

Lessons Learnt:

This PA will build on experience and lessons learnt from EU's longstanding engagement in PFM, human rights and the ongoing EU-PNG Partnership for Good Governance.

Pillar 1: PFM: Extensive EU and other partners' support to PFM show that the success of support measures require an in-depth PFM analysis followed by appropriate sequencing of PFM reforms, high level commitment by mandated and targeted authorities and institutions, and a continuous engagement between development partners and authorities. While PNG's earlier PFM reform successes focused on actions under the control of the Department of Finance, development partners highlight the need to ensure that the new reform roadmap becomes a whole of Government commitment and includes actors such as the AGO. The continuous implementation of the PFM improvement roadmap will require stronger internal donors coordination as well as with relevant Government stakeholders. Specifically related to actions targeting Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), the report "High Quality Performance Auditing in the Pacific 2016" from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) highlights as best practices in the Pacific Island Countries: building capacity of performance audit, establishing hotlines facilities for reporting fraud, abuse or waste, include peer review processes, ensure effective use of technical advisors and follow up of public audits. Actions at subnational level need to be based on an adequate prior PFM diagnostic, followed by the preparation of a roadmap to address key weaknesses in the short, medium and long term. Subnational PFM capacities, including in Bougainville, have been assessed as weak and lacking critical digital tools and enabling infrastructure.

Pillar 2: Integrity, Accountability and Transparency systems and practices: Prior experience, research and consultations have identified the following key enablers to successfully strengthen governance in the public sphere: (i) coherent legislation, conducive institutional framework, (ii) simultaneously empowering relevant authorities and persons, including influencers, to ensure that rights holders are conscious of their rights and have the ability to demand transparency and accountability, including through the enhanced use of digital tools.¹ The ongoing EU-funded PAIS project, implemented by Transparency International PNG, unveiled the limited capacity of investigative journalists and the media in PNG, thus underlying the need for further support and trainings. The partnership agreements on transparency and anti-corruption between PNG institutions and TI, concluded in the course of the implementation of the project, offer good practices that could be replicated in Bougainville. Performance criteria and indicators as well as M&E need to be integrated more effectively in anti-corruption strategies.

¹ In the course of implementing the EU-PNG Partnership for Good Governance, the EU has gained the reputation as a reliable partner, supporting the Government in key regulatory reforms. The first stages of implementation of the Partnership, in line with the evaluation of anti-corruption strategies across Asia-Pacific, emphasized the importance of strengthening monitoring and reporting in the PNG law and justice sector, as well as the need to increase capacity and coordination within the public sector to ensure the implementation of the reforms.