

REMARKS: UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR, DAVID MCLACHLAN- KARR
DURING THE LAUNCH OF MDG 3&6 REGIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

**“MDG 3 AND 6, WHAT DO THEY SAY? Perspectives of
Women and Girls Living with HIV in Asia and the
Pacific”**

30TH DECEMBER 2010, HOLIDAY INN, PORT MORESBY PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- HIV was first reported in PNG in 1987 and in 2003 PNG became the fourth country in the Asia Pacific region to be classified with a generalised epidemic
- HIV prevalence among women attending antenatal services at Port Moresby General Hospital rose above 1% with the new national HIV prevalence estimated to be at 0.9 % (*HIV Estimation Workshop 2010*)



An estimated number of 76,665 people living with HIV in PNG with 28,294 (12,432 male, 14,598 female) reported cases in 2008. In 2008 a total of 5,084 (59% female, 40% male) tested positive for HIV; an increase of 36% since 2006

- In early 2010, as input to the 2010 UN Millennium Development Goals ,UNDP led a process by which national level organisations of women and girls living with HIV across the globe to analyse their progress in achieving MDG3&6
- In line with UNAIDS 2010 “agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV”, which emphasizes that while political commitment to empowering women and addressing the drivers of HIV among women and girls continues to be unequivocally articulated, achievements on the ground remain, at best, limited.

UNDP PNG, NACS with support from the Regional Centre Bangkok, conducted a qualitative assessment among selected HIV positive women and girls from PNG to draw attention for both best practices and bottlenecks in the design and delivery of HIV prevention technologies for women and girls living with HIV.



David McLachlan-Karr addressing guests during the Launch

- Based on consultations that took place in PNG, the report highlights key achievements of strategies employed such as increased awareness on sexuality and HIV, Easy access to condoms; Provision of Free Counselling and ARVs, laws available to protect the rights of women, among the others
- Some of the challenges highlighted in the assessment included limited awareness of sexual and reproductive rights among girls; women lack bargaining power for condom use by their male spouses; Confidentiality of test results is not always maintained; HIV relate stigma and HIV based discrimination is still common, gender based violence remains a major obstacle; among others.
- The assessment findings recommended more resources to be allocated for increased public awareness of HIV/AIDS, more needs to be done in reaching even the most remote areas, with more information on HIV prevention , care and treatment; improve the quality of post – testing and Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT);
- Need to train more health care workers; and forge more partnership with, development partners, Bilateral and Multilateral agencies, Civil Society Organisations and Networks of People living with HIV; and fast track courts so as to improve the enforcement of laws against gender based violence and enhance women’s access to alternative dispute management mechanisms; and leadership commitment to embrace fully new roles in relationships for men and women
- **United Nations will continue to support government in efforts towards achievement of Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support targets, and support initiatives aimed at creating an enabling environment for promotion and enjoyment of fundamental Human rights including the rights of women, Girls and Most at risk population in regards to access of HIV related services.**

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