



## NON-PNEUMATIC ANTI-SHOCK GARMENTS TO PREVENT BLEEDING MOTHERS FROM DYING



A new way of stopping mothers from bleeding continuously after delivery looks set to prevent a lot of maternal deaths.

The new innovation involves the use of non-pneumatic anti-shock garments which are used to strap around each of the legs of a bleeding mother from her knees down to prevent blood from flowing down.

The garments are strapped by trained midwives and upskilled nurses (and doctors) to allow the blood to flow backwards into the vital organs such as the heart, brain and livers to enable them to function normally instead of being lost which could result in death.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) which provides these garments held a one-day training course for mid-wives, upskilled nurses and doctors at Hotel Kimininga in Mt Hagen last Friday to train them on how to apply these garments.

The training was conducted for clinicians from Western Highlands, Enga, Jiwaka and Simbu provinces and was attended by more than 30 participants including five doctors - one of them, Dr Antonia Kumbia, a SMO in Obstetrics & Gynaecology from Wabag Hospital.

She attended with two of her nurses while Jiwaka was represented by another two nurses and the rest from Western Highlands. Simbu was unable to send any representative.

Those from Western Highlands included doctors Malts Wai - SMO O&G, Junior John

McKup - Emergency Physician, Maddison Dat - Acting Director Population Health and Jonah Kurubi, acting CEO. The nurses included 10 each from the rural facilities and Mt Hagen Hospital.

Dr Kurubi when opening the training session welcomed everyone and urged them to learn as much as they could to help others.

He said nurses, especially midwives had a big role to play in saving the lives of mothers and infants and he was happy to see many of them in attendance.

He also thanked UNICEF for its continued support to health services in the Western Highlands which he said had helped to improve its child mortality rate as well as other health indicators.

UNICEF's Paula Kongua who facilitated the training said the WHPHA had been proactive in implementing a number of health programs in the province and her organisation was happy to be a partner in the implementation of these programs.

Representatives from all the three participating provinces thanked the WHPHA for allowing them to participate and UNICEF for providing the garments and training them on how to apply them.

They said bleeding after birth still claimed the lives of many mothers and was a nightmare for clinicians. They added that the use of garments was an effective way of stopping continuous bleeding and they would return to their respective

clinics and train others on how to apply them to save more lives.

All participants were given a bag of garments each to take back to their respective facilities to use and UNICEF will provide some more later for other health centres and hospitals in the selected provinces.



*Pictured left and top - some participants practising the use of the garments around the legs of a "patient" and above, the participants displaying the bags of garments issued by UNICEF.*

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# Fifth Round Integrated SIA in WHP

The fifth round of the nation-wide polio vaccination program for children aged five years and below started on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April and ended on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019.

While most provinces concentrated on the polio program alone, there were some that used the opportunity to carry out integrated Supplementary Immunisation Activities (SIA) to save cost and also protect children from being infected by other preventable diseases.

The Western Highlands Province was one of those where the Provincial Health Authority carried out the integrated SIA in all the four Districts to safeguard all children.

As a start, the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre (PEOC) held a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Hotel Kimininga with District Health Officers, facility Officers-In-Charge and Sisters-In-Charge as well as representatives of Church Health Services and Non-Government Organisations to draw up a micro plan for the exercise.

This was then followed by a week of awareness activities in all the districts as well as in Mt Hagen City and the surrounding areas such as Kagamuga Airport, Korn Farm and Kerabug Tech, advising parents to take their children to the nearest clinics and points of vaccination to be immunised.

During the awareness, parents were also told that unlike the previous rounds where all children up to 15 years were immunised, the fifth round would only cover young children aged 5 years and below.

Staff operating the vaccination points were also proactive by stopping parents who walked past them with children and asked if they had been vaccinated. If the answer was negative, these children who could have missed out were also vaccinated.

The vaccination points in the city and the districts were clearly visible for parents to identify as all staff operating them wore bright yellow vests which had been donated by Rotary International.

Coordinator of the PEOC, Dannax Kupamu said the vaccination program in Western Highlands continued until 24<sup>th</sup> April to enable his staff to do mop up immunisation to ensure all children in the catchment group were vaccinated.

He said coverage of the catchment group (0-15 years) in the Western Highlands

during the 4<sup>th</sup> round was 95 percent and his team was now aiming to reach the same percentage, if not higher.



*Pictured above and left - two children being given the polio drop at separate vaccination points in Mt Hagen City.*

## Being a health worker is not easy but is satisfying

Being a health worker is not an easy job and those in this field must be commended for sacrificing their time to serve others.

Deputy Chairman of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board, Mr Michael Pundia said this when presenting certificates of recognition to long-serving employees of the Authority in Mt Hagen recently.

He said despite the sacrifices, the important thing was that they got satisfaction out of everything they did when they saw a patient leave the hospital or health centre smiling because he or she had been treated and healed.

Mr Pundia said many times health workers had to leave their husbands, wives and children behind to do night shift in hospitals and health centres and sometimes patients made them angry when they refused to cooperate with them and take their medications.

However, he said despite all this they had to attend to their rostered duties which was what they had pledged to do when they graduated from college and the WHPHA Board was pleased with their commitment and dedication towards their respective roles.

"I understand those of you who are here today have spent up to 40 years in the health service, most of this time in health facilities in the Western Highlands and the Board is very pleased and formally acknowledges your efforts."

"Some of you will probably leave the health service soon to retire but for those of you who still have energy left to continue, we will welcome

your contribution.

"We are on a road that never ends and we need to continue to provide health services to our people, that's why we still need you", he said.

Mr Pundia said about one in five adults and one in three children treated at Mt Hagen Hospital were those that referred themselves or were referred by hospitals in neighbouring Hela, Southern Highlands, Enga and Jiwaka provinces and this had put a lot of strain on our human and financial resources as well as drugs.

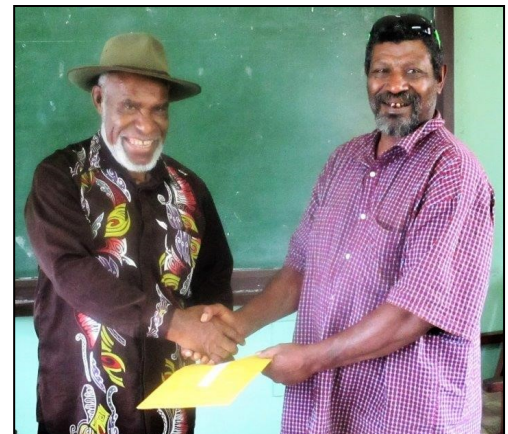
But he said even so, this hospital could not refuse to treat them because it was the regional referral hospital for the Highlands and they must be served, thus the need for those with more energy left to continue working.

He said the Board was pleased with their commitment over the years and congratulated them for clocking up to 40 years of service to the health sector, mostly in the Western Highlands Province.

The employees said they were happy for the recognition by the WHPHA which showed its appreciation for their services but it would have been more appropriate if it had recognised them in monetary terms.

They said this was because sometimes they had put their own lives at risk while trying to help patients and they should be fairly and appropriately recognised and rewarded.

*Deputy Chairman, Mr Michael Pundia (left) presenting certificates to two of the recipients.*





## New Community Health Post for Sip Community in Baiyer

The people of Sip in the Baiyer River area of Western Highlands Province now have a modern health facility to access health services.

The facility, a K4 million Community Health Post (CHP) was officially opened on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the remote Kanimareta area on the border of Enga and Western Highlands Provinces.

The CHP will alleviate the need for the local people to walk or travel long distances to the nearest health facilities such as the Tinsley Health Centre to seek medical treatment.

It is one of two to be built in the Mul/Baiyer District under the Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project (RPHSDP) of the Asian Development Bank and is the fourth in the province after Alkena, Tsinzipai and Sanap.

The CHPs have been funded jointly by the National Government, the Australian Government through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Asian Development Bank and OPEC Fund for International Development.

The creation of CHPs is an initiative of the National Government to provide health services for people in the rural areas who could not seek medical treatment at major health centres and hospitals due to transport difficulties.

The Project Manager of RPHSDP, Mr Rob Akers and the National Member of Parliament for

Mul/Baiyer, Hon. Koi Trappe jointly opened the new CHP, witnessed by senior staff of the WHPHA and a huge crowd including several singing groups.

Prime Minister, Peter O'Neil who was to officiate at the opening ceremony travelled to Mt Hagen but could not continue to Kanimareta due to bad weather and had to return to Port Moresby.

Mr Akers said the facility had been built in the right place because the area was remote and the road condition was not good for the local people to travel out to other health facilities for treatment.

He said if competent health workers were based in such facilities, the health needs of the people would be taken care of but the people must look after them and the facility well.

He also urged parents to take their children to the health facility for routine immunisation to protect them from curable diseases and other illnesses.

"This CHP cost more than K4 million to build and has all the necessary medical supplies and equipment found at Mt Hagen Hospital. I urge you to

look after it and the staff well so that you can benefit from it", Mr Akers said.

The Member for Mul/Baiyer said health was one of the priorities of the National Government and was very important for the people.

He said the people of Sip were fortunate to have a world class health facility in their area and urged them to look after it well including the staff who would work there.

The Member acknowledged the financial contributions of the partners and added that his District Authority would now work in partnership with the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority, the Baptist and Catholic Churches and other partners to deliver effective health services to the people of Sip and the nearby communities.



The new CHP and the crowd that gathered to witness its opening

## ORIENTATION OF USAID HIV SUPPORT IN PNG PROGRAM IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS

A new aid program supporting HIV interventions in PNG is helping to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country.

Known as the USAID HIV Support in PNG Program, the aid is provided by the people of America and is managed by FHI 360 (Family Health International) to fund initiatives by health partners to reduce the spread of HIV, especially among children.

A project orientation meeting was held at the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

(WHPHA) Conference Room in Mt Hagen recently in which a team from FHI 360 briefed the management and partners on the availability of the fund and how it can be accessed.

Western Highlands is the second province after the National Capital District where the fund is being introduced and accessed.

Team leader and FHI's Country Director, Daniel Tesfaye said the visit to Mt Hagen was mainly to introduce the program and to orientate service providers and others on the scope, goals and objectives of the program as well as the provision of technical assistance.

He said FHI 360 has been involved with HIV programs in the country since 2013 after being absent for some time due to funding issues and it was happy to work with organisations involved with HIV programs such as the WHPHA which has strong intervention programs on the spread of HIV, especially among

children.

Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, David Vorst welcomed the team to Mt Hagen and said the province had a group of very active partners who would work closely with FHI 360 to reduce the spread of the HIV virus.

He said the active participation of the partners resulted in the birth of many HIV negative children who were born to a HIV positive mother. He believed the involvement of FHI would strengthen the response to HIV and prevent the spread of the virus while at the same time providing adequate treatment for those already infected.

WHPHA's HIV Program Coordinator, Petrus Kombea when giving an overview of HIV response in the province said all HIV positive patients were monitored and treated at ART service sites in all four districts of the province as well as the Tininga Clinic and all paediatric cases were treated at the Hilary Clinic at Mt Hagen Hospital.

He said the paediatric treatment program has seen more than 300 HIV negative children born to HIV/AIDS-positive parents.

Director of Public Health in the National Capital District, Dr Morimai Ipai said working with service partners through the use of the fund has greatly improved his organisation's efforts to reduce the spread of HIV in the nation's capital and Western Highlands was certain to benefit from it.

The briefing session attracted nearly all partners in the province including Susu Mamas, Anglicare, Catholic Health Services and Tininga HIV/AIDS Clinic at Mt Hagen Hospital and all were happy with the new aid program which would further strengthen their services.



The participants being briefed on the USAID HIV Support Program in PNG at the WHPHA Conference Room in Mt Hagen.



## Public warned to leave WHPHA vehicles alone

The people of Western Highlands have been warned not to steal vehicles belonging to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) or face the consequences.

In a strong message to the public, the management has warned that if its vehicles are continuously targeted and stolen, it will have no choice but to close services at Mt Hagen Hospital.

The warning follows an incident at Mopa Compound in Warakum recently where the driver of one of its vehicles was punched in the face and the vehicle taken from him. The driver was dropping off two doctors who had done the night shift at Mt Hagen Hospital.

Four criminals held up the driver and took the vehicle, a Toyota Landcruiser 10-seater and drove it to a location behind Mt Kuta, about 15 kilometers from Mt Hagen City where it was



WHPHA's Transport Manager, Peter Ning who then salvaged the vehicle with the help of other members of the community.

The vehicle had its windscreen smashed and the side rear vision mirrors removed when it was recovered. It also had big dents on its body which would cost a substantial amount of money to repair.

This was the fourth incident this year where Provincial Health Authority vehicles had been stolen in similar circumstances and recovered with the help of community members.

Mr Ning thanked those members of the

community who helped to recover the vehicle and urged those involved in stealing the vehicle and others who may be thinking of doing the same to refrain from such activities.

He said Provincial Health Authority vehicles were there to provide patient care services to the people of Western Highlands and the neighbouring provinces and the selfish acts of a few greedy people would put the health of the majority at great risk.

*WHPHA's Transport Manager, Peter Ning pointing to the damaged parts of the vehicle after it was recovered.*



covered with mud and hidden in a pit with the intention of stripping it to sell the parts.

A member of the local community discovered the vehicle at about 3.30am and called the

## SDA Youths donate blood to Mt Hagen Hospital

Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) youths from the Nebilyer area of Western Highlands recently donated more than 65 bags of blood to Mt Hagen Hospital to help patients.

The youths from the SDA Church's Central South Nebilyer District donated the bags of blood as part of the Seventh Day Adventist Worldwide Total Member Involvement Program to commemorate Global Youth Day.

Central South Nebilyer District Youth Coordinator, Peterson Koi said his youths were happy to donate blood for a worthy cause.

He said Mt Hagen Hospital needed blood to save lives and the youths felt it was their duty to help those in need.

Koi said his youths had arrived at the Blood Bank without prior notice to donate blood and he was thankful to the Blood Bank staff who made themselves available at short notice to collect their blood.

He said the youths could have donated

more blood but because not all of them could be present, this was not possible and he hoped to organise for a bigger turn out in

the not too distant future to donate more bags.

The management of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority has thanked the Nebilyer SDA youths for using their own initiative to donate blood and urged other likeminded youths and the public to do the same.



*Pictured left - the youths pose for a picture after donating their blood and top, one of the youths having his blood taken.*

