

Briefs

- A K1 Drive progress meeting with Peace officers from South Waghi on the 8th of November 2016 at Vfc resource centre facilitated by Vfc.
- Pacific Women Saving Pacific assessment and evaluation team visited Vfc under the ACIAR Project on the 9th of November 2016. They also visited JIMA community.
- On the 1st of November 2016 Vfc conducted a meeting with Minj FSVU Police Officers and South Waghi peace officers for 16 Days Activism awareness program.
- Vfc conducted a final progress meeting on Community Law launching with Jima, Dambex and Warawau community on the 12th December 2016.
- Vfc end of year gathering was conducted on the 22nd of December 2016 with its staff and working partners from Jiwaka province. It was the closing ceremony of the Vfc office for holiday period.

**Watch out for the next Issue and more stories of change.*



**VOICE FOR CHANGE
NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2016

ISSUE 4, FOURTH QUARTER 2016



Vfc Director Ms Lilly BeSoer presenting the Law Handbook to Warawau Councillor during the launching of Community Peace and Security Law.

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



Welcome to Voice for Change (VfC) fourth quarter edition of its newsletter for 2016.

In this edition, VfC is pleased to share with its partners and the people of Jiwaka updates about various activities it has carried out in the fourth quarter of the year.

VfC values its partners in combining efforts to address violence against women and girls in the communities and the province.

I also wish to acknowledge the hardworking staff and volunteers for their contributions.

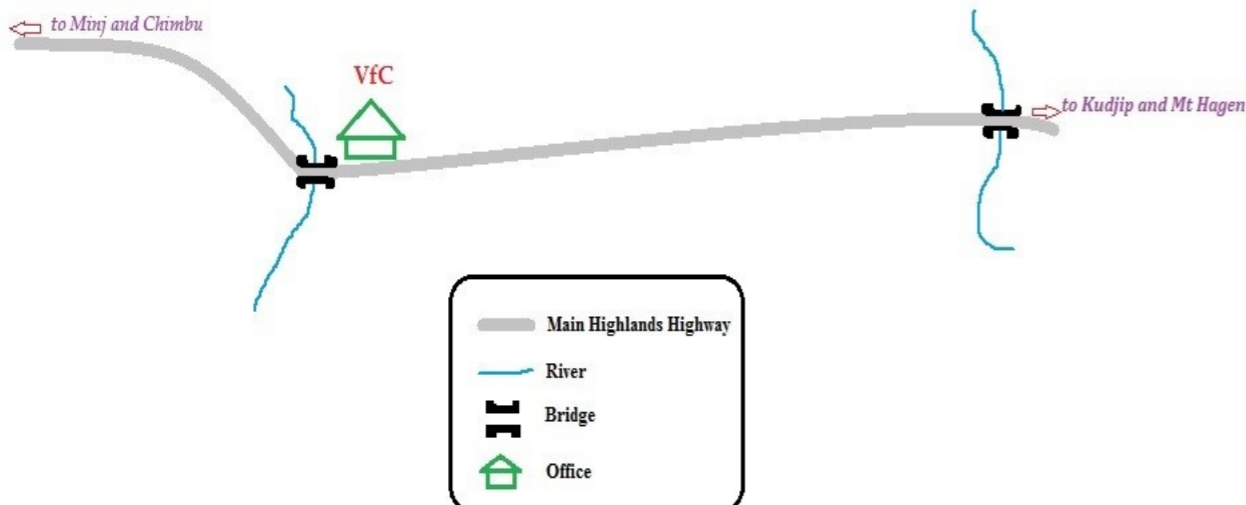
Together we can play a role towards building safer homes, safer communities and a Peaceful Jiwaka and a Peaceful PNG.

Enjoy Reading and God Bless!

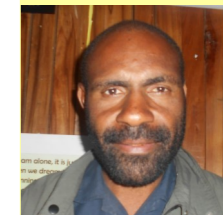
Lilly Be'Soer



Voice for Change Office location



FROM EDITOR'S DESK



"We are all Human Being born free and equal", Human Rights.

The Editor thankfully commended those who have contributed for the publication of this fourth Issue 2016.

It has been a challenging year for all of us; the staff, partners and stakeholders working together as a team

As the year ends, VfC is and will be committed to:

- ✓ Say NO to all forms of Violence against women and girls
- ✓ Fight for Human Rights for women and girls
- ✓ Build a safe homes, communities and safer province, Jiwaka

Hope you enjoyed reading!

Very merry christmas & a prosperous new year 2017.

Gideon Bare



ACRONYMS

- EVAW - Ending Violence Against Women
- FSVAC - Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee
- FSVU - Family and Sexual Violence Unit
- GBV - Gender Based Violence
- HR - Human Rights
- WAVE - Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment
- WHRD - Women Human Right Defender
- VAW - Violence Against Women

Voice for Change Staff Retreat

On the 14 to 18th of November 2016, VfC staff had a Retreat at Alexishaven in Madang.

The retreat was a reflection on activities carried out during the year and see how well the team can do in the years to come.

It was also one of the self care lessons on how to overcome stress at work.



Vision

A society free of all forms of Violence against women and girls.

Mission

Voice for Change is promoting Equal participation of women and men through all aspects of development - socially, politically, economically and spiritually.

Our Values

We strive for equal participation at all levels and of development for transparency and accountability. We want communities to take ownership of its development changes.

Who We Are

Voice for Change comprises of individuals who are committed to serving the organization through various capacities with community institutions involved in developments to collectively addressing the issues of violence against women and girls in Jiwaka Province.



Mr Henry Kolts is from Tombil in Minj South Waghi district. He is a community leader from his Bereupka tribe and the Deputy Peace Chairman of South Waghi.

In 2015, Mr Kolts received GBV/HR training. Since then, he joined VfC as a Women Human Rights Defender and a Peace Builder. He is attached with the GBV response and referral desk assisting and making referrals for survivors to seek police and court services.

This year 2016, he attended a one month International Leaders training in Fiji on Violence Against Women through VfC support program.

Mr Kolts is a women advocate who is/has participated in every activities relating to Ending Violence Against Women conducted by VfC and the partners.

He strongly consider the saying;

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

Eradicating violence against women and building safer homes in his community is his dream.

He believes that giving the respect a woman deserve and allowing women to equally participate is the way forward for the development of the province.

He would like to see government support at district and village court levels to improve the court system on Women and Family laws so that perpetrators face the full force of the law.



Mr Henry speaking during 16th Days of Activism at Kudjip

Ms Maria Kaipek is from Jimbina community, Minj in South Waghi district. She is a mother of 7 children with the husband having more than one wife.



She has joined VfC as an Extension Worker in 2014 under the Oxfam Livelihood funded project.

Her extension work is on vegetable farming. She provides technical support in vegetable growing and marketing for women in her community.

So far, she have received piggery, fish and cooking trainings conducted by VfC.

Maria is also an active member of Voce for Change Savings Club. The savings club has helped her sustain her life through school fees and natural disasters like droughts.

This year 2016, she was again engaged by VfC as a Senior Extension Worker with a new Oxfam Harvest Project.

Her current role is to assist Didimeri from 8 selected communities in Jiwaka to do vegetable farming and marketing. These Didimeri are also called village extension workers.

From her experience as a mother looking after her children without any help from the husband, she strongly encourages women to work the land to generate income to sustain themselves.

Her dream is to see women to be self reliant and to grow and market vegetables for an alternate income.

Maria would like to see government support at community level to improve the living standard of the rural people especially women.

Peace Building and Social Mapping training

A two weeks Peace Building and Social Mapping training was conducted by VfC on the 3rd to 14th of October 2016.

A total of **24** participants from Jiwaka received the training with the theme: Peace and Security for Women and Girls; the way forward for development in Jiwaka.

The participants were peace mediators, community leaders, church leaders, police officers,

youth leaders and village court magistrates.

Through the training they map out issues deterrents to peace, justice and



Jiwaka Governor Hon. Dr. William Tongamp (seated centre) and VfC staff with the participants during the Graduation

Oxfam Harvest program Vegetable production training

On the 8th to 10th of November 2016, VfC conducted a Vegetable production training on Nursery under the Oxfam harvest



Mr Vincent from Oxfam with 20 Didimeri

program.

It was the first training since VfC and Oxfam came into partnership in the middle of the year 2016.

The participants engaged were extension workers and Didimeri from eight selected communities.

These communities are; Jimbina, Jima, Nol, Kudjip and Warawau from South Waghi and Bunowou, Warakar and Malbanga from North Waghi.

ACIAR Project Rollout training

On the 6th , 7th and 9th October 2016



A VCE from Warawau community conducting a rollout training in his community

ACIAR Project rollout training was conducted by VfC and VCEs from 6 communities in Jiwaka.

The six communities were: Jima, Nol/ Kugark and Kugar from Minj, Banz Catholic women group and Bunumwoo/Sigiri both from Banz in North Waghi while Warawau community is from Anglimp.

The training was on feeding family team and family communication.

It was a final rollout training of the

security in their communities.

At the end of the training participants expressed their understanding and appreciation through outlining their action plan.

They also made commitments to work with the communities to change people's attitudes and

Oxfam Harvest program second training

Eight communities; Jimbina, Jima, Nol, Kudjip and Warawau from South Waghi and Bunowou, Warakar and Malbanga from North Waghi received a second training on the 8th of December 2016.

The one day training was for 20 Didimeri to learn the transplanting skills and procedures from a nursery house to the prepared land.

It was a second Nursery Transplanting training under the Oxfam Harvest program.

Mr Mark Pokil speaking to JIMA 1 community during the training

project for this year.

The leaders and community educators are now waiting for the graduation in January 2017.



Livelihood Skills Trainings

Under the Women Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP), 40 participants benefited from Piggery and Cooking trainings on the 23rd to 25th of November and 6th to 9th of December 2016 respectively.

The total participants were consist of 17 women and 8 men including youths.

The training was conducted for the Jimbina and Minj Station communities from South Waghi.

The training was conducted at the communities' requests aiming to help them learn new skills that they can use to earn alternate income to sustain themselves.

At the end of the training, the participants expressed great satisfaction and strongly urged VfC to conduct similar trainings where and when possible.



Pig training participants from Jimbina

Media Training in Goroka

A team from VfC attended a four days Communication and Media Training in Goroka from the 24th to 27th October 2016.

The training was organised by the Oxfam International for all its partners from within the country PNG.

It was to learn communication and media skills and knowledge applicable in the organisation's work.



VfC and the Livelihood teams at the Influencing Workshop

The training was important as organisation can showcase its work through the channels of media and communication.

Initial planning meeting and training

A planning meeting was conducted by VfC with the Lutheran church women from the Kuma circuit on the 2nd of November 2016.

The meeting focused on violence against women and increase of marijuana production and consumption in the province

It was a part of information sharing awareness for the 16 Days of Activism. A team of police personnel from Minj were also present.



Lutheran church women, police officers and VfC staff

MiBank Agent training in Kundiawa

A VfC staff, Gideon Bare, attended a MiBank Agent training in Kundiawa on the 17th to 21st October, 2016.

The training was to learn how to provide banking services to rural communities. These services are:

- ✓ Opening new personal accounts

- ✓ Making deposits and withdrawals
- ✓ Changing of mobile phone and pin numbers

VfC is also one of the MiBank agent located along highlands highway at Kukpa Kilbang station in Minj.



Mr Gideon (VfC) receiving Certificate from Ms Margret of MiBank Kundiawa



Women's Peace and Security Program

VfC has four programs and are; Ending Violence against Women/Girls, Young Women & Leadership, Women Economic Empowerment and Women's Peace and Security.

There are two sections under the Women's Peace and Security Program and are;

- Peace Building
- Community Consultation and Mobilisation

The program aims to cause peace and security in the communities in particular for women and girls. It is to liberate women and girls who have been imprisonment from cultural norms

The ultimate focus is to create a safe and free environment for women to be at peace and to participate equally in the development of the province.

Peace and security program has one staff directly overseeing and coordinating its sections and networks.

In 2013, there were 22 Women Human Rights Defenders that started with the project. However, there are total of 41 WHRDs from Jiwaka both men and women currently reporting to the Women's Peace and Security desk.

Voice for Change also have Peace Builders from Jiwaka working in collaboration with the project.



Peace builders committing to cause a positive change

These peace builders are comprised of:

- Police personnel
- Peace Mediation Officers
- Court Officials
- Community Leaders
- Representatives from network partners

Community engagement is the main activity for the project through meetings, trainings and travelling into communities and doing follow-ups.

The program builds on with the slogan;

"Peace builders have NO boundaries and peace building is a way of living one's life"

Under this project, after two years of consultations with 3 communities from Jiwaka, Community Peace and Security Law was successfully launched on the 14th to 16th of December 2016.

WOMEN'S PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAM



Mark Pokil - WHRD Project Coordinator

"Peace and security for women and girls, the way forward for Jiwaka", Pokil.

"Fighting together to build safer homes, safer communities and the Province, Jiwaka", JWHRDs.



Jiwaka Women Human Rights Defenders



Minj Police and 24 ward Councillors Planning meeting

On the 3rd of October 2016, Vfc facilitated a Planning meeting with Minj Police Station Commander, Mr Horim Piamia and the 24 ward councillors from Minj LLG South Waghi district.

The level of violence against women and the marijuana related issues are very high that needs attention.

The aim of the meeting was to address violence against women and the marijuana drug issues in Jiwaka. All the ward councillors pledged to cooperate with Police to address



Mr Horim Piamia and Ward Councillors at the meeting

these issues of violence against women and marijuana that is at rise in every communities in the Province.

Awareness meeting with Minj EBC Sunday School Teacher

Vfc is continuing with its awareness on the issue of Ending Violence against women as part of preparation for upcoming 16 days activism.

On the 4th of October 2016, Vfc conducted a awareness meeting with 55 women Sunday school teachers from Minj LLG EBC churches.

It focused was on feedbacks on BOOK MARIA



EBC Sunday School Teachers at the meeting

previously distributed by Vfc and K1 Drive awareness.

Peace Mediators and Minj Police Planning Meeting

A planning meeting was conducted by Vfc with South Waghi Peace Mediators and Minj police personnel on the 1st of November 2016.

The meeting was focused on the issues of violence against women and the increase in marijuana production and consumption in the province.

They agreed that a combined information sharing awareness will be carried out during the 16 days of Activism through November to October 2016. It was



The Peace and police officers at the meeting

to strengthen work and campaign on Ending violence against women in Jiwaka.

ACIAR Project village community leaders rollout planning meeting



Community Leaders at the planning meeting.

On October 3rd 2016, ACIAR Project Leaders and Community Leaders from 6 communities and Vfc Weep team conducted a meeting after receiving a final training of trainers (TOT) for this year.

The meeting was to rollout the training to their respective communities on the last Module. During the meeting, they brainstorm the lesson and selected the date for the rollout.



ACIAR Project team visit

A team from University of Canberra, PNG University of Technology and National Agricultural Research Institute visited Vfc under the ACIAR Project on the 30th of November to 2nd of December 2016

They interviewed all the leaders, village community educators and the contact farmers within the six



ACIAR team, VCEs and the farmers.

communities engaged under the project.

The team also visited their communities and the farms.

Oxfam International PNG officers visit

Mr David Shields, livelihood program manager from Oxfam International-PNG based in Goroka accompanied by his teams visited Vfc on the 10th of October 2016.

The visit was the first quarter initial meeting under the livelihoods Harvest program.

It was to formalise the program and

activities for the first and second quarter of the project.

They also identify and selected the communities who are to be the beneficiaries

of the program. The first training date was also set and confirmed.

They team applauded Vfc and



Ms Lilly speaking to the Oxfam team and Vfc WEEP team

related to work together for the duration of the program.

An Independent Consultant visit

On the 5th to 8th December 2016, Ms Tessa, an independent consultant from Australia engaged by International Women's Development Agency visited Vfc.

Her visit was to put together a 3 year summary report covering Vfc's work.

She is also writing up a plan for Young Women and Girls Empowerment and Mentoring Program for Vfc to implement in 2017.

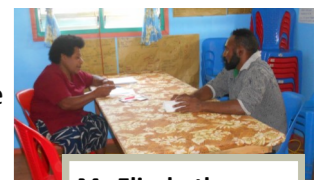


Ms Tessa Walsh and Ms Lilly

Baptist Union and Unitech team visit

Ms Freda from Baptist Union and Ms Elizabeth from PNG University of Technology visited Vfc and conducted a END - LINE - SURVEY with VCEs on the 21st to 23rd of November 2016.

They interviewed VCEs and the farmers on the progress of ACIAR Project and the impact the project has to the farmers and the communities.



Ms Elizabeth interviewing a VCE

IWDA Representative visit

Ms Elena Leddra, PNG Country Manager from IWDA made a visit to Vfc on the 12th to 17th of December 2016.

Her visit was to:

- Get end - of - year one partnership report
- Check Vfc financial book for one year



Ms Elena Leddra and 2016 Vfc Staff

- Help setup Vfc website
- Witness the launching of the peace and security law for Jima, Dambex and Warawau communities.

It was her final visit for the year 2016 and looking forward to continue work with Vfc and its network partners in 2017.



K1 Drive Awareness



VfC and Family Sexual Violence Unit from Minj have conducted a two days K1 Drive Awareness on the 11th to 12 of October 2016. The awareness drive was to help Minj Police Family Sexual Violence Unit purchase a vehicle. The vehicle will be stationed and responding mainly to drug, homebrew and violence issues.

Top; Pukamil Village Court Officials

The awareness covered all of South Waghi that are under the section of Minj police from Kumbal to Aviamp. Community really embraced and urged to support the cause.

16 Days of Activism

On the 28th to 29th of November 2016 Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association, Kup Women for Peace and Voice for Change conducted a two days awareness of 16 Days Activism.

The awareness started from Jiwaka to Simbu and ended in Eastern Highlands under the Highlands Women Human Rights network.



Brenda from VfC speaking to the crowd in one of the location in Jiwaka

It was to commemorate the organisation's feminist work from around the world focusing on human rights.

K1 Drive Awareness and Collection

An awareness and collection of K1 was conducted by Minj Police personnel, Peace and Village court officers of South Waghi and VfC on the 9th, 10th and 12th of December 2016.

The money was collected to purchase a vehicle for Minj Police Family and Sexual Violence Unit in South Waghi

The FSVU in Minj lack vehicle to help women survivors, eradicate the production and



The team of Minj FSVU, South Waghi Peace officers, Community leaders and VfC preparing for K1 drive collection

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



Feminist forum 2016 in Fiji

Two staff from VfC attended an Inaugural Pacific Feminist forum 2016 in Fiji on the 26th of November to 2nd of December 2016.

The forum focused on mapping journeys and building movement of the organisation's networks.

The participants also discussed the intergenerational feminist movements.



Ms Elena Leddra from IWDA and Kiungui BeSoer from VfC during the forum in Fiji

Oxfam workshop in Fiji

Ms Sina Joe from VfC attended a workshop in Fiji with Oxfam international partners from the 24th to 28th of October 2016.

It was to work on SEED concept development to incorporate into the existing programs for their partners

Launching of Community Laws

On the 14th, 15th and 16th of December 2016 Jima, Dambex and Warawau communities launched their community Peace and Security Laws respectively.

These 3 communities successfully launched the laws after 2 years of inclusive consultations with VfC on building safer homes and communities in Jiwaka.

The challenges now remains with the communities themselves and the working committees to ensure the laws are implemented.



Ms Elena (right) and Ms Brenda speaking during the launching at Warawau community

Visited Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre in Bouganville

On the 17th to 21 of October 2016, a team from VfC, Minj FSVU police officers, Provincial village court inspector and South Waghi Peace Mediators made a visit to Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) in Bouganville.

The visit was to see how their referral pathways and court system works in violence with women and children.

They made visits to the following areas:

- Men's hub and the safe house in Arawa
- Arawa Family Sexual Violence Committee at Arawa Police Station
- Chabai island in Buka



The NRC and VfC team in Buka

They also had the opportunity to witness the daily struggles for mothers to put food on the table and meeting basic family needs.

Oxfam, BPNG, MiBank and the Oxfam Partners signing of MOU in Goroka

Two VfC staff attended the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Bank of Papua New Guinea, MiBank, Oxfam and Oxfam partners in Goroka on the 25th of November 2016.

It was an occasion witnessing the financial institutions willingness to provide banking services accessible to rural population in the communities.

VfC and other partners were being certified as MiBank agent in their respective areas.



Mr Mark (third left) from VfC and the Partners