

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is undertaking its first Voluntary National Review of progress towards achieving the SDGs in 2020. With a focus this year on development accelerators and transformative action, it is a key moment to consider activities and tools which can unlock progress, for all, across the board.

Access to information – understood as the physical possibility and right for all to seek and find information, and the skills to use it – can make just such a contribution. This access can help at all levels. It supports individuals to take better decisions about how to farm, where to look for work or how to look after their own and their families' health. It gives governments the possibility to define better policies. It allows researchers to understand the world around us, establish new insights and innovate. Libraries are a key part of the infrastructure for ensuring that this is the case.

But where does Papua New Guinea stand today as concerns its libraries and access to information? This data sheet provides background based on data from the Development and Access to Information report produced by IFLA in partnership with the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington, as well as IFLA's own Library Map of the World.

KEY CONCLUSIONS

- *Relatively limited data from Papua New Guinea features in the Library Map of the World, with one national and one academic library counted. This places the country some way below regional and global averages for numbers of academic libraries and library workers per capita. A stronger system could support progress towards education, research, and access to information goals.*
- *Looking across the indicators in the DA2I framework, Papua New Guinea scores around regional averages, and above global averages on rights, and at the regional average, but below the global, on gender equality. Connectivity is low, however, and there is significant progress to be made on skills as well. An effective library network could offer affordable ways of getting more people online, as well as offering locations for working towards other goals, such as literacy and inclusion.*

LIBRARIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Only two libraries are currently registered in Papua New Guinea in IFLA's Library Map of the World – one national, and one academic. While there is a possibility of under-counting, this means that the country has only 0.01 academic library for every 100 000 citizens, compared to a global average of 1.3, and an average for Oceania of 0.6.

With 15 staff, this makes for 0.15 academic library workers for every 100 000 people. The global figure for this is 10.6, and the figure for Oceania, 10.2. This also implies that there are over 430 students for every academic library worker, compared to a global average of 220.

As underlined, there is a risk of undercounting. However, it does imply a value in supporting the development of the academic library field. Especially at lower numbers of academic librarians, there is a strong correlation between more library workers and better performances on indicators of innovation. Librarians also play a key role in helping students carry out research and develop skills.

DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

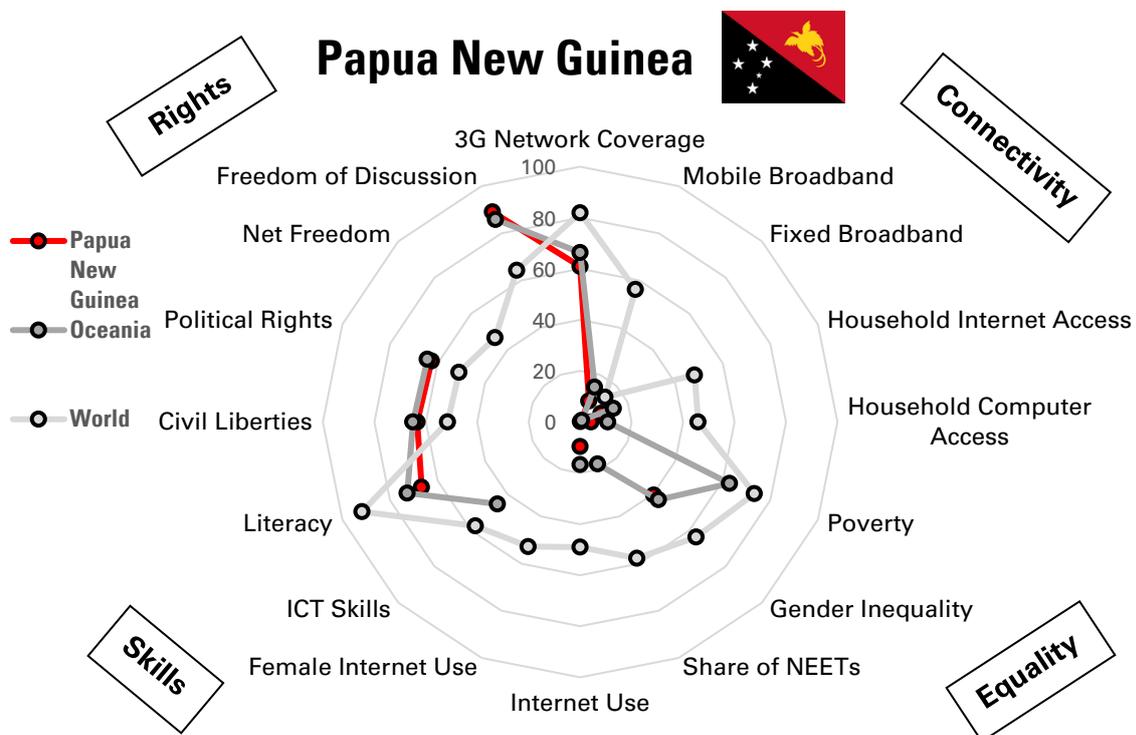
The Development and Access to Information report draws on a range of indicators highlighting where countries stand on four key pillars of access to information: connectivity, equality, skills and rights. For meaningful access to information to be a reality for all, performance needs to be strong across all of these categories.

On **connectivity**, Papua New Guinea faces some significant challenges. While 3G network coverage only falls a little below the regional average, the number of mobile broadband subscriptions is very low, at less than 9 per 100 people, significantly less than the figures for the world as a whole or Oceania. Household internet and computer access figures are also similarly low. It is therefore not surprising that, on 2016 figures, fewer than 10% of people in Papua New Guinea are internet users.

Concerning **equality**, there is very limited data availability. Papua New Guinea performs around the average for Oceania on gender equality, although this is still somewhat worse than the global average. Figures on poverty and the share of young adults not in employment, education or training are not available.

On **skills**, the only indicator for which data is available is literacy, where Papua New Guinea performs marginally beneath the regional average, 66.68%, compared to 72% for Oceania as a whole. There is a more positive picture on **rights**, where the country performs higher than the region and global on freedom of expression, and around the (positive) regional averages on civil liberties and political rights.

Looking across the available data, it appears that a key challenge for Papua New Guinea will be to give more people the possibility to get online and take advantage of the possibilities that the internet can bring. Libraries and other public access solutions can offer a useful stepping stone towards this, as well as providing spaces and even staff to help build confidence and skills. This can also lead to new employment and education possibilities, in particular for groups at risk of marginalisation.



How to read the graph: this graph displays a range of indicators used within the DA2I framework, adjusted to fit on a scale of 0-100, where 100 is the most positive outcome in terms of access to information.

TABLE OF DATA

See below for explanations. * = or latest available year. To note, averages are calculated on the basis of available data.

PILLAR	INDICATOR	PAPUA GUINEA	NEW	Year	OCEANIA	Year	WORLD	Year
CONNECTIVITY	3G Network Coverage	60.90%		2016	66.38%	2016	81.92%	2016
	Mobile Broadband (Subscriptions per 100 People)	8.89		2016	14.80	2016	56.22	2016
	Fixed Broadband (Subscriptions per 100 People)	0.21		2016	0.95	2016	13.71	2016
	Household Internet Access	8.85%		2016	14.00%	2016	48.16%	2016
	Household Computer Access	4.27%		2016	10.77%	2016	45.88%	2016
EQUALITY	Poverty (Share of pop'n below national poverty line)				37.14%	2015*	26.69%	2015*
	Gender Inequality (0 = More equal, 1 = Less equal)	0.60		2015	0.57	2015	0.36*	2015*
	Share of NEETs				41.11%	2015*	21.12%	2015*
	Internet Use	9.60%		2016	16.67%	2016*	49%	2016*
	Female Internet Use					2016*	52.79%	2016*
SKILLS	ICT Skills				4.54	2017	5.76	2017
	Literacy	66.68%		2015	72.73%	2015	91.75	2015
RIGHTS	Civil Liberties (0 = least free, 60 = most free)	38.00		2018	38.99	2018	30.9	2018
	Political Rights (0 = least free, 40 = most free)	25.00		2018	25.70	2018	20.37	2018
	Net Freedom (0 = most free, 100 = least free)					2016	53.29	2016
	Freedom of Discussion	0.89		2016	0.86	2016	0.64	2016

EXPLANATION OF INDICATORS

3G Network Coverage: this provides a measure of whether one part of the basic infrastructure for connectivity exists, although in itself is not enough to guarantee access (users need a device and a relevant subscription to be able to get online). Source: ITU

Mobile Broadband (Mobile Broadband Subscriptions per 100 people): this provides an idea of how many people can use mobile internet, opening up many – if not all – of the possibilities that internet access brings. One person may have more than one subscription. Source: ITU

Fixed Broadband (Fixed Broadband Subscriptions per 100 people): this provides an idea of how widespread home or business internet access is. Fixed access is often associated with the possibility to connect computers to make more advanced uses of the internet. Source: ITU

Household Internet Access (Share of Households with Internet Access): access to the internet at home allows for access to information at any time without having to go outside, but may be controlled by some members of the family. Source: ITU

Household Computer Access (Share of Households with a Computer): this focuses on access to computers. This is crucial for people to be able to carry out more advanced activities on the internet that might be impossible on a phone, such as writing resumes or analysing data. Source: ITU

Poverty: this indicator measures the number of people living below the national poverty line, which varies from country to country. It is a measure of economic inequality in a country. The indicator is inversed in the chart (i.e. the share of people not under the poverty line). Source: World Bank

Gender Inequality: this is calculated using the Gender Inequality Index. This index uses a basket of indicators in different areas of social development including: reproductive health, proportion of women in parliament, relative shares of men and women with at least some secondary education, and labour market participation in order to provide a broad idea of the extent of gender inequality in a country. The indicator runs from 0 (most equal) to 1 (least equal) and is inversed and adapted in the chart above. Source: UNDP

Share of NEETS (People aged 15-24 Not in Education, Employment or Training): this measures the share of young people cut off from education or the job market. Being 'NEET' can bring long-term scarring effects, and so reducing numbers is a key priority. The indicator is inversed and adapted in the chart (i.e. the share of young people who are not NEET). Source: ILO.

Internet Use (Share of People Using the Internet): looking beyond household access data (which will be affected by the structure of households in general), this gives a figure for the number of people using the internet. Source: ITU

Female Internet Use: this measure, in conjunction with the share of the overall population using the internet, allows us to understand to what extent there is a gender digital divide. Source: ITU

ICT Skills: there are relatively few global metrics of ICT skills, with those that exist only focusing on certain regions. The Skills Sub-Index of the ICT Development Index created by the ITU aims to work in this direction using levels of secondary and tertiary education enrolment, plus mean years of schooling, as proxies. Source: ITU

Literacy: this measures literacy among 15-24 year olds – i.e. people who have finished formal education. While there are online resources available for people with low literacy, being able to read, type, and understand information remains a fundamental skill. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Civil Liberties: this provides an indication of the degree to which citizens of a country enjoy fundamental civic rights, including freedom of expression and association, as well as the strength of the rule of law, based on expert judgements. Scores run from 0 (least free) to 60 (most free) and have been adapted to fit the graphic above. Source: Freedom House.

Political Rights: this provides a measure of the rights people have to participate in the political process, including fair and free elections, political pluralism, and the functioning of government in general. Scores run from 0 (least free) to 40 (most free) and have been adapted to fit the graphic above. Source: Freedom House.

Net Freedom: this metric assesses the level of restrictions on rights online by both public and private actors. It draws on assessments of obstacles to access (legal, economic and practical), limits on content, and violations of rights. Scores run from 100 (least free) to 0 (most free) and so are inverted in the graphic above. Source: Freedom House.

Freedom of Discussion: this indicator looks at whether people are able to hold private discussions without fear of repercussions either from the authorities or society in general due to cultural restrictions or norms. Scores run from 0 (least free) to 1 (most free), and so are adapted to fit into the graphic above. Source: V-Dem dataset codebook.