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LHS Morobe take on challenge of EDEN concept



“FIND your purpose in life and rise up to the next level. Take back your positions and the authority Christ gave you to have power and authority over all things,” This was the challenge given by ELCPNG Rev. Jack Gagara to health workers of Lutheran Health Service facilities in the Morobe Province during the opening of a week long EDEN conference held in October at Ampo in Lae.

The Community Health Workers and nursing officer from Aid Posts and Health Sub Centers in the Nawaeb, Menyama, Bulolo, Lae and Markham districts in the LHS catchment area faced their own challenges travelling to Lae for the training but were empowered to be agents of change in their communities.

Rev. Gagara said that God was in the business of cleaning and restoration and that the purpose of the EDEN concept was to change mindsets. “You have to know your place and your purpose in God so that you will be able to watch over his

word and action it,” he said.

He told participants that they were unique as they were made in the image of God and that they were called into the health service for a reason.

The EDEN TOT comes in two parts, the first being the skills required for mindset changing and the second part which is the planning process.

The health workers had heard and even done brief trainings under the governments Healthy Island Concept but admitted that the impacts or outcomes of the program were not seen and felt due to lack of cooperation in the community amongst other reasons

Lutheran Health Services Regional Secretary John Demok the EDEN concept is the only way forward in preventive health. “Lutheran Health Services has tried the EDEN concept in Morobe and they are still trying. In some parts, the program has been successful and in other parts we are still trying,” Demok said.

He acknowledged the EDEN team from the CHS Secretariat for giving their time to impart their skills and knowledge to LHS health workers so that they could be agents of change in their communities.

“We have to be realistic. LHS Morobe has decided to start with training the CHWs at the AidPost because they are always with the people in the communities. We will start small and go up for this program,” Demok added.

Also present for the official opening was ELCPNG General Secretary Bernard Esom, who said the Lutheran Church in Morobe through LHS would support the EDEN program to be rolled out in the rest of the province and also to Lutheran Madang and East Sepik.

Esom said: “This program is very unique because of the holistic approach used and I know that it will greatly impact health services especially in communities by people taking ownership of their own health and development.”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

EDEN TOT - Morobe	p1	Momase	p4	News	p7
Chairmans Brief	p2	Agency Updates	p5	4th Quarter Updates	p8
Secretariat updates	p3	News	p6		



From The Chairmans Desk...



MANY BLESSINGS OF THE NEW YEAR 2021 TO YOU ALL – FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN HEALTH SERVICES PNG AGENCIES AND ASSOCIATED MEMBERS AND ALSO TO ALL THE PARTNERS.

It is like we've just closed the book of 2020 and opened the first page – 01st of January 2021 and the pages will continue to open for us to write and fill in each page/ day of what our lives can do in this New Year 2021.

As you do, lest we forget that our lives have been selected and ordained to the divine calling to help the needy and the sick.

This mission call by Jesus Christ our Lord continues also as long as the days of this year continues to be open to you and I.

The year 2020 has tested all our efforts in the intentions based on our CHS PNG mission statement, vision to support GoPNG to delivery Health Services in the country.

Based on 2020 experiences, we need to take heed of some of the most important agendas. Most of these agendas continue to be long standing discussion points on the CEO's brief to the Executive Board that needs appropriate responses from all agencies.

The non-submission of financial reports and acquittals may be frustrating to some given the trend of financial shortfalls last year; yet at the board level, it is my responsibility to remind all of us of the governing policies and directives to enforce and ensure we respect and obey our own HCS Constitution and CHS ACT thus in compliances with the GoPNG appropriate policies that governs and provide directives of such resources.

Please cross-check you listing and ensure you have a completed 2020 reports sent in and three months 2021 before our annual conference 2021.

Given the 2020 experiences, May I remind all individual agencies need to maintain and or brush up with your agency leadership, administration and governance to enable sound management to core functions of your organization including integral financial management as I am advised by CEO of the shortfall of 2020 GoPNG Church Health Grant still have not come and the added burden on 50% – 75% Annual budget cut again for GoPNG Church health Grant 2021.

This is going to be a huge blow on the face of your intentions for health programs, developments and services therefore I make this call earliest the possible.

Our Schools especially the Community Health Workers Training Schools have frustrating experiences of the financial issues and the Executive Board was advised that many of our Schools had to close early last year.

The General Nursing Schools.. I believe you had your share of experiences and have been able to manage the 2020 school year.

Those Experiences should also enable your plan 2021 as to how you intend to run the school programs.

Our CHS PNG Secretariat led by our CEO, Mr. Tapia and his Deputy demonstrated sound management in the affairs of CHS PNG last year 2020. They are well equipped to advocate and fight for us and take us forward this year 2021.

The Executive Board provides that essential Leadership and Governance to ensure compliances of CHS Constitution and CHS Act in all our doings.

I repeat that this again ensure compliances to GoPNG polices and directives governing such services and its resource management.

Your decisions (CHS General Assembly) have been implement with some encouraging results of achievements and way forward to see CHS PNG in a focused ambitions to its health service intentions in our country.

Some of the decision/s have failed or short fall into meeting the expectations of the General Assembly and it will be a challenge for the executive Board and CEO to explore avenues to address them correctly. At the 2021 General Assembly/ Conference, you will be able to received reports on all that this Newsletter and several CHS PNG Secretarial briefs to you for your consumption and decision making.

The celebrations of the 50 years existence in the country has been scheduled again for 2021 alongside with the Annual General Assembly/ conference.

Let it be a prayer point to God that all preparations should go well starting from the schedule provincial and regional meetings to the national event.

The Executive Board will be advised by the CEO given any unforeseen escalating trend especially with the Corona Virus pandemic.

There are partners through the work has released the importance to support us (CHS PNG) and it is essential that we (CHS PNG) individual agencies uphold and comply to any directives given supporting our CEO and secretariat to enable longer and stronger working partnership.

The Executive Board wishes everyone all God's Blessings for the New Year 2021.

See you all at the Regional Meetings and National General Assembly.

God Bless CHS PNG and our country PNG.

Japalis Kaiok
Chairman
Executive Board, CHS PNG



Secretariat facilitates Finance Management Evaluation

(Left-Right) CHS Secretariat team Elias Namosha and David Langer with SSEC Health Services East Sepik Health Manager Dainit Nalela and Finance Officer Melinda Kolly during the evaluation process.

The Financial Management and Leadership training workshop which was held in Port Moresby (NCD) at Dixie Bungalows on 22nd – 26th April, 2019 saw participants outside of Port Moresby fly in from their respective provinces to attend the week-long training.

The idea of the training workshop was to upskill financial accountants, accounts clerks, health managers, book keepers or simply those officers that are mainly involved with the financial aspects on a day-to-day basis of their agency's money to be equipped well with necessary financial management skills.

Christian Health Services (CHS) through the secretariat office believes that up-skilling of officers is equally important however, is lacking especially for church run agency officers. Therefore, this training was the first to have happened (in CHS history) and is a significant way forward in a right direction into the future by empowering and enriching these officers to have skills and sound knowledge in basic financial management procedures and guidelines and hence this new knowledge can enhance their performances whilst serving their respective agencies across the country. The training participants consist

of Health Managers, Finance officers (Accountants, Admin. staff, Clerical) and Church Leaders.

Last November, the project team from the CHS Secretariat visited selected agencies and finance officers who had attended the initial workshop to evaluate skills and knowledge gained.

The aim of this post evaluation was primarily to assess and evaluate the performances of the participants that attended the "Financial Management and Leadership Training". The evaluation was focused on the following main areas that was covered during the training; (1) Planning & Budgeting, (2) Basic accounting systems, (3) Financial reporting, (4) Internal controls, (5) Grant Management and, (6) Staffing.

Of the total initial participants (20) that attended the Financial Management & Leadership training, only 6 participants were randomly selected to take part in this post-evaluation. The significance of this post evaluation was to evaluate how the training has influenced the learner's performance and delivery at work at their respective places of work.

The location or provinces visited for this evaluation were; Jiwaka, Eastern

Highlands, East Sepik, East New Britain, Milne Bay and Northern (Oro).

Funding for this Post-Evaluation was solely Funded by Church Partnership Programme (CPP), Abt Associates. The Christian Health Services of PNG, is very grateful for the wonderful support provided by CPP for all the costs involved during the course of this M&E trips to the provinces for the "Financial Management & Leadership Training Post-Evaluation".

Meanwhile CHS(PNG) is looking forward to continue working in close partnership with CPP next year and beyond.

The participants and agencies visited expressed their sincere thanks to the Secretariat for organising this training and said with more partners working with CHS, more of such trainings should be organised for the agencies.

This would greatly help them in their service delivery and daily routine tasks.

The evaluation exercise revealed that while the agencies were doing alright in terms of financial management, most still needed to improve on various financial aspects.

This evaluation was also seen as an opportunity for the agencies to really see the areas they needed to improve on.

Maternal Health risks more challenging in rural areas

By Nidra Kewere

MATERNAL health in the rural and remote areas is still one of the biggest challenges in the health sector with often poor outcomes.

Judith Fuawe, a community health worker at Roenang Aid Post, at Erap in the Nawaeb District of Morobe Province speaks of these very really challenges of maternal health where she currently services as a health worker.

Roinang Aid Post is a facility of the Lutheran Health Services, Morobe and usually takes a 4-5 hour walk to the main roadside where they usually sleep by the roadside overnight and wait for the PMV to come the next day and take bring them into Lae. This is usually another one and a half hours drive.

Roinang is situated right up in the mountains of Erap with a catchment population of about 5,000 people. Because of this geographic location and difficulty in access to basic services, most women do village births.

Judith said: "Roenang is just an Aid Post so

it is not equipped to cater for deliveries. But I saw the need to create a make shift room and shelter with the very basic materials needed to do deliveries. I did this in 2019 using bush materials with the help of my husband and I plan to do an extension later on."

So far Judith has delivered thirty babies in the delivery room with no complications. She mentioned that she does give awareness to the mothers and encourages them to as much as possible, go to the nearest health center where better care and support could be provided in case of emergencies and also to look at family planning options.

Prior to the new delivery room, women usually practiced village births where the health worker is called to assist the mother giving birth in her home. Judith said many complications came about from this usually retained placentas and post partem hemorrhages.

Because of the need and as a health worker, Judith wanted to help the mothers practice safe deliveries in a proper area



One of the mothers who delivered her baby in the new deilvery room. The baby is her 8th child and she suffered minor complications however was managed successfully by the health worker.

rather than at their homes.

"When the mothers come for their checkups, I encourage them to go to the bigger health centers early to get proper care. It is challenging but I don't feel like giving up. It is my passion to help others in the healing ministry," she said.



The temporary delivery room constructed for mothers as a way of encouraging them to use the health facilities

Agency Update

Brief History

The Evangelical Church of Manus Health (ECOM) was first established in Manus by the LMI Missionaries at 1800. In early 1885 there was a need again in East Sepik so Getruth Grossman and Ester Blumel from Germany moved over with a plan to set up a Health Sub- Center at Hauna in the Ambunti District (ESP) under the partnership of LMI.

ECOM Health Services could not re establish another health facility due land owners ignorance so they moved back to Port Moresby and re-advertised the Health Services. The Pacific Island Ministry (PIM) who, was as on the ground earlier at Ambunti Station took it on board by O'Neil Kooyers, the founder of the PIM Mission and placed the facility it at Maposi where its Sub-station was.

The facility was again rebuilt at Maposi with the help of PIM and funded by LMI under the care taker of both Gethruth and Ester in 1990. In 1992, Nurse Cathy. Dungali joined in after completing her study in General Nursing at Lutheran School of Nursing. After a year the German Nurses decided to withdraw hence handed the management duty over to Cathy.

Pacific Island Ministry has since withdrawn their support from ECOM and run their own health services solely.

ECOM Church - Maposi

The Evangelical Church of Manus has a church establishment at Maposi with late Pr. Billy Sio being the first missionary on the ground.

After Billiy Sio, an Evangelical pastor Lawrence. Siwai was posted to run the church and later moved out in 2005.

In 2006 Pastor Jeffry. Paul moved in from Manus and served for three (3) years then moved back to Manus handing over the responsibility to the local pastors.

From the time untill 2020 ECOM ESP has been operating with the support it gets from CHS and through its head office in Manus.

The Evangelical Church of Manus Health Services has been operating from 1992 up untill now under Christian Health Services

- Maposi Health Sub-Center now Health Center is the primary health facility for ECOM ESP from 1992- 2020.
- In 2010 Avatip Community Health Post was open by ECOM upon request then closed again in 2016 due misuse and interference by a local officer, who was as a landowner as well.
- Kupkain had another Aid post operating under ECOM from 2005- 2010 then closed dueto funding constrains.

Challenges

- Run down Health Facility at Maposi.
- No standard cold chain since 2006.
- No partner assistance.



Immunisation at Maposi Health Centre

- No LLG support.
- Poor communication establishment between ECOM HS Headquarters & Church Manus.
- Geographical constraints.
- Agency Motor not in condition.

Achievements

- K50' 000 from DDA Ambunti Drekikir for Health Center Upgrading.
- Maposi Health Facility Upgrading on the way.
- Health Promotion roll outs (Water & Sanitation).
- Administration Accommodation & set up building at Yawasoro (Wewak).

Way Forward

- Utilities and asset installments.
- Re-open Kupkain Aid post.
- Staffs refresher trainings and qualification upgrades.
- Looking forward to conduct more Health Promotion awarness at Schools.



(above)The Locals at Yaputawe Village (Maposi) pilling the timbers for their new health centre building.

Note: All information for this article was given via ECOM Health Services Newsletter

Health workers told to use EDEN as a tool for empowerment

“Ignorance will pull you down. Believe that you will refocus and refresh your minds so that you will go out to the facilities and be agents of change.”

These words of encouragement were said by Rev. Jack Gagara of the ELCPNG – Morobe during the closing of a week-long EDEN TOT training for Lutheran Health Services health workers last October.

Rev. Jack reminded the health workers to always be connected to the word of God as the source of all things. “If you miss the connection, you miss all things,” he said.

He told the health workers they must use EDEN as a tool to empower themselves so they would be able to be better agents of change in their communities. “This training is building and empowering you to be role models and agents of change,” Rev. Gagara said.

The training which was funded by CPP proved to be an eye opener for the health workers who were empowered to change their mindsets first before going out to their communities.

ELCPNG/CPP Coordinator Mary Tankulu

acknowledged CHS for their continued support in capacity building through such programs such as the EDEN program and said CPP would continue to partner with the church to support such programs.

“ This training is the first of its kind for all OICs and health workers. It is a different kind of training and I am grateful that CPP can support such training programs,” Ms Tankulu said.

She added that the training was a blessing and was not by chance that it had happened but a privilege.



Rural Health challenges continue

A SMALL aid post serving three villages with a catchment population of about 2,000 is very challenging at the service delivery level.

Michael Giegao is the health worker serving at the Buingim Aid post, a facility of Lutheran Health Services (LHS) at Bukawa in the Nawaeb district of Morobe Province. He has worked eight years with the LHS with the last three years at Buingim.

Michael reveals the Aid post was built twenty to fifty years back at the time of the early missionaries and the structure is still intact but at present needs major renovations as the building is quite old and is falling apart in most areas.

He said: “The Aid post structure is falling but no leaders come to see it. You know these days the focus are on other issues.

Buingim is also geographically quite far from Lae City and transportation is by means of sea and or road.

It is about five kilometers walk to the nearest health center and by river/sea, another long distance.

Michael said the EDEN concept is very good and as in his case, this would be a good way to prevent diseases and practice healthy living.

“Just recently, someone died of asthma which could have been prevented. Mothers usually do village births which leads to complications sometimes. Sometimes people find it hard to go to bigger health centers or to Lae because

they don’t have the money to pay for travel expenses so it is quite challenging.

Buingim Aid Post which was built almost fifty years ago by the early missionaries still remains and needs major renovations to be done.

He added that most people often went to the church run health facilities because the government facilities were run down or closed.

Michael said although it was quite challenging, he saw the need for

people to have access to health services so he continued to serve at Buingim.”

Sometimes situations go beyond our control but we must continue to hold onto our faith and believe that it will get better in the end.

He thanked CHS for running the EDEN training which he said was timely for him.

Secretariat supports staff development

THE Christian Health Services Secretariat had something to be proud of with the graduation of one its senior staff from the University of Papua New Guinea in November 2020.

Human Resource Manager Emily Kari graduated with a Bachelor in Business and Human Resource Management and acknowledged the CHS Secretariat in its support for the duration of the course.

Ms Kari said she wanted to enhance her career in Human Resources as she saw it was a growing area of importance not only in CHS but all organizations.

She said: "Working with people and all the little administrative matters is something I find rewarding. At the end of the day it must be a win win situation for both employer and employee. I am grateful for this opportunity to advance in my education and for the knowledge and skills gained."

Ms. Kari admits it was quite challenging to be working a full time demanding job

, studying and attending to family needs all at the same time. "I felt like giving up sometimes but still held on until the end," she said.

"I truly appreciate and thank all those, my family and close friends and colleagues who stood by me and supported me right through to the end. This is for all of us," Ms Kari added.

At her graduation, her father Mr Simon Kari said Emily was the first woman in their family to have achieved a higher education like this and he was proud to have witnessed this moment.

Mr Kari also encouraged all young women who were formally employed to aim high and pursue their educational goals despite being fully employed, married or earning little.

"Sky is the limit," Mr Kari said. "Learning doesn't stop. Pursue your educational goals while you can. You only have one life so while you are alive, breathing and working, make the most of it."



Ms Kari all smiles with her achievement.

NCD Health Facilities receive medical equipment through shared partnership

CONTINUED partnership between Christian Health Services (PNG) and HealthServe Australia has enabled facilities within the nation's capital to receive much needed medical equipment.

This project came about during the Covid-19 peak earlier in 2020 and was initially about how CHS could support the facilities in their response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

However, with ease of restrictions and regulations of the pandemic, CHS shifted its focus on assisting facilities within NCD to procure medical equipment that the facilities needed.

HealthServe Australia funded the project through a small grant and selected facilities within NCD and in nearby Central province were the recipients of this grant.

A few staff making up the project team at the Secretariat physically visited the facilities to assess and take stock of their immediate needs.

The selected health facilities were: Gereka Health Centre, 9-Mile Hope World Wide Clinic, PAU, Mt Diamond Clinic, Four



(L-R) Secretariat Staff Pao Kapo, Lengi Derring and Ignatius Jerrifia giving medical equipment to a Nurse at the 9-Mile Hope World Wide Clinic

Square Urban Clinic, Koki Urban Clinic, Wanigela Health Centre, Tokarara Urban Clinic and Papa Health Centre (Central).

Procurement of mainly scales, gluco machines, thermometers and other equipment were made and delivered last December.

The health staff at the clinics were pleased

with the medical equipment and thanked CHS and Health Serv for their support.

CHS is looking forward to working in continued partnership with HealthServe Australia in the near future and hopes that more support can be given at the facility level.

Fourth quarter updates...



Hi Everyone:

At the outset let me take this opportunity to wish every one of our Health Workers in the four (4) corners of this country be it in the Highlands on the coast A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Prosperous NEW YEAR 2021. May our hearts be filled with love joy and happiness this season.

2020 will go down in history as the most difficult year we all have come to face as a group as a family and as individuals. We all have our own stories to tell. What was our fear like? How did we respond to the information we received about CO-vid19 from all sources?

Whatever we learnt as a result of the Co-vid19 pandemic is the need to adopt the NEW NORMAL ways of doing things and keep yourself and your family free of the Virus. This is the biggest challenge as we are challenged to live with the Virus.

At the National Level the Pandemic had its impact on the way funding was provided to the Health Services of the Church and this culminated in the "partial stop work" as announced by both CHS and CCHS. This was a sad scenario forced upon us but something needed to be done as the delay in the receipt of the Grant Assistance from the Government was now affecting the livelihoods of our dedicated Church Health Workers throughout the country.

This led to a joint effort by way of a Media (Press) Release to try and raise the concern of the delayed funding to the CHS and CCHS. This resulted in a statement drawing attention of the Government to address the plight of the Church Health Services pertaining to their financial struggles which demanded action now rather than later.

The strategy of the partial stop work brought a lot of support for CHS spiritually emotionally and at this juncture we take this time to also offer our sincere words of thanks to the Government Agencies in the Finance and Treasury Departments for responding quickly to the prevailing situation of the Churches Health Services. To the Secretary and the Budget team from NDoH, we also thank you from the bottom of our hearts for continuously attending to our needs be it information or otherwise.

As things started to look bright another shutdown exercise took place at the

Nation's Capital.

This again caused a lot of frustrations among many. We were not immune from the impact of the second shut down. Some of our planned programs were put on the backburners until the clearance was given for their go ahead.

One of the Key Activities that got affected due to the Co-vid 19 pandemic was the National General Assembly for CHS.

This was going to be a special session of the Assembly as it coincides with the 50th Anniversary of CHS as an organization representing all Churches providing Health services in the country. It was with a sense of nostalgia that the Annual event was deferred to 2021.

There were also other important activities that have to be re-scheduled and done differently as needs arises. A number of the Board meetings were held via ZOOM and this was a learning time for us and the Board members as well.

The Basic Financial Management (BFMT) training evaluation had to be put off until mid QTR 3. This activity has been completed and a Meeting to present the finding of the BFMT will be discussed and presented to Church Partnership Program (CPP) of DFAT. DFAT funded the exercise through its CPP. On behalf of CHS its executive Board and the staff and Management of CHS I take this time to thank Maryanne and her team from CPP for your unwavering support to this cause. CPP is a true and Committed partner for CHS. We are forever indebted to your support to CHS in any shape or form. Other planned activities are going to be carried out in 2021. This includes the EDEN Impact assessment activity which will be carried by a team from CHS. This activity was delayed due to the lack of a meeting by the Research Committee to approve the research Proposal by CHS.

For the training schools we are really

concerned about the lack of funding to assist you operationally in the delivery of quality training at your respective schools. This is a sad state of affairs for you all and CHS is trying all its best to advocate for you all in all our stakeholder meetings. We cannot raise any of your expectations now but we are remaining steadfast that something will flow on to you all in the near future.

On the Brighter side. Not all was doom and gloom in 2020. We continued to perform our roles and some visitations were done to facilities at close proximities and also in the districts. For those agencies who hosted our officers in these activities at your door steps we are grateful for the hospitality rendered.

The recent inclusion of new staff to CHS has improved some aspects of work at CHS for the better. We also thank them for their work done so far since they joined the CHS Team.

There were many other good things that have happened in 2020 but space will not allow us to include them all in this issue of the Newsletter.

For those of you who continue to represent us at the Provincial and District levels in the various roles and due appointments we are encouraged and thankful for making the presence of CHS being felt there.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.

Wishing You ALL Happy Reading



Bernard Rutmat, Deputy Executive Officer

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