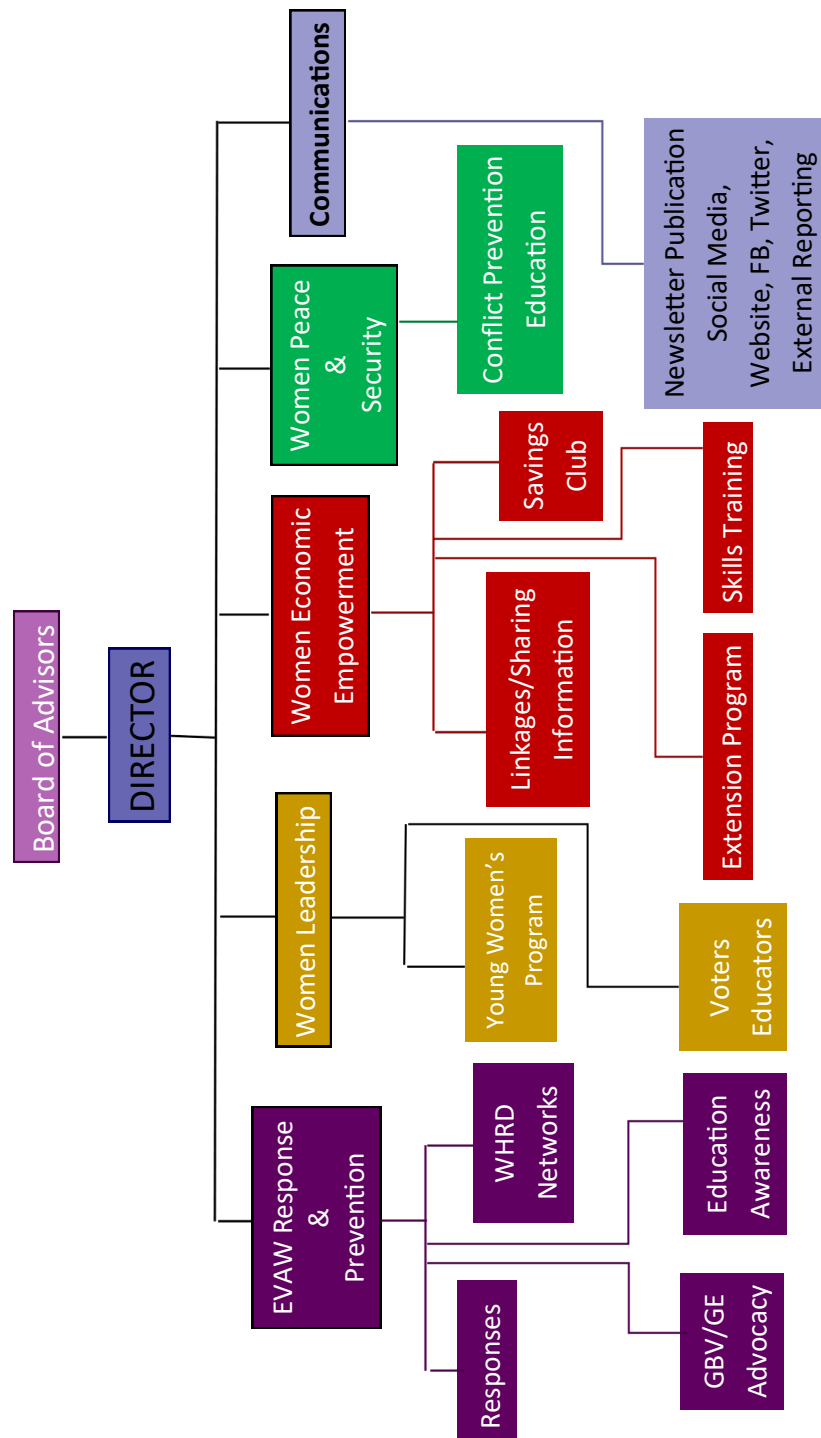




Voice for Change, Jiwaka Province—Papua New Guinea

Voice For Change Structure



Briefs ...MiBank updates

Voice for Change is an agent of a nationally owned microfinance bank providing banking services to rural people including survivors for the last four years since 2016. During this time, Vfc successfully carried its operation and would like to share the followings:

- Registered 8 new clients this quarter bringing the total to 194 clients.
- From the total, 146 are females including 70 percent of survivors
- Transacted almost K300,000.00 within the clients
- Rolling out more than 20 literacy education including financial and micro business management learnings
- Benefitted more than 1450 rural population

Also provided other services like change of phones and pins and dormant account reactivations to the clients.

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



VOICE FOR CHANGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – MARCH, 2021

ISSUE 1, FIRST QUARTER 2021



Virtual meetings with partners from abroad.

...and more stories

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We Rise Coalition



United Nations WOMEN



"EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN"

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



Hello Everyone,
Welcome to Voice for Change first quarter edition of its newsletter for 2021.

I would like to thank our outgoing partner, international Women's Development Agency for five year support which ended last year 2020. For Vfc, it was the longest term partnership and we are proud to say that our work is becoming visible and is expanding its activities into other two provinces or Southern Highlands and Hela. With IWDA we have come this far.

Though the global pandemic Covid 19 had a great setback on our work, we successfully completed all our planned activities and we are striving to do the same for the coming

year.

In this quarter, Vfc is excited to welcome on board a new partner WE RISE COALITION for a three months period supporting our EAW Response Desk. We also are honored to have short term partners (UN WOMEN, APLWD and NARI) helping to support our work.

Our success and continuity of this organisation will not be that easy and therefore I would like to acknowledge my committed hardworking staff and our partners and the stakeholders. We encountered challenges along our line of work but as a team we all did our best in making a better living for all.

Enjoy Reading and God Bless!

Lilly BeSoer



Welcoming new and farewelling old Staff

On the 24th of March 2021, Vfc organised a Luncheon and officially welcomed three new staff to the organisation. Team Vfc was privileged to have on board Counsel Miss Nadika Popena (LLB), Miss Lavinia Lingam and Ms Sabina Kaman who all will be attached under the EAW Response Program.

Counsel Miss Emma Minimbi was farewelled after spending six months interning with Vfc providing legal support for survivors under EAW Response Desk. Miss Emma is a recent Masters graduand from the University of Melbourne and was engaged by International Women's Development Agency, one of the former Vfc's longest serving partner, for her internship with Vfc.



Group photo for the participants

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the first quarter of our newsletter for 2021.

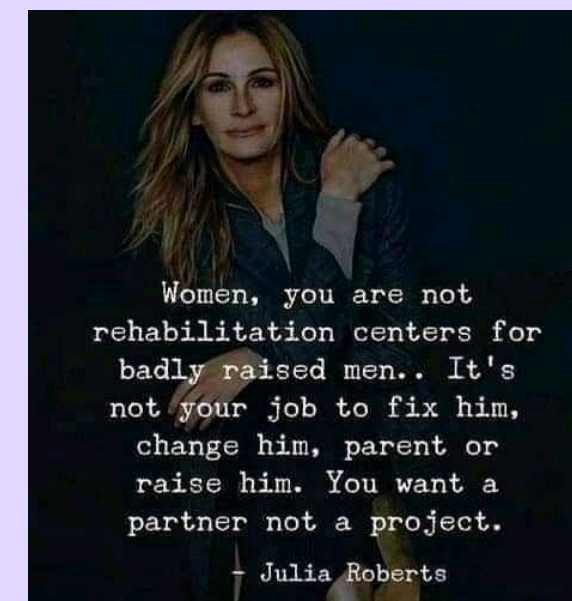
In this quarter we have highlighted some of Vfc core activities and would like to give our partners, stakeholders and fellow country men and women an insight of what the organisation is doing.

Due to Covid 19 and ending of main funding partner, Vfc started this year at a slow pace by prioritising on response services and attending to survivors. However, the organisation ended the three months with; Online meetings, partners visitations, participating on International events and many more.

So enjoy reading this newsletter and learn for yourself.

Gideon Bare

Newsletter Editor



ACRONYMS

CEDAW - Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

CSW - Commission on the Status of Women

EVAW - Ending Violence Against Women

FOCS - Feminist Organisation Capacity Strengthening

FSVAC - Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee

FSVU - Family and Sexual Violence Unit

GBV - Gender Based Violence

GBVAW - Gender Based Violence Against Women

GYPI - Gender & Youth Promotion Initiative

HR - Human Rights

IWD - International Women's Day

IWDA - International Women's Development Agency

TOT - Training of Trainers

WAVE - Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment

WEPP - Women Economic Empowerment Program

WHRD - Women Human Right Defender

WLP - Women Leaders Pathway

VAW - Violence Against Women

VCE - Village Community Educators

VFC - Voice For Change

YWLEP - Young Women Leaders Empowerment Program

Vision

Peace and Gender Equality For All

Purpose/Mission

VfC is a Provincial Women's Organisation based in Jiwaka, working to End All Forms of Violence against women and girls. The Organisation is building a Society that Promotes Women's Human Rights and Equal Participation

Principles

- Equality
- Women's Rights
- Accountability
- Transparency

Values

- ♦ Commitment
- ♦ Fairness
- ♦ Trust
- ♦ Partnership

Strong Leadership makes difference: Lilly BeSoer

Ms Lilly BeSoer, one of the panellist on the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women Parallel Meetings with We Rise Coalition represented civil societies and spoke on the insight into how strong leadership means at all levels including this challenging times of Covid 19.

She shared her experiences and activism work that helps connect well with other women of different levels. She also reveals on how coalition powers builds her strength to fight more on achieving an equal future.

It is an annual event which feminist groups from across the globe come together in New York to share on the Unequal world and push for treaties agreed by powerful countries and institutions.

Unfortunately, this year was different were all the meetings were attended online due to the pandemic.

The event took two weeks from 15th to 26th March 2021 that attracted more than 200 participants including government ministers of



different countries and VfC was one of the participant.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Response Program (EVAW RESPONSE)

Voice for Change Ending Violence Against Women and Response Program is one of the main focus area for the organisation that is providing the following services:

- Counselling - one to one, couple and group
- Referrals - hospitals, police and village and district courts support
- Repatriations and Safe house support on Sorcery related issues
- Legal Aid Supports like: IPO, child maintenance, labour under payments, arson cases, represent survivors in courts
- Mediation - family conflicts and reconciliation supports

Within the program, the full working team for this quarter of 2021 comprised of:

- ♦ A Coordinator
- ♦ Counsellors
- ♦ Legal Officers & Legal Persons
- ♦ A support staff

The EVAW Response Desk has two office set ups that are located at:

1. Banz town (Old Provincial Building)
2. Kukpa main office

Under the program, VfC has key stakeholders such as Police, Health and Courts to help survivors and clients receive the needed services.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS QUARTER

Below are summary of activities undertaken under the EVAW Response Desk:

- Received a total of 139 clients including both women and men for this quarter 2021.
- Different services and supports were provided according to the cases reported at the desk. Legal and counselling services were mostly accessed
- 3 maintenance cases successfully defended (litigated)
- 13 IPOs successfully obtained by survivors
- 1 medical support
- 3 police support with one successfully rescuing of survivor
- 2 Repatriations
- 27 received safe house service (12 adults and 15 children)
- 1 male disable client helped
- More than 280 innocent children been affected indirectly as recorded

There are two main approach undertaken under the EVAW Program and they are:

1. **RESPONSE** - Counselling, Legal Aid Supports, Referrals, Repatriations and Safe House
2. **PREVENTION** - Trainings and Awareness



Virtual Meetings and Workshops

This quarter of the year started at a slow pace due to Corona Virus affecting most activities of the organisation. However, VfC attended numerous ZOOM Meetings and Workshops online to get in touch with the international partners as planned. Below are number of events VfC participated at:

1. On the 18th of March 2021, Ms Clara Opur and Miss Angela Mong were both on NGO CSW65 Side event panel hosted by IWDA and spoke about experiences and challenges rural young women faced during the Covid 19.
2. On the 22nd of March 2021, Ms Lilly BeSoer joined other Pacific Feminist group on CSW65 parallel session and shared how Covid 19 is impacting rural pacific women's life.
3. From 22nd - 24th of March, Mr Gideon Bare



Top right: Clara and Angela during one of the session

attended a Gender Responsive Budget Workshop conducted by Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for Non State Actors.

The sessions were informative and individuals were able to share women's experience with the Covid 19 pandemic.

Gender Based, Human Rights and Peace Building Training

On the 8th to 19th of February 2021, VfC facilitated a Gender Based Violence, Human Rights and Peace Building Training for 15 participants from Hela, Southern Highlands and Jiwaka under the HELP UN Women partnership at Voice for Change Resource Centre.

The training was on how Gendering is an hindrance for peace and developments within a home, community, and the province as a whole. Lessons were more on understanding the importance of women and girls and to give them equal opportunity to contribute in any form of developments. They were also trained as Human Rights Defenders to protect the life of vulnerable women and girls. At the end of the training, participants made commitments to carryout their action plan back in their respective provinces.



Group photo with participants, Ms Lilly (front left) and Ms Mary Kini (front right)



Celebrating International Women's Day

This year's International Women's Day was hosted as Luncheon at VfC Resource Centre on the 8th of March 2021.

The event attracted more than 50 women leaders from across all sectors of Jiwaka to celebrate rural women's achievements and success within the country and across the globe.

Four of our young women leaders under the Young Women Leadership Program were put on panel to discuss "Rural Women in Leadership". Each presenters took the opportunity to share the importance and the relevance of the event that are held across the world by women annually to



Ms Sophie Kilipi making a presentation during the Luncheon

remember fellow colleague that has rise up against all odds to lead and become leaders.

The women showed unity to support each other and pledged in solidarity to help and promote women to lead in any field of work.

HWHRDM Advisory Meeting

Highlands Women Human Rights Defenders Movement Network held a two days Advisory Board Meeting at VfC Resource Centre on the 15th to 16th of March 2021.

VfC Legal team were invited to sit-in to Review and Approve the Movements constitution.

VfC is one of the partner that makes up the supervisory role within the Movements Advisory Board.



L-R: Oxfam Gender Officer, HWHRDM Program Officer and VfC Legal Aid Team.

NARI Team visits VfC

The National Agriculture Research Institute team from Aiyura in Eastern Highlands made a two days visit at VfC on the 17th and 18th of February 2021.

The visitation was to conduct a survey on how English Potato (Kaukau) is grown and harvested in the highlands region of Papua New Guinea. They further collected ideas on different types of soil and its fertility and more importantly how women and girls are involved in the production line.

Interested farmers under the organisation group from within and around the community were called in for



NARI Rep speaking to the farmers

the interview. Also a Zoom meeting within NARI management team was held on the final day to get a first hand information from VfC and the team.