

# How Projects are Allocated in Papua New Guinea

Findings from an Institute of National Affairs and World Bank Study

Presentation at the Institute of National Affairs, Port Moresby  
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# The issue

*“The JDP&BPC planning is very poor ... because it is controlled by the MP.... The people in my LLG did not give him many votes. Because of this and long-standing ethnic differences ... DSIP and DSG funds are not equally distributed.”*

LLG President, Highlands

# What the study is about

- How do institutional changes over the past 16 years, in particular
  - Introduction of Districts and funds given to JDPBPCs
  - Limited Preferential Voting (PLV)

impact the allocation of projects at the ward level?

- More generally, what are the determinants of local projects?

# Outline of presentation

1. Design of the study
2. Some analytical results
3. Policy implications
4. Questions for discussion



## How we did the research

1. Household survey of over 1100 households across 49 wards
2. Interviews with key officials (District, Local-Level Government and Ward)
3. Ward-level focus groups

# Characteristics of Respondents

- Rural, with limited means and education (ie. generally representative of the people that service delivery reforms intend to benefit)
  - Gender - 67% of respondents were men
  - Education - 64% had primary education or less
  - Housing - 42% lived in house made from bush material
  - Assets - less than 20% had durable assets such as refrigerators, televisions, vehicles etc – though 64% had mobile phones.

Infrastructure stocks and assets had **no effect** on the likelihood of having received a project (though cash income does)

## Engagement with media and politics is strong...

	Listen to radio <sup>1</sup>	Read newspapers <sup>1</sup>	Know MP's name	Know MP's political party	Know LLG Ward Councilor	Vote in 2007 election
Male	58%	37%	97%	37%	97%	94%
Female	44%	28%	83%	19%	91%	92%
Overall	54%	34%	93%	31%	95%	94%

1. Daily or several times a week

...but significant variation between districts:

- Newspaper consumption ranged from 5% in Koroba-Kopiago to 60% in Kairuku-Hiri



# Local infrastructure provision

District	New project since 2007?	Project funded by MP?	Main actors responsible for projects		
			<i>Clan leaders</i>	<i>Ward Councilor</i>	<i>MPs</i>
Namatanai	32	26	14	48	7
Kairuku-Hiri	67	40	53	11	12
North Fly	40	15	28	17	13
Kokopo	49	34	6	66	28
Chuave	92	81	40	5	30
Usino Bundi	59	51	16	14	39
Goroka	25	45	27	23	10
Koroba-Lake Kopiago	69	78	95	2	2
Maprik	64	47	45	40	30
<b>Overall</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>

# Limited engagement in local processes

	Knowledge of LLG Meetings	Heard of JDPBPC	Is there a WDC?	If yes, have you attended a WDC meeting?
Male	54%	47%	44%	47% (20% of total)
Female	42%	20%	27%	37% (12% of total)
Overall	50%	39%	41%	43% (17% of total)

With significant variation between districts:

- 1% of people reported a ward development committee in Koroba-Kopiago; 76% reported a ward development committee in Namatanai

**HOWEVER** wards that have a ward development committee (or know more about the JDPBPC) are *no more likely* to have projects

## LPV and slight reduction in election violence

Violence in 2007 elections	Comparison between 2002 and 2007		
	<i>More in 2002</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>More in 2007</i>
13%	20%	63%	17%

With significant variation between districts:

- For 2007, no violence reported in North Fly; almost half of people reporting violence in Koroba-Kopiago and Usino Bundi

YET, wards with higher reported levels of electoral violence were *no less likely* to report local public works projects

## LPV and increase in cash for votes

District	Cash for votes in 2002	Cash for votes in 2007	Average amount (in kina) given to respondent (2007)
Namatani	3	3	25
Kairuku-Hiri	9	5	1360
North Fly	0	9	3260
Kokopo	6	0	-
Chuave	38	47	1290
Usino Bundi	2	0	-
Goroka	15	21	2040
Koroba-Lake Kopiago	11	38	960
Maprik	8	6	220
<b>Overall</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1300</b>

Wards with more vote buying were *less likely* to receive projects

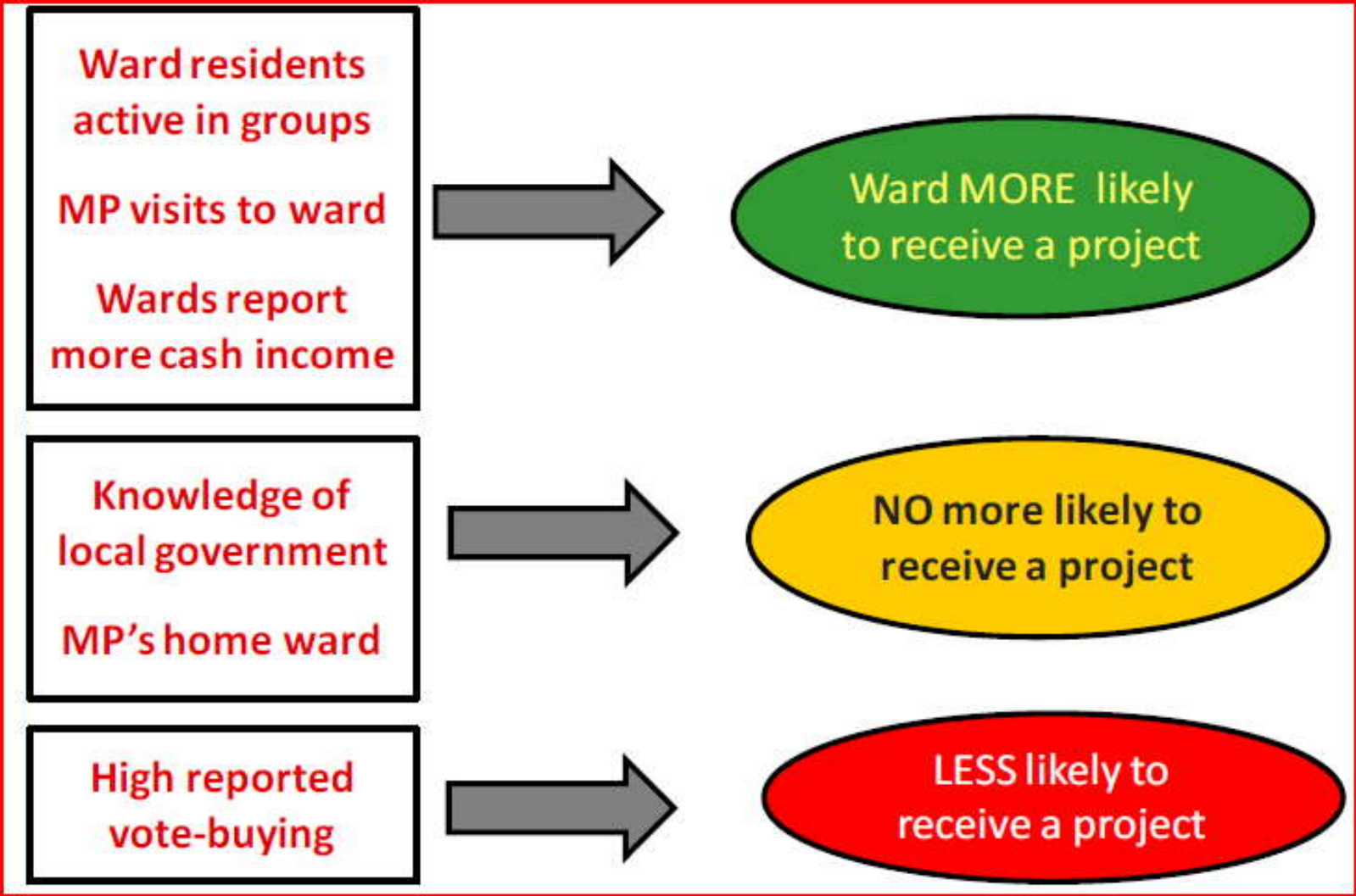
# Group participation strong – but varies widely

District	Active in a group <sup>1</sup>	Frequency of group meeting		
		<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Other</i>
Namatanai	92	62	15	23
Kairuku-Hiri	85	30	40	30
North Fly	57	64	13	23
Kokopo	60	20	47	33
Chuave	12	31	15	54
Usino Bundi	46	44	18	38
Goroka	59	41	44	15
Koroba -Lake Kopiago	57	68	14	18
Maprik	90	37	8	55
<b>Overall</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>

1. Producer cooperative, school board, hospital board, microfinance organization, church, youth group, women's group, or sporting club

Group activity has the **most influence** on whether wards receive projects.

To summarize: Which wards are most likely to report new projects?



# Policy Implications

1. Improve links between citizen groups and funding sources and improve the ability of groups to funds holders accountable, eg:
  - Better publicize budget allocations and expenditures
  - Introduce expenditure tracking and monitoring by citizens
2. In wards with fewer groups, pilot programs that provide funding directly to wards, such as block grants to ward development committees

# Thank you

And thanks to AusAID, the Governance Partnership Facility and the Japan Social Development Fund for support



# Discussion questions

- Are there aspects of the data that you would like further analysis undertaken on?
- Does the finding of “groups influencing MPs to deliver projects” ring true?
  - If so, what are the dynamics of this in practice?
- Are there good examples of citizens holding the government accountable for project delivery in PNG?
  - And what might some innovative approaches be (including, do technologies such as mobile phones provide new opportunities)?