



Fly Helt Nius



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HAPPY 43RD INDEPENDENCE PNG!

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Kawiapo Community take action through the Healthy Village Concept

Kawiapo village is located at the north bank of the Fly River in the Middle Fly District of Western Province. The community is made up of the Gogodala tribe and has an estimated population of 700 people. The village has a primary school and an aid post serving the local communities.

It was one man, Mr Tolo Gauba's desire to develop the community through the Healthy Village concept when he introduced the idea to the community in 2014. However, the community did not understand the concept and it wasn't until the CMCA Middle and South Fly Health Program (CMSFHP) introduced the Health Village model and held trainings that the people gradually understood the need for a healthier community.

A community analysis was conducted through the Community Action and Participation process, priority needs were identified, and plans were developed and implemented by the community under supervision of the CMSFHP Healthy Village program.

One of the priority needs was containing the erosion of soil at the river banks from the flooding of the Fly River. The soil erosion posed a great risk to the families living near the river banks. CMSFHP Village Health Coordinator, Mr Cyril Yama, in a meeting with the village leaders suggested a seawall be built from logs and coconut trunks to slow down the process of

soil erosion. The construction of the sea wall started on the 30th August 2018 and will continue along the river bank.

Mr Gauba expressed his gratitude to partners like World Vision for their WASH program in the village which they helped build water catchments, and two ventilated improvement pit (VIP) latrines for the school. He also thanked CMSFHP for providing health services to their community as well as introducing the Healthy Village concept. Mr Jimmy Bono, ward member for Kawiapo said his people became lazy when waiting for services to reach them – "We want to make change ourselves using the skills, knowledge and resources and labour we have within the community, that's why we see Healthy Village concept as a holistic approach and the way forward for Kawiapo".

Kawiapo Village is a model village for implementing the Healthy Village concept.



Above: CMSFHP Village Health Coordinator, Cyril Yama, with members of Kawiapo Community constructing the sea wall along the river banks of Fly River



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Program assists with dispatching of earthquake disaster relief supplies to Adumari and Digasubi villages

On the 5th of July, the North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) and CMCA Middle South Fly Health Program (CMSFHP) assisted the Provincial Disaster Office dispatch disaster relief supplies weighing 949kg to Adumari and Digasubi villages.

The relief supplies included clothing, cooking items, mosquito bed-nets and medical supplies which were distributed to the people residing at the Digasubi and Adumari care centres who were displaced by the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that hit Hela and parts of Western Province in February this year.

Mr Philip Gasuat, Provincial Disaster Coordinator, acknowledged and thanked the Program for the support provided in airlifting the relief supplies to Mogulu. The charter was on its way to Mogulu to pick up program officers that were conducting the Program's endline Survey with the communities in the affected area.

Due to issues with transportation and logistics, the Provincial Disaster Office was previously not able to send relief supplies to these affected communities.



Above: Data Collection officer, Karl Kama, assisting locals at Mogulu unloading relief supplies that were airlifted from Kiunga.

Programs farewell Graeme Hill after seven years of service in Western Province

The management and staff of North Fly Health Services Development Program (NFHSDP) and CMCA Middle and South Fly Health Program (CMSFHP) hosted a farewell dinner for Mr Graeme Hill and wife Jenny at the Cassowary Hotel in Kiunga on 31st August 2018.

Medical students from Griffith University on rural attachments attended the dinner with the team and Abt Associates PNG General Manager, Mr Geoff Scahill, flew into Kiunga to also attend the dinner.

Mr Hill had been a part of NFHSDP for seven years and was attached to Kiunga Hospital as the Hospital Administrator from April 2012 to August 2018. During his six years at Kiunga Hospital, Mr Hill has seen numerous improvements to the hospital which includes renovations and maintenance to the Outpatient and Accident and Emergency departments, new TB ward, surgical ward and public toilets been built as well as new equipment for the hospital such as a sterilizer, defibrillator and an aesthetic machine. With the assistance from Mr Hill, Kiunga Hospital received funding and donations from the Chinese Community of Kiunga for the purchase of a new mobile x-ray ma-

chine, donations and volunteer assistance from the Rotary Club of Castlemaine in Australia as well as donations from other Oil and Gas companies in Kiunga.

Mr Scahill in his speech acknowledged Mr Hill for his hard work and contributions to Kiunga Hospital and his efforts into improving and maintaining the hospital over the last six years. Mr Scahill also acknowledged the involvement of the Rotary Club and the work that had been done throughout the hospital. Mr Scahill went on to acknowledge and thank Mrs Jenny Hill for her patience and understanding of Mr Hill and his work here in Kiunga.

Mr Hill took the opportunity to thank everyone who had been part of the team during the time he had been with the program and without the support of the program the Kiunga Hospital's Outpatient Department would not have been able to remain open. Mr Hill went on to say he had learnt so much and was pleased to say that he has made many new friends. Mr Hill also expressed his sadness for the NFHSDP and CMSFHP coming to an end but hopes that the Government steps up to carry on with the work that had been started by the Program.



Mother and baby saved during the MCH patrol to Moian Village

It was during an integrated patrol to the villages of the lower North Fly that North Fly Health Services Development Program's (NFHSDP) Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nursing Officer Veronica Kekae unexpectedly delivered the baby of a mother who was referred from Moian Aid Post with ante-partum hemorrhaging at 8 months gestation.

The mother was experiencing early labor contractions on the dinghy ride to Kiunga when she spontaneously delivered just before reaching the Kiunga Waterfront on the 6th July 2018.

Nurse Kekae quickly requested passengers provide privacy on the dinghy and without an emergency delivery kit, used a plastic bag as gloves to safely deliver and immediately resuscitate the baby as it wasn't breathing and crying. After landing at the Kiunga waterfront Nurse Kekae procured an emergency delivery kit from Kiunga Hospital and instructed the dinghy operator move to an isolated part of the river where she safely completed delivery of the baby. The mother and baby were then moved to Kiunga Hospital for placenta extraction and observation.

Both were later discharged from Kiunga Hospital

without complications. The mother thanked the program for its assistance with safely delivering her baby and saving their lives.

Other villages visited during this patrol included Yulawa, old and new locations at Kawok and Batmini.



Above: NFHSDP MCH Nursing Officer Veronica Kekae with mother and her new born baby girl Verolyn, named after Veronica and Linus the dinghy operator at Moian Aid Post.

Dr John Oakley visits CMCA Villages during OTDF Communications Patrol to Middle Fly

Dr John Oakley commenced his OTDF Fly River patrol from the 17th to 29th of September as part of the North Fly Health Services Development Program and CMCA Middle and South Fly Health Program (collectively 'the Program').

Dr Oakley assisted by the Program's Primary Health Care Manager, Ray Krai, visited Erehta, Membok, Kukujaba, Kwem, Mipan, Obo, Aiambak, Kasa, Nakaku AP and Suki HSC.

In Erehta, health promotion messages were provided to the community, specifically regarding water and sanitation and smoking cessation. In Membok, the community was concerned for a lack of medicine supplies at their local facility, and they requested TB screening. Dr Oakley commended staff at Membok and provided a positive review of their work ethic. Eight snake bites had been managed by staff at the facility, and all patients survived. A visit to Kukujaba

was made for the first time, resulting in several community members hoping to be seen. 27 patients were seen by Dr Oakley and health issues ranged from sprains and fractures, dental issues, back and knee pain, and simple coughs. This community had no health facility and relied on treatment at Membok. Snakebites are a significant issue across the communities, thus an in-service training session was provided at Kwem, Dr Oakley also advised that snakebite management training is provided at Obo HC and that snake antivenom is provided for Suki HC.

A total of 148 patients were seen during Dr Oakley's patrol. Dr Oakley expressed gratitude to OTDF and the Program, and was happy to serve the community – "I wish to thank OTDF, Abt Associates and all the local staff who supported this patrol for this opportunity and privilege to serve isolated communities along the Fly River."



Data Collection Team visit 44 selected villages in Western Province

The North Fly Health Services Development Program and CMCA Middle and South Fly Health Program (collectively ‘the Program’) will end in December 2018.

An endline evaluation is currently being conducted to assess whether the Program has met its goal to contribute towards strengthened primary health care (PHC) and health services in the North Fly District and Middle and South Fly CMCA Trust Regions in line with the Western Province and National Health Plans. The evaluation includes data collection from interviews with community members, health worker interviews, Village Health Volunteer (VHV) interviews, health facility assessments and a community-level health survey. The evaluation study received ethical approval from the Papua New Guinea Medical Research Advisory Council, no 17.53.

A team of four Papua New Guinean data collectors led by Chief Investigator, Dr Jethro Usurup, carried

out the fieldwork across the Program sites from June to August. The team worked in demanding conditions – faced difficult weather conditions and transport constraints but forged ahead with a can-do attitude and team spirit.

The team interviewed over 700 community members in 44 villages across the Program sites to collect community views and perceptions of access, quality and utilisation of primary health care services. The team also conducted over 20 focus group discussions with communities to discuss the effectiveness of the Program.

15 health facilities were assessed to enable comparisons with baseline and midline data, and health workers were interviewed. The team also interviewed 12 VHVs trained by the Program. The data is now being collated and analysed and results will be disseminated at the end of the year.



Above: The Data Collection Team ready to embark on the fieldwork following 3 days of training and preparations: (L-R) Dominica Abo, Karl Kama, Dr Jethro Usurup, Miriam Mond, Herick Aeno and Kutut Kome.



Right: Data Collection Officer, Herick Aeno travelling down Fly River to visit selected villages in Middle Fly



Above: Data Collection Team travelling up Elewara River in a dugout canoe to selected villages.