

Children given face masks to participate in learning

CHILDREN in the Kokoda Track were recently given face masks to ensure they are able to participate in learning and community life.

The face masks were distributed last Friday, reflecting this year's world children's day theme "investing in our future means investing in our children".

Sogeri Primary School headmaster Maima Iamuia said the distribution of the face masks was timely and reflected a safe way of celebrating world children's day in line with the Education Department's "new normal" Covid-19 policy for schools.

"These face masks have come at the right time ensuring all our students are wearing a face cover when talking or interacting with each other," he said.

According to a statement from the Australian High Commission, the Papua New Guinea-Australia partnership would support the distribution of face masks and sanitary kits

across the Kokoda Track in Central and Northern.

Australian High Commission representative Andrew Egan said all children deserved the opportunity to continue their education and fulfil their potential.

"PNG and Australia have partnered to support the production and distribution of face masks - items that are not easily accessible in remote areas," he said.

"They are an investment in children - the future of PNG - giving them the best chance to continue to attend school and learn."

The face mask project started last month and was led by the No Roads Expeditions Foundation which engaged local women to produce and distribute close to 4,000 face masks.

The face mask pattern complies with the recommended World Health Organisation standard ensuring the masks meet stringent quality assurance.