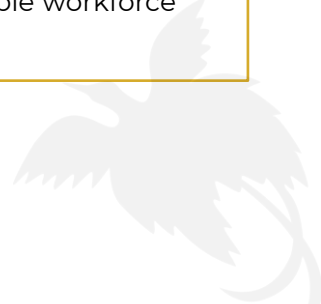
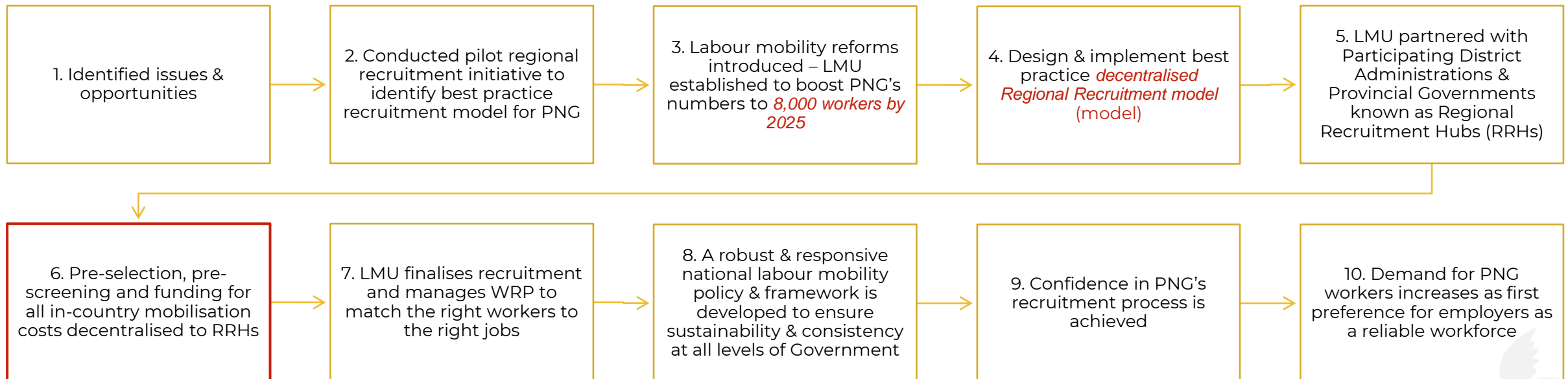


8,000 seasonal workers by 2025 from PNG

OUTLINE

- What is PNG doing to achieve its target?
- Issues & Opportunities
- Highlights of PNG's decentralised regional recruitment model
 - Rural community participation
 - Role of RRHs as agents and financiers to meet in-country mobilisation costs
 - Role of LMU as trusted intermediaries
 - Early wins pre & post COVID-19 travel restrictions
 - Need for a robust and responsive national labour mobility policy
- Considerations for PNG
- Significance & relevance of PNG's model

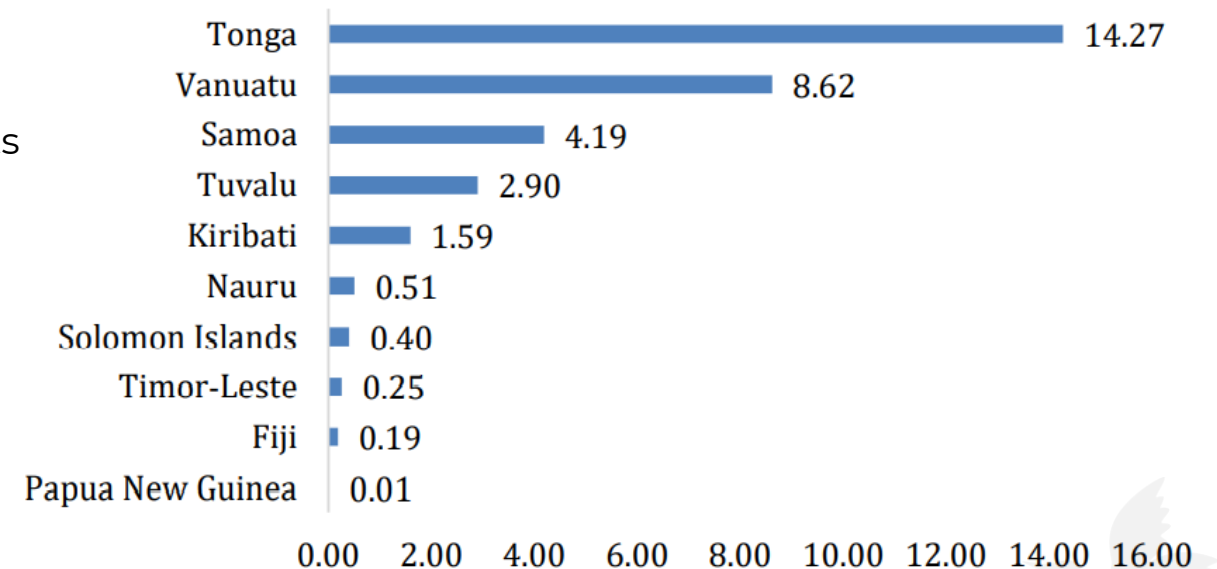
WHAT IS PNG DOING TO ACHIEVE ITS TARGET?



Issues: PNG's low numbers

- Despite PNG's large land mass in the Pacific with a population of almost nine million people of whom around 28% are unemployed and eligible for temporary work, it remains one of the lowest sending countries compared to its fellow PICs neighbours.
- Since 2011, PNG has struggled to effectively promote and target rural based workers for temporary overseas jobs due to a host of factors including lack of human and financial resources and poor governance when the seasonal worker functions were coordinated through the Department of Labour & Industrial Relations (DLIR).

Proportion of seasonal workers in the adult population aged 20-45 years by sending country, 2017-18, per cent



Opportunities: Economic benefits

“Even with the setback of COVID-19, we [PNG] are on track to achieve the Marape Government goal of having over 8,000 workers overseas by 2025.”

Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey, Minister for Treasury

Promoted as a key revenue driver under the Marape-led Government estimating PGK140 million worth of remittances from the workers to their families.



(Post Courier, 2021)

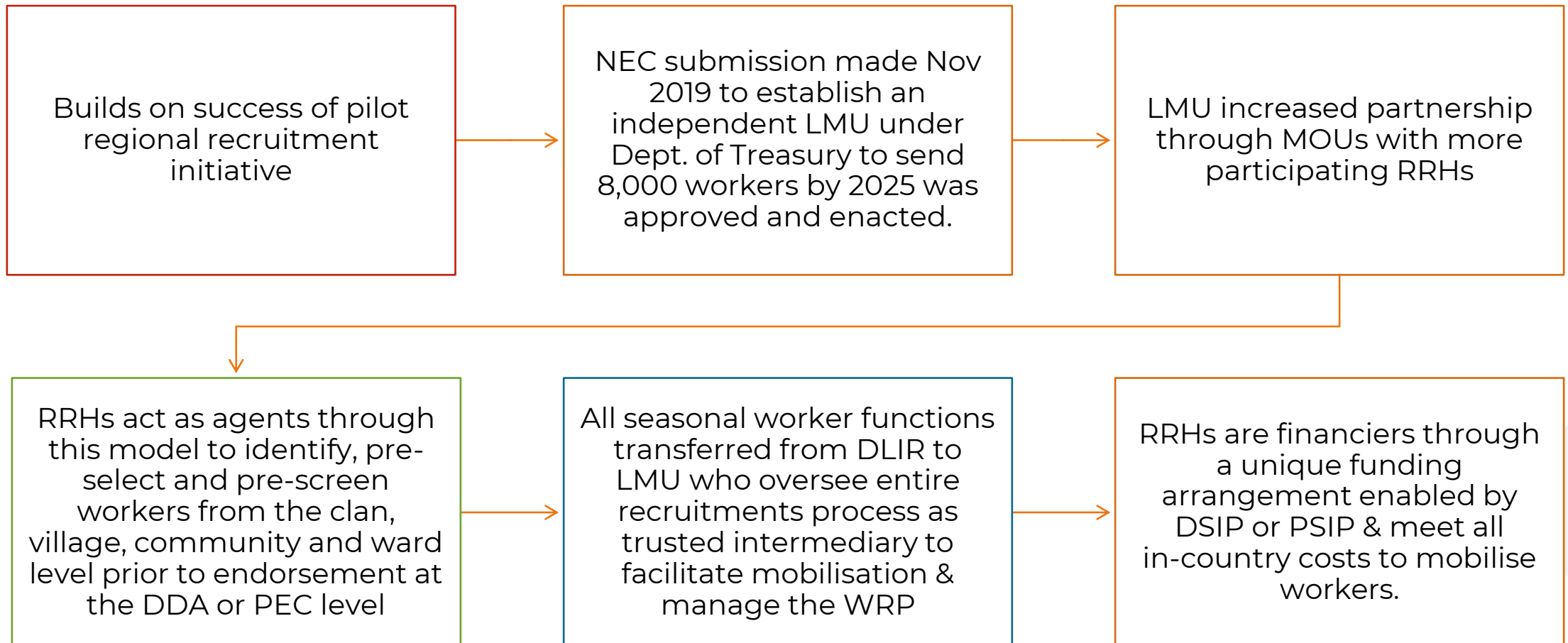
Opportunities: Pilot Regional Initiative

- Madang District was the first RRH to successfully mobilise 49 workers under PALM (SWP + PLS)
- Applied the Ward Development Structure through a bottom-up approach
 - practiced rural community participation to identify, select & screen candidates from the clan, village, community and ward level prior to final endorsement and funding from the Madang District Development Authority (MDDA)
- Outcome: Best workers were selected and financially supported & increased employer requests for Madang workers



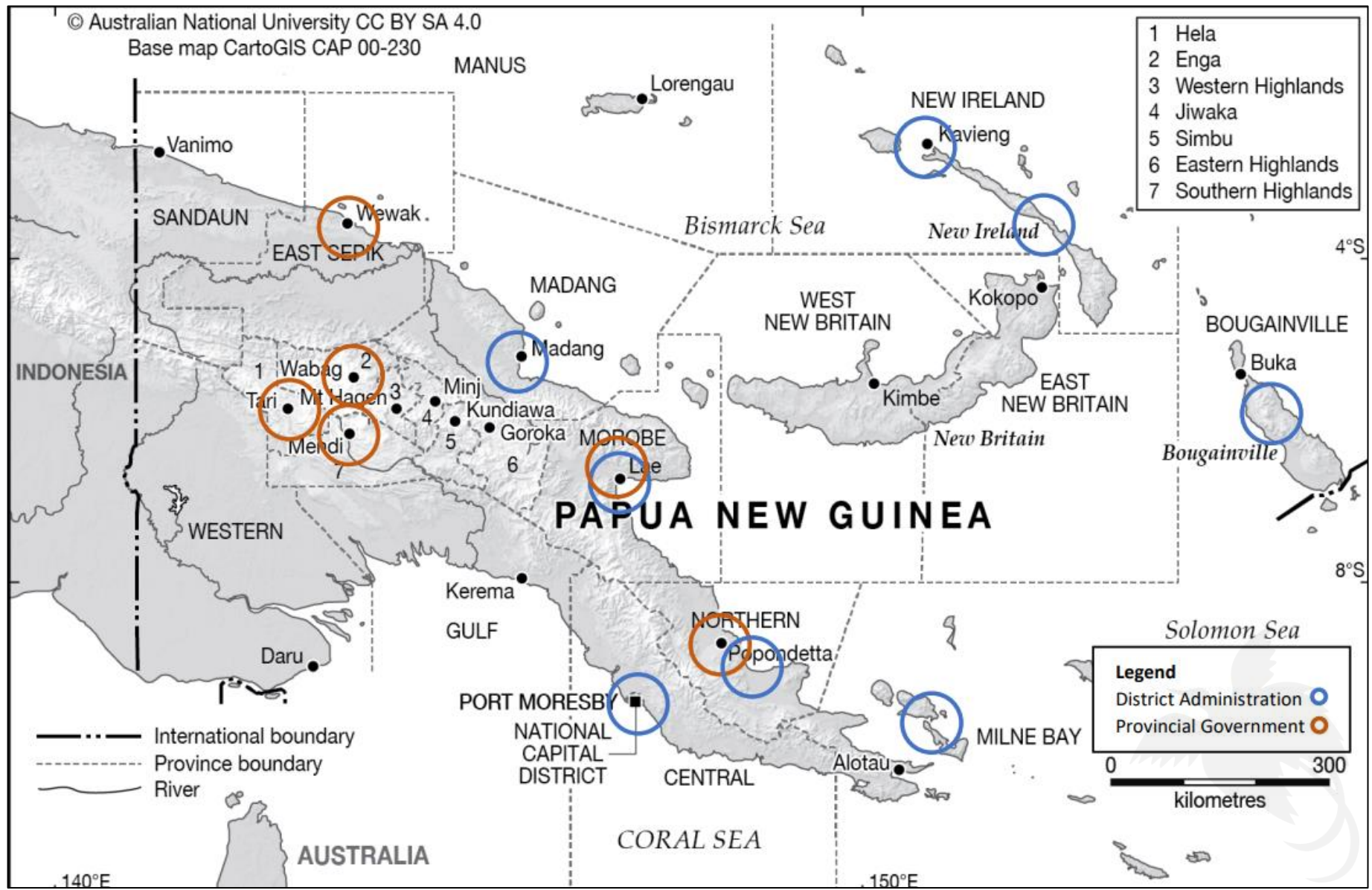
Caption: Honourable Member for Madang Open District, Honourable Bryan Kramer with the pioneer cohort of workers from his electorate bound for Australia under the pilot regional initiative.

Design & implement best practice model in PNG: Decentralised Regional Recruitment model

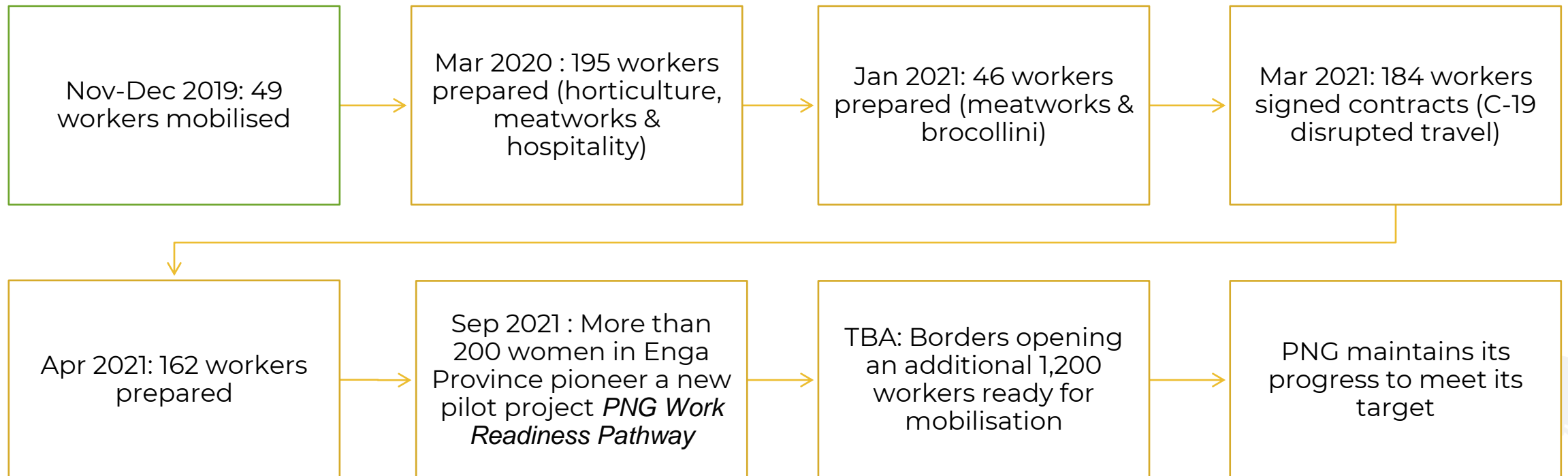


Who are the RRHs?

- 14 RRHs
- Anticipating more to join
- Result in increased number of workers

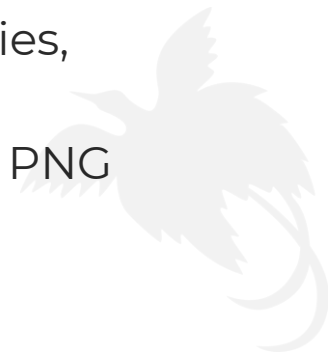


Early wins despite travel restrictions



CONSIDERATIONS FOR PNG

- Mitigate risks associated with disbursement of DSIP or PSIP funds to ensure sustainability
- Reduce in-country mobilisation costs incurred by RRH ranging from PGK3,000 – K7,000 (AUD \$1,400 - \$2,700) per worker
 - Explore advantages & disadvantages of mobile panel physicians
- Conduct targeted stakeholder consultations to inform the draft policy
- Develop standard systems and processes that capacity build the LMU and RRHs
 - National governance arrangements should be reflected at the sub-national level
- Develop standard database management tool to capture accurate worker information
 - Streamlined to the Department of Information Communication standards
- Increase demand for PNG workers in other strategic employment sectors such as fisheries, forestry, poultry, maritime, healthcare, tourism and hospitality
- Engage a PNG Country Liaison Officer to establish and enhance stronger links between PNG local communities and Australian employers/industries



Significance & relevance of PNG's model

Research gap: it will contribute to the scholarship of Pacific labour mobility specifically in decentralisation through the triple wins framework

Policy: PNG offers an alternative recruitment model that:

- At national level will contribute to achieving KRA 1 (Increased revenue & wealth creation) and KRA 3 (Sustainable Social Development) of the PNG MTDPIII
- At a regional level, will provide key lessons learned for other low mobility PICs



“We know our new approach to labour mobility will set the standard for the region...”
Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey, CMG. MP



THANK YOU

Caption: Hon. Bryan Kramer, Minister for Justice & Attorney General and Open Member for Madang District standing with some of the Madang workers who departed for Australia last year and are now working in the agriculture and meatworks industries in regional New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland.

