NATIONAL RESPONSE TO FAMILY SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN PNG

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN A GLANCE

• Home to more than 7.5 million people, PNG is the largest South Pacific island country.
• Consisting of a mainland and 600 smaller islands.
• Rich ethnic and cultural diversity
• More than 800 languages spoken
• More than 80% of the population subsists on agriculture.
• 85% of the population live in rural areas.
FAMILY & SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN PNG

“In PNG, women and children endure shockingly high levels of family and sexual violence, with rates of abuse estimated to be some of the highest in the world outside a conflict zone.”

(Médecins Sans Frontières Return to Abuser Report, March 2016)

DEFINITION: FSV

- Domestic Violence occurs when someone does one of the following to a family member: Assault (whether physical or otherwise), psychological abuse, harassment or intimidation, stalking, offensive or indecent behaviour and damage to property.

- A ‘family member’ is; A spouse, a child or step child, a parent or parent in law, a grandparent, a brother or sister or brother or sister in law, any other person who is treated as a family member.

(Definition extracted from Family Protection Act 2013)
TIP OF THE ICEBERG

• In 2014 & 2015, 3,056 people sought care in Port Moresby and Tari Family Support Centres
  
  - 94% were female, injured by their partners, family or community members and quarter of these cases involved intimate partner

• 49% of patients sought care from MSF were sexual violence (most cases involve RAPE occurring at home)

• 2015 Lukautim Pikinini (Child Welfare) Policy cites that around 75% of children experience physical abuse at home.

• Office of Public Prosecutor, estimates 55% of all sexual violence cases dealt with the abuse of children under 16 years old.

• According to National Department of Health 2/3 women have experienced physical and sexual violence.
GENDER VIOLENCE
COST TO BUSINESS

• 68% of 197 survey participants experienced gender-based violence (GBV) during the past year, with 47% experiencing more severe forms of GBV.

• On average, employees experienced a total of 7.8 incidents of GBV in the past 12 months and 2.4 incidents of severe GBV. Women experienced an average of 9.4 incidents in the past year.

• On average, each staff member loses 11.1 days of work per year as a result of the impacts of gender violence: 2.0 days lost to ‘presenteeism’, 5.0 days to absenteeism and 4.1 days helping other victims of GBV. For one of the firms in this survey, this means an estimated 26,200 staff days lost per year.

• The cost of staff time lost due to GBV is high. For one of the firms covered, it is estimated to total 300,000 kina; for another, almost 3 million kina, representing 2% and 9% respectively of those companies’ total salary bills.

• If other direct costs are included, (counselling, recruitment and induction costs, medical costs), then the total cost to one firm increased by 45%.
Family Sexual Violence Action Committee
Long Term Strategy

To address family and sexual violence issues, CIMC-FSVAC takes human rights integrated multi-sectoral approach. All sectors of society are expected to play a part in the implementation of the long term strategy.

Our Role

To liaise, coordinate and network between collaborating agencies to ensure that long the Long term Strategy is implemented.

Mandate

Working towards reducing the occurrence and suffering caused by physical, sexual and psychological violence within families.

4 Strategic Goals

Legal Reform
- Legal and social protection for all survivors

Service Provision
- Safe pathways in all 95 districts)

Advocacy & Communication
- All communities have active networks for prevention and response

Research & Knowledge Management
- High quality, systematic data collection, analysis and research available on all aspects of prevention and response
Legal Reform

Liaise, lobby, advocate and work at the national and sub-national level to have legislations reviewed for women to access social justice.

- Family Protection Act 2013
- Lukautim Pikinini Act 2013
- Human Trafficking and People Smuggling Act 2014
- Medical Legal Proforma
- Sorcery National Action Plan

Service Provision

Working in partnership with relevant government agencies, FBO, CBO, NGO to build their capacity to provide a quality service to all FSV survivors.

- Family Support Centre
- Family and Sexual Violence Units
- Safe Havens
- Provincial FSVAC Secretariat
Advocacy & Communication

- Gender Mainstreaming for Health Managers
- Gender-Based Violence Trainings
- Male Advocacy Trainings – Primary Prevention
- Basic Counselling Trainings
- Para-Legal Trainings
- SASA! Trainings – Primary Prevention
- Transformational Leadership Development Program
- Human Rights Training
- Child Protection

FSVAC provides an avenue for advocacy through IEC Materials and coordination of national events such as 16 Days of Human Rights Activism.

FSVAC provides technical support and capacity building (trainings) to government agencies, FBOs, CBOs and NGOs to prevent and respond to FSV.

4. Research and knowledge management

- FSVAC partners with the PNG National Research Institute and other stakeholders (Femili PNG, NDoH, National Statistic Office) to look at data management.
CONCLUSION

• There is a high prevalence of physical and sexual violence perpetrated mostly against women and girls in PNG and sexual violence is widely believed to be the norm.

• The National Family Sexual Violence Action Committee is committed to ending violence against women and girls.

• Many organisations are working alongside government and civil society to ensure a comprehensive national response.

Finally...

• The FSVAC is currently working with EMTV to produce 12 episodes of Women’s World focussing on the response to family and sexual violence in PNG

• The first two episodes can be viewed at

www.emtv.com.pg/category/programs/womens-world/
THANK YOU

On behalf of CIMC-Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, I send our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Oil Search Foundation for sponsoring us to be part of this conference.

I also send our appreciation to the organising committee for giving us the opportunity to present on behalf of our partners in PNG.