



Message from CEO

The months of April, May and June have been challenging with many new projects launched – 15 new Community Learning Centers bringing the total to 26, 2 new school infrastructure projects, the very first community based “Women’s Shelter” and a mobile health clinic to service the rural communities in Central Province . All in all a total of 19 projects were launched over a 3 month period.

Now 8 months after launch the Foundation is providing >1,000 young children from marginalized communities with a basic education, 26 libraries with > 4,000 books have been established in these communities offering these children an opportunity to read and learn more about the world around them, 4 school projects have been completed providing >500 students with a better learning environment, the first community based “Women’s Shelter” was launched providing hundreds of women and children shelter from domestic violence and a Mobile Health Clinic has been funded which will give rural communities access to much needed basic health services. The end goal is to make a positive difference in peoples lives by improving the livelihood of communities in PNG so that they may become more self reliant and self sufficient.

Marina Van de Vlies

Chief Executive Officer— Digicel PNG Foundation

Two more school projects launched

Two more school infrastructure projects were launched in the 2nd quarter of the year. They include a double classroom for Milfordhaven Elementary School in Lae and the Mendikiwae Primary School in Chimbu Province adding up to a total of 4 school infrastructure projects funded to date. The new double classrooms, including school desks, are a great relief for the schools as they desperately needed classrooms for their constantly increasing student enrolments each year.

First Women’s Shelter Launched



Launch of Meri Seif Haus at 2 Mile, Lae, on 7th May 2009.

Tackling domestic violence is still a major developmental challenge for PNG and more effort is needed in addressing this issue. Through its focus on Family Support and Domestic Violence, the Foundation has recently launched a ‘Meri Seif Haus’ (Women’s Shelter) in Lae, Morobe Province. Funded at a total cost of K70,000.00 (US\$23,000) and run by local NGO, Lae City Mission, the center will serve a 10,000 population of Two, Three, and Four Mile area in Lae. It comprises an office, a lounge with a kitchen, 3 shower rooms with a toilet each, and 2 bedrooms which can house up to 8 women.



Milfordhaven Elementary School launch in Lae, 29th April 2009.



Mendikiwae Primary school launch in Chimbu, 5th May 2009.

CLCs in the picture



ATS CLC, Port Moresby. Launched 16th April



West Taraka CLC, Lae. Launched 21st May

The Foundation has now rolled out 26 Community Learning Centers (CLCs) throughout the country with 8 in the Highlands, 5 in Morobe and 13 in National Capital District and Central Province. Establishments of these CLC's are done in partnership with various groups including churches, NGOs, and the communities. The CLCs promote community empowerment through providing safe and secure community resource infrastructures.



A Foundation volunteer with a student at Dachavil CLC, Port Moresby.



City Mission CLC, Port Moresby. Launched 20th April 2009

Rural health program receives vital support

Another project the Foundation just recently launched, under its Family Support and Domestic Violence focus, is the funding of a Mobile Health Clinic to service rural communities. The project involved the purchase of a fully kitted ambulance at a total cost of K145,000 (US\$48,000). The ambulance was donated to the Living Light Foursquare church in Port Moresby to use in its rural health extension services in Central and Gulf Provinces. This is a new and exciting project which will benefit the rural populations of these provinces including the settlement communities of Port Moresby whom are not able to afford basic treatment for diseases such as Malaria and TB. A medical team from the Church made up of a specialist physician, a nurse, a dentist and a Health Extension Officer will operate the Mobile Health Clinic and will provide free medical services to the rural and settlement communities. The Mobile Clinic was officially launched on Wednesday, 24th of June and will start operations on Monday 29th of June.



Left: The new mobile clinic at the official launch ceremony.

Right: Foundation CEO Ms. Marina Van der Vlies (first from right) and NCD Governor Hon. Powes Parkop (second from Right) cutting the ribbon to officially launch the ambulance.



About the Digicel PNG Foundation - A non-profit organization that distributes and utilizes funds on a charitable basis for the sole purpose of building communities and community spirit in PNG.

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