



YWCA
OF PNG

2010 PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECT UPLIFT



Report for Uplift Project-Australia | by Lorraine Siraba

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a brief on the activities undertaken this year, 2010. A sea container packed with boxes of bras was received early this year through Red Cross PNG. The container arrived in PNG last year however, delays with the clearing agent led to the shipment taking a lot longer to be moved from the sea port to Red Cross Office. The bras are currently stored at the PNG Red Cross warehouse which has a huge storage capacity.

Under a partnership formed with PNG Red Cross, it was agreed that Red Cross would receive shipment from Uplift Project and YWCA to reimburse or share the cost for the Clearing Agent. In addition, Red Cross would receive five thousand pieces of bras to be packed as part of their hygiene pack for women in disaster and conflict areas.

ACTIVITIES:

To ensure that the volume of bras sent would reach many women as possible, a partnership was formed with Susu Mamas, an NGO working with breast feeding mothers to distribute among their networks. Over a thousand pieces was donated this organisation.

Bras were also distributed at the following areas:

1. PORT MORESBY GENERAL HOSPITAL:
2. KESI Community, National Capital District (NCD)
3. DOMARA Village, Central Province
4. VABUKORI village, Central Province - 300
5. HANUABADA village, NCD -
6. VILLAGES in the outskirts of Kundiawa town, Simbu Province
7. SEGANI Settlement – NCD
8. Gerehu Stage 6 settlement - NCD
9. Kirakira Village, NCD -200
10. Suau District in the Milne Bay Province
11. Mt Diamond High School , Central Province
12. Vabukori village, NCD
13. Gerehu Stage 4 NCD- distributed by Patricia Avosa

HIGHLIGHTS

PORT MORESBY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Wards 2,3 & 4, of the POMGH received a total of 1,300 bras. These were given to female patients as well as their guardians. There are five sections under ward 2, four sections under ward 3 and another four sections under ward 4. Nine wards out of the thirteen wards received a pack of bra each. Many of the patients and guardians travelled in from the province and barely had any clothes to wear. Others were tired and a gift helped cheered them up. Distributions were made at the General Wards and Pediatrics Wards to mothers of children and some were given to Security Guards to take home to their wife or girlfriend.

VABUKORI VILLAGE

Vabukori is a large urban village and comprises of many different sections. Although located within city limits, vabukori villagers are struggle with social issues as many of their land is being used for development and taken over by illegal squatters hence traditional hunting and gardening grounds no longer exist. Security has become an issue and women no longer fish or garden to sustain themselves. There were two separate distributions which took place at Vabukori, both were organized by the Women's Representative at the Local Level Government Assembly, Cathy Raka. During the presentations, awareness messages on Sexually Transmitted Infections and the importance of Educating Girls given the high rate of HIV among young girls in PNG.

SUSU MAMA INC.

A total of 1,000 maternity bras were given to the Susu Mamas Association to be delivered to breast feeding mothers in the rural areas and also those who visited their antenatal clinic.

KESI COMMUNITY

The women's fellowship group of Kesi were given 690 bras to be distributed among their fellowship group. The group leaders of the four groups came forward to receive the bras on behalf of their members. Rose Opa arranged for the distribution.



HANUABADA VILLAGE

Hanuabada is a big village in the heart of Port Moresby. Only a part of the village benefited from the distribution. Rarua, a volunteer with Red Cross PNG organized youths and elderly women in one part of the village to receive a bra or two each since they were many of them. 640 pieces of bras was distributed. A further visit is anticipated.

JANET RUSSELL

Janet Russell is a staff of the YWCA and comes from Central Province. Total of 1,500 pieces were given to her to take to Domara village, Central Province and distribute during the Easter Holidays.



KIRAKIRA VILLAGE

After an awareness on Sexually Transmitted Infections the bras were distributed to a group of women who attended the session. Total of 436 bras were distributed.

Mt Diamond High School, Central Province

The distribution was organized by the Principal's wife who saw the need for bras to be distributed to young female students. Over a thousand pieces was donated to the school and distributed to the students as well as staff and women living within the nearby areas. Mt Diamond is a boarding and day school and many of the girls come from homes where their parents are struggling to make ends meet. The school is located outside of city limits and access to basic needs such as toiletries, clothes and food for the girls is very limited. Girls were encouraged to stay in school and aspire for higher goals before distribution took place. Distribution was done by University female students currently on practical with the YWCA.

Riwo Village, Madang Province

200 bras were distributed to women at Riwo villages and nearby areas. It was noticed that nearly all the women who were married and had children did not wear a bra. The responses from women were:

- 56 year old woman – I never thought that bras would fit me again. I feel like a teenager and I think I feel sensitive again after all these years.
- “My husband was impressed with my bra and said I looked much better wearing one. Normally he sees me walking around without one on.”
- 19 year old- “I wear 2 to 3 shirts to camouflage the size of my breasts because they are big and I am a small bodied person. But since receiving a bra that really fits me I wear one shirt. I am proud of my new look.”

The women of Riwo village thank the YWCA and the women in Australia for donating good quality bras which made a difference in their confidence and self esteem. The women thought very little of bras because it was embarrassing that they were unable to respond quickly to breast feed when a baby starts crying. People usually would comment: “your time for wearing bras is over. Why waste your time wearing one when you have a child to breast feed.”

Overall, there has been overwhelming response from women for the bras and a number of communities have requested for bras. We still have a large supply stored at the Red Cross warehouse and continue to distribute those to the communities.

