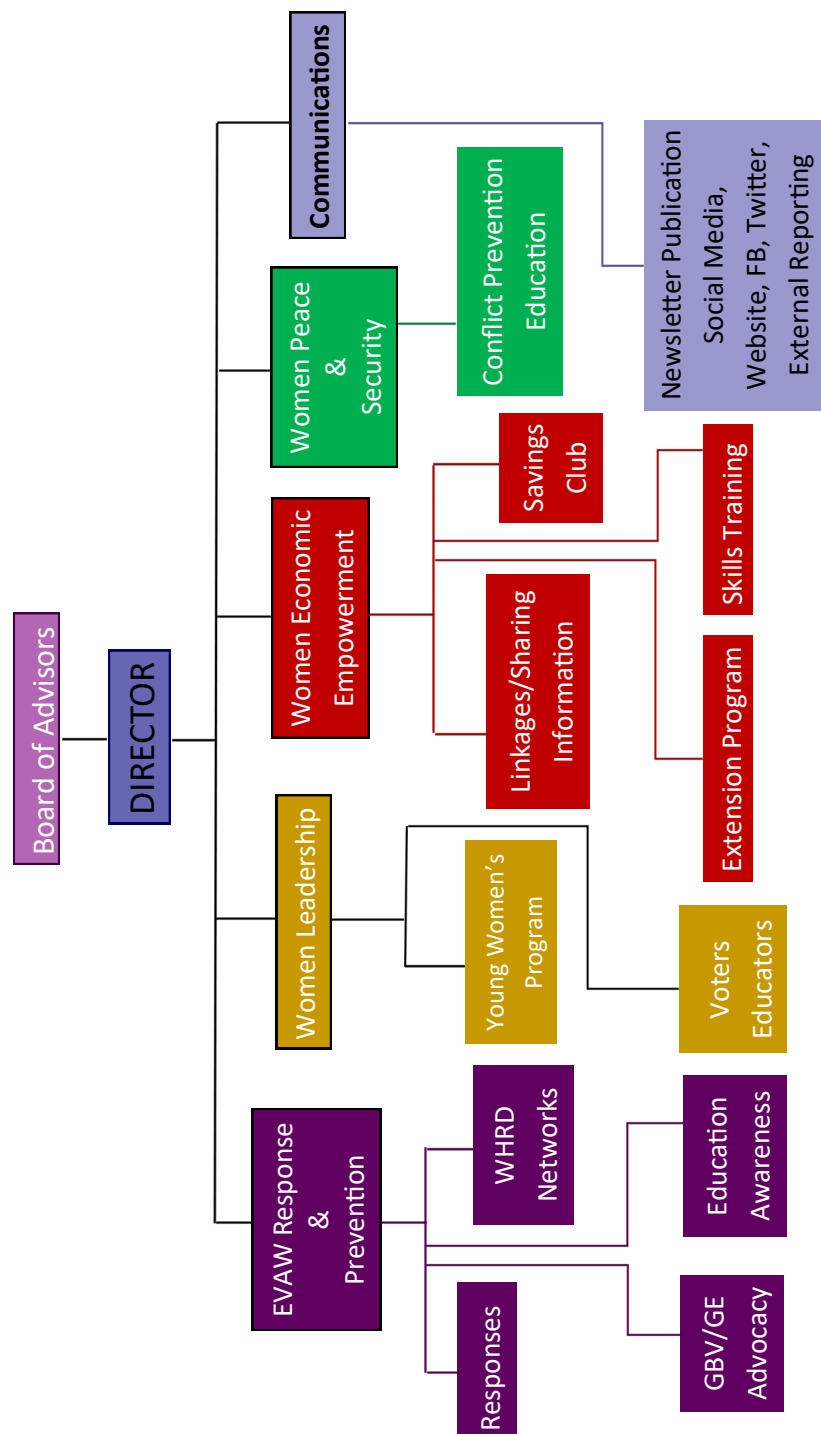




Briefs ..

- On the 29th of July 2021, Vfc WHRD Desk team held an in-house consultation meeting to discuss possible partners and individuals to work and deal with the rise on SARV in the province, Jiwaka.
- Vfc was invited to share its work at Mountain M Festival in Waghi Valley on the 26th of August 2021. A team from Vfc attended the event and spoke about the work of the organisation and how women and girls are supported when faced with violence.
- Jiwaka Provincial GBV Secretariat Committee's second meeting to update on the progress including the meeting with UNDP team in Port Moresby
- Mr Philemon Opur, Vfc Women Human Rights Defenders Project Coordinator, attended a day Virtual Seminar on gender inequalities in Pacific on the 25th of August 2021.
- Jiwaka Provincial GBV Secretariat Committee second meeting with progress updates on the 19th of August 2021.
- On the 23rd of September 2021, Vfc mediated a domestic violence case between a couple after the wife sustained wounds from husband and seek refuge at Vfc safe house for almost a month.

**Watch out for the next Issue and more stories of change.*



JULY— SEPTEMBER, 2021

VOICE FOR CHANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 THIRD QUARTER 2021



In-Service for Jiwaka Provincial Peace Officers

More than 50 Peace Officers from Jiwaka were trained and educated on their mediation roles and the limitations of powers vested on them.

.....more stories on page 5

Inside this issue:

Trainings	p2
EVAW/GBV	p3
Meetings	p4
Survivors Repatriation	p5
Vfc Insights	p6
plus many more	



Spotlight Initiative

This Vfc quarterly Newsletter is funded by **WEAVERS** and **SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE**



United Nations WOMEN



"EMPOWERING
RURAL WOMEN"

Voice For Change
P O Box 1117
Mt Hagen
Western Highlands Province,
Papua New Guinea

Phone: +(675) 546 5558
Fax: +(675) 546 5558
Email: voiceforchange@gmail.com
Website: www.voiceforchange.ngo.pg



www.facebook.com/VoiceForChangeJiwaka

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



Hello Everyone,
I am delighted to share Voice for Change third quarter edition of its newsletter for 2021.

This quarter started on a high note with many activities as VfC have two new partners coming on board.

We have the following interesting line ups of activities like:

- ♦ Inception workshops both in person and virtual learnings

- ♦ Peace officers In-Service - one of three planned activities
- ♦ Young Women focused activities
- ♦ And many more

We have other on-going and short term engagements activities that are complementing our work.

Enjoy Reading and God Bless!

Lilly BeSoer

Soil Fertility Training

Under the NARI 'Lukautim Graun' Project, 20 VfC farming couples received a Soil Fertility Training on Sweet Potato from the 12th to 16th of July 2021.

The couples learn both theory and practical knowledge and skills in growing quality and high yield sweet potatoes by using soil management techniques to do more farming and supplying in bigger markets.



The farmers doing practical at one of the sites

There are five experimenting sites representing farming groups located at central areas.

Provincial GBV Secretariat Setup Workshop in Port Moresby

On the 2nd to 4th of August 2021, VfC Director Ms Lilly BeSoer and Provincial Gender Officer Ms Mary Tol representing Jiwaka attended the Provincial GBV Secretariats Setup Workshop hosted by UNDP and the Department of Community Development and Religion in Port Moresby.

They both presented the Jiwaka Provincial GBV Strategy and Action Plan to have it endorsed and supported by provincial government of Jiwaka.



Jiwaka team Lilly and Mary at the workshops

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Hi all,

Welcome to the third quarter of our newsletter for 2021.

VfC is very excited to share the work undertaken during this three months period. We have highlighted some of VfC core activities and would

like to give our partners, stakeholders and fellow countrymen and women a fair share of what the organisation is doing.

So enjoy reading this newsletter and learn for yourself.

Gideon Bare

Newsletter Editor

Vision

Peace and Gender Equality For All

Purpose/Mission

VfC is a Provincial Women's Organisation based in Jiwaka, working to End All Forms of Violence against women and girls. The Organisation is building a Society that Promotes Women's Human Rights and Equal Participation

Principles

- Equality
- Women's Rights
- Accountability
- Transparency

Values

- ♦ Commitment
- ♦ Fairness
- ♦ Trust
- ♦ Partnership

ACRONYM

CSW - Commission on the Status of Women

EVAV - Ending Violence Against Women

FSC - Family Safety Committee

FSVAC - Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee

FSVU - Family and Sexual Violence Unit

GBV - Gender Based Violence

GBVAW - Gender Based Violence Against Women

HR - Human Rights

IWD - International Women's Day

IWDA - International Women's Development Agency

SPC - Special Parliamentary Committee

WEAVERS - Women's Empowerment and Voice for Equal Rights

WEPP - Women Economic Empowerment Program

WHRD - Women Human Right Defender

WLP - Women Leaders Pathway

VAW - Violence Against Women

VFC - Voice For Change

YWLEP - Young Women Leaders Empowerment Program

Sanap Wantain Campaign TOT Workshop in Goroka

The Sanap Wantain Campaign National Training of Trainers Workshop was held in Goroka by the Un Women team from the 19th to 13th of August 2021.

CSOs including VfC engaged under the UN Women Spotlight Initiative Program and Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund came together and made known the aims and goals of the Behaviour and Communication Change campaign targeting Youths.

The workshop was to build understanding of the campaign strategy and tool for use and was also to increase participants awareness on Gender Based Violence and safety for women and girls.



VfC team Mr Gideon Bare and Kukupri BeSoer standing left with the group

At the workshop, International Youths Day was celebrated on the 12th of August 2021 and youths from each organisation made remarks and awareness on their role towards achieving gender equality.

Peace Building Training

A Peace Building Training was conducted by VfC for Kuna Community of Wurup Kaip Anglimp at VfC Resource Centre from the 6th to 10th of September 2021.

Total of 23 including 5 female participants received knowledge on understanding and appreciating the core value of peace maker and to encourage other to become agents of peace.

After the training, participants made positive remarks to change themselves before advocating for peace outside of their homes. Certificates of attainments were issued



Participants with their certificates

to each of them for benefitting from this five days training.

YWLP Respectful Relationship Training

From the 16th to 20th August 2021, a training on Respectful Relationship was conducted by Voice for Change under the Young Women Leadership Program at Voice for Change Resource Centre.

A total of 19 participants mostly husbands and partners of the first and second batch of young women leaders including Voice for Change young staff.

The training provided the opportunities for young men and women to develop the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their relationship. They also learn information about their rights and where to access help if they are experiencing violence.



Ms Clara Opor; Right with the participants

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Response Program (EVAW RESPONSE)

Voice for Change Ending Violence Against Women and Response Program is one of the main focus area for the organisation that is providing the following services:

- Counselling - one to one, couple and group
- Referrals - hospitals, police and village and district courts support
- Repatriations and Safe house support on Sorcery related issues
- Legal Aid Supports like: IPO, child maintenance, labour under payments, arson cases, represent survivors in courts
- Mediation - family conflicts and reconciliation supports

Within the program, the full working team for this quarter of 2021 comprised of:

- ♦ A Coordinator
- ♦ Counsellors
- ♦ Legal Officers & Legal Persons
- ♦ A support staff

The EVAW Response Desk has two office set ups that are located at:

1. Banz town (Old Provincial Building)
2. Kukpa main office

Under the program, VfC has key stakeholders such as Police, Health and Courts to help survivors and clients receive the needed services.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS QUARTER

Below are summary of activities undertaken under the EVAW Response Desk for this quarter:

- Received a total of 191 clients including both women and men
- 73 Counselling
- 7 Child Maintenance
- 6 Village Court Appeal
- 43 IPOs obtained by survivors - 11 Successful
- 7 Industrial Complaints
- 1 Civil Claim
- 2 Adultery
- 29 SARV Survivors Cases
- 2 Police Brutality
- 19 received safe house service
- 364 survivors reached including 4 other provinces

First Legal Representation for a Survivor at District Court

After years of operation without legal representation, VfC legal officer Miss Nadika Popena for the first time, represented a survivor and appeared at the Minj District Court.

This was made possible through VfC successfully obtaining a restricted legal practicing certificate from CLSJS to help rural women fairly access justice especially on GBV cases.

When survivors were referred to courts, most of them were thrown out because of inadequate representation resulting in perpetrators being set free. It is a much needed service which will help ordinary rural people to see justice being prevailed.

Now that the survivors will have their sufferings be recognised and voices be heard through the channel of legal mitigation with VfC becoming the mouth piece for the vast rural struggling women, VfC would like to thank the support of UN Women under the Spotlight Initiative that has made it possible.



Establishment of South Waghi Family Peace and Friendly Committee

On the 24th of August 2021, VfC hosted an Introductory and Establishment of South Waghi Family Peace and Friendly Committee Meeting at VfC Resource Centre.

It was a first meeting to establish a committee and to strengthen referral pathways for GBV and family sexual violence issues in South Waghi District. The intention for the committee was to develop strategies that will be used to mediate issues affecting women and children and implement positive actions accordingly to create a friendly and safe communities within the district.

Leaders from across South Waghi showed interest and came



Community Leader from South Waghi and VfC team at the meeting

in numbers at the meeting and made a solidarity stand to work together to see a better and peaceful South Waghi.

Jiwaka Provincial GBV Secretariat Committee first Meeting

On the 20th of July 2021, VfC facilitated a first meeting for Jiwaka Provincial GBV Secretariat Committee at VfC Resource Centre.

The committee comprised of representatives from:

- Provincial Government
- Provincial Health Authority
- Ecumenical Council of Women and
- Voice for Change

During the meeting, they revised Provincial GBV Strategic and Action Plan by identifying main activities,



Ms Lilly BeSoer facilitating the meeting

Terms of Reference for Budget, the specific Outcomes and way forward for the committee.

North Waghi FSC Meeting

As part of the Committee's requirement, North Waghi Family Safety Committee held its third quarter meeting facilitated by VfC on the 22nd of September 2021.

This meeting was very challenging and important as violence in the district over the past weeks were rising and demanded immediate meeting to look at possible ways to work towards making it a better and peaceful town.

Minj Market Committee representatives also attended to share their ideas and experience for a way forward.



One of the committee leader speaking to the committees



Supplying building materials for SARV Survivors

After the repatriation and reintegration of 20 Sorcery Accused Related Violence survivors, VfC again supplied semi-sized homes building materials for those three families of Womatne in Gembogl District of Simbu Province on the 10th of July 2021.

With the escort support from defence personnel, VfC successfully delivered the materials right into the community and the survivors were at hand to receive them.

VfC also made assessment and progress updates that the IPOs were effective and the survivors are residing peacefully.



Offloading the Building Materials from defence vehicle at Womatne

EVAW Legal Service and YLWP Information Awareness

On the 21st of July 2021, VfC legal team and Young Women Leadership Program team held a one day Information Awareness Session on the types of services and activities undertaken within the two programs at Minj Technical and Vocational Training Centre.

More than 130 students and teachers from the institution gathered and received the legal information on village and district courts that can be accessible by ordinary rural people. They were made aware of the legal services provided by VfC to any citizen of the province seeking help on gender based violence and other forms of violence.



VfC team, Students and Teachers of Mini TVET

Introductory Meeting with USAID

A team from VfC met with a possible partner USAID for an Introductory Session at Jiwaka Mission Resort on the 15th of July 2021.

USAID Gender Officer and Highlands Region Project Coordinator Ms Linda Pekosi introduced the Lukautim Graun Project and made a brief presentation on the outcome area which VfC can partner with and also expressed confidence and trust in VfC to deliver as expected. VfC is engaged to work with USAID PNG on Conservation Sites in Jimi District of Jiwaka Province.

At the end of the session, a letter of understanding and



Ms Lilly (Left) and Ms Linda (Right) with the signed document

acceptance was signed between VfC and USAID PNG.



Partners Inception Workshop at JMR

From the 10th to 13th of August 2021, VfC attended a Partners Inception Zoom Workshop at Jiwaka Mission Resort in Banz, Jiwaka.

This online meeting was for partners to:

- Introduce the staff and the organisation
- Share organisation work and Theory of Change
- Reflection on challenges and successes
- First Quarter Financial and Narrative report
- Partnership Principals

VfC from Jiwaka, Wide Bay Conservation Association from East New Britain and International Women's Development Agency from Melbourne Australia are all partners under the



Team VfC at the Zoom Meeting at JMR

Women's Empowerment and Voice for Equal Rights (WEAVERS) Program funded by DFAT, a new donor.

First North Waghi FSC Leaders Meeting at JMR

On the 25th of August 2021, VfC was invited to participate at the First North Waghi FSC Executives and Leaders meeting at Jiwaka Mission Resort, Banz.

Leaders including Ward Councillors, Banz Town Mayor, North Waghi LLG Council Manager, District Officers, Defence Personal, Church and NGO Representatives within North Waghi held an urgency meeting and identified major issues that are currently affecting North Waghi District specifically the Banz areas.

They further discussed the solutions that would help



VfC team and the Banz Leaders

minimise and eradicate these issues and a way forward for a peace district.

VfC First Court legal Representation

The 19th of August 2021 was an exciting day for VfC to see an ordinary rural woman been represented by its legal officer at a District Court.

VfC legal team and staff gathered to see and witnessed Miss Nadika Popena making her first appearance at the Minj District Court and defended a survivor.

After long years of struggle for rural women survivors to seek justice, VfC has finally stepped in to provide that much needed help to support survivors of violence been fairly represented.



Miss Nadika Popena, middle, with VfC team

Peace Officers In - Service

In this quarter, VfC Legal team facilitated two In - Service at VfC Resource Centre for a total of 59 Jiwaka Provincial Peace Officers on two separate dates of:

1. 2nd to 6th of August 2021 for Koinambe, Kol and Tabi Buga LLGs of Jimi District
2. 30th of August to 2nd of September 2021 for Nondugl, Banz and Kudjip LLGs of North and South Waghi Districts.

The aim was to identify their roles, responsibilities and structure under the provincial government and the legislations for mediation cases that are framed.

At the end of the workshop, the participants including a sole



Mr Alan Ipas - Provincial Law & Order Sector Program Manager; standing and speaking during the workshop

female received attainment certificates and made Action Plans to rollout in their respective LLGs. These were the first and second planned activities for all peace officers of Jiwaka Province to undergo such learnings.

EVAW Desk Counsellor's In-Service

From the 22nd to 24th of September 2021, VfC Ending Violence Against Women Desk held a Counsellor's In-Service at VfC Resource Centre in Kukpa, Minj.

Counsellors from Banz, Minj and Kukpa offices came together to capacitate their skills on counselling. It was to identify specific issues and provide appropriate counselling services accordingly to specific clients.

They learnt on preparing weekly and monthly reports and further know-how on data entry forms.



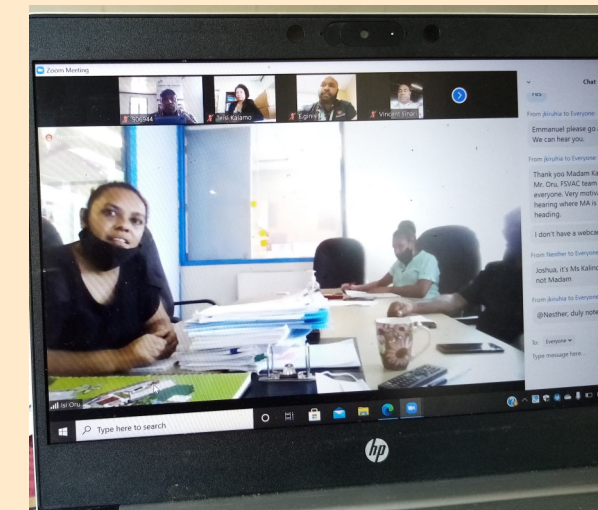
Counsellors group photo after the In-Service

Virtual Meeting with CIMC

A day virtual meeting on Male Advocacy for Women Human Rights was hosted by Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) with its partners including VfC on the 16th of July 2021.

VfC was invited to share on how programs are engaging men and boys to advocate and to help build a safer homes and communities for women and girls. They also shared the different types of challenges faced from men when advocating for equality.

It was a sharing session to update on male advocacy guidelines and toolkit for rolling training within the country.



Mr Gideon Bare; top left, representing VfC

Family Team trainers ZOOM Meeting

Family Farm and Family team goal is one of the training Vfc is vocal in educating rural communities to practice for a peaceful living.

On the 26th of August 2021, Vfc Family team trainers attended a Zoom Meeting with the Australian National University to brief on how best the activity can be used to farmers engaged under the NARI Soil Improvement Project.

The team shared their experiences, challenges and made way forward recommendations that will help have a positive outcome of the project.

The project funded by ANU through NARI partnering with Vfc is a short term project supporting farmers on Soil Fertility for Sweet Potato farming.



Vfc Family Farm Team during the session

YWLP End of Project Reflection

After four years of engagement, Vfc hosted a Reflection and Planning Meeting for 28 young women leaders under the young women and leadership program from the 10th to 11th of August 2021 at Voice for Change Resource Centre.

These were the first and second cohorts young women that were engaged between 2017 to 2020. They were brought together to assess and update on their progress of the learnings they acquired under the program.

They shared the challenges faced when putting into use



Group photo at the Reflection

new learnings and the lessons learnt along the way. Most of them admitted the real struggle and limited space women have within their respective communities.

EVAW Desk Counsellors and Survivors Healing of Memory Workshop

Counsellors and Survivors from Ending Violence Against Women Program attended a Healing of Memory workshop from the 27th to 30th of September 2021.

The participants came in as two groups; North Waghi and South Waghi with counsellors bringing in their clients and the sessions being scheduled for a day and two nights for each team.

They learnt ways to overcome pressures and traumas caused by the perpetrators and looked at self care options that are helpful and healthy.



North Waghi team group photo after the Workshop

Kuma Tribal Conflict Resolution

On the dates of 13th, 14th, 23rd, 26th, 27th and 28th of August 2021, a tribal conflict Resolution was mediated by Vfc for two tribes of Kudjip LLG.

Since the conflict has been ongoing for almost two decades that affected the surrounding communities and the market, Vfc has stepped in to facilitate a long lasting peace for both tribes.

A committee will also be established to look after the affairs of the community and the market to ensure women are safe and free to sell their produce.



One of the peace process of waring tribes coming together and drinking cola

Online Banking service setup

Due to technology era and convenience wise, Vfc has took a step further by doing its financial operation through online.

Through out this quarter, Bank of South Pacific team from Hagen was invited to help setup the online banking for Vfc finance team.

This was to adjust to the new technology of financial reporting required by the partners and to upgrade and improve the organisation's financial management systems

It is also in line with the Vfc sustainability goal to ensure dynamic, effective and progressive organisation.



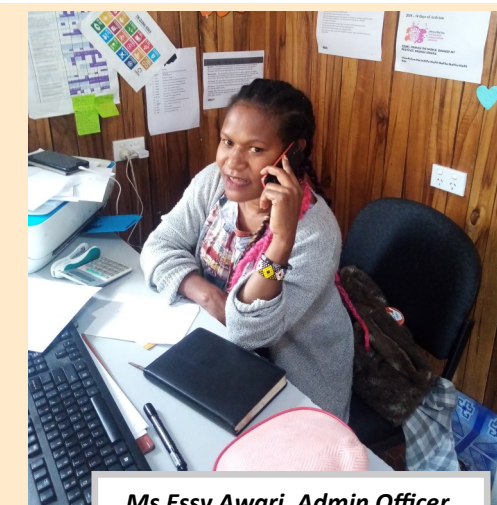
Hagen BSP team with Vfc Finance team

Closed User Group service setup

This quarter, Vfc has begun using its Closed User Group service to communicate within its staff and stakeholders.

The CUG service was introduced and setup to make Vfc working environment more effective and operational through communication. It is one of the way forward approach Vfc has taken to help minimise communication challenges and to make the work of responding to violence more proactive.

This service is shared among the offices, staff and FSVU officers of Minj and Banz Police.



Ms Essy Awari, Admin Officer, testing the admin CUG phone