

HOPE *worldwide* (PNG)

ANNUAL REPORT

2005 - 2006

HOPE *worldwide* (PNG) is a Christian non-government organization founded in 1994. Our mission is to bring hope and change lives by providing medical, educational, and social services to the underprivileged in Papua New Guinea, a developing nation just north of Australia. We are affiliated with HOPE *worldwide* entities in USA, Australia, New Zealand and over 60 other nations. Notable programs of HOPE *worldwide* in other countries include the Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, extensive HIV/AIDS programs in Africa, and wide-ranging programs in India

During 2005-6, highlights included expansion of our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, the millionth book milestone of the library program, and a research study in youth diabetes.

• HIV / AIDS programs

The toll from HIV/AIDS in PNG is steadily rising. Infection rates continue to climb, and the country is starting to experience the horrendous damage that has been seen in many other countries. For the epidemic to be controlled, it is critical that disease spread is limited in high-risk populations. HOPE *worldwide* (PNG) now has a number of programs addressing the challenges from this modern-day scourge. Each year, our HIV



Above: Dispensing medicine at the Nine Mile Clinic.

community educators teach sexual health to Grade 6-8 students in virtually all of the government primary schools in the capital -Port Moresby. Our Nine Mile Clinic was one of the first in the country to introduce Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) for antenatal mothers, patients with TB, and other concerned clients.

In 2005, with funding and guidance provided by Family Health International, we launched a major new program in the Nine Mile area, aiming to reduce HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The initiative is called *Helivim Bilong Yumi* – “Our Help”, and has two main goals:

- to improve access to Sexually Transmitted Disease and HIV services and VCT for vulnerable women and men, sex workers, and People Living with HIV/AIDS – by development of diagnostics, counselling and referral services for sexually transmitted diseases, and
- to promote behaviour change and increase safe sex practices amongst sex workers and other high-risk individuals by means of peer education, promotion of condom use, and other activities

Finally and happily, antiretroviral treatment (ART) has been introduced into PNG. This offers hope to the tens of thousands of serum-positive individuals who would otherwise die. The treatment however is complex to administer and monitor. The Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria asked us to conduct the first workshop in the country to train community volunteers to administer ART. This was a success, and we will conduct many more workshops in 2007.

• Primary health in the squatter settlements and rural areas

Our flagship program – the Nine Mile Urban Clinic – has become one of the foremost health facilities in Port Moresby. It is recognised as a model urban clinic by



the community, government, and international donors. Each year, over 30,000 patients are cared for. The clinic provides treatment for tuberculosis, typhoid, malaria, and other diseases, family planning, antenatal care, and infant immunisation and nutrition services. The on-site laboratory does blood slides for malaria, sputum cytology for tuberculosis, serum testing for HIV, and other diagnostic tests. In the isolated villages of Bokolma and Kalweri in Gumine District in the highlands, the two community-run aid posts that we support are providing desperately needed care for the surrounding populations.

- **Youth diabetes study completed**

The Koki Wanigela community of Port Moresby has one of the highest prevalence of “adult-onset” type 2 diabetes in the world. Experience in similar communities in other countries has shown that some older children and youth already have diabetes, but are unaware. This is a dangerous situation as the disease causes complications, which can with time progress into such conditions as kidney failure, blindness, and coronary vascular disease. We conducted a study of the 10-20 year olds in the community - 763 subjects in all, results of which are still being analysed. Preliminary results however showed there were a handful of youth with diabetes, and others with pre-diabetes and other conditions. Appropriate care is being arranged for these children, and results from the study will guide us as we



Above: Children lining up to enrol in the Koki diabetes study.

work with the community to establish the first diabetes community education program in PNG.

- **Health Enhancement in Gumine District**

Following on from our Health Survey of Gumine District in Simbu Province in 2004-5, we received a grant from PNG Sustainable Development Ltd to improve health services in the area. Desperately needed equipment such as a delivery bed, steriliser, suction equipment, has been provided, and solar lights have been installed. During 2007 we will revitalise and extend the capacity of the laboratory, provide equipment to all the districts' Aid



Above: Learning how to transfer image files at Gumine High School.

Posts, and embark on programs in HIV/AIDS education, tuberculosis control, and immunisation. In addition, part of this grant provided an ultrasound machine for Nonga Base Hospital, in Rabaul in East New Britain Province. This machine will aid the care of hundreds of complicated pregnancies each year, as well as be useful in investigation and management of gynaecological and gastro-intestinal disorders.

- **School library program**

From its humble beginnings as a Mobile Library serving eight Port Moresby schools, the school library and IT program has grown to impact the learning of children all over the country. Each year around a quarter of a million books are sent from Australia and are distributed through the outreach program. The program's millionth book was donated by



Schofields Public School in Sydney, and presented to Iobuna Kouba Primary



Above: A classroom at Mul Primary School, one of the schools we assist.

School, Central Province in 2005. During 2005-6 the program focused on East Sepik, Enga, and Eastern, Western, and Southern Highlands, helping 631 schools. Training workshops were conducted in various sites, and library manuals distributed. The Mobile Library still serves Port Moresby schools, having moved on from many of the schools originally served since we have helped them stock and open their own libraries. Computer classrooms have been opened in 10 schools in six provinces, and more will be started in 2007 – HOPE worldwide (NZ) volunteers sent up 120 computers loaded with Linux, Open Office, and other free software. We are very grateful to NZAID who fund this program, and to many other partners and in-kind donors.

• Keeping children in schools

Many children in PNG, probably over one third, do not complete their primary education. Some are never enrolled in school. The Kisim Save (“gaining knowledge”) school in the Six Mile settlement has two classes – a standard preschool, which gives young children a chance to begin learning before school starts, and a non-formal class that caters for children aged 8-14 years old who are not enrolled in school. These students are given skills during the year, are then tested and placed into government schools. This school is the only one of its kind in the country, and gives children a chance to gain literacy and even higher education. Our school sponsorship

program supports these and other children as they progress through their years of education, and also supports health and education programs in the areas where the children live.

• Agriculture

Resource development is starting to improve the country’s overall situation but the wealth is mainly localised to a few specific areas. Subsistence farming and cash-cropping are the main industries for the rest of the country. Our agriculture staff train peri-urban and rural farmers in vegetable farming, small animal husbandry, and cash crops such as vanilla.

• Preserving cultural history

The people living in the rugged valleys of Gumine District in the highlands have seen extraordinary change in the last 60 years. It was not until the 1930s that this area new of the world beyond the highlands, and not until 1945 that any regular contact occurred. Since then, the rich tapestry of traditional life and culture has been inexorably pushed aside by Western influence. As each year passes fewer elders survive who are able to pass on their heritage, and since there are no written records, the *Taim bipo* (“time before”) is in danger of being lost forever. In partnership with the community, we have commenced an oral history program that is recording the voices, images, and recollections of these senior men and women, so that their stories live on.



Above: Kora Marme - one of the seniors who shared their stories in the Oral History program



Office bearers of HOPE worldwide (PNG) Inc.

President: Mr. Luke Keria
Secretary: Agatha Mang
Treasurer: Julie Hulama

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following organisations for their cash or in kind support:

Major donors and partners

- Department of Health (via Churches Medical Council)
- NZAID
- Family Health International / USAID
- Side-by-Side International
- Malaysian Business Association of PNG
- National AIDS Council / NHASP
- AusAID - Community Development Service
- Mobil Oil New Guinea
- Scholastic Australia
- National Library of PNG
- PNG Sustainable Development Ltd
- Rotary Clubs of Rydalmere, Eastwood, and Galston (all NSW Australia)
- Chief Container Services / Swire Shipping Agencies
- European Union
- Skills Development Trust Fund (ADB)
- Wheels
- DHL
- HT PNG
- Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Myer Foundation
- The Charitable Foundation
- Springvale RSL Sub-Branch
- HOPE *worldwide* and Church of Christ members in Australia, New Zealand, USA and Austria.

Other donors and partners

Hi-Lift Co., JICA, Theodist, World Vision, Fairdeal Group of Companies, Imprint, Department of Agriculture and Livestock, NARI, International Diabetes Federation, Professional Centre of Australia, Defence Golf Club, Port Moresby Church of Christ, Diabetes Australia-NSW, Novo Nordisk, Sonic Healthcare (DHM), Australian Business Volunteers, Saraga Family, Sarco Timberyards, Courts, PNG and Provincial Departments of Education, Medical Aid Abroad, Medipac Australia, The Ark, ANZ, Lihir, Westpac Bank, Aspen Pharmacare, Colin McDermott, Sue Netherway, Nancy Mason, Josh Quit, Brooks Robertson

Without your generous support, our work could not continue.

HOPE *worldwide* (PNG) is registered as a charitable trust in PNG under Section 69E. Donations are tax deductible in PNG, and also (through HOPE *worldwide*) in Australia, USA and the UK.

HOPE *worldwide* (PNG)

PO Box 3478, Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea
Tel: 675 3256901 or 675 3112890. Fax: 675 3230419
e-mail hopepng@online.net.pg web: www.png.hopeworldwide.org

