



## Millennium Village to be tried in PNG—Professor Sachs



The Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare and more than 500 people attended the public lecture by Professor Jeffery Sachs on Thursday 17 July 2008 at the University of Papua New Guinea Main Lecture Theatre.

Professor Sachs's lecture was based on the Millennium Village concept proposed to be tried in two PNG provinces. The Professor urged the Government and Papua New Guineans to work towards ensuring that every community has agriculture upgrading, accessible healthcare, clinical health services, safe drinking water, universal secondary education, electricity, connectivity and transport. 'These are prerequisites of development-everything else will fall in place once these are established', he said.



In addition Professor Sachs said PNG has the highest maternal mortality rate and very poor infrastructure where 87 percent of the population who live in rural areas in the country's 89 districts are not connected by roads.

Given the current trends PNG is unlikely to meet the MDG targets. The concept of Millennium Village in PNG is therefore proposed to demonstrate how villages working in partnership with government and non government organizations can meet the MDG's at the local level on an affordable cost.

## UP COMING EVENTS

### 24 July 2008-EC/UNIFEM Project- National Consultation on Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness

The purpose of the national consultation is to present the findings of a joint study between UNIFEM and EC. This is part of a global project to ensure that gender equality and women's human rights are fully incorporated into national development processes.

The consultation will be between representatives from PNG's major aid donors, the government and key stakeholders from the national and provincial women's organizations.



## COMMON ADVOCACY CORNER

*Each week a colleague from the UN family will talk to you on how the UN Country Team is contributing to Nation Building — Tim Rwabuhemba—UNAIDS Country Coordinator*

### UNGASS Report Launched

The UNGASS country report assesses our progress, as a country, in meeting a series of targets in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV AIDS with two main purposes—public information and social mobilization.

The launching of the report also gives us the opportunity to revisit the issues highlighted in the Country report and the Secretary General's report presented at the General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in June 2008, New York where the PNG Government was represented.

An estimated **33.2 million people** have been infected worldwide, an estimated **2.1 million people** have died in 2007 and an estimated **2.5 million people** were newly infected with HIV in 2007. Here at home, in Papua New Guinea, by end of 2007, an estimated **59, 537 have been infected** (1,057 of that number are children), **5,995** have died and an estimated **14, 638 people** were newly infected.

AIDS continues to challenge us, if PNG is to meet universal access targets by 2010 and the MDG number 6 – "halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV AIDS by 2015" it needs to:

1. Invest in prevention, by implementing HIV prevention programmes that will be effective in reducing new HIV infections;
2. Address gender inequities and all forms of violence against women and girls in our communities as these factors fuel the spread of the epidemic;
3. Address HIV related stigma and discrimination in all its ugly forms;
4. Invest in health services in order to quicken the pace of treatment and strengthen measures to address HIV/TB co-infection and
5. Call for renewed leadership at all levels to step up the work to scale up towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010 as pledged by Government.

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