

FemiliPNG

care. support. change.

Newsletter



Bel Isi PNG progress since opening

Femili PNG, a local PNG NGO established in Lae since 2014 has been providing case management services to survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV). Femili PNG works closely with service providers like the police, courts, welfare, hospitals and relevant stakeholders to help FSV survivors, especially those who are subject to intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and sorcery-accusation related violence get the help they need.

With the formation of the Bel isi PNG initiative in August 2018, Femili PNG took up the role as the operator of the Bel isi PNG Case Management Centre and Safe house in Port Moresby. Since then, we have assisted over 1,400 men, women and children survivors. Over 350 of our clients have successfully obtained interim protection orders from the courts, and a further 180 clients received permanent protection orders which provide protection up to two years.

We are also proud to have helped 780 survivors and their children to find safe accommodation. Of these, 412 were safely housed at the Bel Isi Safe House.

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Femili PNG has provided over 16,500 distinct services and over 15,500 consultations to survivors. These consultations are vital to client success as they empower the client to work with the caseworker to understand the options available and which ones are best for them. On average, every client has 10 follow up consultations with us.

The Bel isi PNG initiative has been able to provide support to employees of subscribing businesses, as well as survivors from the public. Since 2018, the Bel isi Case Management Centre has assisted 289 employees of subscribing businesses. Of these, 94 were provided safe accommodation at Bel Isi Safe House, and 77 were assisted with obtaining an interim protection orders.

Femili PNG acknowledges the support of the Australian Government in partnership with the PNG government, the key stakeholders in the private and public sector, and other agencies working towards addressing FSV in the country. Through partnership and collaborative efforts, we continue to achieve positive outcomes.

Read below is the story of a client from one of Bel isi PNG's subscribers who was assisted through the Case Management Centre. The *name and identifying details of the client has been changed to protect the client's identity;

**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 caseworker 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 the 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."

Shay expressed that it can be challenging sometimes, but they both 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 through the PNGAUS Partnership, National Capital District Commission, Bank of South Pacific, Steamships Trading Co, G4S and Santos Foundation.

A local church opens new safe house for FSV survivors

The Morobe Adventist Care Centre is a local community initiative that serve as a safe haven for survivors of violence seeking refuge. The safe house was officially opened on the 5th June 2022 at the Morobe Mission of the Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Hall at 2mile, and the dedication took place at the safe house site in Lae.

The provision of safe accommodation to survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV) has always been a challenge given the number of survivors compared to the limited number of safe houses operating in the province. Given the reality, Femili PNG CEO Ms Daisy Plana had the vision to help in creating a safe place. A safe place where survivors can be empowered in making informed decisions, and have their needs addressed holistically. The quarterly donations of clothes, food and toiletries made by the Pilgrim SDA Church members for Femili PNG clients inspired Ms Plana to initiate support in establishing a safe house. The land and fencing for the safe house were purchased through funds raised from Femili PNG staff and individuals who showed interest in supporting the initiative.

Through the initial support from Femili PNG and *Pacific Women* with K60,000 worth of building materials, the construction of the safe house commenced in August 2020. The Pilgrim SDA Church took lead in the construction of the building; a group of dedicated young men who volunteered and were committed in completing the safe house. The same group whom at the same time, being involved in the construction of their new SDA church building. In 2021, the Pilgrim Adventist Care Centre was selected as one of the recipients of the Digicel Foundation's Community Grants Program. In the same year, the Centre also received an additional funding and support from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the SDA Morobe Mission, Femili PNG, and Avondale Adventist University Church in Australia. Businesses and individuals have also made cash and in-kind donations to support the establishment of the Centre. This assistance helped in the successful completion of the safe house within the timeframe of two years. This was a demonstration of a model where members from the community, church, business houses, and individuals whether employed or unemployed can contribute what they have, be it money, time or skills, or other support to make a difference in a survivor's life. Ms Plana said that we cannot wait for donors. "If only people can see the value of all these contributions put together, and this is what Pilgrim stands for," Ms Plana added.

With an allocation of K80,000 from the Morobe Mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Church to support with its initial operation, the Pilgrim Adventist Care Centre has taken in



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 Morobe Adventist Care Centre in Lae.

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

survivors since early October this year. Over 40 members from the Pilgrim SDA church have volunteered with nine working on a monthly shift. The volunteers received FSV sensitization training from Femili PNG, as well as training on the Anti-Fraud & Corruption policy, and the Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) policy facilitated by ADRA. The trainings and policy reviews helped volunteers to be better equipped in helping survivors and their children at the safe house. A volunteer shared that it is sometimes challenging taking care of people who have gone through abuse, especially when most of the volunteers don't have experience working in a safe house. Despite their limited experience, the volunteers aim to help survivors shift their focus away from their problems and allow themselves to connect with God and heal. The volunteers have seen that their daily fellowships so far have positively influenced many of the survivors at the safe house.

There are programs for life skills trainings to be provided to the survivors. Unfortunately, due to no funding available at the time, the first life skills training wasn't provided until the third week of operation. This training included volunteers teaching survivors how to make bilums. The acting safe house manager plans to include other life skills trainings like sewing and others that the volunteers are able to provide given adequate funding.

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As a retired manager from a state-owned enterprise, the acting safe house manager shared her experience by providing management training for the volunteers. She is also works closely with the volunteers to see that they take ownership in doing what they can despite limited funding. With plans to teach survivors how to sew, the safe house manager identified a need for sewing machines, but with no funding, a few volunteers have brought in their sewing machines. She said, “with what we can, we will help because it is also a church-run centre, so we will try our best to look after the place ourselves.”

The Morobe Adventist Care Centre is now the fourth facility established to provide safe accommodation, an addition to three existing safe houses operating in Lae. With very limited resources, safe houses continue to provide a vital service which is to accommodate high-risk survivors who are needing short-term accommodation for safety and protection.

The establishment of the Morobe Adventist Care Centre is a demonstration of what can be accomplished when everyone comes together to support a good cause. The centre continues to receive technical support from committed individuals who are passionate in making a difference.

Australian Deputy Head of Mission visits Bel isi PNG



Dr. Joanne Loundes (3rd right) with Femili PNG CEO (3rd left) and senior staff s after the meeting. 29.11.2022

children to stop gender-based violence and domestic violence. Femili PNG CEO Ms Daisy Plana highlighted the work of Femili PNG’s outreach and training departments in addition to Femili PNG’s case management services for FSV survivors. Ms. Plana further elaborated on support under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in the last 3 years made it possible for Femili PNG to roll out training across five different provinces in PNG. She said one of the key messages incorporated in the training is about the impact of trauma and the importance of partners providing trauma informed care to survivors. “This training not only have impact on adult’s life but also to children,” Daisy said.

The Case Work Manager and other caseworkers also took part in the round table discussion and provided feedback on the work with survivors.

The Deputy Head of Mission to PNG Dr. Joanne Loundes expressed gratitude to the Femili PNG CEO and the Bel isi staff on hearing about the important aspects of the work Femili PNG is doing through case management. She was interested to learn about service providers and the referral pathway which leads them to refer survivors to Femili PNG at the Bel Isi Case Management Centre.

In addition, Dr. Loundes relayed the DFAT’s thanks to Femili PNG for using limited resources to reach out to people in the remotest places of PNG. On behalf of Femili PNG, Daisy thanked Dr Loundes for making time available to visit Bel isi PNG.

Femili PNG acknowledges support by the Australian Government through the PNGAUS Partnership.

The Australian Deputy Head of Mission to PNG Dr Joanne Loundes visited Bel isi PNG office on Wednesday 29 November 2022.

During the visit, Dr Loundes had a round table discussion with Femili PNG’s staff. She was eager to know how the caseworkers work, how staff found the motivation to continue working, how they take care of themselves and their focus of the work.

In line with the 20 Days Activism, she was interested to learn the type of message Femili PNG is using to reach out to men, women, and

UPDATES IN PICS



Participants from the recent training conducted for youth and the community leaders in Lae after receiving certificate of participation.



The Lae Project Operations Director Denga Ilave speaking to JID employees about the work of Femili PNG during their in-house information sessions to observe 16 days of activism on violence against women and girls.



First batch of the two final trainings conducted in Wabag under the UNDP Spotlight activities. Group photo after presentations of certificates of participation.



Outreach team and Enga partners doing radio awareness at the National Broadcasting Corporation in Enga. This was one of the final activities under the UNDP funding.



Donations of items to Popondetta General Hospital Reps from Femili PNG. The Outreach officers presented the donation as part of KTF's Project Zero



Outreach Officer Genot Kekosi presenting items to the Resurrection Primary School teacher and student representative as part of KTF's Project Zero.



Femili PNG Outreach team participated during the International Children's Day celebration at Resurrection Primary School in Popondetta on 4th November 2022.

Femili PNG Outreach Officer Paul Kunump speaking to students and teachers during the celebration as part of KTF's Project Zero.

Client Success stories

*Lisa returns home

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

By Jonica Jay

*Lisa (not her real name) started experiencing sexual abuse from her stepfather (perpetrator) when she was 16 years old.

After her biological father died, Lisa's mother remarried and brought Lisa to live with them in a coastal province and continue her primary school education. Everything was fine in the first two years of living with her mother and stepfather. However, Lisa's movements were restricted: Lisa could not hang out with friends, especially boys. She was only allowed to stay in the house and takes care of her siblings.

The abuse started one weekend when Lisa's mother left to do some errands and Lisa was left taking care of her siblings. When the perpetrator realized this, he called Lisa into his home office and forced her to view pornographic material. Lisa managed to escape when a community leader came to their house to visit the perpetrator. After this first incident, Lisa wanted to tell her mother but the perpetrator had threatened her not to tell.

The following weekend, Lisa's mother went out again and left Lisa to take care of her siblings at home. When the perpetrator came home and saw that Lisa was alone with her siblings, he called her to his office, beat, and raped her at gunpoint. Lisa was too scared to tell her mother due to the constant threats she received from the stepfather. The abuse continued every time Lisa's mother was away. When the abuse was happening, Lisa tried screaming, but was told by the perpetrator that no one would help her because he had powerful friends.

Lisa tried to tell her mother, but the perpetrator closely monitored her movements. One morning while cooking breakfast, the perpetrator touched her inappropriately. Her

mother saw the incident. When they were alone, Lisa's mother asked what is happening between her and her stepfather. Lisa told her mother about the inappropriate touching but not the rape incidences, as she was scared.

Lisa and her mother reported the abuse to the Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) and Family Support Centre (FSC) at Angau where she received medical and psychosocial care. FSC referred the case to Femili PNG for safe accommodation and a protection order. Lisa's mother got an Interim Protection Order that was converted to longer-term Protection Order, which included Lisa as well. After several months at the safe accommodation, Lisa and her mother returned to their village. The Sexual Offences Squad (SOS) arrested the perpetrator but he was later released on bail.

One week after Lisa and her mother were repatriated, the mother went back to live with the perpetrator. Lisa's mother told Lisa to come to Lae to attend the case court hearing. When she came, her mother asked her to withdraw the case against her stepfather. However, when asked by the Public Prosecutor's Office, Lisa strongly stated that she wanted to pursue the case. Lisa had no place to stay but with her mother and abusive stepfather to continue her education.

While living back with her mother and stepfather, her stepfather continued to abuse her sexually and breached the protection order. Again, Lisa and her mother reported the new incident to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Due to the inability of the mother to protect her child, the two were placed in different safe houses. Not long afterwards, Lisa's mother left the safe

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accommodation and returned to live with the perpetrator. While accommodated at the safe accommodation, Lisa managed to sit for her national examination with help from the provincial Welfare office and the Department of Education. Through close coordination amongst key partners like the FSVU, SOS, CID, FSC, Public Solicitor's office, Public Prosecutor's office, safe house, Welfare, Education department, the courts and Femili PNG, Lisa's case was successfully committed to the National Court. After her school exams, Femili PNG assisted Lisa by repatriating her to live with her aunt while waiting for the court hearing.

On August 2022, Lisa and her aunt were assisted to attend

her court hearing in Lae. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to all charges and is now in prison awaiting his sentence. The court also charged Lisa's mother for contempt of court and sentenced her to one-year imprisonment. She has served 6 months with the other 6 months suspended and released on the condition of 2-years good behavior bond.

Despite all odds, Lisa is focusing on finishing school. She aims to work in a profession where she can help other people. She was grateful for the help and support she received from the service providers. She said, "they are not our family by blood, but they have done a lot for us." She also added that she is happy that the perpetrator will face the consequences of his actions.

**Not her real name*

Unemployed youths trained to advocate

Femili PNG facilitated FSV sensitization training to youth at 8mile and 9mile areas in Lae city. The three-day training sessions held at Lae Top Town Catholic Diocese conference room from 25-27 October 2022.

With the current increasing number of unemployed youth, Mr William Tirang, the Director for Empower Me Empower You PNG (EMEY PNG) aimed to engage and empower the youth to become advocates and agents of change in their homes and communities.

Mr Tirang requested the training after he participated in one of Femili PNG's awareness-raising sessions conducted along the miles area. As a Director for EMEY PNG, he identified the need for youth to know how to address social issues that are happening every day, affecting men, women and children in their homes and communities. He wanted to involve the youth through attending various training sessions that would help them to develop a better and effective advocacy program. He plans to conduct advocacy with the strong engagement of youth, starting the work in their respective families and later into their communities.

EMEY PNG is a newly established organization in Lae with the aim to advocate on social issues affecting families and communities today so that men, women and children are better informed and educated to encourage positive actions and behavior change. He pledge to incorporate the training

topics on family and sexual violence, child abuse, referral



Femili PNG's Training Coordinator Mawe Farike talking to the youths.

pathways and other issues including sorcery accusation-related violence with his advocacy work in the community.

Nineteen (19) youth participants attended the 3-day Sensitization Training on Family and Sexual Violence (FSV), Child Abuse and Related Laws including the referral pathways. Most of the participants were unemployed youth from ward 7 and 8.

Femili PNG delivered the training with the aim of educating the youth on how to sensitively address and deal with survivors of violence and abuse in their respective homes, communities and the church.

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The participants actively took part in discussions and presentations during the training. They were eager to learn the related laws and referral pathways. One of the male youth participants said, “Violence and abuse is happening in our homes and societies but as a youth, I do not know what to do and what laws are there to help survivors.”

This training placed me in a better position to talk to survivors and help them seek services they need.”

The final session ended with presentations of action plans. These included the types of approaches the participants plan to take after the training. Majority of the youth planned to do awareness, firstly with their families and then to their friends and communities.

Mr Tirang expressed his gratitude to Femili PNG in conducting the training, however he also pledged for continued assistance from Femili PNG in assisting the trained youth in implementing advocacy plan, especially in carrying out awareness in the community. He believes that the youth have acquired the knowledge but they are yet to build their confidence in public speaking. Femili PNG’s outreach team would be helpful in this initial process.



Group photo after participants received training certificates

During the closing remarks, the Lae Operations Director Ms Denga Ilave challenged the youth, “Your action plans are your commitment, and no one will go out there and inform people, it is you who are now trained to help others. You need to set as a good example. People believe not only what they hear but also what they see.”

On behalf of the youth, Mr Tirang thanked Femili PNG’s training facilitators Mawe Farike, Delwyn Dau and Evan Bieso for conducting such important training to the youth. Mr Tirang said the training would enable the youth to participate in the EMEY PNG advocacy programs into the communities.

Women’s leaders undergoes training in Enga province

As part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative program activities for 2022, Femili PNG facilitated two sensitization trainings on “Family and Sexual Violence, Child Abuse, and Related Laws including Trauma Informed Care” to 33 participants from Enga Enda Women’s Association and Enga Sore Mama Association. Femili PNG’s training team coordinated with Mrs Margaret Potane, the President for Enga Enda Women’s Association in organizing the training participants, training venue and catering.

Most of the participants who attended the two-week training were community leaders and women’s leaders from their respective women’s associations in the province. Association heads who were not available for the training selected and endorsed members to instead attend. They saw an opportunity for their members to harness their leadership skills by attending the training. The participants believed that the training provides an avenue to enhance their knowledge on FSV issues. It is their hope that whatever knowledge and information they have acquired will have a greater impact in their lives and to the lives of men, women and children whom they work with in their respective association.

One of these women’s groups—the Sore Mama Association—works with abused and neglected children, widows, people living with HIV and widowers. Ms Sabina Aiyok, the Vice President of Sore Mama Association, said the people who the association assists have gone through so much pain and difficulties in life. They are traumatized and stressed. She thought that the training had imparted her with skills and knowledge on how to communicate with them with sensitivity and help them overcome their trauma. Ms Aiyok also said that the training empowered her to facilitate awareness for Sore Mama Association’s clients. The information if shared would make them aware of the laws and referral pathways that are in place, it would be easier for them to seek services, if needed.

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Some of the Women's Association leaders planned to integrate what they have learned about FSV, related laws, referral pathways, and how to get help with their association activities and share with their association members.

During the training reflection, some participants expressed their appreciation of the training; they said that the training is simplified and made it easier for them to understand. A female participant said, "This training have well vested me with skills and knowledge to address violence that is happening in our everyday life and learning them is very important to me."

Several participants shared that as parents and leaders, the training made them realise that some of their practices were harmful especially on how they discipline and raise their children.

One of the participants said, "I am able to distinguish between discipline and child abuse during today's session, many of us are perpetrators of child abuse in the home without realizing that we are destroying our children."

Few also came to understand that effective communication between husband and wife is vital.

The five male participants also learned a lot during the weeklong training. "I personally thought what I was doing according to my custom was right but today I realise I was wrong, totally wrong." He further stressed that the information on FSV is lacking in a family unit. "If a family is happy then a community is happy and so is the country."

Throughout each training session, the participants were able to interact, relate and share FSV issues in their communities and from their own experiences. They also went through the related laws and correlated it with an identified FSV issue either from the community or from their own experiences.

Training is one of the priorities of Femili PNG to help improve the response of FSV across PNG. The two training sessions educated partners on FSV and trauma informed care. The FSV sessions covered the different types of child abuse and its related laws. This training was a success, seeing participants participating actively by asking questions, sharing their experiences, strengthening relationship and looking forward to working as a team to address FSV issues in Enga province.

The training ended well with great plans for the participants to achieve in 2023. This included setting up Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU), providing a barbeque and awareness-raising sessions for children, facilitating outreach in public places, strengthening the referral pathways and formulating a team to support each other to address FSV.

Participants thanked Femili PNG for the training and showed their appreciation by presenting gifts to the training facilitators.

Femili PNG conducted this training through the support under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, ensuring that men and women are educated to help improve response to FSV in their province as well as the country.



Women's leaders (2nd batch) pose for a group photo with the training facilitators after the participants receive their certificates of participation for the sensitization training. 02.12.2022

Reflections

“I want to set up FSVU at Laiagam police station.”

As a community leader and reserve police officer, Karara Molondimendai realized a great need for a Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) in Laiagam District, Enga province. The thought of how to set up the FSVU was running through his mind while attending Femili PNG's training. While attending the training, he informed his Police Station Commander (PSC) about his plan.

Mr Karara is a front line worker in addressing everyday sexual violence and child abuse cases in Laiagam. He is happy that Femili PNG's training has exposed him to important skills to improve the way he addresses issues in the community as a reserve police officer.

Karara wants to be the best father to his family and the best leader in his community.

His focus now is to coordinate with the PSC and Provincial Police Commander to set up the FSVU. The PSC has already allocated office space at the Laiagam police station.



Karara Molondimendai, Police Reservist

Femili PNG visits partners in Hela and Enga province

Hela and Enga were two of the upper highlands provinces in which Femili PNG facilitated training and carried out awareness-raising sessions in the last three years. Femili PNG's Spotlight Manager and Training Coordinator took the lead in coordinating with contacts on the ground. Through the support of and collaboration with the service providers in specific provinces, Femili PNG has successfully conducted all training funded through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. There were delays caused by COVID-19, election-related violence, and tribal war. The journey was challenging but fulfilling for all Femili PNG staff who took part in implementing the program.

With support from UNDP, Femili PNG facilitated three different training programs: Family and Sexual Violence and its related laws, Trauma Informed Care and Case Management training.

After the trainings Femili PNG also scheduled several monitoring and mentoring (M&M) trips in the month of December to meet with the training participants. The M&M trip visit to Hela and Enga took place from 12-21 December 2022.

The visiting Femili PNG team included the CEO and four staff; the training coordinator, fleet manager, spotlight administrator and the communications manager. They represented Femili PNG and took part in the monitoring and evaluation activities. From 12-15 December, the team visited partners and training participants in Hela and later proceeded to Enga province from 20-21 December 2022.

The purpose of the M&M trip was to see firsthand the outcomes from the training. The team met with service providers such as police and Family Support Centre (FSC) staff, the FSVU, community leaders, church leaders, women's leaders and the village court officers who attended the training.



L-R: FPNG CEO, Ps Daniel, Feet Manager and Training Coordinator after a short meeting at TKKS, Tari.

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Some of the participants reported that the training had empowered them and also challenged them to share the knowledge obtained. Many had started conducting awareness-raising at markets and other public places to educate men, women and children on FSV and its related laws. While some past training participants were involved with awareness, others concentrated on community support such as ways to build training centre, children's shelter, FSVU and safe accommodation in order to improve referral pathways. According to the Acting Unit Manager for FSC in Tari, there has been an improvement in the referral pathways; they had seen an increased number of clients referred to CID police for further investigation.

During the visit, Femili PNG CEO and the four staff paid attention not only to stories of improvement but also to the shared challenges of the service providers during the discussions. Most of the partners from the two provinces shared similar challenges in their day-to-day work with survivors including election-related violence. Ongoing tribal fighting, a lack of service providers on the referral pathways, threats received from perpetrators, and lack of government basic services.

However, partners emphasised that, regardless of the challenges faced, they remain courageous and keep



Liagam police officer and reservists, Femili PNG's Spotlight Administrator, Training Coordinator and Fleet Manager posing for photo after the meeting.

assisting and supporting survivors of SARV and FSV in their provinces. The knowledge acquired from the training has been a foundation to keep going and be an agent of change.

For the Femili PNG team, the trip was very rewarding. It was a privilege to hear and see the progress of each of the participants and see the initiatives that each had planned and implemented.

Femili PNG is grateful for funding support under the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to be able to achieve these outcomes.

Community leader empowers for awareness

Sabina Aiyok is a magistrate in Amalaga village of Wabag district, Enga province. She is also the president of the Amala SME Womens Association and part of the Enga Asori Mama Association. According to Sabina, this association is made up of more than 12,000 women from Wabag district.

As a women's leader, Magistrate Aiyok has seen a lot of women experiencing violence but not speaking out. This challenged her to find a way to educate them.

"I am in a better position to reach out to these women in whatever way I can. As a single mother, I embrace and appreciate Femili PNG's training.

"Women out there need information. They need to know there is law. They need to know about available services to seek help and refer others to seek help also. I will be guilty if I sit and watch them experiencing violence."

Magistrate Aiyok does not have resources but said that she will use the mouth God gave her to advocate to women to seek help. She believes she will be a change maker.

During the monitoring and mentoring trip to visit partners, Femili PNG's training coordinator and communications and PR manager met with Magistrate Aiyok after three weeks to find out what she was doing after the training.

The Magistrate had established contacts with other womens' groups, and district ward councilors to organise awareness-raising activities. She had met with many women across Enga at association meetings and invited them to meet with her in January 2023 to plan for awareness-raising activities in all districts.

Magistrate Aiyok is organizing a special event for children at her village during Christmas period. She will invite them for a dinner and talk to them about laws related to child abuse.

"Family is breaking, children are suffering and I am not sitting down. I will walk and talk," said Magistrate Aiyok.

Reflections



Binale Eya is one of two female participants who attended Femili PNG's training in Mt Hagen. She is the women's representative in the Aiya LLG in Kagua-Erave, SHP.

The training motivated her to build a shelter where men, women and children can gather for training. She hoped that the small shelter would also be used to host awareness-raising sessions. "My heart breaks when I see women and children in pain. I want to help children by providing a shelter." She is organizing for community members and youth to help her clear a space to erect the shelter.

Getting help;

7150 8000

Call the free hotline for help!

The 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim lain 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, 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 through the PNGAus Partnership.

Femili PNG CMC contacts

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 9:00am-4:00pm

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: +675 325 1018/ 7916 9063

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

Femili PNG Goroka Case Management 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

Website: www.femilipng.org

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

LinkedIn: linkedin.com

To support the work of Femili PNG, please do not hesitate to contact the Communications and PR Manager on:

Phone: +675 7080 5378 Email: comms.lae@femilipng.org



PNGAus Partnership