‘From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing’ Project

REFLECTIONS

Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

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Project Facts

Phase 1: April 2015 – March 2018
Phase 2: April 2018 – September 2022

Locations of Safe Houses:
- Arawa (Central)
- Buin (South)
- Buka (North)
- Chabai (North)

Locations of Men’s Hub:
- Arawa (Central)
- Chabai/ Buka (North)
Our Work Includes

- Crisis services and GBV response: Four Safe Houses (Arawa, Buin, Buka, and Chabai)
- Community engagement, awareness raising
- Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Program
- Men’s Hub: counselling for men, including perpetrators
- Male Advocates Program
- Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation
- Strategic Advocacy and Networking
- Action learning approach and organisational sustainability
- School Based Program
Our Work Includes, continued

- **Crisis services and GBV response**: Four Safe Houses (Arawa, Buin, Buka, and Chabai) and working with referral partners
- **Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Program**: Trainings and capacity building, strengthening networks and connections, WHRDs Forums, supporting WHRDs to lead on initiatives in their communities to promote gender equality, response to and prevention of GBV
- **School Based Program** (SBP) – piloted a behaviour change program with youth as a part of GBV prevention strategy. In addition to working with students, this program engages with teachers, parents and local communities where the program is implemented.
- **Male Advocates (MAs) Program**: Building capacity of MAs to work together with WHRDs and lead on awareness raising initiatives and working with local communities to promote gender equality, response to and prevention of GBV. **Men’s Hub** activities include counselling services for men, including FSV perpetrators, and working with communities.
- **Strategic Advocacy and Networking**: collaboration with partners and engaging in actions that contribute to influencing structural change, address FSV and gender inequality
- **Action learning approach** and organisational sustainability to implement programs and services
Reflections on the Project Outcomes

Phase 1 (April 2015 – March 2018) final evaluation identified positive outcomes across a number of areas, such as:

• Performance achievements
• Addressing needs of target groups
• Strong model of working with WHRDs and male advocates (community engagement)
• Positive change and transformation examples at community level
• Positive transformation of individuals: changes in lives of Women Human Rights Defenders, male advocates, clients of safe houses and community members
• Working with allies and leveraging resources
The project has demonstrated excellent performance by exceeding or meeting 10 of its 12 targets.

For example, some of the performance indicators showed that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Outcome 1</th>
<th>Total project Targets</th>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Safe House reach</td>
<td>1,200 women and children will receive crisis services and support from NCfR and WHRDs.</td>
<td>Safe Houses, Men’s Hub and WHRDs (community counsellors) served 1,868 women and children (1,495 women, 172 girls, 182 boys, and 17 women, 1 girl and 1 boy with disabilities).</td>
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<td>2. WHRD training reach</td>
<td>800 WHRDs will be trained and have their skills increased.</td>
<td>Training events reached 1,982 WHRDs, including 579 who participated in training delivered at WHRD forums. Those reached included 191 young women and 6 women with disabilities.</td>
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<td>2.3 Community counsellor training reach</td>
<td>300 counsellors have increased skills and experience to provide quality services to survivors of family and sexual violence.</td>
<td>304 counsellors were trained during the project: 203 WHRDs trained as counsellors including one with disability; 101 male advocates trained as counsellors, including two with disability.</td>
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<td>5. Male Advocate training reach</td>
<td>300 male advocates will have the skills and knowledge to undertake school-based education focused on ending FSV; and advocating against FSV.</td>
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<td>7. Male counselling reach</td>
<td>Total of 300 men who have perpetrated FSV and children have received counselling services to change their behaviour</td>
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<td>7.1 Male counselling outcome</td>
<td>Out of total: 100 men who were formally perpetrators of violence against women have become male advocates against family and sexual violence</td>
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<td>Training events reached 752 male advocates (including 56 young men and 8 men with disabilities) to enable them to advocate against family and sexual violence and support the work of WHRDS.</td>
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<td>650 male clients were served by the Men’s Hubs [580 men (including 1 man with a disability), 70 boys]. 325 of the men served were perpetrators of family and sexual violence.</td>
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<td>Most of the men who go through male advocacy training admit to perpetration of FSV in the past, but due to privacy and sensitivity issues, this indicator is difficult to track.</td>
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The project has directly served the needs of women and children survivors of FSV, male victims and perpetrators of FSV, youth, persons with disability and rural and remote communities.

The project directly reached 21,888 people: 10,437 women and 6,395 men (including 29 women and 16 men with disabilities); 218 young women and 93 young men; 2,508 girls and 2,237 boys (including 2 girls with disabilities and 3 boys with disabilities).
Addressing Needs

88 percent of all cases managed by NCfR are a result of gender based violence/ family and sexual violence.

Diagram 1: Percentage of FSV cases supported by NCfR Safe Houses (2015-2018)

Diagram 2: Types of cases supported by NCfR Safe Houses (2015-2018)

- Family and sexual violence (both women and children)
- Other (non-FSV related issues)
- Mental health issues
- Sorcery accusations related violence
- Other (work related, land issues, etc.)
- Stress, post-trauma, anxiety (not related to FSV)
Considerable evolution in the project approach occurred over the course of the project. To reach and serve rural and remote communities more effectively, NCfR made the activities of the project less Chabai-centric. Two-thirds of training events and forums were held in rural communities in North, Central and South Bougainville, including the remote communities of Paruparu and Torokina.
Change at Community Level

Through the community-based activities of the WHRDs and male advocates (MAs) network, the project has served women, men and children in communities in the districts of Bana, Buin, Buka, Kieta, Siwai, and Selau with major outcomes.

- The identified outcomes in Bana, Siwai and Marai demonstrate that sorcery accusation-related killing can be stopped, and that family and sexual violence can be reduced in communities where WHRDs and male advocate are active.
- There is the potential of both community-based and district-based WHRDs and male advocates teams to contribute to the project goal of reducing GBV/ FSV.
- In Bana, Siwai, Haku and in many other communities across Bougainville, citizen understanding of the seriousness of FSV and the need to stop it has increased. Awareness about availability of Safe Houses, counselling services and referral pathways has grown as a result of community-based education and actions. This is driving an increase in demand for the NCfR Safe Houses and Men’s Hub services.
- The pilot School Based Program demonstrated its potential to change student behaviour in favour of non-violent and more respectful attitudes towards others, and greater learning efforts.
- The sustainability of the WHRDs network in Bougainville is being fostered through their involvement in the organisation of and fundraising for the WHRDs forums.
Community Transformation in Bana

A brief summary of an Outcome Harvesting Story

**Outcome:** Transformational change has occurred in six villages (population approximately 3,000) of the two Toberaki wards of Lato Constituency, Bana district since 2014. Although there have been several sorcery accusations since 2015 against men and women, no killings have occurred and seven lives have been saved since 2016.

- The feedback from WHRDs and male advocates suggests that wife beating and child abuse and neglect is less frequent. Teenage pregnancies and marriage are being reduced and many couples are sharing childcare and household responsibilities more equitably.
- All four Toberaki Ward members (2 male, 2 female) are WHRDs or male advocates.
- Since 2015, WHRDs and male advocates from Bana have been appointed to serve on the District Peace and Security Committee. In 2016, the Lato constituency set up its own Peace and Security Committee consisting of WHRDs, MAs and the chief.
- WHRDs have joined the boards of the school and health centre.

“Before, as soon as someone was accused of sorcery in Bana, people picked up their weapons. Now we, WHRDs, come in and defend their lives. For this we need the support of male advocates, and we work with the police.” a Bana WHRD
Community Transformation in Bana, continued

Outcomes:

• In 2016, a young WHRD from Agabai was elected the president of Bana’s WHRDs and MAs network with more than 100 members. Her teamwork with three MAs has contributed to much less marijuana and homebrew use, and fewer teenage marriages in Agabai, as well as bringing attention to FSV and child abuse. They led establishment of a Catholic devotional group by Agabai’s youth, that provides food, clothing and spiritual support to people in need. The chief of Agabai village encouraged a young WHRD to play a leadership role.

• Bana’s WHRDs and MAs have also been supporting their counterparts in the neighbouring Paruparu, a very remote ward in Panguna district of Central Bougainville. In December 2017, WHRDs and MAs from Paruparu formed a combined working committee, elected executives and finalised an action plan for 2018.

• In January 2018, WHRDs and MAs from Bana and Paruparu carried out awareness training on FSV in Paruparu’s five main villages, reaching 93 women and 138 men. Village chiefs have requested further awareness raising events at the clan level and for newly married couples.
Community Transformation in Bana, continued

**Significance:**

- The Bana experience provides a potential **model for other communities**. The model consists of a network of WHRDs and male advocates **teams embedded in their communities**, who after being trained and supported by NCfR, work with and through family and clan structures to influence change. They also **network with other active groups** from neighbouring locations.

- The Bana WHRDs and MAs network has also **pioneered the practice of charging for their mediation services** (20K per person involved in a mediation). In the context of increasing monetisation and pressure to generate cash income, serving as a volunteer WHRDs or MAs is challenging. Charging a small amount for mediation services may contribute to increasing the viability and **sustainability of volunteer** WHRDs and MAs.

- **Intergenerational leadership** - young women and men play a significant role in the Bana WHRDs/MAs network, and they are being mentored by mature WHRDs and MAs.

- WHRDs and MAs are moving into other **leadership spaces**, serving as board members, ward members and on peace and security committees.

- The Bana experience (as well as from Buin, Marai and Siwai) all point to the **quality of training** as a critical factor for ensuring that WHRDs, MAs and community counsellors have a sufficiently high level of capacity.
Individual Transformations

• Outcomes related to WHRDs training include the emergence of women with the skills and confidence to challenge injustices, demonstrate leadership in a wide variety of contexts, and take on the responsibility of defending and protecting others who are survivors of violence. WHRDs lead on community initiatives individually or collectively.

• Outcomes resulting from the transformations of individuals (Safe House and Men’s Hub clients, former perpetrators, WHRDs, male advocates) and their collaborative efforts, demonstrate that:
  • Individual survivors and perpetrators of FSV whose lives have been transformed by training and counselling often go on to influence many others to make positive changes in their lives and communities.

Example: In early 2018, Mark, a former perpetrator of family violence, and his wife Emma, assisted two women from Manetai in the Panguna District of Central Bougainville to obtain Interim Protection Orders at the court house and then brought them to the Arawa Safe House. The couple are now helping other women in their community who are facing similar problems. Both are former NCfR clients.
Individual Transformations, continued

• Assisting Safe House clients beyond immediate needs for shelter and protection, with **life skills training** and support can make a difference to their **ability to recover and re-establish their lives** after trauma.
  • There are examples when after safe houses trained survivors skills of financial literacy, gardening and/or cooking; and/or gave them seed resources (such as seeds, ice-blocks to sell, a block of land to grow vegetables, etc.), these **women established**, for instance, chicken growing **business**, a market stall, or a catering business.
  • Former **perpetrators can be transformed** to the extent that they take action in their communities to protect and help FSV survivors or even become male advocates.
Working with Allies

• The evaluation highlighted the importance of **key strategic alliances** that NCfR has **formed over the years** with organisations in Bougainville and beyond. These alliances include some Autonomous Bougainville Government departments, private sector organisations and development partners. Important alliances include the police, the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Department for Community Development and Religion, National FSVAC, UN Women, Bougainville Family Support Centres, community based organisations (e.g. Hako Women’s Collective and the Teop-Taonita Women’s Peace Circle), Bougainville Women’s Federation’s district groups in Siwai and Buin, transport providers, service providers, as well as VSA and IWDA, and many other partners.

• Trust is a critical prerequisite for the development and success of these relationships.

• NCfR provided training to women’s groups and community based organisations, and contributed to developing their capacity to deliver activities and community projects. Now NCfR also **benefits from trainings** provided by other groups, for example, Hako Women’s Collective is successfully running positive parenting trainings and NCfR is able to send their participants to that training.
Leveraging Resources

- Extensive leveraging of resources is a key element of NCfR’s sustainability strategy.
- NCfR has practiced **internal leveraging** in the form of co-contributions to the project budget, and **external leveraging** through use of local and international volunteers, and through accessing human and financial resources from government, target communities and development partners. The evaluation documented twenty-two examples of external leveraging.
- The total cost of the three year project (budget and in-kind contribution) was: $2.84 million, of which **61 percent** ($1.72 million) was contributed by the Australian Aid funding and **39 percent** ($1.12 million) by NCfR and IWDA. The contribution to grant funds was done through funding core costs of safe houses (food, clothing, housing), time and costs of consultants, support staff, donations for work of WHRDs, Forums, as well as WHRDs fundraising and contributions to the project (fire wood, food, transport for forums and meetings).
Challenges

- **Finding entry points in new communities** – not all communities are easy to engage, especially at the start of new relationships. NCfR addresses it through working with community leaders and individual WHRDs, through tailoring trainings to local context, working with key influencers.

- NCfR interventions are *volunteer-oriented* and not designed to offer allowances to community participants. However, some participants of trainings and community-based initiatives made *demands for sitting allowances* during training events. NCfR has adhered firmly to its policy of not providing allowances. The demands for allowances prompted a change in approach with greater attention to the selection process of participants.

- **Funding** is not enough for the level of work that is done by the project. There is a need for significant co-contribution and fundraising.

- **Advocacy for change takes long periods of time**, for example, NCfR with other partners is advocating for the Bougainville Safe Houses Policy. As people change, Government priorities also change, and at times the work has to start again from scratch, this work requires persistence, patience and hope for the change.
Challenges, continued

• **Sustaining active volunteer WHRDs and male advocates** is a challenge. Many people get trained, but it is hard to predict who will continue leading on initiatives beyond the training. Organising and holding annual reflections, such as the Bougainville WHRDs Forum and Male Advocates Forum, is a strategy for retaining activists and ensuring their connections to other groups.

• There are challenges with **monitoring and evaluation processes**, such as collecting information at outcome level and from WHRDs/MAs networks. NCfR is trying to utilise meetings, reflections and workshop spaces to fulfil such purpose, but it is not visible to collect information from all trained people through the project after they go back to their communities. NCfR introduced regional monitoring visits to collect this information.

• Collecting information on **transformation of perpetrators into male advocates** is also challenging, as it is a sensitive issue, not everyone is willing to share their story or individual experiences of transformation.
Recommendations

• Continue and strengthen the NCfR model of engaging with WHRDs and male advocates, and working with communities. As in Phase 1, use on-going follow-up and support to maintain community teams connection to NCfR and to promote networking and cross-learning among community based teams in different locations.

• Consider how NCfR might work with other partners around the wider strategy of FSV prevention. If NCfR opts to expand work in primary prevention, advocacy is also likely to be an important part of the strategy.

• Continue working with allies, such as women’s groups and community based organisations as it creates mutual benefits.

• Update project’s Theory of Change and monitoring and evaluation framework and tools to reflect changes and evolution of project implementation in Phase 1. Continue strengthening NCfR’s M&E and organisation capacity.

• Organise an inauguration event to orient the team on the objectives, design, roles and responsibilities, and budget for Phase 2.
Thank you!

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Director, NCfR

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