

“Because I firmly believe
when women succeed,
America succeeds.”

President Barack Obama

CNN CNN.com

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NEWSLETTER -4th QUARTER

SAFER HOMES, SAFER JIWAKA – VOLUME 4



Three Extension Workers taking the farmers through the field nursery training .



iwda
international
women's development
agency inc.

From the Team Leader's Desk



Dear Partners,
Welcome to the 4th and last edition of our organization news letter for 2014. In this quarter, VFC was privileged to have 6 members of its networking partners participate in various meetings and consultation in Melbourne sponsored by one of its partners, the International Development Agency (IWDA). Please read more in this edition.

Under our Advocacy Program on Ending Violence Against Women /Children and Building Safer Homes/Communities, VFC trained a total of 77 people from Sigiri and Kisap in North Whagi.. It also facilitated a follow up training on Basic Trauma Counselling for its Women Human Right Defenders representing Jiwaka, Simbu and EHP.

It is also noted that the number of survivors affected by various forms of violence visiting our office for various support is increasing.

VFC also under its LLH Program facilitated various capacity building trainings for its Village Agricultural Extension Workers and their contact farmers on the basic s of growing vegetables and financial literacy

The year 2014 ended with VFC reaching out to many people with information and training and it has touched many people in so many different ways. VFC is gradually getting recognition from both the local and international communities on the bottom up approaches to addressing issues.

In this edition VFC is also introducing new members who joined the organization. Please join me to applaud the commitment of the team, our partners in Jiwaka and our donors.

When I dream alone, its just a dream, when we dream together, it is the beginning of reality, when we work together following our dream, it's the creating of heaven.

Lilly B Kolts

Learning Tour to Melbourne

The International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) facilitated a trip for PNG and Solomon Island to visit the Victoria Local Government this quarter. The aim of the Learning tour was to learn about how the Victoria Local Level Government in Melbourne is integrating Gender Equality initiatives into its activities.

The PNG team included the Advisor Local Level Government Services Advisor of Jiwaka Province, Mr. David Wamea, Ms Sina Joe, Women Economic Empowerment Program Coordinator from VFC team leader Lilly Be'Soer. It is noted that PNG and Jiwaka have a lot to learn from the Victoria Local Government.

Learning Tour team from the Solomon Island and PNG in Melbourne.



COUNSELLING SERVICES

FOLLOW-UP TRAUMA COUNSELLING TRAINING

Twenty six participants from different organizations from Chimbu, Easternn Highlands, Western Highlands and Jiwaka have undergone two weeks intensive training on Basic Trauma Counselling, earlier this year.

A follow-up training was conducted this quarter with Voice for Change organizing the logistic and participants, funded by IWDA. It was a time of reflection where successes and challenges were shared. The participants were commented to be more confident after the first training..

The training was facilitated by Sr. Lorraine Garasu, Coordinator of the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre and Mary Kini, Coordinator for Kup Women for Peace. Many people have requested for another trauma counselling.

Voice for Change is engaging two counsellors to provide basic trauma counselling, Wendi Kosi, does counselling to survivors approaching the Family Support Centre at Minj and Regina Image does counselling at the Voice for Change Office. Both work trice a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The project funded by Oxfam international in PNG under the Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) aims to see change (healing) in the deepest thoughts and hearts of every person who are affected through abuse of different forms of violence.



INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

The two Trauma Counsellors engaged in providing basic counselling:

Wendi Kosi



"I have started counselling way back as a volunteer. With the trauma counselling training I have received, I am able to manage the cases at my level. I often get emotional when attending to SURVIVORS coming to the office. I even commit my extra hours to help them".

Regina Imange

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



Maggie Ravu



Maggie a new Project Support staff under Women Economic Empowerment Programme. *'I enjoy working with the organization and I like working with farmers and members of VFC. I am learning a lot and gradually moving forward with confidence'*

Alex Kennick

"As a part time driver with VFC, I have learnt a lot from the organization. I am proud to help in whatever way I can to make our province a better place to live."



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Civil Society Organization (CSO) Consultation on the Beijing 20+ in Bangkok

The Organization's team leader participated at the CSO consultation in Bangkok. It was a good learning experience and an opportunity to meet many women who did similar work on social justice for women worldwide. The team leader was on several panels, met with the UNWomen media team and talked on the Peace and Security issues for women in the highlands of PNG. On the outcome statement for the Pacific CSO, the team leader was able to highlight the issue on the sorcery related violence against women in PNG.

Left: Participants of the UNDP Consultation Meeting with the moderator Elizabeth Cox.

UNDP & Department of Community Consultation Meetings

A two day consultation meeting was hosted by the Department of Community Development and UNDP to map out CBOs and NGOs working on EVAW. The meeting was hosted at the Airport Motel in Mt. Hagen. VFC used the opportunity to put up the posters and distribute stop VAW/Girls flyers and batches and provided brief information on the significant of the 16Days of activism. A total of 50 participants represented 5 highlands provinces and are, Hela, Wabag, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and Jiwaka.



Photo Voice Workshop

A two days (16th-17th Dec 2014) training on Photo Voice facilitated by Centre for Media and Creative Communication of the University of Goroka. The training was funded by UNDP and hosted at VFC meeting room. The other three days was on documenting the work of VFC. The team documented two of the Extension Workers and their role.



Participants and Facilitators of the Photoshop workshop.

The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil. BUT by those who watch them doing evil without doing anything.

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM PROJECT (RRT)

Innocent lives are lost through sorcery related violence and the number is increasing every year. A lot of homes are being destroyed, families displaced, complete loss of livelihood, lack of decent meals, and no income. Children are affected the most as there is no foundation to their future. Women survivors are abused physically and sexually, These survivors are vulnerable to further attacks as their value, integrity and power are all gone.

Voice for Change through its RRT Project responds to survivors of Sorcery Related Violence.

The project responds by providing:

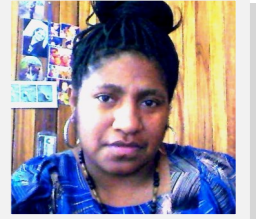
- Medical assistance
- Paralegal service
- Counselling
- Integrates them back to their communities

The project also responds to Gender Based Violence. It is noted that the number of deserted wives and children are approaching the office on daily bases is increasing.

This quarter, VFC received 70 survivors, both of sorcery and Gender Based Violence, and provided various support where it was able to.

From the Project Coordinator Desk

"Voice for Change had increased number of clients coming to the office. Survivors of the sorcery related violence were assisted resettling them back to their community, with the support from Law enforcing Agencies. We have received success stories from survivors who have come by the office and have received help in one way or the other."



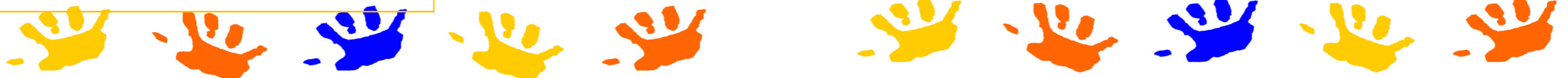
Young Men and Boys Program

Voice for Change's work on male advocacy is progressing. The Kuma Cowboys Rugby team are showing positive behavioral change of becoming better citizens in the community. The team has compiled a team by-law that the players abide by.

Voice for Change had an opportunity to have a session on good sportsmanship with Tombil Ondam Roosters, a local rugby team.

The session focused on RESPECT. They were urged to respect women and girls in the community, and be role models in the community.

Picture showing the participants after the session.



1. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

The Fruit and Vegetable Production program is spreading rapidly in the province with the continuous support and effort of the Office of Voice for Change, through its Extension Workers and Zone Leaders.

The Fruit and Vegetable Production Project has positively impacted the lives of many families in Jiwaka. It has encouraged people to make the most of what is at hand to sustain themselves. Most farmers are deserted wives, widows and single mothers, survivors of Gender and Sorcery Based Violence.

The farmers are reached through the 8 Extension Workers twice a week and bringing in reports at the end of the month. The regular visits and trainings by VFC in partnership with Oxfam empowers Contact Farmers and encourages new interests.

This quarter, the Extension Workers and Zone Leaders have carried out a total of six (6) trainings. The trainings are as follows:

i.) Two Financial Literacy Trainings for farmers in Kudjip and Minj area. A total of 50 farmers were trained on:

- Money Management
- Budgeting
- Savings
- Debt Management

ii) Four Horticulture Training for 117 Farmers of both North and South Whagi were trained. Topics covered are:

1. Compost making
2. Soil sterilization
3. Field Nursery
4. Seed varieties
5. Sequence planting
6. Appropriate use of pesticides
7. Appropriate post-harvest management.

The trainings are new to most of the participants and they were very appreciative. The number of participants of the beneficiaries is seen to be increasing every quarter. More requests for the trainings are being received by the office and we need more support and funding.



- Project Coordinator, Sina Joe

"It is a pleasure to see positive changes in the lives of the Extension Workers and Contact Farmers who have benefited from the project. The success stories empowers the project."

Voice for Change is also networking with other stakeholders in developing the capacities and farming techniques to its Extension Workers farmers. The Australian International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)/ Fresh Produce Development Community FPDA team conducted training on the post harvest management and cost of production to the 38 farmers; 11 males and 27 females. The outcome of the training was good. The participants commented that they have never done cost of production and gross margin. They learnt new techniques in working out the profit from their Production cost and they really appreciated the training.

Voice for Change also receives requests for training on fishery, poultry and other areas of Agriculture.



Pictures of Extension Workers Training the CFs:
Top: Compost Making
Left: Soil Sterilization

Two main activities carried out for the 16 Days of Activism

I) DINNER

Voice for Change organized a buffet dinner for more than 100 participants at Jiwaka Resort Center. It had all the eminent people in all sectors of workforce, including the government sector, Law & Order Sector, Business, Social, Religious, Health and Community, attending the dinner.

"as an individual have a roles to play to create a better living environment."

The former MP Michael Mel and the Former Premier for WHP Michael Kapal gave notable speeches in all working together to End Violence Against Women and Girls in the province. The guest of Honour; Sr Lorraine Garasu's, pointing out that we all as an individual had roles to play to create a better living environment.

The ambassadors of Change in each of the communities that VFC has delivered training stood out courageously to express the pleasure they found in living a changed life.



Above Right: The Guest of Honor, Sr Lorraine presenting her speech.

II.) ADVOCACY IN SCHOOLS

Students from various schools in different levels of grades were informed of the significance of the 16 Days of Activism. Each child was given a badge on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Four of them actually went out campaigning with the badge, both in secondary schools and primary schools. More than one hundred students were reached. One student was asked by the class teacher to explain why she was wearing the badge, she confidently explained all about Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and the meaning of 16 Days of Activism..

The other ten years old boy was asked by his teacher what the badge was all about, and he bravely told him 'we as men must stop Violence Against Women and protect & uphold their rights of Women/Girls'.



Youths and Male Advocates were also given badges with brief on 16 Days of Activism UNiTE Campaign



ADVOCACY IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

Voice for Change takes a bottom-up approach in addressing issues on Gender Based Violence and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Jiwaka by starting with the communities. It has trained more than 80 participants in the North Whagi area as published in previous newsletters. The participants and leaders made positive comments after the trainings. All family members have commented on the changes that the participants have undergone. More requests of the similar trainings are flooding in. The core group formed at the end of the training are working on the community by-laws. Follow up and reflection meetings have been conducted.

Additional trainings on identifying the leaders good governance and how to build a good community are being explored.

Mr. Mark Pokil taking the committee of Bung 3 Council Ward through training on good governance



IWDA PARTNERS (FLOW) MEETING

The Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women (FLOW) Programme for the Pacific funded by IWDA held its annual meeting in Melbourne, Australia. The programme helps build the confidence and capacity of women to have a voice in decision making.

Voice for Change had four (4) staff represent, both from within the organization and the its networking partners.

The meeting was a reflection on the success and challenges faced in implementing the activities Partners from the Pacific had to share their experiences and discover ways that the partners could work together in the year 2015.

IWDA made a separate funding to set up Jiwaka Human Rights Defenders which will commence early next month. To IWDA, the participants are grateful for the trip and are motivated to implement the activities for 2015.



Voice for Change Representatives
 From Left: Lilly Be'Soer (Voice for Change)
 Rose Kants (Jiwaka Human Rights Defender)
 Christina Kelly (Voice for Change)
 Agnes Keri (Jiwaka FSVAC)

2. SAVINGS & LOANS CLUB

Savings and Loans Clubs are of great benefit for many women. Most of the savings club members have been trained by the organization on vegetable production.

The savings club has saved their money from spending as said by most members. Money saved at home could be even taken away by the husband and children.

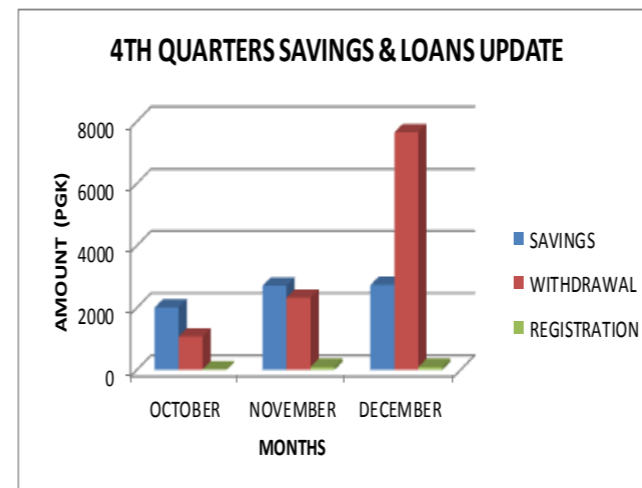
With the trainings provided by VFC in partnership with Oxfam, famers (also members) were asked to set their goals in vegetable production and through regular savings, they were able to achieve this goals.

Many are spouses coming to do savings together. Below is the graph of the total savings and withdrawals this quarter. About 11 new members registered into the Scheme this quarter.

The graph indicates members coming in with more savings than withdrawal, but for the last month December, there was a more withdrawal to cater for the educational expenses of the children.

KUGAR FARMERS TRAINING CENTER

The farmers from Kugar in Kudjip have been keen to put into practice the knowledge and skills they have learnt from Voice for Change. From the Horticulture and Finance Literacy Training, they were able to save up to build a Semi Permanent Resource Center. Currently, they are continuing to work cooperatively to purchase furniture for the building.



WEEP Coordinator and Mrs Tom recounting the coins from the stalk. The small pot seen is her money jar. Tom is a saver regularly at the Savings Club who always saves a year ahead for her son at the university.



COMMUNITY -



PERSONAL DETAILS:

Name: Mr. Matthew Galman

Place of Origin: Kaipela Village, Banz. North Waghi District, Jiwaka Province, PNG.

Occupation/Title: Coordinator – Nazarene Community Based Health Care PNG.

Brief History: I am a nursing officer, I am now coordinating the Nazarene Health Ministries division of Community Based Health Care PNG here in Kudjip, Jiwaka Province. Community Based Health Care is a preventative health care programme that deals with roots causes of poor health in communities in PNG. I have one wife, three daughters, ages of sixteen, thirteen and six and a son who is two months old.

I have been with Nazarene Community Based Health Care for the last six years. Before that, we served in a very remote and isolated community in the Sepik River called Hauna in Ambunti Drekikier District in East Sepik Province from 2008 till 1998 as the only health care provider for a population of over 7000 people.

As a community Development worker, what are the major challenges and issues you face? How can we best address it?

As a church community development worker, our greatest challenge is to try to lead people into the realization that the way they are living now is not the only way of life in life and that they have the power and the will to change for a better life. Helping to find and achieve Holistic (physical, spiritual, social, environmental, economical) transformation of people's lives is our core business. The sad story is that we often find individuals and families in communities who are usually crippled by the cargo cult type of mentality where they do not want to take up the responsibility to make the much need change. They often sit and wait in expectancy for someone else to do it for them or postpone it to some other time. With the way PNG is heading with *wantok* system and the government free handout mentality, we are heading down a road as a nation towards disaster.

Recognizing, strengthening and financially empowering organizations that focuses on creating community awareness, promoting personal viability, providing community education, promoting gender equality and generally helping people to become an asset within themselves and their family and community instead of become a liability is the what I see as a long term solution to most of our cross cutting issues.

In community development worker, how does it feel to see gradual change as anticipated?

A change, a gradual change as long as it is genuine and that is or leads to change of ones attitudes for the better is a relief.

As a community change maker, what would be your advice to Jiwaka the new province?

As above: Read my last paragraph.

Additional comment:

I am proud of be working in partnership with likeminded organization in PNG like Voice for change is a blessing to the people of Jiwaka. It is very challenging task but I am really proud of the management and staff of VFC for their heart felt concern for our people and especially our mothers, sisters and daughters. Thank Voice for Change.

'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the Change we want to see.' — Barack Obama

CHANGE MAKERS

AMENDA WUSIK



Amenda Wusik is one of the eight Extension Workers of VFC and a Women Human Rights Defender trained as trainer on Gender Based Violence and Human Rights. She is also a recipient of the Community Integration Education Programme, for seven months in Fiji. She has also undergone other short capacity building trainings both within and out of the country.

What are the issues you deal with as a Community Development Worker?

As an Extension Work, I work with mothers, mostly deserted wives and single mothers. I was also one of the deserted wife who had no way to start. Words cant tell how much I appreciate the work of VFC in bringing hope into my life. It has programs that makes us to be self-reliant rather than blaming our situations. From my personal experience, I give my best to help other women. I have trained most mothers on fruit and vegetable production which is greatly impacting the lives of the farmers positively. The mothers have now found their strength to stand on their own.

The issue with most mothers is that they lack the support from their children and spouse. Again with the Gender Based Violence and Human Rights Trainings, most youths have admitted to be ignorant of their obligation and responsibilities, leaving roles to their parents, especially mothers. After the trainings, they have made personal commitment to work together with their wives and mothers. Voice for Change has some rewarding programs and if everyone in the house is trained, especially on Gender Based Violence and other Livelihood Trainings, our homes will be an heaven on earth..

How does it feel to see the changes anticipated?

When the farmers I trained utilize the skills and knowledge we impart to them and begin to change their lifestyle and standard of living with the income, it gives me satisfaction. Hearing success stories and getting positive feedbacks from those we have trained makes me want to reach out for more. I am ever willing to impart my skills/knowledge that will contribute to a better living.

VFC always has its doors open to those who want to change. Together we all will make a difference.

Farmers taken thorough the compost making process by Amenda on two different occasions.



What will be your message to Jiwaka, our new province?

Jiwaka is blessed with a beautiful landscape topped off with a fertile soil. This soil is like a mother ready to provide for all our needs. This land can build us a permanent house, buy us car, pay our health and tuition fees, give us anything we wish for if we get our hands dirty. Nothing will come out of it if we do nothing out of it.

We therefore must make use of the land, do vegetable production or engage in small scale livestock production and at least have an alternative income generation.

As Amenda says, 'Our land is our life'.

