

FemiliPNG

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Newsletter



AUS Parliamentarians visits Femili PNG Goroka Outpost

Australian Parliamentarians made a welcome visit to Femili PNG (FPNG)'s Outpost in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province (EHP), on Wednesday 18 January 2023.

The delegation was made up of seven Australian Parliamentarians, three officers from the Australian High Commission, and five other special guests from various organizations. The Parliamentarians included the Hon Josh Burns MP, the Hon Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Senator Simon Birmingham, the Hon Dr Mike Freelander MP, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Senator Anne Ruston and the Hon Dr Sophie Scamps MP. The five other special guests included the spouse of Mr McCormack, Catherine McCormack, Vice Chair of Global Fund, Lady Roslyn Morauta, Deputy Director of the Global Health Alliance, Abbie Minter, CEO of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Darryl O'Donnell, and, from Save the Children, Sarah Carter.

The purpose of the visit was to raise awareness and understanding of the value and impact of Australian development assistance on health security in Papua

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New Guinea. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has been working with Save the Children to highlight effective bilateral health partnership programs in Papua New Guinea. Accordingly, the Australian High Commission in Papua New Guinea chose to visit Friends of Femili PNG's work with the FPNG Outpost in Goroka. The Pacific Friends of Global Health funded and contracted Save the Children to facilitate this visit.

Femili PNG's Outpost staff and Community Development Adviser, Ms. Siviri Lalave from the office of the Provincial Community Development EHO, hosted the delegation at the Eastern Highlands Provincial Administration. The FPNG Goroka Outpost Admin/Info Officer, Femi Roy, FPNG Executive Committee Member, Konnie Yoifa, and Communications Officer, Renat Muruket, also joined the meeting. FPNG Outpost staff and Ms. Lalave presented background on the work of FPNG and its establishment in the province. Participants shared stories of how FPNG staff work with family and sexual violence (FSV) survivors in the province. The Australian Parliamentarians greatly appreciated the presentation, which helped develop their understanding of how Femili PNG collaborates with partner services to assist survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, child abuse and sorcery accusation-related violence (SARV). The Parliamentarians sought to understand more about the issue of sorcery accusation-related violence and the process for seeking justice in EHP as well as in PNG.



FPNG Executive Member Ms. Konnie Yoifa talking to the delegates during the brief meet with them.

Australian Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, acknowledged Femili PNG Goroka Outpost for making steady progress to end family violence, affirming that "There is no excuse for family and domestic abuse."

Femili PNG deeply appreciates the Australian Government and Friends of Femili PNG in supporting Goroka Outpost through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Bel isi Case Management Centre delivers outcome for survivors

Femili PNG continues to provide effective case management services to survivors of Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) residing in Port Moresby from the subscribing companies and the public.

Femili PNG's case management goal is to help survivors of FSV to get the help they need. Femili PNG caseworkers strives daily to coordinate and collaborate with service providers such as the police, court, safe houses, Family Support Centre (FSC) in order to assist the need of the survivors in regards to arrest, safety and protection, welfare, and their practical needs.

Over the last few months, the Bel isi Case Management Centre (CMC) has helped survivors achieve their goals, including police arrests in four of its cases. The on-going coordination and case discussion with police leads to increase in number of arrest. On case-to-case basis, Femili PNG also assist survivors to access specialized medical care and referral of FSV survivors to the Welfare Office for appropriate welfare interventions. In addition, nine (9) Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) were lodged and five (5) were granted by court, IPO summons were served to the perpetrators with the help of the police.

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Providing safe accommodation is necessary for many Family and Sexual Violence high-risk survivors. Over the last few months, 23 survivors were assisted with emergency safe accommodation.

Here is a story of a client assisted.

Esme* (*Not her real name) is a 12 year old girl who experienced child abuse perpetrated by her maternal aunt and her aunt's husband.

In December 2021, Esme's aunt took her from Lae to Port Moresby with a promise to her parents that she would enroll Esme in school to get a better education. However, it was not long before the good treatment turned into abuse. Esme never went to school as promised. Instead, she went through various forms of abuse such as physical assault, child labor, and emotional and verbal abuse. Since Esme moved to Port Moresby and being away from her parents, she never had a chance to speak to them. Esme recalled, "On a Wednesday morning, my aunt asked me to fetch water for her to shower, I was moving slowly because I just woke up from sleep but my aunt lost her patience and physically assaulted me."

Esme was in pain and in tears from the physical assault. Before leaving her, her aunt threatened to hit her again when she returns home. Esme knew that her aunt would do what she said, and she feared her aunt. With fears and tears in her eyes, Esme ran away from the house to Gordons Market. While Esme was alone in the market area, a kindhearted woman approached and asked her if she was ok. Esme told the woman about the abuse and the woman took Esme to her house and took care of her for few days. The woman's son who happens to be a police officer took Esme to Boroko Police Station and reported the case.

During the case registration at the police station, Esme was too emotional and refused to return home to her aunt and the husband. On the same day, the case of Esme was referred to Femili PNG in collaboration with Boroko FSVU office. Esme was assisted with temporary safe accommodation while her case was on investigation. During one of the case follow-ups with Esme, she verbalized her wish to be reunited with her parents and she also like the perpetrators to be charged accordingly.

The police charged the perpetrators, issuing them with verbal warning: not to repeat such mistreatment or make breakable promises. The police officer heard the perpetrators' reasons in committing the abuses but emphasized that these are not an excuse in committing forms of child abuse towards Esme.

In collaboration with the Police, Esme was reunited with her parents. A female police officer from the Boroko FSVU office personally volunteered to accompany the child and returned her to her parents.

Due to effective coordination within and among service providers including police, welfare and safe house, Esme received successful interventions and reunited with her family in Lae in early January 2023.

Femili PNG acknowledges support from the Bel isi PNG Initiative and the Australian Government and PNG Government through the PNGAUS partnership in helping to continue to provide care, support and change toward survivors of FSV.

**Not her real name*

UPDATES IN PICS



Femili PNG CEO, Ms. Daisy Plana speaking to stakeholders during the Goroka Core Stakeholders Meeting in Goroka.



Pictured here is Australian parliamentarians and other special guests listening attentively to EHP Com Dev Advisor Ms. Siviri Lalave during their visit. 28.01.23



Kokoda Track Foundation and Femili PNG supported mothers in Hoyavahambo village along Kokoda highway to observe and celebrate IWD . 08.03.2023

Inserted photo: Mothers putting up an item presentation during the celebration.



Femili PNG Lae Case Management Centre was privileged to have the former rugby league legend and Fone Haus Brand Ambassador, Jonathan Thurston visiting the office on 18 January 2023.

Pictured L-R: Lae Operations Director, Denga Ilave, Rugby League Legend Jonathan Thurston and Lae Case Work Manager, Evan Bieso.



Mother's Day is one of Femili PNG's staff care activities to the working mothers. The staff at the National Office did pre mothers day cake cutting and gifting to the mothers. 12.05.2023



Femili PNG was invited to speak about FPNG services and referral pathways to the police CID officers from the Highlands and Momase region who attended a training at Bumbu Police Barracks in Lae on 29th May 2023.

Inserted Photo: Group photo of CID officers and Femili PNG Outreach Officer, Paul Kunump, (from left) after the information session.



Femili PNG co-facilitated the training to FairTrade coffee farmers in Goroka, EHP on Gender Based Violence, Child Labor, Referral Pathways and Related Laws to assist farmers to write up policy, report abuses and establish prevention and responding mechanism at their respective communities.

Pictured: Team photo of Goroka training participants with FairTrade staff and Femili PNG staff at Lutheran Guest House in Goroka. 10.05.2023



The Bank of PNG (BPNG) in Lae invited Femili PNG to participate at their annual program for 'Refresher for Pathway to Safety for GESI Steering Committee Members'. FPNG outreach officer represented the organization and presented to them about the work of Femili PNG. 01.06.2023

Pictured: Femili PNG Outreach officer receiving gift from the BPNG staff.



A group photo of Femili PNG staff and partners in Popondetta after the partners meeting. 09.03.2023



Femili PNG was invited by the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Officer of the Bank of PNG for an information session with their staff in Lae. BPNG staff were happy to learn about FPNG's work and services. 20.04.2023

Pictured: A group photo with BPNG staff after information session.



Femili PNG recently did the last visit to partners in Popondetta under the KTF Project Zero. Pictured here is our Lae OD, Denga Ilave speaking to the Oro partners during the final partners' meeting for this financial year. 21.06.2023

Femili PNG reaching out to Simbu Province

Femili PNG's case management outpost in Goroka has extended its collaboration and support to its neighboring province in Simbu to assist survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV).

On Thursday 13 April, a caseworker from Femili PNG's Goroka Outpost (name withheld) with Fleet Manager Anderson Ango, and Communications and Public Relation Manager, Renat Muruket, both from the Femili PNG's National Office in Lae, donated food rations, bedding and other survivors' needs to Kundiawa Family Support Centre (FSC). The FSC Manager, Ms. Jean Kupo, in the presence of Kundiawa Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) team and Kundiawa Sir Joseph Nombri Memorial Hospital Administration team, received the donated items for the survivors.

The team from Femili PNG who observed the event were happy to hear and see the two prime service providers - FSC and FSVU – are working and advocating together to help survivors. Ms. Kupo stated that, in December 2022, a female survivor from a coastal province who got married to a highlander reported of experiencing ongoing sexual, physical, emotional and mental abuse from her husband and her in-laws. The FSVU team referred the survivor to FSC for medical intervention. The client was treated and taken cared of for three months. Ms. Kupo spoke about the FSC's daily challenges in meeting the basic needs of the survivors and their dependents.

"FSC is not a money-making centre. When survivors comes, I make sure that I can feed them, I always keep a packet of rice and tinned fish to cook for them. I meet the costs of these items from my own salary, so I could feed them, but it is not enough," says Ms. Kupo.

On 18 February 2023, Ms. Kupo referred the case of a survivor and her newly born twins to Femili PNG after three months of supporting them, and after she was finding it very difficult continuing to support them.

Through its direct assistance budget, Femili PNG assisted Kundiawa FSC with the request for some basic needs for survivors. Direct assistance is one of Femili PNG's approaches to support service providers in order to achieve better

outcomes for survivors. During the ceremony for the hand-over of donated goods, the Kundiawa FSC and FSVU teams became emotional when speaking of their collaboration to assist survivors in the province despite daily challenges and limitations.



Simbu FSC and FSVU female officers received donations from Femili PNG. 13.04.2023

A survivor at the FSC also spoke, she was also emotional while thanking the FSC and FSVU for the support received, and Femili PNG for the donated goods. As part of the closing speeches, the FSC Manager and Officer-In-Charge (OIC) at FSVU thank Femili PNG by saying, "Your kind gesture of coming and donating these items boosted our spirit, it encourage us to keep working together to help more survivors despite of many challenges faced in doing so."

On behalf of Femili PNG, Ms. Muruket thanked FSC and FSVU for their tireless work in helping survivors in their province. She encouraged them to continue to work in collaboration with Femili PNG's Goroka outpost. In response, both teams expressed their appreciation and intention to continue to work in partnership with Femili PNG.

Femili PNG is thankful for the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Corporation Program (ANCP), which makes it possible to provide such vital care to survivors of FSV.

Oro partners celebrates International Women's Day

Femili PNG's partners in Oro province joined everyone in the country and celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) for the first time. Women, men and children gathered and celebrated this special event on Wednesday 8 March with the theme "Let us fully embrace equality".

The event was celebrated in two different locations where they invited Femili PNG to participate as guest speakers. Femili PNG's Community and Outreach Officer Paul Kunump and Communications Officer Renat Muruket were part of the program and celebrated the event in the first half of the day at Biru Correctional Service (CS) where female and male inmates, CS female officers and mothers, students and staff from education department gathered to observe the day.

While speaking, Paul Kunump said, "Today is the day to embrace women in all works of life. The person we are now depicts strength and power of our mothers and for that; we must embrace and appreciate them."

During the celebration, the CS Commanding Officer, Mr. Ted Biaga invited the guests, visitors and friends to visit the CS female prison. At that time of the visit, there were only four female inmates. They were at the prison entrance and greeted the visitors. It was a special moment for guests, students and visitors to get glimpse of what it is like inside a prison.

"Prison is not for women, and we are supposed to empower each other to do good rather than finding ourselves in prison," says a businessperson Ms. Esmie Sinapa during her speech after the visit to the female prison camp.

Femili PNG team ended the celebration with mothers at Hojavahambo village, Ward 14 along the Kokoda highway. Mothers from within the community and neighboring villages turned up and participated well. They participated in their own groups by presenting items and skip play with message saying that women are not useless, they are unique and equal despite whatever background they come from. As the main guest speaker, Mr. Paul Kunump thanked Joy's Social Training Institute (JSTI) Founder Mrs. Penny Gaiari Saura for organizing this event for the village mothers to gather together for the first time to observe this very important day.

Meanwhile, the partners, Biru CS and JSTI thanked KTF and Femili PNG for sponsoring the event and making it a successful one.

KTF and Femili PNG under the Kokoda Track Foundation Project Zero sponsored these events in partnership with Oro Community Development, Biru Correctional Service and JSTI. Femili PNG acknowledges KTF for the support to organize such events.



Mothers celebrating at Hojavahambo village along the Kokoda Highway.

Client Success stories

Brave *Kimia reunited with family

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

Kimia (*not her real name) was just 12 years old when she experienced sexual abuse from her brother-in-law.

In 2020, Kimia chose to follow her cousin sister to live with her and her family in a coastal province. After being with the family for a while, her cousin sister gave her the task of looking after her toddler while she went to the market and ran other errands. For almost every day, Kimia and the toddler were by themselves. She lived with them for almost a year before the perpetrator started abusing her.

When her cousin sister went out on her daily business, the cousin sister's husband began to sexually abuse Kimia. The sexual abuse occurred several times, and Kimia felt uncomfortable and unsafe to continue living with the family. For Kimia, the sexual abuse experiences was too much for her, she could not keep it to herself. She told her cousin sister about the sexual abuses committed by her husband to her. After Kimia reported the matter, her sister got into several arguments with her husband and also accused Kimia of having an affair with her husband and making up stories about the sexual abuse.

In mid-January 2022, Kimia felt unsafe and unsupported, and ran away to another town, an hour's drive from her cousin sister's place. She roamed around the town, having no family or friends to call on for help. After a while, a kindhearted woman saw her and brought her to her home.

Kimia stayed with the woman for a month. The woman took good care of her and assisted her to report the incident to the Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU). After the police took Kimia's statement, the FSVU officer referred Kimia to other service providers for immediate safe accommodation and medical intervention at the Family Support Centre (FSC).

On February 14, 2022, the FSC at ANGAU Hospital referred Kimia to Femili PNG. Femili PNG assisted Kimia to complete her medical treatment through safe transport from the safe

accommodation to FSC. FSC also assisted Kimia to pursue her case by completing her medical report and submitting to the police for filing.

On 3rd May 2022, the perpetrator was arrested and later on remanded at Buimo prison camp.

Kimia's case was progressing, and while waiting, Kimia's family was located. During the family tracing, Kimia's father said that the rest of the family had no idea of Kimia's whereabouts and what was happening to her. They thought she had been lost. To hear that Kimia was safe was a huge relief for the family.

Having no family and relatives in town apart from the cousin sister, Kimia needed assistance to return home. Femili PNG collaborated with police and arranged the repatriation trip in January 2023. The repatriation team comprised a Femili PNG caseworker and four police officers; together they brought Kimia back to her home province.

The three-day road trip was a success. Kimia's family members organized a welcome ceremony; immediate families, relatives, friends, community leaders and other service providers gathered to receive Kamia.

As the police vehicle approach the village, the environment felt like a mourning place. Kimia's immediate family members and relatives were crying when they saw the police vehicle pulling in. The family thought that they would never see Kimia again; they thought she had died.

Kimia's mother was crying and found it hard to talk. During the exchange of acknowledgments, Kimia's father said that they had heard rumors that she was kidnapped, forced to get married and was living in a remote place in a coastal province. In tears, he expressed his gratitude to the team for bringing his daughter back.

Kimia is now back and living happily

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with her family. Femili PNG assisted Kimia with a business start-up kit to support her financially as she is planning to go back to school.

Femili PNG acknowledges continuous support from the Australian Government through PNGAUS Partnership to help us to continue touch lives of people like Kimia.

****Not her real name***

***Malia escapes from abuse**

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

Malia (*not her real name) was a widow and a single parent to her three children. She struggled every day to provide her children with shelter and food. After Malia's husband died, her in-laws rejected her and the children. It was not an easy journey. As Malia was not from the same place as her late husband, she had no family, relatives or friends to ask for help. Because of the mistreatment by her in-laws, Malia left with her children and rented a small place which she paid for by selling betel nut. Every day, she strived to raise her children with the love and care they deserved.

After two years of living as a single parent, Malia met a man and they agreed to live together and raise her children. Malia and her three children moved in to her new partner's house. She was happy to have met someone who would love her and her children.

However, not long after settling in, things started to change. Malia started to experience violence from the man, and her life with him turned bitter. She also found out that he had several wives and children. He never fulfilled what he promised; he was never supportive, loving or caring to Malia's children. Malia faced physical, emotional, financial and verbal abuse that broke her heart into pieces. She again found herself struggling to support her children, and did everything possible to earn and provide food for them. They became homeless after her partner forced her and the children out of his residence.

In February 2022, Malia decided to report the matter to the police after an argument with the perpetrator. When hearing Malia's story, the police officer referred her and

the children to temporary safe accommodation. In addition, the police officer asked the perpetrator to attend the police station but he never showed up. He failed to pay the compensation as per the order issued by the village court. The safe accommodation provider referred the case of Malia and her children to Femili PNG. Femili PNG supported Malia and her children with food, clothing, and transportation to and from the hospital for treatment while they were at the safe accommodation.

Being from another province and having no nearby family to ask for help, Malia decided to return to her home village in the Gulf Province. In October 2022, Malia and her children flew to Port Moresby and later to Gulf province. A Femili PNG caseworker accompanied Malia as part of the reintegration with her family.

Malia's family were excited to have Malia and children back home. They thanked Femili PNG and all the service providers that were involved in supporting Malia and her children.

Malia is happy that she and children are finally in her home village, reunited with her immediate family who are supporting and accepting them unconditionally.

Femili PNG acknowledges support from the Australian Government through PNG AUS partnership to assist and touch the lives of women like Malia.

****Not her real name***



29 Femili PNG staff trained

Femili PNG staff in the expertise of clinical basis received sensitization training on family and sexual violence and its related laws in March 2023. The first batch of the two-day training took place in Lae on 01st to 02nd March while the second batch happened in Port Moresby on the 15th and 16th March respectively.

Femili PNG's Training Coordinator, Mawe Farike; In-House Lawyer, Delwyn Dau; and Lae Project Case Work Manager, Evan Bieso, facilitated the training to 29 clinical staff who work at FPNG's three case management centres in Lae, Port Moresby and Goroka. The team learnt about FSV, types of child abuse, and its related laws.

The training aims to equip Femili PNG clinical staff with this knowledge in order to respond to survivors professionally while on duty, in their personal lives, homes and in their respective communities.

Staff attended training includes caseworkers, support workers, safe house supervisors and the operations director for Port Moresby project. For some staff, the training was sort of refreshment but still thankful to the organization's management for giving them the avenue to learn and upgrade their knowledge in assisting survivors of FSV.

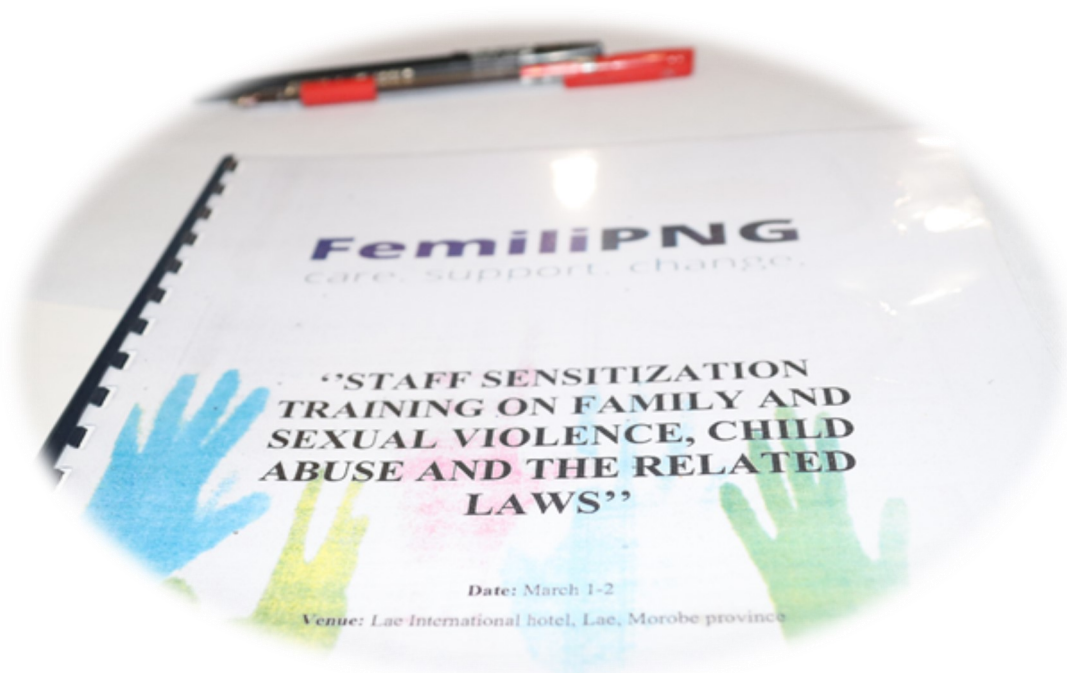
"Many times when the work is over, we tend to leave the work attitude at the work place and go home. Everyday we see various child abuse cases in our own home and

community but we do not address this within our own family or communities we live in being unknowledgeable with the right terminologies and provision to use. This two days of training has filled me with more knowledge on how to advocate for child abuse and family sexual violence survivors in my family and community," said Tanya Agua, Bel Isi Safe-House Supervisor.

One of the support workers said that the related laws she learned would help her to give correct advice to clients as the first point of contact.

A good number of caseworkers shared similar sentiment that the two-day sensitization training had been helpful to them, enabling them to differentiate the different types of child abuses, to understand the processes involved in assisting child clients, and to confidently use their knowledge on the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA) to give advice to their child clients.

During the closing remarks, Femili PNG Human Resource Officer, Dellah Maiak, thanked the staff for their time. She encouraged the staff to utilize the knowledge learned into practice. She extended gratitude to the training facilitators and to Femili PNG for allowing staff to undergo such vital training for professional development.



Burnet Institute receives FSV training

As part of Femili PNG's advocacy and in empowering partners and institutional bodies in combatting family and sexual violence (FSV) in the workplace, families and communities, Femili PNG (FPNG) prioritizes trainings to sensitize interested stakeholders and groups.

In May 2023, Femili PNG received an invitation from Burnet Institute to conduct sensitization training to its staff. The Institution's aim was to equip the staff with the knowledge on family and sexual violence. Having the knowledge would help the staff on how to respond when they themselves experience it or when encounter FSV survivors during the course of their work.

FPNG facilitators successfully delivered the training from 30 May to 1 June 2023 at Burnet Institute conference room in Kokopo, East New Britain Province (ENB). Twenty-two (14 women and 8 male) staff from Burnette Institute and Medical Research in ENB actively participated in the training. Both male and female participants energetically took part in discussions and presentations and made relevant comments on certain topics delivered by Femili PNG facilitators.

The training covered topics on the Stark Reality (Situations in Papua New Guinea), Child Abuse including the United Nations Convention on Rights of Children (UNCRC) and the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015. FPNG facilitators also covered topics on the Abuse of Women and Men, the Convention on Elimination and Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Family Protection Act 2013, and the Cycle of Violence and finally concluded with the referral pathways.

FPNG Training Coordinator, Mawe Farike reported that the training sessions was a sort of revelation for many, especially on the laws and referral pathways dealing with FSV and child abuse. Mawe mentioned that the participants shared their experiences emotionally during discussions and presentations. Accordingly, the experiences and practical examples used by the facilitators personalized the discussions and created a more informed atmosphere for learning.

The training ended on a high note with participants delivering remarkable comments as stated below as their reflections.

"There is a gap in the laws protecting our children. For example, the Lukautim Pikinini Act (LPA) 2015 has no provisions for child endangerment. This unfortunate circumstance should be dealt accordingly with this section of the LPA 2015. For the best interest of our children, we will advocate on the amendment to LPA 2015 to cater for such circumstance."

"These sessions have challenged us to do better as parent, as a husband and a wife, an uncle and an aunt."

"This training has changed my perspective about life. I understand now that abuse and violence requires a holistic approach, the churches, NGO's and the government bodies need to work collaboratively to address this issue."

Femili PNG facilitators were happy hearing these reflections from the participants. They are looking forward for the trained participants to utilised learned knowledge and skills in addressing FSV effectively while at work performing their duties.



Participants listening and interacting during the training session

FPNG leads on supporting employee survivors of FSV

As a community based organisation that works to help survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV), it is paramount that Femili PNG has its own policies in assisting its very employees, when they find themselves in abusive relationships. Femili PNG is proud to be operating the Bel isi case management centre in Port Moresby, working closely with various service providers and the Bel isi subscribing companies assisting employees and the public in general.

In 2016, Femili PNG documented and approved its own workplace policy on FSV. The policy guides the organisation on how to respond and support employees when experiencing violence. Femili PNG CEO Ms. Daisy Plana said that as per the policy, the organisation encourages its employees to speak up, seek support, and get appropriate intervention, especially when their lives are at risk.

“If a staff experiences violence, she or he is encouraged to seek support, register their case at the case management centre and the case goes through a normal process like any survivor who is assisted by Femili PNG,” says Ms. Plana.

Femili PNG endeavours to create a violence free workspace, including a zero tolerance policy on FSV emphasised through its annual policy staff orientation across the three case management centres in Lae, Goroka and Port Moresby. As a strategic way in educating staff on the policy, Femili PNG ensures that newly hired staff are well oriented and inducted during their first week of work.

Femili PNG’s FSV workplace policy has also helped employees. Ms. Plana said that violence occurs in different levels, regardless of education and status in life. Hence, services should be available to anyone experiencing FSV and seeking help. Therefore, she recommends companies developing their own policies to assist their employees. This policy will allow employees to have an avenue to speak and ask for support in confidence, having faith that their story will be dealt with confidentially.

When asked about what learning is there to share with others, Ms. Plana said, “We understand that making decisions to come forward and seek support when experiencing FSV takes time. We must respect the readiness of the person.

Companies who implement an FSV policy will greatly assist employees to make informed decisions.”

In calling for action, Ms. Plana strongly believes that it will be good for organisations who have male employees to come up with a male support group to create an environment where male survivors would want to come forward to discuss their matters and challenges freely. She highly recommends that creation of male support groups will take the lead in the work of FSV in every business houses.

Our Case Work Manager for Bel isi Case Management Centre Chananyah Dawidi, shares her experience of the recent Bel isi PNG Leadership Forum she attended.

“The Leadership Forum that we attended was one of the first official events for me to attend since coming into the role of casework manager. It was a very overwhelming experience for me to begin with.

There were so many discussions around the topic of “what role men play” and how these roles can promote gender empowerment and equity. It was interesting hearing from other organisations connected through Bel Isi on how they have certain programs, trainings and policies in place that created an environment for women to take the lead and prosper in these lead roles. It was more interesting because from Femili PNG we do promote gender equity however our staffing is female dominated already that it was nice hearing from other organisations, how they motivate and empower women to take lead roles.

The main agenda that really captured my interest was the challenge women face when been given the responsibility of managing or directing an organisation. Many women can be put in these lead roles, however how can the organization create the right environment for them to fully perform in these roles. As we all know, women have a much greater responsibility and expectation back in their family homes and it is not the same with men. In turn, this becomes a challenge of all women in lead roles, how are they to balance the expectations of work against the expectations of their household/family. This makes it harder for women to continue to want to stay in lead roles and

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that is a contributing factor to why women often cannot continue in this roles.

I believe that if an organisation can provide more enablers like proper healthcare insurance, transportation, and other childcare needs to not only support women but the family

unit then we will be able to see more women coming out and wanting to be given the opportunity to stay in these lead roles.”

Staff undergoes refresher training

Femili PNG (FPNG) continues to provide avenues for staff to share their challenges and successes in working with survivors of family and sexual violence (FSV), encouraging them to maintain and improve their important work.

Femili PNG staff had an informative two-day reflections workshop at the Lae International Hotel from the 22 to 23 March 2023. FPNG CEO, Daisy Plana, and Training Coordinator, Mawe Farike, delivered the workshop to 17 FPNG staff. The staff came from the three projects; and travelled from Port Moresby and Goroka respectively to join their colleagues in Lae for the session.

During the workshop, staff from each project shared their challenges and successes, and reflected on their work. They discussed how they were able to address challenges in the process of assisting survivors. During discussions, staff looked at possible plans to address these challenges, and explored how best they can align their work practice with the organization's policies.

During the workshop, the caseworkers shared some of their major challenges faced in fulfilling their duties. The lack of funding allocation to government institution such as the absence of budget for survivors who need to attend National court hearing with other witnesses. The COVID-19 pandemic and in dealing with children's cases where no or very limited specialize care and services are available in the country.

Staff appreciated FPNG for giving them the opportunity to meet together, share important experiences, and discuss how they would improve and exercise best professional practice at the workplace and in their own personal lives.

One of our experienced staff said, “I enjoyed this two-day

workshop. Regardless of how many years we have worked in this organization, we still need information for improvement and that is important. This workshop helped me to realize my shortfall and where I can work on to improve.”

Femili PNG CEO, Daisy Plana, thanked all staff attending the workshop for their commitment to ongoing professional and personal development.



Lae Casework Manager, Evan Beiso and a staff doing their presentation during the refresher training at Lae International Hotel. 23.04.2023



FPNG CEO, Ms. Daisy Plana speaking to the participants

23.04.2023

KSH works in partnership with Femili PNG in making peace visible

Femili PNG aims to have a national impact by working in partnerships with local civil society organisations (CSOs) in advocating for improved services and by educating men, women and children that FSV is not acceptable and must be addressed. For three years, Femili PNG has been working in partnership with Kirapim Sauten Hailens Association Inc (KSHA), together several trainings and community awareness were organized and conducted. During the recent monitoring and mentoring trip, Femili PNG's CEO, the Training Coordinator, Fleet Manager and Communications Manager visited KSHA in Imbongu district, Southern Highlands Province (SHP) and met with KSHA Program Manager, Mr Tony Kanoli.



KSHA Program Manager Mr Tony Kanoli

Tony is originally from Imbonggu district, it is along the beautiful mountain range of Mount Ialibu and Giluwe in SHP. During a chat with Tony, he shared some of his life journey with the Femii PNG team. “My life was not easy, I went through many difficulties. I am a Grade 10 school dropout. Because of this, it is hard for me to find a job and I ended up working with a local CSO to sustain my very basic needs. However, I never give up, I face every challenge that life throws at me. I learnt to make use of every opportunity that was given to me; to learn new things, to improve myself and to become who I am today. Now, I am happy that I am able to bring various services not only to my own community but to other districts and the province as a whole.”

According to Tony, his career started when the PNG Community Development Scheme (CDS) was established in 2004 under the AusAID Program. The PNG CDS engaged Tony as field officer for Ialibu Core in the eastern part of SHP, and he was attached with the Core Group for some years. He then continued his journey with CDS, Democratic Governance Program (DGP) Strongim Pipol, Strongim Neisen Program (SPSN), various AusAID programs, and EU Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program (RWSSP) for almost 18 years. Despite being a Grade 10 drop out, these opportunities enabled him to learn about writing/designing proposals, report writing and evaluation, project and financial management, planning and implementation of activities. These skills helped him through; he looks for potential donors and writes funding proposal to serve local people in the district through implementing various community initiatives. He has delivered projects successfully in many different sectors.

After 15 years of working with donor agencies, Tony moved to KSHA and held number of positions from Field Worker/Officer to Project Coordinator and finally as the Program Manager. KSHA was known as Mendi Core Group in Southern Highlands under the PNG CDS. When CDS was phased out in 2007, the name was changed. KSHA's goal is to “support and improve quality of lives of people in the rural communities”. It aims to advocate for affordable and accessible primary health care, children access to basic education, agriculture and natural resources development, capacity and skills training, to participate to income generating activities/SMEs and access to law and justice services.

Tony finds working with a local CSO very challenging. It is difficult to encourage donors to fund proposed community initiatives especially in the rural communities and villages. Sometimes, donor funds are limited or delayed.

Most times, he travels long hours by walking along bush tracks to implement activities in villages, on a volunteer basis without salary and allowances for many years.

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He has also walked to reach distant villages to conduct awareness-raising sessions. When it is too late for him to go back home, he stays with people in the community, sharing whatever food he had with them. “Doing this work is painful, but these challenges and hardship will not stop me. I will continue to give my time and skills to serve my communities,” Tony says.

UN Spotlight funding. The Aiya Local Level Government in Kagua-Erave District had experienced decades of conflict between various tribes with 24 council wards. Tony’s regular visits and awareness-raising sessions, and Femili PNG’s training conducted to community leaders, empowered the LLG leaders to choose peace and solidarity.

Twenty selected community leaders (representatives from each 24 council wards) participated in a 5-day training program facilitated by Femili PNG in Mt Hagen. Fifteen participants were from the Aiya LLG, Kagua-Erave and the other five were KSHA Officers. The 15 participants from Aiya LLG of Kagua-Erave were community peace officers, village court officers, church leaders and women’s representatives.

After the training on 4 November 2022, the participants agreed to put an end to the decades of conflict between them. Cease-fire dialogue occurred and a peace agreement was formally made.

Tony claimed that this achievement was an outcome of hard work, perseverance in conducting activities and the strong partnership between KSHA and Femili PNG. He said, “We truly achieved the purpose of Peace Building Awareness Project, by seeing leaders of four council wards in Aiya LLG of Kagua-Erave choose to initiate a cease-fire agreement for peace. Another 20 council wards will follow in the coming years. We would not have this success without the trust and support from Femili PNG and the donor. We have worked as a team and together seen the outcome of it.”

The cease-fire ceremony is Tony’s greatest success so far. He said, “Despite challenges, my team and I managed to deliver the global aim: *peace* to the people living in most violent communities in the province. We highly appreciate the funders, donors, partners and the staff for working with us. PGK 66,000 is a small budget for this project but we delivered something big and that is good news for us all.”

Femili PNG team were pleased to learn that the training participants have since been rolling out awareness-raising sessions for their families, and are building a shelter for children and widows. The team thanked and congratulated KSHA Program Manager as well as the training participants and encouraged them to continue to do what they are doing for the good of their communities.



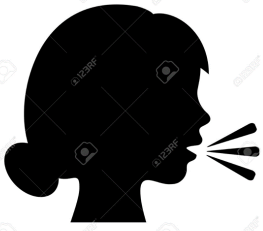
Few training participants FPNG team met with at Kagua-Erave.

Southern Highlands has high rates of gender-based violence and SARV. KSHA has programs and plans to support peace-building activities in the province, but is challenged by a scarcity of resources and KSHA’s funding constraints.

Tony, who courageously made his way up to work as the KSHA Program Manager, was looking forward to deliver more services under the Women Peace Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) program through UN Women. He was also happy to continue to work in partnership with Femili PNG however, in mid June 2023, FPNG learned of his sudden passing.

Femili PNG acknowledge and thank this great man, late Tony Kanoli, for his time and effort to lead KSHA to work in partnership with Femili PNG in the past few years under the UN Spotlight Initiative.

Client Satisfaction



I am satisfied and thankful for Femili PNG and partners on the ground. I never thought I will receive such assistance, care and protection. I am grateful for the work you do."

- Femili PNG client

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 in partnership between ChildFund and CIMC (FSV) 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.

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PNGAUS Partnership