2025 Annual Report

Universal Access & Service (UAS)

UAS.NICTA.GOV.PG

Universal Access & Service (UAS) Annual Report [2025]

Prepared by: National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) – Fund Manager

Submitted to: UAS Board and the Minister (per NICT Act 2009 s.119)

Ministerial Portfolio: Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Date of Submission: 15 June 2026

Document Control

Field	Description
Document Title	Universal Access and Service (UAS) Annual Report 2025
Reporting Period	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
Prepared by	National Information and Communications Technology
Prepared for	UAS Board and Minister for Information & Communications
Legal Basis	National Information and Communications Technology
Version	V1.4
Document Status	Revised Final
Date Prepared	Jan 31, 2026
Date Approved	Feb 12, 2026
Approved by	UAS Board
Submission Date	Jun 26, 2026
Contact	uas@nicta.gov.pg

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

07

PERFORMANCE REVIEW CONT...

08

FUND MANAGERS REPORT (NICT ACT 2009 - SECTION 119

09

FINANCIAL NOTES

09

FINANCIAL NOTES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

09

FINANCIAL NOTES

10

RISK MANAGEMENT, INTERNAL CONTROL & ASSURANCE

11

OUTLOOK AND WORK PROGRAMME

12

ANNEXURES

1. UAS Board Chairman's Foreword

On behalf of the Universal Access and Service Board, I am pleased to present the Universal Access and Service Fund Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

During the reporting period, the Fund continued its efforts to extend access to information and communications technology services to underserved and remote communities throughout Papua New Guinea. The year was characterised by measured progress towards the objective of broader rural connectivity, enhanced institutional access for schools, and the strengthening of governance, financial management, and reporting systems.

The UAS Board acknowledges the efforts of NICTA, in its capacity as Fund Manager, in ensuring that the operations of the Fund remained compliant with the requirements of the NICT Act 2009 and that the Fund's resources were administered with prudence, transparency, and accountability.

The Board recognises that, in recent years, the Secretariat has not discharged its mandate with the consistency expected of the institution. Notwithstanding this, the Board is satisfied that concrete measures are now being undertaken to address these shortcomings. This reform pathway commenced at the end of 2025 with the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer and new Board members and will continue throughout 2026 with renewed emphasis on strengthening governance, improving execution, and restoring the Secretariat to full alignment with its statutory mandate.

UAS Board Chairman's Foreword (Contd.)

In this regard, the Board has directed particular attention to the review and strengthening of the legislative and regulatory framework, as well as to the foundational institutional and operational arrangements under which the Secretariat functions, so as to ensure that the organisation is appropriately structured and equipped to deliver on its mandate. The Government and all stakeholders may therefore be assured that, under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer and the Board, the Secretariat is committed to rectifying these deficiencies and restoring confidence in its performance and stewardship.

As the Board looks ahead, it remains firmly committed to ensuring that the Secretariat is strengthened institutionally, governed effectively, and positioned to deliver tangible outcomes for the people of Papua New Guinea. The year 2026 will be a critical period of consolidation and reform, and the Board will continue to exercise its oversight responsibilities with diligence to ensure that the necessary foundations are put in place for sustainable performance, improved service delivery, and the faithful execution of the Secretariat's mandate in the national interest.

Brian RICHES (OL)
UAS & NICTA Board Chairman

Signed: ____________

Date: 22/07/26

2. CEO's Statement

I am pleased to present the Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF) Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The past year marked a period of steady progress for the Universal Access and Service program as we continued the work of expanding access to reliable and affordable ICT services for communities that remain beyond the reach of purely commercial investment. Through targeted interventions supported by the Universal Access and Service Fund, connectivity was extended to additional rural districts, particularly six (6) schools – three (3) in Central Province and three (3) in Chimbu Province.

Despite the positive progress with the launch of six (6) projects, overall, a number of approved projects remain to be completed. The Fund maintained a sound financial position, supported by small but stable levy collections and prudent cash management.

The Universal Access and Service Board continued to provide strong strategic oversight throughout the year. The Board played a central role in setting priorities, approving investments, and ensuring that Fund operations remained aligned with national ICT policy objectives and the requirements of the NICT Act 2009. I acknowledge the Board's guidance, diligence, and commitment to high standards of governance, transparency, and accountability.

As with any nationwide infrastructure programme operating in challenging environments, the year was not without risk. Key risks included potential volatility in levy revenues, logistical and weather-related delays in remote project locations, and the need to maintain robust controls over procurement and disbursements. These risks were actively managed through conservative financial planning, milestone-based disbursement mechanisms, , and close engagement with delivery partners. While residual risks remain, the control environment in place provides reasonable assurance that they are being effectively mitigated.

CEO's STATEMENT (Contd.)

Looking ahead, the coming year will be one of consolidation and targeted expansion. Our priorities for the next reporting period include extending connectivity to additional underserved districts, scaling institutional broadband for education and health facilities, and enhancing the resilience and sustainability of UAS-supported infrastructure. We will also continue to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, improve levy compliance and forecasting, and embed environmental, social, gender, and inclusion considerations more deeply across all stages of project design and implementation.

In closing, I would like to thank the Minister, the Universal Access and Service and NICTA Boards, industry stakeholders, development partners, and NICTA staff for their continued support and dedication. Together, we remain committed to advancing universal access to ICT services as a foundation for inclusive economic and social development in Papua New Guinea.

Polume Lume
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Signed: ____________________

Date: 22/07/26

3. Statement of Responsibility

We hereby confirm the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this report, prepared in accordance with applicable public finance obligations under the NICT Act 2009.

This statement is made pursuant to the NICT Act 2009

Signed: ______________________________

Mr. Brian Riches
Chairman, UAS & NICTA Board

Date: 22/07/26

Signed: ______________________________

Mr. Polume Lume
Chief Executive Officer, NICTA

Date: 22/07/26

4. Executive Summary

The 2025 reporting period marked the transition of the Universal Access and Service (UAS) Programme from project-level implementation to a coordinated national rollout under the UAS Strategic Plan 2023–2027. This report presents the performance of the UAS Programme for the year ended 31 December 2025, in accordance with the National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009.

During the reporting period, the Programme continued to expand access to ICT services across underserved and remote communities, contributing to national priorities relating to digital inclusion, service delivery, and economic participation.

Implementation in 2025 focused on advancing the UAS Strategic Plan 2023–2027, anchored on three core initiatives: Broadband, Broadcasting, and Meaningful Connectivity. A key development was the operationalisation of the “50 for 50” initiative, which consolidates priority projects into a coordinated national rollout programme.

Overall, implementation reflected an active rollout phase, with projects progressing through planning, procurement, execution, and commissioning stages consistent with early-stage nationwide deployment.

Key Highlights for the year include:

- Seven (7) additional sites in advanced stages of execution
- Continued progression of broadband and broadcasting projects
- Execution of the Radio Broadcasting Project contract valued at PGK 2 million
- Advancement of the 2025 and 2026 project pipeline

Indicator	2025 Result
UAS Levy Revenue Collected	PGK 1,438,276.44
Total Project Disbursements	PGK 2,810,360.03
Projects sites Completed	6
Projects sites under Execution	32
Closing Cash & Investments	PGK 49,199,740.42
Statutory Compliance (NICT Act s.119)	Non Compliant – submitted over 60 days

Executive Summary (Contd.)

During the year, six (6) projects were completed, primarily under the Connect the Schools Programme, delivering fixed broadband, solar power, and ICT equipment to rural education institutions. A further thirty-two (32) projects remained under execution, reflecting the scale and geographic complexity of the UAS portfolio.

The Board also notes that ongoing legal challenges to the Fund's levy regime by industry stakeholders continue to introduce an additional level of uncertainty and complexity into the Fund's revenue base and operating environment.

The 2025 levy was set at 1.82% with the intention of raising K38 million for projects identified for implementation in 2025. However, the levy was not issued on time as per the expectations set out in the NICTA Act. The appointment of the Chairman, and independent expert for UAS was delayed by six months this had an adverse effect on the 2025 project approval cycle. In addition, change in executive management within NICTA also delayed the approval of projects consequently results in a delay in the issuance of the Levy, which was issued in August 2025.

By December 31, 2025, levy collections totalled PGK 1.43 million well short of the targeted amount. The K1.43 million was collected from mainly industry players with a smaller market share, the major players in particular Mobile Operators, did not pay the levy and collection efforts on the 2025 levy will continue in 2026 given the late issuance of the levy.

The Fund closed the year with PGK 49.2 million in cash at bank, a culmination of both lower collections and slow implementation of projects in 2025.

In 2025, a total of PGK 2.81 million was expended on UAS Projects. A lot of these were small-scale ongoing fixed broadband projects targeting schools and communities. In terms of the volume of disbursements from the Trust Fund, this was the largest amount spent on Projects since the Fund was first established in 2016. Although a lot more is expected to be disbursed in 2026, give the reprioritization of the projects identified under the 50 for 50 programme.

Executive Summary (Contd.)

The financial statements included in this report are unaudited and are subject to audit by the Auditor-General's Office.

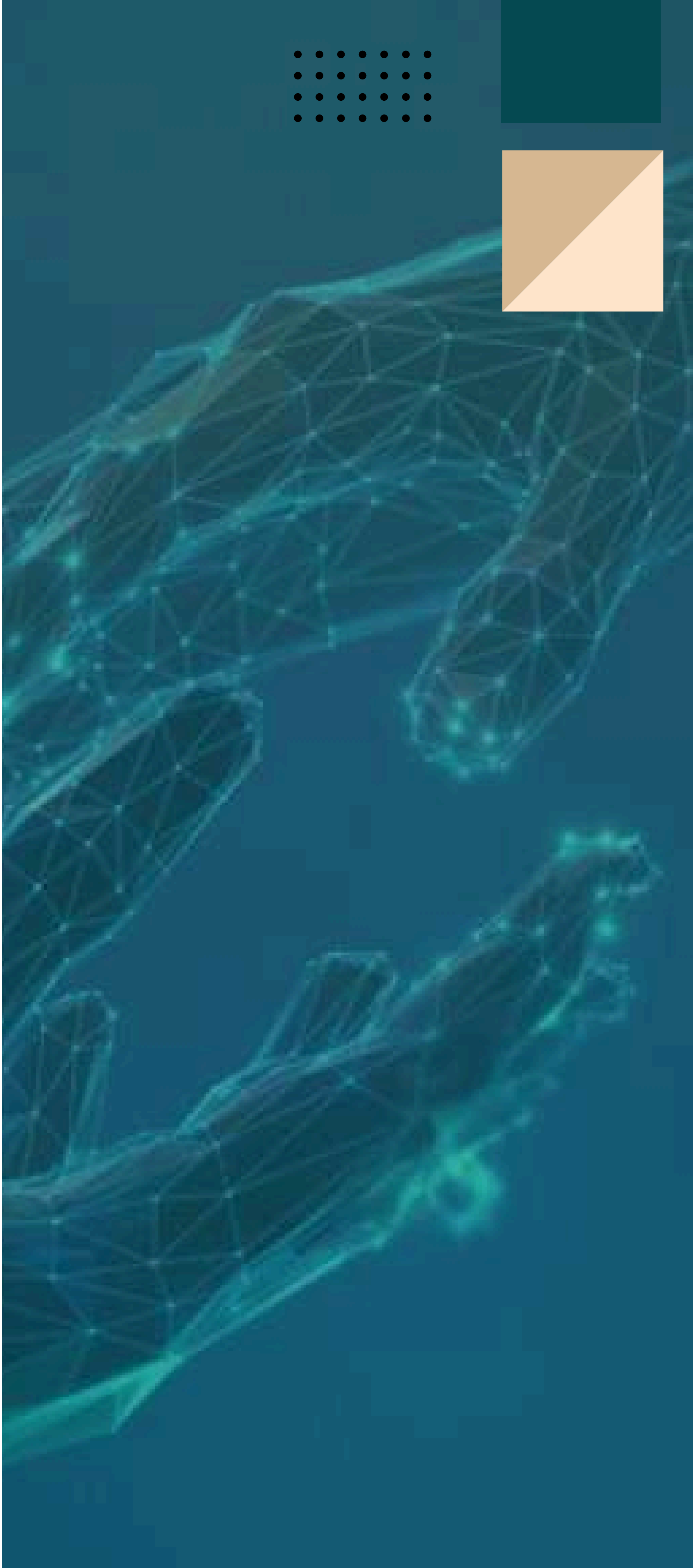
In 2025, NICTA outsourced the compilation of the UAS Financial Statements for the UAS for the year 2017 to 2024 to the accounting firm KPMG. This is in recognition of the fact that the UAS financials have been outstanding for a while. The Secretariate when established was not sufficiently staffed for several years, and this has resulted in key governance failures. Recognizing this, NICTA is now correcting these deficiencies starting with having the backlog of financials cleared and then moving on to have the financials audited by late 2025 or early 2026. NICTA is committed to ensuring the UAS Secretariat is sufficiently staffed and trained to ensure that proper compliance with the NICT Act in the execution of its statutory mandate.

Not all statutory reporting obligations under Section 119 of the NICTA Act 2009 were met, as this Annual Report was not prepared and submitted within the required timeframe. Nevertheless, 2025 was a year of consolidation and groundwork, positioning the UAS Programme for accelerated delivery in subsequent years.

The Programme remains aligned with Vision 2050, the Development Strategic Plan 2010–2030, Medium Term Development Plan IV, and the Digital Government Plan 2023–2027, supporting improved service delivery, digital inclusion, and socio-economic participation. Looking ahead, the Programme will focus on accelerating delivery, scaling institutional connectivity, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, and improving implementation oversight to ensure measurable socio-economic outcomes.

PART A

ABOUT UAS



5. Overview of the Universal Access and Service

5.1. Program Mandate and Legal Basis

The UAS Fund is established under the National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009 (NICT Act) to support the provision of ICT services across Papua New Guinea, particularly in underserved and unserved areas.

The legal mandate for UAS is set out in Part V of the NICT Act 2009, which provides for:

- Collection of the Universal Access and Service Levy from operator licensees
- Establishment and management of the UAS Fund
- Planning, approval, and implementation of UAS Projects
- Reporting and accountability obligations to the Minister and Parliament

In fulfilling this mandate, NICTA is required to maintain proper accounts, apply Fund resources prudently, and report annually on Fund performance and compliance.

The objectives of UAS include:

- Expanding ICT infrastructure and services to rural and remote communities
- Improving affordability and availability of broadband and broadcasting services
- Promoting social and economic inclusion through digital connectivity

The Fund serves as a dedicated financing mechanism to address market gaps where commercial investment alone is insufficient to deliver equitable access to telecommunications and digital services.

The National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), as Fund Manager, is responsible for the administration and management of the UAS Fund, ensuring that resources are applied in accordance with the provisions of the Act and aligned with national development priorities.

UAS interventions support the expansion of ICT infrastructure, institutional connectivity, and digital inclusion initiatives, contributing to improved access to education, health, government services, and economic opportunities.

Through this mandate, the UAS Programme plays a critical role in bridging the digital divide and enabling inclusive socio-economic development across Papua New Guinea.

5.2. Governance and Accountability

Governance of the UAS regime is exercised through a clear separation of roles:

- UAS Board
  - Provides strategic direction and oversight
  - Approves UAS projects, budgets, and work programmes
  - Monitors performance and risk

- NICTA (Fund Manager)
  - Administers the UAS Fund
  - Manages procurement, contracts, and disbursements
  - Ensures compliance with the NICT Act and applicable laws

- UAS Secretariat (within NICTA)
  - Supports day-to-day program implementation
  - Coordinates project planning, monitoring, and reporting

This governance framework ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with national ICT policy objectives.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS and SERVICE (UAS) FUND - LEGAL MANDATE & GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

LEGAL FOUNDATION

- Establish under the National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009 to support access to ICT services across Papua New Guinea, particularly in under-served and un-served areas.

FUND MANAGEMENT

- Manage and administer the UAS Fund
- Ensure funds are applied strictly in accordance of the Act
- Promote efficient use of public resources
- Ensure transparency and accountability

OBJECTIVES

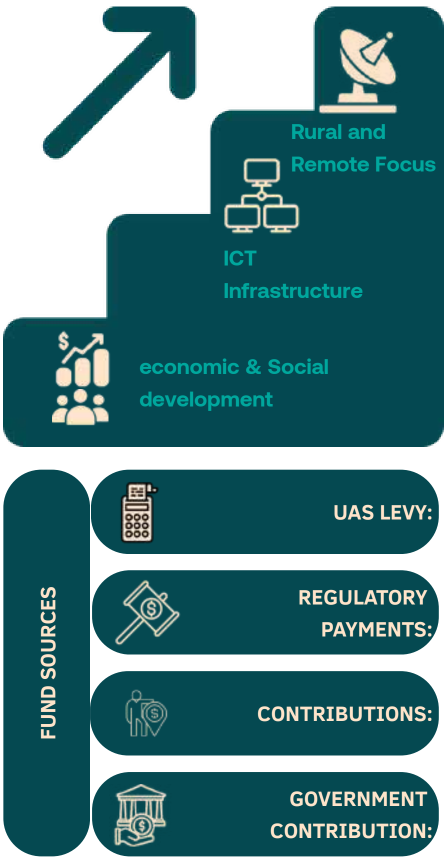
- Expand ICT infrastructure in rural and remote communities
- Facilitate affordable telecommunications and broadband access
- Promote social and economic inclusion through digital connectivity

ACCOUNTABILITY AND OUTCOMES

- Maintain proper financial accounts management
- Report on Fund performance aligned with national development goals

5.3. UAS FUND

The UAS Fund was established through the National ICT Act 2009 to promote the long-term economic and social development of Papua New Guinea by funding approved UAS Projects that will encourage the development of ICT infrastructure and improve the availability of ICT services within Papua New Guinea, including in rural communities. Pursuant to Section 100 of the Act, the Universal Access and Service Fund shall be financed from funds which may include but not limited to;



- All monies appropriated for the purpose of the Universal Access and Service Fund, and
- All monies received from the Universal Access and Service Levy paid by operator licensees in accordance with Section 107; and
- All monies paid pursuant to Sections 32(2)(a) and 36 (2)(b)(i); and
- All monies paid by any person for the purposes of Universal Access and Service Fund; and
- Amounts appropriated as Government contribution to a project which is partly funded by an international agency, whether by loan or grant.

5.4. UAS FUND MISSION STATEMENT

NICTA will utilize the UAS Fund to support investments in the telecommunications and ICT sector in Papua New Guinea, to promote universal access to, and utilization of modern, beneficial services throughout the country. UAS Fund resources may be employed to subsidize the costs of infrastructure, networks, facilities, services, equipment, applications, content, and human resource development. The Fund will be utilized to underwrite investments and costs for market segments that would not otherwise be commercially viable. NICTA will strive to manage the Fund in an equitable, cost-effective, transparent, and competitively neutral manner.

5.5. UAS FUND VISION

NICTA's vision for the medium-term development of the telecommunications sector in Papua New Guinea encompasses the following goals:

- Universal access to coverage of broadband mobile telecommunications networks and services for all PNG citizens and communities.
- Wide access to advanced, high quality, broadband telecommunications networks and services, and increasing utilization of these services throughout society;
- Expansion of access to free over-the-air radio and television broadcast signals; Development and adoption of a broad array of useful and valuable ICT applications and content for all segments of the population;
- Increasing awareness, capacity, and contribution by all citizens in ICT-based activities, business and employment, and public services;
- Growing contribution of advanced and innovative ICTs to support inclusive socio economic development and opportunity.

This vision is closely aligned with both the Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan (DSP) 2010-2030, and the Papua New Guinea Vision 2050. The DSP 2010-2030 defined one of its priority goals as: "A modern and affordable information and communications technology that reaches all parts of the country."

It also identified several specific targets for ICT growth, including 800 mobile subscribers per 1000 population, 70% using the Internet, and 100% access to radio and television. The targets for the UAS regime would be to meet or exceed those objectives.

The Vision 2050 also includes a range of Strategic Focus Areas for PNG development, which will be enabled and reinforced by expansion of access to high quality ICT services. These include, among others, Human Capital Development, Gender, Youth and People Empowerment, Institutional Development and Service Delivery, and Spiritual, Cultural and Community Development.

80%	70%	100%
Mobile Penetration	Internet Access	Radio & TV Broadcast

5.6. UAS STRATEGY

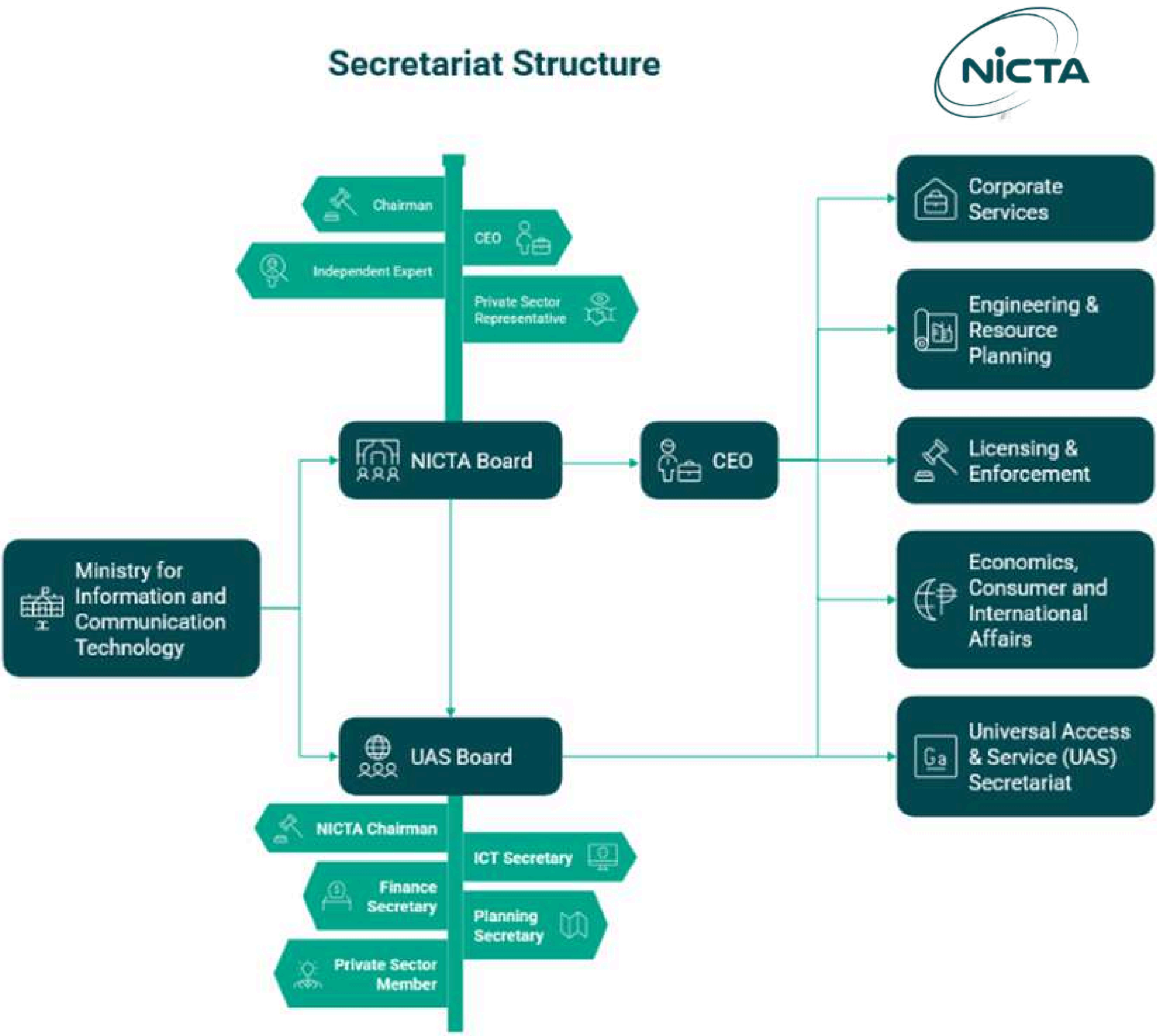
Over the years, the Universal Access and Service (UAS) programme has implemented a range of UAS initiatives, alongside the development and execution of its first UAS Strategic Plan covering the five-year period from 2018 to 2022. Building on the lessons and outcomes of this initial strategy, a comprehensive review was undertaken, informed by assessments of evolving ICT development trends and aligned with broader Government policy objectives and priorities within the ICT sector, including NICTA's Corporate Plan 2021–2025.

These considerations have informed the development of the UAS Strategic Plan 2023–2027. The Strategy was developed by the UAS Board in consultation with NICTA and reflects the Government's aspirations for universal access and service. It seeks to advance the vision of a connected Papua New Guinea, leveraging digital technologies to support Government service delivery, business growth, and improved access to opportunities for citizens.

The Strategy sets out a structured framework comprising a series of programs organised under three (3) strategic initiatives to be implemented over the five-year planning period, as summarised below

5.7. SECRETARIAT STRUCTURE

In line with Section 99(1) of the NICT Act 2009, a dedicated Secretariat known as the "UAS Secretariat" was established within NICTA in 2014 to carry out all UAS functions required by NICTA. The UAS Fund is managed by the UAS Secretariat within NICTA. The UAS Fund does not have personnel. All personnel managing the projects that are financed by the fund are employees of NICTA. Refer to the high-level structure in Figure below.



6. Governance and Institutional Arrangements

6.1. UAS Governance Structure

Oversight of the UAS Fund and associated programmes is provided by the UAS Board, which is constituted in accordance with the governance arrangements approved under the NICT Act 2009.

The UAS Board is responsible for providing strategic direction, oversight, and assurance over the planning, prioritisation, and performance of UAS programmes and projects. Its key responsibilities include the endorsement of strategic priorities and work programmes, approval of project concepts and funding allocations within delegated authority, and monitoring of project implementation and outcomes against approved objectives.

The UAS Secretariat operates within NICTA and is responsible for the day-to-day administration and delivery of the UAS programme. The Secretariat reports operationally to the UAS Board and administratively through the NICTA executive management structure. This reporting arrangement ensures that UAS activities are integrated within NICTA's broader corporate governance, financial management, procurement, and reporting systems.

.

The UAS Board is composed of members appointed in accordance with approved governance arrangements to provide strategic oversight and direction for the Universal Access and Service programme. During the reporting period, the Board comprised the following members:

6.1. UAS Governance Structure (Contd...)

Mr. Brian Riches
UAS Board Chairman

Mr. Steven Matainaho
Deputy Board Chairman
Secretary for Department of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Koney Samuel
Board Director
Secretary for Department of National Planning and Monitoring

Mr. Samuel Penias
Board Director
Secretary for Department of Finance

Mr. Jack Tomon
Board Director
Private Sector Representative

PART B

PROJECTS

7. Performance Review

This performance review highlights the progress of the following:

- 50 for 50 Projects progress
- 2025 Projects Progress
- 2026 Projects Consultation and Report

During the 2025 reporting year, the Universal Access & Service (UAS) Program focused on the implementation and progression of the “50 for 50” UAS Initiative addressing both supply-side infrastructure gaps and demand-side digital connectivity needs in rural and underserved areas.

Supply and demand challenges in the communications sector are systematically targetted through the five-year Universal Access and Service (UAS) Strategic Plan, which is structured around three (3) complementary program initiatives: Broadband, Broadcasting, and Meaningful Connectivity. Together, these initiatives are designed to expand infrastructure supply, stimulate service uptake, and ensure that connectivity investments translate into practical social and economic outcomes, as further outlined below.

The UAS activities in 2025 concentrated on advancing previously approved and funded projects. Key activities included procurement processes, contract management, site readiness, infrastructure deployment, and stakeholder coordination.

7.1. 50 for 50 Projects Progress

As part of NICTA's efforts to prioritise and optimise existing resources for the completion of outstanding projects, a select group of initiatives has been earmarked for implementation at an estimated cost of just over K54 million. This selection was based on both available and projected funding within the UAS Trust Fund.

This targeted initiative has been aptly named "50 for 50", reflecting both the funding allocation and a tribute to Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary.

The 50 for 50 initiative consists of previously approved UAS projects from 2016 to 2024, with most project locations drawn from the 2023 and 2024 project listings

7.1. 50 for 50 Projects Progress

Table 1.0 shows the high-level progress of the 50 for 50 projects. The detailed list is shown in Annex 2.

Table 1.0: Summary of "50 for 50" Projects progress

Initiative – Program - Project	Total Planned locations	Completed	Execution	Planning	Initiation	Comments
Broadband - Mobile Broadband - Mobile Greenfield (1 & 2)	15	0	5	10	0	5 sites pending contract signing with Digicel. Th request for tender for the 10 sites has been submitted to NPC to initiate RFP / Tender process.
Mobile Broadband – CEIR	1	1	0	1	0	Detailed planning and RFP preparation in progress.
Fixed Broadband – Connect the Schools	40	6	15	19	0	6 schools completed. 7 out of the 15 sites in Execution phase currently have installations underway
Fixed Broadband – Connect the Government	12	0	0	12	0	Sites under planning in liaison with DICT.
Fixed Broadband – Connect the Airstrips	2	0	0	2	0	Planning in progress.
Fixed Broadband – Connect the Medics	-	-	-	-	-	Planning in progress.

7.1. 50 for 50 Projects Progress

Initiative – Program - Project	Total Planned locations	Completed	Execution	Planning	Initiation	Comments
Fixed Broadband – Connect the Farmers	7	0	7	0	0	Procurement in progress. The next step is for the award to the successful contractors.
Fixed Broadband – Connect the MSME's	4	0	0	4	0	MOA's signed with Digital ICT Cluster, CEFI and Peropero.
Fixed Broadband – Connect the Communities	1	0	1	0	0	This is pending installation completion by PNG Power Limited.
Broadcasting – Radio Broadcasting (1 & 2)	18	0	4	14	0	Contract signed with NBC for 4 sites. Planning in progress for 14 sites.
Meaningful Connectivity - Public Awareness & Campaign to Support Digital Government Plan	-	-	-	-	-	Planning in progress.
Public Digital skills Training	-	-	-	-	-	Planning in progress.
Training for Fixed Broadband Connectivity	-	-	-	-	-	Planning in progress.

7.1. 50 for 50 Projects Progress

Initiative – Program - Project	Total Planned locations	Completed	Execution	Planning	Initiation	Comments
Digital Government & Application Content	-	-	-	-	-	Planning in progress.
Public Application & Content	-	-	-	-	-	Planning in progress.

7.2. 50 for 50 Completed Projects

Six (6) project sites were completed and launched in 2025. The sites are part of the Connect the Schools Projects with each school to experience the following key benefits from project:

- Improved digital literacy and learning outcomes for students through access to computers, online resources, and interactive educational content.
- Enhanced teaching quality and teacher capacity, enabled by digital lesson preparation, research tools, and integration of ICT into classroom instruction.
- Stronger student preparedness for further education and employment, including senior secondary, tertiary, and vocational pathways.
- Expanded and more inclusive learning opportunities, particularly for rural, remote, and boarding students, supporting national and global engagement.
- Strengthened institutional capacity, through dedicated ICT facilities that support structured learning, collaboration, and long-term academic performance.

7.2. 50 for 50 Completed Projects

7.2.1. Tubuseria Junior High School

About:

Tubusereia Junior High School serves students from surrounding rural communities who previously had very limited access to digital learning resources. Through the Connect Our Schools Project, the school received a fully equipped ICT Learning Centre comprising 20 desktop computers, Wi-Fi connectivity, and reliable internet access powered by solar energy. The official launch, attended and officiated by the Minister for Information & Communication Technology and community leaders, highlighted the government's commitment to bridging the digital divide and improving education outcomes in rural areas.

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project
Project Type: Fixed Broadband
Launch Date: 7 March 2025
Commissioning Date: 5 March 2025
Implementing Partner(s): Genesis Communications (PNG) Ltd (Fixed Broadband), Off Grid Masters Ltd (Solar Power), and Daltron Ltd (Computers)
Location: Tubusereia village, Hiri-Koiari District, Central Province, PNG.
Level: Junior High (Grades 9–10) and Primary School (Grades 1–8)

7.2.2. Boera Primary School

About:
Boera Primary School provides basic education to children from Boera and nearby communities. Prior to this project, students had minimal exposure to computers and online learning resources. Under the Connect Our Schools Project, the school received 20 desktop computers, Wi-Fi, and internet connectivity, creating a modern learning environment that supports early digital skills development.

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project
Project Type: Fixed Broadband
Launch Date: 21 May 2025
Commissioning Date: 12 March 2025
Implementing Partner(s): Genesis Communications (PNG) Ltd (Fixed Broadband), Off Grid Masters Ltd (Solar Power), and Daltron Ltd (Computers)
Location: Boera, Hiri Rural LLG, Central Province, PNG.
Level: Primary School (Grades 1–8).

7.2.3. Papa Junior High School

About:
Papa Junior High School plays a key role in providing intermediate education to students from surrounding communities. Through the UAS Connect Our Schools Project, the school received 20 desktop computers, Wi-Fi, and internet connectivity, enabling students to engage with modern learning technologies for the first time and strengthening their academic development.

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Launch Date: 17 May 2025

Commissioning Date: 12 March 2025

Implementing Partner(s): Genesis Communications (PNG) Ltd (Fixed Broadband), Off Grid Masters Ltd (Solar Power), and Wantech Haus (Computers)

Location: Papa, Hiri District, Central Province, PNG.

Level: Junior High School (Grades 9–10) and Primary School (Grades 1–8).

7.2.4. Kondiu Rosary Secondary School

About:
Kondiu Rosary Secondary School is a Catholic mission-run boarding institution serving students from remote and rural parts of Simbu Province. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum across sciences, humanities, and vocational subjects. Through the Connect Our Schools Project, the school received ICT infrastructure to support academic excellence and digital learning.

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Launch Date: 8 September, 2025

Commissioning Date: 7 September 2025

Implementing Partner(s): Deline Systems Ltd (Fixed Broadband & Solar Power) and Digitech ICT Ltd (Computers)

Location: Kerowagi District, Simbu (Chimbu) Province, PNG.

Level: Secondary School (Lower & Upper levels).

7.2.5. Kondom Aguando Memorial High School

About:
Kondom Aguando Memorial High School is a major public high school in Kundiawa, serving students from across the district. Under the Connect Our Schools Project, the school established a dedicated ICT Learning Centre, significantly improving access to digital tools and modern learning resources.

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Launch Date: 8 September 2025

Commissioning Date: 7 September 2025

Implementing Partner(s): Deline Systems Ltd (Fixed Broadband & Solar Power) and Digitech ICT Ltd (Computers)

Location: Wandi, Kundiawa-Gembogl District, Simbu Province, PNG.

Level: High School (Grades 9–10).

7.2.6. Kundiawa College of Nursing

About:
Kundiawa College of Nursing is a government-funded institution providing three-year diploma nursing training to students from across Papua New Guinea. The college plays a vital role in producing qualified healthcare professionals for rural and urban health facilities. Through the Connect Our Schools Project, the institution received modern ICT infrastructure to support professional training and research.

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project
Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Launch Date: 8 September, 2025

Commissioning Date: 7 September 2025

Implementing Partner(s): Deline Systems Ltd (Fixed Broadband & Solar Power) and Digitech ICT Ltd (Computers)

Location: Kundiawa, Simbu Province, PNG.

Level: Tertiary / Vocational (Nursing Education).

7.3. 50 for 50 Projects in Execution Phase

In addition to the six (6) completed sites, installations for another seven (7) sites were in progress by the end of the year.

7.3.1. Buin Primary School

About:
Buin Primary School received a solar-powered VSAT and Wi-Fi broadband system under Lot 3. The installation included internet connectivity powered by 5.5kW solar energy and user training. The system is physically installed and functional; however, formal acceptance and commissioning for the solar power and fixed broadband services are still pending. In addition, the delivery and installation of 20 desktop computers are yet to be completed.

Project Status:
Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Completed (October 2025)
Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
Final handover: Pending
Target completion: Q1 2026

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project
Project Type: Fixed Broadband
Location: Buin LLG, South Bougainville, AROB, PNG
Level: Primary School (Grades 1–8)

7.3.2. Konkopine Primary School

About:

Konkopine Primary School received VSAT broadband infrastructure powered by a dedicated solar power system under Lot 3. The installation works, testing, and staff training have been completed. However, formal acceptance and commissioning of fixed broadband services and the delivery of desktop computers remain outstanding.

Project Status:

- Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Completed (October 2025)
- Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
- Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
- Final handover: Pending
- Target completion: Q1 2026

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Location: South Bougainville, Torokina LLG AROB, PNG

Level: Primary School (Grades 1–8)

7.3.3. Bana High School

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Location: South Bougainville, Bana LLG AROB, PNG

Level: High School (Grades 9–10)

About:

Bana High School was connected under Lot 3 through the installation of a 52kWp solar system, providing power for internet connectivity and campus-wide Wi-Fi coverage. Major installation, testing, and training activities were completed in November 2025. This site is currently awaiting formal broadband acceptance and commissioning, as well as the delivery and installation of desktop computers.

Project Status:

- Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Completed (November 2025)
- Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
- Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
- Final handover: Pending
- Target completion: Q1 2026

7.3.4. Murua Primary School

About:
Murua Primary School received fixed broadband internet connectivity powered by solar energy under Lot 3. Despite logistical challenges, installation and commissioning activities were completed in November 2025, and staff received ICT training. The project remains pending final acceptance and computer deployment.

Project Status:
- Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Completed (November 2025)
- Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
- Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
- Final handover: Pending
- Target completion: Q1 2026

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Location: South Bougainville, Torokina LLG AROB, PNG

Level: Primary School (Grades 1–8)

7.3.5. Hutjena Secondary School

About:
Hutjena Secondary School was connected under Lot 4 and received fixed broadband internet connectivity, solar, and Wi-Fi infrastructure. Following a security incident in December 2025, additional protective measures were implemented. The system is installed but pending formal acceptance, commissioning, and computer deployment.

Project Status:

- Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Completed (2025)
- Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
- Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
- Final handover: Pending
- Target completion: Q1 2026

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Location: North Bougainville, Buka LLG AROB, PNG

Level: Secondary School (Lower and Upper Levels)

7.3.6. Mortlock Primary School

About:
Mortlock Primary School's installation has been delayed due to marine transportation constraints under Lot 4. A project variation was approved in January 2026, reallocating the installation to Phase 3. The school is awaiting full deployment, acceptance, and computer delivery.

Project Status:
- Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Pending
- Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
- Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
- Final handover: Pending
- Target completion: Q1 2026

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Location: Mortlock Islands, AROB, PNG

Level: Primary School (Grades 1–8)

7.3.7. Arawa School of Nursing

About:
Arawa School of Nursing received broadband and solar infrastructure under Lot 4 and also served as a regional logistics hub. Installation and training activities were completed in 2025. The project remains pending formal acceptance, commissioning, and computer deployment.

Project Status:
- Solar, VSAT, and Wi-Fi installation: Completed (November 2025)
- Fixed broadband acceptance and commissioning: Pending
- Delivery and installation of desktop computers: Pending
- Final handover: Pending
- Target completion: Q1 2026

Project Name: Connect Our Schools Project

Project Type: Fixed Broadband

Location: Arawa Township, Central Bougainville, AROB, PNG

Level: Tertiary / Vocational (Nursing Education)

7.4. 50 for 50 other Key Milestones

7.4.1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoA) and PROJECT AGREEMENTS

The year 2025 was a significant and productive year for the Universal Access Services (UAS) Secretariat. Key milestones achieved during the year include the successful execution of **eight (8) Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs)** and the signing of **eight (8) Project Agreements**, reflecting strong collaboration with stakeholders and effective project governance.

Table 2.0: Summary of signed MOA's

No	A-Party	B-Party	Project	Date Signed
1	NICTA	Papa Junior High School	Connect the Schools	27 February 2025
2	NICTA	Boera Primary	Connect the Schools	27 February 2025
3	NICTA	Tubusereia Primary	Connect the Schools	27 February 2025
4	NICTA	Kundiawa College of Nursing	Connect the Schools	2 April 2025
5	NICTA	Kondiu Rosary Secondary	Connect the Schools	2 April 2025
6	NICTA	Kondum Agaundo Memorial	Connect the Schools	2 April 2025
7	NICTA	Peropero Limited	Connect the MSME	13 October 2025
8	NICTA	PNG ICT Cluster	Connect the MSME	11 October 2025

7.4.1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoA) and PROJECT AGREEMENTS (Contd..)

In addition, a total of six (6) UAS-funded projects were successfully completed, contributing to the expansion of ICT access and services in targeted underserved and rural communities. These achievements demonstrate steady progress in delivering UAS objectives and strengthening connectivity outcomes nationwide.

Table 3.0: Summary of signed Project Agreements

No	A-Party	B-Party	Project	Date Signed
1	NICTA	Digitech	Connect the Schools (LOT2)	21 February 2025
2	NICTA	Delin Systems	Connect the Schools (LOT2)	21 February 2025
3	NICTA	NBC	Radio Broadcasting	04 September 2025
4	NICTA	Wantech	Connect the Schools (LOT3)	5 April 2025
5	NICTA	Peld	Connect the Schools (LOT3)	15 May 2025
6	NICTA	J-Group	Connect the Schools (LOT3)	15 May 2025
7	NICTA	Peld	Connect the Schools (LOT4)	11 July 2025
8	NICTA	Wantech	Connect the Schools (LOT4)	21 July 2025

7.4.2. Summary

In 2025, the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) continued to advance its Universal Access Scheme (UAS) initiatives, focusing on expanding broadband connectivity and broadcasting services to remote and underserved areas of Papua New Guinea. These efforts built upon foundational achievements from 2024, emphasizing preparatory, procurement, and implementation activities to bridge the digital and information divide. Key projects under the Broadband Initiative—including the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), 2024 Mobile Broadband, 50 for 50 (encompassing Connect the Schools and Connect the Farmers), and 2023 Connect School—progressed through legal clearances, contract refinements, and stakeholder coordination. Total expenditures in 2025 aligned with milestone-based contracts, reflecting efficient resource allocation.

7.4.3. Broadband Initiative

7.4.3.1. Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) Project

The CEIR Project represents a critical step toward establishing a national system to combat mobile device theft, counterfeiting, and unauthorized use, while enhancing regulatory compliance and consumer protection. In 2025, the project team prioritized multidisciplinary collaboration through regular coordination meetings involving departments such as UAS, Engineering and Resource Planning (ERPD), Legal, Economics, Consumer and International Affairs (ECIA), Licensing and Enforcement (LED), Procurement, and Standards. This ensured alignment across technical, regulatory, and operational fronts.

Key activities in 2025 included iterative refinements to the CEIR Bid Document for submission to the National Procurement Commission (NPC), incorporating technical reviews and inputs to finalize draft versions ready for procurement. Technical leads developed detailed system requirements, implementation schedules, architecture diagrams, and plans for consultations with Mobile Network Operators, laying a robust design foundation. Regulatory advancements featured refinements to the Draft CEIR Guideline and progress on the National IMEI Regulation 2026, clarifying legal frameworks for nationwide rollout. Procurement efforts advanced with updates to the project plan, onboarding of a dedicated procurement officer, assessment of external support needs, and confirmation of Asia-Pacific Procurement Certification (APPC) compliance, bolstering bidding readiness. Operational assessments evaluated infrastructure suitability, staffing requirements, and deployment implications, identifying priorities for seamless live operations. The team also addressed public awareness strategies and stakeholder engagement to mitigate consumer concerns over device blocking and registration. Integration of new personnel across engineering, legal, planning, and procurement disciplines further strengthened collaboration.

7.4.3.1. Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) Project (Contd...)

No specific contract expenditures were incurred in 2025, as the project remained in the preparatory phase, with costs anticipated upon procurement commencement in 2026. The project's impact is expected to be profound, reducing mobile device-related crimes by enabling real-time IMEI tracking and blocking, protecting consumers from fraudulent devices, and supporting law enforcement. This will foster a safer telecommunications ecosystem, indirectly boosting economic confidence in mobile services for remote communities reliant on affordable devices for connectivity.

7.4.3.2. 2024 Mobile Broadband Project

The 2024 Mobile Broadband Project aims to extend mobile broadband coverage to unserved and underserved rural areas, providing flexible internet access to households, farmers, small businesses, and communities where fixed infrastructure is limited.

Progress in 2025 focused on administrative and procurement advancements in the latter half of the year. On 5 December 2025, NICTA formally requested NPC to obtain legal clearance from the Office of the State Solicitor (OSS), initiating the statutory review process. A comprehensive procurement commencement submission, including all necessary documentation, was delivered to NPC on 5 January 2026 (within the extended reporting period). NPC acknowledged receipt on 6 January 2026, requesting original hard copies and clarifications on related clearances, such as fixed broadband linkages. NICTA confirmed delivery promptly and managed internal coordination. Mid-January 2026 follow-ups tracked OSS legal clearance status, maintaining momentum despite dependencies on external timelines.

These activities overcame challenges related to document logistics and clearance delays, advancing the project toward competitive tendering and supplier selection. No contract expenditures occurred in 2025, as the project was in the pre-procurement stage.

Upon implementation, the project will deliver significant impacts by expanding 4G/3G-equivalent mobile broadband, enabling e-learning, online agricultural market access, mobile banking, health campaigns, and emergency communications. This will empower rural economies, promote digital inclusion across demographics, and enhance social cohesion, contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development in underserved provinces.

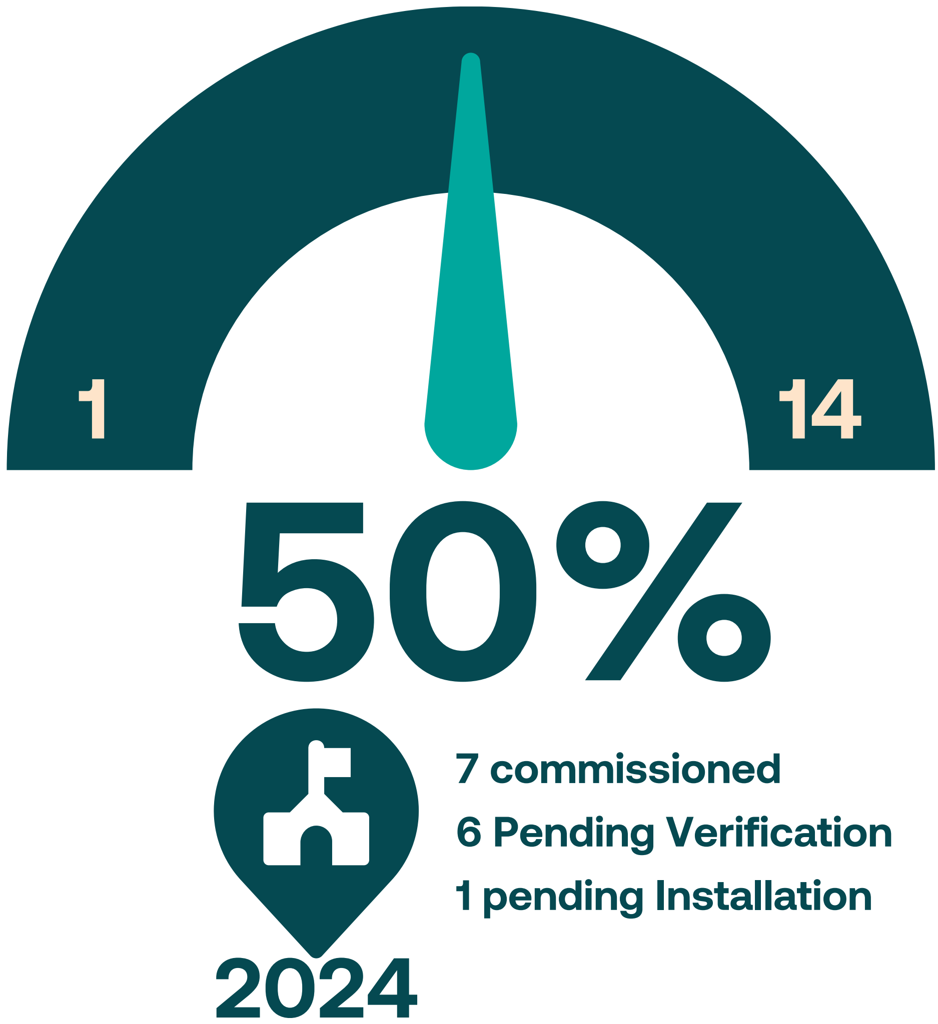
7.4.3. Broadband Initiative (Contd...)

7.4.3.3. 50 for 50 Project (Connect the Schools and Connect the Farmers)

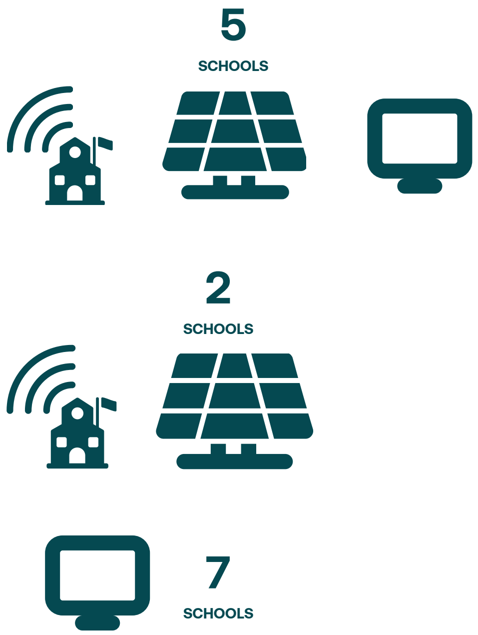
The 50 for 50 Project encompasses the Connect the Schools Project (CSP) and Connect the Farmers Project (CFP), targeting remote schools with fixed broadband, solar power, and desktop computers to enhance education and serve as community resource centers.

The 50 for 50 Project encompasses the Connect the Schools Project (CSP) and Connect the Farmers Project (CFP), targeting remote schools with fixed broadband, solar power, and desktop computers to enhance education and serve as community resource centers.

In 2024, CSP achieved foundational progress across four procurement lots covering 14 schools in provinces such as Central, Milne Bay, Simbu, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB). Lots 1 (3 out of 4 schools) and 2 (3 schools) were fully implemented with fixed broadband, solar power commissioned, and computers supplied. Lot 3 (4 schools) saw installations pending acceptance, with computers outstanding. Lot 4 (3 schools) had partial installations in two schools, with one at contract award.



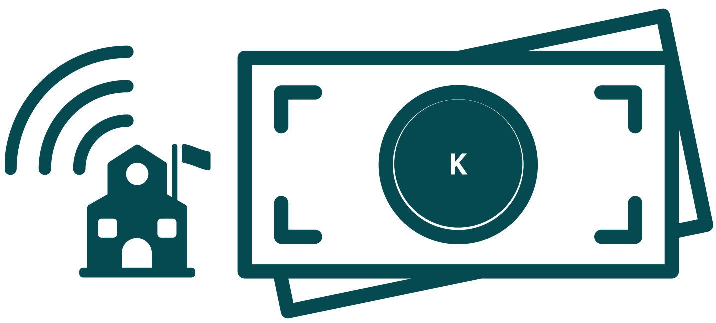
7.4.3.3. 50 for 50 Project (Connect the Schools Project (CSPP and Connect the Farmers Projects (CFP))



Building on this, 2025 emphasized planning and procurement for CSP's additional 14 schools across Lots 5-8 in provinces including Madang, West Sepik, East Sepik, Milne Bay, Manus, and New Ireland. Activities included preparing procurement documentation and coordinating stakeholders for approvals, with tailored packages: Lot 5 (fixed broadband + solar for 2 schools), Lot 6 (standalone computers for 7 schools), Lot 7 (full bundle for 3 schools), and Lot 8 (full bundle for 2 schools). For CFP, targeting 7 schools in West and East Sepik under the EU-STREIT program, contracts were awarded for Lots 1 (3 schools) and 2 (4 schools) focused on fixed broadband + solar, with mobilization set for 2026.

The overall planned budget for 2024-2025 is PGK 5,895,000 (CSP: PGK 4,915,000; CFP: PGK 980,000), with 2025 expenditures pending approvals and implementations in 2026.

In 2025's planning phase, this sets the stage for broader transformation: CSP will enhance teaching and student engagement in isolated areas, while CFP turns schools into farmer hubs with NICTA-supported broadband for market data, training, and services—improving livelihoods, educational equity, and rural resilience.



PGK 5,895,000

Project COST

7.4.3. Broadband Initiative (Contd...)

7.4.3.4. 2023 Connect the School Project

The 2023 Connect School Project focuses on fixed broadband for seven secondary schools, partnering with Digicel (PNG) Limited to enable digital learning in remote institutions.

2025 activities centered on contract refinement: July-September tripartite engagements with NICTA, Digicel, and OSS led to amendments extending duration to 24 months, revising payments, removing solar, and clarifying securities. OSS closed the file temporarily in November due to gaps but reopened after NICTA's December 5 submission. Legal Clearance was reissued on December 12, and the package forwarded to NPC on December 15, with early 2026 follow-ups confirming progress.

No expenditures in 2025, as pre-execution. The impact will empower schools with high-speed internet for curricula, research, and virtual tools, boosting academic performance and digital literacy. Communities gain access to health, agriculture, and services, fostering socio-economic inclusion and resilience.

7.4.4. Broadcasting Initiative

7.4.4.1. Radio Broadcasting Project

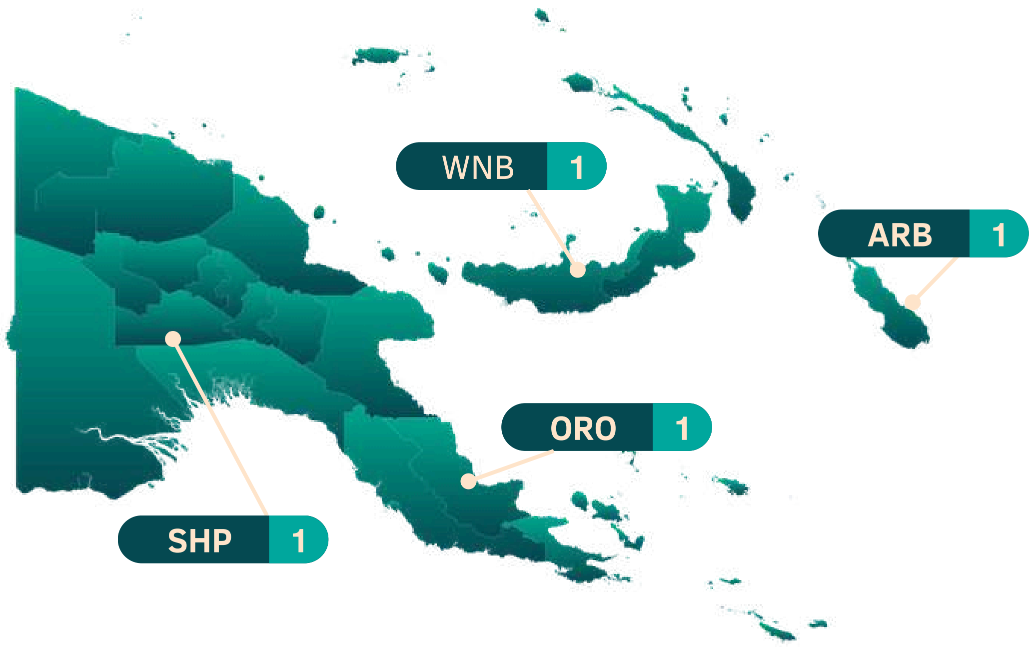
Project Overview

The Radio Broadcasting Project, funded under the Universal Access Scheme (UAS), is designed to improve information access and community engagement in remote and underserved regions of Papua New Guinea by establishing dedicated radio broadcasting infrastructure. The project targets four strategically selected sites: Panguna (Central Autonomous Region of Bougainville), Kimbe Talasea (West New Britain), Mendi (Southern Highlands), and Popondetta (Oro Province). Through a K2 million (GST inclusive) contract with the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), the initiative seeks to deliver reliable, community-oriented radio services focused on education, health, agriculture, disaster preparedness, and local content.

Contract Execution and 2025 Status

The contract (NPC/2023-20-Radio Broadcasting Services-(2023-UAS-BRX1)) was signed with NBC on 30 October 2024. Valued at K2 million (GST inclusive), the agreement includes robust performance safeguards, such as a 10% performance security (K200,000) valid until 28 days after completion (or one year if a performance bond is provided), and milestone-based payments to ensure accountability and delivery alignment.

In 2025, the project remained in the early post-contract phase. Following the contract signing, NBC was required to provide the performance security and an unconditional bank guarantee to trigger the 10% advance payment. However, full mobilization and on-site implementation activities did not commence during the reporting period. Preparatory coordination between NICTA and NBC continued, including discussions on site logistics, technical specifications, and compliance requirements. No major infrastructure rollout or milestone payments (beyond potential advance preparations) were disbursed in 2025, as the project timeline shifted due to administrative and logistical factors.



7.4.4.1. Radio Broadcasting Project (Contd...)

Planned Activities for 2026

All UAS Programme contributes directly to MTDP IV Strategic Priority Area 2 (Connect PNG Infrastructure), particularly KRA 2.4 – Information and Communications Technology Infrastructure, through the expansion of broadband connectivity and digital access services to underserved and unserved communities throughout Papua New Guinea.

The core implementation activities are now scheduled to take place in 2026, aligning with the 12-month contract execution period that extends from late 2024 into November 2025 and beyond. Key planned activities include:

- Contract Mobilization and Site Preparation: Early 2026 will see NBC finalize performance security obligations (if not already completed), receive the advance payment, conduct detailed site assessments, and undertake preparatory logistics across the four locations.
- Infrastructure Installation and Milestones: Progress will be tracked through structured milestones:
  - First milestone (50% work completed): Procurement and installation of broadcasting equipment, towers, and studios, triggering a 30% payment.
  - Second milestone (100% work completed): Full commissioning of radio stations, signal coverage testing, and integration with national networks, releasing another 30%.
  - Operational milestones: A six-month continuous operation phase post-commissioning, with the third milestone (10% payment) and fourth milestone (20% payment) tied to verified uninterrupted service over an additional six months.
- Site-Specific Implementation: Activities will be adapted to local conditions—rugged terrain adaptations in Panguna, community integration and local content training in Kimbe Talasea and Mendi, and disaster-resilient features in Popondetta. NBC will coordinate closely with local authorities and communities to ensure smooth execution and maximum local participation.

Impact and Benefits

Although full implementation is planned for 2026, the project is expected to deliver substantial benefits once operational. Radio stations at the four sites will reach an estimated population of over 100,000 in remote provinces, providing low-barrier, battery-powered access to essential information in local languages. The initiative will enhance emergency response capabilities (e.g., timely alerts during seasonal disasters in Popondetta and Mendi), promote economic empowerment through agricultural market updates and advisory content for farmers in highland and coastal areas, and support educational broadcasts to improve literacy and awareness among youth in regions with limited school infrastructure.

The K2 million investment offers strong value for money. Compared to more expensive alternatives such as satellite or digital platforms, radio provides cost-effective, long-term reach at a per-capita cost of under K20. Anticipated socio-economic returns include productivity gains (e.g., 10-20% increases in farming income from better market information) and improved health outcomes from...

7.4.4. Broadcasting Initiative (Contd...)

7.4.4.1. Radio Broadcasting Project (Contd...)

Impact and Benefits (Contd...)

...awareness campaigns, potentially generating indirect annual benefits of K5-7 million across the sites. Milestone-based payments ensure fiscal discipline, while NBC's ongoing operational role guarantees sustainability beyond the initial contract period.

This structured approach positions the Radio Broadcasting Project to deliver meaningful, inclusive impact in 2026, reducing information isolation and supporting national development objectives in Papua New Guinea's most remote communities. NICTA will continue to monitor progress closely to ensure timely execution and optimal outcomes.

7.5. UAS 2025 APPROVED PROJECTS

The 2025 UAS Projects were developed through the established process outlined in the NICT Act 2009, including stakeholder consultation, project assessment, and approval requirements. The proposed projects are aligned with the objectives of the Universal Access and Service Framework and seek to address identified ICT service gaps in underserved and unserved areas of Papua New Guinea.

The high-level list of the approved UAS 2025 Project is listed in Annex 3. The projects remain in Initiation Phase pending additional cash flow into the UAS Trust Fund.

7.6. UAS 2026 APPROVED PROJECTS

As part of the public consultation for the proposed 2026 Universal Access and Service (UAS) Projects, NICTA engaged with key stakeholders through consultation meetings and written feedback submissions. The projects are aligned with the government's ICT policies, particularly the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV), focusing on mobile broadband, fixed broadband, radio broadcasting initiatives, digital literacy, and device access.

The consultation involved:

- ·Major ICT operators: Digicel PNG, Vodafone PNG
- ·Broadcasters: PNGFM Ltd, Kalang Advertising Limited/FM100
- ·Government agencies
- ·Academia
- ·Development partners
- ·General public

The project approval sequencing for UAS projects under NICTA follows a structured, statutory process. Because UAS projects are funded by industry levies and designed to extend telecommunications infrastructure to unserved or underserved communities, the approval pipeline ensures strict regulatory compliance, transparency, and strategic alignment with national ICT goals.

7.6. UAS 2026 APPROVED PROJECTS (Contd...)

The end-to-end sequencing of a UAS project from initial consultation to final implementation approval typically follows this progression as outlined is section 108 to 118 of the NICT Act.

The final approved UAS Projects are captured in table 4.0 below.

Table 4.0: Summary of Approved 2026 UAS Projects

Project ID	Project Title	Geographical Area(s)	Expected Beneficiaries	Indicative Cost (PGK)	Subsidy Requested (PGK)	One-Time Capital Subsidy? (Y/N)
MB-2026	Mobile Broadband Greenfield	Various provinces	Over 150,000 rural residents, farmers, and communities in unserved/ underserved areas	25,500,000	25,500,000)	Y
FB-2026	Fixed Broadband Institutional Connectivity	Various LLGs	30 schools/institutions, benefiting ~10,000 students, teachers, and staff	9,300,000	9,300,000	Y
RB-2026	Radio Broadcasting Expansion	9 districts	~2 million rural listeners, focusing on information access and emergency alerts	3,150,000	3,150,000)	Y
DL-2026	Meaningful Connectivity (Digital Literacy & Devices)	TBC across UAS project areas, prioritizing pilot hubs in proposed districts	Communities in ~20 locations, ~5,000 individuals trained, devices for schools/hubs	1,000,000	1,000,000	Y

PART C

FINANCE

8. Fund Managers Report (NICTA Act 2009 -Section 119)

Financial Statements Deferral Notice

Pursuant to Section 120 (2)(a) of the NICT Act 2009, NICTA is required to present audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

As of the date of printing/submission of this Annual Report, the formal statutory audit process is currently being finalised by the Office of the Auditor-General.

To ensure strict compliance with legislative requirements and to maintain total data integrity, the Board has resolved to defer the publication of the financial statements until the official Independent Audit Report is formally issued. The fully audited financial statements, accompanied by the Auditor's Opinion, will be submitted to the Minister and tabled in Parliament as a formal Addendum to this report immediately upon final sign-off.

8.1. Activities in Support of the Minister and UAS BOARD [s.119(2)(a)

During the reporting period, NICTA, in its capacity as Fund Manager, supported the Minister and the UAS Board through the provision of technical advice, preparation of policy and investment submissions, servicing of Board meetings, and implementation of approved UAS projects. NICTA administered procurement processes, managed the UAS Trust Account, monitored project delivery, and ensured compliance with the NICT Act 2009 and directions of the UAS Board.

8.2. Statement of Current Monies and Investments Held [s.119(2)(b)

Instrument	**Amount PGK m**
Operating account cash	K49,199,740.42
Term deposits (≤ 6 months)	0.00
Total	K49,199,740.42

8.3. Cash Reserves, Investments, and Cash Management Procedures [s.119(2)(c)

Procedures

The Universal Access and Service Fund (UASF) is administered through a dedicated UASF Trust Account, established and maintained in accordance with the National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009 and applicable public finance and treasury management requirements. The Trust Account is held separately from NICTA's operational accounts and is used exclusively for the receipt of UAS levies and other monies accruing to the Fund, and for the disbursement of funds for approved Universal Access and Service projects.

Trust Account Governance

Governance over the UASF Trust Account is exercised through a clear separation of roles and responsibilities between the UAS Board, the Fund Manager (NICTA), and authorised finance officers. The UAS Board provides strategic oversight and approves the annual work programme, budget allocations, and major funding commitments. NICTA, in its capacity as Fund Manager, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Trust Account, including cash planning, execution of approved disbursements, financial reporting, and compliance with statutory and fiduciary obligations.

All movements on the UASF Trust Account are supported by appropriate documentation and are subject to internal financial controls, including segregation of duties, transaction verification, and periodic reconciliation. The Trust Account is reconciled on a regular basis, and balances are reported to the UAS Board as part of routine financial performance reporting.

Authorisation Thresholds

Disbursements from the UASF Trust Account are made strictly in accordance with UAS Board approvals, approved project agreements, and milestone-based payment schedules. Authorization thresholds are aligned with NICTA's internal financial delegations and public sector financial management requirements. Investment decisions, where applicable, are guided by the Trust Deed which allows for invests on Fixed Term Deposits with the commercial banks. However, like all other Government Trust Accounts, interest earned on investment is expected to be paid into the Waigani Public Accounts.

No investments were undertaken in 2025. The Fund does not engage in borrowing, leverage, or complex financial instruments. Exposure to financial risk is further mitigated through regular monitoring of cash balances, conservative forecasting assumptions, and ongoing oversight by the UAS Board.

8.4. Record of Disbursements from the UASF Trust Account [s.119(2)(d)]

Table 5.0: Record of disbursements from UAS Trust Account for 2025

Date	Project	Supplier/Grantee	Purpose	Amount (PGK)
Feb 11, 2025	Connect Schools Lot 1 - Boera & Kiriwina	Genesis Communications PNG Ltd	phase 1, contract signing, kick-off and planning of CSP_L1_BC	63,863.36
Feb 11, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 1 - Tubuserea & Papa	OGML OFFGRIDMASTERS Ltd	Lot 1: Phase 1- Power supply for 3xSchools Pj @40% PAYMENT.	130,036.60
Feb 11, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 1 - Boera & Kiriwina	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	Lot 1: Supply of 20 Mintt Di5 Desktops Set and 20 UPS each for Boera Primary School& Kiriwina Secondary School	63,000.00
Feb 11, 2025	Connect Schools Lot 1 - Tubuserea & Papa	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	Lot 1: Supply of 20 Mintt Di5 Desktops Set and 20 UPS each for Tubuserea Jnr High & Papa Jnr High School	63,000.00
Feb 11, 2025	Affordable Smart Devices - FODE Digitalisation of Subjects	Reelae Ltd	Completion of FODE Grd 7&8 subjects online digitalization.	160,000.00
Mar 21, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 2 - Simbu	Delin System Ltd	Lot 2: Broadband & Power supply for 3xSchools in Simbu Pj at 40% PAYMENT.	156,000.00
Apr 2, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 2 - Simbu	Digitec ICT	CS Lot 2 - Payment 1	116,754.00

8.4. Record of Disbursements from the UASF Trust Account [s.119(2)(d)]…. (Contd…)

Date	Project	Supplier/Grantee	Purpose	Amount (PGK)
Apr 11, 2025	Lot 1 Connect the Schools	OGML OFFGRIDMASTERS Ltd	Lot 1: Phase 2- Power supply for 3xSchools Pj @40% PAYMENT.	K 162,545.75
May 1, 2025	Connect Community - Laloki	PNG Power Ltd -	Grid Power Connection for Laloki ICT Center	K 197,560.00
May 26, 2025	Connect Schools Lot 1 - Boera & Kiriwina	Genesis Communications PNG Ltd	Lot 1phase 2, payment 2	K 79,829.20
May 29, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 2 - Simbu	Digitec ICT	CS Lot 2 - Payment 2	K 116,754.00
May 29, 2025	Connect Schools Lot 1 - Tubuserea & Papa	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	Lot1 payment 3	K 14,000.00
Jul 2, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	PELD	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Power supply for AROB Schools	K 188,280.00
Jul 2, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	Jgroup Holdings	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Broadband for AROB Schools	K 106,925.71
Jul 17, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Supply of Computers for AROB Schools	K 140,000.00
Aug 1, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - LOt 4: AROB	PELD	CS, Lot4, Phase 1 Power supply for AROB Schools	K 270,720.00
Aug 4, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 2 - Simbu	Delin System Ltd	Lot 2: Broadband & Power supply for 3xSchools in Simbu Pj PAYMENT for Phase 2 & 3.	K 195,000.00

8.4. Record of Disbursements from the UASF Trust Account [s.119(2)(d)]…. (Contd…)

Date	Project	Supplier/Grantee	Purpose	Amount (PGK)
Oct 24, 2025	Connect Schools Fixed Broadband Lot 2 - Simbu	Delin System Ltd	Delin System Ltd Lot 2 - 2nd Payment	K39,000.00
Nov 19, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Supply of Computers for AROB Schools	104,999.99
Dec 21, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	Jgroup Holdings	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Broadband for AROB Schools	80,194.28
Dec 18, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	PELD	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Power supply for AROB Schools	26,897.15
Dec 23, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - Lt3: AROB	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	CS, Lot3, Phase 1 Supply of Computers for AROB Schools	139,999.99
Dec 23, 2025	Connect the Schools Fixed Broadband - LOt 4: AROB	PNG Namba Wan Trophy Limited (Wantech Haus)	CS, Lot4, Phase 1 Supply of Computers for AROB Schools	105,000.00
			Total Disbursement 2025	**2,810,360.03**

8.5. Record of UAS Levies and Other Monies Accruing[s.119(2)(e)]

Table 6.0: Record UAS Levies

Years	Total Invoiced / Assessed (PGK)	Collected (PGK)	Arrears YE (PGK)	Total Disbursed (PGK)
2016 - 2025	121,444,824.02	53,514,575.27	67,930,248.75	4,025,902.61

Table 6.0 shows more than sixty-seven million in levies have yet to be collected. Just over four-million kina has been disbursed for various projects, some of which have been presented in this report. This includes the **PGK 2,810,360.03** that was disbursed for projects in 2025.

Levy Disputes

The ongoing levy disputes initiated by telecommunications operator which stem from historical failures in billing compliance continue to affect the UAS Secretariat's ability to consistently collect levies. The UAS levy over the years has been disputed by telecommunication operators. The first dispute was in 2016, which resulted in an out of court settlement arrangement where the aggrieved licensed operator agreed to provide services to selected agreed areas for a reduced cash levy payment paid into the UAS Trust.

The said aggrieved operator again disputed the imposition of the 2023 levy which resulted in the court ruling in 2024 in favor of aggrieved party. The outcome of this dispute highlights weak governance issues for the UAS including areas such as financial audits, strict adherence to UAS Projects and Levy timing process, and compliance to annual reporting on the activities of the UAS.

Going forward with the financial statement prepared for all periods outstanding we anticipate by 2026 that UAS audits will be completed for those years outstanding and to continue to maintain and prepare financials in house going forward. The Secretariat will also invest in a proper accounting system to ensure records are accurately recorded and improve client levy turnaround time.

Similarly, for the UAS Projects reporting to be systematic and frequent. 2025 project approvals were severely delayed which resulted in the Secretariate and therefore NICTA not being able to deliver adequately on its mandate as stated in Part 5 of the Act. Going forward, a review of the levy process will be conducted to better streamline key deliverables, whilst adhering strictly to the timelines.

8.5. Record of UAS Levies and Other Monies Accruing[s.119(2)(e)]

Levy non-compliance and remediation Actions

A weakness identified within NICTA was the lack of enforcement for breaches under the Act. This is evident by the volume of levy that remains outstanding and yet to be collected. With the recruitment of a legal team in 2025, we expect to commence prosecution for non-compliance for Levy payment as well as other licensing and regulation fees.

8.6. Other Information or Special Reports [s.119(3)]

No additional special reports were provided to the UAS Board or the Minister during FY2025.

9. Financial Notes

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and statutory requirements; however, they have not yet been audited. These statements are therefore unaudited and may be subject to change upon completion of the external audit by the Auditor-General's Office, hence its exclusion from this Report.

During the reporting period, the Fund was subject to legal proceedings relating to the interpretation and application of Universal Access and Service levy obligations. The outcome of these proceedings have been taken into account in the Fund's financial reporting, including the conservative treatment of affected receivables. Management has reviewed relevant processes and continues to work with legal advisers to strengthen levy administration and ensure clarity and consistency going forward.

The Board acknowledges the history that the UAS Secretariat has regarding its lateness in complying with its statutory reporting obligations. There is a long history of delay in:

- Auditing annual financial statements
- Submission of the annual report
- Levy determination

The Board and NICTA are committed to rectifying these issues to ensure strict legal compliance with the NICTA Act. There have been various steps undertaken to ensure a positive and effective change, some of which include:

- Change of Management – New Chairman & Director
- Establishing clear governance processes

9.1. Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. **General information**

Universal Access and Service Fund is a Government Agency, incorporated under the National Information and Communication Technology Act 2009. The registered office is at Level 3, Rangeview Plaza Mall, Waigani, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

- **Basis of preparation**

The unaudited financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis at the end of each reporting period.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the UAS Secretariat's accounting policies.

- **Functional and presentation currency**

These financial statements are presented in Papua New Guinea Kina (PGK) which is the UAS Secretariat's functional and presentation currency. All amounts have been rounded to the nearest Kina, unless otherwise indicated.

1. **General Information (continued)**

- **Judgement**
  - **Use of judgement and estimates**

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgement, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the UAS Secretariat's accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to estimates are recognised prospectively.

- **Foreign currency transactions**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Kina at exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are re-translated into Kina at the exchange rate at the reporting date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value are translated into Kina at the exchange rate when the fair value was determined. Non-monetary items that are measured based on historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency differences are generally recognised in profit or loss.

2. **Material accounting policies**

The following significant accounting policies have been consistently applied to all periods presented in these financial statements.

a. **Levy fees**

TheThe National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) may levy charges on operator licensees for the Universal Access and Service Fund, which is known as the "universal access and service levy".

NICTA sets the universal access and service levy as a percentage of the net revenues of each operator licensee, which is determined annually and is applied from the beginning of the financial year, to achieve the desired level of the funding from the Universal Access and Service Fund for that year.

2. **Material accounting policies (continued)**

a. **Levy fees (continued)**

Due to the issues surrounding levy collections as elaborated above, all projects that were executed in 2025 as presented in this report are accumulated approved projects for previous years and not projects that were approved for 2025 due to lack of collection of funding.

b. **Goods and services tax (GST)**

GST is applied on goods and services consumed by the business entities in carrying on taxable activities or supplies made to the furtherance of their business.

The provisions in the GST Act under section 11(7)(8) does not permit the UAS Secretariat to charge GST on fees for permits, licenses, any penalties and renewal of licenses.

c. **Income tax expense**

The revenue of the UAS Secretariat is exempt from income tax for the purpose of the Papua New Guinea Income Tax Act 1959.

d. **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include notes and coins on hand, unrestricted balances held with the Bank of Papua New Guinea and balances due to and from other banks with original maturities of less than three months.

e. **Trade and other payables**

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if longer). If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. **Material accounting policies (continued)**

g. **Contingent liabilities**

Amounts are considered contingent liabilities when:

- possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the UAS Secretariat; or
- a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:
  - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
  - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

h. **Financial instruments**

- **Classification of financial assets and financial liabilities**

IFRS 9 contains three principal classification categories for financial assets: measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) and fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL). The classification of financial instruments under IFRS 9 is generally based on the business model in which financial asset is managed and its contractual cash flow characteristics.

The UAS Secretariat classifies non-derivative financial assets into the following category: financial assets at amortised cost.

The UAS Secretariat classifies non-derivative financial liabilities into the following category: financial liabilities at amortised cost.

- **Non-derivative financial assets and finaicial liabilities - Recognition and derecognition**

The UAS Secretariat derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred, or it neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and does not retain control over the transferred asset. Any interest in such derecognised financial assets that is created or retained by the UAS Secretariat is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

2. **Material accounting policies (continued)**

h. **Financial instruments (continued)**

- **Non-derivative financial assets and financial liabilities - Recognition and derecognition (continued)**

The UAS Secretariat derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expire.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when and only when, the UAS Secretariat currently has a legally enforceable right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

- **Non-derivative financial assets - Measurement**
  - **Trade receivables**

These assets are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

i. **Impairment**

Financial assets not classified as at fair value through profit or loss are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence of impairment.

Objective evidence that financial assets are impaired includes:

- default or delinquency by a debtor;
- restructuring of an amount due to the UAS Secretariat on terms that the UAS Secretariat would not consider otherwise;
- indications that a debtor or issuer will enter bankruptcy;
- adverse changes in the payment status of borrowers or issuers;
- the disappearance of an active market for a security because of financial difficulties; or
- observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the expected cash flows from a debtor.

2. **Material accounting policies (continued)**

i. **Imparment continued)**

At each reporting date, the UAS Secretariat reviews the carrying amounts of its non-financial assets (other than investment property, inventories and deferred tax assets) to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

3. **New accounting standards or amendments and forthcoming requirements**

a. **New effective standards**

A number of new standards are also effective from 1 January 2024 but they do not have a material effect on the UAS Secretariat's financial statements.

- Amendments to IAS 1, Non-current Liabilities with Covenants;
- Amendments to IAS 1, Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current;
- Amendments to IFRS 16, Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback;
- Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7, Supplier Finance Arrangements.

b. **Accounting standards issued but not effective**

A number of new accounting standards are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after 1 January 2025 and earlier application is permitted. However, the UAS Secretariat has not early adopted the following new or amended accounting standards in preparing these financial statements.

- **IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements**

IFRS 18 will replace IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027. The new standards introduce the following key new requirements:

- Entities are required to classify all income and expenses into five categories in the financial statements of profit or loss, namely the operating, investing, financing, discontinued operations and income tax categories. Entities are also required to present a newly-defined operating profit subtotal. Entities net profit will not change.

3. **New accounting standards or amendments and forthcoming requirements (continued)**

   b. **Accounting standards issued but not effective (continued)**

      - **IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements (continued)**

- Management-defined performance measures (MPMs) are disclosed in a single note in the financial statements.
- Enhanced guidance is provided on how to group information in the financial statements.

In addition, all entities are required to use the operating profit subtotal as the starting point for the statement of cash flows when presenting operating cash flows under the indirect method.

The UAS Secretariat is still in the process of assessing the impact of the new standard, particularly with respect to the structure of the UAS Secretariat's statement of profit or loss, the statement of cash flows and the additional disclosures required for MPMs. The UAS Secretariat is also assessing the impact on how information is grouped in the financial statements, including for items currently labelled as 'other'.

- **Other accounting standards**

The following new and amended accounting standards are not expected to have a significant impact on the UAS Secretariat's financial statements.

- Lack of Exchangeability (Amendments to IAS 21)
- Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7)

The UAS Secretariat is currently assessing the new standards to reliably estimate the impact on the financial statements in future periods.

4. **Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and in banks, net of outstanding bank overdrafts and receipts and payments from other project funds. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

5. **Related Parties**
   a. **Key management personnel**
      i. **Details of key management personnel**

The UAS Board and other members of key management personnel of the UAS Secretariat during the year were:

- **UAS Board**

Mr. Brian Riches	UAS Board Chairman
Mr. Steven Matainaho	Deputy Chairman & Secretary for Department of Information and Communication Technology
Mr. Samuel Penias	Member and Secretary for Department of Finance
Mr. Konny Smauel	Member and Secretary for Department of National Planning and Monitoring
Mr. Jack Tomon	Member in the Private Sector

9. **Related Parties (continued)**

   a. **Key management personnel (continued)**

      i. **Details of key management personnel (continued)**

- **UAS Trustees**

Mr. Brian Riches	UAS Board Chairman
Mr. Steven Matainaho	Deputy Chairman & Secretary for Department of Information and Communication Technology
Mr. Samuel Penias	Member and Secretary for Department of Finance

- **Other Key management personnel**

Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui (Jan – October 2025)	Chief Executive Officer of NICTA
Mr. Polume Lume (November 2025 - Current)	Chief Executive Officer of NICTA

10. Risk Management, Internal Control, and Assurance

Table 7.0: Risk Management

Risk	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Financial – Levy Arrears	Delayed or non-payment of UAS levies by licensed operators may affect the timing of cash inflows and the sequencing of project implementation.	Medium	Medium	• Monthly levy reconciliation and monitoring • Formal dunning notices and follow-up engagement with operators • Structured payment arrangements for delinquent operators where appropriate • Conservative cash-flow forecasting to avoid over-commitment • Recognition of impairment for doubtful receivables in accordance with IFRS
Procurement & Regulatory	Delays in obtaining procurement approvals and legal clearances (e.g. NPC, OSS) may delay project commencement and contract awards.	Medium	Medium	Use of milestone-based contracts to manage delivery risk • Inclusion of schedule buffers for remote deployments • Engagement of local contractors and communities where feasible • Approval of justified project variations to address site-specific challenges
Delivery Partner Performance	Under-performance or non-compliance by contractors may impact project quality, timelines, or outcomes.	Low–Medium	High	• Competitive procurement processes with clear technical specifications • Performance securities and contractual remedies • Milestone-based payments linked to verified deliverables • Active contract management and site verification prior to payments

11. Outlook and Work Programme

The year 2026 will represent a consolidation and scale-up phase for the Universal Access and Service (UAS) programme, building on the foundations, lessons learned, and implementation progress recorded during 2025.

The strategic focus for 2026 will be on:

- deepening ICT access in unserved and underserved communities,
- improving the quality, reliability, and sustainability of UAS interventions,
- strengthening partnerships with public and private stakeholders, and
- enhancing monitoring, evaluation, and value-for-money outcomes.

The UAS work programme for 2026 will continue to align with:

- national ICT and digital development policies,
- universal access objectives,
- approved medium-term sector strategies, and
- the statutory mandate of the Agency.

PART D

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: NICT Act 2009 s.119 Compliance Checklist

Requirement (s.119)	Where addressed	Compliant (Y/N)	Notes
Submit annual report within 60 days after fiscal year end – s.119(1)	Cover page shows submission date 12/02/2026 for FY ending 31/12/2025	N	Within 60 days
Activities in support of Minister and UAS Board – s.119(2)(a)	Section 8.1 – Fund Manager's Report	Y	Narrative provided
Statement of current monies/investments – s.119(2)(b)	Section 8.2	Y	Balances & schedule
Cash reserves/investments & cash management – s.119(2)(c)	Section 8.3	Y	Policy described
Record of disbursements – s.119(2)(d)	Section 8.4	Y	Register excerpt
Record of UAS levies & other monies – s.119(2)(e)	Section 8.5	Y	Schedule provided
Other information or special reports – s.119(3)	Section 8.6	Y	None requested

Project	Approved Budget (PGK)	Planned Sites	Project Status
Mobile Greenfield 1	8,000,000	Afore Rural Baimuru Rural Wau Rural Kunua Rural Kagua Rural	Project Phase: Execution Current Progress: Contract finalisation with Digicel. Next Steps: Contract signing and Project Kick-off.
Mobile Greenfield 2	8,000,000	Aua Wuvulu Rural Murat Rural Nigoherm Rural - Safia Rural Balopa Rural Kira Rural Mt Bosavu Rural Paiela/Hewa Rural Woitape Rural Yapsie Rural	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: RFP / RFT request submitted to NPC. Next Steps: NPC to advertise the Tender.
Centralized Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)	10,000,000	May be housed at NICTA	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Internal project planning. Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT release.
Broadcasting 1	2,000,000	Arawa (LOT 1) Mendi (LOT 1) Popondetta (Ijivitari) Talasea	Project Phase: Execution Current Progress: Mobilization payment made Next Steps: NBC to execute the project delivery.

Annex 2: 50 for 50 Project Summary

Project	Approved Budget (PGK)	Planned Sites	Project Status
Broadcasting 2	5,100,000	Ialibu-Pangia (LOT 01) Tari-Pori (LOT 01) Kandep (LOT 02) Obura-Wonenara (LOT 02) Aitape-Lumi (LOT 03) Angoram (LOT 03) Nuku (LOT 03) Finschafen (LOT 04) Menyamya (LOT 04) Bogia(LOT 04) Abau (LOT 05) Delta Fly (LOT5) Ijivitari (LOT 06) Esaála (LOT 06)	Project Phase: Planning Phase Current Progress: Planning and Design. Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT release.
Content / Affordable Smart Devices	800,000	FODE Grades 7-10 Subjects	Project Phase: Completed Current Progress: Completed Next Steps: Monitoring
Connect the Government Offices	2,340,000	Telefomin (LOT 01) Menyamya (LOT01) Angoram (LOT 02) Pomio (LOT 02) Tewai-Siassi (LOT 03) Raicoast (LOT 03) Esaála (LOT 04) Samarai Murua (LOT 04) Kiriwina Goodenough (LOT05) Kavieng (LOT 05) Hiri-Koiari (LOT 06) Rabaraba (LOT06)	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Design discussions with DICT. Next Steps: Finalize design and sign MOA with DICT.
Connect the Airstrip	348,000	Warakori Moropote	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design. Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT release.

Project	Approved Budget (PGK)	Planned Sites	Project Status
Connect the Medics	5,100,000	Locations to be determined.	Project Phase: Planning Phase Current Progress: Planning and Design. Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT release.
Development Partnership (Connect the farmers)	950,000	Dagua Secondary (LOT 01) Nagum Secondary (LOT 01) Kubalia Secondary (LOT 01) Angoram Secondary (LOT 01) Lumi Secondary School (LOT 02) Ossima Primary School(LOT 02) St Francis School (LOT 02) s	Project Phase: Execution Current Progress: RFP Assessment Completed. Next Steps: Contract Awards.
Connect the MSMEs	2,148,000	Vabukori Women's Development Association Center Country Women's Association CEFI Peropero Community centre	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design. Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT release.

Annex 2: 50 for 50 Project Summary

Project	Approved Budget (PGK)	Planned Sites	Project Status
Connect the Communities		Laloki Community Project	Project Phase: Execution Current Progress: Pending installation by PNG Power Limited. Next Steps: Internal
Public Awareness & Campaign to Support Digital Government Plan	197,560		Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT release.
Public Digital skills Training	650,000		Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT
Training for Fixed Broadband Connectivity	400,000		Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design Next Steps: Internal approvals for RFP / RFT
Digital Government & Application Content	450,000	Smart Village -	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design Next Steps: Internal
Public Application & Content	500,000	NFI	Project Phase: Planning Current Progress: Planning and Design Next Steps: Internal

Annex 2: 50 for 50 Project Summary

Project	Approved Budget (PGK)	Planned Sites	Project Status
Connect the School	11,008,000	Papa Junior High (LOT 01) Boera Primary (LOT 01) Tubuserea Primary (LOT 01) Kiriwina (LOT 01) Kondiu Rosary Secondary (LOT 02) Kondum Agaundo Memorial (LOT 02) Kundiawa College of Nursing (LOT 02) Murua Primary (LOT 03) Bana High (LOT 03) Konkopine Primary (LOT 03) Buin Primary (LOT 03) Mortlock Primary (LOT 04) Hutjena Secondary --ready (LOT 04) Arawa Nursing School (LOT 04) Karkar Secondary (LOT 05) Telefomin Secondary (05) Misima Secondary (LOT 06) Boliu Secondary School (LOT 06) Ediwa Primary (LOT 06) Manus Secondary (LOT 06) Miak Primary (LOT 06) Aitape Secondary (LOT 07) Iokosim Primary (LOT 07) Marinumbu Primary School (LOT 07) Kimadan (LOT 08) Madina Secondary (LOT 08) Mongop Secondary (LOT09) Manggai Secondary (LOT 09) Utu Secondary (LOT 09) Timonai Primary (LOT 10) Mouklen Primary (LOT 10) Papitalai Secondary (LOT 10) ECOM Secondary (LOT 10) Malala Secondary (LOT 11) Hoskins Girls TVET (LOT 11) Kerowaghi Secondary (LOT 11) Popondetta Secondary (LOT 11) Cameron Secondary (LOT 11) Manus Secondary (LOT 11) Asitavi Secondary (LOT 11)	Project Phase: Completed - Lot 02; Execution - Lot 01, 03, 04, 11; Planning - Lots 05 - 10

Annex 3: 2025 UAS PROJECT LIST

All projects listed below are pending funding from the UAS Fund, subject to the availability of funds under Sections 99 and 100 of the NICT Act 2009

Project	Budget (PGK)	Project Sites	Location
Mobile	11,600,000	Sumumini	West Sepik
		Yiklau	West Sepik
		Betianap	West Sepik
		Binare	East Sepik
		Sumambum	East Sepik
		Hiyewini	Morobe
		Langimar	Morobe
		Popoe	Morobe
		Wuwu	Morobe
		Kemen	Morobe
		Poiyu	Morobe
		Shonhau	Morobe
		Antir	Morobe
		Kusing	Morobe
		Tapakainantu	Morobe
		Bobodum	Morobe
		Laugui	Morobe
		Gitukia	Morobe
		Kasangare	Morobe
		Nanaya	Morobe

Annex 3: 2025 UAS PROJECT LIST

Project	Budget	Project Sites	Location
Mobile		Sio 1	Morobe
		Andarora	Morobe
		Kembaka	Morobe
		Mangac	Morobe
Radio Broadcasting	2,450,000	Abau	Central
		Bogia	Madang
		Ialibu-Pangia	Southern Highlands
		Maprik	East Sepik
		Telefomin	West Sepik
		Tari	Hela
		Kiunga	Western
Fixed Broadband	2,400,000	TBC	
		TBC	
		TBC	
		TBC	
		TBC	
		TBC	
		TBC	
		TBC	
Meaningful Connectivity	100,000	TBC	
	16,550,000		

Annex 4: 2026 UAS PROJECT LIST

All projects listed below are pending funding from the UAS Fund, subject to the availability of funds under Sections 99 and 100 of the NICT Act 2009

Project	Budget	Project Sites	Location
Mobile	25,000,000	Ikinu	Kikori
		Bangwigie/Manja	Wosera Gawi
		Garisakan/Umerum	Usino Bundi
		Magabara	Alotau
		Kabulusado	Nipa-Kutubu
		Kauwai	Samarai-Murua
		Warkori	Telefomin
		Central Ivane	Goilala
		Pitarait	Manus
		Burue	South Bougainville
		Atsinima	South Bougainville
		Hanasi	Ambunti-Drekikier
		Tamina 1	Vanimo-Green River
		Biem 1	Wewak
		Griffin Point	Samarai-Murua
		Sipisipi	Angoram
		Lou	Manus
		Mal Admin	Manus

Annex 4: 2026 UAS PROJECT LIST

Project	Budget	Project Sites	Location
Mobile		Akip High School	Manus
		Aua	Manus
		Wuvulu	Manus
		Ndraukei	Manus
Fixed Broadband	10,500,000	Lokobou Junior High School	Manus
		Tinputz Day Highschool	North Bougainville
		Rigu St Joseph's High School	Central Bougainville
		Tarlena Bishop Wade Technical Secondary School	North Bougainville
		Moreguina Primary (High) School	Abau
		Markham Valley Secondary School	Markham
		Pisik Adventist Junior	Manus
		Gain Junior High School	Nawaeb
		Holy Name Secondary	Alotau
		Ialibu Secondary	Ialibu Pangia
		Remaining sites to be determine during the consultation	

Annex 4: 2026 UAS PROJECT LIST

Project	Budget	Project Sites
Radio Broadcasting	3,125,000	Abau
		Rigo
		Karimui–Nomane
		Nakanai
		Nuku
		Vanimo-Green
		Delta Fly
		Middle Fly
		Central Bougainville
Digital Literacy Training	500,000	TBC
Smart Devices	500,000	TBC

NICTA

The UAS Secretariat remains unwavering in its commitment to bridge Papua New Guinea's digital divide by expanding equitable access to vital ICT services that empower communities, strengthen inclusion, and drive sustainable economic growth nationwide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

303 3299

www.uas.nicta.gov.pg

Punaha ICT Haus, Corner of Croton and
Frangipani Street, Hohola
C/- NICTA P.O. Box 8444, BOROKO, NCD, 1111