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Papua New Guinea

October 2017 Newsletter

It was my great pleasure to end the year with the handover of the HIV response project in Madang to the Provincial Government. At a fabulous handover ceremony, attended by the United

States Ambassador, we were able to acknowledge the exceptional work of Madang partners and the project team over the past 10 years. We are excited to see the commitment of the Provincial Government to

take the work forward in Madang.



Daniel Tesfaye
FHI 360 PNG
Country Director



10 years of success in HIV care and treatment in Madang

At the end of September, the FHI 360 team handed over the PEPFAR funded HIV prevention, care and treatment project to the Madang Provincial Government. United States Ambassador, Catherine Ebert-Gray, handed over the project to Provincial Administrator, Daniel Aloï in an event celebrating the 10 year partnership. At the ceremony, The U.S. Ambassador underscored the importance of strengthening government and local actors' capacity to delivering quality services to communities. She reiterated, "The success of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded HIV program in Madang, is rooted in the strong partnership between FHI 360 and local organizations in Madang." She went on to acknowledge the ability of the Provincial Government to take ownership of these important services.

The Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for Key Populations in PNG Project, was funded by USAID and implemented by FHI 360. It provided important training and support to the Madang Provincial Health Office for coordinating the response to HIV in the province. The program supported HIV prevention, primarily among key populations, including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals who are at risk of contracting HIV. In addition, Modilon General Hospital received assistance to provide HIV counseling and testing, sexually transmitted infection diagnosis and treatment, and HIV care and treatment for people living with HIV. To address gender based violence (GBV), USAID also built the capacity of the Family Support Center in Modilon General Hospital, by strengthening post-GBV care services for survivors of GBV, as well as collaborating with the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee and Family Support Unit at Madang Police Constabulary to prevent and respond to GBV.

FHI 360 goes full swing in TB response

The USAID funded, Control and Prevention of Tuberculosis project, focuses on providing technical assistance in pharmacovigilance of new drugs for Multi-Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) treatment. In the last three months, four training sessions were conducted on setting up Medicine Therapeutic Committees (MTC) and on Active TB Drug Safety Monitoring and Management (ADSM). The trainings took place in Western, Madang, Gulf and Simbu provinces. All trainings were led by the Pharmaceutical Services Standards Branch (PSSB) of the National Department of Health and co-facilitated by World Health Organization (WHO). Fifty-one health care workers participated and contributed to the workshop. A key outcome from the training was the development of specific work plans for each hospital to begin the formation of a functional MTC that will strengthen pharmacovigilance in each province. In addition, FHI 360 has expanded work on TB in the Moresby South area, contributing to the implementation of the NCD TB strategy; *TB Free NCD*. The project will strengthen community based, patient centered TB projects and strengthen the capacity of the five basic management units at Kila Kila, Lawes Road, Badili, Kaugere, and PNG Defense Force Taurama.

FHI 360 brings financial inclusion to Mount Hagen

The FHI 360 office in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands province (WHP), hosted one of its bi-annual gender learning forums on 19 October, 2017 to bring together key stakeholders to discuss specific developmental issues, with an emphasis on gender equality. The forum focused on financial inclusion and empowerment of women. A total of 38 participants attended the forum including action group members, community leaders, banks, police, and private companies. The forum included panel discussions from three financial institutions, Bank South Pacific, PNG Microfinance Limited (PML) and the National Development Bank who talked about how they are contributing towards financial inclusion for the people in the province. There were three presentations from DFAT, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit and Pacific Adventist University (PAU) on financial inclusion work in their programs. The presentation by PAU on family teams in financial education, a financial literacy training approach, was of particular interest to the participants. Moving forward, FHI 360, in partnership with PAU and PML, will enable women and men in WHP and West Sepik province to have access to saving and loans services under the Kommuniti Lukautim OI Meri project.

Meet the team | Stephanie Eka | Finance Officer – Contracts and Grants

MEET THE TEAM



“My job is to build the financial and procurement management capacity of local organizations in PNG. I provide training, mentoring and coaching on these areas. Since I joined FHI 360 I have gained more confidence. When my friends and family find out that I work for the organization, they are amazed at the work that FHI 360 is doing in the country. As a survivor of GBV myself I am passionate about helping and talking to other women about their experiences of violence.”



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Thank you to USAID and the Australian Government for financially supporting FHI360.