11/1/2022

ADVISOR

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT division

EHPG GBV STRATEGY

PEC SUBMISSION

**PEC Submission**

**Title: Provincial Gender Based Violence strategy 2019-2021**

1. **Purpose** 
   1. To seek PEC endorsement of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Gender Based Violence Strategy 2021-2023.
   2. To seek approval and endorsement of the annual budget as described in the Provincial Gender Based Violence Strategy 2021-2023.
   3. To seek PEC endorsement of the establishment of the Provincial GBVAC Secretariat.
   4. To highlight the importance of political commitment to addressing GBV in the Eastern Highlands Province.
2. **Brief History** 
   1. Being one of the most pervasive yet least acknowledge human rights violation in the world, violence against woman and girls remains a severe problem within Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Eastern Highlands Province (EHP) is one of the provinces in PNG with the highest rates of violence against woman and girls. A recent study shows that 89% of the woman in the rural Goroka area have experienced domestic violence.
   2. Responding to the alarming rate of Gender Based Violence the National Government recently developed a National Gender Bases Violence (GBV) Strategy. The National GDV Strategy advocates for the establishment of Provincial peek bodies mandated to work towards reducing the occurrence of and suffering caused by physical, psychological and sexual violence (Gender Based Violence Action Committee – GBVAC). The National consultation led to the development of the National GBV Strategy – NEC Directive no. 151- 2013 was issued in the absence of a government strategy which mandates provincial government to include Gender Based Violence interventions and activities in their provincial budgets.
   3. Following the lead of the National Government the EHP under the lead of the Division of Community Development has revived the GBVAC in June 2004. Involving representatives from Faith Based Organization (NGOs), Civil Society and government. The EHP GBVAC has taken the initiative to design a Provincial GBV Strategy. The Strategy builds on a wide range of activities and works to increase access to and coordination of GBV services and prevention.
   4. The Provincial GBV Strategy 2021-2023 revised advocates for the establishment of the GBVAC Secretariat, an entity responsible to provide secretarial support to the provincial GBVAC, to monitor the quality of services to survivors of violence, to integrate and maintain GBV services database, to ensure that the Provencal GBV strategy is adhered to through monitoring and evaluation, to support prevention work at the community level and to provide case management and coordination. Together with the GBVAC the Department for Community Development is looking for the PEC’s endorsement of the Provincial GBV Strategy 2021-2023 and with this the establishment of the EHP GBAC Secretariat.
3. **Facts and Considerations**
   1. Data on GBV is showing GBV is a serious and growing problem in PNG. Data on the EHP shows that 89% of the woman in rural Goroka area have experienced sexual violence and 78% of the women in Urban Goroka have experienced domestic violence2. Although not all stakeholders in the EHP collect data, in 2012 the Family Support Center in Goroka registered 252 domestic cases, 39 sexual assault cases and 167 admissions for domestic violence. Eastern Highlands Family Voice attended to 677 clients who have experienced various forms of violence. Unfortunately little decreasing of the number of victims is seen, in fact: when looking at the data provided by the Eastern Highlands Family and Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) an increase in cases can be seen, with a number of 121 cases handled over the whole of 2012 compared to 139 in the first 6 months of 2014.
   2. Throughout PNG it is seen that many assaults within families are never reported. Survivors of attacks of outside of the home feel disempowered to report attacks, having lost confidence in the system that is established to protect them. police documents and health reports, therefore, record only a fragment of the incidence of GBV.3 One of the know statistics shows that boys under the age of 15 comprise 44% out of all rape cases.4 Woman living in rural communities seen to face more serious challenges than those living in a urban environment. These challenges include child marriage, polygamy, the tradition of paying the ‘bride price’, sorcery related violence, the absence of a social safety net and the lack of services or the lack of access to health care services. Consequences of violence against woman and girls include profound health problems such as physical disability, psychological health issues, an increase in alcohol and abuse and depression.5
   3. Up till today most of the services for survivors of violence and prevention activities are led by Civil Society Organizations (CSO’s) and Non-Governmental (NGO’s). There are links between agencies; however communications between the various service providers in limited and integration of services is unstructured. Not all districts and wards are reached within the EHP, resulting in high risk of violence for those living in the rural communities.
   4. Following the lead of the National Government, the EHP GBVAC designed the Provincial GBV Strategy 2021-2023 The Provincial GBV Strategy provides a strategic framework to promote, strengthen and coordinate GBV services and prevention in the EHP. Through the establishment of the GBVAC Secretariat, an entity consisting out of a Secretariat managers and a Data officer, the FSVAC aims towards “*An Eastern Highlands Province in which the incidence of gender based violence is reduced and prevented and quality services for survivors are provided.”*
   5. Representatives of the following organizations are involved in the provincial GBVAC: Eastern Highlands Health Authority (Family Support Center), Department for Community, Development, Child Protection, Office of the Public Prosecutor/Public Solicitor, Law & Justice sector, Family and Sexual Violence Unit, Kafe Woman’s Association, Village court, Eastern Highlands Family Voice, Oxfam PNG, Meri Safe Haus, Minivava, Friends Frangipani, Susu mama, Save the Children, University of Goroka, Institute of Medical Research Goroka, Goroka Pastors Fraternal, EHP Youth Council, EHP Woman’s Council, EHP Disable Person’s Association, FemiliPNG and AT project.
4. **Implications**

*Social implications:*

* 1. Gender Based Violence affects the entire community. GBV is identified as a major barrier to the development of PNG, with serious effects on victims, and significant impacts for the country as a whole.6 The Papua New Guinea Medium Term Development Plan lll 2018-2022: “*Gender inequity is a server threat for future development in Papua New Guinea, and PNG’s gender culture in particular, places woman in a disadvantaged position”7*

* 1. The outputs described in the Provincial GBV Strategy 2021-2023 will strengthen services and prevention already in place. The interventions do not only focus on the provincial level, but with the support of Human Rights Defenders and GBV partners will increase access to services for the District and Ward level.
  2. Endorsement of the establishment of the GBVAC secretariat will lead to better coordination and monitoring and evaluation of services and prevention, case management, integration and analyzing of a GBV database, a lick with the National Secretariat.

*Political implements:*

* 1. The severity of GBV is seen as one of the bottlenecks hampering progress towards the Medium Terms Development Plan lll 2018-2022 and in the long run towards Vision 2050. As expressed in the Post – 2015 Development Agenda Country consultations it is important for the government to take a strong public stance and involve in activities and policies around GBV.8
  2. PNG is signatory to several international treaties and conventions of which the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Woman (CEDAW) is one. By ratifying CEDAW PNG has made the commitment to ensure that principles for equality are adhered to and take appropriate measures to assist woman.
  3. In 2013 the National Executive Council (NEC) OF Papua New Guinea issued a NEC decision No. 151/2013 dated the 18th of May 2013 directing the provincial government to take ownership and integrate gender based violence programs and activities in their annual plans and budgets. The establishment of the GBVAC Secretariat will provide for government leadership and Provincial Government to adhere to the NEC directive.
  4. Following the desire to establish the Provincial GBVAC and its Secretariat, the Eastern Highlands Province Administrator committed in 2015 to include the K250,000 needed to implement the Provincial Strategy but now the revised GBV Strategy 2021-23 Budget – is K440 000 November 2021.

*Economic and financial implication*

* 1. GBV inflicts high economical costs on a society that can measure into billions of dollars annually. Economic development is limited as long as violence against woman remains a severe issue within the country, with all of the society paying the cost for not addressing GBV.9 With the Provincial GBV and Strategy 2021-2023 the EHP is able to reduce economic costs of GBV and benefit in the long run.
  2. It is anticipated that the cost of establishment of the Provincial GBVAC Secretariat is estimated at K250, 000. The breakup of the cost is as follows;
* Staff K70,000.00
* Administration K30,000.00
* Training K20,000.00
* Rolling out GBV to districts. K210000.00 (30 000 for 7 districts)
* Grant to CBOs K100,000.00
* Legal Services K5,000.00
* Others K5,000.00

**Total** = **K440, 000.00**

The GBVAC secretariat will follow Government policies and procedures in accessing funds. Annual budgets, reports and acquittals will be presented to the Provincial Administration by the GBVAC Secretariat Manager.

*Legal implications:*

* 1. The National GBV council and with this the provincial GBVAC and Secretariat will be responsible to support to the implementation of legislations and acts.

Examples are the Society Act, the Family Protection Act and the Act against Human Trafficking.

* 1. The GBVAC secretariat will be accountable to the Provincial Administration.

1. **Views of others**
   1. Supporting this PEC submission are all the partnering stakeholders.
2. **Conclusion**
   1. Gender Based Violence remains a key development challenge in PNG, and has been prioritized in Regional and National development plans, policies and strategies. Prevalence studies indicate that violence against women in the violence; Provincial peek bodies such as the GBVAC are mandated to work towards reducing the occurrence of and suffering caused by physical, psychological and sexual violence.
   2. With the endorsement and establishment of the GBVAC Secretariat, the Eastern Highlands Government takes ownership to address the seventy of GBV through ensuring quality GBV services and prevention within the Province, DISTRICT AND Wards.
3. **Recommendations:**
   1. With the endorsement of the Provencal Action Plan 2021-2023 the FEC supports the establishment of the GBVAC secretariat and agrees to the appointment of staff for the GBVAC secretariat.
   2. To increase the governments’ commitment to GBV services and prevention within the Eastern Highlands Province, it is recommended that the PEC endorses the Provincial GBV Strategy 2021-2023.
   3. The PEC consents on the inclusion of annual budget allocated to the GBVAC Secretariat in Provincial Administrations annual budget plans.

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**Chairman of Community Development** Advisor Division of Community

Chairman of Community Development Development

EH Provincial Government

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CEO Eastern Highlands Family Voice CEO-Eastern Highlands Provincial

Health Authority

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Director – Meri Safe Haus Detective Sergeant Family and sexual Violence Unit

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Law and Justice Sector Director –Kafe Settlers Women

Association

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Goroka Pastors Fraternal Director FemiliPNG