



## Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Meeting

Voice for Change's team leader, Ms Lilly Be'Soer attended a 2 days consultation meeting hosted by the Pacific Women Shaping Development in Port Moresby. The purpose of the meeting was looking at how the NGOs and the International Organizations working in PNG to develop women.

Voice for Change had the opportunity to present the work done on the bottom up approaches to build safer homes and communities in Jiwaka Province. Including the sorcery issues



VFC Staff at Kagamuga airport departing for Madang for reflection workshop coordinated by Oxfam

### WOMEN AGENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN JIWAKA – By Mark Pokil

The workshops on 'Human Rights and Ending Violence Against Women/girls held in Kendu (Kisap) and SigriI-North Waghi from the 18th – 22nd /08 and 25th–29th /08/ 2014 respectively conducted by Voice For Change exposed the power of women and assisted the men folk to see their weakness; in particular, their hindrances to the utilization of the capabilities that women have.

It is the women who feel from the temptation of Satan that caused the downfall of mankind from the garden of Eden (Heaven).

Why did Satan tempt Eve rather than Adam? Because Satan targeted the powerful one of the two as Eve was made of bone, a tougher material than dust, of which Adam was made up of. This story continues to this day:

A woman is the strength of the family, the community, the province, the nation and the world. It is when women succeed that a family, community, province or country and in that manner the whole world succeeds.

**“I believe when women succeed, America succeed” Barrack Obama-President, USA.**

*The strength of women has been hidden over the generations by tradition, culture and attitudes in PNG and Jiwaka is not an acceptance.*

*Evil tries to destroy women so mankind is destroyed.*

*An agent of evil destroys women; any person destroying women is an agent of evil who aids to destroy 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: Go through the process of uprooting the causes of evil against women,*

*Give women in our province the opportunity to utilize their potentials so that /Jiwaka can benefit from the fruits.*

*That will be development to a greater extent.*



# VOICE FOR CHANGE

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*Safer Homes - Safer Jiwaka*



Hard work and commitment pays a widow off with a good family home. (pg 4) features Ms. Maria Manga's achievements)



## From the Team Leader's Desk



Welcome to Voice for Change's (VFC) third edition of its newsletter for 2014. In this edition Voice for Change is delighted to share with its partners and the Jiwaka

Communities of the various activities implemented in this quarter.

VFC trained 115 people under its Fruit and Vegetable Extension Program. The topics covered theory as well as practical demonstration on compost making, soil sterilization, establishment of field nursery, sowing seeds, transplanting and field management.

Another highlight is facilitating of Ending Gender Based Violence and Human Rights trainings for the two communities in the North Whagi which are Kisap and Sigri. Total of 77 community leaders including Magistrates, Village Court Clerk, Councilors, Pastors and Youths have attended the two trainings consisted of 90% were men and boys.

From the Evaluation and Personal Reflection, it indicated of participants were impressed with the training contents and recommended for the same trainings to reach out to everyone in Jiwaka province.

### Personal Commitment to Change and Developing Community Action Plan:

Individuals making Personal Commitment to change attitudes and behaviors in order to promote equality and respect within their families. The participants collectively developed a community action to improve the community. VFC will try to facilitate these plans.

Our cover page highlighting, Ms Maria Mange, a classic example of many women struggling to keep the family together. Maria a widow and a mother of 4 children building a family home from the income earned by selling barbecue sausages and lamp flap at Kudjip Market. She has benefited from Voice for Change under its Savings and Loans Scheme. Please join us to applaud her in achieving her dream through 8 years of hard work (more on page 8).

### Highlands Human Rights Defenders Network (HHRDs) Planning Workshop.

Voice for Change organized a week's Planning Workshop for Highland's Women's Human Rights Defenders network and funded by International Women's Development Agency (IWDA). The training was hosted at Maria Kwin Center and the participants represented various CBOs, NGOs and the Women's Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) from Jiwaka, Simbu and EHP. In participation was the IWDA CEO, Ms Joanna Hayter who was present for the week. It was anticipated that IWDA will fund the plan developed in this workshop in 2015.



## Gratitude to Our Partners

Here are VFC's partners who are collaborating 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)**

### Highlands Human Right Defenders Network (HHRDN)

The HHRDN is made up of Voice For Change in Jiwaka, Kup Women for Peace in Simbu and the Kafe Urban Women 's Association from Eastern Highlands. The network is funded by Oxfam International in PNG with the aim to End All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls towards safer homes and communities. The HHRDN plans to extend its work to the rest of the highlands provinces..



## Highlights on Ending Violence Against Women/Girls & Human Rights Training



The participants are in groups discussion at Kisap.



Chief of Sekaka Clan, Mr. Philip Kapal presenting the certificates of attendance to participants



The Provincial Police Commander of Jiwaka, Supt. Tondop presenting the certificate to participants.



Participants attending the class

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RAPID RESPONSE TEAM PROJECT (RRT)

The RRT project is funded specifically for addressing sorcery related violence's and issues. Many people/ including families are banished from the communities, all their livelihoods are destroyed and even murder of innocent people who are accused of sorcery. This project is to Respond to such cases quickly and tries to prevent the loss of innocent lives alleged of sorcery by community members.

In this quarter, VFC through the Rapid Response Team attended to a total 56 women, men and families. From the total 12 of the cases involved issues of SANGUMA,. The number of Polygamy, and negligence of wives and children is increasing. VFC receives cases of co wives fighting each other as well as abusing children are increasing. The project provides paralegal support to survivors who want to proceed with the court proceedings.

An important response provided at the VFC office is counselling of the survivors and the perpetrators. The project works with the community law enforcing agencies and leaders of the province trying to address these issues.

### Meeting with the Minj District Village Court Clerks.

A days meeting was organized by VFC for all the Village Court Clerks based in Minj District .



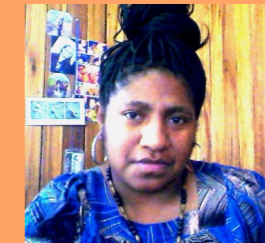
The meeting was to introduce the RRT project and explore how it can work with the Village Courts. The discussions encompassed the issues and challenges the women face when they try to access the Village Courts. One of the issue highlighted was the lack of follow up on the Interim Protection Order (IPO ). The discussions on special consideration required by women when approaching the Village Courts. The team wants to work along side with VFC on issues affecting women and children.

### RRT Project Staff

#### Coordinator- RRT Project

Ms Sophie Kilipi is now the Coordinator for the Rapid Response Team Project. Sophie was part of the RRT at the initial stage and is familiar with the job.

“Since I joined VFC in July 2013, there have been so many survivors who have visited our office and I find it challenging, sometimes loss for words to say



when survivors come with their deepest thoughts and express their innermost feelings”

Sophie says.

#### Support Staff

##### Mr. Samuel Opum

The only male staff who just joined the team. He generally assists in all the projects of Voice for Change.



Since I joined VFC , I learnt of the commitment and the dedication of the team towards social improvements for our women/girls in our communities and I am honoured to be part of this team.

### Highlands Human Right Defenders Network Meeting with Oxfam

VFC as part of the HHRDN attended a days’ meeting at Kundiawa with the 2 Chief Executive Officer s of Australia and New Zealand Oxfam International. The aim of the meeting was to update the progress of the HHRDN. VFC, Jiwaka is a recipient for two projects funded by Oxfam International. The Rapid Response Team Project is funded by Oxfam Australia and the Livelihood is funded by the Oxfam New Zealand. VFC expressed the need for education and advocacy on ending violence against women/girls and human rights. VFC’s Livelihood project is benefiting many women survivors .

## Beneficiary of VFC's Village Savings & Loans Scheme

### A dream come true for a widow— Maria Manga

The last 8 years Maria Manga from Kudjip worked extremely hard to have her dream come true. Building a House for her Children” Through the Village Savings and Loans project under VFC's Women Economic Empowerment project Maria regularly saved her income from



Maria built a new home for herself and her four children

barbeque of sausage and lamb flaps at Kudjip local market to build a house for herself family. Maria is a widow with five children. She is still continuing with her work to save enough money to buy a water tank for the house.

Maria comes to her barbecue place 6 days a week. Her daily day starts at 5am and ends at 6pm. It will take another 2 years to save enough money to get a water tank for her house.



Seen here are Maria and Rebecca, at Kudjip Market Both are members of Voice for Change.

Maria is one of the many women supported by VFC under its Village Savings and Loans Scheme.

There are success stories of many women who have benefitted from the organization's scheme. Currently, VFC has more than 500 plus members and many more are still joining The scheme.

### Associated Country Women of the world (ACWW) Area Pacific Conference

VFC is a member of the Associate Country Women of the World and the team leader Lilly Be'Soer attended the bi-annual conference for all members to come together to report on their work with special focus on women's development in their area. VFC was given a space to present at this ACWW Area Pacific Conference.



## Advocacy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW)

### Gender Based Violence and Human Rights Training received by Senglap Karapka and Ngenduakaka tribes

Under the advocacy program on EVAW and girls, VFC conducted two trainings on ending gender based violence and human rights training at Kisap for Senglap Karapka and Sigri for the Ngenduakaka tribes.



A total of 77 people, both women and men Leaders, attended the trainings.

The training covered defining gender, gender roles, discrimination and stereotypes, gender based in violence in the community. It also covered rights in the context of international human rights law, its framework. And the PNG Constitution,.



Mr Arnold Tumbé presenting the Ngenduakaka's action plan.

The training ended with the participants making personal commitment to change and use the skills and information gained from the training. They also developed a plan for their community.

The grand chief of Jiwaka Mr. Philip Kapal, the Provincial Police Commander of Jiwaka Province, Supt Joseph Tondop and Representatives from the office of the Defence Minister and MP for North Waghi, Head Master of Gramben Primary School Mr. Paul Wan, the leaders and members of the two communities witnessed the closing ceremony and presented the certificate to the participants.

### Remarks from participants



It challenged us as magistrates & leaders

This training has challenged my personal life



I would like to thank the Trainer, Ms Lucy Berak as I am impressed with this training.. I now realized women have workload everyday of their lives. As from now on, I will help my wife.

# Women Economic Empowerment Project (WEEP)

## Fruit & Vegetable Production Training

The Extension Workers under the Fruit and Vegetable Program trained many people on fruit and vegetable production and marketing as an alternative income.

A total of 115 people of which 90% of rural women learnt the basic on fruit and vegetable production.



Picture showing Ms Rose Walep, Extension Worker based in Warakar doing a demonstration on setting up a field nursery.

The 4 days training covered four groups at different locations in South and North Waghi.



The table below shows the area and participants of the training. The trainings, were facilitated by the Eight Extension Workers attached to VFC.

Area	Male	Female	Total Participants
Kumbal	3	15	18
Kugar	6	33	39
Tombil	4	23	27
Warakar & Bunumwoo	5	25	30
Total	18	96	115



Participants are trained how to establish a field nursery by the Extension worker; **Mai Kelly**

# Highlights on Women Economic Empowerment Project (WEEP)

## Fruit and Vegetable Production

Under the Women Economic Empowerment program, VFC empowers women to financially equip themselves to cater for their basic needs and to sustain their living. In this quarter the Livelihood project achieved six trainings.

### 1. Vegetable Production Training of Trainer (TOT) for Extension Workers (EWs) and Zone Leaders (ZL).

VFC acknowledges the support of Oxfam International into the second financial year of the project. Oxfam focuses on building the capacities of local *didi meri* (EWs) to be more competent to carry out the roles as Village Based Agricultural Officers.

The TOT training was conducted in September for 14 participants and facilitated by Mr Sonnie Hizetille, Senior Livelihoods Officer from Oxfam International in Goroka. The training was on Chemical Application, its Safety practices and uses.



### 2. Bulb Onion Induction Training:

The bulb onion induction training was conducted in Goroka in the EHP on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July – 1<sup>st</sup> of August. The training was organized by the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) to bring in the representatives from three highlands provinces, Simbu, EHP, and Jiwaka to build partnership to in the bulb onion project.

A total of 40 farmers participated in the training and VFC sent in 10 representatives (8 Extension

Workers) plus a farmer from the Mul Baiyer (W.H.P) and the WEEP Coordinator .

The participants from the 3 provinces have already been working under the Fruits and Vegetables Project Funded by Oxfam International

The participants from the EHP and Simbu had experiences in growing the bulb onion whereas Jiwaka, this was new to them and VFC is happy to take on this project .

The aim of the training was to introduce the Bulb Onion Project to the three provinces. More discussions focused on the experiences and challenges encountered on implementation and marketing.



Sina Joe  
WEEP  
Coordinator

## Extension Workers Field Visits

The VFC's Extension Workers give two days per week to visit contact farmers. The livelihood staff accompany the EW once a month and during these visits they identify the problems of individuals farmers and assist where necessary.



**Cathrine Daing** in her cabbage garden

Each EW works with more than 25 farmers and reports every farmer back to the office. The number of farmers is increasing as the survivors of violence are also linked to this project .



# COMMUNITY

James Nop is from the Kuma tribe and comes from Kudjip. James is a community leader in his Dambekanem sub clan. And the chairman of the Dambex Community Association, which was formed to address social issues affecting his tribes people. The main focus of forming of the association was to organize the young people to turn to their land to sustain their living. Under the leadership of James the members of the Dambex Association are committed to addressing issues of the production and consumption of marijuana and home brew.



Responsibility, the leader is the driver. *I want to take the responsibility to do my part as a leader and urge other leaders to do the same..*

James thanks Voice For Change for the support that empowers and enlightens him.

*"We are greater than our despair. The negative aspects of humanity are not the most real and authentic. The most authentic things about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love, and to be greater than our suffering.*

*We are best defined by the mystery that we are still here and can still rise upwards, still create better civilization. That we can face our raw realities, and that we will survive the greater aspire, that the greater future might bring....Ben Okri (1999) "*

The association is also trying to address Sorcery and gender based violence's among its members. Mr Nop says the sorcery related violence is deeply rooted in our society and practiced for generations. It's a believe that cannot be changed overnight and it needs collective efforts at all levels to address the issue.. He says the issue of sorcery has caused disharmony in the community and he wants his people to address the sorcery issues in a different way than using violence. He want to see good developments for his community .

The Dambex Community Association is working on its Community Law to stop violence against each other or against women. James says that law & order is a big issue in Jiwaka and hinders developments to proceed.

In order for Jiwaka to develop the issue of the break down of law and order must be seriously addressed. A community leader has a big



# CHANGE MAKERS



Roselyn Walep is from Warakar Community Based Organization, North Whagi. Roselyn is an experienced vegetable farmer and is currently engaged with Voice for Change as an Extension Worker under the Fruit & Vegetable Project, funded by Oxfam PNG. Roselyn first started working for Fresh Produce Agency in 1998 where she started serving the agency as a Village Extension Worker and left in 2008. In 2009, Roselyn was attached with National Agriculture Research Institute till 2011. In June 2013, Roselyn joined VFC as an Extension Worker. In her capacity as and Extension Worker, Roselyn serves more then 200 farmers of which more then 150 are women growing & selling vegetables. She covers Kimil to Banz area and her role is to provide technical assistance to her contact farmers and others interested in growing vegetables in the community.

Roselyn is passionate about her role as an extension worker in vegetable production and marketing. From her history of involvement in vegetable production and marketing, Roselyn contributed to building a permanent house, bought a truck (a dyna) and a tractor to assist other farmers to plough their land at a lower rate. Some of the farmers that Roselyn assisted have now extended their vegetable farming to other enterprises to generate more income for their family's wellbeing. Roselyn would like to see government's support to this existing extension network and also to explore market options for the fresh produce. Roselyn believes land is the back bone for every Jiwakan and urges all to turn to the land.



*Roselyn training farmers on soil strained preparing for nursery*



*Roselyn teaches the farmers on how to manage seedlings in the nursery*

**Roselyn continues her extension services with VFC under its livelihood project.**

## Counselling

Basic Counselling is offered here at Voice For Change office under the Rapid Response Team.

The project is supported by one of its partners, the Oxfam international in PNG under the Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) Country Program.

VFC aims to see change (healing) in the deepest thoughts and hearts of every person who are affected through Physical, behaviour, feelings and thinking changes when something a person does not expect suddenly happens to them.

It is a big blow to the survivor's mind, spirit and the whole body system physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Since I joined VFC in May this year, there have been so many survivors who have visited us. I find it challenging, sometimes loss for words to say when survivors come with their deepest thoughts and express their innermost feelings.

VFC also does referrals where it cannot help. If you need help or need to talk to someone, please feel free to come share with us your problems.

Regina Imenge  
Counsellor

