

**Briefs**

- Pukamil & Ngunba Tsents Village Courts were each preparing for awareness campaigns back in their Village Court Areas on 30th March 2016.
- Vfc assisted police officers from the family & sexual violence unit with their office set up on 23rd March 2016.
- ACIAR & Baptist Union rolled out trainings in four Communities with VCE and 30 farmers. One day training to a community from 29th March to 1st April 2016.



*\*Watch out for the next Issue and more stories of change.*



# VOICE FOR CHANGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – MARCH, 2016

ISSUE 1, FIRST QUARTER 2016



**Highlights:**

- ◆ Communities learn Cooking skills.
- ◆ Improved Methods of Pig Farming.
- ◆ Communities trained on Gender Based Issues.
- ◆ ACIAR Project roll out.
- ◆ Training on GBV/HR for Village Courts' Officials.
- ◆ Partners' Visits.
- ◆ Village Court Awareness Drive.
- ◆ Funder Opening new Classroom.

## Partnering to Advance Ending Violence Against Women in Jiwaka

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Livelihood Skills Training	p2
GBV/HR Trainings	p3
Awareness	p6
Classroom Opening	p7
Partners (IWDA, DKA, UNTF, Jiwaka Government) Visits/Information	p8
plus many more .....	

3 Kings Mission, Horizon 3000

UN Trust Fund

Jiwaka Provincial Government

"EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN"

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



Welcome to Voice for Change (VfC) first quarter edition of its newsletter for 2016.

In this edition, VfC delightedly shares with its partners and the people of Jiwaka updates about various activities it has carried out in the first quarter of the year.

Since its inception, VfC has been reaching out, touching hearts, changing mindsets and redirecting focus of women and men in Jiwaka for better and safer communities.

VfC is into its fourth year of performing roles to end violence against women and girls and to create safer homes and communities in Jiwaka.

It is a mammoth task but we are addressing it and hoping to gradually be on top of it.

This has been possible with funding from our partners. The securing of funding from

International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) through its WAVE (Women Action and Voice Empowerment) program for 5 years from 2016 to 2020 adds strength to our efforts.

So far, VfC has completed a 3 years partnership program with UN Trust Fund to EVAW.

VfC values its partners in combining efforts to address violence against women and creating safer homes and communities. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Partners for the trust and confidence in VfC.

I also take this time to acknowledge the hard-working staff and volunteers for their contributions. Together we can build safer homes, safer communities and a Peaceful Jiwaka and a Peaceful PNG.

Enjoy Reading and God Bless!

Lilly Be'Soer



training

Livelihood Skills Trainings

Skills empowering rural families

Under the Women Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP), 281 participants benefited from Livelihood Skills Trainings on Fish, Piggery and Cooking for the month of January to March this year. The total participants consisted of 116 women and 65 men including youths.

These trainings were conducted for the Catholic Women Group, the Warakar community from North Waghi, Kugar community and Jima Women Group from South Waghi.

Kugar community received two trainings on fish

and pig farming on the 18th - 22nd January 2016 and 14th - 17th March, 2016 respectively.

From 25th - 29th January 2016, the Warakar Women and Catholic Women Groups received Cooking and Piggery trainings. The Jima community from the Kondika tribe received Cooking training on 14th - 18th March, 2016.

The trainings were conducted at the communities' requests, aiming to help them learn new skills that they can use to earn alternate income to sustain themselves.

At the end of these trainings, the participants expressed great satisfaction and strongly urged VfC to conduct similar trainings where and when possible.

Voice for Change is a small women's non-governmental organisation working to end Violence Against Women and Girls and building safer homes and communities in Jiwaka.

VfC is an established provincial women's organisation and has been working in Jiwaka since 2004.

A fully registered non-governmental organisation contributing to the government goals to promote equal participation of women and men through sustainable development and human rights for all.

VfC provides the following services;

- ⇒ Trainings on livelihoods skills
- ⇒ Workshops on GBV/HR
- ⇒ Counseling
- ⇒ Advocacy on Gender Equality
- ⇒ Conflict Mediation/Resolution

*"We provide these services in the principals of EQUALITY and HUMAN RIGHTS" VfC*

Vision

**A society free of all forms of Violence against women and girls.**

Mission

**Voice for Change is promoting Equal participation of women and men through all aspects of development - socially, politically, economically and spiritually.**

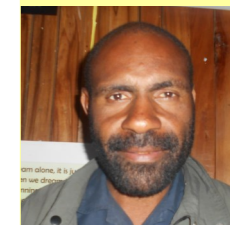
Our Values

**We strive for equal participation at all levels and of development for transparency and accountability. We want communities to take ownership of its development changes.**

Who We Are

**Voice for Change comprises of individuals who are committed to serving the organization through various capacities with community institutions involved in developments to collectively addressing the issues of violence against women and girls in Jiwaka Province.**

FROM EDITOR'S DESK



"When the home experiences Inequality we are in Crisis..., When Equality reigns, what a world!!!"

The Editor wishes to thank those who provided inputs for the publication of this first Issue 2016 and encourages all to continue in the same spirit.

VfC is continuing with its advocacy programs for safer homes and communities; and facilitating various trainings to improve livelihood skills.

VfC urges all to work together to reach out for all Jiwakans to respect each other's God given rights.

The mountain is high but together we can climb it! Let us climb it successfully!

I hope you enjoyed reading the newsletter.

Gideon Bare



ACRONYMS

- EVAW - Ending Violence Against Women
- FSVAC - Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee
- FSVU - Family and Sexual Violence Unit
- GBV - Gender Based Violence
- HR - Human Rights
- WAVE - Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment
- WHRD - Women Human Right Defender
- VAW - Violence Against Women



WOMEN ARE AGENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN JIWAKA – By Mark Pokil

The Trainings on GBV/HR held in Tunsakup (North Waghi) and Kugark (South Waghi) from the 2-5 and 15-19 February respectively, conducted by Voice for Change, exposed the power of women and revealed to the men folk to see their weakness; in particular, their hindrances to the utilization of the capabilities of women.

Eve, a woman fell to the temptation of Satan that caused the downfall of mankind from the garden of Eden (Heaven).

One can ponder, 'Why did Satan tempt Eve rather than Adam'?

Well, Satan targeted the powerful one of the two; Eve was made of bone, a tougher material than dust, of which Adam was made up of. Eve (women) is tougher/stronger than Adam (man).

Therefore, a woman is the strength of the family, the community, the province, the nation and the world.

It is when women succeed that families, communities, provinces or countries, and in that manner, the whole world succeeds.

"I believe when women succeed, America succeeds" Barack Obama - President, USA.

In PNG the strength of women has been hidden over the generations by tradition, culture and attitudes and Jiwaka is not an exception.

Evil tries to destroy women so

that mankind is destroyed.

Anyone who destroys women; is an agent of evil. That person is destroying mankind.

All must see that women are carriers of life; they are not channels of death.

It is my sincere prayer that all men in Jiwaka:

End all forms of violence & injustice to women and provide secure communities for them.

Let us give women in our province the opportunity to utilize their potentials so that Jiwaka can benefit from their efforts.

Mr Mark Pokil is a former high school teacher. He is now a Peace Builder and a Women Human Rights Defender (WHRD). Mr Pokil is an advocate for Equality and Human Rights. He has been engaged by VfC to assist and facilitate GBV/HR Trainings. He comes from Wurup community in Anglimp, and is currently developing a Community Peace and Security Law for the Warawau community. It will be the first community that will have its laws. It was an implementation of their Action Plan.



Fredah Kaman is from Kugark, South Waghi. 'Bridging Gaps Association' is the association she registered to address health risks in her community. Fredah started the Bridging Gaps Association in 2012 and commenced educating villagers in Healthy Living. With the motto "Going Rural", she collected a handful of interested men and women and started running community health promotion programs.



The number of interested people, including young people, increased. The need for addressing marijuana abuse became a necessity and gave rise to the creation of another program called Drug Rehabilitation Centre. The Centre provides counseling and advice for youths to abstain from taking drugs.

In 2013, she ventured into farming activities and trained her group members to look after honey bees and grow rice. Currently, she serves more than 60 farmers of which almost 40 are growing and selling rice and honey.

Her role is to provide technical assistance to her farmers and others interested in growing rice and looking after honey bee.

Fredah is a passionate extension worker. Her achievements include the building of a permanent meeting house and a set up of farming kits.

Some farmers who she has assisted are now extending their farms and are venturing into other enterprises to generate more income for their households.

Fredah would like to see the Government's support for this existing extension network and also to explore market options for the farmers produce.

Fredah believes in healthy living and dreams for a

"Healthy and drug free community and most importantly, an economically independent community."

Fredah is currently engaged with VfC as an Extension Worker under the ACIAR Project.



Gender Based Violence and Human Rights Training

Four communities received Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Human Rights (HR) training in February 2016 conducted by VfC. A total of 121 people from North and South Waghi benefited from the one month training program. The Training was funded by both United Nation Trust Fund (UN TF) and the Jiwaka Provincial Government to EVAW.

The topics covered were: gender & gender roles, discrimination & stereotypes, and gender base violence in the community. It also covered the human rights in the context of international human rights laws and the PNG Constitution.

The Training emphasised the importance of women's roles in the communities, homes and families. At the end of the trainings the participants expressed their understanding and appreciation of gender equality, violence

against women and human rights through outlining their action plan.

Lastly, participants made commitments to change their attitudes and behaviours.

Below are the outlines for communities participated.

"the value of both men and women are equally important" ..Lucy.

Table with 5 columns: Date, Community, No. of Participants, Facilitators, Outcome/Comments. It lists training details for four communities: Tunsakup, Bunumwoo/Sigiri, Kugark, and Village Court.

The focus of the GBV/HR trainings is to advocate for:

- Gender equality
- Ending violence against women and children
- Strengthening, understanding and educating on women's rights
- Creating a peaceful, just and secure family and community

The facilitator, Ms Lucy Berak, emphasised throughout the trainings the importance for women's roles in the community and in the families.

"Women are created to complement men and to live and work side by side. The value of both are equally important", Ms Berak.

Mr Joseph Mond Opo, Provincial Village Court Inspector urged the law enforcing agents to set up a network with Vfc to eradicate violence against women in the province. Mr Opo, who was also a participant at Village Court Official's' GBV/HR training, gave a stern warning to village court officials to uphold the law so that the "perpetrators must face the full force of the law so that justice must prevail".

WORKSHOP PROGRAM				
DAY #1: MONDAY	DAY #2: TUESDAY	DAY #3: WEDNESDAY	DAY #4: THURSDAY	DAY #5: FRIDAY
<b>SESSION 1:</b> Introduction - Getting to know each other - Workshop Obj/Program - In-house Rules <b>SESSION 2:</b> What is Gender? - Attitude Assessment - Male/Female Treatment - Gender Attribute Exercises - The Gendering Process: The Making of Man/Woman - Gender, Culture & Changes	- Recap <b>SESSION 3:</b> Gender Roles - Time Management - Multiple Roles of Man/Women's Work - Activity <b>SESSION 4:</b> Profile Table Understanding Stereotypes & discrimination	- Recap <b>SESSION 5:</b> Gender Violence - Define Violence - Different Forms of Gender Violence - Gender Violence of PNG Laws - Cause, effects & threats of gender violence - Possible solution to eliminate end gender violence	- Prayer - Recap <b>SESSION 6:</b> Gender Equality: Global & National Commitment: * International Framework - UDHR - CEDAW - CRC - CRPD * Government Policies - PNG Constitution - Women, Gender & Dev. Act - PNG's SDGs - GBV/HR Act	- Recap <b>SESSION 7:</b> Reflection, Commitment & Change: - Individual Commitment Towards Promoting Change - Gender Equality & HR Rights - Community Action Plan - Workshop Evaluation - Presentation of Certificates - Closing

"Most village court decisions on GBV/HR cases are influenced by bribery and the decisions handed down favor men. This practice will not be tolerated", Opo said.



From left - right; Lucy, Amenda & Mark.

The trainings were rewarding and successful. Participants came up with their action plans to continue raising ERAW awareness in their homes, villages and communities.

After every training, a graduation ceremony was held. All participants received certificates of participation.

Trainings in Pictures

1. LIVELIHOOD SKILLS

**Top left:** Trainer Mr Joseph Kuru demonstrating Pig injections & treatments skills to Catholic Women Group.

**Bottom left:** Kugar Community preparing Pig Feeds.

**Top right:** Warakar women with their graduation certificates.

**Top far right:** Cooked pizzas and baked cakes displayed by Warakar women

**Bottom right:** Jima women displaying their cooked dishes.

**Bottom far right:** Jima women preparing for graduation

2. GBV/HR

GBV/HR Graduations

05/02/16

Tunskup Community (Banz)



12/02/16

Bunowou Community (Banz)



19/02/16

Kugark Community (Minj)



26/02/16

Minj Peace, Law & Order Community



"Responding to and Preventing Gender Based Violence (GBV)"

Vfc PROGRAM

Vfc has four key focus areas:

- Ending Violence against Women/Girls
- Young Women & Leadership
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- Women's Peace and Security

GBV Program consists of:

- ⇒ GBV Prevention
- ⇒ GBV Response

GBV Prevention

GBV Prevention focuses on trainings, advocacy and coordination of awareness through its stakeholders

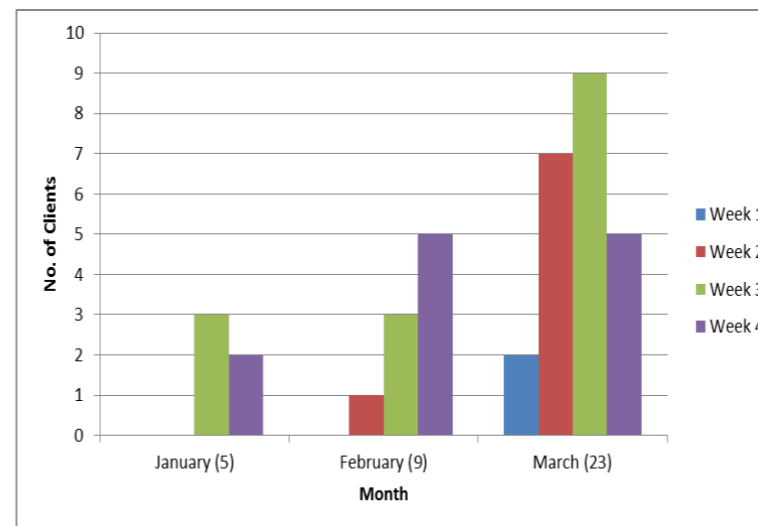
networks.

GBV Response

The program has a staff of 5 and a network of 30 Women Human Right Defenders (WHRDs) in the Province.

The main focus of the Response Unit is to help survivors with the following services;

- Counselling.
- Referrals and escorting women to hospital, village courts and police stations.
- Paralegal Support.
- Rehabilitation and Support for reintegration.



GBV Response Desk received 37 clients during 3 months (January - March) who were survivors of both physical and sexual violence who sought various support from Vfc.

They were:

- ♦ 34 women
- ♦ 2 Men
- ♦ 1 child (boy)



"We strongly believe and value life; that in giving hope to the depressed, they feel that somebody is listening and is concerned", Sophie.

"It is really heartbreaking to see fellow colleagues being beaten to death", Regina.

The column graph above shows the number of survivors visiting VFC per week and its total for the period of January to March, 2016.

GBV RESPONSE TEAM



Sophie - Coordinator



Marie - Project Support Officer



Regina - Counselor



Ps Vero - Counselor



Wendy - Counselor



### South Waghi LLG, Peace and Good Order Heads Meeting

On 16 February, VfC facilitated a meeting at Molka Lodge for South Waghi LLG and Peace & Good Order leaders.

#### **ISSUE: Minj Police Peace Team taking over the mandated Roles of South Waghi LLG Peace.**

**Master of Ceremony: Cr. Mary Gele-President (Minj District Ecumenical Council of Women)**

In attendance were;

- ◆ Deputy Administrator for LLG & District Services - Mr David Wamea
- ◆ Jiwaka Provincial Village Court Inspector - Mr Joe Mond Opo
- ◆ South Waghi Assistant District Manager - Mr Benny Tumul
- ◆ Minj Police Station Commander - Snr. Inspector Horim Piamia

OTHER ATTENDANTS:

- Law, Peace & Order Sector
- Village Court Magistrates
- Village Court Chairman
- Land Mediators



Mr Tumul speaking during the meeting

#### **AGENDA:**

1. Clarification of Police and LLG Peace Roles & Duties
2. Newly appointed Peace Officers
3. Allowances
4. Enforcement of compensation
5. Fee Collection/Receipting & Registering of Courts

#### **Resolution**

VfC agreed to support the next meeting at a latter date with the District Heads to discuss the above agendas.



### Introducing VfC Partners in 2016

#### **1. Jiwaka Provincial Government**

Voice for Change is working in partnership with the Jiwaka Provincial and Local Level Governments with key law and justice institutions and agencies. They are supportive by way of advocacy, trainings and awareness on GBV/HR. Currently the provincial government is assisting the development of the Provincial Gender Based Violence Plan and setting up the Provincial FSVAC.

#### **2. International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)**

IWDA is the International Women's Development Agency, which focuses on Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Asia and the Pacific. IWDA has agreed to engage VfC for a 5 year partnership under its Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment (WAVE) Program which has commenced in 2016 and will end in 2020. It will provide funding

for VfC to continue its work to address Violence Against Women (VAW).

#### **3. UN Trust Fund to EVAW**

UN Trust Fund has funded VfC since 2013 and ended the project in April 2016. It was a 3 years engagement that focused on efforts to end violence against women. A final review of this project will commence in May this year.

#### **4. DreiKonigsAktion (DKA) - 3 Kings Mission, Horizon 3000**

DKA is an Austrian Organisation that has its office in Madang and is currently funding the Livelihood Skills Trainings with VfC. The program started in July 2015 and will end in June this year.

#### **5. ACIAR Project**

Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) Project is implemented in collaboration with the University of Canberra, Baptist Union of PNG & NARI and VfC. The focus is to help local communities to improve family farming and small businesses. It is a one year program and ends in December 2016.



### PARTNER'S VISITS

#### **DreiKonigsAktion officer's Visit**

Mr Waibo Bosia, Support Program Officer for DreiKonigsAktion (DKA) based in Madang, visited VfC from 15th - 17th March 2016 to monitor the progress of the livelihood skills trainings.

Mr Bosia observed two trainings on Pig Farming and Cooking, Nutrition

and Hygiene. He also had the opportunity to talk to the participants from both trainings.

The communities applauded DKA and VfC for the changes they are bringing to them.

Seated L—R: Sina (VfC), Lilly (VfC) & Waibo (DKA) with Brenda (VfC) standing.



#### **New Partnership Project**

A new project funded by Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) is implemented by ACIAR and its partners: University of Canberra, Baptist Union of PNG, National Agriculture Research Institute and VfC. It is a one year program which has commenced on 1st of February, 2016.

The theme of the Project is: 'Save long Bisnis na Wok Fama bilong Kamapim Gutpela Sindaun' (Learning to make Business and do Farming for Better Living). It is actually a research program conducted to help build the

business skills of women smallholders and their families in Jiwaka.

The Activities implemented so far are:

1. Conducted a Baseline Survey with the beneficiaries from 6 communities in Jiwaka.
2. 8 people in each community were selected to be trained as Community Educators.
3. From 22nd - 26th February, an Introduction training for the leaders and Community Educators was carried out by the project team. It was to help the participants to plan their trainings in their communities.
4. The Community Educators have

rolled out the trainings on 28th - 31st March in their respective communities.

The Community Educators are now waiting for the second training which will be conducted in May 2016.



Australian & PNG Team - Project Team Leader Professor Barbara Pamphilon (middle)

#### **A 5 year partnership between VfC & IWDA**

On April 29th 2016, two representatives from IWDA, Ms Elena Leddra and Ms Suzanne Fletcher visited VfC to help set up the Financial Management system and to introduce the new WAVE Project (see details on page 10).

On the final day of the visit, an induction training was conducted on

Building Alliance to End Violence Against Women in Jiwaka. A project that will be implemented by VfC during 2016 to 2020.

"When I dream alone, it is just a dream. When we dream together, it's the beginning of reality, when we work together following our dreams, it is the creation of heaven." adopted Brazilian Proverb.



Ms Elena Leddra, PNG Program Manager and VfC Staff



# Awareness at Kurumul:

## ACTION PLAN EXECUTED

**K**urumul village Court officials, were the first to execute their action plan on GBV and HR Laws by holding a day awareness on the 16 of March 2016.

VFC and Police personnel from the Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) accompanied the Kurumul Village Court Officials in carrying out the awareness raising initiatives. The communities were Kunsmung, Kurumul, Usnang, Malbang, Damne and Tombil.

During the campaign, each of the village courts officials took turns in explaining the human rights and the penalties the perpetrators would face if the rights were abused. This also included the Laws and Powers vetted at village, district, national and supreme court levels.

*"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, BUT by those who watch them without doing anything".*



Top to bottom; Village court, Police & Vfc representatives speaking to the communities during awareness



# Opening of the New Classroom "Vfc PRE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

by Ms Ruth Shanks, the World President of Associated Country Women of the World.



It was a moment of joy for 'Voice For Change Pre and Elementary School'. On the 24th of March 2016, their newly built Double classroom was opened.

The double classroom was co-funded by Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), Jiwaka Provincial Government and Vfc. It was officially opened by ACWW World President Ms Ruth Shanks MB who was accompanied by her delegation.

The ACWW delegation was given a warm welcome by traditional singsing groups, the village brass band and VFC Pre and Elementary School students.

The students in their newly designed uniforms added some amusements singing the national anthem and also performed a creative dance that stole the show.

Jiwaka Provincial Government representatives announced the government's recognition of the school through its education program. They urged the communities to look after the school and its properties because the school is the breeding ground for future leaders of the Province.



The ACWW World President officially opening the classroom by cutting the ribbon while Brenda & Lilly look on.

The surrounding community and their leaders crowded the school premises to witness this historic event.

The school is fully furnished with all basics required for pre and elementary school education.



Students and teachers singing the PNG national anthem