



# North Fly Health Services Development Program

## Newsletter

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The North Fly Health Services Development Programme (NFHSDP) is an Ok Tedi Mining Limited initiative to deliver better health services to the people of North Fly District. The programme commenced in 2009.

The program promotes partnership in delivering health services, with the current health service providers:

- ◆ Catholic Health Services (CHS)
- ◆ North Fly District Health Services (Government)
- ◆ ECPNG and
- ◆ Others.

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## NFHSDP partners District Health for better remote health service coverage



*Villagers with their newly revived long lasting insecticide bed nets*

**A** NFHSDP funded outreach health patrol to the Upper Fly River from 11-30 August was another important support mechanism for North Fly District Health Services as they continue to lack funding to provide sufficient outreach health services across North Fly.

The patrol team, consisting of District Health staff, NFHSDP, staff and one Kiunga Hospital laboratory officer provided a range of health promotion and primary health care services including mother and child health clinics, tests for HIV and sexually transmitted infections, TB and malaria.

The clinic sites were based at ten East Awin villages including: Hupen, Semipen, Temipen, Timinsiriap, Drimstar, Timinkodop, Giponai, Ramp site, Giviratamin and Drimdamasuk. Schools health programs were also delivered at Drimdamasuk and Semipen primary schools.

Two final year medical students from Griffith University, on a six week attachment to Kiunga Hospital, also joined the patrol.

746 community members were reached through a range of health awareness sessions, aimed at providing basic

information that will enable villagers to take responsibility for their own and their families' health and also to reiterate the importance of visiting a health worker at the nearest aid post, community health centre or hospital, either for regular health checks, especially for pregnant women and for concerns about any aspect of their own or a family member's health status.

Bed nets were also distributed as were a range of health promoting pamphlets as these help villagers to read the information provided by the health team during the -

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**OTML has committed K32 million over the next 5 years for NFHSDP**

# Technical support for Swetikin Healthy Village Project

A four-day health patrol was conducted at Swetikin by North Fly Health Services Development Programme (NFHSDP) and Mercy Works Kiunga (MWK).

Despite the challenge of adverse weather conditions in North Fly, the NFHSDP team and a member of the Mercy Works Team travelled to Swetikin on 18 August to continue their technical support for the Swetikin Healthy Village program.

Mercy Works in collaboration with Catholic Health Services, piloted and continue to coordinate this program with the Swetikin community.

The patrol was a follow up activity to the June patrol with the key objectives of providing technical assistance and raw materials for the construction of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilet slabs. Materials purchased by MWK were brought to Swetikin from Kiunga and included cement, mesh wire, plywood and timber. These materials were used with sand collected by villagers to teach them to make toilet slabs, an essential step in VIP toilet construction.

Kiunga Rural LLG Ward 10 Councillor, the Honourable Frank Memos travelled from Kiunga with the team and officially welcomed the NFHSDP team on behalf of the people of Biangabip, Swetikin and Marofen. He also extended thanks to Mercy Works/Catholic Health Services, NFHSDP and OTML for their continued presence in North Fly and their ongoing support for improving primary health



Swetikin villagers work with the NFHSDP team to construct VIP toilet

care access and outcomes for the people of Ward 10.

In keeping with the theme of improving sanitation and access to clean water, the NFHSDP team used the opportunity to give a health talk on diarrhoeal diseases caused by poor sanitation to 35 people including children, the next generation of health advocates and community leaders. Another important aspect of having a healthy village is subsistence farming of fresh fruit and vegetables and the team accompanied the Councillor to Marofen village to assess food gardens destroyed by the increasing presence of wild pigs in the area. The Honourable Councillor will provide a report about this issue at the next Kiunga Rural LLG meeting.

The NFHSDP will continue to support the Swetikin Healthy Village Project as invited by the community and Sr Maureen, Coordinator of MWK and Sr Cathy Yaki from Catholic Health.

After the patrol Sr Maureen said; *“The recent collaboration between the Swetikin community, NFHSDP and Mercy Works is a clear example of how our actions give meaning to our ongoing commitment to improving the lives of families and communities especially woman and children. Otto (MWK) came back very happy with the experience, he was particularly grateful to Kalabe and Sam from NFHSDP. He felt they were like mentors for him”.*

(Continued from page 1)

health awareness sessions and also allows them to share printed health information with other villagers who could not attend the awareness programs.

Another important aspect of these patrols is to assist resident health workers to assess sick patients, 634 of whom were assessed during this trip (365 men, 213 women and 56 children).

The team also regularly

provides on the job refresher training for health workers posted in these remote health facilities and during this trip, updates on treating malaria, providing family planning options and assessing pregnant mothers was provided to the health worker at Drimdamasuk.

As OTML has committed K32 million over the next five years for NFHSDP, the team looks forward to assisting government and other health service partners to continue to improve health services across North Fly District.

## Immunisation saves lives

- ◆ Immunisations prevent diseases such as measles, tetanus and polio.
- ◆ These diseases can kill children and adults.
- ◆ Immunisations are safe and effective and there is no cost.
- ◆ Every child should be immunised from birth.
- ◆ Take your child to be immunised at your nearest health facility.

**OTML has committed K32 million over the next 5 years for NFHSDP**

## K20,000 for student health worker accommodation in Kiunga

Rumginae Community Health Worker School has received funding to build student accommodation in Kiunga. School Principal Mr Amos Kupaloma requested assistance to build a 12 bedroom short term accommodation facility, saying it will be used by student health workers while they are on placements at health facilities in and around Kiunga. The school is the only Community Health

Worker School in Western Province producing about 30 graduates every year.

North Fly Health Services Development Program and the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) Middle and South Fly Health Program were pleased to assist with the School’s request, with the respective programs providing K10,000. The School signed a

Memorandum of Agreement with the programs, outlining that the funding will be used to purchase building materials while the School will source labour for the construction. The accommodation building will be built on land belonging to the Evangelical Church of PNG and is expected to be completed this year.

Ok Tedi Mining Limited has committed K32 million over the next five years (2014 to 2018) to the North Fly Health Services Development Program and Ok Tedi Development Foundation has committed K43 million to the CMCA Middle and South Fly Program over five years (mid-2013 to mid-2018). Both programs work in partnership with the existing National,

## Partnership to improve Essential Obstetric Care

A recent one week attachment to Matkomnai Health Centre by one of NFHSDP’s midwives helped staff to identify gaps in essential obstetric care service delivery so that an evidence based plan to improve specialist nursing care for pregnant women and their babies could be documented and actioned in the coming months.

Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) sets out the standards and guidelines that differentiate the two levels of obstetric care in terms of the range of drugs, equipment and conditions that must be available to provide each. Components of all EOC programs include birth preparedness planning, facility

risk for HIV. Other elements of good maternal care include post maternal nutritional support, counselling on infant feeding, psychosocial support and postnatal care before discharge for the mother and newborn for at least 24 hours after birth.

The NFHSDP attachment included auditing the availability of these services and the availability of the enabling factors required for providing these elements of EOC including auditing the number and range of specific drugs, equipment and conditions present.

By identifying the gaps in current service delivery, the NFHSDP worked with nursing officers at Matkomnai to devise a plan of action to improve obstetrics service delivery. The audit component also assessed the skill levels of staff to identify and manage conditions that make up the main causes of maternal mortality and morbidity likely to require emergency care. Subsequently during the attachment, the NFHSDP Officer provided refresher training on recognizing early signs of potential complications of pregnancy and labour and provide the appropriate

*Essential Obstetric Care (EOC) are:*  
*“The elements of obstetric care needed for the management of normal and complicated pregnancy, delivery and the post partum period”*  
*World Health Organization (2000)*

specialist nursing care in response, or alternatively identify the need to seek more advanced specialist medical or nursing services in another facility. Other training support provided to Matkomnai Health Centre staff during the one week attachment included; refreshers in the integrated management of childhood illnesses, reiteration of the importance of providing family planning counselling and family planning options and methods to women of child bearing ages and to men, practical sessions on basic neonatal resuscitation and rapid diagnostic testing for malaria. NFHSDP will continue to work with Matkomnai nursing officers and other health facility staff in North Fly to improve all aspects of providing good quality and safe obstetrics services in North Fly.



**Integrated outreach patrol with partners to Upper Fly villages**

EOC can be provided as a basic or comprehensive service depending on the level of the health facility and in PNG the National Department of Health sets the type and level of services that should be provided at each health facility level.

delivery by skilled birth attendants, universal precautions to prevent infections, good history-taking, monitoring both the baby and mothers’ vital signs, physical examination and screening for high risk pregnancy and high

## Health Services

- ◆ As soon as you become sick, go to your nearest health worker. ***Don't wait!***
- ◆ Health services are provided at aid posts, health centres, hospitals and sometimes in your community.
- ◆ For information about health issues and all health services in North Fly see your nearest health worker.



**Griffith University Medical student, Felicity McIvor helping a Ningerum nurse during an Outreach in Ningerum.**

## Support to provide outreach health services

The North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) continued its support for their North Fly health service partners in July to further expand the delivery of a range of primary healthcare services to outer rural and

family planning clinics, HIV and TB screening and awareness.

In addition, a reproductive health program was provided to 33 students Pampenai Primary School children including, 3 teachers and 5

knowledgeable than boys. Other services providing during these patrols included on the job refresher training for health workers and in July training included a refresher in managing TB patients for seven staff at Dome Health Centre and

*"Girls and boys have a right to grow and develop in good health. For this, we need to provide them with sexual and reproductive health education that is accurate and appropriate to their stage of development. This provides the bedrock for attitude formation and decision making".*

*World Health Organization*

remote North Fly locations. This was achieved through a number of outreach health services to eighteen Ningerum Health Centre catchment villages in East Awin and North Ningerum.

The NFHSDP team also accompanied Rumginae Rural Hospital (ECPNG) and Government health workers to Alice River villages including Komopkin, Dome, Yogi and Atkamba, Bogubin, Yeran and Karandimok.

Services reached over 1,500 people and included maternal and child health awareness programs, antenatal and

mothers at Pampenai Primary School.

Although primary school age group may seem like a young age for reproductive health programs, these are among the most important cohorts of the population to target, as education is not only a fundamental right for every child but it is also an important determinant of good health and wellbeing.

The inclusion of reproductive health information in school curriculums is vital as many studies have shown that many adolescents lack basic knowledge and understanding about sexual and reproductive health and girls are even less

Komokpin and Atkamba aid posts and a refresher on the management of malaria at Ningerum Health Centre.

## Catholic Health Services receives equipment for North Fly

Catholic Health Services has received equipment to advance the provision of high quality health care in North Fly.

Through the North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP), medical and transport equipment was provided to Catholic Health Services for placement at a number of health facilities across the district.

A 23 foot dinghy will go to Kungim Health Centre, a 40hp outboard motor to Tarakbits Health Centre and a 60hp motor will be used by staff at the headquarters of Catholic Health Services in Kiunga. The boat and motors will assist health workers to deliver outreach services to the

communities in their catchment areas.

Additionally, three oxygen concentrators were provided for Kiunga Urban Clinic, Matkonnai Health Sub Centre and Iowarra Health Centre. Oxygen concentrators convert air to oxygen which can be used for patients with pneumonia, asthma or other breathing difficulties and chronic pulmonary conditions.

For rural and remote health facilities, oxygen concentrators are a safe, convenient and practical alternative to oxygen cylinders; cylinders are difficult to transport and require refilling with medical oxygen from an authorised

supplier. The concentrators require power, and Catholic Health Services selected these three facilities as they have a regular power supply or have a generator.

A handover ceremony was held at Montfort Catholic Mission in Kiunga, with Ok Tedi Mining Ltd's (OTML) General Manager Employee and External Relations, Mr Musje Werror on hand to present the equipment to Sr Anna Sanginawa. Sr Anna, Health Manager of Catholic Health Services, on receiving the equipment said all the items will greatly enhance the services that can be delivered by Catholic Health Services.

**OTML has committed K32 million over the next 5 years for NFHSDP**

# Enhancing Health Information Management in North Fly

Health administrators and health information officers play a critical role in the delivery of health care and one of North Fly Health Service Development Program’s (NFHSDP) key long term objectives is to strengthen the management of health information across all partner agencies in North Fly District.

Since 2010 the NFHSDP has provided basic health information management training programs for partner staff and in August this training was taken to the next level. The purpose of the one week

NFHSDP funded and facilitated ‘Introduction to biostatistics and epidemiology’ training program was to further enhance the health information management skills of health information officers (HIO) from partner health agencies in North Fly.

Sr Anna Sanginawa, Catholic Health Services Manager, also participated in the training program and despite a hectic senior health administrator’s schedule, her presence provided added assurance to her staff and other officers who attended, that senior health service managers in North Fly are committed to strengthening this area of practice.

*presentation. It also showed us how to process data, what type of charts to use, how to summarize datasets and much more, which we were very happy about”.*

The NFHSDP will continue to support partner HIOs through regular visits to their workplaces to monitor their progress against lessons taught and to assist them to analyze and graphically and narratively present simple yet useful reports for their health managers, with the view to initially providing a small set of regular reports that can contribute to short and long term health planning.



**Participants of a HIO’s training comprising of ECPNG, Provincial and District staff, Catholic Health services and NFHSDP.**

The NFHSDP and partners’ focus is to develop and strengthen capacity through training to use, work with, and develop effective health information systems. We also aim to keep the technology simple, relevant and local and to build on what already exists. Every effort is also made to involve the users in the planning and design of these health information systems.

*Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have great potential to improve health in both developed and developing countries by enhancing access to health information and making health services more efficient; they can also contribute to improving the quality of services and reducing their cost.*  
World Health Organization (2012)

Sr Cathy Yaki, senior nursing officer and HIO for Catholic Health Services said, “The workshop will help us to improve our reporting using certain graphs and to better describe certain groups of things/people by using effective data

## Out and About



## Independence celebrated with Health Awareness



The North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) celebrated Papua New Guinea's 39th Independence by carrying out Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) and other health awareness in Kiunga, Western Province.

Residents in Kiunga and surrounding areas were given free health information and awareness on Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS and Family Planning.

The VCCT saw encouraging numbers from the young, old, working class, villagers and the public and private sector employees coming forward to check their HIV status.

More than 60 VCCT were conducted in two days. Most were young men from Western and other provinces. Less than 20 were women. Close to 20 people were screened for TB.

Many people expressed that the awareness was encouraging and wanted to know where else to access such information and testing in rural and even urban areas of Western Province.

The NFHSDP team pointed out locations and health centres that provided the services and urged them to visit Government run hospitals and clinics in Kiunga, Daru or Tabubil.

People asked questions about HIV, Malaria and TB which the NFHSDP awareness team with the assistance of the Kiunga Hospital and Catholic Health took time to answer.

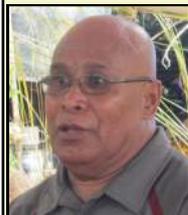
The NFHSDP awareness team also showed HIV/AIDS related films during the evenings as part of the Independence evening program.

The NFHSDP team also informed the public that discrimination against people who have HIV/AIDS or TB is against the law and jail time may be the result if taken to court.

The response from the public on the NFHSDP awareness was great.

NFHSDP's HEO for Area Wide Services, Sandra Yamuwe answering questions

### FROM THE NFHSDP MANAGER'S DESK



Samson Kove, NFHSDP Programme Manager

The NFHSDP is an initiative of the OTML Management. The Programme addressed: the main causes of illness and death in North Fly District, the priority areas needed for

improvement to strengthen health service delivery (effective health intervention, essential infrastructure and logistics, human worker capacity, community participation and population coverage); and suggestions for improved collaboration between all health service providers and managing agencies in North Fly District.

A key principle of the programme is to support the existing health system and not to develop a new or parallel system. Support is provided to existing health service providers to enable them to deliver improved health services in line with PNG national standards.

### Visit the new NFHSDP office

In February 2014, the NFHSDP team moved into its new office in Kiunga.

Prior to this the management and administration of the program were based in Tabubil, while the Area Wide Services team had an office at Kiunga Hospital.

Everyone is now located at the new office, which is located close to the Post Office in Kiunga.

The CMCA Middle & South Fly Health Program office is also just next door.

#### Please drop in and visit!

The Tabubil Urban Clinic team remain in Tabubil where outpatient services are provided from;

**Monday – Friday (8am-4pm).**

**Phone: 71712391 (Digicel)**



The North Fly Health Services Development Program Newsletter is a quarterly publication by the Media & Communications and the Data divisions of the North Fly Health Services Development Program.

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