Women in Mining Project

Pacific Women Annual Learning Workshop
1st May 2019
About the Women in Mining Project

The Papua New Guinea Women in Mining (WIM) Project is supported through the Australian Government’s Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) program as part of the Papua New Guinea-Australia Partnership. It runs from June 2017 – June 2020.

**Project Objective**

To strengthen women’s participation in negotiation and agreement processes for major extractive projects in Papua New Guinea and to ensure women are better represented in, and benefit from resource development agreements.
Objective 1: Supporting policy and regulatory developments at the national and industry level

Objective 2: Establishing a public-private partnership (PPP) with an industry partner

Objective 3: Co-funding a public-private partnership ‘pilot’ in one location
Project location
Project Site – Frieda River

• Located 70 kms south of the Sepik River on the border of the Sanduan and East Sepik Provinces
• Application for a Special Mining Lease submitted by Frieda River Joint Venture. The application process and associated community consultations are happening now
• Seven communities in the mine impact area, population approximately 2000+ people
• Communities are scattered and geographically difficult to reach
• Limited literacy or existing opportunities for women and minimal government services
Proposed Footprint
Project Principles

• Prioritise activities and approaches that challenge underlying social norms and attitudes that hinder gender equality.

• Understand the interconnectedness of changes in women’s leadership and economic empowerment in the context of high levels of violence – Do No Harm.

• Understand the need to connect early stage capacity development of women and women leaders to longer term strategic objectives relating to women’s participation in resource development benefits.
Project Principles (cont.)

• Create leadership and participation opportunities through project activities for a diverse range of women from all mine impact communities.

• Utilising the lead time prior to the Development Forum (Jul 2019) and prior to mine construction (2022-2026) to identify opportunities for women and to build the capacity of all stakeholder groups to enable and support those opportunities.

• Understand the need for male acceptance and advocacy of women’s inclusion and empowerment.
Project Approach

To use the Family Farms Team training as a vehicle to:

- Strengthen harmonious family and community relationships
- Build women’s capacity to meaningfully contribute to family and community decision-making
- Build women’s capacity to plan, organise and lead
- Identify other capacity development opportunities that support the development of women and their communities
Capacity Development Initiatives to date

• Leadership Training in partnership with Bougainville Women’s Federation
• Financial Literacy training in partnership with Pacific Adventist University
• Adult Literacy ToT in partnership with Baptist Union PNG
• WaSH/Village Health in partnership with Telefomin District Health Services
Achievements to date

- Five village markets established, market committees formed women are have the 50-60% positions
- Six villages literacy classes started, will form the committees this month
- Development of a Women’s Association to represent the interests of women and children
- One women representative (President, Women’s Association) to be included in the Land Owner Association Board- Still in negotiation process with the male folks
- Three women elected to leadership positions on clan committees of the Landowners Association
- Male community leaders endorsement of the Project
- Women in Mining is a standing item on the CLF
Achievements to date (cont.)

• MoU signed between Frieda River Limited & DFAT
• Conducted baseline survey
• Conducted Family Farm Team Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4, refresher, community roll outs
• Conducted Women Leadership training
• Conducted literacy TOT training
• Conducted financial literacy training
• Conducted Water and Sanitation Hygiene awareness integrated with Family Planning
Training at Frieda River
New Local Markets
Challenges

• Remoteness of the location
• Pre-existing long standing conflicts between communities
• Stage of development of the Mine Project - until construction no people on the ground so little logistic support, budgets are small, personnel minimal and stop/start nature of operations
• Low literacy level hinders learning and development for women
• No banking services – people generally don’t save their money
Challenges (cont.)

• 4 communities struggle with store goods and other services - no airstrips or river access
• No existing markets available
• No common area/training centre in any of the communities
• Limited involvement & participation of men in the trainings
• Engagement of district level government
Key Lessons

• Strategic coordination with Frieda River Limited in the formation of landowner association and representative landowners company organisations is essential to ensure female representation.

• The need to identify opportunities where the Project can build the awareness of male leaders of issues affecting women and to develop whole of community strategies for addressing these issues.
Key Lessons (cont.)

• The importance of utilising the lead time prior to the Development Forum and prior to mine construction to identify opportunities for women and to build the capacity of all stakeholder groups to enable and support those opportunities

• Lack of national policies and guidance hampers the ability of the Project to achieve its goal

• Strategic engagement with the developer and the State

• Don’t underestimate the time required to develop capacity.