

PROJECT NO: N/A

TAX | NON-TAX

Papua New Guinea



Bibles and Maternal Health Care

Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with MegaVoice in supplying audio Scriptures and health messages for maternal and newborn baby care, through the work of Living Child Inc. in Papua New Guinea, in the most remote areas of East Sepik Province.

The Need

The villages in the Keram River system are some of the most remote in PNG. The local people — the 'River People' — are strong and resourceful, surviving on local produce. Churches are strong in this area. Yet these areas are not reached by government services; there are no telecommunications or government health services, and most people are non-literate. For years there have been cries for help and stories of suffering from people in these remote villages, especially in relation to youth and children.



40,000

population in the Keram area across 50 villages, with 150 households in each village.

3-5

hour drive is needed to get villages to Wewak, the provincial capital (preceded by a boat trip from their villages)

Goals

Bible Society will be supporting MegaVoice, a leading provider of solar-powered audio Bibles, who are partnering with the charity, Living Child, which, in turn, works with the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC).

This Bible distribution project works with local Sepik-based women to develop culturally appropriate health information, including radio stories with key health messages to improve outcomes for mothers and babies, distributed through the local Christian Radio Station. They provide

essential equipment for mothers and birthing to support frontline maternity health workers, as well as a boat and motor for transport. The project is also translating and recording voice-overs in Tok Pisin for maternal and newborn health training videos to be played on the MegaVoice device, along with colourful training flipcharts which are created with each lesson. The MegaVoice audio players are also loaded with the Tok Pisin Bible and then distributed in the villages.

The project is currently reaching five

villages and 1,000 homes.

In 2023, the goal is that every household in participating villages will have access to the audio Bible in Tok Pisin and the health training material. Specifically, the goal is to distribute 1,000 MegaVoice audio Bibles and 50 Megavoice Envision video players.

Another goal is to include two to three more villages in the project.

Impact

Overall, the project aims to impact 351,463 people. BSN aim to reach 80,000 in 2023, inclusive of hospital patients, their families and medical staff at the hospital. This project helps children with cancer to understand God's love through his word and receive comfort and hope. Together with their This project has the potential to educate the mind, the body and the soul, as it includes both health training messages and the audio Bible on the MegaVoice players.

Since the introduction of the program groups in villages, church leaders say their churches are growing. They report that women are going to church as a result of listening to the audio Bibles, and many of their husbands are following them. There is the potential for a huge revival and church growth. Even children want to listen to the Tok Pisin audio Bibles. praying, reading and learning the word of God. At the end of each year, BSN consults hospital staff and parents to gauge the effectiveness of the project.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the team working within the project.
- Pray that the villages would receive Christ.
- Pray for safe travel in this very remote area.
- Pray for the expansion of this project into more villages.

