



North Fly Health Services Development Program

Newsletter

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

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.

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 Centers and Hospitals and sometimes in your community**
- ◆ **For information about health issues and all health services in North Fly see your**

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NFHSDP expands Community Action and Participation training in North Fly

Community Action and Participation (CAP) training is an initiative of the PNG National Department of Health (NDoH) as one of the healthy islands strategies to help achieve the healthy home/village setting. It is a 6 step process that helps the community prepare for other programs that they decide to initiate. The CAP strategy emphasizes the importance of self-reliance and encourages full participation of the community in all stages of development.

Community action and participation builds a sense of responsibility for collaborative decision making. The process of CAP involves identifying the health needs and issues in the community, working together to develop and activate the plan of action for change and improvement for health promotion, whilst collaborating to resolve issues at the community level.

Guided to date by the fantastic work being done by Sr. Maureen Sexton and her Mercy Works team in North Fly, the NFHSDP Healthy Village team was well equipped to lead four CAP training programs in April, in the villages of Gasuke 1 and 2, Gusiore and Timinsiriap. CAP training has been a key component of Mercy Works to empower communities to be responsible for their own health and mobilise them to plan action.

"The responsibility for health promotion in health services is shared among individuals, community groups, health professionals, health service institutions and governments. They must work together towards a health care system which contributes to the pursuit of health"

WHO, Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, 1986

The one day training program for each of the four villages reached a total of 333 community members (158 men and 125 women), 82 people in Gasuke 1, (38 men and 44 women), 97 in Gasuke 2, (45 men and 52 women), 90 in Gusiore, (44 men and 46 women) and 64 in Timinsiriap, (31 men and 33 women).

Similar disease burdens and water and sanitation issues were identified cross the four programs. Typical cross cutting issues included the need for a clean water supply, need for more toilets, need to clean up the general village environment to control disease spreading vectors. Other common issues discussed were the need to improve immunisation coverage, family planning and safe child birth.

The NFHSDP team looks forward to continuing to work with health service partners, village health committees, village health volunteers and the wider communities of Gasuke 1 and 2, Gusiore and Timinsiriap to support them to implement their individual action plans for change and improvement.



Above: Left to Right: CAP training participants: Gusiore Village Health Committee members: Mr. Philip David, Chairman, Mrs. Regina Sibui and Mr. John Salvui

Promoting Schools talk
Given the opportunity, children can be the best advocates for promoting health

Schools also have an important role in improving the health of children and the community and teaching children about health is one way to improve health for both the current and future generations.

The NFHSDP is currently working with teachers and students at Gasuke Primary School to plan, manage and implement their health promoting school program which will cover the benefits of having a child friendly school and will introduce a range of strategies and tools to help make their classroom a healthy place to work and play.



Gasuke Primary School children after listening to a Health

Visit the new NFHSDP office

In February the NFHSDP team moved into its new office in Kiunga. Prior to this the management and administration of the program was 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 near 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.

NFHSDP outreach health patrol visits to Gasuke and Gusiore

The NFHSDP continued to support partners in May and June to deliver a number of outreach health patrols across the North Fly District. These patrols included two one week patrols to Gasuke no. 1 and 2, Gusiore and Kanan and Diabi settlements with District Health Service staff. One of these patrols provided mother and child health (MCH), environmental health and healthy village services whilst the other was a HIV and TB health patrol.

In the spirit of partnership a Community Health Worker from the National Volunteer Service joined the MCH patrol and the North Fly District World Vision International officer accompanied the TB and HIV patrol.

Gasuke no. 1 and 2 and Gusiore villagers are working with the NFHSDP Healthy Village team this year to improve a range of issues identified by the communities during a Community Action and Participation training program in April.

During the patrols two hundred community members were reviewed at clinics including a young lady who was resuscitated with intravenous fluids and once her vital signs were stabilised she was transported by dinghy to Kiunga Hospital where she subsequently made a full recovery.

Health awareness programs during the patrols covered a range of topics, including types of vaccines available and the importance of vaccinations at the different stages of a child's growth, the importance of exclusive breast feeding and introducing first food for babies at 6 months, malaria awareness for pregnant women, the causes of TB, and its signs and symptoms. A range of information, education and communication pamphlets were distributed to help consolidate some of the information provided during the health talks.

Two of the recipients of these services were Dome and his wife Wane who travelled 3 hours to reach Gusiore Aid post, two hours by canoe.



A child being immunised during the health patrol to Gasuke



Dome and Wane at Gusiore Aid post

The partnership approach works to improve vaccination coverage in North Fly

The purpose of the NFHSDP is to support partner health service agencies to deliver basic primary health care services to the communities of North Fly. In April the NFHSDP team supported District Health Services to deliver immunisation and maternal and child health services to thirty villages in and around Ningerum including five clinic points along the highway and three inland villages.

Lead by Sr. Amoko, DHS, five other DHS officers and one NFHSDP officer worked together to administer 2,682 measles vaccinations, 679 Tetanus Toxoid injections and a further 979 vaccines against Hepatitis B, Polio, TB and Vitamin A which increases children's resistance to disease, and improves their chances for survival, growth and development.



Ningerum Primary School students lining up for measles vaccinations

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*