

# Community Development and Sustainability

Frieda River Limited is working with local people and Government in Papua New Guinea to deliver the Frieda River Copper-Gold Project in a way that enhances the strength and sustainability of our neighbouring communities.



An aerial of the Frieda River Project site

**The Frieda River Copper-Gold Project represents a nation building opportunity for Papua New Guinea (PNG) and a transformative development opportunity for the Sepik region.**

The Project will help build stronger and more viable communities by establishing critical public infrastructure, generating skilled employment, and creating business opportunities for local people.

The Company proposes to advance the Frieda River Project to meet the global demand for copper and other precious metals in a socially responsible way ensuring respectful and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, recognising and supporting traditional rights, values and cultural heritage.

Since 2014, Frieda River Limited has invested in community development programs aimed at improving the living standards of its neighbouring communities. These programs enhance community capacity by empowering people to determine and progress their own development priorities.

In Papua New Guinea, community development decision making occurs within village planning committees.

The outcome is a community participation agreement between the Company and the community outlining responsibilities and associated costs. These programs focus on improving health and education services and capacity with an emphasis on establishing and maintaining the infrastructure needed to support these vital services.

## WOMEN IN EXTRACTIVES

Frieda River Limited has partnered with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) since 2017 to deliver the Women in Extractives Project. This partnership ensures the economic and social rights of women are heard and addressed throughout the lifecycle of the mining project.

Women from each of the seven neighbouring communities are represented in the Community Leaders Forum. With women involved, the focus of Community Leaders Forum has shifted to addressing the social issues affecting women and children in the communities.

Frieda River Limited is committed to delivering this program in the future to continue to build the capacity of local women in the areas of literacy and numeracy that will lead to business development and improved participation in the project development process.

## HEALTHCARE

In 2016, Frieda River Limited through its partnership with Interplast Australia and New Zealand provided access to life-altering plastic and reconstructive surgery to those living in neighbouring communities.

Ongoing medical support is provided to neighbouring communities through the provision of Aid Posts and medical support staff at the Frieda River Copper-Gold Project site are ready to assist.

Frieda River Limited continues to work with the Telefomin District Health Services in providing quarterly maternal and child health checks for neighbouring communities.

Health awareness programs targeting tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other communicable diseases also feature in the health programs.

## EDUCATION

Education assistance is delivered in cooperation with Telefomin District Education and the Boards of various local schools.

Activities include primary school improvement programs, provision of materials for maintaining and upgrading learning infrastructure, logistics support for teachers and their families, and school fee assistance for students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The Frieda River Community Affairs team, in conjunction with the Telefomin Secondary School, also implement programs to retain attendance in primary schools, particularly for girls. In an effort to strengthen the confidence parents have in the school system, Frieda River Limited is directly investing in improving school infrastructure throughout the District and providing increased support to teachers.

## LOCALISATION

Frieda River Limited promotes direct local employment and training that reflects the needs and policies of the Government of Papua New Guinea. The Frieda River site workforce composition is 100 percent national workforce.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Frieda River Limited has maintained a strong working relationship with the Telefomin and Ambunti district Administrations. Local Government representatives from both districts attend the quarterly Frieda River Community Leaders' Forum where the future direction of the project is discussed.



Caption: Frieda River Limited's Community Affairs Superintendent, Tino Hombi delivering much needed COVID-19 medical supplies to Telefomin District Health Services.