



# VOICE FOR CHANGE

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## NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

### 3RD QUARTER JULY-SEPT SAFER HOME-SAFER JIWAKA



EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS OF TOMORROW. Story on page5-6

**"I BELIEVE THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IS THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE 21st CENTURY."**

**- HILLARY CLINTON**

**HILLARY 2016**  
HillaryClinton2016.com

The Organization acknowledges

UN TRUST FUND

GLOBAL TRUST FUND FOR WOMEN

OXFAM

For the financial support in partnering and funding the projects!



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**FROM THE EDITORS DESK**

Hi everyone!

Welcome to the third edition of this year. This quarter was a super busy one. VFC had visits from people from different countries. Because of this, it was a fun filled quarter as there were many new faces coming to Voice For Change's office

As always, our work would not be successful if it wasn't for our hard working staff.

Credit also goes to our partners and donors for supporting us financially.

We hope you enjoy this quarter as we sure enjoyed putting it together.!

*Ka Wei en oh*

Team VFC

**TEAM LEADERS MESSAGE**



Welcome all, to the third issue of the second volume of our newsletter.

This quarter has been eventful as always, with more trainings delivered, meetings held, and consultations undertaken.

The highlight of the quarter was successfully organizing the first ever Young Girls Forum of Jiwaka Province. We also managed to reach out to a new District with our Advocacy, which consisted of Trainings on Gender Based Violence and Human Rights.

Two of our projects were put on hold due to a lack of funding. However, the work under this program were still running with VFC doing what we could.

Consultations and planning with the two community laws on Peace and Security are still underway and VFC is working in partnership with these communities to complete it.

As Nelson Mandela dreamt of a Africa which is in peace with it self, I dream of a peaceful Jiwaka.

If we want change, we have to change our way of thinking and the way we do things to promote a more positive attitude.

Congratulations to our hard working staff and our partners for your undivided support and trust in our work.

May the Good Lord continue to enlighten our journey to fulfill our task.

Lilly Be'Soer Kolts

**Third Quarter Hi-Lights through the Lens.**



Official opening of the Warawau GBV Training



Young Girls on their way to Maria Kwin



Llane Munau\_ CSCM Student with the crew documenting VFC



GBV Training in progress



GBV Training with Moka 1&2 Community



Women Leaders of Warawau



## KONDIKA PEACE CEREMNOY-THE FINAL PHASE

After almost three years since Voice For Change, along with other networking partners, successfully negotiated the final phase of the peace ceremony, it came to an end on the 17th September 2015.

Here the two warring clans entered the final stage of the peace process.

The peace reconciliation in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea is a complex process where decisions are based on tribal laws and customs of the people. The peace process can often take two to three rituals to finally lay everything to rest.

Aside from Voice For Changes efforts, a word of gratitude also goes to the hardworking peace committee of Jiwaka, Kondika Leaders and those who helped in one way or the other in bringing the process to the end.



## COMMUNITY PEACE & SECURITY LAWS NEARS COMPLETION

The Dambex Community Development Association and the Kugar Community are in their final phase of developing their Community Peace and Security Laws.

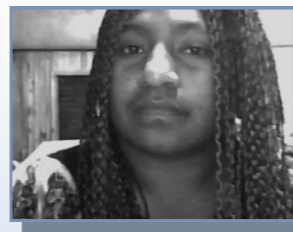
Both Communities are from the Kuma Tribe and have received Gender & Human Rights Training. The final day of the training will be spent in developing Community Action Plan, from there they have come up with a Community By-Laws on Peace and Security Laws. The Laws will be officially launched when completed.



The Dambex Community Association at Molka Lodge, working on the community By-Laws.

**CHOOSE  
PEACE  
STOP  
VIOLENCE**

## RAPID REPITRIATION PROJECT



Ms Sofia Kilipi—RRT Project Coordinator

**Responding to survivors-** Survivors and victims of violence continue to come to VFC for counselling, paralegal support and help in obtaining medical assistance. The funding from Oxfam International came to an end in June 2015, however VFC continues its work in this area, as it cannot simply turn away people in need. We continue to support where we can.

## NEW PARTNER! NEW STAFF

Voice For Change is proud to announce its new partnership with Three Kings Mission of Austria. After a visit from the Country Program Manager in the last quarter, a contract of one year was signed. The project will mainly target livestock farmers. It is an integrated program where Voice For Change will work in partner with FPDA, NARI and individual skilled people to deliver trainings to the general community.

Also on board was a new support staff being funded to assist with the project alongside the coordinator.



## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

### 1. LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

The funding of the livelihood project ended in June this year and no other activities have been carried out this quarter.

### 2. SAVINGS & LOANS CLUB

Members of the Savings & Loans Club acknowledged the importance of the scheme. Those members who have constantly done Savings during the good weather were able to provide their family with a good meal in the dry season.

This quarter, the number doing the withdrawing has increased.

Four mothers from Kudjip (pictured) came to withdraw their savings to buy food for the family. 'If there was no Savings Club here, we will not have any savings for such time of crisis and emergency', one member said.



Picture with Director, Frank on his recent visit to Jiwaka





**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING – highest number of graduates this quarter**



Voice for Change’s advocacy on EVAW/HR and creating Safer Homes and Communities is conducted through Trainings. VFC has worked with various FABs and CBOs in the community in delivering Gender Based Violence and Fundamental Human Rights Trainings.

This quarter, two new communities received the training and are Molka 1& 2 in the Banz District and the Warawau community in Anglimp District. A total of 86 people passed through the training. These training were funded by IWDA.

The aim of the training was to lead participants to change some of their discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women/girls and work towards establishing and maintaining equality and respect for women and girls, men and boys in families and communities.

All the participants revealed this was the first ever training they have attended in their life time and indicated that they had learnt many new things and made commitments to make their community a better place to live. Nearly all of their personal commitments indicated that they had changed some of their attitudes and behaviours. Many wanted to reconcile with their family members, make peace and start a new life. Husbands openly confessed causing disharmony in their family and not often helping their wives. Subsequently, they promised to change these attitudes.

The closing ceremony for both trainings was well attended everyone in the community including the community leaders who have made remarkable speeches indicating their believe in the work of VFC.

Follow up trainings will be done with the two communities and the organization will go back and monitor its progress.



*Participants just before graduation.*



**JIWAKA PROVINCIAL STRATEGY ON ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

Voice for Change is facilitating the development of the Jiwaka Provincial Ending Gender Based Violence Strategic Plan, with relevant key service providers working in the province.

Earlier this year, with the support of IWDA, the organization brought together over 70 Jiwaka-based service providers to discuss and map out social issues; especially the Gender Based Violence in the province. The participants were categorized as:

- Community peace mediators
- Police Personal
- Hospital and Health Centers
- Provincial Government Representative
- Church Based Organization
- Youths
- Women Head Households
- Jiwaka Provincial Ecumenical /Council of Women

The information collecting was put into a plan by a working committee. The plan is now awaiting feedback and endorsement from the Provincial Executive Council. It will then seek funding for this work.

Throughout the planning process, VFC consulted various women’s groups and networks to inform them of the proposed plan and seek their support in the implementation of the plan. Approximately 10 000 people were approached during both the trainings and large gatherings.

**RAISING FUNDS FOR PEOPLE LEFT HOMELESS BY CONFLICT BETWEEN KUMA AND NORTH WHAGI**

More than 200 homes were burnt in Banz, relating to the death of a young man. Women and children were left homeless and are living in tents. The JWHRD Coordinator was part of the Disaster Relief Committee that assisted with the situation.

The Committee is seeking funds for the women and children affected. Voice for Change has organized with its Women Human Rights Defenders for a wheelbarrow push on the 24th of September.

Some business houses and individuals contributed money, clothes and utensils. The Disaster Relief Committee also received donations such as blankets, cooking utensils and clothes. The donations was received with tears of thanks.

Thank you Kumurang Limited for the outstanding donation OF K500.00 for a worthy cause.



*The Human Rights Defenders and Staff pushing wheelbarrow at Minj Rotbung Market.*







### UN WOMEN PROJECT VISIT

Ms Nuntana from UN Women Office Thailand and Bessie Maure of UN Women PNG office visited Voice For Change for a project monitoring visit.

The purpose of the visit was to do a cross check and discuss the final stage of the project. Voice For Change was one of the grantee from UN Trust in 2013. The project mainly targets awareness and gender education and advocacy on EVAW. The monitoring visits are part of the project component.

Voice For Change Senior Staff Brenda Samson met with the team.

The project will end in March 2015.



**WOMEN ARE HALF**   
**THE WORLD'S POPULATION, WORKING TWO THIRDS**   
**OF THE WORLD'S WORKING HOURS, RECEIVING 10%**   
**OF THE WORLD'S INCOME, OWNING LESS THAN 1%**   
**OF THE WORLD'S PROPERTY.**

### THIRD HUMAN RIGHTS MEETINGS UPDATES

The third PWHRDN meeting was slightly different from the previous two meetings as additional issues were discussed between the Women Human Rights Defenders Work.

Twenty two (22) Human Rights Defenders came in for the third quarterly meeting. It is evident that the WHRD are trying their best to do what they can within their power to advocate for the rights of women, girls and rights of others, despite the challenges they face.

There were many good stories about WHRDs intervening to help out and rescue women/families from being physically abused by husbands/partners or by community members. The issues tabled were land disputes, sorcery cases, domestic violence, gender based violence and sexual violence, polygamy related.

The second session was assessing situations in relation to the current drought. In focus groups, participants discussed the situation on the ground and it revealed that secondary issues are emerging as a result, and that violence against women is increasing.

Water sources are drying up and communal drinking water is becoming a big problem. Land owners are stopping the public and those that do not have any running creek to access water. There is a general increase in theft of items such as food crops and household belongings. The discussions revealed that many children have fallen ill from drinking contaminated water.



### IWDA/FLOW EVALUATION VISIT



Pictures showing both male and female participants attending the IWDA Evaluation meeting.

VFC had a visit from Liz Hogan, an external consultant. Liz is conducting an evaluation of the projects VFC has been implementing with FLOW funding (provided by IWDA). Liz flew all the way from Australia to measure the work and see the impact achieved by FLOW/IWDA funding. Attending the two days meeting were the Women Human Rights Defenders and other training attendees of VFC Gender Based Violence Training.

Both men and women attended the meeting to discuss the challenges, success stories and changes visible.

*"Through Gender and Human Rights training, I have learnt so much and have changed some of my ways at home. I used to be bossy and violent, this training has changed me and I want to thank IWDA/FLOW for making it possible"* Says Ding who attended the spouse training.

Others have also expressed their gratitude.

Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council (CIMC) in collaboration with Jiwaka Provincial Ecumenical Council of Women Government hosted a 3-day training on Government Funds and Budget Trafficking. The purpose of the training was to inform and equip the general public on how Government funds operate and the system involved. It was an eventful and insightful training as a lot of issues and systems within the government were discussed and made clear. VFC sent two staff members to attend the training. VFC acknowledge the Jiwaka Provincial Ecumenical Council of Women for giving it a space.



*"We cannot succeed when half of us are held back."*

Malala Yousafzai



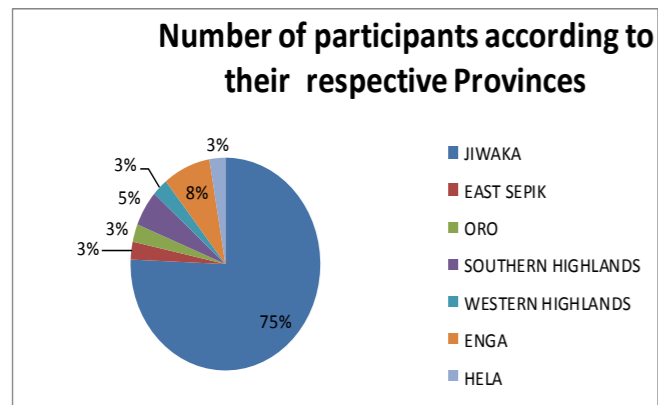


# EMPOWERING AGENTS OF CHANGE

Words by Christina Kelly

Voice for Change hosted the first ever Young Girls Empowerment Program over the second term break at Maria Kwin Centre on the 15th—17th of July. The program was themed 'Empowering Women Leaders for Tomorrow: Respect, Focus and Achieve'. The goal of the forum was to identify challenges and identify solutions to the challenges Young Women Face in carrying out their leadership roles.

A total of 37 participants took part. Three quarters of the participants were from Jiwaka province and one quarter were from five different provinces in the country as outlined in the chart below. Among them were 10 candidates of Sisters of Notre Dame.



The forum was officially opened by the Community Development Program Manager of Jiwaka Province, Mr. Steven Kamgar, with a remarkable speech. "They all have the leadership qualities to make a difference. To achieve quality life; they had to make wise decisions and also be educated."

The Program proceeded with identifying and discussing issues affecting women and leadership. Successful women with experiences shared their inspiring stories to motivate the young women. Among them was the Provincial Program Manager for Works Department. The participants were assisted to identify their goals in life on managing their goals and achieving it in the end. The whole session still focused in the theme, i.e. to achieve those goals, they had to have respect and stay focused

Cont...

Every participant commented it to be the most Empowering Program they have ever attended.

A similar forum will be organized for Young women in tertiary institutions over the Christmas break. The participants attending the first forum will also be brought in for reflection.

Voice for Change believes that the Younger Generations are agents of change. Voice for Change sees that this young women leaders can bring vitality, creativity and courage for social change. They were mandated into various leadership role because of some qualities they possessed and thus have the power to inspire and mobilize others for positive action.

A Training Manual ("Empowering Young Women to Lead Change", 2006) states the importance of Young Women's Leadership. 'Young women encounter challenges every day. Apart from sharing their communities' struggles over limited resources like water, land or jobs, many systematically face discrimination simply by virtue of being female. This includes physical and sexual violence, being kept out of school, disproportionate vulnerability to HIV infection and lack of access to property and other rights.

Yet young women around the globe possess the collective power to change their lives, their communities and the world we live in. Just as they face daily challenges, young women are continually developing innovative, effective ways to improve their lives. By bringing together their wisdom and creativity, young women are leading change.

