

ISSUE 11

# Papua New Guinea

## April 2018 Newsletter

It has been another three months of positive progress for FHI 360 in PNG. Peer educators were trained on couples counselling to strengthen HIV counselling services, a series of community, school and business house based activities were held in the week preceding the World TB Day and community members in Moresby South received targeted training on

gender based violence to enhance their awareness about appropriate support services for survivors of GBV.

This month we also wish our long-serving, ever dedicated team member Mirriam Dogimab a fond farewell. Mirriam has been with the team for close to a decade and has made an incredible impact on FHI 360s work in gender. Mirriam will be

greatly missed by the team but we wish her well for the future.

Warm wishes,



Daniel Tesfaye  
FHI 360 PNG  
Country Director

## World TB Day campaign targeted at schools

In the lead-up to World TB Day, FHI 360 ran a week-long TB awareness interventions in communities, schools and business houses in the National Capital District (NCD). Under the DFAT funded Community based TB Treatment (CBTT) project, FHI 360 in collaboration with NCD Health Services and the Salvation Army, focused on selected schools within the Moresby South electorate to improve the health seeking behavior of TB patients, families and community members. Nine schools participated in the interventions and a drawing competition, where the children were asked to illustrate 'how to cover your cough', was run for children in grades 3-6. The competition gave the students an opportunity to express their thoughts using



their artistic skills at the same time as considering this important message. Health messages on TB were also shared with the children so that they understood what TB is, the types of TB, transmission routes, signs and symptoms, and practicing good habits to reduce spread of TB infection. Awareness activities were also run in 20 communities, ensuring these crucial messages reached more people in Moresby South.

## Lay Counsellors achieve key milestone



Five lay counsellors (people who have not undergone medical studies), who are currently peer educators under the USAID funded Strengthening HIV/AIDS services for key populations (KPs) in PNG project, were among 18 counsellors who underwent a five-day Couple Counselling training to enhance their counselling skills. FHI 360 collaborated with the National Department

of Health to conduct the training as part of increasing the supply of HIV/AIDS services for key populations, their sexual partners and their families, specifically to build capacity of service providers and implementing partners under the project. Initially, in PNG only people who underwent medical training could do HIV testing, however, FHI 360 initiated an intervention to engage KPs who are female sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people to reach out to their peers in providing HIV testing. The training will enable peer educators to not only reach members of KPs but also their partners with friendly community-based testing services.

## Promoting GBV services at community level in Moresby South

More than 60 community members from the Moresby South electorate in NCD were given knowledge on where to access gender based violence (GBV) services, as well as who to contact to access these services. This knowledge sharing activity was part of the USAID funded Strengthening HIV/AIDS services for key populations in PNG project to mobilize community structures and systems to help strengthen referrals and the uptake of post GBV services. The four-hour sessions provided community members knowledge on what gender and sexuality means, the different forms of GBV, and most importantly where to go for help. The sessions gave the peer educators working in these communities the opportunity to explain their roles and how they can support in referring a survivor to appropriate services. Participants expressed that the learning from the sessions will empower community members to eventually change their attitudes and better understand their role in the community when speaking up against GBV.

## Meet the team | Mirriam Dogimab | Project Director



“There are so many things that I have done in the nine years that I have worked for FHI 360. I would like to think that my biggest achievement is setting up the gender program in PNG. I am particularly proud of the Komuniti Lukautim OI Meri project, now in its third phase of implementation. During my time with FHI 360 I have been able to build my research capacity and interacted with incredible colleagues across continents. All the team members that I have interacted with have allowed me to learn; we have developed some fantastic work together and through this, demonstrated the resilience of PNG society. I have developed so many skills with FHI 360 and really enjoyed my time working with the team.”

**MEET THE TEAM**



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