

Men and Boys Health Project in Papua New Guinea

Summary of Evaluation

May 2020



Kamap Man Tru in Papua New Guinea - Evaluation published April 2018

Background

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world with



**WOMEN DYING EVERY YEAR AS A
RESULT OF PREGNANCY-RELATED PROBLEMS**

High maternal and infant mortality is due in part to lack of access to maternal health facilities and supplies, low level capacity of health staff, an unmet need for family planning and contraception, and cultural sensitivity surrounding sexual and reproductive health.

Furthermore, gender-based discrimination, inequality and violence are significant and urgent challenges for PNG. An estimated two-thirds of women in PNG have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, one of the highest rates in the world. Additionally, men and boys are the main household decision makers in PNG, making the partnership between men and women in the prevention of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), family planning and building healthy relationships critical.

Kamap Man Tru Program

The *Kamap Man Tru Program* was designed to educate and support positive change among men and boys in sexual and reproductive health and related behaviours, with the aim of improving maternal and child health, and challenging the accepted norms of gender violence. Family Planning NSW partnered with Susu Mamas PNG to implement the program in Morobe and Eastern Highlands Provinces.

The program was taught through volunteer peer educators who modelled positive behaviour for men as fathers, partners and community leaders. The peer educators were trained to use the *Kamap Man Tru Men's Health and Gender Awareness Training Manual*. The manual trained peer educators in conducting community education and one-to-one sessions to encourage other men in their community to discuss issues related to sexual health, domestic violence, family dynamics and conflict resolution. The customised, culturally appropriate manual was translated to Tok Pisin and used adult learning principles and interactive learning strategies in order to be relevant and engaging for people with different literacy and educational levels.

Changes in men's health

An evaluation was undertaken which included interviewing participants of the project. There was an increase in respondents who said they would go to the health centre for treatment when sick, indicating improved health-seeking behaviours. Interviews and comparison of baseline and endline surveys indicated an increased awareness in key areas of health including ways for men to stay healthy, and the negative impacts of alcohol and tobacco. One peer educator stated that he had quit smoking because of the program.



Changes in family decision making

There was an increase in the husband or male partner being identified as the sole decision-maker in the family, suggesting that messaging around power imbalances and gender roles should be revised and strengthened to allow skill-building in maintaining healthy relationships. One peer educator commented that a “positive change in men and boys is that they are now helping their wives, daughters, mothers and sisters more” in household chores including cooking, cleaning and childcare. There was also a 24% increase of respondents able to identify the effects of violence on children.

Changes in sexual and reproductive health

There was a significant increase in knowledge about methods of family planning, and 75% of men said they wanted their wife or partner to use a family planning method, compared to 55% in the baseline survey, demonstrating the increased awareness about the benefits of child spacing. A greater proportion of men became aware of safe pregnancy practices and of birthing preparation practices through the program, and there was an increased awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Challenges

Most peer educators commented on the need for women and girls to be included in the program and informed about family planning, sexual health, and hygiene. The community health workers raised concerns that lasting changes for women and children can only be made when women are informed and involved in decision making.

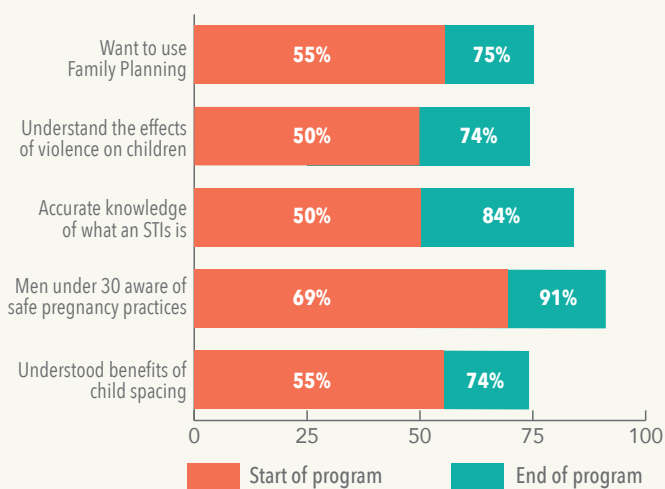
Conclusion

Overall, the project was successful in educating men about family planning, benefits of child spacing, safe pregnancy and birthing preparation practices, and awareness of STIs. Feedback was positive and indicated the importance of involving women and girls in decision making for future programs.

The *Kamap Man Tru Health and Gender Training Manual* is unique in that it offers a community level men’s health program contextualised to the country and is available in Tok Pisin.

Note: data and information in this report taken from the August 2018 “Evaluation: Kamap Man Tru Project” covering the period 2015-17.

Impacts of Kamap Man Tru Program



“Family planning and health hygiene awareness and information should also target women and girls as should more information on sexual health.”
– Kamap Man Tru participant

