3	58	29	87
15	Tapiakama Primary	W.H.P., Baiyer	9	3	12	119	97	216

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16	Tekin Primary	Sandaun, Telefomin	9	5	14	189	109	298
18	Tomianap Primary	Sandaun, Telefomin	8	4	12	112	79	191
19	Mitikanap Primary	Sandaun, Telefomin	9	3	12	107	77	184
20	Mandawasa Community School	W.H.P., Baiyer	11	3	14	123	88	211
21	Singua Community School	W.H.P., Baiyer	4	2	6	113	76	189
22	Kakimali Community school	W.H.P., Baiyer	5	1	6	68	44	112
23	Kyaikura Community School	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	2	4	48	30	78
24	Pinapaisa Community School	W.H.P., Baiyer	4	0	4	73	33	106
25	Lapalama Community School	Enga, Kompiam	4	2	6	171	96	267
26	Yangis Community School	Enga, Kompiam	6	0	6	118	57	175
	Elementary Schools							
27	Kelumanda	W.H.P., Baiyer	3	0	3	38	29	67
28	Ukup	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	41	28	69
29	Dalapana	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	37	24	61
30	Kimininga	W.H.P., Hagen Central	1	4	5	68	36	104
31	Kumbareta	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	39	23	62
32	Edeaman	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	36	21	57
33	Kapareta	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	39	19	58
34	Ambusa	W.H.P., Baiyer	1	2	3	51	32	83
35	Kyakaipale	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	37	21	58
36	Traka	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	38	24	62

6. Financing

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37	Kumasina	W.H.P., Baiyer	2	1	3	37	23	60
38	Pinapaisa	W.H.P., Baiyer	3	0	3	73	33	106
39	Yambanyanga	W.H.P., Baiyer	3	0	3	39	23	62
40	Kaltek	W.H.P., Hagen Central	1	3	4	32	24	56
Total			195	107	302	4,161	2,377	6,538

Baptist Education Agency's yearly revenue is only through receiving agency fees from schools. With an average payment at K8.00 per head times just over 6,000 students gives us an approximate amount under K48, 000.00 depending on the number of schools who actually pay their agency fees. Sometimes, the full expected amount is not collected in a year. The limited funds are used for operational costs and sometimes many remote schools are not visited in a year.

- If the Grant-in-Aid is fully paid each year, this would really help Baptist Education Agency.
- Better still, if the Church Education Secretary's Salaries are subsidised by the Government, this would also help Baptist Union PNG.

7. Challenges

Most of the schools are located in three remote districts, especially Tekin in Telefomin District in Sandaun Province, Kompam District in Enga and Baiyer/Lumusa in Western Highland Province. Given the geographical locations and remoteness there are greater challenges in managing the schools. The challenges include;

- **Visitation** – most times officers at Baptist Education Agency office do not visit all schools due to limited logistical support. It costs more to visit schools in Telefomin District. The office communicates with the schools through reports, correspondences and calls. Schools in Western Highland Province get visited once a year.
- **Field Officers** – the Education officers (field officers) in the three Districts (Telefomin, Baiyer/Lumusa and Kompam) were laid off in 2018 due to shortfalls in funding. Baptist Union was not able to fund the positions when the support from the Church Partnership Program (CPP) was put on halt.
- **Communication** – With the access to Digicel and BMobile networks communication has become easier in most parts of the provinces. However, in some parts of Telefomin District communication becomes difficult. These include Tekin area and Wabia in Frieda River. In such cases, Radio-wireless system is the only means to communicate, apart from correspondences.
- **Teacher retention** – most teachers posted to very remote schools don't often teach in the schools for the whole year. When faced with difficulties to reach basic services, they leave schools in the middle of the year and find schools closer to road access. This affects students' learning.
- **Flying Schools** – schools that do not have access to roads but only use air transport (especially MAF) are difficult to manage. Often infrastructures such as classrooms and teachers houses are of low quality. Teachers are reluctant to teach in remote schools.

8. Recommendations

- (i) **Grant in Aid** – Baptist Education Agency needs to be recognised as a stand-alone education agency by the Department of Education and the National Government. While this recognition is pending the Grant in Aid is channelled through the Evangelical Alliance and the grants, if any, rarely reach Baptist Education Services office. None the less, this will be rectified through the National Churches Education Council.

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- (ii) **MOU in Enga**– The review MOU between Enga Provincial government and BUPNG needs to be signed immediately. This will give power to the Enga Baptist Union to actively participate in all decision making in partnership with the provincial government for improved delivery of education services in the province.
- (iii) **MOU in Sandaun Province** – Baptist Education needs funding in order to re-establish the education office in Telefomin District. This will help on the follow up and further consultations which will lead to signing of the pending MOU.
- (iv) **Decentralisation of Functions** – Capacity building is needed in order to decentralise education functions at the local unions and the districts. The Baptist education agency offices in the provinces need to be re-established.
- (v) **School Chaplains** – There remains a huge gap and need for school chaplains in high, secondary and primary schools. Hence, the local unions, churches, associations and Bible Colleges in partnership with BUPNG identify young educated youth and train them as pastors and chaplains.
- (vi) **Database**
Baptist Education National Office need to establish data base for all schools. This will assist in important decision making. The challenges lie in funding and logistical support to collect data and establish the system.

9. Summary

Baptist Education Services PNG partners well with the provincial government, especially in Western Highland Province. The Agency provides sound management and governance framework for quality education. However, the challenges remain especially because most of the Baptist Agency run schools are located in very remote locations, especially in Sandaun, Enga and Western Highland Provinces. Hence, partnership at the District, provincial and national government needs to be improved and strengthened.

Baptist Education Services PNG acknowledges all partners and stakeholders in education. Education is everyone's business and by collaboratively working together we achieve quality education.

James Suki
Manager
Baptist Education Services PNG

Some Photos of Baptist Education Services work in PNG since 2003

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Yangis Primary School – Kompiam (Enga Province)



Dalapana Primary School – Baiyer (WHP)



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New classroom at Lapolama Primary School – Kompam, Enga Province 2016



Lapolama Primary School – Kompam (Enga Province) -2016



Kumbareta Primary School –WHP



Tomianap Primary School – Telefomin District (Sandaun Province)

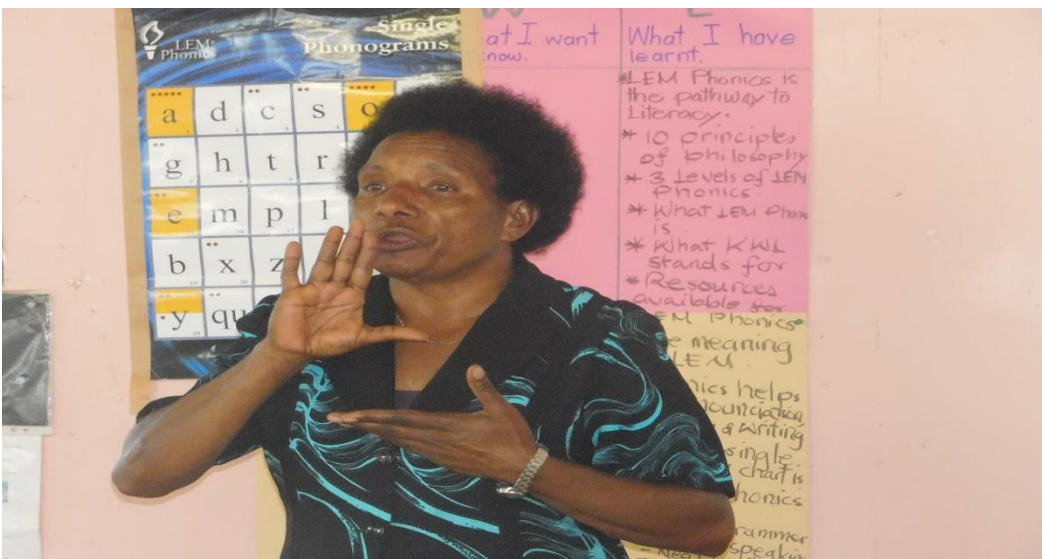


Dalapana Primary School (Baiyer, WHP)

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Educators Conference for Baptist Teachers



LEM Phonics Training for teachers

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Adult Literacy Training



Kompiam International School



Delivery of Lucas Mill to build classroom & staff houses in Enga Baptist Union (Lapolama Primary School)

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New Lumusa Baptist High School under construction – 2019 -2020

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First staff house & the second double classroom



New Ukinin Maiwa Baptist High School under construction 2019-2020