



# VOICE FOR CHANGE

P O BOX 1117  
MOUNT HAGEN  
Western Highlands Province  
Papua New Guinea

Telephone: + (675) 546 5558  
Facsimile: + (675) 546 5558  
Email: [voiceforchange@gmail.com](mailto:voiceforchange@gmail.com)

## NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

### 1ST QUARTER JAN-MARCH SAFER HOME-SAFER JIWAKA

“Because I firmly believe  
when women succeed,  
America succeeds.”

President Barack Obama



Change Makers in the community!! More story on page 8



### FROM THE EDITORS DESK

It is with great pleasure to bring to you the updates and happenings here at Voice For Change in the first quarter edition for 2015. As people with passion for community development, we are happy to let our readers know what as we certain individuals are contributing to the capacity and development of our community.

We have a lot of people to thank for making this newsletter come alive, as well our donors and partners for your time and generosity in cash or kind. As I recall, people are the government, people are the power. People can make a difference if our hearts and minds are set on it. We are the government. What are you, as citizens of your community doing to help? Hope you Enjoy

### TEAM LEADERS MESSAGE

#### WELCOME !

It is my privilege to invite you all to read our organizations very first newsletter. I would like to take this time to acknowledge the many people who have been part of Voice for Change in its various developmental journey to where it is now. My deep appreciation goes towards many friends, family members and colleagues who believed in the organization's potential and capacity to create change and joined us on this journey over the years. I take this opportunity to thank those partners who took an interest in Voice for Change's work and provided us the funds to implement our activities towards fulfilling our dreams.

A warm thank you to the UN Women's desk from the pacific Regional desk in Suva, Fiji Islands for support in capacity building, facilitating linkages and provision of resources. Voice for Change would also like to acknowledge Ms. Elizabeth Cox for her continuous support to the development of Voice for Change. A loud applaud to my staff for their commitment to our organization. It is you that make our work move.

Finally I acknowledge my beautiful children who have grown up with the organization and have contributed immensely in various ways towards the journey of Voice for Change.

In this very first edition, we take this opportunity to introduce our organization's mission, values and programs while highlighting our main activities of 2013 as well as introducing our partners and funders.

To truly promote safer homes and communities, we all as individuals and Jiwakans have a role to play.

*"The world would not be destroyed by those who do evil... but by those who watch them without doing anything..."*



Regards,  
Lilly Be'Soer Kolts

#### Contact Address

Voice For Change  
P.O Box 1117, Mt. Hagen  
WHP

Located near Kukpa Bridge,, Okuk Highway,  
Jiwaka Province

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### GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING- NORTH WAGHI

In the first quarter, a total of 3 trainings on GBV, HR and Building Safer Homes/communities were conducted in North Whagi for a total of 108 people. The focus is to give the people of Jiwaka the opportunities, guidance and support to discuss and reflect, together and in depth issues, about issues of gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls in relation to customary norms, beliefs and practices.

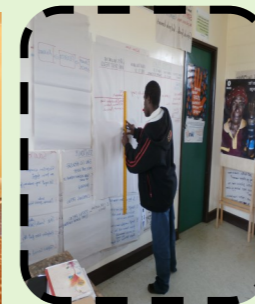
Through this process, it has given all the individual participants the chance to be informed on PNG Constitution and its national laws to protect women and girls. This also provided the opportunity for the participants to learn about the United Nations system of human rights and the commitments made by the government of PNG joining the governments from all over the world, to promote equal participation and opportunity for women and girls and to protect them from all forms of violence.

Gender and Human Rights training is basically to build awareness and understanding of gender and human rights and application in individual and communities. The basic function of the training is to educate men and women about women human rights and how it can be respected and upheld.

The content of the workshop focused on gender/sex, gender roles, stereotypes and discrimination, different forms of gender based violence, human rights etc. The training ran for five days in two different target communities Koskala and Kendu respectively with trainer.

The training is a follow up training based upon request from previous training. Participants were moved and touched by the content of the training. Mark Seka of Koskala village Wara Kar confessed I feel guilty I will change". The training has been facilitated in a context that made people assessing themselves and understanding the wrong they've done.

## This Quarter in Pictures

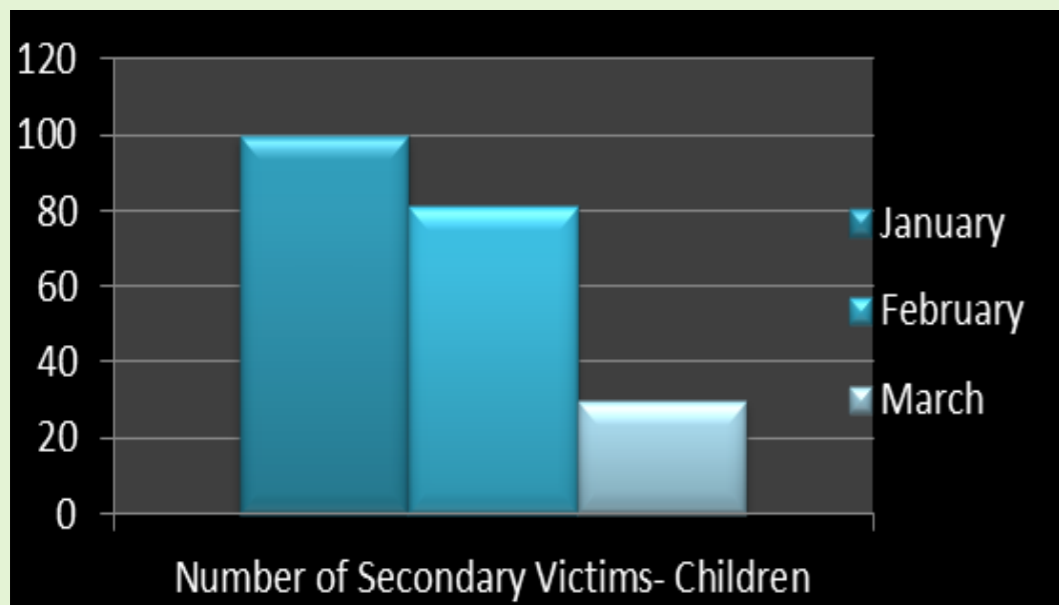
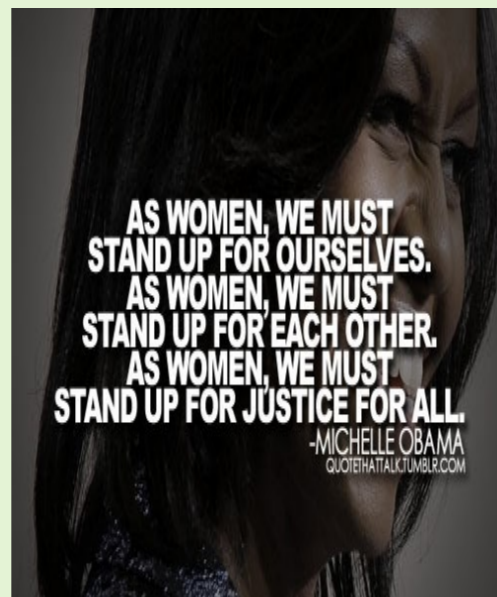
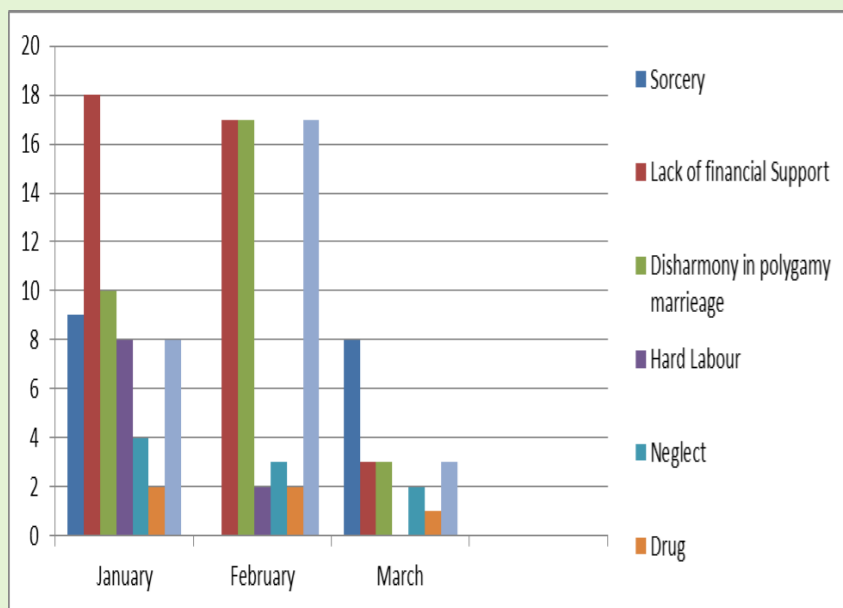


# EVAW R&R PROJECT UPDATES



As the project rolls into its final phase, below is a brief update from the Rapid Response project corner provide an updates of approximately 60 clients of GBV and DV cases especially women coming to the office seeking various support. The office provided counseling and paralegal advice on issues they faced. Sorcery related survivors approached the office seeking help and advice on their situation and stance.

The graph below portrays the number of survivors being attended to.



# Updates...

## Peace and Security Related to Tribal Conflict

VFC has facilitated 2 meetings so far with the Kondika tribesmen to address the current issue that is stopping one sub tribe from returning to their land. The initial peace reconciliation was facilitated to move 500 families back to their traditional land after 4 years of leaving as refuge in other communities. VFC facilitated the peace reconciliation processes responding to the pleas of the women and children who were facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence's living as Internally Displaced People in other communities.

After resettling the IDPs, the conditions laid down for both parties to observe were not honoured due to lack of strong leadership from both sides and this has result in murdering a young men stealing coffee cherries from the IDPs who recently returned. The deceased relatives retaliated and chased the very same people out of their land. To VFC this is the second round of peace negotiations to put to rest that can allow.

**Visit of Anou Borrey** - Team Leader from the UNDP who is collaborating with the Department of Community Development office and leading the work on the implementation of the National and Provincial GBV Strategy has visited VFC to discuss on the possibility of VFC taking the lead in organizing a consultation meeting to facilitate the development of the Jiwaka Provincial GBV Plan. She asked VFC to lead in organizing the consultation and developing the Jiwaka Provincial GBV Plan.

## Meeting with the Advisor -Local Level Government

VFC had a meeting with Mr. David Wamea, LLG Advisor, who was part of the Learning Tour to Melbourne in late 2014 on the possibility of organizing training on GBV&HR for the law enforcement officers. The meeting ended on a positive note and a follow up will be carried out to check on the progress

**National Women Forum** - VFC Team Leader has been invited to participate at the USA Embassy's National Forum on Women and was represented on the panel to speak on the situation on gender based violence at the grassroots level.

**Donor Representative to VFC** - Mr. Philip Buck representing The Three Kings Mission, an Austrian donor organization visited VFC and 2 of its Village Based Agricultural Extension Workers. A discussion was focused on the possibility of funding the Livelihood projects because the current funding from Oxfam in PNG will come to an in June 2015 and will directly affect 2 programme staff and 8 extension workers.

**Elementary School for VFC** - the organization had run 3 preschools in 3 different locations since 2004 and 2 of these schools ceased because of lack of community support. 1 of the pre-schools was in operation and this year, 2015, the National Department of Education has officially declared this school to the next level as the VFC Elementary School. VFC has given some time to build the classroom and sorting papers out. VFC is excited as it will finally get its committed volunteers to undergo teacher trainings and have the opportunity to become professional teachers and get paid. The project in itself is a big achievement to the organization.

# IWDA Parnter News



January commenced with Mrs. Rose Kants of North Wahgi joining the organization as the Project Officer under the Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN). The HRD network is funded by International

Women's Development Agency (IWDA), one of the organizations partner Rose is from Banz in north Wahgi District and is married with 5 children. She has had previous experience in doing peace work locally through her church network. She is happy to be working as the projects officer for HRND. "It's a new job and experience and I need the help and support from everyone" Says Rose. Rose is keen to make this working year count.

## PEACE BUILDING TRAINING

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, a peace building training was conducted by Jiwaka human rights Defenders Desk for 25 participants of which 10 were males who are currently peace mediators on the ground level and two male village leaders/counsellors. The peace building training is a community based training that is coordinated and targets multiple goal and issues and looks at strategic ways to achieve long term peace or in some cases resolve a conflict. The training was a three-week intensive training that basically evolved around rethinking human security and safety. The basis that was covered under this topic included Personal security, Community security, Social security, Food security, Spiritual security, Environmental security and Political security. It also enabled participants to identify human rights and needs and rights, right relationships and responsible citizenships. The long-term benefits of the training included each and every one of the participants being well equipped with the skills and ability to successfully mediate for long lasting peace. The training was facilitated by Sr. Loraine Garasu of Nazareth Rehabilitation center and co-facilitated by Rose Kants of Voice For Change.



Participants during workshop  
Left: The training PARTICIPANTS



## *This First Quarter, we feature our Finance Manager For Voice For Change as a person*



Starting out as a finance officer for Voice for Change when it first started, Brenda Samson had little experience with finance. However, as she journeyed through the years, her line of work has enabled her to meet so many people from partners who come with their own idea and set of guidelines and conditions which have all been foreign to her; however she managed to learn a lot from them. Brenda says their line of reporting is different and that as she learnt to adapt to their needs, and has gained so much experience. She is learning new things every day, and is improving every time she reports to donors.

Her line of work in the organization poses a tough threat as it is her job to be up to date to and finance the core activities of the organization.

Challenges faced include keeping proper record and acquittals of the money spent as well as producing result to the donors and aid partners. She would like to thank Voice For Change for proving her the opportunity to meet new people and learn and gain new experiences everyday. She says money and help given from the outside are not for personal use but for the purpose of the job and she hopes the public must know that. She is currently working as a finance director and has an assistant working for her.

The staff at Voice For Change would like to take this opportunity in thanking partner IWDA for the huge help in funding office supplies to the VFC. In March this year, VFC was supported by 3 laptops, 5x antivirus programs and 3x windows 13.



## HIGHLIGHTS

Great news! Voice for Change in partner with Oxfam are currently in a process of working in joint partnership for a water supply project under WASH program for Oxfam with the Kuma community has been identified as the target group.

VFC WILL BE POSTING MORE UPDATES IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

# FROM THE COORDINATORS DESK



As this quarter project winds down, it is with great pleasure to bring to you the quarterly updates on what I do. I am thankful to our project partners Oxfam PNG. As this is the 3rd quarter, it is with heavy heart that I also announce that it will

be our last . I am earning a lot though there are a lot of challenges, the pressure is tremendous and I hope you seat back and enjoy the quite news from WEEP desk.



## OXFAM DONATES NURSERY SHED TO FARMERS

This quarter starting January , Oxfam funded two nursery shed for Mrs Roselyn Walep and Ms. Amenda Wusik at Minj and Warakar respectively for farmers to have excess and benefit from.

The sheds are located at North Wahgi (Wara ) and South wahgi for Mrs. Amanda Wusik. Farmers and zone leader will have access to these nursery sheds and benefit a whole lot of them. "I am so grateful to VFC and Oxfam for making this shed a successful one and I know it will benefit a lot of women farmers in the area" Says Amanda

## Pest and Disease Training by OXFAM

In February, Oxfam's Livelihood Officer, Sonnie Hitzler, trained Village Extension Workers on how to use pesticides.

The training mainly targeted the village extension workers and the zone leaders on the usage of pesticides and risk management. A series of safety gear was distributed to the farmers.

Village extension workers have then trained their farmers for the pest and management training. The farmers will carry theirs in the upcoming weeks.

## A CASE STORY

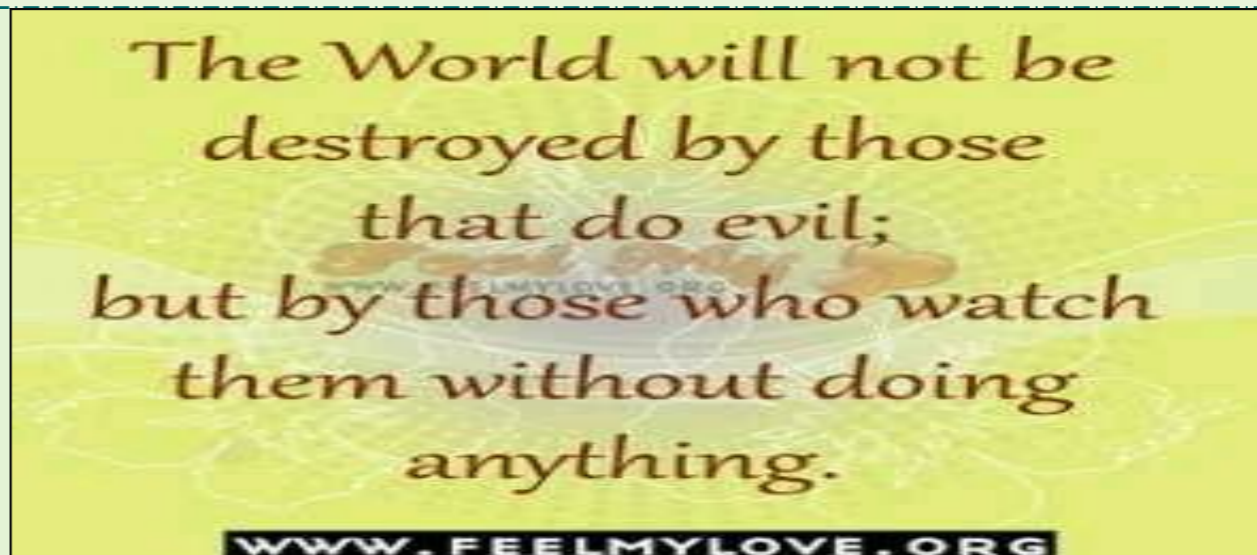
*My name is \*Lisa, I am 15 years old and this is a story of my family. We were victims of sorcery related violence.*

*My mother hails from Banz, North Waghi District in Jiwaka Province. She was married to my late dad in 1997. In the year 1999 when I was just a baby, a death occurred in the village. Everyone in the village accused my family of sorcery saying that it was my family that took the life of the deceased. But that was just a cover story. My late dad did not have any brothers or sons so they wanted to claim the land that was my fathers. With no one to support us, we fled to live with my uncles (my mom's cousin and clan brothers). It was there that mom gave birth to my two siblings.*

*Life at mom's place was not that easy; we were seen as settlers there. Until seven years passed when dad was murdered in 2004 and his body thrown into the Waghi River. He went missing for three weeks until his body was found in the river half decayed. Mom had no biological brothers so we were entirely on our own with mom having to double every task. Mom then adopted an orphan.*

*Four years after dad died, a clan brother from his village came to where we were staying and brought us back to our own land. But it was not the same, after being a refugee in another place for so long, all our land was taken, coffee gardens as well as our panda nuts tree and territory. Life back home has been very tough. With my two brothers still very small, we literally lived in makeshift houses. The church has given us a piece of land to farm and to this day, we always sleep in used houses. Mom always tries her best to help sell good and food for others so she can sustain the family but still not enough.*

*This is our story.*



# COMMUNITY CHANGE MAKERS

## WALEKUPIL FARMERS ASSOCIATION GROUP

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." Unfortunately, the strength of women is often suppressed for the world to see in our society today. Women have always been the invisible force behind every man. Brave men admit that to be a man in the public's eye, a supportive and powerful woman is always behind him. This can be proved over and over with women from different level and works of life achieving and doing more for their community.

This edition of Voice for Change's quarterly newspaper, we are pleased to bring you the success story of one of our partners in community. They are group of powerful women who have a vision and aim to develop themselves and develop their community as a whole.

They are known as Walekupil's Kugar farmers association. The association consists of women from the Kuma Miamka Tribe along the Kudjip area, in Jiwaka Province. In 2013, Voice For Change in 2013 worked to identify potential farmers, and came across Helen John of Kugar Village, Kudjip. Extension workers were then trained and equipped to go out and work with target farmers and train them. The training provoked the interest of women who came together and started growing vegetables. This was the beginning of something great that was to come. There the Wale Kugar Association was formed.

Upon seeing the interest in the area, the recipient and the response of the community was great. Voice For Change held follow up trainings from Gender and Human Rights as well as if identifying potential leaders to undergo trainings thus a friendship bond was formed with the association and Voice For Change

The purpose of the association is to come together do something creative, beneficial and give something back to the community. All women members either had problems with husbands or were victims of violence in one way or the other. The purpose of the association was to generate income purpose to help their children go back to school.

Members of the association consist of 35 women with supporting husband sat around 10 of them.

Voice for Change was running trainings and follow up trainings on the women in Kugar village Kudjip. Because of the response and eagerness of the community, Voice for change ran a series of trainings on gender and human rights, advocacy and other trainings to name a few. Women saw this as an opportunity to build a training centre for the community so that they could generate income and prove catering. They also thought of it as an opportunity to host future training and other events and generate income

With sheer determination and hard work, each member of the group raised a target of K200. All members contributed, resulting in building the training centre. The centre now stands in the area of the

Kungar.

In addition to the training center, a prayer house in a peaceful area was also built for visitors, friends, problem individual to go seek quiet time and peace.

The association successfully completed their training centre, and have created a venue for future meeting, training or gathering and are looking forward to more development, changes and progress in the future.

Wale Kungar farmers association is a perfect example of women working together to create a better community. They have achieved so much in a short while and still have a long way to go. Voice For Change has witnessed an upcoming group of very determined women who striving to see changes and are working together.

Collaborative efforts and group work is one the qualities women here possess and this has enabled a successful journey.

"We have seen our strength and believe we can still achieve great things" Brenda Samson, the group's mentor and leader.



**Believe  
you can and  
the world can  
be yours**