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High demand for contraceptive implants



CMSFHP's Brenda Fisaura administering a contraceptive implant during a patrol in South Fly. NFHSDP is doing awareness and administering in the North Fly District.

The North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) has reported that there has been an increase in the number of women and teenage girls in the North Fly District in Western Province coming forward to get contraceptive implants as a family planning method.

Grace Lipen, reported that there was an increase of women and especially teenage girls wanting to receive contraceptive implants.

"The numbers of teenage girls in schools that want and received Implants are very good while older women also seek advice and get implants," Ms Lipen explained.

The NFHSDP recently completed two MCH patrols in the Ningerum catchment along the Kiunga – Tabubil highway and another along the Elewara and Mege River systems. Four villages in North and West Ningerum, including the Ningerum station, were visited; along the Elewara and Mege rivers, Gasuke aid post, Gasuke primary school, and Diahabi, Kwemenai, and Diahomsonai villages were visited.

NFHSDP started raising awareness on and administering contraceptive implants as a family planning method last year.

"More teenage girls in school are coming forward to get implants inserted and this is a result of proper consultation and awareness we did on this method of family planning." Lipen explained.

Both patrols were conducted in partnership with the Provincial and District governments which saw the NFHSDP team visit government health facilities.

The implant is a small rod the size of a match stick that is inserted in a woman's inner upper arm, right under the skin. It works by releasing

NFHSDP MCH officers Veronica Kekae and

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CMSFHP continues South Fly services

The CMSFHP has continued its health patrols and attachments to the Dudi trust region in the South Fly District, with Health Officer, Brenda Fisaura completing a clinical attachment at Tapila health centre and visiting three villages, including Kirtua, Suame and U'uwo recently.

The aim of the attachment was to assist the Tapila health centre staff to provide health services to the local people as well as helping to keep the health facility clean and tidy and operational.

Ms Fisaura also engaged a local women's group Bugumo and Mutam, to take turns in the upkeep of the health facility buildings in Tapila. She explained that the wet weather restricted travel by boat to all villages that she planned to visit and shortage of medical supplies was a concern too.

"I didn't visit all the villages that I wanted to because it was not safe to travel by dinghy along the Fly River when it rains and we ran out of vaccines after visiting only three villages," she explained.

She said a police officer joined her on patrol to the three villages which was greatly appreciated by the communities.

"Sargent Mark couldn't travel to these villages before as he does not have the logistical support but we assisted him and he was able to do community awareness on criminal activities currently on the rise in the region and the community were happy to see him and had



Brenda Fisaura (left) carrying out MCH clinics in the CMCA region of Dudi in the South Fly District in Western Province.

the chance to report incidents to him," Fisaura explained.

Officer in charge of Tapila health centre, Sister Asiri Dagowali, was pleased with the attachment by the CMSFHP saying it boosted their work morale and assists in a lot of ways.

"It's always great to have CMSFHP officers here to help us; they ease the work load and also carry out much needed patrols by boat to villages hours away." Sr Dagowali said.

She said the availability of vaccines that CMSFHP supplies was also vital and needed in the region.

"Vaccines and regular supply of drugs is a problem we face often but attachments like this bring these services in and we are grateful

as the region will benefit," she explained.

Sr Dagowali said it puts a smile on the people's faces to see such health services being delivered to their door steps. "People are happy to see such health services reaching them, the CMSFHP has partnered well with us and others to drive and deliver basic health services. It's still a challenge but we are making progress," she added.

Also present at the attachment was CMSFHP Village Health Volunteer Coordinator, Nelson Witi who assisted locals to build new shelves in the pharmacy room for new medical supplies to be stored on.

The CMSFHP is funded and managed by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation and implemented by Abt JTA.

Partnership vital in health service delivery

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progestin, thereby preventing pregnancy, and can be removed at any time for normal fertility to return.

During the patrols, Kekae and Lipen were able to conduct child registration, nutritional assessments, immunizations, antenatal clinics, family planning clinics, including contraceptive implants, and distributed mosquito nets among other activities.

They were also able to give on the job training to health workers and village health volunteers on educating women on

contraceptive implants as a form of family planning.

Sister in Charge of Ningerum Health Centre, Amoko Bidawa, said the patrols are important as the mothers need such health services.

"The NFHSDP has always assisted us in delivering basic health service to the people in this area especially the women and children in this MCH patrol. It is important for the mothers because some wait for weeks and even months for such services," she said.

Sr. Amoko added that the NFHSDP partners well with the Ningerum health facility and others to carry out these patrols.

"They ease the workload we have and since NFHSDP started we have worked together successfully many times to carry out MCH patrols, family planning, immunization and other programs," she said.

The NFHSDP is funded by Ok Tedi Mining Limited, managed by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation and implemented by Abt JTA.

Church cleans Kiunga hospital

The Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) churches in Kiunga, Western Province, have done a major clean up at the Kiunga Hospital as part of their community engagement and outreach.

On a bright Sunday morning, Kiunga and Mepu churches came together, with congregation numbers reaching well over one hundred, bringing along bush knives, rakes, wheel barrows, brush cutters, forks and spades with one goal, and that was to clean the Hospital grounds.

The church goers cleaned up by cutting grass, pruned and planted flowers, cleaned and dug blocked drains and also disposed of hospital rubbish.

Kiunga SDA church elder, Mark Gena, who was in charge of the clean-up and also works at the hospital, said the churches decided to do something different for the hospital.

“We always help out the hospital by visiting the sick patients and assist in feeding them and giving them gifts as part of our community contribution.” Gena said.

He said the idea was suggested by Head Elder of the SDA Churches in North Fly District, Paiyo Bale, who said visiting the hospital was great but wanted the church to do more.

“Mr. Bale is a well-respected church elder and also a successful local businessman in the province and when he suggested the idea we all agreed as



Above: SDA church women cleaning the outside premises of the Kiunga Hospital
Below left: Women cut, raked and disposed the bush inside the hospital areas
Below center: Mr. Gena (left with bag) leading the youths to clean the back entrance of the hospital.
Below right: Men clean out a blocked drain of mud and debris

this was the least we could do as a church to the hospital.” Gena explained.

“The hospital area, especially places like the outside and those areas people don’t frequent needed cleaning and we as a church agreed that we would take the initiative to do that and we came in numbers for that.” Gena added.

Kiunga Hospital Administrator, Graeme Hill, was pleased with Mark and the churches’ kind gesture.

“The hospital ground looks different, it looks clean and the SDA churches have done a tremendous job, they had over a

hundred people here to do the clean-up, thanks so much to every one of you.” Hill said.

The church said they would continue to do such activities in the future as part of giving something back to the hospital and Kiunga community.

Kiunga Hospital is supported through the OTML financed North Fly Health Services Development Program and managed by OTDF: a model public private partnership between local health services and Abt JTA as the implementation partner.



VHV training for NF villages

The NFHSDP is holding a Village Health Volunteer (VHV) training for eight villages in the North Fly District, in Western Province. The training is a six week intensive course and began the last week of May.

This is the second time the village of Gusiore in North Fly District is hosting the training. It was chosen for its central location and also that it is a model village for VHVs in the district.

The training will qualify 16 participants from eight villages along the Kiunga-Tabubil highway and up the Fly River, with 2 participants from each village.

Villages which sent a male and a female participant for the VHV training include, Diabi, Kana, Kwhomenai, Timingodok, Giponai, Pampenai, Komokpin and Drimdamasuk.

NFHSDP Rural Health Care Coordinator, Kalabe Yabaimanta, is the team leader for the training.

He will be supported by fellow staff from the NFHSDP and CMSFHP.

The VHV Program covers all village health activities that are carried out by trained village members. This includes Village Birth Attendants, Community-Based Distributors, Village Health Aids, Community-Based Health Carers, and other similar programs.

The VHV training is aimed at how the volunteers can assist in making their communities a healthier and cleaner place to live in.

The first of such trainings in the district was held in 2014, which saw 10 participants from



One of the facilitators, NFHSDP's Veronica Kekae, going through a session with the VHV training participants, in Gusiore village along the Elevala River in North Fly District.

five different villages trained and graduating as VHVs.

Mr Yabaimanta says the six week training is one that produces results through health practices.

"VHV programs are one way to help villagers establish healthy practices by providing village-selected volunteers with additional health knowledge and skills that they will learn over this next 6 weeks to then share with and improve their village," he said.

CMSFHP's Health Promotion Officer, Cyril Yama expressed that, "The VHV programs train, monitor and support groups of village volunteers to encourage healthy living and healthy lifestyles in the context of their communities."

He explained further that it is the small

things like encouraging proper rubbish disposal and building ventilation-improved pit toilets that will go a long way in improving community health.

"Simple things like the cleanliness and healthy practices go a very long way in terms of the VHV's role in their community." Yama said.

The VHV training covers both theory and a practical component. After completing the training volunteers will be able to assist their community health workers in various roles.

The NFHSDP is funded by Ok Tedi Mining Limited, while the CMSFHP is funded by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation. Both Programs are managed by OTDF and implemented by Abt JTA.

Vaccine fridge roll out continues in NF

The NFHSDP has installed solar vaccine fridges in three health facilities as a means to promote vaccine accessibility to remote communities.

Suabi Aid Post and Depepari Health Sub-Centre, which are managed by the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea (ECPNG), and the government-run Health Centre at Olsobip received these vital equipment.

The fridges, including other accessories such as solar panels, were transported from Kiunga by light airplane into the remote areas for installations.

It took the NFHSDP infrastructure team, led by Infrastructure officer Moses Anis, a week to complete all installations and testing at these three locations.

Mr Anis said the installations were successful and appreciated by the respective communities.

"The fridges were installed and working fine, and local health committees and villagers really appreciated the fridges and thanked the program for providing them the fridges which will make it easier for their health workers to do their jobs and also give them access to vital medication," he expressed.

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