



VOICE FOR CHANGE SAFER HOMES - SAFER JIWAKA



PROVINCIAL COORDINATION MEETING IN GOROKA

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) Project's primary focus is protecting the rights of individuals in situations that violate their basic human rights. The project is focusing on sorcery related accusations and violence and on all forms of violent actions against any individual. The Provincial Meeting was organized by Oxfam PNG to bring the Provincial Government Officials from the 3 Provinces where the human rights organizations have been working. Voice for Change from Jiwaka, Kup Women for Peace from Simbu, and Kafe Urban Women Settlers Association from Eastern Highlands Province Representatives for respective Provincial Governments were involved in the meeting. The aim of the meeting was to explore the government, Civil Societies and Oxfam partner to address the issue of Violence.

Jiwaka was represented by Sergeant Ronnie Akim from Minj District Police, Mr. Stefan Wusik, Director - Social Services, Mr. Steven Kamga - Program Manager, Community Development, Mr. Nallan Kawa, Program Manager Law and Order, Ms. Rosen Kiap - Women's Representative to the Provincial Executive Council, Jiwaka Provincial Government. In participation was also Ms. Mary Gele women representative from the South Waghi LLG.

HELPING HANDS

Mr. John Kelly, Miriam Golpe, Mata Kupil and Mai Kelly are active helpers around the Voice For Change Office. They ensure the office is clean both inside and outside and in order. They also prepare tea/coffee at every training and meetings.

Voice for Change's driver Mr. Brown Kumi is ready to help when called.

We appreciate their service and thank them for their roles.



John, Miriam Golpe, Mata Kupil, and Mai Kelly



MR. BROWN KUMI
DRIVER



VOICE FOR CHANGE

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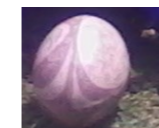
P O BOX 1117
MOUNT HAGEN
Western Highlands Province

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

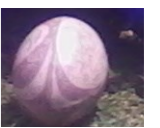
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KUMA COWBOYS



Agents of Change— White Ribbon
Featuring the Kuma Cowboys Rugby Team. seeks to embrace the culture taken on by the PNG Rugby League and the National Rigby Clubs to "Say No to Violence Against Women".
READ MORE on pg. 2



FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK



Welcome to our second quarter edition of our newsletter for 2014. In this edition Voice for Change (VFC) is updating activities with its partners in Jiwaka Province. One of the highlights were the training of the Kuma leaders and the Ward Councilors from South Whagi Local Level Government on Gender Based Violence and on Human Rights. VFC's Advocacy on Ending Violence Against Women's Programme aims to give the people of Jiwaka opportunities to collectively discuss issues of gender based discrimination in relation to customary norms, beliefs and practices that have never been discussed before. Through this process individuals and institutions will be gender sensitized through education on human/women's rights and be motivated *cont...*

towards attitude and behavioral changes in the ways that will progressively eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls, starting in families and the communities and carried over to public institutions and spaces.

This attitude of violating the rights of others must stop. We must speak up when violence is being committed against a woman, child or man for that matter.

It is only by speaking up and challenging the perpetrators that we can truly start bringing about change

Our cover page highlights a local football team, the Kuma Cowboys Club Members seek to embrace the culture taken on by the PNG Rugby League and the National Rugby Clubs to "Say No to Violence Against Women".

Please enjoy reading!
Lilly Be'soer



KUMA COWBOYS CLUB MEMBERS COMMIT TO PROMOTING PEACE AND STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

On the 8th of March 2014, 25 members of the Kuma Cowboy Rugby Club players and 6 officials attended a day's training following request from the team management. The session was facilitated by Ms Leentje on Violence Against Women.



The club management's aim is to create responsible rugby players who can become community role models in respecting individuals as human. At the end of the session, all members agreed to change their behaviors and attitude and promised to share the learnings with others. The team came up with a plan to carry out awareness in their communities. One participant, Mr. Junior Kapil mentioned that the training will help the players to promote peace through sportsmanship and stop taking abusive substances and thanked VFC for the good initiative.

KUMA COWBOYS in DISCUSSIONS DURING THE TRAINING



FROM THE FINANCE COORDINATORS DESK



In January 2013, Voice for Change (VFC) officially commenced its work and in a short period of time, I see Voice for Change's activities are reaching out to many people. International development partners are taking interest in the organization's activities. In January 2013 VFC started off with a grant from the United Nation Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF EVAW)

In the same year, Voice for Change went in to partnership with Oxfam International in PNG which funded two projects. In July 2014, VFC is going into its second of contract for continued support from Oxfam in PNG for financial and organizational capacity building support. This year, 2014, the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) an Australian based Women Non Government Organization is supporting VFC with grant and strengthening the Human Rights Defenders network in the highlands. It is a challenging job trying to understand the different funding financial reporting systems and to ensure the funds are used as intended and reports are produced on scheduled time. I have learned a lot and gaining experiences as well. I am looking forward for more collaborations and networking in years to come.

Brenda Pukme

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (WEEP)-

Fruit and Vegetable Project

Program Coordinator- MS. SHEENA JOE



More than 100 farmers have been trained in vegetable production, The trainings were funded by Oxfam in PNG through Voice for Change. The Fruit and Vegetable Project provides opportunity for rural women to have access to technical knowledge that enable them to be more competent in growing vegetables and manage their income. The project follows a village-based farmer to farmer extension approach in order to provide opportunity of skilled farmers to share and pass on their experiences and knowledge among and within the members of the community. The project utilizes the local expertise to train fellow men and women in own local dialect. This extension project targets rural women and their families to improving skills and knowledge in agricultural production to maintain food security, enhance cash income and sustain in livelihood. There are currently eight (8) Extension Workers Supporting farmers under this project. An additional four (4) Extension Workers will join the project this month. The training also covered for Train of Trainers to Extension Workers and Zone Leaders in Vegetable production, Financial Literacy and Gender trainings for 100 women/men.

CONSULTATIONS ON SORCERY RELATED VIOLENCES

On the 19th and 20th of June 2014, VFC facilitated two consultations meetings for representatives of Peace Mediators from Jiwaka and the Kuma Community. The focus of the meetings was to discuss how current Sorcery cases are handled and how best this issue be addressed at the community level. In participation was Ms. Maria Sagrista, a Research student from the University of Spain and her research is looking at how communities in PNG will address the sorcery cases given that the government has recently repealed the Sorcery Act and introduced the death penalty for those found guilty of murder in relation to sorcery. The Peace Mediators revealed that their role is to build and maintain peace in the community.

Through the Discussion, they revealed that they make unfair decisions on Sorcery cases. With the Kuma Community, women and men were discussing the issues in separate groups to get their views and it revealed that, this belief is deeply engrained and rooted, the following approaches may contribute to reducing the violence's related to sorcery:

1. Education on the new repealed Act to all.
2. A rescue team in place or set up Community Policing to rescue those in danger.
3. Government is the law maker should directly fund the CBOs, NGO's and Women's Organizations for effective implementations.
4. Churches have an important role to play and should focus on preaching about good spirits.
5. Ongoing education and awareness on Human Rights to communities to make by laws on sorcery and implement it within and extended families, clans and sub clans
6. Education and awareness on human right laws to law enforcers Police/Peace Mediators.
7. Women trained to support each other as more women are the targets compared to men.
8. Provision of counselling peace mediation and reconciliation with perpetrators and victims and re integration back in to community.
9. Set up safe homes in communities and linked to churches.



Appointment of Four New Addition Village Based Agricultural Extension Workers.

On June 27th, the existing and newly appointed Extension Workers were called in to reflect and discuss progress and benefits of the role of the Extension Workers. They were informed of their roles and the number of days they will commit to this project. The 4 newly appointed Extension Workers are happy to serve the organization and support other women interested in growing fruit and vegetables. They all thanked Voice For Change for such a great opportunity and willing to support and expand the work. There are currently 8 extension workers serving VFC.



In May 2014, the Nazareth Rehabilitation Center in Chabai, Autonomous Region of Bougainville hosted a two weeks counseling and Retreat for Sr. Regina Wamb from the Shalom Care Centre at the Maria Kwin Centre in Banz and Lilly Be'Soer from Voice



(Left) Lilly and Sr. Regina (Right) with Sr. Lorraine Garasu, the Coordinator for the Nazareth Rehabilitation Center in Chabai. (Bougainville)
Thank you IWDA for this special treat!

for Change. It was good to be away from the normal work routine, the two have been well cared for during the two weeks.

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the *Second Edition* of our



Quarterly Newsletter. As Voice For Change continues helping the helpless, needy,

and unfortunate, the Editor wishes to thank those who have contributed their stories for publication and encourages all to continue the same spirit. It is a great pleasure and immense joy to be back in the vineyard of the Lord to continue his work for the good of those in need, Our brothers and sisters, of Jiwaka. The harvest is great but the labourers are few!. Let us work unceasingly!

ENJOY YOUR READING!

Ms. Susan Kuno

PARALEGAL TRAINING - MINGENDI

A Paralegal Training was held in Mingendi from 26th - 30th of April and hosted by Kup Women for Peace. The Highlands Human Rights Defenders Network Organizations were invited to attend the training and it was funded by Oxfam International in PNG.



Christina (top centre) and Grace (Sitting) from VFC with other participants at Mingendi

The aim of this workshop was to assist the Rapid Response Team Project staff to provide basic paralegal services and advise to the organizations clients. The workshop was based on the Human Rights approaches and the process of the legal system of our country. Human Rights Defenders Network is a network made up by people who aim to create better and Safer Homes. Most of their work includes working to defend the Human Rights.

The facilitators were from the Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights, Public Solicitors and State Prosecutors. Voice for Change, a partner organization to Oxfam in PNG sent four participants to attend the training. Since May 2014, VFC has been assisting clients with paralegal advices.



UPDATES ON FARMERS ACTIVITIES IN JIWAKA

1. Training on Soil Management

A total of 12 farmers gathered at Maria Queen Centre Banz for the training on Soil Management from the 2nd - 4th of June and facilitated by Mr. Sonnie Hizittle, Senior livelihood officer from Oxfam International based in EHP. The training focused on Soil Fertility Enrichment Practices on Soil Erosion Control and Soil Moisture Conservation Practices. The training was funded by Oxfam International.

2. Reflection Workshop

A Reflection Workshop was conducted on the 5th of June at the same venue following on the Soil Management Training for the farmers who were engaged under this project. The 12 participants from Soil Management Training plus joining 35 farmers from the four areas of **Kukpa, Kugark, Warakar, and Tombil** attended the Reflection Workshop. The aim of this was to bring those farmers trained by the project together to collectively discuss, share experiences and give feedback and views to be considered for the next planning. The participants agreed that sequence cropping is the best practice because continues production and marketing is taking place meaning a steady flow of income into the households.



Participants acknowledge and appreciated VFC's role.



MAMA SUGUN- FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FARMER.



Mama **Sugun** is a widow from Taimil Village, Minj District. Mama Sugun is grateful to Voice for Change for

the support provided through the Extension Workers to train her to grow her first vegetables. The startup kits provided by Oxfam through VFC has enabled most unfortunate mothers to learn on how to grow fruits and vegetables. This project has enabled her to earn an income and share the surplus with the family.

'Thank you Oxfam for knapsack sprayer, vegetable seeds, insecticides and the training on vegetable production. I am now doing my first harvest of produce.'



DISPLAY OF MAMA SUGUN'S FIRST VEGETABLES HARVEST.

CONTACT FARMERS TRAINING-KUKPA

On the 20th to the 22nd of May, the contact farmers served under the VFC Extension Workers gathered at Kukpa for the Gender Training. The training was funded by Oxfam in PNG and organized by VFC. The training facilitator was Ms Cathy Wali, a freelance Gender Trainer. Ms Wali has also provided training on fruit and vegetable production. The training started with a welcome and introduction led by the project coordinator Ms. Sina Joe (VFC Staff).

The gender training is targeting men, youths, community members and leaders is a new strategy for challenging and changing the Attitudes and Behaviours of youths and male folks to adopt to change and support mothers, women and girls towards better homes and communities. The objectives of the training is to;

1. Educate youths, spouses and males in rural communities to understand the importance of women being seen as equal partners in sharing and caring of workloads in homes.
2. Males and youths to appreciate the roles of women and girls in homes and communities and the need to be supported in any development initiatives as equal partners.
3. Enable both males and females to identify the differences and inequality treatments and attitudes the family have for male and girl child based on gender.

At the end of the training the participants made commitment to change some of their attitudes, behaviours and practises within the families.

Consultation of the National Gender Based Violence Strategy Workshop - Mt. Hagen

A two days workshop hosted by the Department of Community Development, Department of Justice and Attorney General together with the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee was at the Highlander Hotel in Mt. Hagen from the 29th to 30th May, 2014. Representatives from all the seven (7) highlands provinces attended the two days consultative workshop.

The aim of the two days meeting was to discuss and collectively seek insights and inputs based on the experiences that will contribute to developing the National Gender Based Violence Strategy.

During the workshop, the facilitator presented the outline of the National Gender Based Violence Council which is being proposed

Cont..

by the Minister for Community Development, Hon. Loujaya Kouza.

Voice for Change was represented by the Program Leader, Lilly Be'Soer at the meeting. Ms. Be'Soer after participation at the two days consultation indicated that it is timely an action of such is needed at the national level to address the Violence Against Women at homes and communities, however she also pointed out that from the new proposed plan structure presented there still remain a challenge on how to reach the communities. Such initiatives needed a long term commitment and an approach that will give space for the community to collectively acknowledge the issue, take ownership of working towards addressing the issue.

COMMUNITY

The Senior Inspector **Mr. Horim Lawrence Piamia** is a mix parentage of East New Britain and Jiwaka Provinces. He joined the Royal PNG Constabulary on the 13th September 1989 which he served for 25 years particularly in the Highlands Provinces

He is the Police Station Commander (PSC) for Minj District and taking charge of 22 police men and women. He is currently the Acting Provincial Police Commander (PPC) for the Jiwaka Province. As acting PPC his basic role is to overlook all Policing function in the Province. He indicated that the job of a police officer is very challenging, demanding and Interesting when taken the job seriously.



He also revealed that due to logistical problems, the police is unable to effectively address Human Rights Violation issues that are emerging. However, he intends to create a separate office/desk at the police station that will be responsible to all forms of violence against women/girls.

Violence against women/girls in Jiwaka is real and a big challenge for law enforcement agencies in Jiwaka. For our new Province to develop, the issue of violence against women has to be addressed on a long term basis. It needs collective efforts across all level of institutions.

Since taking up the post in Minj, Senior Inspector Piamia has taken several Initiatives to partner with community leaders and the general public to look into issues that case disharmony and disturbances to the general peace of the community at large.

As the Acting Provincial Police Commander , he intends to join hands with all the community based organizations, Civil Societies , Churches and the Jiwaka Provincial Government in addressing the lawlessness in our province.

Senior Inspector Piamia is a member of the Board of Advisors to Voice for Change. The organization acknowledges Senior Inspector Piamia's undivided support to VfC and is ready to assist when need arises.

CHANGE MAKERS



HELEN MOND, VILLAGE DIDIMERI

Mrs. Helen Mond is from Tombil village, Minj and married to Mr. John Mond from Kuma Tribe Kudjip. Before Helen became a farmer her source of income was through growing peanuts for an income to sustain her family's basic needs.

In 2010 Helen joined the Savings and Loans Scheme from VFC and started to build her savings and the following year she obtained mini loans against her savings to raise poultry. She then moved from raising poultry on to growing vegetables and since then she focused on growing different varieties of vegetables to sell for an income as well as for her family consumption. Helen was voluntarily sharing her experiences in farming with other members of her community and in July 2013, she joined VFC as an Extension Worker funded by Oxfam in PNG. The project follows a village-based farmer to farmer extension approach in order to provide opportunity of skilled women farmers to share and pass on their experiences and knowledge among and within the members of the community. This project assists maintain food security, enhances cash income and sustains livelihood. Helen was among the first four Village Extension Workers trained to support farmers under this project..



This project has impacted her and her family and her community. Helen is now providing technical support to more than 30 farmers in vegetable growing and marketing for an alternative income. The community appreciates her role as an Extension Worker and value her advice and support.

Her family household has improve greatly with income from different sources, and are; Poultry, Piggery, ten (10) fishpond with fish in them and continues sales of vegetable produce. She also bought a Generator, a coffee pulper and recently built her family a new semi permanent house. Helen is a committed member of Voice for Change Extension Workers Project and performs her tasks faithfully and many farmers have benefited greatly from her support..

The project has given her and other Extension Workers the opportunity to build and improved their capacities and knowledge in vegetable production and they in turn are providing support to other farmers with confidence.

She is hoping for more blessings for the years to come.

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR KUMA LEADERS

A week's training on Ending Gender Based Violence and Human Rights for Kuma Community in Kudjip, Jiwaka Province and was funded by the International Development Women Agency and UN Trust Fund to End violence Against Women. The training was first of its kind as revealed by the participants and most did not have any background knowledge on violation of human rights and gender based violence. The participants were community leaders, church pastors, Ward Councilors and Youth Advocates. The training was conducted in the newly built training Center initiated by the women farmers of Kugar community and it was the very first training and appreciated as a blessing to the community. The main purpose of the training was to promote Gender Equality, Rights and Respect for ALL men/women, boys and girls, creating a Better and Safer Community. The facilitator was Ms. Lucy Berak a freelance Gender and Human Rights trainer. The training explored real life situations and called for sharing of personal experiences, focus group discussion and participations.



Kuma Leaders during the Training on Gender And Human Rights

Before the training, the participants were asked to write out their expectations from the training. From the list provided it indicated that participants wanted to learn and know the concept of Gender Based Violence and on the basic human rights. This session concluded that culture greatly influences the gender

imbalances in our society. A participant; Councilor Mr. Paul Ju Said ' *I see gender imbalances and tried to work against it and now through this training I am glad it will fully equip me to enforce and address the issues* '. The participant were challenged to change for themselves with-

in families before going out to the communities. On the 2nd to the 6th of June, the same training was facilitated for the Ward Councilors of South Waghi Local Government. Ms. Lucy Barek, the same trainer facilitated the training. Many confessed that it was their first time to attend such training. According to the highlands custom, women are marginalized group in our societies and are excluded from social functions. Through this training they realized their failures and made commitment to be good examples in their homes, communities and start respecting their wives, women and girls.

WORKSHOP TO DEVELOP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON SORCERY AND WITCHCRAFT RELATED VIOLENCE.

A two days consultation workshop on developing the national plan on sorcery and witchcraft related violence. This consultation was organized by the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), Consultative Implementation Council and the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee. The Workshop will be held at Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby from 12-13 June 2014. The workshop purposely looked at the key recommendations came out from the Goroka Conference and develop a national plan of action. The other was to allow participants to share their experiences in dealing with survivors of domestic and sexual violence and services that are provided to survivors. The participants included Government Officials, Non-Government Organizations, Churches, other non-state actors and interested individuals. The challenges still remains on getting the plan implemented at the community levels. VFC was represented by the Program Coordinator- Lilly Be'Soer

QUOTE

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN JIWAKA



In Jiwaka Province, we are witnessing a dramatic **increase in crimes of torture, and murder of innocent women and men** who are alleged to be practicing sorcery to cause harm, illness or death. **These cases have no basis in fact. Many more women (than men) are being targeted and affected** by these criminals, sorcery related attacks. The world is now hearing and PNG is earning a reputation for horrific and barbaric crimes and the failure of the police and justice system to protect women and prevent these atrocities. **To build a new province, we need a**

new beginning, new values, standards and laws to protect women and end all forms of violence. We should build our province on beliefs and principles based on Christianity, the PNG Constitution and laws with an understanding of the human rights that belong to us all. Jiwaka should function in a way the Mama Law of PNG should function. This change in the hearts and minds of the people of Jiwaka people is necessary if we want Jiwaka to develop and prosper. The lawlessness is creating problems with economic developments. **For development, peace and prosperity of our province, we must put an end to, all forms of discrimination against women and girls.** Jiwaka as a new province must emphasis on ZERO TOLERANCE on violence in homes and public spaces. Budget for proper operations of the Village Courts, Police, and Hospitals to attend to victims of violence. Making budget allocations for women, youths and accommodates for local non-government organizations as response providers as they are silently working as agents of change in the communities. Women of Jiwaka should be given the opportunity to participate in and at all levels of developments. The work of women and the potential of women should be recognized, then only Jiwaka will develop. This is an opportunity for our young province to show the leadership in taking this necessary step in protecting our women and girls in the communities by making the appropriate decisions. If Jiwaka society does not accept violence as normal and works to decrease the high level of violence against women, then Jiwaka will not be just beautiful in its natural environment but also in human relationships.

TERMS

VFC- Voice For Change

EVAW- Ending Violence Against Women

RRT- Rapid Response Team

WEEP- Women Economic Empowerment Program

