

Femili Tok



FSVU OIC Sgt. Ruth Murup with team received posters and materials to assist them with their COVID-19 awareness in the communities in Lae.

Quarterly Newsletter

FemiliPNG
care. support. change.

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FPNG and partners continue operations during COVID-19 SOE

In many countries around the world, including Papua New Guinea, people are told to stay at home to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. It is said that the safest place to be right now during this COVID-19 pandemic is at home. But for those, especially women and children who have been experiencing family and sexual violence (FSV), is it safe for them to be in a "lockdown" situation at home with their abuser? Or are they at a much greater risk?

We can't deny that women and children, who are more vulnerable to FSV, are now at more risk during this State of Emergency period where people are told to stay at home and movements to other locations are limited. Under normal circumstances, those experiencing abuse can access available services when they need to. But during this time, it can be

difficult for survivors of FSV to access services and get help.

Femili PNG, which operates case management centres in Lae and Port Moresby (Bel isi PNG) continued to remain open to help survivors of FSV and child abuse. Also with the support from its donors, Femili PNG was able to assist its partners with printed posters from the World Health Organisation on COVID-19, face masks and other materials to support their awareness in the communities.

Femili PNG applauds our frontline health workers, police officers, and other service providers for their important work, especially in these incredibly challenging times.

Oil Search staff organise FSV awareness for community

Mr. Isaac Nebare who works for Oil Search was concerned to see how violence among family members had become a norm in his community, including many parts of the country. Seeing this, he wanted to do something that can help his community leaders to address this issue, and help survivors of violence.

Mr. Nebare met with community leaders, village court magistrates, and church representatives in the Kamkumung area to discuss the violence-related issues in their community, and proposed an awareness. Mr. Nebare also approached Femili PNG to partner with him in facilitating the awareness on family and sexual violence (FSV).

With financial support from the Oil Search Foundation, Mr. Nebare was able to cover the costs for logistics and other expenses to ensure the success of the awareness.

The one-day awareness session was facilitated by Femili PNG's Outreach officers and In-house Lawyer. It was a more in-depth session which covered discussions on; services provided by Femili PNG, different forms and consequences of FSV, child abuse, children's rights and responsibilities, and FSV related laws—Family Protection Act and the Lukautim Pikinini Act.

A total of 39 people attended that session; 21 men, 12 women and 6 children. The awareness session was more interactive with



Group photo: Participants of the 1-day awareness session at Gravel, Kamkumung on 16th January 2020 with Femili PNG Outreach and Training team.

participants and facilitators openly discussing the topics.

The participants were very grateful to be part of the awareness session. Among them was a village court magistrate who commended on the delivery of the awareness message. Mr. Robert Bulage said, "the message was thoroughly conducted and was very well understood by all the participants." Many of them lack knowledge of the FSV related laws, but stated that they were privileged to participate in the awareness session to get some insight about the laws through Femili PNG In-house Lawyer.

Femili PNG looks forward to continuing the partnership with the communities in the Kamkumung area and reach more people with awareness on FSV and child abuse.

FPNG staff do awareness in Buakap during staff debrief



Community and Outreach Officer Mr. Paul Kunump speaking to Buakap Primary School on 28 February 2020.

On 28 February 2020, Femili PNG staff travelled to Buakap village in Salamoua for a staff debrief activity as part of their staff care. The staff care activities are usually organized by the staff to ensure their wellbeing by debriefing from stress.

The Buakap Primary school teachers heard about the visit and assembled the students for an awareness session. Femili PNG staff were not aware of the arrangement, but were happy to conduct the awareness to the 254 teachers, students and parents.

Femili PNG's Community and Outreach officers and the Child Protection officer spoke to those who attended about child abuse, safety rules, and their rights and responsibilities. The message was well received by the teachers and students, including some parents from the villages.

Client's Story

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

*Shay's Story

Shay described her husband as a good man who then became abusive. After she got help, Shay saw her husband change to become a better husband and father. She said, "it has been a journey for us. Now, if there's a disagreement between us, either one of us takes a walk, and then we solve it before we go to bed."

Before *Shay started experiencing abuse, she described her husband as a good and loving person who would show her off to the world. She always felt a sense of assurance whenever he would tell her that she was the answer to his prayers. She was loved and safe.

Things started to change after Shay moved in to live with her husband after their children were born. Shay was subjected to ongoing physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse by her partner. Shay was drained emotionally and mentally. She said, "I often thought to myself, he liked me and took me as his wife, and why is he treating me like I'm his enemy." The ongoing abuse from her partner affected her children and her state of mind at work.

With help from her employer, Shay was referred to the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre (operated by Femili PNG). A case worker provided the support she needed and assisted her with obtaining an Interim Protection Order (IPO), which was successfully converted to a Permanent Protection Order. Upon intake, she was considered high risk and was provided safe accommodation. In the process of helping her the welfare office facilitated mediation between Shay and her husband.

After the hearing of the Protection Order, Shay's husband realised the abuse he caused her and admitted to Shay that he wanted to fix things. The couple went through a month of counselling and realised that they needed to work on their communication and respect for each other. They attended a marriage seminar facilitated by the Boroko Baptist Church which was also helpful for them.

Shay said that after getting the Protection Order, she has seen her partner change and try to be a better husband and father. She

said that their children are happier now than before. She added, "he communicates well with our children, and they also communicate well with him."

It can be challenging sometimes, but Shay and her husband continue to work on their marriage and look at the best interest of their family. This has shown that Family Protection Orders can be effective in changing the perpetrator's behaviour for the best interest of the family.

The Bel isi PNG initiative is an innovative public private civil society partnership. It is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program, National Capital District Commission, Bank of South Pacific, Steamships Trading Co, G4S and Oil Search Foundation.



Supporting partners and working together

Femili PNG started the year 2020 on a high note by supporting and working together with its partners.

Left: Femili PNG donated a printer to the Public Solicitor's Office in Lae to assist them with their printing of documents.

Right: Femili PNG donated stationaries to the Police Crime Investigation Division in Lae.



Exposure through events



Femili PNG attended the Lagatoi Corporate Racquet Challenge on February 29 to March 1 this year (2020) in Port Moresby. It was the first time the organisers involved organisations dealing with family and sexual violence to set up booths and provide information during the 2-day event. Other organisations present included the National and NCD FSVAC, World Vision, and others.



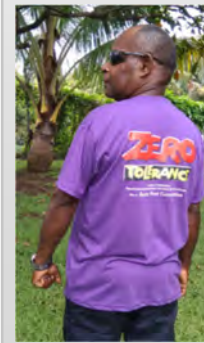
This year has been the second time Femili PNG has participated in the Hevea Cup & Wellness Expo in Port Moresby. During the 3-day event from 5-7 March 2020, a total of 779 people visited the Femili PNG booth and got information on what the organisation provides. Among the total number of people who visited the booth, 299 were children.

How you can support us;

Purchase a 'stop violence' T-shirt for **K35.00** (photo: bottom left). Comes in black and purple colors. Sizes M, L, XL and XXL.

Our 'stop violence' and 'zero tolerance to all forms of violence' mugs are **K30.00** (photo: below right).

When you buy a shirt or mug, you are supporting a survivor of FSV.



Contact us to get a mug or shirt



"SECURING A SAFER LAE IN PARTNERSHIP"

7090 3300

POLICE EMERGENCY TOLL FREE

Digicel



7150 8000

Call the free hotline for help!

Toll-free confidential phone counselling service providing information and support for anyone experiencing family and sexual violence in PNG.

Femili PNG Lae Case Management Centre
PO Box 616
Lae, Morobe Province
Papua New Guinea
Phone: +675 7091 4027 or +675 472 8904

Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre (operated by Femili PNG)
PO Box 724, Vision City
Port Moresby
Papua New Guinea
Phone for Bel isi PNG subscribers: +675 7055 4401
Other enquiries/assistance: +675 7916 9063

Email us at: info@femilipng.org

We operate from Monday to Friday, 9:30am-5pm

Website: www.femilipng.org
Facebook: facebook.com/FemiliPNG | Twitter: [@femilipng](https://twitter.com/femilipng)

To support the work of Femili PNG, please do not hesitate to contact the Communications and Fundraising Officer on:
Phone: +675 7080 5378 Email: comms.lae@femilipng.org

About us:

Femili PNG is a local NGO that operates 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. We work closely with partners, such as the police, courts, Welfare, Family Support Centres (FSCs), safe houses, the government and other NGOs to ensure that survivors access the available services and positive outcomes are achieved.

Femili PNG 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.

Femili PNG also receives support from a number of other partners.

