



# North Fly Health Services Development Program

## Newsletter

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### NFHSDP SPEARHEADS A SPECIAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM FOR OLSOBIP.

One of the priority needs for the PNG national immunization program is “Strengthening Reaching Every District to Reach Every Child strategy using integrated Expanded Immunization Program (EPI) Mother and Child Health (/MCH) outreach sessions” In an effort to contribute to improving coverage rates in North Fly, in October 2013 the NFHSDP incorporated its routine mother and child health (MCH) immunization outreach activities into a special one week outreach health patrol that also provided a special tetanus toxoid immunization program including school health programs for Olsobip and the neighboring villages of Selbang, Fakobip, Seganabip, Biangabip, Yasap, Seltamin and Bartamin.



*Above: Patients listening intently to health awareness at the Health Centre*

In the absence of Government funding for this patrol, NFHSDP fully funded vaccines supplies, chopper hire, travel allowances for government health workers and accommodation. Health workers were dropped off by chopper in 7 different remote locations around Olsobip. The teams were made up of 2 NFHSDP officers/midwives, 15 Government health workers (3 from Ningerum Health Centre and 9 from Kiunga District Hospital). Three health workers from Olsobip Health Centre also participated in the patrols. In addition to MCH routine immunization activities, the 1st round of Tetanus Toxoid & Albendazole tablets were administered to girls and women aged 15-45 years of age, supplementary immunization for Polio & Vitamin A and Albendazole to children less than 5 years.

Across the eight sites a total of 615 routine vaccinations, 221 Vitamin A tablets, 296 Tetanus Toxoid injections and 225 oral Albendazole (58 to children under five and 167 to women of child bearing ages:15-45 yrs). Other services provided across all seven teams included a combination of routine checks and family planning advice for 5 ante natal mothers and 339 total outpatient: 195 adults males, 128 adult females and 16 children:1 with pneumonia 1 and 15 with diarrhoea.

Teams also used the opportunity to provide health awareness to 400 community members on topics including the purpose of Tetanus Toxoid injections, current information on available modern family planning methods, the importance of attention to good personal hygiene to prevent the spread of diseases, attending ante natal clinics and childhood immunization programs to planning for deliveries in a health centre to information about ways to minimize contracting TB and HIV.

NFHSDP looks forward to continue to support Government and church partners to reach these remote and hard to reach communities in 2014 so that immunization programs can continue to ensure better coverage and reach of mother and child health services for all women and children in North Fly.

### NFHSDP to continue to 2018

In November 2013, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd approved a 5 year extension to the NFHSDP, which will now continue to December 2018. The extended program will build on improvements in immunizations, attendance at antenatal clinics and supervised deliveries that were achieved during 2009-2013. Despite these achievements there remain many challenges to health service delivery.

The North Fly Health Services Development Program is an initiative of Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML) to improve the health outcomes of the people in the North Fly District, Western Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG). The overarching goal of the NFHSDP is to support the development of sustainable health services in North Fly to meet the National Minimum Standards for District Health Services in PNG and provide prevention and treatment programs to meet the population health needs. The program is aligned to the National Health Plan key result areas and works within the existing health system. A partnership approach is employed involving all stakeholders in health service delivery in North Fly.

In December 2013, all stakeholders met to review priorities, and based on this workshop the program's annual plan is under development. The draft plan will be reviewed by stakeholders in January 2014. The extended program is an opportunity for all health service partners to continue to build on the hard work and achievements of all. NFHSDP staff look forward to working with you all – service providers and communities alike – in the coming years!

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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## **MOGULU HIV/AIDS, TB & MCH PATROL WITH PARTNER ECPNG HEALTH SERVICES**

A combined HIV/TB and MCH patrol was conducted in partnership with ECPNG Health Services and Catholic Health Service to Mogulu on the 19th November to the 2nd December, 2013. The team of health workers conducted MCH clinics, VCCT clinics and TB screening.

Awareness and Community conversation and participation on HIV/AIDS, TB and MCH were conducted at 13 different villages with a total audience reaching over 2, 220, school students and Public Servants included. The audience were very interested in the information presented and are keen in learning more. Video shows were also done as part of the awareness program and educational materials were placed at the health facility.

The patrol team faced issues with communications especially language barrier.

The MCH team also conducted MCH and antenatal clinics which attended to 45 mothers and 210 children. From the 210 children, 17 were immunized for BCG, 10 for Hepatitis B, 123 for DTP/HIB, 116 for Sabin, 70 for Measles and 68 for Vitamin A. The team also attended to 3 deliveries at Mogulu Health Centre.

A follow up patrol is been planned especially for HIV and TB in 2014. NFHSDP will continue to support health patrols to Mogulu.

The patrol team along with Mogulu Health Centre and community members also commemorated World Aids Day.

## **NFHSDP GETS INVOLVED IN PROMOTING PROPER HANDWASHING DURING WORLD HANDWASHING DAY**

Each year on October 15, over 200 million people are involved in World Hand Washing celebrations in over 100 countries around the world. This special day was originally created for children and schools, but is celebrated by a multitude of groups worldwide that are interested in promoting hand washing with soap, which the NFHSDP did to promote this life saving activity in Kiunga Town and Montfort Primary School on October 15 2013.

The team's main focus for the day was a number of demonstrations on how to construct a "Tippy Tap" for hand washing with water. It is cost effective and easy to make from available local materials and can promote hand washing in communities where there is no running water and can be made out of clean empty discarded plastic containers, like old juice or water bottles.

The demonstrations of the Tippy Tap to Kiunga Monfort school students and teachers included showing them how to make small holes at the bottom of the plastic container, filling it up with water and hanging it in close proximity to the toilet so people can wash their hands immediately after using the toilet facilities. Activities also included awareness on the importance of hand washing with soap and water and the reasons why it is so important to healthy living.

Awareness sessions were also provided on the streets and in the main market place and attracted a significant number of people (as can be seen in the photos below). Prior to the awareness, posters with instructions on how to make a Tippy Tap were displayed on notice boards at various locations.

Although a very simple and practical system for hand washing, both students and adults enjoyed the fun and interactive demonstrations. The general consensus from community members suggested that they appreciated been shown a real-world cost effective system that they can adopt and adapt for their own homes and communities.

### **Partners working together to strengthen community awareness, advocacy and mobilization for TB, HIV and AIDS**

The partnership approach to providing not only public and primary health care but also clinical care services to the people of North Fly is one that continues to evolve and strengthen. In October partners from NFHSDP, District Health Services, Kiunga Hospital Laboratory and Catholic Health Services travelled together as a team to Kungim and Tarakbits in an effort to fortify the partnership approach but as importantly to provide TB services to these communities and to support the health workers who work in these remote locations.

The key reasons for the first of two patrol from October 6-12 was to provide TB and HIV advocacy and awareness, to screen and case find, to carry out TB microscopy and to trace contacts. The second follow up patrol to Kungim from October 30 to November 2 was to start TB treatment for two positive clients, detected through sputum testing after the last patrol, to undertake contact tracing on family members of those two positive cases, to train TB treatment supporters, to provide In-service and on the job training to Kungim Health Centre staff.



*Above: NF District TB Coordinator Lewis Mora talking to participants on TB*

School health programs were conducted at Kungim and Tarakbits primary schools and highlights included: HIV and TB health awareness sessions delivered to 231 students at Kungim Primary and 267 at Tarakbits Primary, Other cross cutting issues such as law and order problems, life style diseases and the importance of personal hygiene were also addressed. 500 TB pamphlets, 60 TB posters, 180 HIV pamphlets and 20 HIV posters were given to students and teachers. General health checks and TB screening was done (as requested for all students and 12 students (5 Male, 7 Female) were sent for sputum checks while 5 students (1 Female, 4 Male) from Tarakbits Primary school were referred for TB screening

Other highlights included 102 community members screened for TB, 60 sputum tests were done of which 2 were positive. 86 men and 140 female community members were reached through community health awareness programs and 281 TB pamphlets, 13

TB posters and 50 HIV pamphlets were distributed. 5 Kungim health centre staff were provided with In-service training specifically on TB screening, contact tracing and current best practice treatment guidelines.

The team also used the opportunity to conduct a supervisory visit to the TB/HIV clinic and laboratory at Kungim Health Centre.

One elderly man who was started on treatment for TB said "Before your visit I was blaming ancestor's spirit putting a spell on me for bad things I did when I was young or even I was blaming my old age. I have spent lots of cargo and money to hire traditional healers to heal me but it did not help, then you come in time". Then he added, "Too many people will easily, blame customs or sorcery for typical TB".