

ISSUE 6

Papua New Guinea

January 2017 Newsletter

As we head into another exciting year for FHI360 in Papua New Guinea (PNG), we reflect back on some of the highlights from the end of 2016 for this quarters update, and what an end to the year it was.

With the FIFA World Cup being hosted on our doorstep we took the opportunity to run training on gender based violence (GBV) for the enthusiastic young people who were volunteering at the event, the annual

20 days of activism was a huge triumph with a busy schedule of events from TV panels to an engaging quiz, our signature Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for Key Populations project had another successful year of operation, increasing access to quality HIV/AIDS care and treatment services, and you will notice that our portfolio of programs in PNG has grown to include tuberculosis.

We are looking forward to another busy year ahead working with our partners and stakeholders across gender, HIV/AIDS, TB and community education.

Warm wishes,



Daniel Tesfaye
FHI 360 PNG
Country Director

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Milestone achieved

The USAID Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services for Key Populations project pulled off another successful year in 2016. FHI360 worked with key stakeholders including NDOH, Madang provincial health office, NCD health office, its implementing partners and other development organizations to contribute to the HIV response in PNG.

Capacity building of healthcare workers and local organization's was one of FHI360's key focuses. Capacity building training was conducted in research and surveillance for healthcare workers from East New Britain, Madang, Western Highlands, Enga, Eastern Highlands and NCD

provinces, gender norms for community members, key population (KP) sensitivity for healthcare workers, gender and GBV for 699 urban youth FIFA volunteers, and many more that covered prevention, care and treatment.

In 2016, the project reached 5,066 KPs and 1,509 high-risk men and women; 5,203 individuals were tested for HIV and got their results; 2,233 received STI management services; and 669 people are currently receiving antiretroviral therapy treatment (ART). A total of 372 people living with HIV were newly initiated on treatment. The project also distributed a total of 675,144 male condoms, 128,371 female condoms and 326,482 water-based lubricants at the clinics, condom outlets and one-to-one interactions.

Strongim Hauslain project innovates and collaborates

Between January to December 2016, FHI360's Strongim Hauslain project successfully supported three provinces and 10 health facilities to identify site specific gaps and barriers to the provision of quality STI and HIV services.

The project has adopted a range of innovative approaches and strategic collaborations to ensure its success. FHI360 partnered with the Regional Medical Officers (RMOs) to implement some of the major activities under the project. This approach helped to prevent conflicts in the content of technical assistance messages passed on to

clinicians by FHI360 and the RMOs, and promoted greater involvement of government personnel, paving the way for ownership and sustainability. The project leveraged the USAID funded HIV project to implement a number of activities including; training of clinicians on the GBV screening protocols and provision of post GBV clinical response, peer educators' refresher training, and development of job aids. The baseline assessment of all 10 participating clinics provided a snapshot of site-specific gaps and the basis for clinic specific interventions, which enabled FHI360 to tailor its technical interventions according to the needs of each clinic, making the most effective use of the resources to achieve the best results possible.

Daisy's story

“I was first inspired to become a Peer Educator because of seeing what was happening in my community - too many of my peers have contracted HIV and far too many have died.”

Daisy, is a friendly, vibrant, carefree and active person. She currently works as a Peer Educator for Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). VSO is an implementing partner for FHI360 under USAID funded program: Strengthening HIV/AIDS services for Key Populations in PNG. VSOs scope under the program is to implement prevention activities.

Daisy has a very big heart for her peers. She talks with passion about helping them learn about HIV/AIDS and how to protect themselves from getting infected. Daisy recalls: “I’ve always wanted to do more to help my peers and my community. When the VSO opportunity came along, I took it straight away and I am happy to say that I am doing more for my community”.

Daisy talks about the first time she joined VSO and how it was a big change compared to the last organization she worked for. Although the work is the same, she said with VSO, a Peer Educator is given more responsibility and authority. She shared that she has been trained on finger prick testing



and counselling, which she sees as not only beneficial to her as an individual in terms of her professional development but also as a way of empowering her to give back to her community in helping and supporting her peers more.

Daisy shared: “Being a Peer Educator has given me self confidence and more knowledge on HIV/AIDS, my community respect me and find it easy to approach me to talk about sexual health.” As part of reaching out and providing further support to her community, Daisy has set up her house as a condom outlet.

Her work has had significant impact both on her peers and her community. Daisy says that her peers are now practising safe sex far more than before, adding that they know to go for regular VCT and are discussing more openly about HIV and STI issues. Looking at her community, she sees that younger peers are aware of her work and how she is connected to the clinic. They use the services when they need them. “Seeing my peers’ happy makes me happy too,” said Daisy | **Elizabeth Tama**

Hands up for #HIV prevention, count FHI360 in

“Hands Up for #HIV Prevention: Count me in” was the national theme for this year’s World AIDS Day (WAD) in PNG which was tied to the global theme. The 2016 WAD working committee, under the leadership of the National AIDS Council Secretariat in NCD, organized commemoration of this special day on December 1, 2016. FHI360 was an active member of the working committee, comprised of key stakeholders in NCD that coordinated lead up activities, as well as the main event.

The main event was held at Jack Pidik park in the 5-mile area of Port Moresby. Lead up activities maximized on media coverage and included WAD supplements, a Facebook competition, radio talk back shows, development of the WAD jingles and a television panel discussion.

There were two WAD supplements that were published in the Post Courier and The National, PNG’s two most popular and well-read daily newspapers. The Facebook competition was facilitated through NACS Facebook page, where the public was asked to post a selfie holding their hands up with a key message on HIV prevention written on them. There were also two radio talk back shows on FM 100. The first radio talk back show featured FHI360, NACS, and Kapul Champions, the second featured Pacific International Hospital, a KP PLHIV



representative and PNG Christian Alliance on HIV/AIDS. The 2016 WAD jingle was developed and played on the local radio stations as part of the campaign from November 10–December 1, 2016. The jingle promoted the WAD theme “Hands up for HIV Prevention” emphasizing that individuals make positive intentions by staying strong and true to their partners for a safer generation in breaking down the walls of HIV detection.

In addition, a television panel discussion was also hosted on TV WAN television. The panel discussion focused on the efforts so far towards the HIV response, challenges faced at the national, provincial and program level, as well as future goals of the HIV response in PNG.

A total of 16 organizations participated during the main event and with the set-up of information booths. Red balloons were released to remember those who have died of HIV/AIDS | Bolalava Vaia

End Violence: Be the Change – Educate Your Child

The 20 days of human rights activism campaign in PNG launched on November 19, 2016, at Vision City in Port Moresby. The campaign begins each year on Children's Day on November 20 and ends with Human Rights Day on December 10. The theme for the 2016 campaign was "End Violence: Be the Change – Educate Your Child", which was aligned with the United Nations 16 Days of Activism global theme, "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All."

On December 9, there was the 'stand up for someone's rights today' commemoration event at the Vision City Amphi Theatre in Port Moresby. The half-day event brought together partner organizations to mark the day, with a range of activities including information booths and key speakers from selected organizations disseminating human rights messages, with a quiz as the highlight. It was a lively and well-attended event. Partners involved included Population Services International, Poro Sapot-Save the Children, Kapul Champions, Igat Hope, NCD Gender Desk, US Embassy, Marie Stopes, International Organization for Migration and United Nations High Commission for Human Rights.



On December 10 a panel discussion was televised on the Olsem Wanem programme on EMTV. The US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission, FSVAC/CIMC's Senior Projects and Programs Officer and the PNG UN Human Rights Officer participated in the discussion, which was in line with the UN 16 Days of Activism's global theme, the national theme and the global theme for Human Rights Day. The panellists talked about what the Human Rights Day global theme meant in relation to their work, how their work uses human rights to end violence against women, children and key populations in PNG.

The FHI360 team in partnership with FSVAC/CIMC and UNOHCHR worked tirelessly to make sure both events were implemented successfully, with huge efforts from all participating partners and funding support from USAID | **Roselyn Nopa and Bolalava Vaia**

Challenge TB

PNG has the second highest tuberculosis (TB) burden in the Western Pacific Region, with an estimated TB incidence in 2015 of 432 per 100,000 (World Health Organization Global Tuberculosis Report, 2016). Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is estimated among 3.4% of new cases and 26% of previously treated cases in 2015, leading to an estimated 1,100 MDR-TB cases among notified TB cases.

A national system for Active Tuberculosis Drug Safety Monitoring and Management (aDSM), was successfully introduced for PNG with two major goals for the scope of work: strengthening monitoring and management of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) patients on new drugs and regimens focusing on the two sites with the highest number of DR-TB patients (Daru Island and the National Capital District); and strengthening routine management of drug-resistant TB (PMDT) for these two DR-TB hot spots, as well as other provinces in the country.

The USAID Challenge TB (CTB) PNG project had strong commitment from the National Department of Health (NDOH), the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP), DR-TB provincial physicians, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other stakeholders to develop and implement aDSM. Activities completed under the USAID CTB PNG project, include introduction to stakeholders, visits to outbreak hotspot, aDSM workshop and training, the writing of operating procedures, a protocol being drafted for the pilot of aDSM data collection and conducting a causality assessment.

USAID through the Global Drug Facility donated two GeneXpert machines to NDoH. These machines will screen the entire population of Daru (approximately 20,000) for TB and rifampicin resistant TB. Finally, DR-TB patients have been initiated on bedaquiline donated by the USAID - Janssen Bedaquiline Donation Program.

FHI360 empowering FIFA volunteers to prevent GBV

The FIFA Women's under 20 Soccer World Cup was hosted in Port Moresby from November 13-December 3, 2016. This global sporting event coincided with the global 16 Days of Activism. To tap into the enthusiasm for both activities, FHI360 used the opportunity to facilitate a one-day training for 699 youths (324 females and 375 males) who volunteered to help at the event. The training was focused on the theme of the 2016 activism 'from peace in the home to peace in the world' and the FIFA games theme 'ending violence'. Training consisted of three parts, an introduction to violence against women, power and control and service promotion.

On October 18, 2016, six FHI360 staff conducted a total of 10 simultaneous training sessions for all 699 youths. At the end of the training, motivational talks were given by the FHI360 Country

Director, Daniel Tesfaye and the Urban Youth Employment Project Manager, Tom Gilis.

It was anticipated that youths who participated in this training will not only use their knowledge to prevent and respond to GBV during the games, but also to be agents of change within their own communities when they return.

As in the words of Daniel Tesfaye: "you don't have to organize big community awareness activities. If you as an individual can reach out with this message to three individuals in your life, then collectively we have reached out to 3,000 people". This training provided a great platform to engage young people in the issue of ending GBV, particularly among women and girls, key populations such as sex workers, men who have with men and people who are transgender.





Bryan Apa | Associate Programme Officer

“It is my pleasure working in a dynamic non-governmental organization like FHI360. I appreciate working with great colleagues who share the common vision of empowering each other to work together as a team to achieve the project goals and the overall vision.

Most importantly, I’ve come to understand the importance of how I can learn, share my knowledge and experiences and furthermore support and motivate my fellow colleagues to work towards achieving a common goal that we all are working for as a team. It’s not only like working in a dynamic team just to achieve the project goal or the organization’s vision, but to me it’s like

working proactively and professionally to develop a career from what I’m passionate about.

The working environment, culture and ethics of FHI360 has enabled me to apply my theoretical knowledge practically in my work and also learn new procedures and tactics that have further transformed my mindset and set me on the path of professional career development and growth. My ultimate aim is to work proactively to produce impact and learn from my mentors to enhance my skills as a way to pursue my dream of upgrading my qualification to be equally competent to work, serve others and live as a role model.”



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