

## PNG High Commissioner becomes Femili PNG's Inaugural Patron



His Excellency Mr. John Ma'o Kali, High Commissioner to Australia for Papua New Guinea at the Australasian Aid Conference

His Excellency Mr John Ma'o Kali, High Commissioner to Australia for Papua New Guinea, has become Femili PNG's inaugural patron. Mr Kali has been a longstanding champion for gender equity and inclusion in PNG, lending strong support to Femili PNG's calls to end gender-based violence.

Professor Stephen Howes, Chair of Femili PNG, described Mr Kali's work as "inspirational and closely aligned with our vision, mission and values".

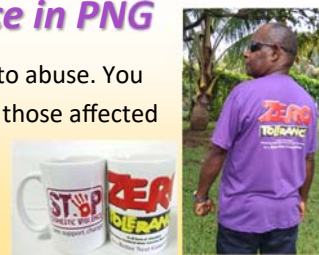
"It is a pleasure and an honour to be the first patron of Femili PNG", said Mr Kali, "I truly admire Femili PNG's tireless work in combatting family and sexual violence, supporting survivors and changing attitudes. We have seen the recent public outcry in PNG, and I want to add my voice to the campaign to end violence against women in PNG."

### Give NOW to support the fight against family and sexual violence in PNG

Femili PNG needs funds to feed, clothe and house women and children forced out of their homes due to abuse. You can donate in cash or in kind, and your support will go a long way in addressing the immediate needs of those affected by family sexual violence.

**You can also support us by purchasing a stop violence mug for K30 or a t-shirt for K35.**

*Your support will make a difference.*



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**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**  
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Papua New Guinea  
Phone: +675 7091 4027 or +675 472 8904

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*We operate from Monday to Friday, 9:30am-4pm*

Website: [www.femilipng.org](http://www.femilipng.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/FemiliPNG](https://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](mailto: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



# Femili Tok



## UNDP support Femili PNG's work during times of COVID

In early July 2020, Femili PNG and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement of PGK 275,000.00 to support survivors of family, sexual and gender-based violence to provide access to safe accommodation, medical assistance, and emergency supplies. The funds will also support the operation of safe houses, and Femili PNG's partners with Personal Protective Equipment supplies as well as COVID-19 prevention information.

*"Gender-based violence affects the very fabric of our society. It is a gross violation of human rights and a criminal act. UNDP stands in solidarity with the victims and supports them through partnerships such as with Femili PNG."*

*Dirk Wagener, UNDP Resident Representative*

Daisy Plana, Femili PNG's Chief Executive Officer in thanking UNDP said, "it requires all partners to address the issues of FSV, GBV and all forms of violence. The funding will support Femili PNG's continuous efforts in addressing these challenges in the communities."

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### Quarterly Newsletter

**FemiliPNG**  
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UNDP has played a key role in supporting the establishment of the Government's *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence, 2016-2025*. The strategy provides a roadmap to guide an inclusive government-led approach in implementing all legislation, policies and programme to address GBV and FSV. "Such partnership with Femili PNG is vital to implement the GBV strategy," Mr Wagener added.

The funding was made available through the UNDP's Rapid Response Facility for the global COVID-19 pandemic. It is part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in PNG where UNDP is leading work on establishing coordination mechanisms on GBV response and prevention on the national and provincial level as well as working with police and village courts.

With this funding, Femili PNG was able to coordinate its responses to COVID-19 with its partners, and continue its work in assisting survivors of FSV and child abuse with the COVID-19 measures in place. This included supporting partners such as community leaders, police, courts, welfare, and other NGOs assisting the vulnerable with COVID-19 prevention services, and supporting survivors directly with additional needs that may be necessary, including accommodation, medical assistance, and basic necessities.

The services that Femili PNG coordinates for FSV survivors become more acutely critical in

times of crisis, such as during a pandemic. Support from partners, donors, and stakeholders is a key reason why Femili PNG's response over 2020 was effective, allowing survivors to be connected with essential services in a time of greater need.



FPNG delivered PPE to Family Support Centre at Angau Hospital in Lae under the UNDP COVID response funding.

## Supporting FSV survivors and partners during COVID

With the assistance provided by UNDP, more than 58 partners and over 418 survivors including individuals at risk were supported through Femili PNG's Lae and Port Moresby projects.

The aim was to target those made most at risk from the dual threats of COVID-19 and FSV through a number of interventions to reduce the impact of these intersecting drivers of vulnerability. Another goal of the project was to provide support to partners on the referral pathway, those vulnerable to FSV and survivors of FSV during these times of COVID-19. Femili PNG achieved these goals through: supporting partners such as community leaders, police, courts welfare and other NGOs to reach out to survivors of FSV and those vulnerable to FSV; and supporting survivors of FSV with any additional needs they may have as a result of COVID-19 such as safe accommodation, medical assistance, housing, food and other necessities.

In continuing its operations to provide support to survivors of FSV, Femili PNG established health and safety measures at its case management centres, and supported other service providers to do the same. Femili PNG also supported safe houses with food

and necessary supplies, and paid accommodation or building materials for those who were unable to access the safe house.

In addition to its direct assistance, Femili PNG continued its awareness on FSV, as well as disseminating COVID-19 posters and brochures from the World Health Organization to its partners, schools and communities.

Femili PNG also supported other vulnerable groups which included people with disability, those living with HIV/AIDS, and female inmates at the prisons in Lae and Port Moresby. These individuals were provided with hygiene kits which included hand sanitizer, face masks, disposable gloves, toothpaste and toothbrush, toiletries, clothes and food.

Considering the financial challenge COVID-19 posed to many families, Femili PNG provided food and toiletries to 15 families of people living with disabilities at the Disability home in Lae.

All partners and individuals who received assistance thanked UNDP for making this grant available for Femili PNG to use and help others.

## Femili PNG CEO speaks on case management at first GBV national summit

The first ever 3-day National Summit on GBV which started on 8<sup>th</sup> November concluded on a high note at APEC House in Port Moresby. With the theme, *Now is the Time: United for Equality*, this inaugural Summit has brought together representatives from the Government, Parliament, civil society, private sector, youth across Papua New Guinea and representatives from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The summit started with an 8 kilometre GBV walk, followed by the Youth side event with a one-day session covering topics on activism, communication, leadership and the parliamentary process. The main summit continued from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November, covering sessions on: 1. Equality: Leading the Change; 2. Walking the Talk and Institutional Change; 3A. The GBV Referral Pathway status, challenges and recommendations; 3B. Prevention Status, Challenges and Recommendations; and 4. The Status of Case Management Systems in PNG.

The increased level of violence perpetrated against women was highlighted by NCD Governor and co-chair of the summit, Hon. Powes Parkop, as amongst the highest in the world and that this could not continue. Fellow co-chair and Governor for East Sepik Province, Hon. Allan Bird, stated that this is the first step. He said, "we've written many policies about these things, there's been many papers, many presentations, many reports, but this time, we are going to get some action."

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape shared the same sentiments as he expressed in his opening statement that, "it was time to stop talking, and time for action."

Femili PNG CEO and Senior Social Worker Daisy Plana participated on the panel to discuss the status of case management systems in PNG. Ms Plana explained the role caseworkers play in a survivor-centered approach and how crucial it is to normalise a case management response to the survivor at the first instance. She added that it is harder when working in isolation, and close coordination with partners and service providers was the key to positive outcomes. She also shared the importance of awareness-raising especially in the rural communities, and sharing data from various sources.

As a recommendation to the government, Ms Plana emphasised that the approach by Femili PNG and other organisations should be supported by the government because we do not want this work to disappear if donor-funded projects were to end. She concluded by saying, "embed this approach into the government and NGOs in different provinces, and support this, fund this. Not only this work but so many NGOs and CBOs in different provinces, they have no resources, they walk, they put themselves at risk, they need support."

Discussions during the Summit considered ways to elevate the status of women, the need for institutional reform, initiatives to increase women's participation in decision-making bodies, including representation in the national parliament, and how to encourage positive change in social attitudes towards women, gender and empowerment.

Femili PNG also set up a booth with other organisations at the Summit to provide information about its services in Lae and in Port Moresby under Bel isi PNG.



## FSV Sensitisation Training to Morobe PPHQ Officers

A three-day sensitisation training on family and sexual violence (FSV) was facilitated by Femili PNG to 15 officers from the Morobe Provincial Police Headquarters from 4-6 November 2020 in Lae.

The training covered topics on child abuse, its effects on children, violence in the home and its effect on families and communities, the referral pathway, and FSV-related laws: the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 and Family Protection Act 2013. The aim of this training was to further equip police personnel with knowledge about the issue and its related laws when dealing with FSV cases.

The training was facilitated by Femili PNG's Training Coordinator, In-house Lawyer and Case Work Manager. The training engaged participants in discussing case studies and presenting them with their suggestions when dealing with FSV cases.



The participants appreciated the in-depth training and said they will also extend this information learnt to their families and communities.



Group photo: FPNG Training team and Morobe PPHQ officers after the training

A female officer from Wasu Police station located in the rural part of Morobe Province, Sgt. Jenny Kitombing, was very grateful to participate in the training. Sgt. Kitombing said, "I should have attended such trainings when I joined RPNGC. This training is not only about helping the people but also to help ourselves raise our family in an appropriate way. With this knowledge gained, I will go back to Wasu and assist clients who need to access well-informed information as well as conducting awareness to my family and the general public".

This training was made possible through a Digicel Foundation grant to Femili PNG.

## Femili PNG Outreach updates

For the past six months from July to December 2020, Femili PNG Outreach team conducted 24 awareness sessions at 22 different locations in Morobe Province. The team reached 3,475 men, women and children at business houses, special events, schools, churches, communities and health centres through its awareness activities. The activities included sharing information about family and sexual violence, child abuse, child protection, FSV related laws, and available services.



March in Lae during the World Disability Day on 3 December 2020.

On 25 November 2020, Femili PNG was invited by the National Catering Services (NCS) in Lae to conduct awareness in celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Femili PNG also participated in the other events during the 20days of Activism; the Universal Children's Days on 20 November and the World Disability Day on 3 December 2020 in Lae.



Group photo: FPNG team with NCS staff after awareness.

## Support during the COVID-19

Through the UNDP COVID-19 Response funding, Femili PNG was able to support its clients, partners and other vulnerable individuals during the pandemic.

### Support to differently-abled persons



**L-R: Photo 1** - Morobe Disability Association Chairman Mr. Ben Hipom and FPNG Lae Operations Director Ms. Denga Ilave with donation of pipe and reconnection of water supply at the Disability home at Papuan Compound.

**Photo 2** - Femili PNG hands over donation of sink and pipe to the Morobe Inclusive Education Resource Centre. Additional items for 84 hygiene kits were provided to the teachers to distribute to their students.

**Photo 3** - Essentials like food, hygiene kits and toiletries were given to 15 families at the Papuan Compound Disability home in Lae on Christmas day.

### Support to female inmates and others



**L-R: Photo 1** - In September 2020, hygiene kits and toiletries were donated to female inmates at Buimo Prison, Morobe Province..

**Photo 2** - FPNG team handed over hygiene kits and toiletries for female inmates at the Bomana Prison in Port Moresby.

**Photo 3** - Contents of hygiene kits given to female inmates in Lae and Port Moresby.

### Support to health centres



**Left-Right:** Femili PNG team delivered PPE to health centres which included Centre of Mercy (Photo 1), Wampar Health Centre (Photo 2) and Day Care centre at Angau Hospital which provides medical treatment for HIV and AIDS patients (Photo 3). The PPE included hand sanitisers, face masks and shields, paper towels, and disposable gloves.

## Case Worker's story; Helping a survivor of FSV

*\*Names have been changed to protect the identity and safety of staff (Case Worker)*

As part of the World Mental Health Day, one of our staff who works closely with survivors of FSV, child abuse and sorcery accusation-related violence, shares her experience as a Caseworker with Femili PNG in her own words.

I am Jane,\* Caseworker 4. I work with Femili PNG (FPNG) as a Caseworker with the Case Management Centre in Lae. The main role I play as a Caseworker is to assist survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV) to make an informed decision on how they would like to proceed with their cases. I also assist them to access the services they need from various service providers such as the police, courts, welfare, hospital, safe accommodation and others.

One of the biggest challenges that our team recognises in working with the survivors is their lack of knowledge about the issue of FSV they face, and their rights to be protected from all forms of abuse. Also, they are not aware of the recent laws related to FSV and the available services. When it is identified that there is lack of knowledge about FSV during the initial assessment, as a caseworker, I firstly provide the survivors with rights-based and informative form of counselling.

In my last four years of working as a Caseworker with Femili PNG, I observed that many survivors I supported with informative and rights-based counselling were able to make an informed consent decision in proceeding with their cases. An example would be the following two cases: two female survivors ages 29 and 32, are both survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). During my initial assessment, both of them were emotionally unstable, unhappy, confused, and worried. After they received the informative and rights-based counselling, I could see that they were empowered as they both started to speak openly about their experiences and shared their stories with me, which showed that they started to trust me to work with them on their cases.

Aside from these forms of counselling, both received legal services and other basic support such as transport, start-up business kit, building materials, food and clothing through the Case Management Centre. One has finally got her Permanent Protection Order and is happy that she made the decision to protect herself from further abuse. The case of the other survivor is still active and I am still continuously doing

consultation follow-up in progressing her case.

I graduated as a Social Worker, but what actually inspired me to keep serving the survivors of FSV is when I see how my work is able to assist survivors to make an informed decision in order to keep themselves from harm and seek appropriate assistance. I'm also happy to receive positive feedback from the survivors, and when I see a huge personal development when they come for their follow-up consultations. This encourages me to continue to work diligently.

***"Counselling is essential in helping survivors of FSV make informed decisions."***

Case Worker

I believe that we need to improve the availability of the counselling services in PNG. Through my work, I have observed that many of our population can't see the importance of counselling, or perhaps it's just

simply not available to people locally. Therefore, there should be more support and investment to improve the availability of the counselling services in the country. We need also to support the current counsellors and how they can be more involved in strengthening the psychological care to be provided to FSV survivors. I'm hoping that there will be more counsellors in the provincial level, placed in different government institutions such as the court, welfare and hospitals who can assist the survivors in person.



### Femili PNG signs MOU with Morobe Mission of the SDA Church

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 17 August 2020 between Femili PNG and the Morobe Mission of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church for the establishment of the Pilgrim Adventist Care Centre in Lae.

The need for this care centre was identified by the community, which will accommodate women and children who are survivors of FSV and child abuse. With the support of funders including Pacific Women, Digicel Foundation and Oil Search Foundation, Femili PNG donated initial building materials for the construction to begin.

**Picture:** Morobe Mission Secretary Ps. Samuel Mollen and Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana holding the signed MOU.

## Client's Story

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

**This is a story of two sisters who are survivors of sexual abuse. Both girls suffered from ongoing sexual abuse from their stepfather. They were brave enough to speak out and seek help.**

By Jonica Jay

This is the story of two girls who suffered ongoing sexual abuse from their stepfather (the perpetrator). For a long time they did not tell anyone because the perpetrator constantly threatened them. Kim, the younger of the two, went through the abuse first for almost two years before she learnt that her big sister Ali also went through the same abuse.

Kim and Ali's parents separated when they were young and their mother remarried and moved to live in the city with her new husband. Kim lived with her mother and stepfather while attending school, and was abused by her stepfather. Ali lived with their

biological father in the village but had moved to live with her mother for a while when her stepfather also started abusing her. When Kim heard her big sister share that she was abused by their stepfather, she gained the courage to also share the abuse she was going through caused by the same perpetrator.

They reported to the police and both girls were brought to the Family Support Centre (FSC) for medical intervention. After the checkup, they were referred to Femili PNG for further assistance. Both were brought to stay at a safe accommodation while Femili PNG Caseworker worked on their case in coordination with other service providers. The Caseworker with several partners, which

included the FSC, Police Prosecutions, safe accommodation, dental clinic, Police Sexual Offence Squad, Welfare, and the Court worked closely to assist both girls.

The Police arrested the perpetrator and he admitted to the charges. He is currently in Buimo Prison, awaiting his sentence from the Court.

Kim, Ali and their mother were given a business start-up kit so that they could support themselves. Kim and her mother were repatriated back to their village where Kim continued her education, while her sister stayed back to work. They were very grateful for the support they received from service providers and Femili PNG, and satisfied that the perpetrator is now behind bars.

Kim said that they didn't know there are services available to help those going through abuse, especially sexual in nature. She said, "being in this situation made us realise that there are services available to help us." She added, "to those going through abuse, do not hide or keep quiet about it, but come out and report to the police, or anyone who can help"

Kim said she will not give up but pursue her dream to become a pilot. She is currently happy to be in school to complete her primary school education.

***"To those going through abuse, do not hide or keep quiet about it, but come out and report to the police, or anyone who can help"***

- client

### Supporting partners



PPE including face masks, and hand sanitisers were delivered to Lae Family and Sexual Violence Unit. The donation was received by FSVU OIC Snr. Sgt. Ruth Murup.



PPE and stationery were delivered to the Central Provincial Family and Sexual Violence Unit in Port Moresby. The FSVU team received the donation.



Stationery and PPE were given to police Sexual Offence Squad (SOS) in Lae. Femili PNG Lae Operations Director handed over the donation to the SOS team.