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Papua New Guinea

July 2018 Newsletter

As we head into the second half of 2018, we look back at the past six years of implementing the USAID funded Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for Key Populations in PNG project, where targeted outreach strategies have

increased the demand and access for clinical HIV/STI services among key populations. We look forward to positive results in our gender and TB projects as they mature and grow in implementation over the next couple of years.

Warm wishes,



Daniel Tesfaye
FHI 360 PNG
Country Director

Six years of outreach innovations contributes to HIV testing yield

Since 2012 the outreach program, under the USAID funded Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for Key Populations in PNG project, has contributed to increasing demand for HIV/AIDS services for key populations (KP), their sexual partners, and their families.

The project introduced innovative approaches including adopting the Enhanced Outreach Approach (EOA), the '4.3.2 strategy', and the Lay Counselor Assisted Testing (LayCAT). The EOA is an incentive-based, peer driven, snowball approach used to reach and refer KPs for HIV services. The EOA has three waves of referrals by the outreach team, KP peers and clinical staff. The '4.3.2' strategy was introduced to improve the outcome of referrals for HIV and STI services by tasking Peer Educators (PEs) to reach a minimum of four peers, refer three and then ensure that two access clinic services weekly. The strategy applies the twin concepts of transparency and accountability, while encouraging healthy competition among PEs as each strives to



reach assigned targets and earn maximum incentives. With the three approaches, the project achieved over 400% increase in the number of KPs reached annually between 2013 and 2016; increased the proportion of KPs successfully referred for clinical services from 6% (2016) to 53% (2018). The proportion of KPs among individuals tested for HIV also increased annually from 7% (2013) to 28% (2018).

In addition, 10 members of the outreach team were trained and certified as lay Counsellors and Testers by the National Department of Health. The purpose of the training was to bring HIV Counselling and testing (HCT) services closer to the community, especially for KPs who are either unable or unwilling to access the HCT services at clinics.

Strengthening TB/HIV integration combats co-infections



FHI 360 is leveraging interventions from its two projects, the USAID funded Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for Key Populations project and the DFAT funded Community-based Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment project, to strengthen TB/HIV integration to improve outcomes of treatment, especially for patients who are

coinfected with HIV and TB. The goal of this intervention is to ensure that all PLHIV who are accessing HIV services are routinely screened for TB and TB patients are tested for HIV at the time of initiating TB treatment. Peter* is a PLHIV who recently found out that he had TB during a routine TB screening. After receiving adequate health education from doctors and with the continued support from the health care provider he took both medications every day. Peter emphasized that awareness on HIV and TB must continue at all levels.

** name changed to protect the privacy of the individual*

Understanding the rights of people with disabilities

In PNG there is limited understanding of the rights of people with disabilities (PWD). To address this knowledge gap, participants from FHI 360 partner organizations attended Disability Inclusion Sensitization workshops in May. Through the DFAT funded Komuniti Lukautim OI Meri project, in partnership with the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons, FHI 360 facilitated three workshops in Mt Hagen, Vanimo and Aitape. The workshops were attended by fifty-six individuals (27 males and 29 females). The workshop aimed to raise awareness on the rights of people with disabilities, including key policies in the disability sector, services for PWDs, referral pathways, as well as key challenges, such as effective communication and behavior towards PWDs. A key recommendation from the workshop was that collaborative partnerships should be formed at district, provincial and national levels within the sector, and aligned with the National Policy on Disability 2015-2025 and the International Convention on the Rights of PWDs.

Meet the team | Elizabeth Tama | Program Officer – Prevention (USAID Key Populations program)

“As a Program Officer I oversee the implementation of the outreach component; I plan, implement and review activities with the team to make sure that they are delivered on schedule. Working with FHI 360 I have learned to be more understanding and accept people from different walks of life and sexual orientation. I have gained invaluable experience in planning, implementation and review. It has been a pleasure to see the success of the outreach team reflected in the successful referrals from the past two quarters. I see that the support and regular mentoring, planning and review has gone a long way to contribute to this success.”



MEET THE TEAM



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