

NFHSDP Sponsored students graduate from Rumginae CHW School

Rumginae community along with family and friends witnessed the 34th Graduation of the Rumginae CHW training School in North Fly District that took place on Wednesday 27th of March, 2013. A total of fifteen (15) graduands sat patiently throughout the speeches to receive their academic awards and certificates.

Two students out of the graduating class: Samuel Anup and Pepson Uriti were sponsored by the NFHSDP in their 2 years of study at the CHW training school. Both graduated with high academic performance and this was evident when Pepson Uriti was awarded 3rd prize in both Clinical and Theory studies. Samuel who hails from Neogamban village in Kiunga Rural LLG and Pepson from Dahamo village in the Nomad LLG were both very grateful for NFHSDP's sponsorship. "I almost got deregistered for school fees but NFHSDP's sponsorship helped me to continue" Pepson said.



NFHSDP sponsored students. From left to right: NFHSDP officer Mr. Kalabe Yabaimanta, Samuel Anup, Pepson Uriti and Rumginae CHW School Principal Mr. Amos Kupaloma.

While waiting to be registered as certified Community Health Workers with the PNG Medical Board, both Pepson and Samuel are searching for job opportunities with the Catholic and ECPNG Health Services.

Invited guests who also attended the graduation included North Fly District Administrator, Kiunga Hospital Administrator, ECPNG Health Secretary, Kiunga Secondary School Principal and representatives from Catholic Health Services, Western Province Government and NFHSDP.

NFHSDP is currently sponsoring 5 CHW students and will continue to provide scholarships to North Fly students who apply to study at Rumginae CHW School.

Community Health Worker School goes online

Rumginae Community Health Worker (CHW) School in the North Fly District of Western Province has been connected to the World Wide Web. The internet connection was made possible by a capacity building project funded under Ok Tedi Mining Limited's (OTML), NFSHDP.

Since its inception the NFSHDP has delivered major improvements to maternal and child health indicators in the North Fly District, along with training and infrastructure development in the health sector.

Its latest milestone at Rumginae CHW School involved connecting the Principal and staff offices to the existing internet connection at the hospital. "I can now look for information and news relevant to the training of Community Health Workers and others". School Principal Amos Kupaloma said.

A separate cable connected to the Rumginae Hospital Health Information Officer's office, will now enable efficient transmission of monthly health reports to the District and Provincial Health offices in Kiunga and Daru.

George Tuges, former Data Manager with NFHSDP worked with staff and students from the school to set up the connections, ensuring that technical know-how about internet cabling was passed on to the staff and students involved.

The North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) is an OTML initiative to deliver better health services to the people of North Fly District. It is a 5 year program which began 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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IN MEMORY

**Late Mr. THOMPSON
BERUN**

(12/09/1965 - 28/02/2013)

The late Thompson Berun was employed by Abt JTA as a Health Extension Officer for the North Fly Health Services

Development Program since March 2011.

Thompson worked tirelessly on the HIV/STI and TB program in North Fly District putting all his effort into the TB programs but also assisted with other activities for the Western Province

Thompson hailed from Karkar Island in the Madang Province. He was hard working and passionate about his work. Thompson was attached to the NFHSDP Area Wide Program and based in Kiunga.

Thompson will be greatly missed by his family, friends and work colleagues both in Tabubil and Kiunga.

Katamono

Rest In Peace



2013 MCH Patrol kicks off in North Fly District

Twelve communities in Ningerum and West Ningerum received maternal and child health services in March. The 2 week patrol, from 4-15 March, was conducted by health workers from North Fly District Health Services and North Fly health Services Development Program.

In total, 653 immunisations were administered to babies and children. Of the total 269 children seen, 74% of them weighed between 80-100% on the growth chart which indicated that malnutrition is not a problem in these villages. Other clinics conducted included antenatal care, family planning and general outpatients. During this patrol, three schools were visited by the team - Ningerum, Tapko and Kwiroknai Primary Schools - and 228 tetanus toxoid vaccinations were given to children in grades 3 and 8.

Sr Amoko, Sister in Charge at Ningerum Health Centre said *“if it was not for NFHSDP I should not have covered all these villages under my catchment to conduct immunization activities and even the school medical for the three Primary Schools. The government Family Health Services has forgotten about Ningerum. So thank you for assisting us, all our activities are completed for this first quarter 2013”*.

All NFHSDP patrols include health education and information, and this time the key topics covered with women in the communities were the importance of breastfeeding and delivering each baby at a health facility. At the schools, students were given information on tetanus, commonly called lockjaw, which is a serious bacterial disease that affects muscles and nerves. It can be prevented by the tetanus toxoid vaccine.

A village leader from Awini Tomaro village told the team *“mipela harim toksave long Radio Fly na kisim ol bebi kam long bebi sut. Longpela taim igo na ol nes long Ningerum ol ino wokim bebi clinic yet. Las yia July em yupela tasol bin kam wokim bebi klink. Mi laik tok tenkyu long yupela. (We heard on Radio Fly regarding this immunization clinic so the babies were brought to the clinic. It was long since the nurses at Ningerum did not conduct any immunization clinics. The last time was in July when NFHSDP conducted the clinics. Thank you for coming”*

The same villages will be visited again in approximately 3 months time.



Kiroknai Primary School students listening to health awareness from Health Workers during the patrol

HIV counsellors meet in Kiunga

The first Western Province HIV Counselling & Testing stakeholder workshop was held from 19 to 21 February 2013 in Kiunga. It was organised and funded by Western Province AIDS Committee (WPAC), in order for stakeholders to meet and share information on HIV services and programs in the province, to find out more about the role of the WPAC, and to identify gaps or change programs.



Participants at the first Western Province HIV Counselling & Testing Stakeholder Workshop

One of the highlights of the workshop was the nomination of the WP HIV Counselling & Testing Integrated Working Committee members. Terms of reference that support the National AIDS Council Strategic Plan 2011-2015 were compiled during the workshop.

Nominated committee members represent STI clinics at Daru, Balimo, Kiunga and Tabubil; Kiunga Hospital; ECPNG Health Services; Catholic Health Services; WPAC and North Fly Health Services Development Program.

The committee’s role is to strengthen and coordinate counselling and testing services in rural health facilities to provide quality user-friendly and stigma free services in all three districts of Western Province. The committee is also responsible for strengthening and coordinating linkages in HIV counselling and testing referral systems between health and social services, and other organisations.

The committee will communicate regularly and meet annually to discuss HIV programs in the three districts. Depending on the WPAC budget, the committee will try to meet twice each year.