



# FY2009 Women Leader Empowerment Seminar in Asia Pacific Region

Country Report

BUSINESS COALITION AGAINST HIV&AIDS[BAHA]

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

By

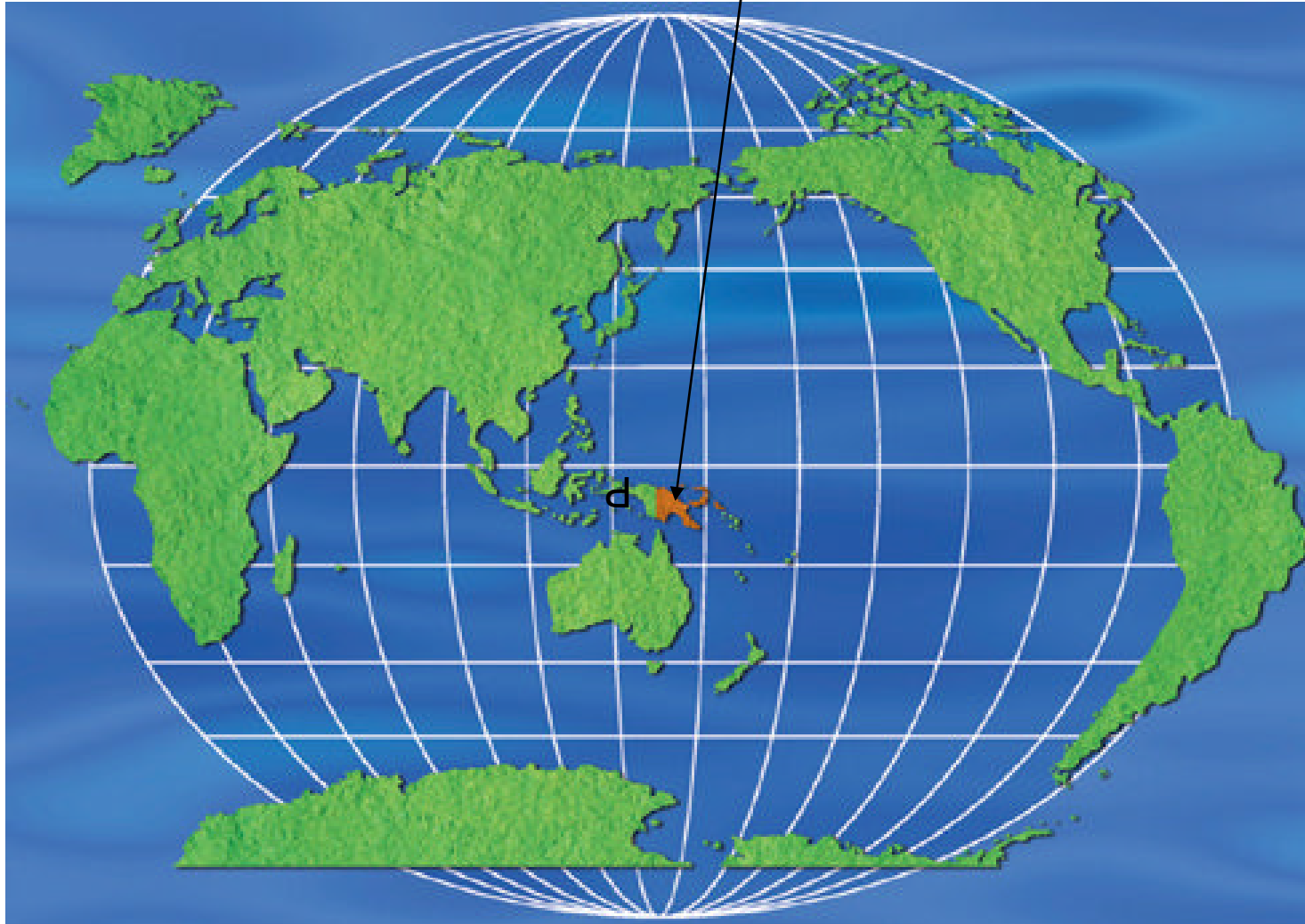
Miriam Varimosese LOVAI

Regional Branch Manager and HIV&AIDS Workplace Policy  
Development and Training Program Officer.





# Papua New Guinea





# Country Overview

- Population; 6.8million, Birth rate;1.5%- 2%
- Maternal Mortality rate is at 377to 7-800 per 100,000 live births.
- Leading causes of Deaths ; Pneumonia, Malaria, Hemorrhage HIV&AIDS.TB.
- This profound negative effect impacts & affects the situation and circumstances of women in development.



# Social Factors

- Culture
- Village court magistrates are mostly men who see Domestic Violence as a private family matter.
- Poor Police response to victims of gender based violence and also low women police Officers.
- Most women choose to remain silent, due to fear, blame ,shame and lack of services.



# Situation of VAW (statistics & salient features)

- Violence against Women has reached high levels of inequality between men and women according to an AusAID Gender Equality performance report 2006-7(AusAid2008)report.

It indicates the existence of these issues of concern which affect Women's lives. Less women participate in waged employment, very, very low representation in the parliament, Illiteracy rate is higher in women than men. Tertiary enrollment though low among both sexes, it is significantly much lower for women than men.



# Study statistics -415cases

- Lewis, Mauria and Walker(2008) found that;
- Fifty-eight percent of women had experienced physical and emotional abuse in relationships.
- Forty-seven percent had experienced financial abuse in relationships.
- Forty-four percent had experienced sexual violence.
- Thirty-eight percent had experienced forced social isolation in their relationship.



# Legal framework

- The Legal system and Policy for Violence Against Women is well in place , *The Criminal Code Act 1974, however this Act does not criminalize domestic violence, common assault are all punishment by terms of imprisonment. In 2003 Further amendments to the Evidence Act (1975) did give a range of provisions for giving evidence (Office of the Secretary for Justice and Attorney General 2007).*



# Government Initiatives

- Family support centre –Port Moresby General Hospital(2007).
- PNG a party to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- United Nations Security Council adopted resolution1820 on the cessation of all forms of violence against civilians in conflict zones
- International Women’s Development AID-Law and Justice strengthen through Papua New Guinea Police Department.
- UNIFEM Trust Fund to end Violence against Women. Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee.



# Government Policy on VAW

- **Changes to Papua New Guinea's legislation on sexual offences**
- With technical expertise provided by the UUNICEF from 2000 to 2002, the FSVAC and the DCD prepared
- amendments to the Criminal Code and Evidence Act, both of which were passed by Parliament in 2002.
- Features include:
- Clearly defined **sexual offences against children** (under 16 years for most offences, under 18 years for others). Offences include sexual touching and sexual exploitation, with increased penalties for those in a
- position of trust, such as parents, teachers and the police.
- Definition of incest expanded to cover more categories of relationships, in line
- with custom.
- Court procedures improved to protect survivors' safety and dignity.
- Definition of **rape** expanded to cover penetration of the mouth or anus and use of objects; requirement for
- medical corroboration removed; victim's previous sexual conduct not admissible as evidence.
- **Rape in marriage** became illegal.
- UNIFEM and DCD are now collaborating on a three-year project to educate communities, leaders, health service
- providers, legal aid organisations, the police and the judiciary about the amendments in two pilot provinces.
- Progress will be monitored and evaluated annually.

# Government Policy on VAW

- **PNG's Justice Sector Gender Strategy, 2005–2010 Strategies:**
- Develop policies and practices that will enable men and women to participate equally as employees of the
- Law and Justice sector.
- Develop and support a human rights approach to service delivery throughout the sector.
- Develop sector-wide knowledge and involvement in the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthen relationships between sector agencies and civil society organisations to promote non-violent
- conflict resolution.
- Increase women's access to the formal justice system.
- Monitor women's experiences of restorative justice initiatives and encourage gender equitable practices.
- Enhance PNG's capacity to provide detailed information on the situation of women and men before the law.
- Specific activities related to violence against women include:
- Training prosecutors and magistrates on the new Sexual Offences legislation.
- Developing and providing training on a medico-legal *pro forma* on sexual assault.
- Piloting a 'court accompaniment' program with the Salvation Army for survivors of rape or child
- sexual abuse.
- Supporting the Police Commissioner's efforts to improve police response on domestic violence.
- Setting aside one day a week in the National Court to hear sexual offence cases.
- Reviewing and updating village court policy to include family and sexual violence.

# HIV&AIDS prevention of Violence Against Women

- **HIV/AIDS as an entry point for prevention of violence against women**
- These initiatives have been introduced through the collaboration between the National AIDS Council and AusAID's HIV/AIDS support programs:
- Required training since 2002 for all paid and unpaid persons working on HIV/AIDS, with core modules on gender inequality, violence against women and human rights.
- The *National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2006–2010*, adopted in 2007, which asserts gender inequalities and violence against women as priority strategies (National AIDS Council of Papua New Guinea 2006a). This is a first in the Asia-Pacific region.
- A gender advisor position created in the National AIDS Council.
- A handbook distributed to all organisations working on HIV, giving guidelines on how to integrate gender sensitivity and prevention of violence against women into activities on HIV/AIDS (National AIDS Council of Papua New Guinea 2006b).
- Skills for addressing the links between violence against women and HIV testing and disclosure included in training for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) counsellors.
- A training course for men and boys, accredited by the National AIDS Council, addressing gender equality and violence against women.
- Community Conversations: a method for community mobilisation around HIV/AIDS that addresses gender power inequalities and is now being widely adopted by Government and NGOs.
- Save the Children's work with young people in Goroka on sexual health, using participatory action research that makes the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.
- Two gender advisor positions created within AusAID's program of support on HIV/AIDS (Sanap Wantaim)



# CIVIL Society Interventions

- Individual and Community Rights Advocacy (icraf) Forum
- East Sepik Council of Women
- Soroptimist International Club of Lae.
- 1Womens and children's support centre-Lae Angau Hospital set up by Soroptimist International Club for 7yrs.
- Violence and Trauma clinical care centre managed by Medicines Frontier (MSF) Angau Hospital.
- Seif Meri House- Anglicare Stop AIDS.
- **BUSINESS Against HIV&AIDS Advocacy and Training against Gender based Violence in the Private Sector workplace. (BAHA)**



# PRACTICES to Eradicate VAW

- Advocacy and Training through Public Service Training.
- Workplace Policy to be reviewed in the Private and Public Services General Order.
- Training into the Private Sector Chamber of Commerce & Mining and Industry.
- All VCCT & Reproductive clinics to conduct awareness on VAW programs.



# MAJOR OBSTACLES to Eradicate VAW

- Very low Women Representation in all Public and Private Sector Executive Employment positions.
- Very low representation in Political & Legislation decision making Bodies.
- School curriculum not adequately covering Life skills and Gender based Violence programs.
- Female School enrollment at Tertiary level very low
- High Illiteracy levels in Women.
- More Workplace Policy development into the Private Sector on Gender Based Violence as they employ the largest Economic based sector.(120,000.000)



# Conclusion-Policy Recommendations

- Literacy to be taught by Local Level Government Council in Districts.
- Local Level Councils to send girls to schools. Provinces to sponsor girls Education through award systems Paid Voucher (fees) for every parent that sends their daughters to school.
- Build through SUPPORT centers and refuge shelters for longer periods.

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- 6 A measure of development by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income into a composite index
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