

Femili Tok

Quarterly Newsletter

FemiliPNG
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Participants from the Pilgrim SDA Church with their Certificate of Participation after the training on FSV, Child Abuse and Related Laws facilitated by Femili PNG.

Training to Children's Ministry Teachers & Youths

Pilgrim Seventh-Day Adventist Church is a local church based in Lae that has been supporting Femili PNG since 2016 through quarterly donations of food and necessities to assist in providing for the survivors of family and sexual violence housed at the safe accommodations.

From 30th May to 1st June this year, Femili PNG facilitated a sensitization training on family and sexual violence (FSV), Child Abuse, and FSV related laws, the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA) and the Family Protection Act (FPA) to the Children's Ministry teachers and youths of Pilgrim SDA Church.

A total of 22 participants, twelve men and ten women attended the 3-day training. Femili PNG's Training Coordinator, Mrs. Konnie Yoifa, organized the training with the Case Work Manager, Child Protection Officer and the In-house Lawyer to co-facilitate.

Femili PNG so far has only done trainings to partners and service providers. This was the first sensitization training done to individuals from a faith-based organization.

It was a successful training with positive feedback from the participants. Many have admitted that they have been perpetrators of abuse and did not realize it.

Training Coordinator Mrs. Yoifa said, "this training is like an eye opener for the participants. For some who have gone through the abusive experience, the training helped them to acknowledge that the experience shaped their character in being abusive to others and not realizing it."

The participants said they will practice what they've learnt from the training starting in their homes, church and communities.



Participant shares his reflection on the training.

Reflection

The participants shared their reflections after the training. This is what one of them said:

"I learnt a lot of new things in this training which made me feel guilty because I now realized that I am a perpetrator. I will go back and share what I've learnt with my family and church members."



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First Disability Inclusion Policy Approved



Ms. Denga Ilave and Ms. Lindy Kanan discussing with the Morobe Disabled Agency and Morobe Special Education Resource Centre.

People living with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities are affected by abuse on a far greater scale than women and girls without disabilities. People living with disabilities are more likely to experience a wider range of violence, receive less support, and may be less able to defend themselves.

Femili PNG now has its first Disability Inclusion Policy which was approved by Femili PNG's Board.

In the process of creating this document, Femili PNG's Operations Director Ms. Denga Ilave and Development Manager Ms. Lindy Kanan met with the Morobe Disabled Agency and Morobe Special Education Resource Centre. They also visited the Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disability Persons to get their input for the policy.

Now with this policy in place, we are looking forward to implementing the policy, and seeking how we can make a difference to the lives of people with disabilities in PNG who are affected by family and sexual violence.

Awareness beat target

We've reached a total of 7,984 population with our awareness sessions on topics relating to family and sexual violence in Morobe Province in this past fiscal year (July 2017-June 2018). These awareness sessions was mostly done within Lae city and a few outside Lae.

For business houses, we've done awareness sessions to 1,141 male adults, 626 female adults, 43 boys and 43 girls, which adds up to 1,853. For the awareness sessions to the communities, health centres, churches, villages and schools, we've reached 1,077 male adults, 2,874 female adults, 820 boys and 1,360 girls, totaling to 6,131 people.

The target set last fiscal year was to reach 7000 people, this included men, women and children. There were doubts that we could not reach this target, as we didn't have an outreach team in place until March this year (2018). But before the engagement of the outreach team, Femili PNG staff carried out awareness sessions when they can at the business houses, health centres and community.

The outreach team is looking forward to reaching out to more communities in Morobe province this next fiscal year.



Outreach Officer Mr. Paul Kunump explaining the different forms of family and sexual violence to 22 Hornibrooks staff.

Lae FSV Partners

Continue Quarterly Meetings



The Core Service Providers group for Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) in Lae is currently one of the most active in the country.

The second Core Service Providers quarterly meeting was facilitated by Femili PNG on May 17 this year. 28 partners representing each of the core service providers attended the meeting and provided updates from each of their offices.

The partners also shared the successes achieved, and the challenges faced when assisting survivors and addressing the issue of FSV. One of the shared successes mentioned was a child abuse case coordinated between Femili PNG, Family Support Centre (FSC) and other service providers. FSC Coordinator Sr. Anastasia Wakon thanked all the partners who coordinated in making the case a success.

Participants who went on the Philippines exposure trip also shared their learning experience which will contribute to improvement in the line of addressing FSV. The participants included the Senior Provincial Magistrate Mr Pious Tapil, Inspector Hove Genderiso from the Police Prosecution, and 2 Femili PNG Case Workers.

CLIENT STORY

**Names have been changed to protect the identity and safety of the clients.*

Man gets 27 years for Incest

'Man gets 27 years for incest' was the headline in the Post Courier of Tuesday 26th June this year (2018) after a 47-year-old man was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to 2 counts of incest. The facts revealed that his incestuous relationship with his daughter led to her conceiving and giving birth to 7 children, the youngest was 5 months old at the time of reporting. From this incestuous relationship the perpetrator again subjected his eldest daughter/granddaughter to forceful sexual intercourse that resulted in her giving birth to a baby boy at the tender age of 14.

Children, especially girls, deserve to feel safe and protected in their homes, and not abused. This is a story of a mother and her eldest daughter who were sexually abused by the same man.

*Janet was first sexually abused by her biological father (offender) when she was doing her grade 8. Janet told her mother about the incident, who then scolded her husband. But the offender did not stop, he continued his incestuous act to his only daughter. Janet was raised in her father's village, surrounded by a whole village of her father's relatives who were fully aware of the client's situation. However, none of them intervened to assist Janet and break this cycle of abuse.

Janet's mother was also aware of the abuse but could not do much because she was sick at that time. When she wanted to report the abuse, her husband would threaten to kill her. Knowing what was happening to her daughter, Janet's mother got sick after worrying a lot as she too did not have any support in her husband's village. Janet's mum later died from illness.

With no support from her relatives, Janet was stuck in this incestuous cycle of abuse. This resulted in her bearing 7 children from her father. During the period of this incestuous relationship, she bore children within close range of each other, the oldest being 14 at the time of reporting, and the youngest was 5 months old.

The offender then started abusing the eldest of the 7 children, *Jane. Due to the ongoing sexual abuse, Jane (the daughter/granddaughter of the offender) became pregnant at the age of 14 and gave birth to a baby boy.

She was brought to the Angau Memorial General Hospital whilst in labour and the fact of her tender age alerted the Health Extension Officer (HEO) to her plight. The HEO made contact with the Femili PNG staff. They responded immediately by going directly to the hospital and assessing the situation. The child mother needed baby clothes for her new born baby including diapers. She was vulnerable, being a child herself, and had no adult relative there to support her through the process of giving birth.

With the assessment made by Femili PNG staff, an urgent consultation was made with the FSVAC Secretariat. The Welfare office and the police

were notified about the case and a *case conference* was conducted to plan and discuss the case and actions to be taken by the partners (service providers) who were directly involved.

The *case conference* identified the need for immediate protection of the child mother as well her infant as being *paramount* because the child mother was emotionally disturbed after giving birth. It was recommended in the *case conference* that in the best interest of the child mother and her infant, that both be moved to a safe location and the child mother be supported with *trauma counselling* by Femili PNG and Welfare. With this referral, Femili PNG staff including the *Welfare Officer* immediately intervened and removed the child mother from the Angau Memorial General Hospital and transferred her and her infant to a *safe location*. Basic needs such as baby clothes and food were provided to the child mother.

Finally, it was the beginning of the end of the offender's incestuous cycle of abuse and the continuing silence of the offender's community, when Jane's case was attended to by Femili PNG and its partners. With close coordination from the partners, the case was finally committed to the National Court in October of 2017.

Presiding Judge, Justice Frazer Pitpit, when delivering the decision against the offender at the Lae National Court in June this year (Post Courier, Tuesday 26th June 2018) said, "the offence is prohibited by the three sources of laws namely, criminal, Christian principles and customary law throughout the entire country."

Justice Pitpit added that the offender has left nothing good behind for his family, except hardship, shame and pain. He continued that the offender will no longer pose a threat when he is released from prison after serving his time. The offender will be serving his time in prison with hard labour.

Justice has been served, but these innocent girls will carry the scars with them for the rest of their lives. This act of incest has been perpetrated across 2 generations by the very person who has been entrusted with their care and upbringing, who has for reasons known only to himself or for self-gratification has left emotionally scarred children who will be subjected to the ridicule and stigmatisation of something that was not of their doing.

Femili PNG together with its partners in Lae will continue to work closely together in addressing this scourge of family and sexual violence by helping survivors' access services and ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice to account for their crimes.



Sharing Reflections—Addressing FSV

Through Pacific Women and the Australian High Commission Papua New Guinea, Femili PNG staff were given the opportunity to participate in the Pacific Women Annual Learning Workshop in Port Moresby in July this year.



L-R: Femili PNG Case Work Manager Evan Bieso and Lae Operations Director Denga Ilave.

Representing Femili PNG Lae was the Operations Director Ms. Denga Ilave and Case Work Manager Ms. Evan Bieso.

When giving her reflection, Ms. Bieso spoke about the importance of being informed about the laws in PNG, so that we can empower women to access justice.

Femili PNG staff also took the opportunity to reconnect with other organizations that are addressing the issue of family and sexual violence and working for gender equality in PNG.

Thank you for your support!

Femili Tok is a quarterly newsletter published for our partners, sponsors and friends involved in family and sexual violence advocacy in PNG

Did you know?

We have passed our target by reaching over 7,900 population with awareness sessions on FSV from July 2017 to June 2018.

Trek to Protect this September 2018



Femili PNG will be having its fundraising challenge, *Trek to Protect 2018* this coming September. The 96 kilometer track will start on the 3rd and end on the 14th of September. After completing the track, participants will visit the Lae office.

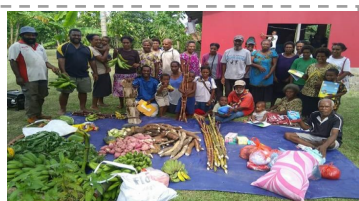
Participants based in Australia have already started training and preparing for this amazing adventure. All funds raised will go to support FPNG's work in assisting FSV survivors in PNG.

Trukai Industries have come on board to support the participants with water bottles and shirts

Check out our website for more information on how to register and be part of this trek to protect.



Updates and highlights



Pilgrim SDA continues support.



Canberra running festival team of 20 beat their fundraising target. The team ran at the Australian Running Festival to raise donations to support the work in PNG.

A two-day in-house basic counselling training was done to upskill Femili PNG case workers.



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To support the work of Femili PNG, please do not hesitate to contact the Communications and Fundraising Officer on:
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About us:

Femili PNG is a local NGO that runs Case Management Centres in Lae and Port Moresby to assist survivors of family and sexual violence to access the services they need. Our target population are women, men and children who are survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and/or child abuse.

Femili PNG began its operations in July 2014, providing integrated case management to survivors of family and sexual violence to help them access counselling, support and other interventions for protection and justice with the support from our partners (existing service providers)

We work closely with the police, courts, Welfare, Family Support Centre (FSC), safe houses, the prosecutor's office, the government and other NGOs to ensure that survivors access the available services and positive outcomes are achieved.