

Papua New Guinea country report



Introduction



Mr Gary Baki, Papua New Guinea's Police Commissioner, speaking at the launch of the ODE report in Port Moresby. Photo: AusAID

Papua New Guinea was one of five countries included in a study by AusAID's Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) to assess the effectiveness of current approaches to addressing violence against women and identify promising practices. The report of the study—*Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: Building on Global and Regional Promising Approaches*—was published in 2008.

The ODE report was released by the Hon Stephen Smith MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Australian Minister for the Status of Women, on 25 November 2008 to coincide with White Ribbon Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The Papua New Guinea country supplement to the report was launched in Port Moresby on 24 November 2008 by Mr Bill Costello, head of AusAID in Papua New Guinea. Dame Carol Kidu, Papua New Guinea's Minister for Community Development, and Mr Gary Baki, Papua New Guinea's Police Commissioner, attended as guest speakers.

The ODE study used a participatory approach focused on women's own experience of violence, and on what does or does not help them in terms of protection and prevention. In Papua New Guinea, the research team interviewed 41 individuals from 64 organisations and held focus group discussions with another 248 people. The research was undertaken using international and local researchers. The local researchers in Papua New Guinea were Martha Kup, Agnes Mek, Barbara Kepa and Kritoe Keleba, with support from Angela Kelly. The research was also supported by a local advisory group of prominent individuals.

The ODE report made a series of recommendations for Papua New Guinea and the region that are relevant to all organisations and individuals who are committed to preventing and responding to violence against women.

This paper sets out Australia's initial response to the recommendations for action to end violence against women in Papua New Guinea. AusAID recognises that ending violence against women requires action over the long term, and that the activities set out in this report are just the first stage in intensifying our efforts to address violence against women as part of the Australian international development assistance program.

Principles and priorities

The ODE report identified a range of principles and priorities structured around a *framework for action* for addressing violence against women. AusAID will use this framework and a set of key principles to guide its contribution to ending violence against women in Papua New Guinea.

Principles guiding Australia's contribution

The following principles will guide Australia's contribution to ending violence against women. AusAID will:

- > make a long-term commitment to ending violence against women
- > promote gender equality as a central principle of our work
- > work in partnership with key stakeholders and align with partner government priorities
- > adopt an integrated approach.

Further details are set out in the regional report.

A framework for action

The framework for action sets out three main *strategies* for responding to violence against women:

- > ensuring women have access to justice
- > ensuring women have access to support services
- > preventing violence against women.

The framework for action can be used by all those working to end violence against women.

The box below sets out AusAID’s vision, its aim and the outcomes it will strive to achieve within the framework recommended by the ODE report.

A framework for ending violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor		
Vision: Women in Melanesia and East Timor are able to live free from violence and the fear of violence.		
Aim: To work in partnership—with national governments, civil society, international partners, and men and women—to increase efforts to reduce and respond to violence against women.		
Outcome: Women have access to justice	Outcome: Women have access to support services	Outcome: Violence against women is prevented

The structure of this report reflects the framework for action recommended in the ODE report, with sections on each of the three key strategies—ensuring women’s access to justice, ensuring women’s access to support services, and preventing violence against women—and on efforts to support an integrated approach.

Women have access to justice

Goals for all stakeholders in Papua New Guinea

To increase women's access to justice.

This will include:

- > passing and implementing laws and policies that discourage violence and impose consequences on offenders
- > providing women with the means to protect themselves and their children from violence
- > providing women with the information necessary to access their rights
- > ensuring women are treated humanely and fairly by justice system personnel.

Situational analysis

Historically, the response of the Papua New Guinea justice sector to violence against women has been relatively weak. Women can receive inconsistent treatment from the police in response to domestic violence. Many women are dependent on community-based justice through village courts because of difficulty in physically accessing the formal justice system and low levels of knowledge of their legal rights.

There are a range of new initiatives occurring in the justice sector aimed at improving protection for women against violence, including a number of government-led activities. Where there is strong leadership at senior levels, activities are progressing well and beginning to lead to visible improvements in service delivery such as in legal aid, the district courts and local-level crime-prevention initiatives. Where significant donor support has been lacking, there is equally less evidence of progress, which is the case for the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary.

The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, provincial councils of women and Stop Violence Centres in hospitals are engaged in public awareness activities to improve women's knowledge of laws and rights.

Papua New Guinea Government priorities and actions to support women's access to justice

Revised legislation on sexual offences came into force in Papua New Guinea in 2003. The legislation includes a clear definition of sexual offences against children, expands the definition of rape, makes rape in marriage illegal and improves court procedures to protect survivors' safety and dignity.

Papua New Guinea's Department for Community Development and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) are working together in a pilot program in two provinces to educate communities, leaders, health service providers, legal aid organisations, the police and the judiciary about the amendments to the legislation.

The Papua New Guinea Government adopted a gender strategy for the justice sector in 2006. The strategy aims to increase women's access to the formal justice system. It includes a number of activities specifically aimed at improving the sector's response to violence against women, including providing training for prosecutors and magistrates; piloting a court accompaniment program for survivors of rape or child sexual abuse; setting aside one day a week in the National Court to hear sexual offence cases; and updating village court policy to include family and sexual violence.

The Papua New Guinea Police Commissioner is a strong advocate for the elimination of violence against women and supports a stronger response to family and sexual violence both within and outside of the constabulary.

There is a Sexual Offences Squad within the police to investigate cases of sexual assault.

A homemade sign advocating an end to violence against women in Papua New Guinea.
Photo: AusAID



Australian support for women's access to justice

Australia's emphasis on gender equality and preventing violence against women is being taken up as a core issue in AusAID's Law and Justice Sector Program. AusAID is committed to continuing this focus, including extending measures to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women to the provincial and district levels. Australia will support the implementation of the Papua New Guinea Government's Law and Justice Sector Gender Strategy and continue to assist the sector in encouraging both male and female access to what is traditionally a male-dominated sector.

Through the Papua New Guinea – Australia Law and Justice Partnership, Australia will strengthen its focus on working in partnership with the Papua New Guinea Government in responding to violence against women. This will include providing support to the government on planning, budgeting and program implementation of initiatives to support women's access to justice.

Australian support to the sector also extends to the Magisterial Service of Papua New Guinea, which is responsible for providing the community with an accountable, independent and impartial courts system. Australian support works to address family and sexual violence through the implementation of national guidelines and policies, including Practice Directions to help victims understand the steps and processes in court proceedings. Family courts are being strengthened to assist victims of violence, and a focus will be maintained on increasing the number of women magistrates. AusAID, through the Law and Justice Sector Program, is supporting training of village court magistrates including training on violence against women. Efforts are also being made to increase the number of women village court magistrates in an attempt to make courts more accessible to women.

Australia will continue its efforts through the Law and Justice Sector Program to provide women with access to justice in the areas of counselling and legal assistance. Through the provision of funding, assistance on budget prioritisation and provision of advisory support, Australia is supporting the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to improve and strengthen the 'victims of crime' desk in each police station. This initiative provides support to enable women who are victims of family violence to be heard and assisted. The victims of crime desks have links with the Stop Violence Centres in the hospitals, and with the frontline Policing and Practice Directions initiated by Magisterial Services.

AusAID will fund the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2009 to undertake research on gender equality laws and organic law. National consultations supported by AusAID on the Papua New Guinea Government's Women's Policy will inform a possible Bill on gender equality.

AusAID also supports the Yumi Lukautim Mosbi project (\$1.5 million in 2009). The project is a joint initiative by AusAID's Law and Justice Sector Program and the National Capital District Commission to reduce crime through a variety of crime-prevention activities. Yumi Lukautim Mosbi sponsors vocational training for youth, including for victims of family and sexual violence and sex workers. The project supports youth to work on community initiatives and sponsors their on-the-job training with businesses.

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Women have access to support services

Goals for all stakeholders in Papua New Guinea

To increase women's access to support services.

This will include providing assistance to:

- > increase women's access to psychological, medical and legal support
- > increase women's access to safe havens
- > increase support to organisations that provide support services to women.

Silia Aina, daughter of the caretakers of the Morata Safe House on balcony. The Morata Safe House provides shelter for women who have been subjected to violence. Photo: AusAID



Situational analysis

In Port Moresby, the Salvation Army, the Individual Community Rights Advocacy Forum and City Mission (Haus Ruth) provide emergency and temporary shelter for women who have experienced violence. Outside of the capital, shelter is provided on a more informal basis by churches, HIV and AIDS care centres and individual women. In Goroka, Family Voice provides counselling for women and children, and training for community volunteers to support women who have experienced violence.

The ODE report identified a need to improve service provision for women who have experienced violence, particularly for women in rural areas. This included a need for increased technical and financial resources for existing services, and provision of standardised training for counselling women and children who have experienced violence.

Papua New Guinea Government priorities and actions to support women's access to support services

Papua New Guinea's National Department of Health is the first in the region to introduce formal protocol training on domestic violence for primary health care providers in rural and urban areas, including developing clinical and medico-legal guidelines on rape for use in all facilities.¹ The protocols assist health workers to identify and respond to women who have experienced violence.

The department is also setting up Stop Violence Centres² in all major hospitals in Papua New Guinea. Stop Violence Centres serve as 'one-stop shops'. They provide medical assistance, counselling, referrals and legal support to women who have experienced violence. The linking of the centres with police through the Sexual Offences Squad provides immediate support to abused women lodging complaints through the formal courts system.

Implementation of the protocols and referral pathways at the Stop Violence Centres is a positive indication that the department is focusing on standardising the centres and on expanding the centres in order to allow access for all women to justice and support services.

Work on HIV and AIDS in Papua New Guinea includes a focus on promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women. This recognises the disproportionate impact of HIV and AIDS on women in the country. Addressing violence against women is included as a priority in the Papua New Guinea Government's *National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2006–2010*. Strategies to achieve this include providing capacity building and training on integrating the issue of violence against women into work on HIV and AIDS, and working with the community to raise awareness of these issues.

Australian support for women's access to support services

Support services

AusAID will continue to support Yumi Lukautim Mosbi, which has partnered with Digicel and Protect Security Services to create a Famli Seif line to respond to calls for assistance from women in crisis in Port Moresby, Mount Hagen, Goroka, Lae, Madang and Rabaul. A call to 72221234 (*'7222 brings Protect to you, 1234 opens the door on family and sexual violence'* is the initiative's slogan) is toll free and the transfer to family, friends, hospital or police is free of charge.

AusAID's Democratic Governance Program provides funding through a small grants program that supports good governance and capacity building of local-level stakeholders from various provinces (primarily civil society organisations), a number of which provide counselling, therapy, safe house facilities for victims of all forms of violence, and life skills training and development (including in the areas of income generation, gender-based violence and human rights awareness training). AusAID's Democratic Governance Program also funds the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, which coordinates and

¹ AusAID's Law and Justice Sector Program supported the development of these guidelines.

² Family Violence Centres were renamed Stop Violence Centres in 2008.

facilitates the establishment of the Stop Violence Centres and facilitates the establishment of Family and Sexual Violence Action Committees at provincial centres.

AusAID has provided funding to the UNIFEM Pacific Facility Fund in Support of Organisations and Actions to End Violence Against Women to support capacity building for staff from civil society organisations, including from Papua New Guinea. This funding (\$200,000 in 2008-09) will enable staff to participate in training and exchanges in 2009 and 2010. This will include participation in formal training programs conducted by key regional agencies such as the Regional Rights Resource Team and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. Training will cover practical skills such as counselling, data collection and administration. It will also increase service providers' knowledge of international human rights law and theoretical issues associated with violence against women. This support will assist in improving the quality of services provided to women who have been subjected to violence.

AusAID will also provide \$200,000 to the UNIFEM Pacific Facility Fund in 2009-10 for activities in Papua New Guinea. These funds will be used to provide grants to civil society organisations to enable them to finance key projects and actions for the elimination of violence against women in communities.

Increasing women's access to safe havens

AusAID funding (\$357,000 in 2008-09) will continue to be directed to Médecins Sans Frontières to provide overnight accommodation for women escaping violence at Lae Angau Hospital; to Family Voice (Eastern Highland Province) to provide safe spaces that link health facilities within the province; and to Haus Ruth (Port Moresby) and Dove Sanctuary (Rabaul) to provide safe havens.

Health sector

AusAID's support for health services in Papua New Guinea takes a sector-wide approach. AusAID works with the National Department of Health on priority areas—including violence against women—under the National Health Strategic Plan. AusAID will continue its collaboration with donor partners and health stakeholders (including the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, the University of Papua New Guinea Medical School and Australian non-government organisations (NGOs)) through the Health Sector Steering Committee.

AusAID, through its Capacity Building Service Centre, has a lead role in raising awareness on gender issues within the Department of Health and at a provincial level. The provision of a domestic violence project officer within the department will scale up efforts to address violence against women in 2009, as will support for the department to implement its policy to ban 'fight fees', which are sometimes charged by facilities for treating domestic violence injuries.

Through its Capacity Building Service Centre as well as its Health Services Improvement Program, AusAID will provide support to assist the Department of Health to broaden its policy focus to include sexual and gender-based violence, men's health and role as partners, and marginalised groups such as adolescents. Support will be provided for the department to develop the National Family Planning Policy and Strategic Implementation Plan. Assistance will also be given to support the growth and maintenance of the National Health Radio Network, which provides a primary means of communication for supervision, training and referral for many health facilities.

Australia will scale up support for Stop Violence Centres in 2009 by building capacity to allow for the opening of four additional centres—in Alotau (Milne Bay Province), Wewak and Maprik (East Sepik Province), and Arawa (Bougainville). These will be in addition to the existing centres in Port Moresby (National Capital District), Lae (Morobe Province), Goroka (Eastern Highlands Province) and Kundiawa (Simbu Province).

Responses to HIV and AIDS

AusAID will continue to assist the health sector to engage in responding to HIV and AIDS, gender issues and violence against women. AusAID, through its Sanap Wantaim program, contributes to integrating gender into the HIV and AIDS response in Papua New Guinea. Sanap Wantaim supports the delivery of the strategies and implementing guidelines on integrating gender, as set out in Papua New Guinea's *National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS 2006–2010*.

AusAID also supports the integration of gender issues, including measures to respond to violence against women, as part of its work with NGOs on HIV and AIDS. In conjunction with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), AusAID supports advanced training for counsellors working with survivors of gender-based violence and the development of tools and training materials for advocacy on HIV and AIDS and gender. One such tool is the 'gender advocacy toolkit', which aims to inspire community grassroots advocates to act against the spread of HIV and AIDS and gender-based violence using a human rights and advocacy framework.

Disaster management

The onset of a disaster creates a high-stress environment associated with disruptions in families and the support mechanisms that exist for women (and children) in terms of health and law enforcement services. This means women become more vulnerable, which can increase the possibility of violence.

AusAID is currently finalising the design of its new Disaster Risk Management Program for the next four years (commencing in 2009-10). Activities included in the new program will be required to:

- > articulate the ways in which they will include both men and women in planning, monitoring and evaluation processes
- > specifically target women and girls
- > articulate in their work plans or programs the ways in which gender issues will be addressed through the activity
- > identify specific gender equity targets where possible and appropriate.

This approach aims to increase the extent to which gender considerations are taken into account in disaster management, and thus contribute to improving the prevention of and response to violence against women in disasters.

AusAID's Port Moresby Emergency Response Team training curriculum, operational procedures and tools (for example, needs assessment forms) will address the issue of violence against women when considering gender issues in emergency and humanitarian responses.

Violence against women is prevented

Goals for all stakeholders in Papua New Guinea

To prevent violence against women.

This will include assisting in:

- > raising awareness through coordinated efforts at all levels
- > changing community attitudes about violence
- > increasing women's status in society.

Situational analysis

There is a need to strengthen women's participation in economic, social and political life in Papua New Guinea. This will improve the status of women in society, which will assist in changing community attitudes to violence against women and in enabling women to respond to situations of violence.

There is little opportunity for women to stand for election in a male-dominated political arena, and significant challenges for women seeking to participate in political decision making. There are entrenched negative views of women's ability to occupy seats in parliament. Women have a role in decision making in the private sphere but this does not translate to the community.

To date, much of the work of community organisations and faith-based organisations has focused on raising awareness of the issue of violence against women. There is potential for this work to go further, to attempt to change community attitudes to recognise violence against women as a human rights issue and to focus on promoting equality between men and women. This approach has been taken in peacebuilding activities, such as those undertaken by Kup Women for Peace.

Papua New Guinea Government priorities and actions to prevent violence against women

In an effort to increase gender representation and the status of women in society, Dame Carol Kidu, Minister for Community Development, is championing a process for appointing three women to the Papua New Guinea Parliament as allowed for under the National Constitution.³ This is the third attempt to gain reserved seats for women in parliament.

³ This proposal was most recently considered by the Papua New Guinea Parliament in March 2009.

The Office for the Development of Women, which is situated in the Department for Community Development, plans to continue its efforts to increase the status of women by providing clear, accurate and well-researched advice to the government on gender-inclusive implications of policy decisions and outcomes. It will also consult with government agencies to investigate new and emerging issues affecting women and put forward policies that can generate structural change to improve the status of women.

Though women are protected under the Constitution, the implementation of particular Acts to give effect to this protection has been rather weak due to misinterpretation and cultural influences. The government's Medium-Term Development Strategy goes some way towards acknowledging the importance of gender equality. The law and justice sector has taken this on board in its sector-wide design and program implementation strategies for the various agencies in the sector. Champions such as the Chief Magistrate and the Police Commissioner have made progress in highlighting the importance of preventing violence against women.

Isolated activities are occurring in other sectors—for example, within the National Maritime Safety Authority, a special committee focused on women working in the maritime subsector was recently established. It meets regularly to focus on concerns regarding industry recognition of women in the maritime field, career progression, opening new areas of employment for women in the maritime industry and general welfare and social issues.

Australian support for preventing violence against women

Working with civil society

Community mobilisation and awareness raising

AusAID is actively seeking to incorporate measures to raise community awareness and prevent violence against women throughout its development assistance in Papua New Guinea. Examples include AusAID's work on democratic governance, in sport and in the transport sector.

In 2009, AusAID, through its Strongim Pipol Strongim Nesen program, will support individuals, communities, civil society organisations and government to progress democratic governance in Papua New Guinea. The program will include funding for activities to be implemented at provincial, district and local government and ward levels. The program will explore the potential to improve the prevention of violence against women through awareness raising at all levels, changing community attitudes about violence, and increasing women's status in society.

AusAID's Sports for Development Initiative supports the Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation's focus on promoting gender equality throughout its operations. The initiative proactively involves women and men in its sports and community activities and training courses, which incorporate HIV and AIDS awareness and behaviour-change methodologies (for example, through its 'Kicking Out Aids' youth sports networks and its Strongim Komuniti Klabs (community-run clubs)). High-profile sporting events, including the Prime Minister's XIII Rugby League match in Papua New Guinea, can provide awareness-raising opportunities. (The 2008 match included prominent 'Stop HIV/AIDS' and 'Stop Violence against Women' messages on players' T-shirts.)

Lessons learned suggest that ad hoc high-profile events are able to be used as effective springboards for more far-reaching, sustainable and effective campaigns and awareness-raising activities (by cultivating male champions, arranging community visits



Cathy Freeman discusses the issue of violence with women in Papua New Guinea.
Photo: Jason Pini

by champions and encouraging media follow-up on issues raised at those events). Real opportunities exist for working in the sports machinery in Papua New Guinea more broadly to address violence against women. AusAID will continue to focus on strengthening relations between AusAID, the Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation, and the Papua New Guinea Sports Federation and the Olympic Committee to explore possibilities for extending successes in HIV prevention through sports to the campaign to end violence against women.

AusAID's support for the Papua New Guinea – Australia Transport Sector Support Program will focus on implementation of the new gender strategy for the sector. The strategy incorporates a variety of approaches to gender issues to assist agencies in the sector in improving their awareness of, and responsiveness to, gender equity within the workplace. It is hoped that the promotion of gender balance in the workplace and the development of activities and tools will have a flow-on effect of reducing the incidence of violence against women among employees and their families.

AusAID is supporting the engagement of a gender adviser whose role will be to assist the transport sector in devising a tailored set of strategies and assessments that are likely to include educational programs on violence against women, and to engage senior agency officials in the promotion of gender equity and awareness of women's issues.

AusAID, through the Key Roads for Growth Maintenance Project, has a good history of engagement with community groups along the Morobe and Eastern Highlands provincial sections of the Highlands Highway. Community liaison officers have been introduced by the roads maintenance contractors to consult with the communities along the highway, principally to alleviate pressure from landowner claims, but also to address community concerns including domestic violence that arise because of the participation of women in work groups.

Working with men and boys

AusAID partnered with the UNDP Pacific Centre in supporting a Pacific and East Timorese delegation to attend the 'Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality', held in March 2009. The delegation included representatives from Papua New Guinea.

AusAID will provide funding in 2009-10 to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre for the development of a handbook on working with men as advocates for the elimination of violence against women in the Pacific. The handbook will provide guidelines on best practices for working with men to advocate for gender equality and the elimination of violence, including outlining a training program for men who will become gender equality advocates.

Working with faith-based organisations

AusAID, through the Church Partnership Program, supports churches including those that develop community-based plans to respond to, reduce and prevent violence against women such as support services, gender and human rights training and peacebuilding work. Churches are supported to work at the local level to collaborate on training and capacity building of local-level organisations and individuals. Churches are also supported to provide outreach and support, including for women who have been subjected to violence. This support is particularly important in rural areas in Papua New Guinea, where access to other forms of support is limited.

AusAID will advocate for greater coordination and collaboration among churches, and between churches and government, in order to strengthen the response to violence against women. AusAID's Church Partnership Program offers opportunities for greater coordination between churches and government. At the national level, some churches have already raised gender equality issues within church governing bodies.

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AusAID is a Principal Partner to the International Women's Development Agency initiative 'Asia Pacific Breakthrough: The Women, Faith and Development Summit to End Global Poverty', to be held in December 2009. The summit will bring together faith-based, women's and development organisations from across Asia and the Pacific to discuss opportunities to work together to advance gender equality, including to end violence against women.

Prevention activities through the education sector

Through its Basic Education Development Program, AusAID supports the reduction of disparities in equality between men and women and the promotion of a gender transformative approach. The program provides training for boards of management in primary schools using board of management facilitator teams. Each team includes an education official and a civil society representative. The civil society representatives, known as district women's facilitators, ensure a gender balance in the teams given that most education officials are male. The teams are trained to provide guidance to school boards of management in the management of school finances, infrastructure planning and acquittal processes.

AusAID plans to scale up its technical and financial support for post-basic education and institutional capacity building at all levels of education administration, including support to the Papua New Guinea Department of Education's Gender Strategic Plan.

Supporting women as peacemakers

AusAID supports the International Women's Development Agency 'Peace Talks' initiative (\$85,000 in 2008-09), which aims to raise awareness on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325⁴ on women, peace and security by training civil society organisations from Solomon Islands, Tonga, Bougainville and Fiji. The International Women's Development Agency supports training for a core group of regional women's organisations to engage with regional policymakers during the annual Forum Regional Security Committee meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum. In addition, it manages a regional secretariat that shares women's perspectives and experiences of conflict and peacebuilding; facilitates collaboration among stakeholders in implementing Resolution 1325; and supports women's participation in regional forums on peace and security.

AusAID provided funding to support a joint research project by UNIFEM Pacific and the UNDP Pacific Centre on sexual and gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. The research will make recommendations on how the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 can be supported by various actors to reduce the high levels of sexual and gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, as well as other Pacific Island states. The findings of this research are expected to be released in 2009.

Recognising and promoting the rights of women with disability

AusAID, through the Pacific Public Sector Linkages Program, is supporting the Australian Human Rights Commission to partner with the Pacific Disability Forum to progress disability issues in the Pacific by delivering training in nine countries in the Pacific. The training courses are scheduled to be held between August 2009 and July 2010.

⁴ UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2000. It is the key international framework that addresses the links between the protection of women from violence and the promotion of women's participation and leadership in peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts. UN Security Council Resolution 1820 was adopted in 2008. It addresses the issue of sexual violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.

In Papua New Guinea, the training will bring together members of the Papua New Guinea National Assembly of People with Disabilities and government representatives to build their capacity and knowledge of disability rights and to progress disability issues, including the rights of women with disability.

AusAID, through the International Seminar Support Scheme, supported the attendance of a woman with disability from Papua New Guinea at the Pacific Regional Forum on Women with Disabilities and the Pacific Regional Disability Conference in Vanuatu on 20–23 April 2009. One of the key components at these conferences was discussion of the sensitive issue of violence against women with disability.

Gender equality and empowering women

The ODE report noted that efforts to reduce violence against women are intrinsically linked to women's political, social and economic empowerment. The report recommended that Australia ensure all its interventions focus on promoting greater equality between men and women.

Gender equality is a guiding principle of Australia's international development assistance program. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that the needs, priorities and interests of women, as well as men, are considered in all development activities and at every stage of the development process.

Women's leadership and decision making

AusAID is providing funding to the UNDP to support women in leadership in Papua New Guinea. This funding will contribute to building the capacity of the Department for Community Development and the Office for the Development of Women to:

- > formulate policies and legislation for increasing women's access to decision-making mechanisms
- > develop and implement a communication and advocacy strategy on women in leadership
- > share best practices to support women in leadership at the community level
- > conduct research on women's roles and representation in local-level government and in the provincial assemblies, to inform support for women's participation.

Australia is providing \$6.2 million over five years from 2007-08 to the Gender Equality in Political Governance Program, in partnership with UNIFEM. The program focuses on supporting women standing for elections in the Pacific and including gender in governance programs in the Pacific. It will undertake research and develop information, resources and learning materials to promote women's leadership. In Papua New Guinea, the program will also train women at a local level on their rights and responsibilities and increase their capacity to be active citizens and leaders.

Women's economic empowerment

AusAID, in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank, is undertaking a series of Gender and Investment Climate Reform Assessments, including in Papua New Guinea. These assessments will result in a 'gender toolkit', to be released later in 2009, that will show policymakers and business organisations how to ensure that both men and women benefit from improvements in the business-enabling environment within a country.

An integrated approach

Goals for all stakeholders in Papua New Guinea

To deliver a coordinated and comprehensive response to violence against women, including among government and non-government actors, at the national and local levels.

This will include:

- > developing and implementing plans of action for preventing violence against women at national, provincial, municipal and community levels
- > supporting interagency taskforces on violence against women (for example, within the context of the reporting on progress required by Papua New Guinea as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)
- > conducting national coordinated campaigns and awareness-raising activities
- > collaborating on training and capacity building of local stakeholders across all sectors.

Situational analysis

Efforts to promote gender equality are occurring within Papua New Guinea, but these efforts are disjointed and lack impact both within the community and at a strategic level. The national machinery for women—the Gender and Development Branch and the Office for the Development of Women, both part of the Department for Community Development; and the National Council of Women—is marginalised, uncoordinated and lacking consensus to develop any meaningful movement on gender equality.

The Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council plays a key role in multisectoral coordination in civil society in Papua New Guinea. The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee was established in 2000 as a sectoral committee of the council. The committee coordinates activity by civil society groups in such areas as institutional frameworks, legal reforms, services for victims, working with perpetrators, community prevention and response, and data collection and research.

The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee reviewed its national strategy on family and sexual violence in 2008 and is expected to release its revised strategy in 2009. It will present the strategy to the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council and to the Department for Community Development for each of these organisations to adopt and will lobby relevant stakeholders for its implementation.

The strategy will map out an action plan for government, civil society and donors to respond to family and sexual violence. The government component of the strategy will address the recommendation in the ODE report for a government-led national action plan. The revised strategy is expected to strengthen links between government and civil society by bringing together the work of government agencies with the work of the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee.

Papua New Guinea Government priorities and actions to ensure an integrated approach



Dame Carol Kidu, Papua New Guinea's Minister for Community Development, asks for a community rejection of violence towards women. Photo: AusAID

The Papua New Guinea Government ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995. In 2008, the government, through the Department for Community Development, presented its state report on the status of women in Papua New Guinea and its compliance with CEDAW to the CEDAW Committee—its first report since the government ratified the treaty. NGOs are discussing the development of a CEDAW shadow report to respond to the government's report.

Section 2.3.5 of Papua New Guinea's Medium-Term Development Strategy acknowledges the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women in order to achieve all of the strategy's goals and objectives. Much work is still required to reduce the disparity between men and women in formal education and in all levels of decision making, to improve women's health and to promote gender equality.

The Office for the Development of Women is the national government institutional base for promoting gender equality, gender mainstreaming and monitoring of national and international instruments such as the National Platform of Action, the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender Equality and CEDAW. In 2009, the office was allocated funding for 14 positions and those positions are currently being advertised. When fully operational, the office will coordinate policy implementation relating to gender equality across government sectors. It will also increase multisectoral coordination by building partnerships with women's NGOs, civil society organisations, government agencies and professional groups.

The government's 1987 Women's Policy to support women's endeavours is now being updated. Led by Dame Carol Kidu and the Department for Community Development, national consultations will inform the development of a new policy and may lead to the development of a Bill on gender equality.

Australian support for an integrated approach

AusAID will participate in a United Nations-led coordination mechanism on gender, the Gender Thematic Group, to commence in 2009. The group will include representation from donors, the Government of Papua New Guinea and the National Council of Women. It will improve coordination of efforts to promote gender equality so as to increase the impact of these efforts.

AusAID is providing financial support to the Department for Community Development to strengthen its role as the key agency within government to promote gender equality and respond to violence against women. This support takes a number of forms, including:

- > funding through the UNDP to build the capacities of the department and the Office for the Development of Women (\$180,000 in 2009-10)
- > appointment of an AusAID officer in the department in 2009, whose role will include a focus on gender. The officer will support implementation of the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee strategy, and focus on developing close links between donors and the Gender and Development Branch and the Office for the Development of Women in the department. The officer will assist in developing approaches to address violence against women and will work with development stakeholders to strengthen the collective efforts to address violence against women in Papua New Guinea
- > a contribution of \$400,000 to support national consultations to inform the development of the new Women's Policy (provided over two years commencing in 2008-09). AusAID has engaged with the extensive network of district women's facilitators as local consultation points in the process.

AusAID's Democratic Governance Program supports democratic and shared governance in Papua New Guinea. This includes working with national partners, communities and individual citizens to promote governance that is characterised by transparency, accountability and inclusiveness. The program's work with a range of stakeholders means it is well placed to provide increased support for multisectoral coordination among government and non-government actors on the issue of violence against women.

AusAID's Democratic Governance Program and its Sanap Wantaim program will continue to support multisectoral coordination by funding the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Committee and the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (\$842,000 over two years commencing in 2008-09).

By supporting the committees' operational costs, the programs will assist with:

- > implementation of the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee strategy within civil society
- > institutional strengthening
- > provincial family and sexual violence action committees
- > workshops and symposiums on gender-based violence that include donors and representatives from the Papua New Guinea Government as participants
- > research on sexual and domestic violence.

The funding will also support the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee's ability to coordinate with civil society to establish Stop Violence Centres in provincial hospitals; provide competency training for counsellors working in the area of family, sexual and gender-based violence; and develop counselling standards.

AusAID will provide financial support in 2009-10 to the UNIFEM Facility Fund in Support of Organisations and Actions to End Violence Against Women. This grant funding mechanism will enable local NGOs to access funding for activities to end violence against women. By drawing on the expertise and knowledge of donors, UN agencies and regional NGOs, the fund will contribute to increased coordination as well as sharing of knowledge and good practice across the region.