

# HIV/ AIDS

## Overview

The PNG LNG project recognizes the impact that HIV/AIDS has on communities around the world. We have conducted an extensive health impact assessment in PNG, and have identified sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, as a key issue of concern. Our community health plans seek to protect the communities we work in and our employees through risk mitigation education and support of community-based diagnosis, care and treatment of people with HIV/AIDS.

## Further information

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## Consultation and Planning

Ongoing engagement with a broad range of stakeholders has been a key aspect of our information gathering and planning processes. These include:

- Multilateral agencies including the Asian Development Bank and AusAID
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith based organizations (FBOs)
- PNG Governmental Institutions including the Institute for Medical Research (PNG IMR), National AIDS Council, International Review Group (IRG), provincial and national health departments
- Community member focus groups



## Workforce and Community

Based on extensive consultation with these groups, we have developed policies and standards to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the communities where we operate and our work force. These plans reflect key aspects of the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS:

- We have formed a Partnership for Health with the leading scientific research group in PNG, the Institute of Medical Research (IMR). As a statutory body of the Ministry of Health, IMR provides scientific guidance to the project and ensures that our efforts are effective and complimentary to the efforts of other stakeholders. Under this Partnership for Health other key national institutions, engage and work collaboratively with the project.
- We are working closely with other partners, including NGOs and FBOs to enhance and develop Voluntary Counseling and Treatment (VCT) capability at key locations to serve communities in the project impact area.
- A major focus of our efforts is to improve the diagnosis of all STIs, including HIV/AIDS. With our partners, we have developed a detailed plan to significantly improve the diagnostic laboratory capability at key clinics in the project impact area. This is extremely important so that community members receive an accurate and timely diagnosis in order to help care givers develop an appropriate treatment plan.
- Using existing clinics and community health organizations, we will support information, education, communication and behavioral change activities in key communities.
- For our own employees and contractors, we provide outreach and education about the risks of HIV/AIDS, as well as voluntary testing. While we are committed to assisting and caring for our workforce in these areas, HIV status is not a factor in determining an employee's ability to work.

