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Themes

The research for the Governance Program will focus on three research themes: (1) municipalities and economic development, which looks at the role of cities as engines of economic growth and development; (2) Districts and service delivery, which looks at the role of governance at the districts in terms of service delivery; and (3) Bougainville Referendum, to understand the mechanics of the referendum (to be held in 2019) and its implications.

Theme 1: Municipalities and economic development

There is an increasing acknowledgement that cities are effective engines of economic growth. Goods and services are often produced most efficiently in densely populated areas that provide access to a pool of labour, a network of complementary firms that act as suppliers, and a critical mass of customers. For this reason, sustained economic growth is always accompanied by urbanisation. This theme is concerned with PNG's emerging municipal structures. It seeks to draw lessons from the experience of the National Capital District, and from the region, in order to better understand the optimal arrangements for municipal authorities outside the capital. It is concerned with providing advice about how those authorities can create an environment conducive to economic development.

Theme Objectives

G1.1: Efficiently functioning municipal authorities are established.

Theme 2: Districts and service delivery

PNG's Districts are becoming a much more important level of government in terms of the delivery of services. District Development Authorities have been recently established. Questions remain about how these Authorities will be staffed and resourced, and the approaches they will take to delivering basic services in education, health, economic development promotion, law and justice. This theme is concerned with measuring progress in service delivery, and in better understanding approaches that can be taken to improving the development status of districts.

G2.1: Basic service delivery outcomes in selected Districts are independently assessed and benchmarked.

G2.2: District approaches to service delivery and economic development promotion, and the impediments to service delivery and economic development promotion, are better understood.



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Theme 3: Bougainville Referendum