

END OF PROJECT REPORT

FROM GENDER BASED VIOLENCE TO GENDER JUSTICE AND HEALING PROJECT



01 APRIL 2015 - 31 MARCH 2018

**NAZARETH CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION &
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

JULY 2018



"We climbed mountains, crossed rivers, slept along the road. There is no other way to do this work." WHRDs from Torokina (South Bougainville). Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA, November 2017

Cover photo: Participants of the Bougainville WHRDs Forum (Siwai, November 2017). Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA

IWDA INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



Nazareth Centre
for Rehabilitation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

*The Project 'From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice
and Healing' is part of the Papua New Guinea-Australia
Partnership.*

#PNGAusPartnership

**Australian
Aid** 

PACIFIC WOMEN
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

END OF PROJECT REPORT

Project Details

PARTNERS:	Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation (NCfR) and International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)
PROJECT NAME:	From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing
PROJECT LOCATION:	Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea
SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Australian Aid funding (DFAT PNG/ Pacific Women Program)
PROJECT PERIOD:	01 April 2015 – 31 March 2018 (3 years)
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (Pacific Women Funding):	\$1,693,366 (AUD)
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION (NCfR and IWDA):	\$1,119,799 (AUD)
REPORT DATE:	30/07/2018

About The Report

This report provides an overview of achievements made towards *From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing* project outcomes and the Theory of Change during three years of the project (April 2015 – March 2018).

The report includes:

- Report Summary
- End of Project Report
- 1. Key Project Achievements and Progress against Project Theory of Change and Milestones
 - o Support to survivors of gender based violence
 - o Working with Women Human Rights Defenders
 - o Influencing change
 - o Strengthening organisational capacity
 - o Action learning approach
 - o Working with male advocates
 - o Working with young women and girls, young men and boys
 - o Working with men who perpetrated family and sexual violence
- 2. Successes, Lessons and Challenges
- 3. Project Budget and Expenditure

Annexes

- Annex 1. Project Theory of Change and Milestones
- Annex 2. Summary of Project Reach
- Annex 3. Stories from the Project

END OF PROJECT REPORT - SUMMARY

From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing Project aims to reduce family and sexual violence (FSV)¹ in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville by addressing the root causes of gender inequality, through two project outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Supporting Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders to lead responses to and prevention of family and sexual violence working with government and communities.
- **Outcome 2:** Enabling men and women to prevent family and sexual violence at community level by promoting shared power and decision making between women and men.

From *Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing* project was a three-year project implemented by Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation (NCfR) in partnership with International Women's Development Agency (IWDA).

The project builds on work funded under the *Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women* (FLOW) Program by the Government of the Netherlands from 2013-2015 to strengthen work of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) across Bougainville and gender based violence (GBV) prevention activities with local communities. In 2015 (Year 1) this work was co-funded by Australian Aid (via the *Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development* (Pacific Women) Program), and from 2016 (Year 2) the project was fully funded by *Pacific Women*. This work contributes to the third area of change of the *Pacific Women PNG Second Country Plan* (2014-2019): Prevention of family and sexual violence and support for survivors (as a primary indicator).

Summary of Project Achievements

During April 2015 – March 2018, the project directly reached **21,888 people: 10,437 women and 6,395 men** (including 29 women and 16 men with disabilities); **218 young women and 93 young men; 2,508 girls and 2,237 boys** (including 2 girls and 3 boys with disabilities).

This work included:

- Counselling and support through four safe houses, Men's Hub and community counsellors to 2,653 clients: 1,512 women (57%) and 173 girls (6.5%); 785 men (29.5%) and 183 boys (7%). Total of 6,506 items of services were provided (including counselling, accommodation, escorting to police, health centres, etc.)
- 12 trainings for 304 trauma counsellors (203 women and 101 men).
- 69 trainings and capacity building meetings for WHRDs and male advocates. In total 2,323 people (1,702 women, 621 men) had their skills and capacity built through trainings on GBV, human rights, women's rights, roles of WHRDs, peace and conflict resolution, peer educators, and monitoring meetings.

¹ The term family and sexual violence (FSV) is the most commonly used and understood language when speaking about violence against women in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. Technically FSV is not the same as violence against women (VAW) or gender-based violence (GBV) but the three terms – FSV, VAW and GBV, are often used interchangeably in Bougainville with the majority of people unaware of the differences between the terms. Thus, FSV is used alongside with VAW and GBV throughout this report.

- 228 public awareness events and community engagement activities were conducted by the NCfR team, WHRDs and male advocates. Such events were attended by 14,020 people from local communities (6,247 women, 4,474 men, 1,758 girls and 1,541 boys). The events were organised around key international days to share messages on prevention of GBV, human rights, women's rights, peace building, community development and empowerment.
- Three Bougainville WHRDs Forums were held for 588 WHRDs (522 women, 5 women with disabilities, 52 young women, and 9 men) in Chabai (November 2015), Tunuru (March 2017) and in Siwai (November 2017).
- Male Advocates Forum for 111 men (89 men, 22 young men) was held in Chabai during 04-08 December 2017.
- A school based program pilot delivered modules to 1,154 students from 11 local schools (27 young women, 37 young men, 577 girls, 513 boys).
- A final evaluation and an end of project audit were completed.

The Project was on track and successfully met its core objectives and milestones.



Women leaders at the Bougainville WHRDs Forum, Siwai (November 2017). Photo credit: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA

END OF PROJECT REPORT

1. Key Project Achievements and Progress against Project Theory of Change and Milestones²

OUTCOME 1	Project Milestone 1
Bougainville Women's Human Rights Defenders are leading responses to and preventing family and sexual violence working with government and communities.	Over the period of three years 1,200 women and children will receive crisis services and support from NCfR and WHRDs.

SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A three year target for the project was that 1,200 women and children would receive services from NCfR (Safe Houses and Men's Hub) and WHRDs (community counsellors). The **target for the Milestone 1 was exceeded with 1,868 women and children receiving assistance**. With every project year, the number of women and children seeking help, in particular from the NCfR Safe Houses, increased indicating that the demand for services is high.³

The project exceeded the target by 56 per cent regardless of reduced capacity for service provision in Year 3 due to Buka Safe House being closed. It shows that women are becoming more aware of the safe houses and help available, and more women are seeking refuge and/or receive counselling from NCfR. In addition, it shows that Women Human Rights Defenders who were trained as community counsellors are acting as the first point of contact for survivors of violence and expanding existing referral pathways and opportunities for women and children to receive help and support, in particular in rural and remote areas where formal services are absent. **88% of all cases managed by NCfR are a result of gender based violence/ family and sexual violence.**⁴

Table 1 provides a summary of the total number of women and children, who received crisis services (counselling, referrals, rehabilitation, crisis accommodation, provision of Interim Protection Orders and other support) from NCfR (Safe Houses and Men's Hub) and WHRDs.

² For details see Annex 1.

³ 435 women and children received services from the NCfR Safe Houses during the first year; 506 women and children were supported by the NCfR Safe Houses during the second year; and 562 women and children received help from the NCfR Safe Houses during the third year of the Project.

⁴ See Diagrams 4 and 5.

Table 1. Data on women and children who received services and support from NCfR and community counsellors (April 2015 – March 2018)

Women and children who received services & support	MILESTONE 1: Women and Children who received support (Disaggregated by Sex / Disability)							Services provided
	Total women & children	Women	Girls	Boys	Women with Disability	Girls with Disability	Boys with Disability	
Total Clients of Safe Houses	1,300	1,022	155	106	15	1	1	3,676
Clients reached by WHRDs	142	125	11	6	0	-	-	250
Clients reached by Men's Hub	426	348	6	70	2	-	-	426
Overall Women and Children reached by NCfR & WHRDs	1,868	1,495	172	182	17	1	1	4,352

Services provided by the NCfR Safe Houses

Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation operates four Safe Houses located in Arawa, Buin, Buka and Chabai (across all regions of Bougainville). Establishment of the Safe Houses was co-funded by the Australian Government and Congregation of Sisters of Nazareth outside of this project. At the start of the project, all Safe Houses were operational. At the end of 2016, NCfR was forced to temporarily close Buka Safe House due to the poor condition of the property and the refusal of the landlord to undertake necessary repairs. All clients were relocated to Chabai for accommodation and counselling. Buka Safe House was reopened in February 2018 with support from the Catholic Church.

During three years of the project, the NCfR Safe Houses provided counselling and support to **1,446 clients** (1,022 women, 145 men, 155 girls, 106 boys, 15 women with disabilities, 1 man with a disability, 1 girl with a disability, 1 boy with a disability). A total of **3,855 services** were provided to clients, which included accommodation at Safe Houses, counselling, escorting to police, courts, legal services, hospitals and other referral services, preparing Interim Protection Orders (IPOs), case management, repatriation, reconciliation and mediation, and life skills training. 82.5% of clients of Safe Houses were female (women and girls) and 17.5% were male (men and boys). People with disabilities represent about 1.5% of all people who received support from NCfR. Combined **women and children represent 90%** of all clients of the Safe Houses. Arawa Safe House assisted 35 per cent, Chabai Safe House – 32 per cent, Buin Safe House – 21 per cent, and Buka 12 per cent of all clients (Diagrams 1 and 2). Counselling provision represents the largest number of services provided (36%) and assistance with accommodation is the second largest number of services (30%).

Table 2. Number of clients who received crisis services from the NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)

All Safe Houses	Disaggregated by Sex / Disability									Number of services provided
	Total clients	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Women with Disability	Men with Disability	Girls with Disability	Boys with Disability	
Year 1	458	408	23	9	18	0	0	0	0	943
Year 2	604	388	97	58	50	8	1	1	1	1,281
Year 3	384	226	25	88	38	7	0	0	0	1,631
Total Clients of Safe Houses	1,446	1,022	145	155	106	15	1	1	1	3,855

Diagram 1. Number of clients supported by each of the NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)

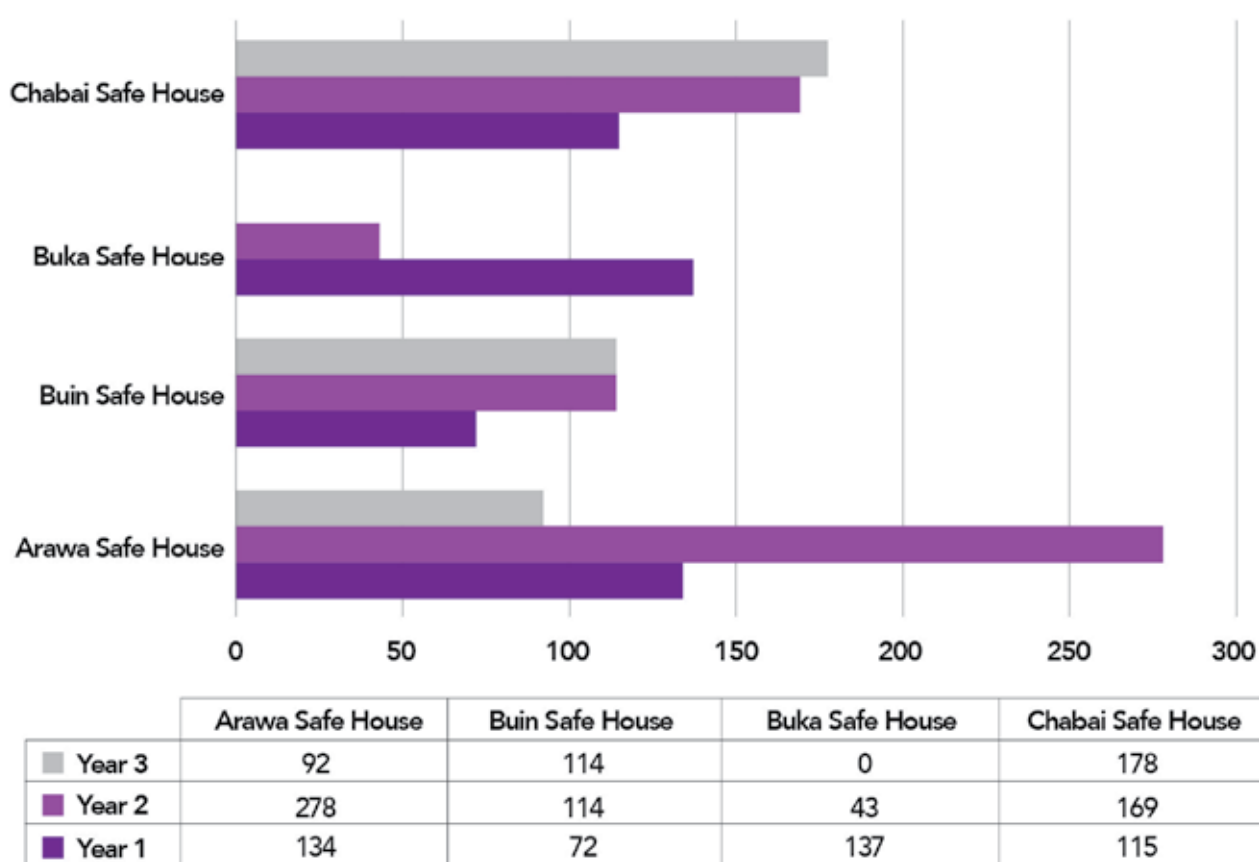


Diagram 2. Percentage of clients assisted by each of the NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)

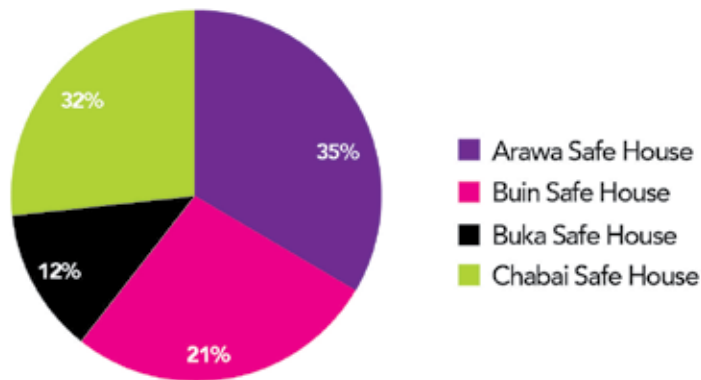


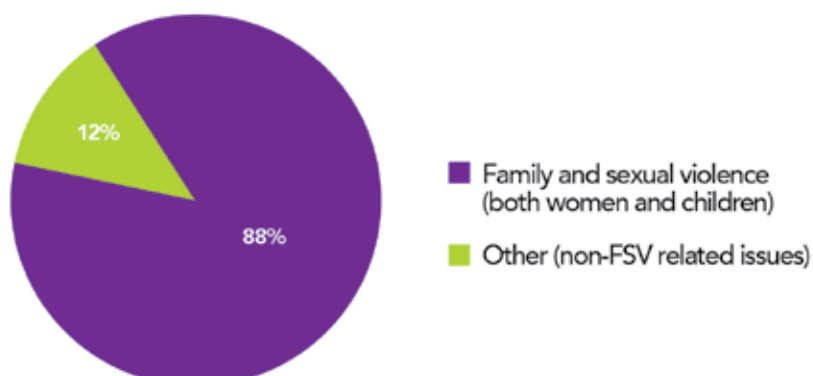
Diagram 3. Types of services provided by the NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)



Diagram 4. Types of cases addressed by the NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)



Diagram 5. Percentage of family and sexual violence cases provided by NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)



Community counsellors

During monitoring visits to communities⁵, the NCfR team collected data about counselling provided by WHRDs from NCfR network who were trained as community counsellors. **WHRDs/community counsellors provided 309 services of support** (counselling, life-skills, mediation) to **201 people**, including 125 women and 17 children.

Men's Hub

NCfR operates a **Men's Hub** that focuses on working with men, including counselling to perpetrators and men in crisis situations. Women and children also use counselling services, in particular when they accompany their male family members to Men's Hub. Men's Hub provided services to 1,006 clients, including **350 women and 76 children**.⁶

GBV awareness raising and working with communities by Safe House staff

In addition to Safe House accommodation, support and counselling services, Safe House teams play a very important role in raising awareness in local communities and ensuring that victims-survivors of violence can safely return to their homes.

During the project, **Safe House teams** (in collaboration with Men's Hub and local WHRDs) **conducted 66 activities in 48 communities** across all regions of Bougainville reaching out to **2,981 people (671 women, 626 men, 851 girls and 833 boys)**. See summary in Table 3 below. Women and girls represent 51% of the target groups.

Table 3. GBV awareness raising activities by all NCfR Safe Houses (April 2015 – March 2018)

All Safe Houses	Disaggregated by Sex / Disability								
	Total people	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Women with Disability	Men with Disability	Girls with Disability	Boys with Disability
Year 1	199	85	73	20	21	-	-	-	-
During Year 1, 8 awareness raising activities were held in 7 communities: Kubu, Hahela, Malasang, Bakoram, Mawe, Topis, and IPA.									
Year 2	127	47	53	16	11	-	-	-	-
During Year 2, 8 awareness raising activities were held in 8 communities: Lato, Bolave, Baba, Buin, Maguai, Musisuru, Kikimogu, and Arawa.									
Year 3	2,655	539	500	815	801	-	-	-	-
During Year 3, 50 awareness raising activities were held in 33 communities: Masalang, Chabai, Kataman (Pariro), Laguai, Muguai, Muisuru, Tonolei, Rantan Island, Orava, Gina, Patsinkuk, Sotakap, Manetai, Hairu, Ugupakogu, Ibirai, Laitaro, Malabita, Lanku, Sokela, Kobanis, Maingku, SML, Arawa Section 17, Tunuru, Bairima, Koro, Buin Town, Kanauro, Aku, Kangu Beach, and Chabai.									
Total	2,981	671	626	851	833	-	-	-	-

⁵ See pages 9-11 of this report for more information about WHRDs work.

⁶ See pages 28-29 for more details on work of the Men's Hub.

OUTCOME 1	Project Milestone 2
Bougainville Women's Human Rights Defenders are leading responses to and preventing family and sexual violence working with government and communities.	<p>Over the period of three years 800 WHRDs will be trained and have their skills increased and will perform activities at community level. Out of total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 counsellors have increased skills and experience to provide quality services to FSV survivors • 100 WHRDs (including community counsellors) are involved in community peace and rehabilitation processes. • 100 WHRDs participate in community leadership positions.

WORKING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Over three years of the project, NCfR WHRDs Program and Male Advocacy Program teams trained and increased capacity of **1,982 Women Human Rights Defenders (1,785 women, 6 women with disabilities, 191 young women)**, including counsellors, through **59 trainings and on-going capacity building** of WHRDs, male advocates and trauma counsellors. It exceeds the project target of 800 WHRDs trained through the project, and represents 248% of the target.

This work included:

- 12 trainings and capacity building for 304 counsellors (202 women, 99 men, 1 woman with a disability, 2 men with disabilities), out of which 203 are WHRDs.
- 30 trainings for 1,394 participants (1,019 women, 106 young women, 268 men, 1 man with a disability), out of which 1,125 WHRDs. 8 trainings were organised for already existing WHRDs in the network and 22 trainings for new WHRDs. Topics of the trainings included: gender and human rights, roles of WHRDs, women's leadership, FSV, positive parenting, and peace building.
 - o 8 follow-up trainings: 442 participants (428 WHRDs; 14 male advocates)
 - o 22 trainings for new and potential WHRDs: 952 participants (697 WHRDs; 255 male advocates)
- Three Bougainville WHRDs Forums were held for 588 participants (579 WHRDs (522 women, 5 women with disabilities, 52 young women) and 9 male advocates).
- Out of total WHRDs, 158 young women (8% of all WHRDs) had their capacity built as WHRDs and 33 young women were trained as peer educators.
- Over 3 years, NCfR held 21 monitoring visits, community meetings and 3 district meetings with 592 WHRDs network members (502 WHRDs, 88 male advocates, 2 male advocates with disabilities).
- 75 WHRDs were trained as part of 15 trainings for male advocates conducted by Male Advocacy Program Team in collaboration with WHRDs Program team.

Work led by WHRDs (counsellors, educators, advocates and activists)

Sub-milestones

- 100 WHRDs (including community counsellors) who are involved in community peace and rehabilitation processes.
- 100 WHRDs participating in community leadership positions.

NCfR exceeded the two sub-targets of 100 WHRDs being involved in community peace and rehabilitation processes and 100 WHRDs participating in formal and informal community leadership positions.

Monitoring visits to communities where WHRDs reside are used by NCfR team to track the impacts of NCfR training. NCfR collects information on and supports WHRDs community level initiatives. Over 3 years, NCfR team conducted 21 monitoring visits and organised 3 district meetings with WHRDs from 21 communities (15 from North, 4 from South and 2 from Central Bougainville). A total of 502 WHRDs participated in the meetings and indicated that they are active in their communities and lead on various initiatives for community peace and rehabilitation, addressing FSV, providing counselling, mediation, advocacy awareness raising, and educational activities.

For example:

- With every year of the project, the number of WHRDs participating in monitoring meetings was increasing, indicating that WHRDs stay engaged and continued their work beyond direct NCfR input through trainings or activities. The number of WHRDs participating in such activities increased from 62 in Year 1, to 173 in Year 2, to 267 in Year 3.
- A group of 25 WHRDs from Selau district (North), with support from NCfR, organised and led on the Peace March under the theme 'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World', which they held on the 20 December 2017. Over 700 community members⁷ were mobilised to attend the march. This followed NCfR's celebrations for International Women's Day on 8 March 2018 - over 80 people attended that event and WHRDs fundraised 1,000 PGK to be used for NCfR's 2018 WHRDs Forum in October 2018.
- WHRDs Capacity Assessment (2015) found that 78 WHRDs, who participated in the assessment, conducted 299 awareness raising activities on GBV, women's rights and gender equality. The largest target audience for awareness was communities (51%), followed by families (25%), government representatives (14%) and individuals (10%). Forty four per cent of interviewed WHRDs reported taking advocacy actions to request funds from various government actors for activities to prevent or respond to family and sexual violence. Twenty five per cent of WHRDs also reported asking the police and Council of Elders to improve services to respond to FSV. Thirteen per cent of WHRDs reported that they have counselled women who have experienced violence in the past year.
- It was identified that 46 WHRDs took on leadership positions: 12 WHRDs in South Bougainville who were trained through the Gender Justice program became leaders and community facilitators in other development projects; women have been elected to community governments as ward members – 19 WHRDs in South Bougainville and 15 WHRDs women in North Bougainville.
- Two WHRDs leaders from Bana, with support from male advocates, are leading their group of WHRDs. In November 2017, they organised the first ever 16 Days of Activism Against GBV in Bana district. They also provided counselling, led on peace mediations and community dialogues, and opened a Safe Home to provide a short term crisis accommodation to women survivors of violence.
- Data collected from volunteer WHRDs/community counsellors indicated that they provided 309 services of support (counselling, life-skills, mediation) to 201 people (125 women, 59 men, 11 girls and 6 boys). WHRDs also reported that they have organised at least 36 advocacy, awareness raising and mediation activities and initiatives, which reached out to 527 people (242 women, 173 men, 70 girls and 42 boys).

⁷ This number is included into the total reach for awareness raising activities.

- The *End of Project WHRDs Capacity Assessment* (2017) found that 114 WHRDs delivered 279 awareness activities, most commonly with individuals and communities (37%). Twenty two percent of women reported having talked to a community leader; 32 percent of women reported requesting funds from their local governments with 26 percent of women receiving funds for their work as WHRDs.



Sr Josephine Lahio, CSN, NCfR, facilitating a workshop. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA, November 2017

"After I did the trainings, I went back to the other 11 magistrates in my area. I am the only woman magistrate. I told them, there is a network of women who can help us. The other magistrates were really happy that we can work together."

Mary Tanai, WHRD (Bana District, South Bougainville), Interview, 4 December 2017.

Sub-milestone:

- **300 counsellors have increased skills and experience to provide quality services to survivors of family and sexual violence.**

Over 3 years, NCfR increased capacity of 304 counsellors (202 women, 99 men, 1 woman with disability, 2 men with disabilities). This sub-target of 300 counsellors, who have increased skills and experience, was reached fully.

The participants of these trauma trainings increased their knowledge and skills in counselling and committed to continue working with NCfR as community counsellors. Availability of community counsellors working at village level increases opportunities for women and children survivors of gender based violence to receive appropriate information, help and support. Community counsellors provide basic counselling and often serve as the first point of contact for women and children; they share information about support available and justice pathways, and provide referrals. The participants strengthened their skills in: basics of counselling; case management and counselling planning; dealing with complex clients; record keeping and reporting; trauma and the cycle of violence, and counselling supervision. In Years 2 and 3, NCfR concentrated on training and improving skills of already trained counsellors from their WHRDs and male advocates network, as well as counsellors working with the Safe Houses.

Networking

NCfR networks with other institutions, service providers and community based organisations in Bougainville and PNG. Networking and collaboration happens on various levels: international and national; regional (Bougainville) and within NCfR networks of WHRDs and male advocates. This work is important for sustaining long lasting results and ownership of communities of actions to address GBV, as well as gaining support from local, regional and national key stakeholders for the work NCfR does on the ground. International connections are important for learning and sharing, bringing good practice back to the project and also for raising awareness on the issues that women in Bougainville face. NCfR team engaged in 42 networking meetings, joint activities, workshops which reached 572 people (294 women, 278 men).

Table 4. Summary of key NCfR networking partners and engagements during the project (April 2015 – March 2018)

International	Bougainville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women Australia (speaking tour) • Several visits by representatives of the Australian High Commission in PNG • Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding Conference, Fiji • Pacific Feminist Forum held in Suva, Fiji • First Pacific regional meeting 'Women, Peace and Security' convened by FemLINKpacific • A visit by the New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG • IWDA • Conciliation Resources • Christian Care Centre, Solomon Islands • Queensland University of Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterpart International • Bougainville Peace Building Program Committee • Departments of Autonomous Government of Bougainville (Department of Community Development) • Mabiri Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre • Buin District Executive Manager • Buin District Services Improvement Program Committee • Bougainville Peace Building Program • Bougainville Women's Federation • UNDP • UNFPA • UN Women • Bougainville Healthy Community Program • Planim Save Kamap Strong (PSKS) Project • Hako Women's Collective • Buka Family Support Centre • Yumi Wan Festival • Bougainville Family & Sexual Violence Action Committee • Technical Working Group on Women, Peace and Security • World Vision • Law and Justice Program • And others
National (PNG)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development PNG partner workshops • IWDA PNG partners workshops • Voice for Change (Jiwaka) • Caritas Australia (PNG Churches Partnership) • Hosted several learning visits from other congregations and safe houses (FMI Sisters from East New Britain, St Therese Sisters from Madang and the Franciscans Sisters from Vanimo), as well as a delegation from Jiwaka • Pacific Women PNG Mid-Term Review • First Jiwaka Women's Forum • IWDA/ANU Do No Harm research and workshop 	

Collaboration with other women's organisations

On 8 March 2018, NCfR's Program Coordinator gave two speeches at the International Women's Day celebrations, organised by Bougainville partners (Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF), Department of Communications, and others) with the theme **"We are Women, We are Ready!"** The celebration took place at the Buka Market and reached approximately 200 people (100 women, 100 men). All speeches during the celebration were recorded and played for several days by Radio Bougainville. Such collaboration and planning of joint awareness raising actions was an outcome from the IWDA PNG Partner workshop that focused on advocacy. When IWDA's PNG partners (NCfR and BWF) met in January 2018, they agreed to support each other in joint advocacy campaigns under Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment (WAVE) Program led by IWDA across Asia-Pacific region with 17 partners.

Awareness raising

NCfR team working with WHRDs uses opportunities to organise awareness raising events around significant international dates (such as International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, World Food Day, International Day of Rural Women and others) as an important prevention and educational strategy to address GBV. During three years of the project, WHRDs Program organised 13 large scale activities for 2,916 people (2,052 women, 605 men, 127 girls, 123 boys, 4 women with disabilities, 4 men with disabilities, 1 girl with a disability).



Bernadette Hannets, NCfR Training Coordinator, organises WHRDs. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA, November 2017

Table 5. Summary of awareness raising events organised by WHRDs Program (April 2015 – March 2018)

Awareness Raising during the project	Disaggregated by Sex / Disability								
	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Women with Disability	Men with Disability	Girls with Disability	Boys with Disability
Year 1 (April 2015 – March 2016) – 7 events	1,333	948	385	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year 2 (April 2016 – March 2017) – 3 events	352	328	22	1	-	-	1	-	-
Year 3 (April 2017 – March 2018) – 3 events	1,231	776	198	126	123	4	3	1	-
Total - 13 awareness raising events	2,916	2,052	605	127	123	4	4	1	-

Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders Forums

A key method of supporting WHRDs to implement their work at the community level is to create a network of support, solidarity, and shared learning. In addition to quarterly monitoring visits, NCfR organises annual Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders Forums. These events are designed to facilitate sharing and learning, supporting networking and collaboration among WHRDs.

During the project, three Bougainville WHRDs Forums were held for 588 participants (579 WHRDs (522 women, 5 women with disabilities, 52 young women) and 9 male advocates).

BOUGAINVILLE WHRDS FORUMS

- **26-29 November 2015** - 107 WHRDs (all women) from 10 districts of Bougainville met in Chabai, North Bougainville;
- **06-10 March 2017** - 271 participants (263 WHRDs, 8 male advocates) from all 13 districts of Bougainville met in Tunuru, Central Bougainville; and
- **26 November – 01 December 2017** - 210 participants (209 WHRDs, 1 male advocate) from 12 districts of Bougainville met in Siwai, South Bougainville.

During March 2017 Forum, WHRDs endorsed a WHRD's song.

Listen to the song here: <https://youtu.be/6iBCUNM9f-k>



WHRDs on the way to Siwai Forum, 25 November 2017. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA

The forums gave space for WHRDs to reflect on their achievements, challenges and plans. They also allowed WHRDs to build connections and strengthen networks for collaboration with other advocates and leaders. The solidarity of being part of a network of like-minded women is important to WHRDs. The end of project capacity assessment revealed that 60 percent of women said that they 'always' learn things from other WHRDs to support their work and 78 percent of women said that they 'always' feel stronger when working with other WHRDs.

"And I am going to help those other women human right defenders that didn't come to the forum because in the community I think I have almost 20 women human right defenders. So from this forum I will go back and have a meeting with them, and talk to them and I will encourage them to continue the work that our role and responsibility, our responsibility as women human right defenders."

Olita Mokela, WHRD (Buka District, North Bougainville), Interview, 30 November 2017



Isabel Peta, MP - Women's Representative for South Bougainville presented 1,000 Kina each to three WHRDs groups working in South during the opening of the Bougainville WHRDs Forum, 27 November 2017. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA



WHRDs listening to presentations during the Siwai Forum, 28 November 2017. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA

OUTCOME 1	Project Milestone 3
Bougainville Women's Human Rights Defenders are leading responses to and preventing family and sexual violence working with government and communities.	At least 10 legislative changes, policies, programs or budget allocations were influenced by WHRDs and male advocates to address family and sexual violence.

INFLUENCING CHANGE

Milestone three tracks the project achievements at the outcome level, tracking impact of advocacy, such as changes to legislation, policies, programs and budget allocations. It establishes the target that WHRDs and male advocates will influence or contribute to at least ten changes related to family and sexual violence. Such changes may happen at local community level, district, regional or national Bougainville level. In recognition that advocacy is a long-term and on-going investment, the outcomes for milestone three include both achieved results and 'change/work in progress.'

The project achieved the target of at least ten advocacy instances. This was done through work of NCfR team, WHRDs and male advocates, through work of Safe Houses and Men's Hub, through awareness raising activities, through networking and collaborating, and through advocacy and influencing activities.

Work in progress

Under the Bougainville Safe Houses Policy initiative, NCfR is advocating for the Autonomous Bougainville Government to develop and implement an appropriate policy response to FSV through safe houses. The initiative has continued throughout the three years of the project. To lead this work, NCfR participated in work of the FSV Action Committee, including in regions, and Mental Health Committee and hosted several learning visits to their Safe Houses. NCfR attended meetings with key stakeholders, developed briefs, and distributed materials and information about the importance of the Safe Houses, raising awareness of the high demand of such services by women and children who experienced FSV. At the end of 2016, NCfR was joined by their referral partner, the Law and Justice Program, who supported them with this initiative. This joint work added strength to the voice and included other interested supporters of this initiative. This work will continue in 2018.

Achieved changes

- **NCfR contributed to an advocacy initiative for establishment of the Office for Gender Equality in Bougainville:** During July - September 2016 NCfR attended five meetings as a member of the Gender Equality Reference Group and contributed to required data collection. UN Women led this work and provided technical expertise and financial support. NCfR collaborated with Bougainville Women's Federation and other local women's organisations to support this initiative.
- **WHRDs taking up leadership roles in communities:** NCfR plays a significant role in influencing attitudes and traditional structures and promoting participation of women in local community governments and decision making. For example, when ward members are trained as WHRDs (or male advocates) they are better-placed to influence decision making in favour of gender equality and protecting the interests of women, children and other vulnerable groups. It was identified during this project that **46 WHRDs took on leadership positions:** 12 WHRDs in South Bougainville who were trained through the Gender Justice program became leaders and community facilitators in other development projects; and women were elected to community governments as Ward Members - 19 WHRDs in South Bougainville and 15 WHRDs in North Bougainville.
- During 2017, WHRDs led initiatives, fundraised and **opened three Resource Centres** in their communities (Kona, Tanari and Haku communities). Now WHRDs have a place to hold their meetings and their communities can use these centres for meetings, educational, awareness raising, and other initiatives. In Haku, a women's group, Hako Collective, sourced funding to make their resource centre disability inclusive, and they were successful in getting support for their other projects, such as positive parenting, and women and arts.
- **Three Members of Parliament (MPs) donated 5,000 Kina to support work of WHRDs** in their constituencies. The funds were given to WHRDs to support their work to address FSV and improve lives of women and children in their communities. In November 2017, the Women's Representative for South gave 3,000 Kina to three district WHRDs groups (1,000 Kina to each group) during the Bougainville WHRDs Forum held in Siwai. The MP from Central Bougainville donated 1,000 Kina for the Bougainville WHRDs Forum held in Tunuru during March 2017. The MP from North Bougainville gave 1,000 Kina to WHRDs from North to support their travel and participation in the Bougainville WHRDs Forum in Siwai (November 2017).
- **NCfR contributed to work of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Women, Peace and Security,** which is convened by the ABG Department of Community Development. The group developed the ToR for TWG, a Strategic Plan and Action Plan for Women's Political Leadership, and the Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Peace and Security Policy. NCfR highlighted the importance of the role of NGOs and women's organisations in ensuring that women participate in preparation for the upcoming referendum.
- **Bana LLG supported** WHRDs and NCfR to organise the first ever **16 Days of Activism**. This was a significant achievement as it was the first event of this kind in a very remote area and reached 450 people (November 2017).

- Buin LLG is now taking the issue of FSV as a serious matter for the whole community. LLG is supporting activities of WHRDs and NCfR, resulting in more effective referral networking.
- In 2018, DFAT Bougainville post donated a car to NCfR that will be used for transporting clients of the Buka Safe House.
- Buka Safe House was re-opened in February 2018 with support from the Catholic Church (location, building and resources to set up the safe house).

OUTCOME 1	Project Milestone 4
Bougainville Women's Human Rights Defenders are leading responses to and preventing family and sexual violence working with government and communities.	Stronger financial, human resources, operational and project management systems in place for NCfR. NCfR supported with action learning approach.

STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

In order to build on positive outcomes of this project, it is essential that NCfR is sustainable and delivering high quality programs and services. By co-funding the existing services provided by the NCfR and upskilling counsellors at the Safe Houses, this project ensures that NCfR can respond to the demand for their services without losing quality or overworking counsellors. NCfR also needs to have capacity to support large numbers of WHRDs and male advocates and their community based activities; to communicate and share lessons; to advocate and influence change; and to collect learnings and evidence resulting from the project implementation.



Project Year 2 Planning Workshop, April 2016. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA

By the end of the project, NCfR's financial management, operational and human resources systems were established and strengthened. NCfR transitioned from cash based accounting to an electronic accounting system, improved its financial records and management, improved financial transparency, accounting and reporting. Effective support with program management, budgeting and reporting allowed successful project implementation using an action-learning approach; baseline assessments on WHRDs and male advocates' capacity, end of project WHRDs capacity assessment and a community perceptions baseline were completed. IWDA supported NCfR to build their image across PNG, regional and international networks.

This project represents a significant increase in resources available to NCfR. IWDA provides tailored organisational development support to NCfR (with financial systems, human resources systems, monitoring and evaluation systems, operational and program management systems). IWDA supports NCfR to manage the risk associated with rapid growth. In particular, intensive support is provided to NCfR to strengthen their financial management systems, and develop and implement operational systems.



Disability Inclusion and M&E Workshop, August 2016. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA

By the end of the project, key achievements include:

- NCfR, in partnership with IWDA, successfully met all project milestones and delivered the project with high outcomes and beneficiaries reached.
- Support by IWDA with program delivery: work planning, activities planning, budgeting, reporting - mentoring and technical inputs to NCfR staff through: 11 visits to NCfR by IWDA Program Manager (on average one trip per 3-4 months) and 5 visits by IWDA Finance Coordinator; 6 working meetings alongside other events/ workshops/ forums.
- NCfR received in-situ tailored support to strengthen their financial systems and operations through engaging a local Finance Consultant and received support and capacity building by IWDA's Finance Coordinator. NCfR transitioned from cash based accounting to an electronic accounting system; improved existing financial systems and documentation; finance staff of the organisation received training and mentoring. Established systems became operational and functional, all project staff were trained to understand the procedures and requirements. The NCfR Finance team produced high quality acquittals and file management. This support has made a significant impact on the sustainability and confidence level of the organisation to be able to demonstrate accountability and transparency. Significantly, the organisation is now ready to introduce a financial software for their financial management (to be implemented in Phase 2).

- NCfR and IWDA successfully passed an independent financial audit (by an external audit firm) for the 3-year project financial reporting (period April 2015 – March 2018).
- NCfR and IWDA were successful in securing funding for Phase 2 (April 2018 – September 2022). IWDA led, in consultation with NCfR, on proposal negotiations, peer reviews, writing and revising, responding to peer review requests, due diligence and Child Protection reviews.
- Steady progress was achieved in developing core documents and policies/codes. In Phase 2, more work will be done to ensure that NCfR is compliant with due diligence processes of large international donors, making it eligible for direct funding.
- Twenty staff (14 women, 6 men) received capacity building training in report writing, monitoring and evaluation, disability inclusion and project and work planning. Ten staff had additional opportunities to receive professional development outside of NCfR and Bougainville through IWDA support (Pacific Feminist Forum, IWDA PNG partner workshops, Pacific Women learning workshops, exchange visits, Jiwaka Women's Forum, counselling skills training), as well as through in-house trainings and meetings.

ACTION LEARNING APPROACH

IWDA and Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation use an action-learning approach during project implementation to engage project staff in an ongoing process of reflection on lessons and opportunities for improvements; to document project approaches of engaging WHRDs and men as advocates against FSV; to collect monitoring and evaluation data to determine effectiveness of project implementation.

During the reporting period the following was achieved:

- During November 2015, a WHRDs capacity assessment was completed during the Bougainville WHRDs Forum held in Chabai. 78 WHRDs participated in the assessment from 10 out of 13 Districts of Bougainville. The baseline assessed the individual capacity of WHRDs and their understanding of gender, FSV and gender equality; their relations, networks and actions taken; as well as the context in which they operate, such as any resistance and backlash faced by WHRDs.
- *A Baseline Study on Community Attitudes, Perceptions and Behaviours of Women and Men towards Gender Equality and Family and Sexual Violence* was conducted during 2016-2017. The baseline study was conducted among 143 participants (77 women, 66 men) from six communities in North, Central and South Bougainville. This included three intervention communities (where the NCfR conducted activities) and three non-intervention communities (where the NCfR has not conducted any activities). The purpose of the study was to gain an in-depth understanding of community issues and opinions about gender equality and family and sexual violence. In addition, it assessed community knowledge about available support mechanisms, and their ideas and recommendations for NCfR. Analysis of data took longer than initially planned due to the large amount of information collected. The report will be published in 2018.
- The *Human Rights and Gender Equality Toolkit* was designed during 2017 and published in January 2018. The key purpose of this toolkit is to provide a handbook for Women Human Rights Defenders and male advocates conducting awareness raising and work at the community level. It was shared with networking partners, as well as presented at the Pacific Women PNG partner workshop (April 2018). The toolkit is available (on IWDA web-site) for external audiences free of charge, though NCfR recommends that before using this toolkit, all facilitators should receive appropriate training.

iwda.org.au/resource/human-rights-and-gender-justice-toolkit/

- During November 2017 – June 2018, the project completed its final evaluation, which included two components:
 1. Two capacity assessments for WHRDs and male advocates were conducted in November – December 2017 (during WHRDs Forum and Male Advocates Forum). These were thematic components for the overall end of project evaluation and findings from these assessments are integrated into the final evaluation report (completed by consultant), the end of the project report, and a learning paper (completed by IWDA);
 2. Final project evaluation: Ann Braun, an experienced M&E consultant was contracted to complete the final evaluation. During January – February 2018, the evaluation approach and methodology were designed in consultation with NCfR and IWDA. In March 2018, the field work was completed (workshops with staff, WHRDs and male advocates, key informant interviews). Data analysis and report writing was done during period of April – June 2018.
- A learning paper *Leading Change in Bougainville: Experiences of Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation and Women Human Rights Defenders* was developed and included lessons from the project. This brief looks at experiences of NCfR and WHRDs leading initiatives to address GBV and gender inequality in Bougainville and provides insights into challenges and successful models of working with WHRDs. It is available on

IWDA web-site: <https://iwda.org.au/resource/leading-change-in-bougainville-learning-brief/>.



Photos from the field work for community attitudes baseline, June 2016. Photo: Dr Madeline Lemeki



Male advocates trainings. Photo: Remey Semoso/ NCfR, July 2017

OUTCOME 2	Project Milestone 5
Men and women are preventing family and sexual violence at community level by promoting shared power and decision making between women and men.	300 male advocates will have the skills and knowledge to undertake school-based education focused on ending family and sexual violence; and advocate against family and sexual violence.

WORKING WITH MALE ADVOCATES

While supporting the Women's Human Rights Defenders networks in Bougainville, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation has identified the need to engage and train male advocates who would support the initiatives of WHRDs and work together with women leaders in local communities. Through this project, NCfR aims to work across three key areas of influence to change the attitudes and behaviours of men: individual, peer and community.

Since being established in November 2015, the Men's Hub has coordinated the Male Advocacy Program, including: counselling, trainings for male advocates and peer educators, working with men in the communities, coordinating a School Based Program pilot, working closely with the NCfR WHRDs Program and Safe Houses, as well as networking with key stakeholders and referral partners in Bougainville. Men's Hub operates in two locations: Chabai (North Bougainville) and Awara (Central Bougainville).

Over three years of the project, NCfR WHRDs Program and Male Advocacy Program teams trained and increased capacity of **752 male advocates** (688 male advocates, 8 male advocates with disabilities, and 56 young men), including counsellors and peer educators through 48 trainings and on-going capacity building of WHRDs, male advocates and trauma counsellors. It exceeds the project target of 300 male advocates being trained, and represents 251% of the target.

Male advocates capacity building and networking to advocate against GBV by Men's Hub

Over the three years of the project, **10 trainings were conducted for 284 people** (42 women (WHRDs), 223 men, 5 men with disabilities, and 14 young men). Male advocates were trained by Men's Hub in such topics as men's health, FSV, working with WHRDs, gender and human rights, roles of male advocates, and peace building.

In addition, male advocates were trained by WHRDs Program (379 male advocates) and by Men's Hub through peer educators trainings (20 young men).⁸

Awareness raising by male advocates/ community counsellors

Over the life of the project, male advocates held **64 sessions** of community conversations, group dialogues, awareness raising and mediation processes, as well as individual counselling on GBV, human rights, gender equality and men's health. This work captured a total of **3,492 people** (1,185 men, 983 women, 562 boys, 760 girls, 2 women with disability). Activities were held in 16 villages across all regions of Bougainville: Arawa, Piruana, Dongtare, Takoo, Mareko, Pekainang, Kaino, Siroana, Pooma, Panguna, Tangari, Chabai, NRTC, Malasang, Halia, and Pipinapena. There was equal representation (50/50%) of men and boys, and women and girls targeted by the work of male advocates.



NCfR team has to go through flooded roads and rivers without bridges to reach remote communities.
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA, November 2017

⁸ This data is counted under WHRDs Program and School Based Program.

Men's Hub - Awareness raising around 16 Days of Activism

Over the life of the project, Men's Hub led on 33 awareness raising events, reaching out to 1,365 people (656 women, 690 men, 7 girls, and 12 boys).

Table 6. Summary of awareness raising events by Male Advocacy Program (April 2015 – March 2018)

Awareness Raising during the project (mainly around 16 Days of Action)	Disaggregated by Sex / Disability								
	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Women with Disability	Men with Disability	Girls with Disability	Boys with Disability
Year 1 (April 2015 – March 2016) – 20 events ⁹	60	18	42	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year 2 (April 2016 – March 2017) – 2 events	948	480	455	7	6	-	-	-	-
Year 3 (April 2017 – March 2018) – 11 events	357	158	193	-	6	-	-	-	-
Total – 33 awareness raising events	1,365	656	690	7	12	-	-	-	-

Male Advocates Forum

Men's Hub organised the first **Male Advocates Forum for 111 male advocates** (89 men, 22 young men). The Forum was held in Chabai (North Bougainville) during **04-08 December 2017**.

During the Forum, men shared their stories of personal change as they learnt about human rights, gender equality, and gender based violence. Groups from each District reported how they have worked with WHRDs in their communities to address all forms of violence and to raise awareness. About half of the participants were new to this work - male advocates that were trained by NCfR invited new men, especially young men, with the hope of exposing them to the issues and, in the future, training them as male advocates.

Sr Lorraine Garasu, Director of Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, addressed men with an inspirational speech, saying:

"We never blame women for domestic violence. Men need to start taking responsibility for the violence they commit... Let's not beat around the bush - men are perpetrators of domestic violence, women are survivors. And male advocates have an important role to play!"

The participants of this forum discussed the importance of working with and supporting WHRDs in their communities to stand up against violence and to advocate for gender equality, respect and safer communities. NCfR also invited 15 WHRDs to this forum in order to create more connections and collaboration between male advocates and WHRDs, as well as to discuss expectations on what it means to be

⁹ During Year 1, data was not collected for all awareness raising events, only number of activities, thus, the total reach is limited to a few events.

a male advocate. A representative from WHRDs reported back on outcomes of the Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders Forum held in Siwai in November 2017 and shared recommendations on the type of support they want to receive from men and how women leaders can make collaboration more effective.

"Male Advocacy is important because we, men, are the main contributors to all these types of violence that occur within the community. We are the leaders in the family and we are the decision makers. That's why this violence happens... Thank you Sr Lorraine for including me in the work with the Women Human Rights Defenders. Before we saw these issues of violence as a family matter, after the awareness we've been doing in the community, people understand,"

said Dominic Komaru, a Male Advocate from Bana District (South Bougainville). He also shared that a woman after a community meeting he organised told him:

"Today we are beginning to see the light of our freedom. Because you, men, are realising that we women are somebody in the community, at the same level as you."

During the project, Men's Hub team and male advocates achieved the following:

- In 2017, trained male advocates in 3 locations organised themselves to lead initiatives at community level, such as: forming an advocacy team in Paruparu (Central) to address FSV; establishing a working committee between WHRDs and male advocates in Patupatuai (South); establishing a Siwai Male Advocacy Committee, which also includes WHRDs as members.
- Out of all trained male advocates, 16 men became ward members.
- The Male Advocates Capacity Assessment Baseline (December 2017) conducted among 58 male advocates who participated in Chabai Male Advocates Forum showed that:
 - o 111 awareness raising activities were organised by surveyed male advocates, with 40 percent of men reporting that they have done awareness together with WHRDs.
 - o 36 percent of men reported that they had given food or clothes to women survivors of FSV and 17 percent reported that they had given food and clothes to families.
 - o 26 percent of men reported counselling individual survivors and 33 percent reported counselling families.
 - o 24 percent of men reported sheltering an individual survivor in their own home.
 - o Some men reported intervening to defend a survivor in cases of FSV including: 16 percent of men reported that they had referred a perpetrator to counselling; 12 percent of men reported that they had sheltered a perpetrator in their own home to prevent them from being violent.



Snapshots from the Male Advocates Forum, Chabai, December 2017. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA

OUTCOME 2	Project Milestone 6
Men and women are preventing family and sexual violence at community level by promoting shared power and decision making between women and men.	2,000 girls and boys, young women and young men will be supported to develop non-violent attitudes and behaviours and participate in the school based program.

WORKING WITH YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS, YOUNG MEN AND BOYS

During three years of the project, a total of 3,355 boys, girls, young men and young women (218 young women, 1,562 girls, 93 young men, 1,479 boys, 1 girl with a disability, 2 boys with disabilities) were supported to develop non-violent attitudes and behaviours through: participation in the School Based Program; training for peer educators, WHRDs and male advocates; as well as through community based awareness raising activities. The project Milestone 6 target was exceeded by 68%. The following was achieved during the project:

- During 2016 – 2017 a pilot School Based Program (SBP) was delivered to 11 local schools in North and Central Bougainville and reached 925 students (5 young women, 10 young men, 481 girls, 427 boys, 2 boys with disabilities).
- In addition to SBP, three events were organised for students as complementary initiatives. These activities targeted 229 young people and children (22 young women, 27 young men, 96 girls and 84 boys).
- 53 participants (33 young women, 20 young men) participated in 5 trainings for peer educators. After the trainings 9 active peer educators (3 young women and 6 young men) were selected to deliver the School Based Program pilot in target schools.
- 2,148 young people and children¹⁰ (158 young women, 36 young men, 985 girls, 968 boys and 1 girl with a disability) were reached during the project through activities such as awareness raising and trainings conducted by WHRDs and Male Advocacy Programs, Safe Houses and Men's Hub.

School Based Program Implementation

NCfR developed a pilot School Based Program (SBP) as a prevention approach to educate young women and men, girls and boys about gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, non-violent behaviours and respectful relationships.

The SBP was delivered by **nine peer educators** (three young women and six young men), out of which six were based in North and three in Central Bougainville. The SBP was delivered to students aged between 13 and 25, both attending school and out of school.

During 2016 – 2017, the pilot School Based Program was delivered to **11 local schools** in North and Central Bougainville and reached **925 students** (5 young women, 10 young men, 481 girls, 427 boys, 2 boys with disabilities).

¹⁰ This data is captured under other milestones as part of the total annual reach of the project.

Table 7. School Based Program (April 2016 – March 2018)

School Based Program	Disaggregated by Sex / Disability							Schools
	Total participants	Young women	Young men	Girls	Boys	GWD ¹¹	BWD	
Year 2 (April 2016 – March 2017)	281	5	10	131	133	-	2	North Bougainville: Tongono, Sorom, Tilowa, Hantoa, Siara and Doputz Primary Schools
Year 3 (April 2017 – March 2018)	644	-	-	350	294	-	-	Central Bougainville: Arawa, St. Joseph's Bairima, Peter Lahis, Tupukas and St. Peter Channel Piruana Primary School
Total	925	5	10	481	427	-	2	11 primary schools (6 in North and 5 in Central Bougainville)

In addition to SBP modules, three events were organised for students as complementary initiatives. These activities targeted **229 young people and children (22 young women, 27 young men, 96 girls and 84 boys)**:

- November 2017: a **3-day Film Festival for 6 primary schools** from Selau constituency. **120 students (67 girls and 53 boys)** from grades 7 and 8 participated (with presence of parents).
- November 2017: SBP supported the Catholic Diocese **Youth Convention for Sotakap** youth (Buin, South Bougainville). **49 youth participated (22 young women, 27 young men)**.
- January 2018: a **Back to School Camp for 60 students (29 girls, 31 boys)** with presence of parents.

After delivery of SBP modules, the NCfR team returned to the target schools to conduct monitoring and collect feedback from students and teachers. The following lessons and feedback were gathered:

- It is important to also educate teachers and parents to create a supportive environment, to address their misconceptions and myths, as well as educate them on positive parenting and child rights. NCfR tried to target the same communities (where schools are located) through work of WHRDs and Male Advocates to ensure a comprehensive approach to awareness raising and to create a supportive environment for students.

¹¹ GWD – girls with disabilities, BWD – boys with disabilities

- Information covered in the module on Sexual and Reproductive Health is considered as a taboo topic in communities. Some parents were reluctant for their children to attend these classes. To address these concerns, the NCfR team collected informed consent from parents prior the start of the SBP. The program was tailored to student groups to include age appropriate information, not all units of modules were delivered to all students.
- NCfR team started the pilot by talking to local communities and schools to gain their interest and support for the program.
- After participation in the program students reported increased confidence and knowledge on the topics of gender roles and equal relationships, increased awareness of sexual and reproductive health, and respectful relationships.
- Teachers reported changes in behaviour of students, saying that students had become more respectful towards other classmates and teachers, and some reported improvements in school attendance. There was also feedback from teachers, that as a result of SBP, some students have shown improvement in their academic performance.



Siara Primary School, one of pilot schools participating in the School Based Program Pilot. Photo: NCfR, September 2017

OUTCOME 2	Project Milestone 7
Men and women are preventing family and sexual violence at community level by promoting shared power and decision making between women and men.	300 men who have perpetrated family and sexual violence and children have received counselling services to change their behaviour.

WORKING WITH MEN WHO PERPETRATED FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Men's Hub is working in two locations: Arawa (Central Bougainville) and Chabai (North Bougainville). 1,006 clients (348 women, 579 men, 6 girls, 70 boys, 2 women with disabilities, 1 man with a disability) received 2,122 items of services during three years of the project. Even though Men's Hub is working with men, women and children are also coming to the Hub for support and services. Where appropriate counsellors provide support in the Men's Hub and/or refer women and children to Safe Houses and other relevant service providers. In total, **650 men and boys received support from the Men's Hub**, representing 65% of all clients during the reporting period.

Results for Milestone 7 exceeded the target of 300 male clients, who received counselling and other forms of support.

Table 8. Number of clients who received crisis services from NCfR Men's Hub (April 2015 - March 2018)

Men's Hub (Chabai and Awara locations)	Disaggregated by Sex / Disability									Services provided
	Total clients	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Women with Disability	Men with Disability	Girls with Disability	Boys with Disability	
Year 1 (Apr'15 - Mar'16)	23	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Year 2 (Apr'16 - Mar'17)	819	296	453	4	63	2	1	-	-	1,638
Year 3 (Apr'17 - Mar'18)	164	52	103	2	7	-	-	-	-	438
Total Clients of Men's Hub	1,006	348	579	6	70	2	1	-	-	2,122
Total of <u>2,122 services</u> provided for 1,006 clients by Men's Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,060 counselling sessions provided • 27 temporary accommodation at Men's Hub • 33 life skills development sessions provided • 2 accessed health services 										

In addition to services and training, Men's Hub team worked with local communities. They conducted 52 group processes, community consultations, mediations and awareness sessions. This work reached **3,266 people** (1,879 women, 1,364 men, 12 girls, and 11 boys).

2. Successes, Lessons and Challenges

SUCCESSES AND LESSONS

During monitoring and training conducted by NCfR during the three year project, 502 WHRDs indicated they were active in their communities. At the end of the first year of the project, 44 per cent of WHRDs reported undertaking advocacy actions to request funds for activities to prevent or respond to GBV from different government actors. 25 per cent of WHRDs also reported asking the police and Council of Elders to improve services to respond to gender-based violence. At the end of 2015 there was no information available to track how successful these efforts were in obtaining funding. However, it was reported in the end of project WHRDs capacity assessment (2017) that 26 per cent of WHRDs had received support and funding from their local governments to lead on their activities as WHRDs. This is a great success for WHRDs and NCfR.

The proactive engagement of WHRDs at the community level to address gender-based violence and gender inequality through awareness raising, education, providing support and initial response to cases of violence against women and children has made a difference. Many WHRDs reported during Bougainville WHRDs Forums (held in November 2015, March and November 2017) that the work of WHRDs has brought positive change to their communities. For example, change in attitudes about gender-based violence and the role of women towards more respect of women and non-acceptance of violence; a reduction in alcohol and drug sales and consumption; reports of women feeling safer in their communities; and reports of successful collaboration between WHRDs and police in responding to cases of gender-based violence.

The WHRDs model has proven to be particularly effective for community outreach in the remote and rural context of Bougainville. WHRDs utilise existing relationships and local knowledge to engage with members of their communities on issues related to gender equality and gender-based violence. This creates community ownership of initiatives. WHRDs can engage in ways that work in their particular community and which take into account local power dynamics and community needs. For example, WHRDs have started community projects on youth employment, building a resource centre and developing services for people with disabilities.

This also increases opportunities for women and children survivors of violence to receive support, crisis response and referrals as WHRDs can assess and identify the support needs in their community. Some WHRDs provide temporary accommodation for survivors in their houses, until survivors are transferred to Safe Houses. One WHRD from Bana has opened a Safe Home in her community, so women do not have to travel to Buin Safe House if their case is not serious but they need emergency temporary accommodation.

The project design included an ambitious sub-indicator for the Milestone 7: *100 men who were formerly perpetrators of violence against women have become male advocates*. Based on pre and post surveys and feedback from trainings for male advocates, most of the male advocates, who go through trainings, admit to being perpetrators in the past and they make commitments to change and advocate against GBV. But in reality it is hard to validate to what extent this change has happened through pre/post questionnaires because participants may not respond truthfully. A feminist approach to design and data collection was used for the Male Advocates baseline assessment that was completed in December 2017. It was designed to triangulate the findings from the responses (through confidential and anonymous feedback) and WHRDs were asked about behaviours of male advocates after they attended NCfR trainings. The response showed that there were positive cases of men changing gender roles and stopping violence towards women and children. At the same time, there were reports of some men continuing violent behaviour after attending trainings. The project staff collected data of at least 15 men who transformed their behaviour and now work with NCfR. At this stage it is rather hard to put a number against this indicator due to it being such a sensitive issue, confidentiality and the challenge of verification. However, it is good to keep this indicator as an ambitious target and inspiration of what the project is aiming to achieve – transform behaviours and attitudes, and bring change to reduce GBV against women and girls. The Project team will use findings from the baseline for future strategies of working with men and data collection and analysis, for example, an end-line assessment is planned at the end of the next 4.5-year phase of the project, which will provide more data for this sub-indicator of behaviour change.

Advocacy for policy change takes time and coordinated effort of multiple stakeholders. Efforts of NCfR in relation to the Bougainville Safe Houses Policy has shown this. The NCfR started advocacy for support of Safe Houses (to be funded by Autonomous Bougainville Government) in 2015 and it was not successful, as the Government representatives did not recognise the importance of this work. In 2016-2017, NCfR joined efforts with other key stakeholders, particularly the Law and Justice Program. This work continued during the last year of the project. However, no change in this area has happened yet, as the Government has other priorities, such as preparation for the Bougainville Referendum, and often cites lack of budget to support social programs. NCfR and its referral partners will continue influencing initiatives until the Government recognises the importance of safe houses and services for survivors of violence and provides funding for such services.

A key method of supporting WHRDs to implement their work at the community level is to create a network of support, solidarity, and shared learning. In addition to quarterly monitoring visits, NCfR organises annual Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders Forums. The Forum is a successful mechanism for sharing experiences and lessons, bringing together women activists from different communities and pathways, creating stronger networking relationships and referral pathways. Participation in forums provides additional motivation and common purpose to WHRDs across Bougainville. It also connects them to national, regional and international women's movements, increasing their understanding of how their work aligns with global attitudes and strategies for addressing gender equality. Participation makes them feel recognised and valued as important agents of change and women leaders. WHRDs contribute to the costs of forums through fundraising and providing their contribution with food, transportation and accommodation.

There is a challenge in sustaining WHRDs trained by the project, as they work in communities as volunteers. After the training and skills development with NCfR, other INGOs in Bougainville employ them in paid positions (e.g. as facilitators). On the one hand, this is a positive outcome of the project, as the NCfR builds a pool of employable women. Conversely, employment can lead to disengagement with NCfR. NCfR is working to identify creative ways of motivating WHRDs to continue engaging with the project as volunteers. For example, by recognising efforts and initiatives of WHRDs, inviting them to participate in networking and capacity building opportunities, such as the Bougainville WHRDs Forums and/or professional development and training. A new component for Phase 2 implementation is a women's economic empowerment pilot for WHRDs, which will involve training and supporting WHRDs to become economically strong and independent so that they can engage with their communities to address GBV and gender equality.

Work with human rights must always consider engaging with cultural and spiritual (theological) parts of life. The NCfR team works with indigenous groups, who have a worldview that closely connects these three areas. Providing them with information solely focussed on laws and human rights or GBV as separate matters will not be effective. Sr Lorraine Garasu with support from WHRDs developed the *Human Rights and Gender Justice Toolkit* that is used for educating WHRDs and male advocates through the lens of cultural, theological and legal approaches. This toolkit was published in January 2018 and received a lot of positive feedback and requests from various organisations for a hard copy or for the permission to adapt this toolkit to their work. For example, Christian Care Centre from the Solomon Islands is interested in using this toolkit to design their own materials that would be specific to their context.

Results of project implementation of this 3-year project showed that the approach taken by Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation and IWDA is successful, effective, and working. It is a coherent and comprehensive approach that looks at different areas of change (individual, community, structural and institutional). It engages various types of strategies, such as service provision, advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building, educating, and networking. The NCfR team feels that their work is innovative, as they pilot project strategies, and through action learning approaches adapt to changing contexts and integrate lessons learnt into future work that allows a better response to the needs of women and children of Bougainville.

This was also recognised by partners and stakeholders and resulted in the successful acquisition of the 4.5 year funding for the Phase 2 of this project. This project is supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea through the *Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program*.

Project Challenges

There are a number of challenges that NCfR and IWDA faced during the project implementation, such as:

- Lack of reliable communications (no/limited mobile and internet connection), which results in more time needed for organising activities, collecting data, preparing reports.
- Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods) and civil disturbances (roadblocks, unrest in communities) disrupted the project several times. The project team had to re-plan project activities to ensure safety and security of the team and participants.
- NCfR capacity gaps in financial and operational systems, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation. Some significant improvements were achieved, however, more work needs to be done to embed changes and further improve practices.
- Limited transport to remote areas requires that the NCfR team has to factor in additional time and resources (funds, people) to implement activities. Staff are sometimes required to walk and climb mountains with training materials in order to reach remote communities and WHRDs.
- Lack of easily accessible and adequate services (especially in South Bougainville) creates additional demand for NCfR services. NCfR is working with and through local WHRDs and committed workers in government services to find ways to fill these gaps. Local churches play an important role in the delivery of goods and services in remote areas and NCfR is working to strengthen working relationships with them.
- Limited funds to meet demands for Safe House services. Congregation of Sisters of Nazareth makes in-kind contribution to the project through the provision of food and accommodation. They meet some expenses through fundraising, growing gardens and teaching clients life-skills to generate income or livelihood resources. However, there is a demand for accommodation for men and boys, which is outside of the scope of this project. The need for this service will be included in advocacy work on the Bougainville Safe Houses Policy. During Year 3, staff of the Men's Hub took the initiative to fundraise and started building a house in Chabai to accommodate men and boys who come to NCfR for care.
- Community expectations to be paid 'sitting fees' or other contributions. The NCfR team, and in particular Director, always negotiate discounts for service provision costs. They try to educate local communities that NCfR does not have budget for 'sitting fees' or other material support. The strategy is to educate the community to change mentality from 'users' to making them see benefits they can gain from trainings. NCfR also promotes the spirit and value of volunteerism.

Key challenges that women face when performing their roles as WHRDs are summarised in a box below.



3. Project Budget and Expenditure

From GBV to Gender Justice and Healing is a complex and large project. The grant funds were expensed as 100% with a minor difference of \$49, which was covered by IWDA. The original project budget was designed during 2014-2015 and was adjusted to the needs of the project on an annual basis to reflect realistic expenses and project needs. During the three years of implementation, expenditure was re-allocated between project lines. For example, in Year 2 and Year 3, funds were allocated from trauma counsellors training to work with WHRDs and male advocates and awareness raising activities. This reflected recognition that sufficient training of counsellors had been undertaken and that investing in capacity of WHRDs and male advocates was a priority.

Total available funds for the project comprised 98% funding from DFAT and 2% of interest earned (including funds credited back due to returned bond, change of flights bookings, etc.).



Left Photo: Sr Lorraine Garasu, CSN, NCfR Director. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA, July 2017

Right Photo: Year 2 Reflection workshop with NCfR team. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA, August 2017

Table 9. Project Summary Expenditure Report (April 2015 – March 2018)

Project Overall Available Funds vs 3-years of the Project Expenditure	AUD (rounded)
Contract Budget for the Project 'From GBV to GJ and Healing' (PG262A), DFAT Funding Order No. 37911/20 from 01/04/2015 (3-year period: April 2015 - March 2018)	\$1,693,366
Interest gained during the project & funds credited back	\$28,418
Total available funds for the Project Expenditure (for 3 years - including DFAT transfers, interest earned and returned funds)	\$1,721,784
Reported Project Expenditure - Year 1 (April 2015 - March 2016)	\$330,969
Reported Project Expenditure - Year 2 (April 2016 - March 2017)	\$646,486
Reported Project Expenditure - Year 3 (April 2017 - March 2018)	\$744,378
Total Project Cost (Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 Expenditure)	\$1,721,833
Variance between Funds available and Overall expenditure	\$(49)

In addition to grant funding, the project has significant in-kind contribution from both Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation (Congregation of Sisters of Nazareth) and IWDA through funding costs of safe houses (food, clothing, housing), time and costs of consultants, support staff, donations for work of WHRDs, Forums, etc. The total cost of the 3-year project (budget and in-kind contribution) was: \$2.84 million, of which 61% (\$1.72 million) was contributed by the Australian Aid funding and 39% (\$1.12 million) by NCfR and IWDA.

Table 10. Summary of the total project cost, including in-kind contribution (April 2015 – March 2018)

Summary of the Year 3 Project Cost (Expenditure & In-Kind Contribution)	AUD (rounded)	% of contribution
End of the Project Expenditure (April 2015 - March 2018) - DFAT Funding	\$1,721,833	61%
In-Kind Contribution (both NCfR & IWDA): April 2015 - March 2018	\$1,119,799	39%
Total Year 3 Project Cost (both Expenditure & In-Kind)	\$2,841,632	100%

Project implementation and expenditure was on track. The project is fully expensed, reached all targets and was completed on time.

ANNEX 1.

Project Theory of Change and Milestones

Figure 1. Theory of Change for the *From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing* Project

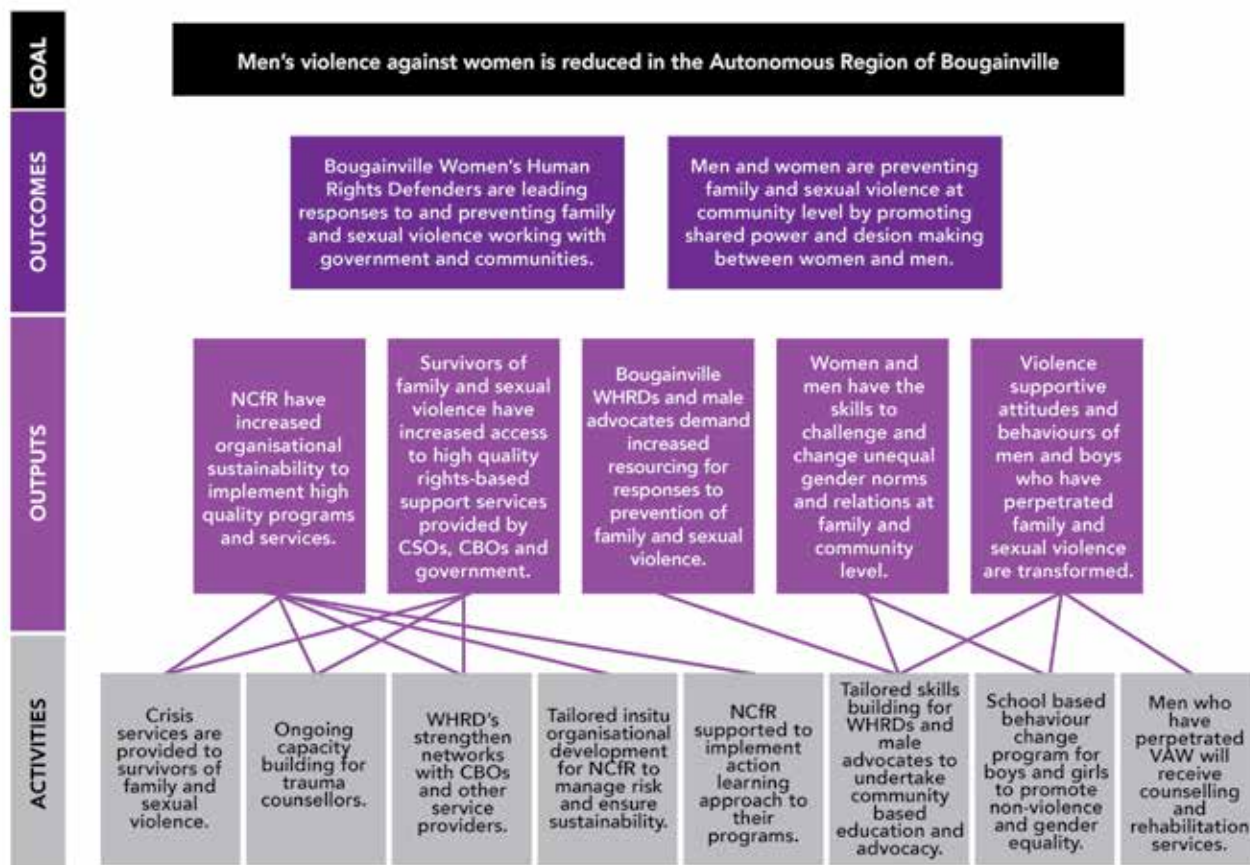


Table 1. *From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing Project Milestones (April 2015 – March 2018)*

	Milestones	Total Project Milestones (Targets) as at 25/04/2015
Project Outcome 1	Milestone 1	1,200 women and children will receive crisis services and support from NCfR and WHRDs. Out of total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 will be successfully referred to relevant services.
	Milestone 2	800 WHRDs will be trained and have their skills increased. WHRDs will perform activities at community level. Out of total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 WHRDs (including community counsellors) are involved in community peace and rehabilitation processes. • 100 WHRDs participate in community leadership positions. • 300 counsellors have increased skills and experience to provide quality services to survivors of family and sexual violence.
	Milestone 3	At least 10 legislative changes, policies, programs or budget allocations were influenced by WHRDs and male advocates to address family and sexual violence.
	Milestone 4	Stronger financial, human resources, operational and project management systems in place for NCfR.
Project Outcome 2	Milestone 5	300 male advocates will have the skills and knowledge to undertake school-based education focused on ending family and sexual violence; and advocate against family and sexual violence. Out of total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 peer educators will be trained and become active facilitators and mentors of the school based program reaching girls and boys.
	Milestone 6	Total of 2,000 girls and boys, young women and young men will participate in the school based program and other awareness/ educational activities to develop non-violent attitudes and behaviours.
	Milestone 7	Total of 300 men who have perpetrated family and sexual violence and children have received counselling services to change their behaviour.

ANNEX 2.

Summary of Project Reach

Table 1. Total Project Reach (01 April 2015 - 31 March 2018)

Total for Project activities	Project Indicators (01 April 2015 - 31 March 2018):												
	Total	Women		Men		Young women		Young men		Girls		Boys	
			Disa-bility		Disa-bility		Disa-bility		Disa-bility		Disa-bility		Disa-bility
Safe houses - clients	1,446	1,022	15	145	1	-	-	-	-	155	1	106	1
Community counsellors (WHRDs) - clients	201	125	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	6	-
Awareness raising by safe houses	2,981	671	-	626	-	-	-	-	-	851	-	833	-
Training of trauma counsellors	304	202	1	99	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Networking meetings/ activities	572	294	-	278	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Awareness raising by WHRDs Program	2,916	2,052	4	605	4	-	-	-	-	127	1	123	-
Bougainville WHRDs Forums	588	522	5	9	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHRDs trainings/ capacity building	1,394	1,019	-	268	1	106	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monitoring visits - WHRDs	592	502	-	88	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capacity building of NCfR team	20	14	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Male advocates trainings by Men's Hub	284	42	-	223	5	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Men's Hub awareness raising activities	1,365	656	-	690	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	12	-

Male Advocates Forum	111	-	-	89	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
School Based Program	1,154	-	-	-	-	27	-	37	-	577	-	511	2
Peer educators training	53	-	-	-	-	33	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Awareness raising conducted by trained male advocates	3,492	983	2	1,185	-	-	-	-	-	760	-	562	-
Men's Hub - clients/ counselling	1,006	348	2	579	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	70	-
Men's Hub - working with communities	3,266	1,879	-	1,364	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	11	-
Community attitudes baseline	143	77	-	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Project Reach	21,888	10,408	29	6,379	16	218	-	93	-	2,506	2	2,234	3
Rural or Urban	21,888 people from rural areas were reached by the project during three years. In context of Bougainville and NCfR work, all beneficiaries are considered to be rural due to low infrastructure and limited services available.												

Note to the 'Project Reach' tables:

- Direct beneficiaries = number of people who directly benefited from the program (e.g. women survivors of violence who received counselling, case management, people who participated in trainings and events, etc.).
- 'Total' = 'Women' + 'Women with disability' + 'Men' + 'Men with disability' + 'Young women' + 'Young women with disability' + 'Young men' + 'Young men with disability' + 'Girls' + 'Girls with disability' + 'Boys' + 'Boys with disability'
- Girls and Boys = age under 18 (0-17)
- Women and Men = age 18 and older (adults)
- Young Women and Young Men = 18 - 35 y.o. considered to be young by the project

ANNEX 3.

Stories from the Project

Vignette 1: Capacity building for WHRDs

During 5 – 10 November 2017 a total of 217 WHRDs from all over North Bougainville gathered together in Chabai for a one week Seminar facilitated by Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation. Women from as far as Haku and Tinputz travelled to Chabai to discuss issues; celebrate their achievements and gather important information to up skill them. With the theme “Peace in the home to peace in the world”, NCfR, throughout the week emphasized on the need to create better homes in order to live in a world that is peaceful and violence free.

Content of North WHRD Seminar was around 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A number of panel discussions were held focusing on: Financial Stability, Climate Change and its effects on island communities, Referendum, Family Protection Act, Lukautim Pikinini Act 2013, Gender Equality, Culture, Peace Building and Development and Referendum. Participants were made up of young WHRDs, Government Ward Members and mature WHRDs.

During the seminar, 4 side events were set up to further educate and make aware these new and existing WHRD from North Bougainville. Side events were: Gender Human Rights; Family Sexual Violence, Positive Parenting, and Peace Building. These side events were facilitated by NCfR trainers who assisted during the week. A dialogue was facilitated to end the seminar where young and mature WHRDs shared positive ideas about involvement, respect, manner of approach and positive ways to mentor, guide and the support in order to complement each other in their work as WHRDs. This was followed by a carols-by-candlelight session to remind the participants of the festive season approaching, and also as a token of our appreciation for their hard work done during the year. Despite the challenges the team had, everything was managed and it was a very successful seminar hosted by the NCfR team.

A reflection from an NCfR team member

Vignette 2: Helping survivors of family violence

A young woman named Mary¹² with three small children (age ranging from 2 to 6) was brought to one of the NCfR safe houses by the police. She explained that she experienced heavy physical violence from her husband for about seven years, with the husband justifying his violence by accusing her of having an affair. On that last episode of violence, he locked her in their house, undressed her and whipped her with a hose. When Mary managed to escape, she went straight to the police station and laid her complaint. While she was at the police station, her husband beat the oldest child of 6 years of age with a piece of bamboo, leaving a deep cut across the child's chest. The police took Mary's complaint and arrested her husband¹³.

At the safe house Mary and her children were provided with secure accommodation. The safe environment was especially beneficial to the children who were really scared after witnessing their father's abusive behaviour. Mary and her child were taken to a hospital for medical help and treatment of injuries. The doctor prepared a medical report as part of evidence for the police report. Safe house staff kept close contact with the doctor and police to ensure that a legal case would be filed against Mary's husband to bring him to justice. Mary and her children were provided with counselling sessions.

¹² Not real name.

¹³ At the moment of this report, the outcome of the case was not known.

Vignette 3: Safe House and Men's Hub working together

A young girl (under 18 years of age) came to the safe house when she ran away from home. The girl's cousin brothers and relatives were forcing her to marry a man twice her age as a customary arranged marriage.

The girl didn't agree with the arrangements and ran away from home with the understanding that they had violated her human rights. While the girl stayed in care of the safe house, a Men's Hub counsellor took the initiative to intervene and work with the girl's family. He met with all involved family members for discussions and to provide counselling. The focus of such meetings and counselling sessions was to ensure that these family members understand the issue of forced and child marriage, how it violates human rights of the girl, what it means for the girl's future and safety. After a number of such sessions, the family members came to the realisation that what they were doing is illegal and that they were trying to marry the girl against her will. This work took approximately one month after which the marriage was called off and the girl felt safe to return home.

Vignette 4: Building safety for all in local communities

Whole communities sometimes ask NCfR to help resolve problems in order to keep peace and ensure safety of women and children.

A Woman Human Rights Defender from a community in North Bougainville approached NCfR with request to help resolve conflicts in one community. For many years, a particular family had argued, developed aggressive relationships and committed violent acts. The safe house counsellors were invited to work with the community through family dialogue, individual and group counselling. It took two full days to try to erase the anger and the negativity in this family, and to create some space for further conversations. When family members opened up to have a dialogue, the safe house counsellors spent another week working with the family on finding peaceful resolutions to their conflicts. The community came to an agreement to arrange for a reconciliation and to make peace. This was a positive outcome from NCfR intervention and safe houses counsellors will continue to monitor the situation in this community. In total 43 people (20 men and 23 women) were involved in this case.



Left Photo: A room in the Buin Safe House, 2017. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA

Right Photo: A room in the Arawa Safe House, 2017. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA

Vignette 5: Referral Networking: Safe House and health services supporting a woman with a disability

Grace¹⁴ is a mature woman, who has raised seven children (6 boys and 1 girl). Grace and her husband got married and had their children before the Bougainville crisis. The husband abandoned Grace during the crisis and left her by herself to look after the children. Grace was doing her best to ensure safety and survival of all children, but after the crisis was over, her husband appeared back in her life and decided to take the children from her and brought them to a central town, leaving Grace alone in her village. He prohibited Grace from following them and made it very clear to that he only wanted the children and not her. When Grace tried to approach her former husband and her children, she was met with violence – she suffered a dislocated jaw, wounds from being beaten with a piece of timber, and emotional wounds from verbal abuse and being put down. Grace was devastated and distressed, which led to mental health problems and her feeling lost and in despair. Before coming to a safe house, Grace was sleeping in her vegetable garden with only a piece of iron roofing above her as a shelter.

When Grace arrived at the safe house, she was provided shelter and a safe place to stay. She stayed for two weeks to regain physical strength and to calm down emotionally. The safe house staff ensured that she felt safe and included her in their life skills sessions. Due to her mental state, counselling was not possible so the safe house arranged for Grace to be transferred to their referral partner in Buka – Family Support Centre (FSC). Later Grace was admitted to the Buka General Hospital.



The Chabai Safe House. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA, December 2017.

¹⁴ Not real name.

Vignette 6: A Domestic Violence case

Sarah¹⁵, a middle aged woman, arrived at a safe house with a swollen face and mouth, a cut on her left arm, bruised ribs and a stiff neck. She was sore and looked devastated by the violence inflicted upon her. The safe house counsellors took her to the hospital to treat her injuries. Sarah was then settled into the accommodation and a case management plan was developed to ensure she received help and support.

During counselling the counsellors learnt that Sarah had experienced domestic violence for a long time and she had first come to the safe house in 2013. Sarah experienced violence from her husband, who has affairs with other women, misuses their family money without Sarah's knowledge and uses physical, verbal and emotional violence against her. She feels scared to stay and she feels scared to leave. The safe house staff supported Sarah with counselling and explained her rights and avenues for justice, such as Interim Protection Orders and pressing assault charges. But Sarah decided that it is safer for her and her children (who didn't come to the safe house) not to proceed with an IPO or charges. She explained that she feared backlash because her husband is well-known in their community and a candidate standing for elections. Sarah decided that she will re-consider proceeding with the assault case after the elections are over. The safe house staff respected her decision. Sarah stayed in the safe house for 1.5 months during which her health recovered, she received counselling and she was supported to gain the strength required to return to her family and community. The safe house will continue monitoring Sarah's situation.

¹⁵ Not real name.



Agnes Titus, NCfR Program Coordinator, presenting at Siwai WHRDs Forum. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono/ IWDA, November 2017



NCfR team working on the project. Photo: Elena Leddra/ IWDA, September 2017

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JULY 2018