



ISSUE #
TWO

NOVEMBER 2023

Our Mission

"A healthy Western Highlands"

WHPHA Newsfeed

An Insight into the Current WHPHA Events & Activities

Acting Chief Executive Officers Corner



Jane Holden - WHPHA
acting CEO

It is important that we use a platform such as this which I hope keeps us connected and also is focused on our collective achievements and challenges rather than articles only in newspapers.

I would also like to advise that the newsletter is also supported by our facebook page and new website to be launched on Friday December 7th.

Enjoy the newsletter and please provide feedback to Jill Mirr

Best wishes

Jane

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others -Medical Symposium Fundraising drive caption stories

This newsletter is the second monthly news letters we intend to publish.

Whilst a number of the articles you will have seen already, we want to ensure that the newsletter is more focused to our staff, partners, Provincial Govt, colleague PHAs and NDoH.

WHPHA Hosts National Health Information Workshop

6th- 10th November 2023



Presenting of Certificates to participants of the week long NHI workshop by WHPHA

Our staff who attended the NHI workshop



Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority hosted the annual National Health Information (NHI) Workshop in Mt Hagen on the 06- 10th of November 2023 with the theme “Advancing health in PNG: leveraging digital health and health information”.

The annual NHI workshop is purposely conducted for Provincial Health Information Officers (PHIOs) and Medical Records Officers (MROs) and was organised by the Papua New Guinea National Department of Health through its Performance, Monitoring and Research Branch and the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (PHA), with technical and funding support from WHO, HSSDP, PATH, Vital Strategies, and World Vision.

During the workshop, participants discussed the progress of the MNE Strategic Plan for the National Health Plan 2021-2030. Participants also reviewed findings from the 2022 Sector Performance Annual Review (SPAR) Report and revisions to data reporting forms in the National Health Information System (NHIS).

PHIOs and MROs have also received training on report writing and data visualisation, and undertake field visits to health facilities to apply a standard tool for assessing MNE systems developed by PATH and WHO.

Executive Manager of the Strategic Policy Division of NDoH, Ms. Agnes Pawiong said “It is only through this mutual learning and sharing, from province to province, from provincial to national level, and from national to provincial level, that we can collectively work towards strengthening the NHIS and other information systems in our country.”

The NHIS is hosted in Port Moresby, however for this year for the second time, it is hosted outside of Port Moresby.

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) Acting Chief Executive Officer Jane Holden when making the opening remarks thanked the NDoH for entrusting the WHPHA to host and deliver the workshop and further stated that WHPHA is the highest performing PHA in the country in terms of information (data) provision.

Holden also says this is very important given that information is what guides objective decision-making.

The workshop was officially opened by Agnes Pawiong (NDOH Technical Advisor for Strategic Policy, Health Strategies and Policy planning) on behalf of the National Health Secretary and Health Minister.

During the closing ceremony, WHPHA presented the seal to Milne Bay PHA who will be hosting the NHI workshop in 2024.



Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority acting CEO Jane Holden handing over the seal to Milne Bay PHA rep who will be hosting the National Health Information Workshop in 2024

US Embassy tour

7th November 2023

The new U.S. Embassy Charge'd Affaires (CDA), Katherine (Kemy) Monahan accompanied by her media team and security visited the Mt Hagen General Hospital yesterday.

She began her tour or visit at the Emergency Department, Paediatric wards, and O&G ward and ended the tour at the Cervical Cancer Screening Centre and the World Women clinic.

The main aim of the vist was to get to know the functions of the PHA ,th operations of the Provincial Hospital.

The Hospital tour was led by Hospital, Manager Sr Serah Dot, Sr Edith Namba and Emergency Physician Dr. John



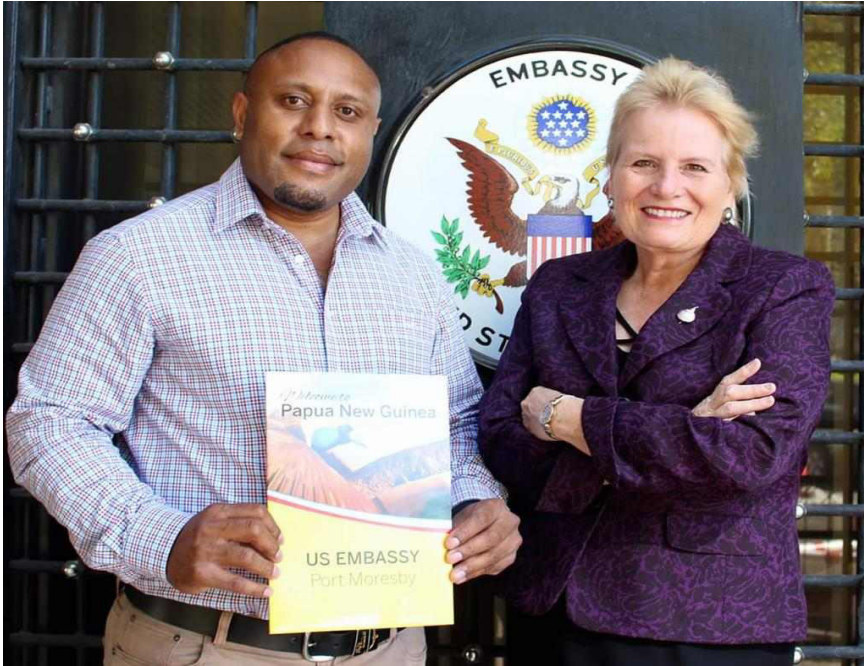
A picture with PHA acting CEO Jane Holden after the tour.



Katherine (Kemy) Monahan and team on tour at the labor and Gynecology wards

Featured in article #2 – Dr Junior John McKup US Alumni Story COVID-19

By Junior John McKup



Dr Junior John McKup and US embassy rep

Hi, my name is Dr. Junior John McKup, MD, I am an Emergency Physician and recipient of the prestigious US Government IVLP program.

I am currently employed as the sole Emergency Physician and Emergency Department Coordinator of the Western Highlands Provincial Hospital, the major referral hospital in the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea. My hospital has 230 beds and serves a local Provincial population of well over 400, 000. My Emergency Department has 20 Beds and is one of the busiest in the country with well over 100 visits per day.

The IVLP program I was privileged to undergo in August and September of 2019, was on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management.

I sincerely thank the Government and taxpayers of the US for enabling me to have that experience because it has enabled me to help my hospital and Provincial Health Authority plan for the initial preparedness response and mitigation of the SARS-COV2 or COVID-19 pandemic.

I have assisted the local Task Force team in the COVID-19 write-up of Standard Operating Procedures for the Screening of all patients coming into the hospital. Triage of clinical severity and management plans were put into our SOPs.

I began initially by liaising with other partners to get our response ready. This was directly based on my IVLP experience, where I was shown how partnerships with relevant stakeholders in Disasters had better outcomes.

I am proud that by reaching out to the International Committee of the Red Cross amongst others we were able to get our Isolation ward and Screening/Triage structures built quickly and up to standard given their experience and expertise in this regard.

My experiences of Medical Disaster Preparedness and Management based on my IVLP Washington DC, Iowa, and Seattle experiences were essential.

Having had a larger scale view of how state and Federal government respond in Washington DC to how Hospitals had their own disaster Preparedness and management protocols in Iowa and Seattle assisted in formulating our responses here at a locally appropriate and effective scale and level.

We currently (6th May 2020) have no Positive cases in the Western Highlands Province of PNG.

There have been only 8 recorded Positive cases in the entire country of 8 million people and no Deaths, since our first case on the 17th of March, 2020. The country has been in total lockdown and State of Emergency for two months and that has helped us in our Preparedness efforts.

All in all, I am privileged and proud to be a US IVLP Alumni making a difference in my Province, Region and Country during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Yaoum's life fight operation successful

9th November 2023



Yaoum before Surgery



“Little did she know, the flight out of Salamua on a Monday morning would be the life-changing step for five-year-old Yaoum Sani.”

Yaoum hails from a remote village called Hote in Salamaua, Morobe Province. Yaoum is an orphan, her mum died in 2020 when she was just one year old and her dad abandoned her. She is raised by her grandparents Sani and Mertha Matayau.

Yaoum had a very large cystic mass that had roots of origin in the depth of the right side of the neck, pushing and growing up along the neck while extending back about the right scapula. The mass pushed through the medial side of the shoulder joint under the clavicle and extended anterior to the right axillar and along the right lateral chest wall and pushed to the back.

The cystic mass began to form on her shoulder in 2019 when she was born and it grew as she grew. In 2020 the family was going to take her to the hospital however Yaoum's mum passed on and the little the family had was used up for the late mum's funeral expenses.

In September 2022, Yaoum was brought to Angau Memorial Hospital in Lae, where she was admitted for three months. In December, she was discharged and told to come back for review.

Early this year, the family brought her back and she was referred to Port Moresby for surgery. Unfortunately, the family couldn't cover the medical expenses for her surgery so they had to return home to Hote. But, before going back, Yaoum's Grandfather went to the Post Courier office in Lae and gave a story. The article was sighted by John Kambua, a Western Highlander residing in Port Moresby.

Kambua started reaching out to the family but couldn't. For five months, Kambua never gave up and looked for means and ways to get little Yaoum out of Hote to a hospital for surgery. Finally, she became known to Mr Gary T. Bustin a missionary worker from the US who is the founder of Samaritan Aviation and now works in Tribal Foundation and Sensim Pasin Work.

Kambua and John Senior who does mission work with Mr. Bustin were heavily involved in organizing this trip for Yaoum which started in September.

Mr Bustin first contacted Kudjip Mission Hospital for help regarding referral options and/or surgery. Dr Radcliffe (surgeon) contacted Mt Hagen General Hospital Surgeon Dr. Benjamin Yapo by email on the 29th of September.

“Once I accepted this patient Mr Bustin and John organized Yaoum’s trip and she was flown into Mt Hagen on Monday (06/11/23) for medical assistance through a project called Yaoum Life Fight,” says Dr Yapo.

Yaoum was picked up in her village by Deputy Prime Minister John Roso and flown to Lae, where she and her family were accompanied by Morobe Governor Luther Wenge to Mt Hagen.

Dr Yapo stated that he was truly overwhelmed by the fact our Deputy Prime Minister and Morobe Governor took the time to be personally involved in this Life Flight.

Little Yaoum was received at Kagamuga Airport by Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Acting CEO Jane Holden and Dr. Yapo. She was admitted and taken in for surgery on Thursday (09/11/23).

Dr. Yapo also stated that the surgery went so well that, “I surprised myself that I was able to dissect far enough on both ends to remove the complete mass without leaving any part behind.”

The natural behaviour of this pathology is that if a part of it is left behind for lack of surgical access to get full removal it has a good chance of recurring again in the future.

Dr. Yapo stated, “Having seen the CT scan they brought with them, I knew from the start it would be almost impossible to remove the complete mass which is one structure appearing at 2 different ends – right neck and chest wall”.

“It seems I could dissect the neck portion as far deep behind the clavicle while staying outside of the main nerves and vessels that lie just there. Then I would dissect the chest part of this mass while being careful of the axillary vessels and nerves. This meant there was no way I could reach the mass bridge between these 2 without causing serious damage to nerves or vessels that run in bundles about their”

“So taking the complete mass out was so satisfying I was so happy we could do that.”

Acting CEO Jane Holden applauded the Pediatrics team for doing an incredible job.

Yaoum was discharged this Morning (12/11/23) she will be flown back to Morobe early or during the week. Her grandparents thanked everyone who was involved in her surgery and made the trip possible.

On Monday 20 November 2023, little Yaoum was picked up at the Kagamuga Airport by Morobe Governor Luther Wenge and taken home.



Dr Yapo and the pediatrics team visited Yaoum at the Medical Ward after surgery



Five-year-old Yaoum Sani after the surgery

Health Inspection team conducted a two-day inspection at the Baisu Prison Center

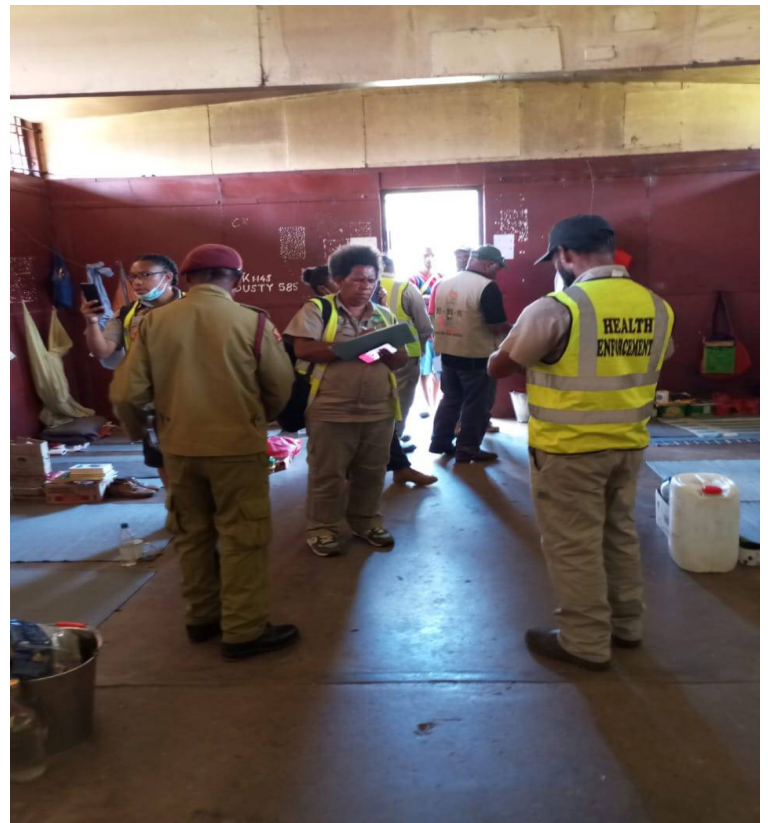
24th November 2023

Our Health Inspection team conducted a two-day inspection at the Baisu Prison Center as per directives from the Parliamentary Committee for Law and Order.

The team have identified a number of health issues, problems or issues within the facilities of the prison that need to be addressed soon. However, these findings will be outlined in their reports.

Meanwhile, reports from Baisu Health Center stated, stated Skin disease and other communicable diseases can spread easily.

Other challenges that are faced on a daily basis at the prison are as follows; overcrowding, building rundown, water supply issues, staff housing conditions, and sewerage problems.



Officers from left: Esther Kuya, Robby Puri Salome Minar and Win Koi.

Caption stories

Cervical Cancer Awareness and Treatment caption stories



Cervical Cancer Program staff gearing up for a road show awareness.



Tininga Limited is a locally owned company that sends in staff in numbers daily for cervical can-cer screening and testing. Pictured is a group of staff from Tininga who came for screening at the clinic.

ToksaveKona

Our team have Kick started the PNG Medical Symposium 2024
Moral boosting Sausage sizzles .

The fundraising boost will be on every Friday selling Hot dogs
and drink combo at the Mt Hagen Provincial Hospital.

Mt Hagen will be hosting the 58th PNG Medical Symposium
from the 1st - 6th September 2024 .

A Facebook page will be created soon for updates and fundrais-
ing activities

In the next issue

- Opening of Kenembo Health Center
- PHA events and activities for the month of December