

What ShieldPNG is — and what it **is not**.

ShieldPNG is a national violence and stakeholder management system. We gather and share information on what works, and doesn't work, in violence reduction and try to make it easier for violence affected communities to turn people from supporting violent responses to non-violent responses.

Developed and operated by CAVR. ShieldPNG is developed and operated by the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR), a registered charity whose senior staff have worked on violence reduction for over 20 years. It is funded by the Australian Government and works in partnership with a growing range of government and non-government organisations in PNG.

WHAT SHIELDPNG DOES

To do that, ShieldPNG:

- 01 Gathers and shares what works.** We collect information, research and real stories about reducing violence from across PNG and from countries facing similar problems and turn it into free resources anyone can use. Resources come as written documents, audio and video, in English and Tok Pisin, and in Engan where possible.
- 02 Backs the people closest to the problem.** The people most able to turn someone away from violence are the people that person already knows and trusts – family, close friends, elders, church leaders, women's groups. ShieldPNG exists to find those people, give them practical information and support, and learn from their experience.
- 03 Tracks deadly violence.** ShieldPNG monitors violent fatalities and deadly incidents across the country, from national down to district level, so communities and authorities can see where risk is growing and whether things are getting better. We also track related information such as convictions for deadly violence and gun collections.

If a district or province has a long streak of no or low violence, they can use our maps and graphs about them to demonstrate that to outsiders, which might help with tourism and investment.
- 04 Responds to online incitement.** ShieldPNG works to detect social media posts that are likely to spark real violence and respond before they do – including 'off ramping' those promoting it, working with social media companies on take-downs and helping communities recognise and resist incitement.
- 05 Makes it safer to support justice.** ShieldPNG is developing confidential ways to share evidence of deadly violence – by online form, and common platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook. Evidence is stored anonymously and securely, and is treated according to the wishes of the person who provided it. ShieldPNG is also creating information and training that helps police, investigators and prosecutors act on violent crime.

What ShieldPNG **is not**.

Being clear about our limits is part of earning trust. Here is what ShieldPNG does not do.

**ShieldPNG is not the police.**

We do not arrest, charge, or prosecute anyone, and we do not confiscate weapons. Our role is to make justice work better – by making it safer for people to share evidence, and by supporting the police, investigators and prosecutors whose job enforcement is.

**ShieldPNG is not a government agency.**

We are operated by an independent charity. We work in partnership with government bodies in PNG and are funded by the Australian Government, but we are not a department of any government.

**ShieldPNG is not an emergency service.**

Our reporting channels exist to gather evidence, not to respond to danger as it happens. If you or others are in immediate danger, contact the police.

**ShieldPNG is not a judge or a mediator.**

We do not decide who is right in a dispute, negotiate compensation, or take sides between groups. What we do is support the people and structures that resolve disputes — like Peace and Good Order Committees and inter-tribal women's groups — with information, training and encouragement.

**ShieldPNG is not on anyone's side.**

We do not support one community, tribe or clan against another. Our only side is fewer people dying. When rival groups both step back from violence, both are safer – and that is the outcome all of our work points toward.