



Leadership, gender equality and women empowerment for equitable service in extractive resource areas:

- PORGERA IN ENGA PROVINCE

Introduction:

- Porgera is a district of about 60 – 65 thousand population. Of this figure women are about half of the population. And most of them are impacted by mining activities just like in any other extractive resource areas in PNG. Of the many direct and indirect issues related to mining, Family Sexual Violence or Gender Based Violence is one major issue affects the lives of women & families at different degrees.
- What has been done and what needs to be done to address FSV/GBV to make the lives of women safe and be empowered.

Since the mine started, there are number of issues that affect the women of Porgera

- ✓ Health Issue- STDs/HIVAIDS
- ✓ Land issues
- ✓ Payment of compensation and loyalties to men on behalf of families and communities denies women access to and control financial benefits of mining
- ✓ Women headed families missed out on payments
- ✓ Employment privileges are given to men then women
- ✓ If men is employed then this increases the work burden of women in the house

- ✓ Due to influx of male work force , social and health problems are more prevalent in communities. These problems can lead to increase alcohol use, domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS and prostitutions.
- ✓ FSV/GBV

Family Sexual Violence is one of the critical issues the women in the extractive area of Porgera are impacted with.

Approaches taken to address FSV/GBV issues by:

A. Porgera Barrick

- In 2011 set Women's Welfare Office(PWWO)
- In 2012 Porgera Remediation Framework Association (PRFA)
- Initiated Restorative Justice Initiative (RJI)– which later became Restorative Justice Initiative Association(RJIA) &
- FSVSC RJIA became a key civil society of the 5 civil societies(LIG, BIG,FSVSC, PSDC, ICOC) of RJIA.

B. RJIA

Carried out activities;

- Male Advocacy training
- Transformational Leadership Development Program
- Family Protection Act Training
- Additional human resources & training & development opportunities not seen before in Porgera.
- Particularly attention is paid to local & National Justice Security priorities, notably in respect of human rights awareness and training, as well as in the critical areas of family and sexual (FSV) and anti-corruption.
- Opened the First District Level FSVU for RPNG, & donated a FSVU vehicle, office equipment
- Institute FSV Steering Committee Empowered to advise District Administrator in Policies for FSV/GBV and link other agencies/NGOs through meetings

C. CIMC/FSVAC

Funded

- awareness on 20 days human rights days to PWWO & Voice for Enga Women Association
- Gender sensitising trainings partners with Voice for Enga Women Association
- Family Counselling Training partners with PWWO

Positive Outcomes:

- Good number of Women and marginalised people now understand about their rights includes legal, human, & civil.
- Big improvement in the provision of service provision on FSV cases by current District magistrate.
- **FSV police unit (FSVU) being established in June 2014** (first in an extractive area, first in a district of PNG, 400 FSV cases were reported by the unit in the first 4 months since the establishment of it)
- **FSVSC Chairperson appointee was a female**
- FSV issues reduced.
- Free to make choices and decisions
- Safer now to move around then before
- Men now starting to refrain from causing violence of all forms against women/children.
- The male advocates who attended the Male advocate trainings have learnt to change their individual behaviours (negative behaviour) towards women.
- Main highway from Porgera to Wabag headquarter is now safe especially for women & children to travel.

Challenges:

- Inconsistency in the provision of Funding
- Cultural Traditional norms & customs
- No Family Support Centre
- Lacks complete referral path way system.

Recommendations for way forward:

- Need to have consistent funding for long term benefits
- Need to have set Provincial FSVU
- Need to set Family Support Centre in Porgera District
- Village court magistrates need training on Family Protection Act, IPO, & or PO.
- Local Stakeholders who are heavily and actively involved in advocating for FSV issues to be recognised or compensated for the best results.

Conclusion:

- Thanks the following partners who are actively supported FSV/GBV/VAW activities in Porgera advocating against violence against women;
- Barrick Porgera
- CIMC/FSVAC
- RJIA
- DFAT through the partnership of RJIA & PALJP
Other key stakeholders including NGOs, Churches COC, civil societies, Govt institutions.
- Voice for Enga Women Association

Tenk yu!

Everlyne Sap – Chair of FSVAC Enga & Founder of Voice for Enga Women Association