

ISSUE 14

# Papua New Guinea

## January 2019 Newsletter

As we kick off 2019 it's a great opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights from the end of last year, including hitting record attendance at our Men's Discussion Forum in Mount Hagen. Great work Western Highlands team!

This year, institutional partnerships are helping to bolster the work that we do in financial inclusion; family planning training is enhancing the knowledge of Community Based Distributors in West Sepik province; and directly

observed therapy is set to improve treatment outcomes for TB patients in the National Capital District.



**Daniel Tesfaye**  
FHI 360 PNG  
Country Director

### Institutional partnerships boost financial inclusion knowledge for KLOM

FHI 360's Komuniti Lukautim Ol Meri project has created institutional partnerships with the Pacific Adventist University (PAU) and Papua New Guinea Micro Finance Limited (PML) to provide guidance, training and products for financial literacy and inclusion. The partnerships with the institutions have given FHI 360 the much-needed technical boost to deliver on its economic empowerment component for the project.

PAU is providing financial inclusion training in Dei district and Mount Hagen Urban, in Western Highlands province. The objective of the training is to improve financial literacy and business development capacity and create an enabling environment to ensure financial inclusion for women and men.

PML is providing loan services and conducting financial awareness training for the same communities. The training focuses on educating women and men about available loan facilities, terms and conditions of the loans, as well as



the benefits and process for acquiring and servicing a loan. According to the PML December 2018 report, uptake of their female only, Micro Finance Loan has increased significantly at all sites since the training was conducted. PML also reports that "almost all that were present during the awareness training have established accounts, having realized the benefits of having a bank account". A total of 119 bank accounts have been opened, with the majority being started by women who opened 95 of the accounts. Furthermore, 65 of these new account holders have successfully lodged bank loan applications. This project is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program

## CBTT program reaches over 87% of TB patients in Moresby South



Under the Australian Government funded, NCD Community-based Tuberculosis Treatment (CBTT) program, FHI 360 is working with partners to provide technical assistance to strengthen systems for the delivery of a patient-centred approach to TB prevention, diagnostic care, and treatment services in the Moresby South electorate.

In addition, FHI 360 also aims to strengthen the implementation of directly observed therapy (DOT) and the use of treatment enablers to promote treatment adherence.

To enhance the administration of DOT, FHI 360, through the Salvation Army, has established 15 community DOT outlets. Through this structure community treatment supporters now effectively provide DOT to more than 87% of TB patients in Moresby South. This development is a major boost for adherence to treatment and will ultimately contribute to improving treatment outcomes in NCD.

## CBDs enhance knowledge on family planning

The FHI 360 Kisim Femili Plenin, Strongim Komuniti project conducted a five-day family planning (FP) referral and community outreach skills training, targeted at Community Based Distributors (CBD) attached to the West Sepik Provincial Health Authority. A total of 28 CBDs, representing 24 different wards, attended the training.

The FP training used a participatory approach and focused on key topics, such as community mobilization, contraceptive misconceptions and understanding family planning. Most CBD's mentioned that it was their first time to have formal training and that it was a good experience and easy to understand. The training was also an opportunity for the facilitator to work with the CBD's to develop community interventions, outreach tools for data collection and materials needed for FP outreach activities. This project is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program

## Meet the team | Emelyn Valaun – Senior M&E Officer

“My role is to ensure routine program implementation, monitoring and evaluation. I oversee and provide M&E technical support for program staff and implementing agencies. Most of what I do revolves around ensuring quality delivery of services, and most importantly ensuring project targets and goals are achieved. During my five years working with FHI 360 I have gained so much technical knowledge. I have learnt that “no man is an island” and that success comes from committed team work. I am privileged to work with a vibrant organization that is focused on capacity building and providing positive and quality outcomes.”



**MEET THE TEAM**