



# Building capability in vision education services in Papua New Guinea

An effective partnership between education and development stakeholders in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand

# Objectives

- Let you know about a Model of Education for Children with Visual Impairment
- Share an example of international cooperation between service providers in PNG & NZ
- Share the impact of the model, successes, challenges & lessons.

# Overview of PNG



# Community-living, PNG





# PNG Terrain



# **Inclusive Education in PNG**

- Early adopters of Special Education Policy, 1994
- Inclusive Education division within the Department of Education
- Low resourcing \$ means partnerships with international and domestic NGOs are essential

# The Network of Callan Services

- Network of 19 Inclusive Education Resource Centres
- Community-based teams spread across the country
- Staffed by
  - Community Rehab Officers
  - Inclusive Education Teachers
- Callan Inclusive Education Institute









# Speaker 2: Cecilia Bagore



# Schools in PNG

- High student to teacher ratio
- Low tech educational materials
- Not accessible
- Teachers not confident





# Developing the Model

- Created a VI Reference Group
  - People from PNG, NZ & Australia
- Identified gaps in knowledge for VI education
- Came up with a capacity development plan
- Submitted the model of education for VI to decision makers for endorsement

# Identified Gaps

1. Early Intervention
2. Low vision assessment
3. Braille skills
4. Assistive technology
5. Supporting the curriculum



# Capacity Development Plan

- Training Callan staff
  - Internal training from Callan staff
  - External training from BLENNZ
    - 3 day workshop in PNG (2017)
    - 5 day Study Tour to NZ (2018)

# Training from **BLENNZ**

1. Functional Vision Assessments
2. Early Intervention
3. Pre-Braille & Braille skills



# Functional Vision Assessment



# Early Intervention Kits





# Low cost Braille skill techniques



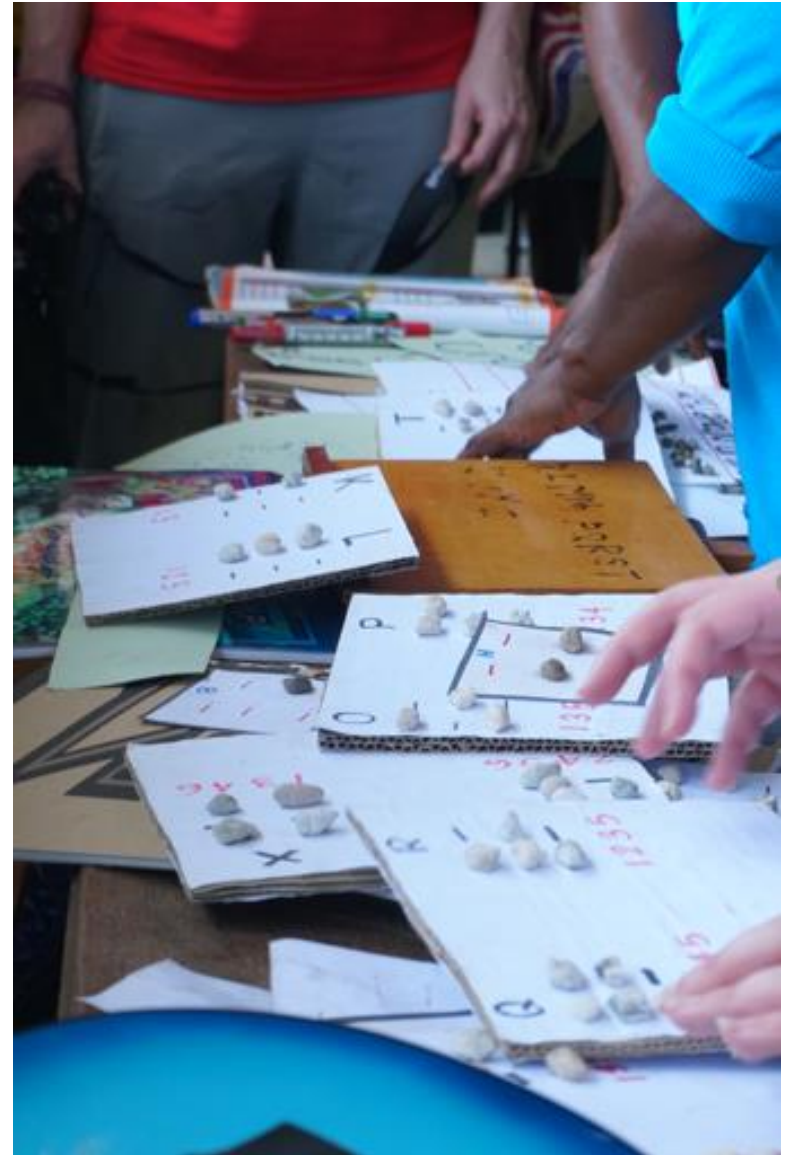
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# Local techniques

- Use items that can be found in PNG

Eg) using small stones to teach Braille dots





# Study Tour to BLENNZ

- Opportunity for a Study Tour to BLENNZ in New Zealand
- That took place in Nov 2018
- 10 delegates from PNG
- Intensive 20 sessions with many different staff



On final day of the Study Tour the delegates made a video tutorial with key learnings which could be used as a reminder and to take back to PNG.



# Where we are now

- Submitted the model in 2019
- Endorsed in 2020
- Included in the revised policy for inclusive education
- Being resourced by national and international stakeholders eg) CBM, UNICEF etc

# Key learnings

- Keep working groups small
- Meet face-to-face regularly
- Make sure it is led locally
- Work with the national department of education
- Study Tours can be effective and need a plan to replicate training ASAP afterwards



# Key learnings cont...

- Ensure all people understand the context before starting
- Regular support and f/up is essential



# For more information

Cecilia Bagore

**[ceciliabagore@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliabagore@gmail.com)**



Karen Jack

Pacific Regional Coordinator

**[kjack@cbmi.org.nz](mailto:kjack@cbmi.org.nz)**

