



UNITED NATIONS
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wok Bung Wantaim

WanWok

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LITERACY WEEK— Aired on Gender Buzz

The rising illiteracy rate in Papua New Guinea is a concern for many especially when Papua New Guinea as a developing country is competing against international standards in every sector of development.

To mark the Literacy Week this week, Hoge Baeau a Trainer of Trainees from the Moresby South Pre-School Project— an initiative by Minister for Community Development, Women, Religion and Sports, Dame Carol Kidu, went on *Gender Buzz* last Wednesday (3 September 2008) to speak about the literacy initiatives in the informal sector. Ms Baeau and colleague Clement Dogale in an interview following the talk on *Gender Buzz* said they have been involved in training teachers for over 7 years to go out to their respective communities and establish informal pre-schools to give young children a good start in learning.



The trainings are also open to parents as certain components of the trainings involve 'good parenting'. The objective of the Project is to train teachers who could establish pre-schools within their communities to give basic foundation to pre-school aged children. Ms Baeau who has a background in Early Childhood Learning said pre-schools are very important as they set a good foundation for children moving up to higher grades. 'It is unfortunate that most parents cannot afford to put their pre-school aged children to formal pre-schools due to the very high fees', said Ms Baeau. These '20 toea schools' (children bring 20 toea to school to pay for their school materials) as they describe it aims to cater for these children within settlements, communities and villages. Ms Baeau and Mr Dogale who work on a voluntary basis have trained up to 80 teachers who have managed to open 35 schools and enroll up to 2000 children.

COMMON ADVOCACY CORNER

Each week a colleague from the UN family will talk to you on how the UN Country Team is contributing to Nation Building—Ali Kevin – Programme Assistant, UNICEF



Protection for Children in My Area

In my Gabone community, I became aware that school children (especially girls) were being harassed by some local men when walking to and from school. I was concerned that no one, including the law and justice system was intervening to ensure that these children were protected. As an officer that works mainly in Operations, this was an opportunity for me to develop my own technical skills in protection and share these with my community.

I worked with the School Principal to establish the "St Patrick Primary School Child Safety Committee". The Committee members are drawn from a diverse cross section of the community, including school staff, an LLG member, church leaders, peace officers and child representatives from the school. In partnership with my colleagues from the Child Protection Section, I facilitated a training workshop, based on the Protective Environment Framework for Children. As a result, the Committee now has a comprehensive Safety Plan which we are now implementing. As we are aware, Local-Level Governments can introduce their own local laws to safeguard their community. The Committee is now advocating for a law to require parents and school officials to develop a mechanism to protect children walking to and from school.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to work for an organisation like UNICEF and by knowing what is good for our community, we should go back, raise awareness and help them to access knowledge and skills through us to allow them to help themselves. This Committee is my contribution to my community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

25-26 September

UNIFEM, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and South Pacific Islands Community are holding a workshop on Special Measures for Women in Port Moresby—Lamana Hotel

29-30 September

City Consultation Event in Goroka by UNDP and UN Habitat Office Urbanization

This is YOUR weekly update. Please tell us about the progress on "Delivering as One". We would love to hear from you. Send your article ideas or suggestions to elizabeth.turi@undp.org

UN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM