



# VOICE FOR CHANGE



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## NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

# 2ND QUARTER APRIL-MAY SAFER HOME-SAFER JIWAKA

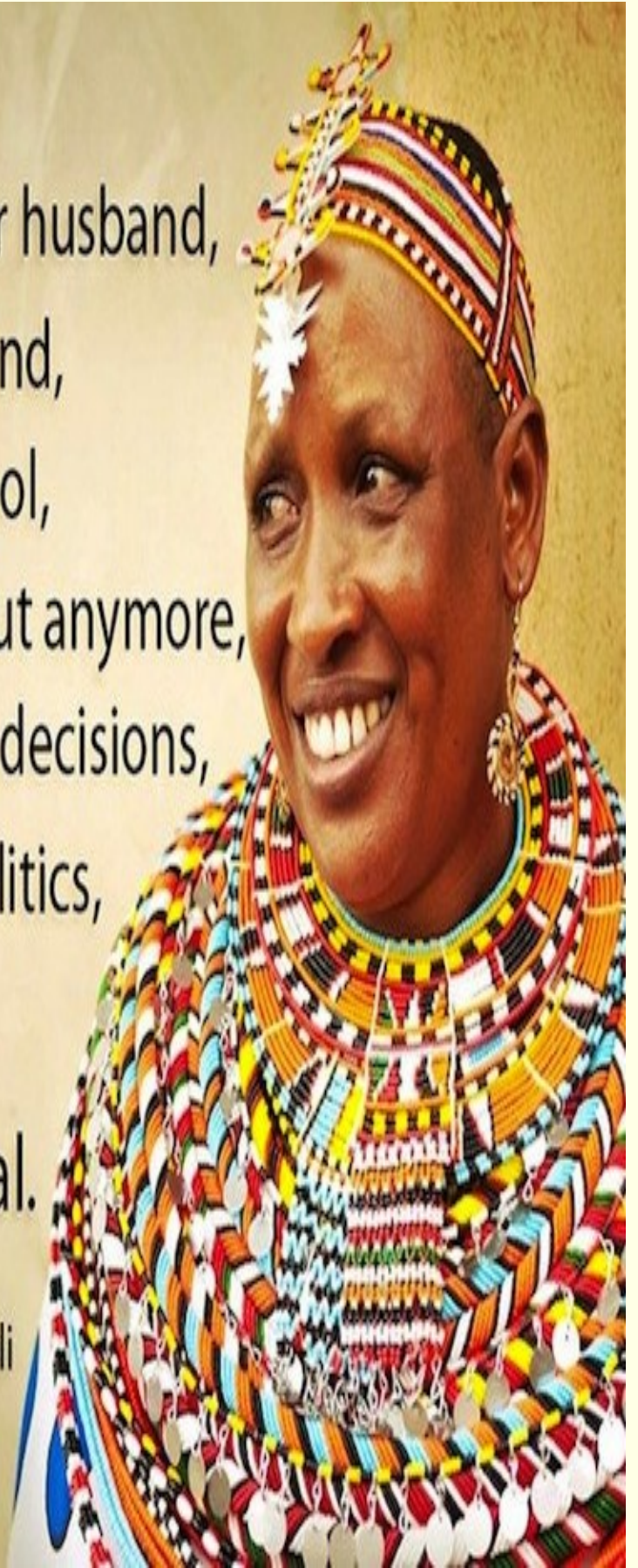


Staff Of VFC attending Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop, story on pg. 4



The rights we want:  
We want to choose our husband,  
We want to own the land,  
We want to go to school,  
We don't want to be cut anymore,  
We want also to make decisions,  
We want respect in politics,  
To be leaders,  
We want to be equal.

— Rebecca Lolosoli





**TEAM LEADER'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to Voice for Change's (VFC) second edition of its newsletter for 2015. In this edition Voice for Change is delighted to share with its partners and the Jiwaka communities the various activities implemented in this quarter.

Gender and Human Rights training for this quarter has been targeted on communities both in the North and South Waghi in Jiwaka .

**FROM THE EDITORS DESK**

Community work is never done. People who have passion and desire to see change go the extra mile just to see a smile on someone's face, whether it be children, women, father, passionate leaders etc. We are grateful to have a team dedicated staff who believe in just that "Putting a smile on somebody's else face."

This quarter highlights brief reports from the organization's activity, features powerful individuals in the community at least doing something positive for the community and news in briefs.

A big salute and congratulations also goes to the Livelihood and Rapid Response team and project staff. Its been an hectic three years, so much have been learnt, challenges faced as well as achievements. We thank Oxfam PNG and look forward to the new partnership should there be any in the future.

With that, we hope you enjoy this edition and feedbacks are welcome.

Happy Reading

VFC Newsletter Team!

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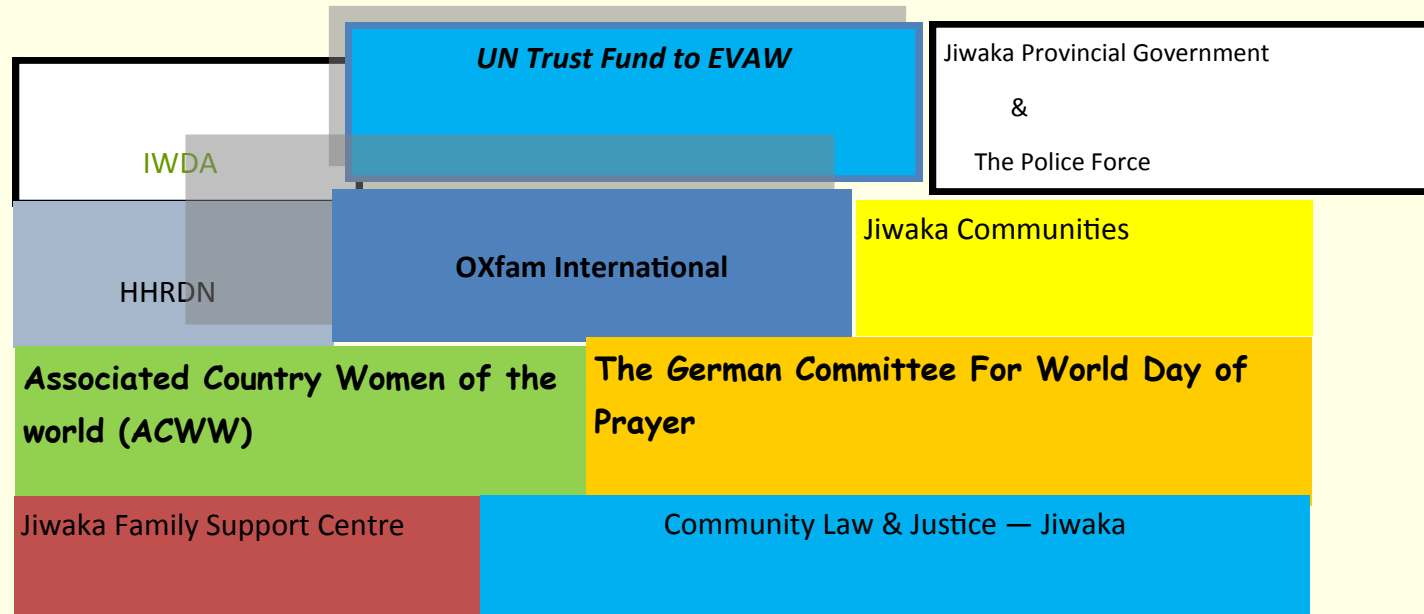
**Located near Kukpa Bridge,, Okuk Highway, Jiwaka Province**

**This quarter thru' the lens**



## Gratitude to Our Partners

Here are our partners who are collaborating in many ways towards VFC'S in building safer Jiwaka .



**When I dream alone, it is just a dream. When we dream together, it is the beginning of reality. When we work together, following our dream, it is the creation of heaven"**

**(Adapted from Brazilian Proverb)**

Voice For change had a visit from UN TRUST FUND auditor who travelled all the way from London to check the books of Voice for Change.

VFC finance successfully submitted the report and acquits .

UN TRUST FUND funds helps CFC to coordinate gender and human rights training and advocacy.

# Oxfam Patner Project Updates

## WORLD FOOD DAY

Oxfam International in PNG was supporting VFC with 2 projects, one is under its Livelihood Programs, and finished in June 2015. The focus of the program was capacity building of 8 village based extension workers who are experienced vegetable farmers and knowledge about the markets. These women support other women/families, communities, CBO and schools in the community who want to grow vegetables as an alternative income. The future of this project is subject to ongoing funding.

Some of the activities of this quarter are:

- Complete construction of the two vegetable nurseries shed for two of the Extension Workers.

This construction

- TOT Trainings facilitated on farm record and working out gross margins
- Training more than 80 contact farmers on basic book keeping and gross margins by the Extension

Workers

- Training on the new method of planting sweet potato using the PT materials

Meeting with about 100 farmers on planning for the world food day which will fall in October



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION WORKSHOP IN KOKOPO, ENBP

Words and Pictures by Sophie Kilipi

A total of six VFC staff (four full-time staff and two full-time counsellors) attended a monitoring and evaluation workshop from April 25-29 2015 in Kokopo Village Resort, Kokopo ENBP.

Monitoring and evaluation is a process by which all work is measured.

The purpose of the meeting was to come together and gather and share methods of how active measures were taken to actually see and adjust and share their methods of measuring their work.

IWDA-Partner to Voice For Change arranged a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop for partners to come and collectively share ideas. It was a fun experience with all the PNG partners coming together to witness share ideas, experience and develop new measures to measure progress and success.

A follow up training will be scheduled for August, although it is yet to be confirmed.



Team VFC with outgoing program Manager for IWDA

## Gender Awareness training for the Pastors for the Evangelical Lutheran Church

This was the first ever training for the church pastors and it was entirely new information for them.

The churches in PNG are now starting to open up to address social issues and especially gender equality as well as ending violence against women and girls.

The two separate awareness facilitated for the two group of pastors has had a great impact and the head office in Lae requested VFC to do a week's training for its employees and VFC is looking forward to strengthening this partnership.



## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

In April this quarter, Voice For Change was invited by UNICEF PAPUA NEW GUINEA to attend a meeting, held at the provincial head quarters. Along with other church partners and provincial government heads, the group discussed violence surrounding children. The agenda included discussions on a possible date for a follow-up meeting with Josephine Mill (UNICEF's Child Protection Officer).

The meeting was held at Kami Resource Centre. Present at the meeting were Director Social Service with Assistance, Unicef Child Protection officer and other FBO's, CBO's and Council Ward. The participants included representatives from the Local level Government, Police, Village Court Officials, women's network, churches and CBO. The Director for Social Services and Manager for Community Development were present throughout the two days sessions including the Police Station commander for Minj District Police.

At the completion of the training, it was agreed to set up a working committee to work collectively to develop the EVAC plan for the Jiwaka Province which VFC will form part of the core group.

## PROVINCIAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PLAN

VFC is collaborating with UNDP, Community Development, Jiwaka Provincial Government to move this plan forward and get it endorsed by the Provincial Executive Council (PEC) VFC facilitated the finalising of the Jiwaka GBV held in Goroka in the next month, which is July. VFC also carried out and is continuing awareness raising in the province on the importance of this plan, which needs to be endorsed by the government and provide the budget and resources to get it implemented.

## VFC'S NEWEST HONARY MEMBER

Project Support Staff under IWDA Ms. Christina Kelly welcomed son Sebastian Jacob Purupia in April 2015. Tea m VFC congratulates her and welcomes the newest member of Voice For Change

**Make Our  
Future Bright,  
Shape Our  
Future Right.  
STOP CHILD  
LABOUR**

The Fresh Quotes

## SAFE HOUSE

As there are no safe houses in Jiwaka, VFC team leader provided accommodation for 3 women who were badly beaten and needed the police to go and apprehend the suspects.

The police vehicle returned late so women were dropped off at VFC office and since there was no safe houses to accommodate them and VFC Team Leader accommodated the 3 women.



## PROJECT R&R WINDS UP

For three years, VFC has received funds and support from Oxfam, but this project is now coming to an end.

The final quarter saw a total of 78 clients and most of them were women survivors. Out of the total cases received, 25 related to polygamy, issues of desertion and negligence. There were 12 cases of sorcery related tortures and 41 cases of Domestic Violence. The sorcery accused clients need integration back into their community.

One of the Counsellors attached to VFC, Ms Regina has carried out training on Basic Trauma Counselling and peace building in her community. This is a good story and we appreciate her initiatives. She has been invited by other church members to do the same training and she needs support with planning and funds to do these trainings

Not only has the project assisted sorcery related violence survivors but other gender based violence victims. The project has provided counselling, legal advice, assistance as well as logistical support for police and other helpers in relation to violence.

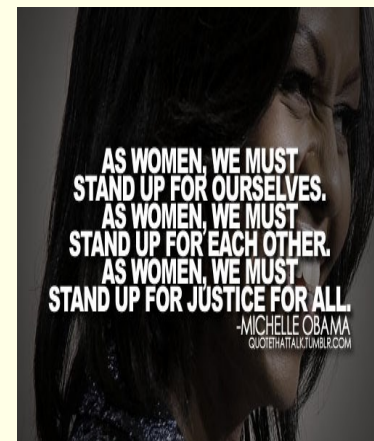
## WHEN JUSTICE IS BEING DENIED

She was weary, she was tired. You could see she had bags under her eyes. She had her own story, a story that would make you realize how lucky you are that you weren't her. She's being denied her rights to happiness. Have lived an almost dire condition. To her, being beaten was right. Being forced to labor was okay, she was a woman in PNG, and she was raised to accept and submit. Until one day, she comes close to death. It not her fault. It was his and his other women. For she nearly lost her life because she didn't believe in retaliating, letting karma do the job, she was seen as weak. However unfair she was being treated, she saw no hope in Police. Until her near death experience. She seeks help. She's been badly wounded, in an attempt murder. Her right hand loses all the power. Her number one desire: to see her perpetrator behind bars. The perpetrator is locked behind bars.

Soon the perpetrator relatives get together. They want to pay compensation. She is ordered by her family to remove the charges. Her relatives want the compensation. She refuses! She declines! She wants her perpetrator behind bars and to face justice accordingly. Her relatives abandon her because she refuses compensation. She doesn't care. She wants justice to prevail. She is threatened by her husband and brothers, she still stands firm. The court process is another journey all together.

The people in charge of her case are not helpful. She fears they might be collaborating with the defendant. Bribery and corruption is at peak every where. She has no support, she has to walk long distances to the police station to check her case. She is illiterate and often worries she might be fooled for you can not trust anyone in the system. Its been six months and her case is still pending. She is confused as she sits in the court room...to be continued.

*\* Oxfam Australia funds the Rapid and Repatriation project. Although the project is targeted on sorcery survivors, women are often assisted in paper work, counselling other support services as well. The above short piece is an example of everyday survivors that come to the office.*



## Peace and Security.

VFC is working with key individuals to speed up the process for final compensation payment to be done for the deceased's relatives.

In quarter one, VFC has facilitated 3 meetings to date, 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 this conflict and that can allow the IDPs to return to their traditional land second time around.

## The Rapid Respond Team Project (RRT)

The RRT has received a total of 78 clients this quarter and most of them were women survivors. Out of the total cases received, 25 related to polygamy, issues of deserting and negligence. There were 12 cases of sorcery related tortures and 41 cases of Domestic Violence. The sorcery accused clients need integration back into their community.

One of the Counsellors attached to VFC, Ms Regina has carried out training on Basic Trauma Counselling and peace building in her community. This is a good story and we appreciate her initiatives. She has been invited by other church members to do the same training and she needs support with planning and funds to do these trainings.



The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established.

— Bahá'u'lláh —

AZ QUOTES



# Community Change Makers

## HENRY KOLTS



**H**enry Kolts was born in 1958 in Tombil Village, Minj, Jiwaka Province. Growing up, he said he was born and bred in the “hausman”, or men’s hut. There, their fathers handed down advice, stories and cultures and traditions. Henry never thought he would later become a strong advocate for women.

Today, Henry comes to the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help solve issues that deal with women and violence. People like Henry have a passion for the community. He has done so much for his community and Jiwaka as a whole that this quarter, we decided to feature him. VFC had a chance to chat with Henry.

**Q. Tell us a little bit about your job aside from volunteering with VFC.**

I am the Deputy Chairman of South Waghi Peace Builders Association. My role is like a peace mediator. I am usually called with my colleagues to sites should an issue arise to mediate conflicts. We often try our best to come up with win-win mediation solutions.

**Q. What are your perceptions on community development in regards to women’s rights?**

I feel that development will only and truly take place if there is peace and harmony in the community. As a peace mediator, I work strong and advocate for law and order to be in place.

**Q. What do you think can be done to help reduce the problems and burdens that women face every day?**

I think that we all have a part to play in society; both men and women. It is now the time to stand up for what is right, correct what is wrong, and fight for the future of our children.

**Q. How do you feel about Voice For Change and assisting women?**

A feel that Voice For Change is doing a great job to assist women that face everyday challenges and have nowhere to go.

**Q. Do you have a message that you would like to share with the general public?**

Violence against women is not an issue that’s only a concern for the women, but for the Jiwaka team as a whole.

You will find Henry at the Minj Village Court area mediating and supporting women.

## Mary Gele



In this quarter’s Change Maker, we feature Mary Gele of Minj, Jiwaka Province. A woman who has dedicated her life to serve the people of Jiwaka for more than twenty years and is still doing it.

**Location**– Minj Ecumenical Resource Centre

**Current Role:**

Representing women of South Waghi in the third level of Government , South Waghi LLG for the last seven (7) years and in the network for the Provincial Ecumenical Women’s Council. I am the president of Minj district Leading the 150 Community Based Organiza-

tion groups from Garmar Boarder to Kukpa Bridge– Minj; and as a Human Rights Defender, I defend Rights and help them.

**Brief History**

As a young girl, Mary joined the Royal Constabulary and served the police force for 24 years from 1983-2007 . Whilst in the force, she was promoted to the rank of Sargent. She also held various roles within the Royal Constabulary, including the Rural Police Station Commander Nondugl, OIC CID, and National Police women Coordinator in the country

After leaving the force, Mary’s path crossed with Voice For Change in 2010 as a peace builder and human rights defender, and assisted with the work of the women –up until the formation of the ecumenical women’s council in 2013, where she was appointed as the president of the district.

**How do you feel about current issues affecting women?**

I have been working for the last five years as a volunteer to address and assist women’s issues like domestic violence. I feel that we should all work together to collectively address the issues affecting our women and children and making Jiwaka a better, violence free society for all to live.

I am glad my district has already built a resource center funded by governor Tongamp. Now I can sit down in an office and address and record issues reported to our office, keep a tally, and provide monthly reports to the provincial level.

**How do you propose we address the social issues?**

The social issues are big to tackle, however, if we can put our differences behind us we will achieve what we want to achieve. My office will priority are the women’s issues in my district.

**What do you want for women to achieve in five years?**

In the next five years, I want the women of Jiwaka to have a vision of building semi permanent homes . The vision of the women of Jiwaka is “Rausim Kunai na Kisim Kapa”. I will still be doing awareness and fight for women’s rights and I hope and dream to see the rate of violence against women going down.

**Anything you would like to say to the general public?**

To the general public, Jiwaka is only three years old but I as a vocal women representative in the district, I see victims of violence, especially where victims are women. I want all of us to make effort and take lead to help address this issue.

I am happy with my role and I will still continue to do volunteer work to carry out and assist women who have been crying in silence with whatever family problem. To all the women, our newly built resource center is now open and you are most welcome to Minj Resource Centre.

I would also like to thank the Ecumenical Council of Women of Jiwaka for entrusting me this leadership role and to my networking partners.