

# Femili Tok

Quarterly Newsletter

**FemiliPNG**  
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**INSIDE**  
this issue



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## FPNG and KTF addressing FSV in Kokoda

By Jonica Jay

In partnership with KTF (Kokoda Track Foundation), Femili PNG delivered awareness-raising sessions, reaching over 3000 men, women and children in and around the Kokoda area in Oro province from May to June this year.

This partnership between Femili PNG and KTF is a collaboration to address gender based violence and violence against children under one of KTF's initiatives known as Project Zero. This involves providing information through awareness and sharing of IEC materials on the issue of family and sexual violence (FSV) with KTF-partner schools, health centres and communities, and working with other stakeholders in strengthening the referral pathway.

From 23 May to 14 June this year, the Femili PNG Outreach team worked with KTF in conducting awareness to schools, health facilities, communities and villages in the Kokoda area, including locations along the famous Kokoda track. The team also established 'FSV corners' at the schools and health facilities. The FSV corner is a space set up with information, education and communication (IEC) materials on family and sexual violence. The materials include copies of the related laws, the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 and the Family Protection Act 2013, brochures and handouts about FSV, child abuse, child protection, and relevant information for everyone to access.

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The team conducted awareness sessions at seven villages, five primary schools, four elementary schools, two communities, one business house, one safe house, one college, one high school, one health centre, one TVET school and a faith-based organisation (FBO). In addition, Femili PNG facilitated a two-day information session on child protection to 31 participants at the Kokoda College. The participants included teachers, a safe house staff, and students from KTF's Kokoda College. For many of the participants', it was their first time to learn more about child protection. John Tang, an Assistant teacher at the Kokoda Primary School who participated found the information to be interesting and wanted to learn more. When asked what he will do after he had gone through the session, he said, "I will start with my own family first and then to the classroom, by teaching the principles of discipline first and then their rights and responsibilities."

The Head Teacher for Gorari Primary School Mrs. Dorcas Oivo also found the session to be vital and useful as there are a lot of abuses that children face in their homes, schools and communities. "The highlight of this session is learning about confidentiality and the consequences of abuse," Mrs. Oivo said. She also added that she will introduce what she has learnt in their teachers in-service, and carry out awareness during parents and teachers meetings, as well as during school activities. Most of the teachers who participated requested for such information sessions on child protection to be conducted with more teachers in Oro province.

During the trip, Femili PNG also donated beddings and cookware to Meri Seif haus in Oro province. It is currently the only safe house providing accommodation to survivors in the province.

Femili PNG will continue to deliver outreach and training activities in partnership with KTF into next year 2022. KTF is an Australian NGO operating in PNG since 2003, working with communities to deliver programs in equality, education, health and leadership. Project Zero is delivered in partnership with the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

## Working with KTF in Kokoda



*Awareness session at Gorari Elementary School on 31 May 2021 in Sohe District, Oro province.*



*FSV Corner set up at Kokoda Primary School. FPNG Outreach officer with Kokoda Primary school teachers.*



*Child Protection information session participants with KTF and Femili PNG team after the two-days session from 3-4 June 2021 at the Kokoda College.*



*Outreach and KTF team taking a break after crossing Iora river on their way to Abuari village along the Kokoda track.*

## Student trainee shares experience working with FPNG

*Femi Roy, a final year student from the University of Goroka shares his experience as a student trainee with Femili PNG in Lae.*

It was a great privilege for me as a student having hands-on training with Femili PNG. I have gained a lot from my six weeks with the Femili PNG team in Lae. For the first four weeks, I was attached with the Information Officer who patiently showed me how to do data entry. I then spent the next two weeks with the case management team which included the Case Work Manager, Case Workers and Support Workers who directly assist clients. I was involved in doing case assessments, case conferencing, assisting clients to service providers, referrals, clients interviews for clients' satisfaction form, and also in-taking of new clients. This helped me to understand the process of case management when dealing with survivors of family and sexual violence and child abuse.

My time with the organization made me realize the free time and flexibility I've had in the theory part of my studies, and how hectic doing the real work is. I was exposed to the pressure and stress, and the challenges that the Femili PNG team face in helping survivors. Regardless of the challenges faced in doing such work, it is all worth it, and rewarding when survivors get the help they need. From my experience and observation, I learnt that it is important to create a friendly and welcoming environment where people seeking help can connect and are comfortable to share their issues and get help. This is the type of environment I've seen Femili PNG provide for its clients, which helps in their healing process.

My engagement with Femili PNG has been such a rewarding experience for me as an individual, and has positively influenced me to be a good social work professional in my near future in dealing with gender and family issues. My short time with the organization has been nothing but an invaluable experience, which I will hold dear, and take on with me wherever I go. Apart from work experience, I had the opportunity of getting to meet and learn from incredible individuals.

After graduating, I would hope to get the opportunity to come back and work with Femili PNG and be part of an organization that is client-centered.



*(L-R): Student trainee Femi Roy with FPNG Lae Case Work Manager Evan Bieso*

## With COVID-19, Outreach uses radio for awareness in Lae

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected many lives as we know, including how we work. For the Femili PNG Outreach team, it has had a big impact on its awareness programs, especially in the communities. Despite the challenges, the team strategized in delivering awareness to the public through radio.

After approaching radio stations in Lae, Catholic FM and Hope FM have agreed to have Femili PNG's awareness on their weekly shows. The team now has a slot on 103.7 Catholic FM's Family Life Program that goes on air from 10am-11am every Wednesday. And pre-recorded awareness messages are played on Hope FM (operated by Seventh-Day Adventist Church) at 11am.



*Femili PNG Community and Outreach Officers Corneleah Jajem and Paul Kunump going on air with Catholic FM.*

Messages delivered so far include the different forms of family and sexual violence (FSV), child abuse, consequences of abuse, child safety rules, children's rights and responsibilities, and how survivors of FSV can get help. From these sessions, people have called in for further information, as well as survivors requesting assistance. Femili PNG is very grateful to both radio stations for allowing them to conduct ongoing awareness. The organisation continues to work with both stations, and have donated PPEs which included face masks and hand sanitisers to Catholic FM and Hope FM.

Pictured below:

*Donation to Catholic FM (L), and donation to Hope FM.*





# Client's Story

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

## Child Bride Convicted For Killing Husband Sets Precedents In PNG



*\*Laila sharing her story while serving her time in prison.*

By Jonica Jay

\*Laila is a young mother who was abducted when she was in her mid-teens and forcefully kept in an abusive relationship until she unintentionally killed her husband and was put in prison. There has never been such a case heard in Papua New Guinea for a child bride charged for murdering their partner. Laila's case represented by Femili PNG's previous In-house Lawyer Anna Raymond has set the precedent in PNG.

Laila was in Primary school, a bright student in her class. Like most teenagers, she socialised with youths and participated in community activities. She was heading home one afternoon after an event when the perpetrator (deceased) abducted her, took her to his house where he forced her to live with him, and persistently raped her. He was previously married and almost twice her age at that time. Laila was released after being held captive for a while, but returned to the perpetrator after finding out that she was pregnant. For a brief moment, there was no violence, and Laila thought things were getting better for her despite the circumstance. However, after Laila gave birth to their child, the violence started to escalate. The perpetrator would constantly demand to have sex, and even forced Laila in front of their child. Laila said, "he never accepted me as his wife, he only treated and used me as a roadside prostitute." Laila lived in constant abuse, physical, sexual, emotional and financial. She could not get help from her family, as that meant putting them in danger as they were living on his land.

***"he never accepted me as his wife, he only treated and used me as a roadside prostitute."***

- \*Laila (client)

Laila was helpless but continued to stay with the perpetrator for the sake of her children.

The perpetrator continued his abusive behaviour, as well as being drunk most of the time and having extra marital affairs. Every time he went out with other women, he would return home and beat up Laila, using sharp objects that has left her with scars. Laila decided to get help one day and reported to the authorities, but when she was not assisted, she gave up hope and tried to cope with the perpetrator's behaviour.

One day when Laila returned home with her children, she caught him coming out of their house with the other woman and they got into a fight.

The other woman managed to escape, but Laila was beaten by the perpetrator and sustained cuts. A week had passed after that incident when he told Laila that if she didn't want him to mess around, she should just allow him to bring the other woman so they can all live together. Hearing this, Laila became furious because at this point, she had gone through so much abuse and her childhood was taken away from her. Laila thought to herself that because he was able to walk around, they were going through all these issues. If he couldn't walk, he would stay at home with his family. She found a small kitchen knife in the house and stabbed the perpetrator on his leg, purposely to injure him. The perpetrator was rushed to the hospital but lost a lot of blood and didn't make it that day.

One of the perpetrator's relative quickly warned Laila to take her children and run away. When hearing about the passing of the perpetrator, his family chased Laila's family and destroyed their home, leaving them with nothing. Laila went straight to

the police and turned herself in. She spent a month in jail and was later released because there was no formal complaint made. The police then referred her to Femili PNG for additional assistance. After further investigations by the police, Laila was put on trial and imprisoned for manslaughter with a sentence of eight years.

While serving her sentence, Laila shared that she had never intended to kill the perpetrator whom she accepted as her husband and the father of her children. "I never meant to kill him. I only wanted to stab his leg so that he can just stay with us at home and not go out drinking and seeing other women," she went on.

*Continue to page 5...*

*Continue from page 4...*

Laila regretted what had happened for the sake of her children. "It's really hard being in prison and not knowing how your children are looked after by others. But I'm in a place where I cannot allow myself to worry. Worrying won't do me any good. I can only trust and leave everything in God's hands," she added.

Despite everything, Laila was grateful that Femili PNG was there to assist her with her case. Considering that it was a difficult case, she appreciated that Femili PNG stood by her and provided the support she needed during that time. It was also through much coordination between Femili PNG and the relevant service providers that contributed to positive outcomes for Laila's case. Her sentence was reduced to eight months after all suspensions were made by the presiding judge, considering mitigating factors in her favor. These included her age at the time of her abduction and the fact that she was violated by an adult perpetrator without

any interventions by relevant government agencies to protect her vulnerability. Also the fact that she was a child when she gave birth to a child, and she ended up killing the perpetrator as a result of the trauma she suffered over the years in this relationship. The judge took all these factors into account in arriving at a lenient sentence. The court further suspended from her sentence the time she spent in pre-trial custody and some time based on good behaviour. She was ordered by the court to serve her remaining sentence in light labor and was later released.

Laila now lives with her children with accommodation provided by her family. With skills like baking and weaving bilums acquired from prison, Femili PNG provided her with a business start-up kit to empower her to be able to provide for herself and her children. Femili PNG also assisted her with reintegration food when she was released to sustain her and her family until she can make some income. Laila continues to keep in touch with her Case Worker and lets Femili PNG know she is doing well.

## Client's Story

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

### Abuse instead of the promise of a better education

\*Clara was living with her parents in the village when her cousin took her to the city to live with her and her husband so that she can get a good education. Clara's cousin works in the city and had promised Clara's biological father that she would be enrolled at a school in the city and continue her education. However, when Clara arrived in the city to live with her cousin, she was not enrolled at a school, and was restricted from communicating with her biological parents in the village.

Ever since Clara moved to the city, she experienced ongoing physical, verbal, and emotional abuse from her cousin and her family. One day, Clara was severely beaten up and dragged to the road by her cousin and sisters. The neighbours stepped in to stop the perpetrators from further harming Clara, and brought her to their home for safety. She was later taken to Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) to file a complaint and was referred to Bel Isi PNG case management centre (operated by Femili PNG) for additional assistance.

Clara was accommodated at a safe house while Femili PNG Child Protection Officer worked with her on her case. Family tracing was conducted successfully, and after many years, Clara finally spoke with her biological father. Clara's request was to return to her village to be with her biological family. Her case worker proceeded in making the necessary arrangements, and in the process, Clara

was assisted in obtaining a two-year Permanent Protection Order.

Clara stayed with one of her relatives until she was repatriated back to her village where she was received by a Welfare Officer on the ground and safely handed over to her family.

Clara's father and the rest of her family in the village were very grateful for Femili PNG's assistance. One of her other relatives who was there to receive Clara from the Welfare officer and take her back to the village said, "God will richly bless your organization, your families, your children and your grandchildren down the line for the great work you are doing." After a recent phone follow-up to check on how Clara was doing, her case worker was informed that she has been teaching women in her villages the life skills (sewing and cooking) she learnt while staying at the safe house. She is now happily married and contributes to helping her family and community.

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 as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program, National Capital District Commission, Bank of South Pacific, Steamships Trading Co and Oil Search.





# UPDATES IN PICS

K92 Mining handed over a dummy cheque of K100,000 to Femili PNG on 30 July 2021.



L-R: K92 Mining VP Government & Community Affairs Philip Samar, FPNG Communications & Fundraising Officer Jonica Jay, K92 Mining Community, Access & Sustainable Development Manager Jim Kia, and FPNG Community and Outreach officer Paul Kunump.



L-R: FPNG Lae Operations Director Denga Ilave, Australian Consulate staff in Lae Ruby Yamuna, Australian Deputy High Commissioner to PNG Rachel Moseley, and FPNG CEO Daisy Plana.



Femili PNG participated in the Inaugural Morobe Coordination forum on 13 July 2021 in Lae. The meeting was facilitated by the Australian Consulate in Lae for Australian-funded organisation working within Morobe Province to meet and share what each organization were doing in the province.



Lae Snax Tigers group photo with Femili PNG Outreach team on 23 July 2021 at Lae Biscuit Company after info session..

FPNG participated in the Pacific Women 6th Annual Learning Workshop in POM from 2-6 August 2021. Lae Operations Director Denga Ilave discussed case management as one of the panelist.



With support from Pacific Women (PW), Femili PNG facilitated the virtual viewing of the PW 6th Annual Learning Workshop for its partners in Lae at the Huon Gulf Hotel. PW partners also facilitated virtual viewing of the workshop in Goroka, Wewak and Bougainville. This was the first time partners in other provinces participated through virtual viewing.



Lae Toti FC group photo with Femili PNG Outreach team on 23 July 2021 at the Lae Biscuit Company after info session..



Femili PNG participated in the FSV Forum facilitated by BCFW in Lae. FPNG Lae Operations Director Denga Ilave acknowledged the great efforts

made by businesses to support FSV survivors and addressing the issue.



# UPDATES IN PICS



FPNG CEO Daisy Plana hands over donation of office equipment and stationary on 4 February 2021 to the EHP Community Development Advisor Siviri Lalave.



Kokopo SOS received donation of IT equipment including ink and air condition from Femili PNG on 29 January 2021.

(L-R): Kokopo SOS OIC Snr. Contrs. Belline Tololo, Femili PNG CEO Daisy Plana, and OIC CID Chief Sgt. Harry Dale at Kokopo SOS office.



Spotlight Program Manager Ms. Delvin Yamasombi hands over donation of PPEs to the Family Support Centre at Mendi Hospital.



With support from the Spotlight Initiative, EHP FSVAC resumes meeting with stakeholders in Goroka on 3 February 2021.



Spotlight Program Manager Delvin Yamasombi (far left) and Femili PNG Fleet Manager Anderson Ango (far right) handed over PPEs and COVID/FSV IEC materials to Kirapim Southern Highlands Association partner in Mendi, Southern Highlands Province.



Through the Spotlight Initiative, Femili PNG facilitated a week training on FSV and Trauma Informed Care training to the Kirapim Southern Highlands Association (KSHA) and its partners in Mendi, Southern Highlands Province from the 15-19 March 2021.



Spotlight Program Manager Delvin Yamasombi presented PPEs and COVID/FSV IEC materials to (1) Mendi FSVU OIC Sgt. Jimmy Suaip and FSVU team, and (2) Mendi Police Station Shift Supervisor Chief Sgt. Joshua Koaire in April 2021.





## Mama Rebecca and the St. Francis Care Home



Pictured: Rebecca Lero Rami (Mama Rebecca), Founder and Manageress of St Francis Care Home in Southern Highlands Province

St Francis Care Home started as a dream. It was the dream of Rebecca Lero Rami from Longo village in Mendi, Southern Highlands Province, who is the founder and manager of the St Francis Care Home, outside Mendi town.

Despite her lack of education (she left school in grade 5) and very limited resources, Rebecca Lero Rami has a big heart and passion to help people. Because of her character, she is known to many, especially her children at the Care Home as ‘Mama Rebecca’. Mama Rebecca was very involved with her local church, the Catholic Diocese, and participated in training facilitated by the Catholic Mission. One of the first training programs she attended was in HIV/AIDS sensitization. After the training, Mama Rebecca was conducted awareness-raising sessions in her community about HIV and AIDS. Through these activities, she saw how people, especially children, were discriminated against because of their HIV/AIDS status. Mama Rebecca said, “it broke my heart to see children and people with HIV and AIDS being discriminated against, and that was when I thought to myself that it would be good to take care of such people, and with God’s help, I decided to do that.”

In 2006, Mama Rebecca had already started taking care of children, especially orphans with whatever little she had. Mama Rebecca had envisioned the home she wanted to create for the unwanted and less fortunate children, but didn’t have the funds to support her dream. She later approached Bishop Steven in Mendi with her plans, and was told to prepare a proposal. With help from a volunteer, she submitted a proposal to the Bishop who provided K2,000 and undertook a survey of the land.

Mama Rebecca initially constructed the Care Home using bush materials. She sold her belongings, which included pigs, bilums, clothes, and put together whatever she earned from her part-time jobs to complete the building. Once the building was completed,

Mama Rebecca knocked on doors and was given beds built by a local carpenter, chairs from Mendi General Hospital, and two tables from a local lodge. From all that she collected, Mama Rebecca managed to also create a small training hall, with a few rooms for accommodation which she put out for hire to create income to support her work. “There were many negative comments about what I was building, but I never gave up,” she added.

In 2013, former Member for Imbonggu Francis Awesa provided funding of K50,000 to replace the centre with a permanent building. This was one of Mama Rebecca’s answered prayers. With the support of her husband, they used the funding and timber from their own land to build a 10-bedroom centre with a spacious living area. Mama Rebecca also began offering safe accommodation to

women and children who are survivors of violence as there was no other place for them to go. Because of that, she changed the name of the centre to its current name, St Francis Care Home.

Throughout the years, Mama Rebecca has depended entirely on the support from her church and community. “Catholic Mission is my backbone. They have continued to help me with food, clothes, and even school fees for the children. Most of my support comes from the Catholic Diocese of Mendi,” she said.

In 2016, the former Member Mr Awesa visited St Francis Care Home with the company of the former Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea Bruce Davis as part of their tour to visit several major development projects in the Imbonggu District. This visit brought in the much-needed assistance for the Care Home’s land title and license to operate. Mama Rebecca was so grateful for the support provided by the Australian Government, saying, “the Australian Government has played a tremendous role in helping me but I don’t know how I could ever thank them.” She said that she is now waiting for the Australian Government to assist her with some promised upgrades to the centre. Mama Rebecca added that the National Community Development had also assisted with some funding to help with some necessary operational costs.

Recently this year, Femili PNG under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative had visited Mendi, providing sensitisation training on family and sexual violence and trauma-informed Care to service providers. Mama Rebecca was one of the participants in the training. After hearing about the amazing work that Mama Rebecca and her small hard-working team have been doing, Femili PNG visited St Francis Care Home and donated food, wool for women to make bilums and sell, and poultry.

*Continue to page 7...*



*Continue from page 6...*

Mama Rebecca was very grateful for the donation and support, and additional food and necessities that were provided again in April this year.

These donations and assistance by Femili PNG were made possible by the support of the National FSVAC, PNG Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of PNG as part of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.



*(L-R) Spotlight Manager Delvin Yamasombi handing over food donation to St. Francis Care Home Founder and Manager Mama Rebecca with husband Joseph.*

Despite the many challenges that Mama Rebecca faces in helping women and children, she hopes to expand and provide a more convenient and safe place for those needing refuge. She concluded by saying, “before God calls me home, I want to create a good and safe place for women and children. I want to set up high covenant buildings with proper fencing where mothers, girls and boys can feel safe. I want to see this place be developed.”

Mama Rebecca has big dreams but her biggest challenge is funding. Her request to the PNG Government is for support to set up such safe homes so she can take care of those in need. Apart from a roof and food to eat, Mama Rebecca continues to provide love and care to the women and children at St Francis Care Home.



*Poultry donation to St. Francis Care Home by Femili PNG*

## Femili PNG's new case management outpost in Goroka

With the support of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, Femili PNG has opened a case management outpost in Goroka in February 2021. The outpost will provide case management services to survivors of intimate partner violence, child abuse, sexual violence, and sorcery accusation-related violence in Eastern Highlands Province (EHP).

Femili PNG has outposted two caseworkers to Goroka, who are co-located with the Community Development Office. Working very closely with partners and service providers, the caseworkers will assist survivors to access services such as safe accommodation, law and justice interventions, medical assistance, among other services. Since opening its doors in February, the Goroka outpost has assisted 48 survivors of violence, including enabling 10 survivors to obtain protection orders.

The outpost will operate alongside other program being run in EHP, including with

FSV community committees in Daulo and Lufa Districts. After in-depth information sessions on family and sexual violence, the leaders in these Districts formed community committees to address FSV in their communities. Femili PNG assisted these leaders to deliver awareness-raising sessions in their communities and will provide ongoing training and support.

Ms Daisy Plana, CEO of Femili PNG, expressed gratitude for the support of partners in EHP. “We are particularly grateful for the support of Community Development Advisor Ms Siviri Lalave and the team at the Community Development Office. Partners doing valuable work on the ground such as the Community Development Office, FSVU, FSC, KUSWA, Eastern Highlands Family Voice, OXFAM and others – we are looking forward to working with them and supporting them where we can.”

Ms Plana also voiced her appreciation for

the funding support from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). “The Spotlight Initiative and UN Women support has allowed us to establish this outpost, and the ongoing funding from ANCP through Friends of Femili PNG will allow us to keep it operational into the longer-term. The funds invested by donors will result in real outcomes for women and girls in EHP”.



*Femili PNG's outpost in Goroka at the Community Development Office*

# FSV and TIC training for Coupe Meri Seif Haus and partners

Earlier this year, Femili PNG facilitated a five-day training from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to 23 participants from the Coupe Meri Seif Haus and its partners in Kokopo, East New Britain Province.

The first three days of the one week training covered topics on family and sexual violence (FSV) issues in PNG, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC), child abuse and its effects, the Lukautim Pkinini Act 2015, the Convention on Elimination and Discrimination on all forms of Abuse on Women (CEDAW), different kinds of abuse, the Family Protection Act 2013, the cycle of violence and the referral pathway. The next two days covered topics on trauma-informed care, which was facilitated by Femili PNG CEO Ms Daisy Plana. Other facilitators included Femili PNG's Training Coordinator Mr Andrew Zuhukepe, Lae CMC In-house Lawyer, Mrs Anna Raymond and Spotlight Program Manager Ms Delvin Yamasombi.

The objective of this training was to educate and generate interest on the issue of FSV, empower participants to advocate for a violence-free society, emphasize and strengthen the referral pathway, and educate the safe house staff and partners on how to deal and cope with trauma when assisting FSV survivors. This training targeted the Filia Maria Imakulata (FMI) Sisters operating the Meri Seif Haus and their partners, as well as others who were interested, which included the Sisters and youths from Vunapope and Vunadidir Parish, students from Don Bosco Technical School, and the Community Development Chairman from Vundadidir in Kokopo. For most participants, it was their first time to attend such a training.

Like many other places in Papua New Guinea where FSV and child abuse is a pressing issue that affects many families in the communities, Kokopo is no exception. Survivors are further victimized when they do not know where or how to get help. A few of



*Participants after receiving their certificate of participation after the training.*

the challenges raised by the participants include no proper referral pathway and coordination amongst partners in East New Britain Province, and many forced marriages in the society that usually results in marital problems.

After learning about the different forms of abuse, many expressed that they see these abuses in their communities every day. Some admitted that they have realised that some of their attitudes towards their family were also abusive in nature. The participants were grateful for the training, and expressed that they will go back and practice what they have learnt. Sr Stephanie Kokon, one of the FMI Sisters who participated in the training, thanked the Femili PNG team and appreciated what she learnt. Sr Kokon said, "the five days of learning has challenged me, encouraged me and equipped me to be able to work in addressing violence, and help others. I have also planned to assist the Sister at the safe house when she needs assistance, because I believe that I am now able to help with what I've learnt from the training."

Another participant, Community Development Chairman Mr. Kevin Dinglik expressed that he knew a little bit about abuse, but through the training, he learnt that there are other different forms of abuse that exists which he did not know about. He said, "during the training, I realized that we live

with all these abusive attitudes in the village, but we did not know that these attitudes were abuse." He admitted that what he learnt made him feel guilty of past actions, which he did not think was wrong at that time and promised to change his approach. Mr. Dinglik added, "the training has also given us more work because there is so much that needs to be done and it is very challenging when addressing FSV. We will make it our responsibility to go back to our village and make plans of activities to implement what we have learnt."

The immediate outcome of the training was assessed through a pre and post evaluation completed by the participants. It was clear that the training influenced the participant's understanding of family and sexual violence, its related laws, the referral pathway and helped them to understand how trauma affects a survivor and how to be sensitive when helping them. The training also engaged participants to learn from each other through group discussions and presentations.

This was the first time Femili PNG facilitated a training in East New Britain Province. The training was made possible with the support provided through the European Union – United Nations Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls in all communities.



## Community FSV Committees set up in Daulo and Lufa Districts, Eastern Highlands Province

In Papua New Guinea, disputes and issues in the communities are usually resolved through mediation facilitated by the leaders in the community. It's not always easy for community leaders to carry out their duties in resolving issues, but despite the challenges, they always do what they can. In doing so, community leaders play an important role in keeping the peace and maintaining order within their communities.

Some of the common issues brought to community leaders to resolve are related to family and sexual violence (FSV). Seeing the need to empower community leaders in addressing FSV, Femili PNG Outreach team conducted FSV information sessions to the community leaders in Daulo and Lufa Districts in Eastern Highlands Province. The two districts were recommended by the Eastern Highlands Provincial Community Development Advisor. The aim of these information sessions is to create a community FSV committee of ten individuals for each of the two districts. In doing so, community leaders play an important role in keeping the peace and maintaining order within their communities.

The Outreach team started with Daulo District in January this year, facilitating three sets of 2-day FSV information sessions to 76 representatives from the wards at the three Local Level Governments (LLGs) in the district, Watabung LLG, Lower Asaro LLG, and Upper Asaro LLG. The committee members were selected by the representatives who participated in the information sessions, and two of them were appointed to represent them in the provincial FSVAC meetings.

From 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April, Femili PNG Outreach team conducted two sets of 2-day FSV information sessions to participants from the two LLGs in Lufa District, Yagaria and Mount Michael LLGs. Unfortunately, the outreach team could not reach Unavi LLG due to logistics and communication challenges. However, Femili PNG continues to work with Lufa District and the Community Development Office to reach other LLGs. A total of 58 representatives participated in these sessions, and members to create the community committee for Lufa District



*Participants from Yagaria LLG in Lufa District having a group discussion during an information session from 26-27 May 2021 in Eastern Highlands province.*

have been identified.

After Femili PNG Outreach team conducted the sessions in Lufa District, the team continued to Daulo District and conducted awareness-raising sessions to the communities together with the Lufa Community FSV Committee members, including the District Community Development Program Manager Ms. Korobo Werry who is the Chair of the committee. Over 2,800 men, women and children were reached through the awareness in the communities and schools in Daulo District.

Ongoing training and support will be provided to the committee members so that they can address FSV issues in their communities. The establishment of community committees for the two districts in Eastern Highlands Province is one of Femili PNG's activities supported through the European Union – United Nations Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls in all communities.

#SpotlightEndViolence



*Awareness at Watabung Primary School in Daulo District, EHP on 6 May 2021.*



*Participants from Mt. Michael LLG after*

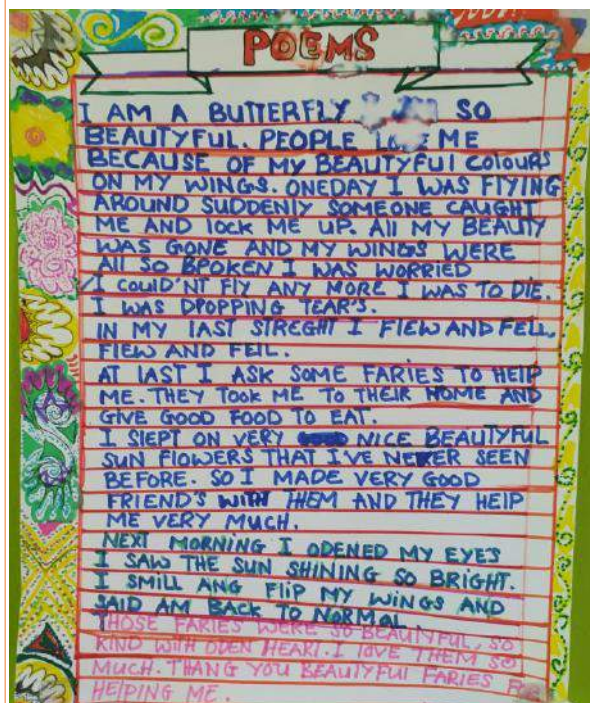


*Participants from Yagaria LLG after the 2-day FSV info session at Lufa District*



## Poem by client

This poem was written by a client who was assisted through the Bel Isi case management centre. She wanted to share her feelings and express her gratitude to the Femili PNG team.



## Getting help;

# 7150 8000

Call the free hotline for help!

The 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Iain is a toll-free confidential phone counselling service providing information and support for anyone experiencing family and sexual violence in PNG.

This service is operated by ChildFund and is a partnership between ChildFund and CIMC (FSVAC) and supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme.



### About us:

Femili PNG is a local NGO that operates Case Management Centres in Lae, Port Moresby and Goroka 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 (*Pacific Women*) program.

#### Femili PNG Lae Case Management Centre

PO Box 616

Lae, Morobe Province

Papua New Guinea

Phone: +675 7091 4027 or +675 472 8904

*All phones are answered Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:00pm*

#### 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

*All phones are answered Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:00pm*

#### Femili PNG Goroka Outpost

EHP Community Development

Phone: +675 7217 9445

*All phones are answered Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm*

For all enquiries, email us at: [info@femilipng.org](mailto:info@femilipng.org)

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)

## Femili PNG supporters

FPNG is supported by many Australian and PNG organisations and businesses, including;

