

Editorial

Gender

Welcome to the special January activism edition of the FHI360 PNG newsletter. The last three months have been jam-packed with awareness activities and events to draw attention to issues around gender based violence (GBV) and human rights, culminating in the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence campaign. The FHI360 team coordinated events for Human Rights day, World AIDS day and various training and capacity-building events. Our hope is that with continued awareness raising and community mobilisation, attention will be given to these important issues and, in turn, attitudes and behaviours will begin to change.

In this issue we shine a spotlight on our teams attendance at the gender 360 summit in Bangkok, we report on a successful men's discussion forum in Vanimo and reflect on a positive mobile voluntary testing and counseling event in Hanuabada village.

We hope that you all had a restful and peaceful break and that you are looking ahead to a positive and productive 2016.

We look forward to further updating you on how we are supporting key populations and survivors of GBV in the April edition of our newsletter ●

Warm wishes,



Daniel Tesfaye
FHI 360 Country Director

Talk to me if you're experiencing violence t-shirt campaign



FHI360 has designed key messages for use as t-shirt slogans to normalise conversations around GBV in the community and at health facilities.

The key message 'talk to me if you're experiencing violence' is designed to create awareness among community members, particularly women and children, and to lead to engagement of those who experience violence. This message is accompanied by the key message 'you have the right to a life free from violence'. This message promotes

the understanding that vulnerable individuals (woman, child, transgender, men who have sex with men) have a right to a life free from violence. The messages are printed on t-shirts worn by community mobilisers, staff at family support centres and FHI360 staff during events to promote the messages.

These people are also prepared to support or refer any individual who reaches out for help. If you see someone wearing one of these t-shirts approach them and have a chat about your experience of violence ●

Men's discussion forum in Vanimo



On 27th November 2015, current senior public servants, former public servants and politicians, community leaders and others from the Vanimo Catholic Papa group (a faith based organisation), the LUMI Children Foundation and the Kalang Heritage (a church based organisation) met for a men's discussion forum at St Anthony Priest House haus win in Vanimo.

The theme of the forum was the importance of involving men as champions to end violence. Guest speaker Mr Fehi presented on the issue of domestic violence. He stressed the importance of counselling and the role of family protection court orders. In his presentation, he argued that most perpetrators of domestic violence or wife battering escape the court easily. The reason for this is because the district court summary offence act is very generalised and not specific enough to deter perpetrators. His lecture sparked many questions and comments from the participants and developed into a rich discussion.

Outcomes from the meeting were targeted and addressed the roles of all parties, including stakeholders and community members and that proactive approaches

rather than reactive approaches must now be taken to deal with GBV. Stakeholders in this field were called on to make a collective effort to conduct continuous counselling and education to prevent men becoming potential GBV perpetrators. The district court system, especially the district court acts, need to be strengthened for GBV management in order to be able to deter perpetrators from committing GBV. Community members should make citizen arrests, which will deter perpetrators and survivors themselves must break ties with the perpetrators when the violence is serious. It was also widely agreed that there needs to be more awareness about GBV for key stakeholders through development of an action plan for community awareness.

It was a successful forum. It was agreed that the way forward for addressing violence in the communities is for it to be everyone's responsibility. Community leaders need to be at the forefront to address GBV in their respective communities. The participants of the forum strongly agreed that it is time for all the partners working on GBV to strengthen their working partnerships and initiate more awareness and forums at the community level in 2016 ●

USAID Mission Director visit

On 15th December 2015, Dr Susan Brems, USAID Mission Director for the Philippines, Pacific Islands, and Mongolia, visited the FHI360 and USAID supported project. The visit took her to the Koki clinic and House of Hope services, which are managed under the partnership between FHI360 and The Salvation Army.

Her visit started at the Koki clinic where a presentation on the USAID project was given. Then she was given a tour of the clinic and interacted with clinic staff. After the clinic visit, Dr Brems visited The Salvation Army's House of Hope and VCT clinic at Ela Beach, which provides temporary shelter and support for women who experience violence and HIV testing facilities for the community.

At House of Hope, Dr Brems had a discussion with three survivors of GBV. She finished her visit by giving gifts to survivors who were brave enough to talk with her about their experience and the type of support they received from House of Hope ●



Gender 360 Summit

On 3rd December 2015, the PNG FHI360 Gender Officer together with the Komuniti Lukautim Meri Project (KLOM) Project Director and the National Department of Health Gender and Men's Health Technical Advisor participated in the one-day Gender 360 Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand; hosted by FHI360, the US Embassy in Thailand, the USAID Asia Regional Mission in Thailand and the United Nations Development Program.

Two days prior to the event, also in Bangkok, the team attended the Technical Knowledge Sharing Meeting. Over the two day technical meeting, available evidence, tools and promising practices in preventing violence against women and girls through social norms change was presented.

The Gender 360 Summit's theme was 'Breaking the Silos': coordinating approaches to address gender inequality, GBV and rights in Asia and the Pacific. At this high-energy meeting, the FHI360 PNG Gender Officer participated as a panellist in a discussion themed 'Gender based violence services across populations'. The Gender Officer presented on the USAID-funded program, Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for MARPs in PNG. The presentation covered the types of violence the program addresses, the populations served, the different services offered, how GBV prevention is part of the services, how the program addresses human rights and gender inequality, the challenges and lessons learned, the major gaps and the recommendations for donors.

The three participants from PNG also participated as table facilitators during the Gender Lounge, which covered table level discussions on topics such as human trafficking, violence against minority women, school-related GBV and violence against gender and sexual minorities | Roselyn Nopa ●



Facility readiness assessments vital to improve provision of GBV services

For better and effective GBV quality of care, facility assessments are vital. Through these assessments, key recommendations are developed which guide the improvement in the facility's current services for GBV and enable survivors to access the necessary healthcare services.

The Raihu District Hospital assessment was conducted on the 28th-30th September 2015 by a joint team of staff from the West Sepik Provincial Health Authority and FHI360. This three day exercise focused on assessing the hospital's current system, discussing and suggesting ways to improve the roll out of GBV services offered to survivors and making recommendations from the findings of the assessment in terms of work space for clinical staff, use of essential GBV drugs, training needed and proper equipment use.

Key recommendations from the findings include the need to improve existing prevention, STI and HIV services and integrated prevention for GBV survivors into these services, strengthening the quality of pre-ART and ART services, improving supply chain management for GBV drugs as well as

condoms and medications, staff sensitisation and training on GBV, HIV and STI, counseling and other relevant related trainings, more institutional commitment in terms of funding staff capacity building programs or training and strengthen collaboration and referral linkages between all partners.

The Tambul Health Centre assessment was carried out on 28th-30th October 2015. The assessment was conducted by the FHI360 Gender Officer who was assisted by KLOM Project's Program Manager and an officer from the Hagen General Hospital's Well Women's Clinic/FSC. Next steps identified at the assessment included Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, Hagen General Hospital – Well Women's Clinic and FHI360 working together in addressing the recommendations from the facility readiness check; GBV case management training for Tambul Health Centre staff; distribution of communication materials developed by FHI360 on GBV; and FHI360 carrying out more awareness programs in the communities with assistance from the community mobilisers ●

World AIDS day 2015 in Port Moresby

On 1st December 2015, the FHI360 PNG team participated with many of our partners in the World AIDS day (WAD) event at Sir John Guise Stadium in the National Capital District (NCD). The main event was an HIV expo where government agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and business houses came together to commemorate the day. Participating groups also set up stalls to promote services or sell products with 25 booths in total contributing to the event. Voluntary counselling and testing was also provided on the day.

The WAD 2015 HIV expo was organised and coordinated by the WAD Working Committee led by NCD Provincial AIDS Committee under National AIDS Council Secretariat (NACS). The national theme for the day was know your status, get treated, live longer. On the day, those who have died from HIV and AIDS infections were remembered. Also, those who are currently diagnosed with HIV and in care were encouraged to maintain adherence to their care to stay healthy and minimise the spread of infection among their partner/s.

Selected members of the USAID MARPs project, in collaboration with selected members of Four Square and Salvation Army counselling and outreach teams, participated in the event as part of the monthly Mobile HIV Testing and Counselling (MHTC) initiative. Through this initiative, FHI360 and partners bring voluntary HIV counseling and testing to the community to increase access to the service. During the event, 55 people were tested (35 males and 20 females). Anyone found positive was linked to services at the closest clinic providing HIV care.

Other activities on the day included a fashion show by the transgender community from Kapul Champions, speeches by key delegates including US Ambassador Walter North, NDOH HIV/STI Manager Dr Nick Dala and PLHIV motivational speaker Kila Williams, who encouraged positive living to PLHIV peers. There were also cultural performances and a WAD HIV quiz to test everyone's knowledge | Bolalava Vaia ●



FHI360 awarded further funding for Strongim Hauslain project

The Strongim Hauslain Project: (Strengthening Communities to Improve and Deliver Prevention, Care and Treatment Services for HIV and Other STIs), is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through Health & HIV Implementation Services Provider. The project seeks to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic for key populations in PNG, by building the capacity of local partners to implement quality HIV & STI prevention and management services for target populations.

During the first phase of the project, implemented from April 2013-December 2015, the focus was on strengthening HIV & STI prevention and referral linkages to clinical services. In this period FHI360 provided technical assistance to three FBOs to implement peer educator driven outreach prevention intervention with referral linkages to clinical services.

Following successful implementation of the first phase of the project, FHI360 has been awarded a follow-on grant to continue implementation from January-December 2016. The objectives of the follow-on project are to increase access to quality HIV and AIDS care and treatment services for key populations, including PLHIV, in three provinces (Western Highlands, Jiwaka and Morobe) and to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation systems to enable effective program intervention. The project will focus on providing technical support to healthcare workers in selected health facilities to improve access to quality clinical services for key populations in a friendly and sensitive manner, as well as technical assistance on routine data management ●

Setting the stage to achieve 90-90-90 goals by 2020 and ending AIDS by 2030



In December 2013, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board requested UNAIDS to support country and region-led efforts to establish new targets for HIV treatment scale-up beyond 2015. After a series of consultations at regional and global level, UNAIDS has arrived at a set of treatment targets referred to as the 90:90:90 goals to be achieved by 2020. The expectations are that 90% of all PLHIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

HIV/AIDS is among the leading causes of mortality in PNG. With an overall prevalence estimated at 0.65% in general populations, PNG has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Pacific Island states (UNAIDS 2014). PNG's HIV epidemic is now categorised as a national HIV epidemic that is concentrated in certain populations and geographical areas.

By December 2014, about 37,000 people were said to be living with HIV in PNG with 16,489 active on antiretroviral therapy.

Modelling studies suggest that achieving the 90:90:90 targets by 2020 will enable the world to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, which will in turn generate profound health and economic benefits. However, achieving these goals in PNG or anywhere else will

require effective collaboration amongst policy makers, donors, implementing partners, services providers, civil society groups, and the network of PLHIV.

On 27th October 2015, NCD Health Services, in collaboration with the United States Government AID Program under the auspices of PEPFAR (President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) and FHI360, organised a stakeholders' meeting to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the HIV care and treatment program in NCD, and to discuss the strategic approach to achieving the treatment goals, particularly as it relates to key populations. The meetings aim was to sensitise stakeholders and reflect the gaps and challenges in the HIV program and agree on broad areas for collaboration.

Identified challenges include data access and management, lack of funding, barriers to accessing government clinics and that stigma and discrimination are still huge barriers for key populations accessing services. Moving forward the participants all agreed to collaborate more to achieve the 90.90.90 treatment goals, carry out facility gap and needs assessments, provide site specific technical assistance to improve service quality and uptake, support the scale up of viral load services, and to meet again to ensure that everyone is working towards the treatment targets ●

Human Rights day – shining a light on transgender issues

Around the world, people and organisations united on 10th December 2015 to commemorate International Human Rights day, holding awareness events and running activities. FHI360 PNG utilised the most effective way of reaching a mass audience in a country with limited access to mainstream media by going back to basics with a poster and leaflet campaign focussed on raising awareness of critical transgender issues within the LGBT population.

This communication material was developed by Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council (CIMC) – Family Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), FHI360 provided technical assistance on the material only. This is the first communication material developed by CIMC for key populations on GBV to create awareness and address the rights of transgender people in communities. Because of the sensitivity of the issue itself, and to further avoid stigma and discrimination towards the transgender population it was decided to acknowledge their rights through readable resources.

With the contribution of all team members and the technical assistance from our graphic designer, a transgender support leaflet and poster was produced. The leaflet focussed on the rights of a transgender person, acknowledging that they are the same as any other human being and should be able to access basic services. It also highlighted that transgender people must be able to live a life free from violence. The poster shares the same conceptual framework. This was the first breakthrough where FSVAC and CIMC worked together to produce material for this specific target group. FHI360 was honoured to provide the technical assistance for its development | Matilina Gendua ●

Mobile VCT testing at Hanuabada

On 18th November 2015, the second mobile voluntary counselling and testing (MVCT) event was implemented at Hanuabada village, Moresby South Electorate, National Capital District. The purpose of Mobile VCT is to promote and bring HIV testing services within the community so people can have easy access to testing. The five-hour event was a collaborative effort by FHI360, together with its partner The Salvation Army. The clinical team from The Salvation Army comprised of two counsellors who did the HIV testing and one nursing officer who did height, weight, blood pressure check and body mass index.

Ninety-seven people were registered on the morning. Of the 97, there were 80 females and 17 males. Anyone who was found to be positive was referred to the ART site at Koki clinic. The average age of the people that registered was 40 years. Most people heard about the service from reading about it on the flyers that were displayed at tucker shops and on power line poles around the area. Peer educators issued condoms and played risk assessment games with participants from the crowd ●



Meri safe haus – homes for abused women



There is a great need to create safe homes for women who are victims of GBV. Without access to alternate housing options, women trying to escape abusive relationships are often forced to continue to live with their violent partner or, if they flee, have to return to the perpetrators. Some women may only need short-term, emergency shelter, while others face numerous barriers and may require long-term assistance and a variety of support services.

FHI360 along with Foursquare have developed standard operational procedures (SOP) for shelter staff to use when managing stay homes. The stay homes have 24-hour admission for vulnerable women and girls. The SOP guide how a safe house is operated and what the minimum requirement of providing quality temporary shelter for survivors of GBV is.

A stay home is a temporary, transitional, residential service that provides holistic support through medical, psychosocial and legal assistance. The stay home provides the primary needs of shelter, food, clothing and care for women and girls who experience GBV. As these survivors are living in difficult circumstances, without any social and economic support, the program provides

emotional support and counseling; rehabilitates them socially and economically through education, awareness, skill up gradation and behavioral training; and arranges for specific clinical, psychosocial, legal and other support for them through the centre's services and by linking and networking with other organisations.

The stay homes are centrally located to create greater access to women needing emergency support. Ideally they will be close to public transportation, potential places of employment, high schools and community colleges and healthcare clinics and hospitals. The criteria for admission is that the women should be over 18 years old, be deserted by their family and relatives, require medical attention and that they are not on drugs or alcohol. All women in need are allowed to stay for 15-21 days depending on the individual.

The SOP is now used at Meri Seif Haus and House of Hope shelters that are supported by Foursquare and The Salvation Army. These homes have already assisted more than 50 women and girls in 2015. Safe houses provide a haven for women and girls at a time of great need and are an exceptionally useful resource to safeguard victims of GBV ●

Community training on GBV and human rights

FHI360 PNG conducted five days of training on GBV and an introduction to Human Rights for the Komuniti Lukautim Meri Project (community caring for women and girls project). Nineteen participants attended the training in Mount Hagen.

Capacity building was needed for the community mobilisers and the implementing agency, K1 Association, to allow them to roll out better prevention. This training is part of a series provided by FHI360 to ensure that community mobilisers are capable of educating and responding to GBV in their respective communities.

FHI360 facilitators, Nancy Aboga and Felix Umba, used participatory methodologies such as group discussions and exercises like body mapping and role-play to build confidence in handling GBV survivors who reach out for help. In addition to this, participants were given case studies to classify the type of GBV using the classification tool. Film was another method used and field visits were organised to two key service providers; the family support centre at the local hospital and the family sexual violence unit at the police station. These will be the key service providers with which all mobilisers will work with to strengthen referral from the community; gaining a better understanding of their work and forming relationships was crucial.

The training was well received by the participants who said that they learnt new terminology, the types of violence faced by men and women, what parts of the body are affected, about emotional and psychological abuse and what to do in their roles. The next step will be to conduct outreach activities in the community ●



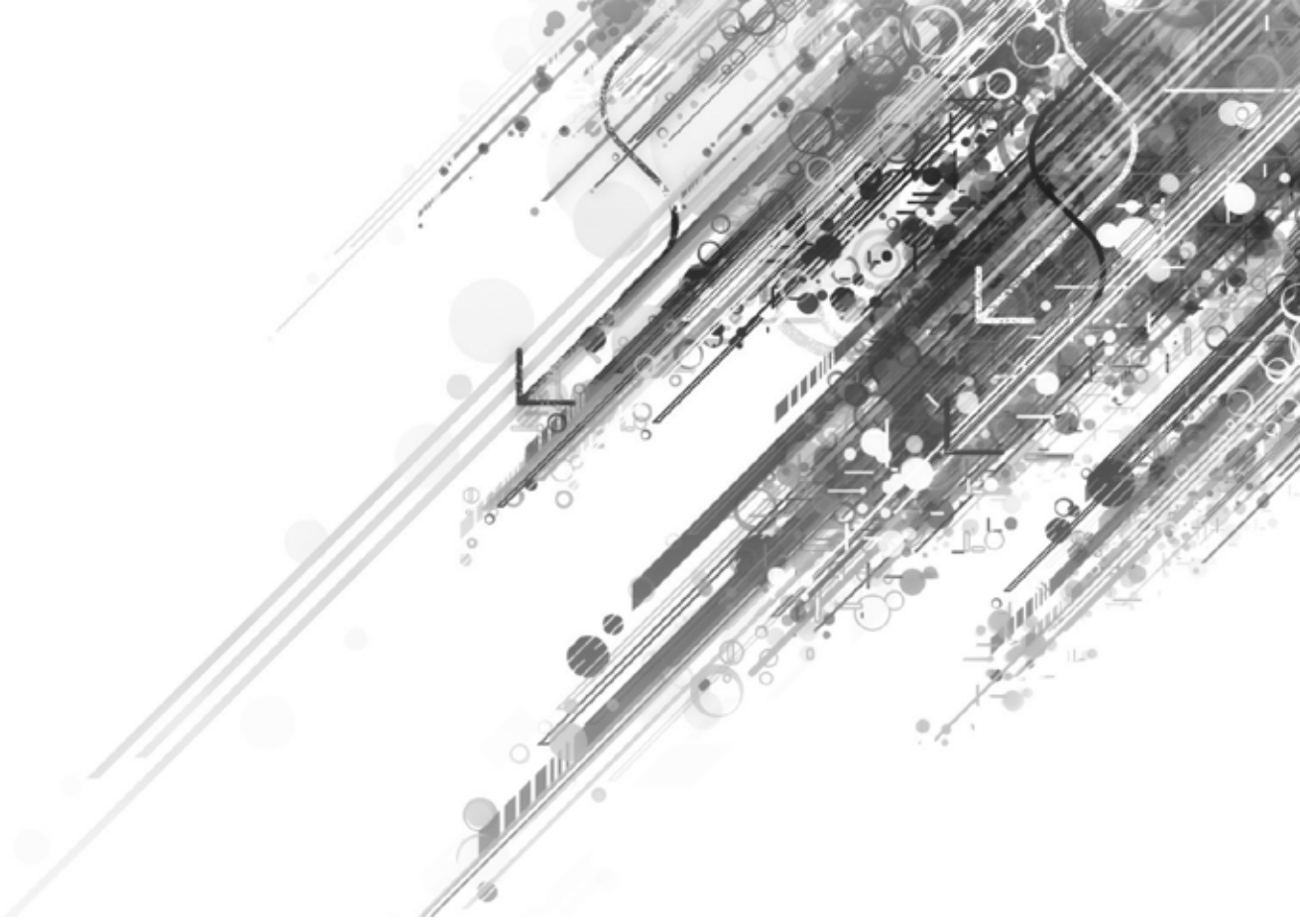
Matilina Kundia Gendua | Program Officer for Strongim Hauslain Project (Strengthening Community Structures)

“ My role in the Strongim Hauslain Project includes liaising with partner organisations, NCD health services, implementing agencies and other government and non-government organisations including private sectors to implement the project; running trainings and activities; providing technical support for peer led prevention programs; facilitating training and capacity building, mentoring and coaching; and regular visits to clinics to ensure that tools are in a workable condition and that there is a smooth supply of drugs.

Working with FHI360 has broadened my knowledge in the area of HIV/AIDS and the key population that we work with. The organisation has built my capacity in conducting and facilitating training, confidence in public speaking,

organising resources, providing basic insight into management and running projects.

The 16 Days of Activism means recognising vulnerable groups of people in our society and speaking out on their behalf, addressing their rights to live a decent life. It's about standing up for those who are suppressed and cannot sound their voices in fear of their lives, the most vulnerable people in our communities. It acknowledges their plight to help them live a normal, carefree life through, rectifying abusive behaviour and treatment that is perceived as being the norm in our society. It includes acknowledging and advocating for women in abusive and violent relationships, putting an end to violence against women, and expressing basic human rights which is fundamental for all human beings. ”



Contact details

FHI 360 Papua New Guinea Country office
PO Box 447 Waigani
Unit 3, Allotment 33, Section 38 Steamships Compound
Phone: 323 0966
Mobile: 72014401
www.fhi360.org



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