

Case Study

Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Program

Seventh-day Adventist Church and Adventist Development and Relief Agency

The following case study takes in a small sampling of activities conducted by the Adventist Church under the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Program between 2010 and 2012. The three sampled activities are:

1. SDA Family Life - Family Life Leadership training to equip, resource and empower family life counsellors and advocates to provide leadership on all family life programs, trainings and counselling program to ensure communities have access to information's and services.
2. HIV/AIDS Education - Addressing HIV/AIDS in rural communities in Gulf Province and empowering locals to own and sustain HIV/AIDS community programs and establishing community resource and VCCT centres.
3. Elementary Teacher Training - Provision of training to over 150 elementary teachers on a two months per year program over three years through Sonoma Teaching College.

The changes you contributed to in the lives of poor men, women and children as a result of the work.

Family Life Training

Twenty trained counselors ran a further 60 local training events for local church leaders, community officials and community volunteers (approx. 3,000 people) increasing awareness and access to effective support for church and community members on a range of family related issues including child abuse, sexual and gender based violence, substance abuse, criminal activity and gambling.

HIV/AIDS Education

VCT service available to about 300 clients per month along with educational programs in schools, businesses and remote communities through mobile service program.

Elementary Teacher Training

156 trained teachers improved both access and quality of education services for children in their communities through improved teaching skills, re-opening of closed schools and establishment of new schools.

Any key changes that took place at other levels e.g. among the faith community.

Family Life Training

- Increased profile of family life leaders in mid-level and local church settings.
- Establishment of counseling services as a key skill-set within church and educational institutions.
- Greater engagement of non-clergy members in social justice issues.

HIV/AIDS Education

- Decreasing stigma and shift in church member and leader attitudes towards HIV/AIDS.
- Increased acceptance of the need to openly address and educate church members.

Elementary Teacher Training

- Increased leadership of women in local churches and communities (70% of trainees were women) as a result of leadership skills development and increased status.
- Establishment of regular elementary teacher training program in Adventist teacher training college.

- Government adoption of elementary teacher training model.

The key success factors that helped to bring about and sustain those changes – what relationships, ways of working, approaches and pathways helped.

- Sustained and consistent funding of multi-year initiatives that enabled proper engagement of the church institutions and networks in the various initiatives described above.
- Significant support from ADRA both PNG and Australia to the church in managing donor expectations and requirements.
- Strong ownership and engagement of church leadership in the identification, design and implementation of the activities.
- Good collaboration with other stakeholders such as local and national government, and other CPP partners.

The key challenges that you met and how those were addressed.

- Transport and logistics challenges in PNG mean that the costs of running some programs, such as the elementary teacher training put the long-term future of such high impact projects at risk. Engagement of government in support for continuation of the program was important. Additional training to church leaders in the education sector in grant writing has enabled them to obtain substantial additional funding.
- Measuring impact and even outcomes from national scale activities at the local congregation or community level is challenging. One of the key weaknesses of CPP has been a consistent lack of good data about its achievements. This has been addressed through use of Most Significant Change approaches and training of church leaders in communication skills, but also through strengthening the evaluation function in the CPP Coordination Office and working with another governance project to adopt their monitoring and data management tools.
- Programs have the broadest scale of impact when they reach out to local congregations across the whole of church network, but this is challenging to achieve and often 'challenging' programs such as the HIV/AIDS education work remain small scale initiatives run by a supportive and capable sector within the church rather than reaching a broader scale.