



Fly Helt Nius



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Happy 41st Independence Papua New Guinea

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Health Programs transition vital in health service delivery



Dr. John Oakley applying cast to a young boy's broken leg during a health patrol in the Suki Fly Gogo region in South Fly District.

HHealth services providers in Western Province have agreed on a way forward for the coordination of services for the next two years.

At a meeting in Kiunga on 27 July service providers met to endorse a transition plan that outlines the future activities of two health partnership programs currently operating in Western - the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) Middle and South Fly Health Program (CMSFHP) and the North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP).

Both Programs will finish in 2018 and partner organisations have been discussing the best way to maintain and further improve health outcomes once the Programs end.

The 2015 Sector Performance Annual Review released by the National Department of Health in June shows Western Province in the top five best performing provinces in 2015. This is a significant improvement from the

2013 report when Western was ranked last and testament to the health outcomes achieved by these programs.

Director of Rural Health Services in Western, Mrs Alice Honjepari opened the meeting.

She remarked that "This meeting is important because we will table and discuss a way forward for health in the province particularly the North Fly and CMCA regions. We must bear in mind the challenges we face every day trying to deliver basic health services to the population".

A critical focus for all partners is ensuring that the collaborative approach established through the Programs continues. Catholic Health Services Manager, Sr Anna Sanginawa said "Districts need to work together for a successful transition".

The Programs are partnerships with local health service providers: Provincial Health

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As of July 2016 **Abt JTA** has changed its name to **Abt Associates**

Horizon Oil assists Kiunga Hospital

Horizon Oil, an oil and gas company has donated much needed emergency and medical evacuation equipment to Kiunga Hospital.

Horizon Oil Community Affairs Supervisor, Nick Wambare, when presenting the equipment said, "This is a small gesture to contribute to saving lives in the province which is a most important thing."

Mr. Wambare explained that these equipment items were purchased for their exploration project and have hardly been used. They feel donating it to Kiunga hospital was the right thing to do.

"We have not used these equipment from our exploration project and we have also given other medical equipment to Rumginae hospital and Catholic Health Services but we feel these emergency and evacuation equipment should go to Kiunga Hospital." He explained.

He added that he believes the equipment will be fully utilized, "I believe the hospital will utilize this equipment and to be hon-



(L-R) Dr. Plinduo, Dr. Kaptigau, Nick Wambare and a Horizon Oil staff with the emergency equipment

est, it might save Horizon Oil staff as we all seek medical treatment here at the hospital."

Hospital Administrator Graeme Hill thanked Horizon Oil saying this was not the first time the company has assisted the hospital.

"I thank Horizon Oil as these will be a very useful contribution to the hospital. This is not the first time you have assisted," he said.

Mr Hill said the hospital is still to decide

how to utilize the equipment, but thinks that equipping their ambulance to make it ready for use is a good option.

Dr Asael Kaptigau, who looks after the Emergency department at Kiunga hospital, said this was a timely donation.

"A few weeks ago I asked Graeme about these exact items and today we get this equipment. I thank Horizon Oil as these equipment will boost our emergency capaci-

ty," he explained.

The emergency and evacuation equipment is worth over K21, 500 and includes items such as an aspirator, stretcher, traction splint, mobile examination light, resuscitation Kit, stabilizer and a suction pump.

Kiunga Hospital is supported through the NFHSDP, a public private partnership between local health services, OTML, OTDF and Abt Associates as the implementation partner.

Partners agreed to work collaboratively

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Office, District Health staff in North Fly, Middle Fly and South Fly Districts, Catholic Health Services and Evangelical Church of PNG Health Services.

Both Programs are managed by Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), funded by the CMCA portion of the Western Province People's Dividend Trust Fund and Ok Tedi Mining Ltd with Abt Associates as the implementing partner.

A midline evaluation of CMSFHP in 2015 showed that the Program has been positively received by communities and health workers thus far.

The attribution of improvements is both from the outreach services provided by the Program team as well as increased

service delivery at health facilities.

OTDF's Manager of Program Services, Mr Eric Kuman said "We have to find a sustainable way of moving the health delivery forward. We need to collaborate to find that way forward".

A key focus for the remainder of the Programs is to move away from direct inputs and towards working with partners to identify impediments to achieving sustainable health services.

The transition plan outlines the outcomes required to maintain achievements beyond 2018. Three key outcomes were agreed in the meeting.

1. Health service partners agreed to continue to work collaboratively to plan and

coordinate health services to communities in Western Province.

2. Partners also agreed that efforts must be made to ensure rural health facilities are equipped to deliver essential primary health care services.

This includes essential obstetric and newborn care, family planning, child health, immunisation and the management of pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases and other common childhood diseases; and, that TB is effectively managed in the community.

3. The third key outcome was that resources are maintained for individuals and communities to play an active role in improving their own health and welfare through adopting the Healthy Village concept.



Intensive implant training

The Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) Middle and South Fly Health Program (CMSFHP) has continued to roll out training and services on contraceptive implants in Western Province in partnership with Marie Stopes PNG.

CMSFHP's Midwife, Rita John, who is leading the program's delivery of family planning methods in CMCA areas and North Fly District, says their efforts are paying off.

CMSFHP and Marie Stopes PNG held a two week intensive training course on contraceptive implants and other family planning methods at the Rumginae Community Health Worker School in Rumginae recently.

"We have seen change in the way people approach and deal with family planning compared to some three years ago, and that is a sign that our partnership with various partners including Marie Stopes PNG is successful." Ms John explained.

She added that more and more couples, young mothers and teenage girls are accepting family planning and are coming forward, especially for contraceptive implants.

Marie Stopes PNG's Maria Ngumbo expressed her gratitude to CMSFHP and its implementer Abt Associates (formerly Abt JTA) for the program's push to have contraceptive trainings undertaken.

"This is supposed to be a provincial approach but I thank Abt Associates and CMSFHP for taking the lead to making sure this very important training is done. So far we have done three trainings in Western Province and a total of 34 nurses have been trained in this area." Ngumbo explained.

She said over 300 nurses have been trained around the country on the contraceptive implants and other family planning methods and Marie Stopes PNG will continue to train health workers.

"We have a duty to up skill our health workers with the latest knowledge and practices and we want them to share



Participants of the Contraceptive Implant training with CMSFHP and Marie Stopes PNG facilitators at the Rumginae Community Health Worker School in North Fly.

what they have learnt from us with their colleagues." she added.

CMSFHP Program Manager, Kelly Kewa thanked Marie Stopes PNG and participants at the training for taking part.

"I want to thank Marie Stopes and all who have attended this training, as contraceptive implants is an important breakthrough for family planning and mothers and I think it will save a lot of lives too." Mr Kewa said.

He explained that a major problem any family planning unit faces throughout a year is the availability of family planning contraceptive pills and injections like Depo Provera for example, and also the long distances women have to travel to receive family planning support in rural and remote areas in PNG.

"It is a major issue we face every year and the introduction of the contraceptive implants simply removes this issue for three to five years which is the life span of a single implant once it is administered. It is very good for mothers in remote areas as it will last for a long time." Mr Kewa said.

"This new method is a major boost in family planning as it will contribute directly or indirectly towards reducing the worsening statistics around maternal mortality, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, and improved health status of women. It is great to note that the demand for it is high." Mr Kewa explained.

Tabubil Hospital's Betty Ukin represented the participants and thanked CMSFHP and Marie Stopes PNG for the training, which she said will make a difference in family planning.

"I think we have acquired skills and knowledge that only a few have acquired and we are privileged to do so as this training was very intensive and it will make a big difference in what we do." Ms Ukin said.

The training saw 13 participants from North Fly District's health facilities and is CMSFHP's final training on contraceptive implants in 2016. There are plans to conduct more training sessions in 2017.



16 graduate as VHVs in North Fly

Sixteen more Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) from villages in the upper Fly River catchment, in North Fly District, in Western Province, have recently graduated thanks to the NFHSDP.

The six week training course ended with a week of practical and observation attachments to Kiunga Hospital before the VHV participants obtained their certificates.

NFHSDP's Rural Health Care Coordinator, Kalabe Yabaimanta said the training program was vital as VHVs are the first point of contact in rural areas for any health related issues.

"These young VHVs will be the first point of contact where there is no health facility nearby or health worker available to assist patients." said Mr Yabaimanta.

He expressed that the community based program is seen as a self-sustaining program derived from the National Department of Health's (NDoH) Healthy Island Concept and, if trained people volunteer to carry out health services, it will go a long way.

"You are trained to improve lives of your people, it is a commitment and always bear in mind that you are volunteering your services to help your community." he explained to the graduands.

The NFHSDP and CMSFHP Primary Health Care Manager, Eleanor Sullivan, said the six week training was an intensive one and congratulated the eight female and eight



The sixteen VHV graduates show off their certificates, with Ms. Sullivan (2nd from left the back row) and Mr. Yabaimanta (4th from left back row)

male graduands.

"Congratulations to you all for completing this intensive training which has equipped you with the knowledge to improve your village, and I know you will make every effort to support those in need." She said.

She explained to them that they will now be looked upon as role models in their villages and must take the lead.

"You will be looked up to by your fellow community members. There are tasks we have set for you to do, like meeting with your community leaders so they understand your roles in the community and how you can assist them." she explained.

VHV Freda Max said the training was challenging but it covered very important roles that VHVs can do in their villages to assist the community.

"The training covered topics like Village Birth Attendants and other key components, including topics like cleanliness and healthy practices that VHVs can encourage in their community." Ms Max explained.

North Fly District Health Manager, John Lari, conveyed the same sentiments saying, "You are now successfully trained to assist in delivering basic health services."

"Volunteers are key in the missing link between rural health facilities and the bigger facilities like clinics and hospitals; VHVs are empowered to drive rural health." Mr Lari added.

He also clarified that the Aid Post in Gusiore has been duly registered with the NDoH and they will be on the medical supply listing after the community sought advice on registration last year.

"Gusiore Aid Post is registered under the NDoH. We are yet to receive the registration number from NDoH but that does not mean Gusiore will miss out on medical supplies - it will still be included." Mr Lari clarified.



NFHSDPs health officer Timothy Martin (center black) with participants during a practical session at the VHV training, in Gusiore in the North Fly District.

