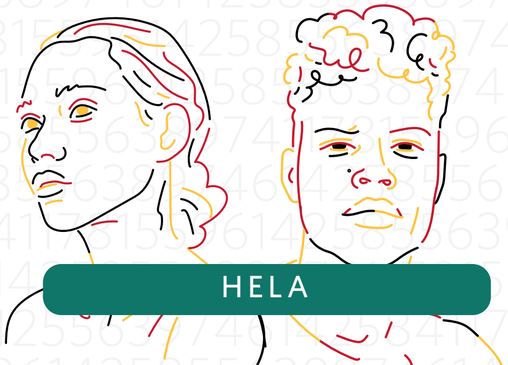
The Population Estimate 2021 is funded by the Australian Government with technical support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

POPULATION DATA PROJECT

NATIONAL POPULATION ESTIMATE 2021



NATIONAL POPULATION ESTIMATE 2021

TOTAL POPULATION

11,781,559

MALE	FEMALE
6,142,585	5,638,974

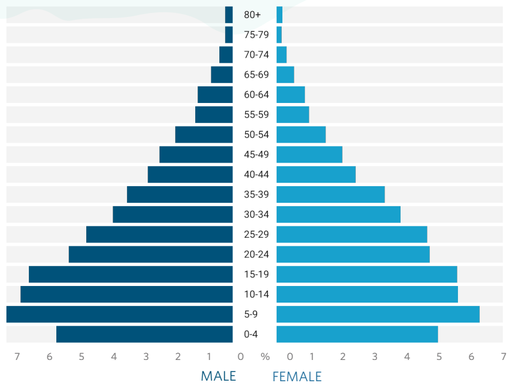
HIGHLANDS REGION	MOMASE REGION
4.57m	3.04m

SOUTHERN REGION	NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION
2.41m	1.76m

POPULATION KEY INDICATORS

Key Indicators	Estimates
Sex ratio ((no. of males/no. of females) X 100)	108.9
Percentage of working age population (15 – 64 years old)	61.6
Percentage of older population (65 years old and over)	2.7
Percentage of youth (15 to 24 years old)	21.6
Total dependency ratio (0-14 + 65 years old and over)/ 15-64 years old	62.4
Children dependency ratio (0-14/15-64 years old)	58.1
Old-age dependency ratio (65 years old and over/15-64 years old)	4.3
Median age, both sexes	21.2
Median age, Male	20.8
Median age, Female	21.7
Percentage of population aged 18 and over	57.2
Percentage of women who are of reproductive age (15 to 49 years old)	55.4

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



About the Estimate

The Population Estimate 2021 provides the total population count at the National, Provincial, District and LLG levels and also by age and sex. The estimate can support decision making and planning in combination with other datasets, it can be used to quantify the education needs of an area and inform us of the stresses on the existing services and infrastructure.

How is this estimate calculated?

The estimation uses a series of different datasets to calculate the population of a geographic or administrative area. It starts by looking at areas where there have been recent, reliable population data collection exercises. In Papua New Guinea, this includes the Urban Structural Listing and Household Survey for the Long Lasting Insecticidal Net Distribution by Rotarians Against Malaria.

The strength of relationship between the population data and the socio-economic, environmental and geographical characteristics, influences which methods are used in population estimation. Some of these characteristics, such as night-time lights, distance to health providers and other facilities, and slope are measured using aerial images that are collected from satellites. The relationship between population size and geographic characteristics can then be used to estimate the population of the areas for which we do not have recent observations.

This method has been applied in areas where the collection of data is not possible to undertake or to complete, in countries such as Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Zambia, through the technical support of the WorldPop. This is the first time this method has been used in the Pacific. It is a valuable tool for measuring our region's remote populations and Papua New Guinea is at the forefront of this state-of-the-art technological solution for population estimation.

How accurate is the estimate?

The Population Estimate has a 3% margin of error at the national level.

The generated estimate does not replace a National Population and Housing Census which remains the most reliable source of information not only on population counts but also the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of the population at the lowest level of geographic subdivision of the country.

From the National Statistician

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the lead agency responsible for the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of official statistics. Population data is the fundamental denominator of planning and decision making for governments of all levels, institutions, development partners and other entities which strive to contribute to the development goals of our country.

NSO in partnership with UNFPA has released the Population Estimates 2021 for PNG, that was generated through the use of satellite images and household surveys to respond to the demand for up-to-date data.

The Population Estimates 2021 for PNG provides information on the population disaggregated by age and sex. In addition to the national level, estimates were generated at the regional, provincial, district and LLG levels.

The generation of the Population Estimates using this technology is the first of its kind in the Pacific region enhancing capacity at NSO to acquire proficiency in this 21st century.

Progressing the generation of the Population Estimates 2021 would not have been successful without the financial support from the Australian Government and AusPNG Partnership. Furthermore, the continued support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in providing the technical leadership in engaging WorldPop, an applied research group at the University of Southampton (UK), and in placing the PNG NSO amongst other NSOs around the globe which are advancing into the use of modern technological methods to produce data and statistics important for nation building is appreciated.

Gratitude is also extended to the WorldPop for their expertise in carrying out the estimation of PNG's population and to the Rotarians Against Malaria for sharing their provincial population data which was used as one of the inputs in the generation of population estimates.

I am also indebted to the NSO Project Management Team for their tireless efforts in managing the technical and administrative aspects of this exercise for the successful generation of population estimates for PNG.

Mr. John Igitoi
National Statistician

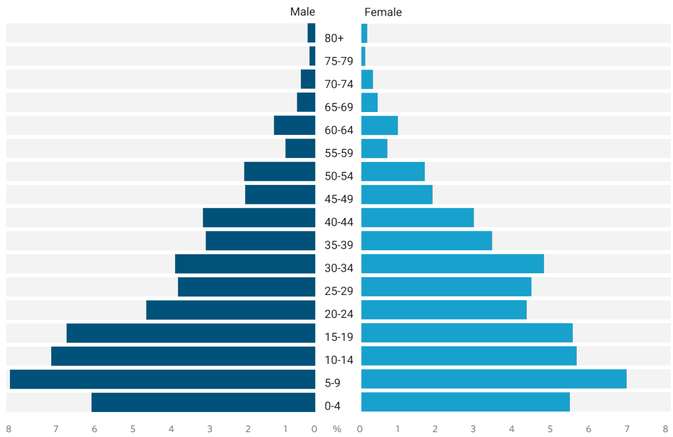
HELA RESULTS

TOTAL POPULATION

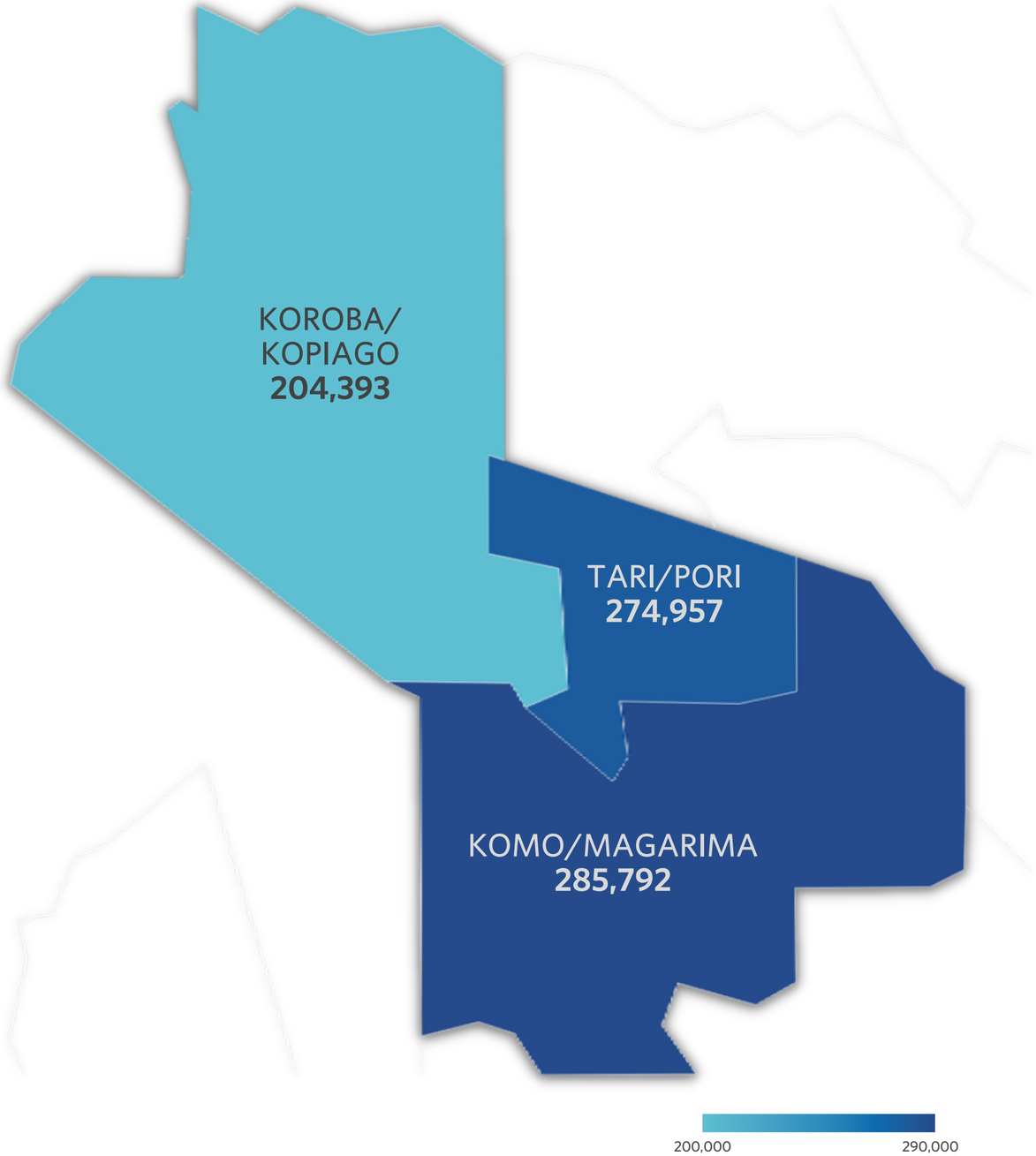
765,142

MALE	FEMALE
389,935	375,207

Hela Population by Age and Sex



Key Indicators	Estimates
Sex ratio ((no. of males/no. of females) X 100)	103.9
Percentage of working age population (15 – 64 years old)	59.5
Percentage of older population (65 years old and over)	2.1
Percentage of youth (15 to 24 years old)	20.5
Total dependency ratio (0-14 + 65 years old and over / 15-64 years old	68.0
Children dependency ratio (0-14/15-64 years old)	64.4
Old-age dependency ratio (65 years old and over/15-64 years old)	3.6
Median age, both sexes	19.9
Median age, Male	18.8
Median age, Female	21.5
Percentage of population age 18 and over	54.5
Percentage of women who are of reproductive age (15 to 49 years old)	55.0



Hela Population Estimate by District and LLG

District/LLG	Population
Komo/Magarima District	285,792
Hulia Rural	121,414
Komo Rural	76,381
Lower Wage Rural	43,365
Mt Sisa Rural	9,975
Upper Wage Rural	34,657
Koroba/Kopiago District	204,393
Awi Lagayu Rural	21,107
Lake Kopiago Rural	40,932
North Koroba Rural	40,224
Pori Rural	15,707
South Koroba Rural	86,423
Tari/Pori District	274,957
Hayapuga Rural	75,062
Tagali Rural	46,768
Tari Urban	94,823
Tebi Rural	58,304