



North Fly Health Services Development Program

Newsletter

Issue: 6

Volume: 2

April - June, 2013

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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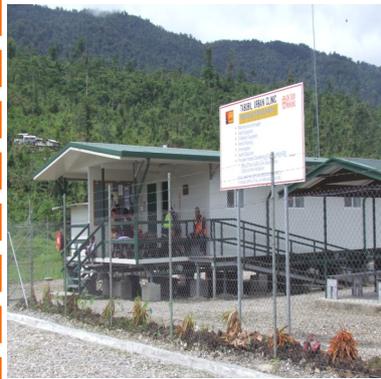
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Urban Clinic reduces crowds at Tabubil Hospital

Tabubil Urban Clinic (TUC) is providing vital health services for the villages surrounding Tabubil and the nearby settlements. Each month 1500 patients visit the clinic, mostly from Wangbin Village, 7 Kona and surrounding settlements. Some patients come from as far Sisimakam and other villages along the highway.



Patients waiting to be seen by Health Workers at Tabubil Urban Clinic.

According to Sr. Guli Kepa, Team Leader of the Outpatients Department at Tabubil Hospital, "it cuts down some of the work load we use to have. We would be overcrowded if we had all the sick patients all up here at the Tabubil Hospital outpatients".

TUC is a day clinic located in the Laydown area of Tabubil. It is staffed by 3 Nursing Officers, 3 Community Health Workers and 1 Health Extension Officer. The clinic opened in January 2011 and is run by the North Fly Health Services Development Program.

Outpatient clinics at TUC are for both adults and children, and patients are encouraged to go to the closest clinic to their home, as they will receive the same level of quality care at TUC that is provided at Tabubil Hospital. Officer in Charge of TUC, Sr. Cynthia Sigayong says that the most common conditions seen at TUC are pneumonia, coughs and diarrhea.

Almost all patients are treated at the clinic before returning home, although some may require referral to Tabubil Hospital. Sr. Kepa says that "referral letters for the patients to bring to Tabubil Hospital are accurate, detailing the observations, diagnosis and the treatment given at urban clinic. This makes it easier for the next staff attending to the patient to manage accordingly".

TUC also provides mobile clinics in villages along the highway. A Health Extension Officer visits Ningerum and Matkomnai once per month, and maternal and child health clinics are held in several villages every 1-2 months. MCH mobile clinics began in March and will continue to visit the highway villages providing immunization and antenatal clinics to mothers and children.

"We thank the urban clinic staff for providing this service to assist our work load in Tabubil Hospital General Outpatients. The staff are doing a good job down there. We appreciate what is done there and continue to work with them".

JTA International acquires new name

On 31 January 2013, JTA International was acquired by Abt Associates to become a wholly owned subsidiary, known as Abt JTA. Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for their rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked among the top 20 global research firms and is recognised as one of the top 40 international development innovators. Abt Associates has multiple offices in the United States and program offices in nearly 40 countries.

While the JTA name has changed to incorporate Abt Associates, the senior management team that has led JTA over the last decade is still in place. Dr Jane Thomason maintains the role of CEO, Mr Geoff Scahill remains the Program Director for NFHSDP, and similarly, the Abt JTA team in North Fly remains the same. The acquisition will not impact on service delivery and the only major change you are likely to see is the new Abt JTA logo on our uniforms and correspondence.

Food Handlers Training

A training course in how to prepare, store and sell food in a safe and hygienic way was held in Kiunga and Ningerum at the beginning of July. The training, known as “Food Handlers Training”, is designed for people who work in the food industry, particularly those who work at fast food and kai bars, catering and restaurants. This time, people who sell food at street stalls were also invited to attend, in recognition of their role in serving the general public.

A total of 128 people attended the training: 67 in Kiunga and 61 in Ningerum.

The focus of the training is on the prevention of food and water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, cholera.

The training was facilitated by Environmental Health Officers from North Fly District Health and North Fly Health Services Development Program.



Participants of the Food Handlers Training pose for a group photo at Ningerum

Timinsiriap adopts healthy village principles

The community of Timinsiriap in North Fly District is committed to improving health in its village and is making progress towards becoming a ‘Healthy Village’.

The Healthy Village concept is endorsed by the World Health Organization and is based on principles of partnership, ownership and participation. Since first approached by the North Fly Health Services Development Program, community members in Timinsiriap have established a Village Health Committee and selected 5 members to represent the community of 111 residents. The committee has met more than three times in its 6 months of existence.



Members of Timinsiriap community attending a session on the Healthy Village meeting.

The first activities of the Committee were to tidy up the village environment and to clear footpaths through the village. The Committee has also decided that one day each week should be set aside for community service, so on Mondays the community is active in working at the school or aid post or assisting in other ways.

Councilor of Timinsiriap, Mr. Aaron Dumon says “we are very fortunate to be selected to become a healthy village. We will assist in any way possible to make this project a reality”.

One of the priorities identified by the community earlier this year was water and sanitation. New pit toilets are needed in the 22 households; and, although located on the Fly River, water has to be pumped uphill to the village.

The North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) has been working with the community to address these significant health issues. To date the community has prepared the sites for an additional 15 pit toilets, by digging the pits and collecting sand. NFHSDP has matched this contribution by providing plywood, nails, cement and PVC pipes to build the cement slab and ventilation. Once the slabs are ready the community will use bush materials to build a small house around each toilet.

Further projects are planned as a joint effort between the community of Timinsiriap and NFHSDP and NF District Health Services. In an effort to boost motivation and funding for projects, a submission to the WHO Healthy Village Recognition awards was submitted in May. If successful, the award would assist the community to install water tanks and solar pumps to improve the supply of clean drinking water in the village.

Basic Excel Refresher Training

A training course in using Microsoft Excel was conducted in Kiunga from 24th-28th June, with participants from NFHSDP’s Partner Agencies. The training was for health information officers from District Health Services, ECPNG and Catholic Health Services. This is a follow-up training based on last year’s Excel training: the aim was to see if the participants have put to practice what they had learnt last year and also to improve on areas that still need further attention. Unfortunately, two of the officers were not able to attend the training due to flight cancellations so they will be trained at a later date.

The participants were grateful that this refresher Excel training was conducted because some of the things that were not covered last year were covered in this second training. Also some of the things that they had forgotten were revisited and reviewed. Participants said they appreciated last year’s training as it had given them insights into Excel and what spreadsheets can perform in terms of data management, analysis and reporting or data presentation.

Participants said that after this refresher training they are now confident to use Excel in their work and also will pass on the skills and knowledge gained so far to their work mates. They are now looking forward to the next training, at an intermediate level. Overall the training was good with positive responses and everyone also had fun learning together.



Health Information Officers from Health Service Partners attending the Basic Excel Training