



The Centre for Democratic Institutions

2002 WEWAK CITIZEN'S EDUCATION PROJECT A JOINT PROJECT OF CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN EAST SEPIK PROVINCE

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HELP Resources (HELP-R)

Background

CDI together with the Asia South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE) has been working with a group of three PNG civil society groups - HELP Resources (HELP-R), Baua Baua Popular Education Troupe and East Sepik Council of Women - to assist in the design and implementation of an innovative civil society program to disseminate key government publications, related to the promotion of scrutiny and government accountability. The project will prepare, promote and distribute discussion materials, leading to a series of 'learning circles' workshops.

Summary

HELP-R was the in-country lead agency in this joint project of Civil Society Groups in the East Sepik Province. The project was conducted under the auspices of the Training Services Section of HELP-R. The project was originally designed to support the development of a training team within HELP-R and to augment the team by bringing in trainers selected from other active NGOs in the province. A full time trainer was employed by HELP-Resources in May 2001 and tasked with the job of developing an appropriate approach to citizen's education and the promotion of good governance in PNG. This task involved substantial research and personal networking contact with relevant organizations in the province. This position was also responsible for overseeing the development of a skit and song presentation by Baua Baua Popular Education Troupe.

Baua Baua developed their portion of the training material and consulted with the HELP-R staff on many occasions, had songs and skits ready, did some practice runs in the community and by the end of 2001 had a tight, highly interactive presentation package ready.

By late 2001, it became apparent that there would be delays in HELP-R's coordination of the activity due to staffing problems which were not resolved until January 2002.

The method of implementation for this initial pilot phase of the project involved working with a core group of NGO trainers to assess, develop and design materials

for citizen education and good governance training. The whole project was strategically conceived, planned and executed to coincide with the coming PNG national and local government elections which are scheduled for 4-10 June 2002. Considerable time was lost through the delays incurred by the staffing problems. Consultations were held within HELP Resources and plans for implementation were revised on 3 January 2002. Balthasar Sau took on the coordinating role, and has approached the job conscientiously.

The main changes in implementation involved shifting from the establishment and resourcing of a single touring team, whose members would be drawn from HELP-R, Baua Baua and associated, interested agencies, to the mobilization of people from all districts, NGOs and churches to form 10 local teams. The teams, made up of both women and men, would come to Wewak for training and resourcing. Then ten groups of six worked their way across the province. This set of ten area-based teams were trained, resourced and supervised in conducting 4-5 week high-level training activities across communities and schools in selected public spaces. This activity ceased on April 4 when the writs for the election were issued and 'legal' campaigning began (a lot of *illegal* campaigning has been going on for the past 3-6 months.) When the teams stopped, Baua Baua continued traveling the districts and delivering the Citizen's Education skit and song presentation, conducting their good governance dialogue with communities and reminding them of all of the key issues that they have heard and discussed through the awareness campaign. Baua Baua continued on in this process as they are normally traveling and performing on a fairly continuous basis.

The change in approach means many more agencies and individuals were actively involved, and that the work was sustained at community level for about 10 weeks. Furthermore, the shift from one touring team to ten, encouraged the involvement of other local civil society organisations. In particular, HELP-R was excited to work with The East Sepik Council of Women (ESCOW). They responded extremely well, and demonstrated their capacity to network and effectively mobilize community volunteers.

The Process

Date	Activity	Other organisations consulted, involved
Dec 2001	HELP Resources and university students negotiate with other agencies involved in Good Governance Initiatives/Transparency Initiatives. Many Good Governance /Citizen's Education Materials collected, dating back 10 years. Many excellent materials revitalized.	The Electoral Commission, The Independent Newspaper, Transparency International, The Ombudsman Commission, The Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council, Caritas PNG and the National Council of Women.
Jan 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing consultations • University students scan the 2001 National Newspapers for a summary of national governance-related news and for articles relevant to preparing the community for the coming elections. • Students make sets of news clippings in both English and Tok Pisin and political cartoons. Cartoons are so good that a decision is made to develop a cartoon book for mass publication and distribution rather than attempt to use video, which with bad roads and poor power supplies is deemed just 	WORD Publishing (The Independent Newspaper and WANTOK Nius), Caritas PNG, National Council of Women, The Ombudsman Commission. The National Community Police program

	<p>too difficult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National NGO translation experts are contracted to translate key government documents. • Baua Baua continues the development of their skit and song materials 	
Feb 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back in the East Sepik Province, local NGOs and the Electoral office are informed and consulted. • The Electoral Office wholeheartedly endorses the project • Caritas PNG and the Wewak/East Sepik Office approve the inclusion of their material. • The East Sepik Council of Women mobilize their networks of women and men and HELP Resources conduct a week-long training and preparation program. • 70 people participate in the training. This is then culled to 10 teams of 6 people each. The task force members are supplied with a full kit of materials. Many days and nights are spent on developing policy and code of conduct, methodology and reviewing and selecting materials to be used for mass dissemination. • Everything is translated. • The most popular messages are those that can be reduced to Good Governance slogans and rhetorical questions, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Yu noken maketim vot bilong yu.</i> (Don't sell your vote) <i>Yu laikim wanem kind of leader?</i> What kind of leaders do you really want? <p>Four booklets were produced for the task Force members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bihaintaim bilong PNG i stap long Han bilong yu <i>(A compilation of question and answer format information on democratic elections, electoral laws and leadership criteria for the prevention of corruption, a Caritas poster based on a dialogue between two villagers on the meaning of voting in a democratic election, A NCW poster challenging people not to vote people known to be corrupt, a NCW booklet that simply and visually depicts the impact of voting corrupt leaders, text and cartoons from the ombudsmen Commission)</i> 2. Lidasip Kod: <i>A translation of information pamphlets and leaflets from the PNG Ombudsman Commission and translation of the text on the Leadership Code drawn from the PNG Constitution. Illustrated with local cartoons.</i> 3. Katun Buk: Lukluk long sindaun bilong ol pipel na pasin bilong ol lida long ronim kantri. <i>A compilation of 50 political cartoons (with brief commentary) all translated into Tok Pisin, from the national newspapers of 2002, covering governance related issues.</i> 4. A Summary of Good Governanace News and Views in Tok Pisin.. with Commentary. <i>A selection of article from the Wantok Newspapaer of 2001, on</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Violence (State and Community) ➤ People's Participation / Women's participation ➤ Basic Services ➤ The Local Level Government Reforms: Decentralisation and participation 	<p>The PNG Electoral Office Wewak The Caritas Office, East Sepik, The East Sepik Council of Women.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Corruption at all levels of society ➤ Privatization: key issues and impacts ➤ Taxes and Inflation ➤ Problems with our Parliament: Attendance by MPs, adjournments for 6 months etc. ➤ The Political Integrity Bill (Registration of Political Parties) <p>Electoral reform (from First past the post to the preferential system)</p>	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 teams at work • Baua Baua begins touring and performing in central places for each district and across the Wewak District. 	HELP-R ESCOW Baua Baua

The acting Coordinator is monitoring all groups through out the province and sometimes meets the group in a Center Location. HELP-R has produced 21 sets of handouts and some have been made into posters, such as ‘10 reasons why you should not sell your vote’, and ‘10 questions’ to challenge candidates on leadership qualities of candidates.

Conclusion

All ten teams visited rural communities conducting the awareness campaign and distributing handouts to the people. The team ended their tasks when the National Election writs were opened. They were all given films to take photos at the events and the Coordinator also used a Video to document presentations and performance at the central places when he went to meet and support the mobile teams. The Baua Baua Troupe have performed in many locations. The Coordinator has witnessed and filmed them in two venues. The citizens of East Sepik were very supportive and enthusiastic. The total number of people in the audience at the two performances were around 1500 people. The team members have all kept journals and details of audience attendance and participation. They will be called back to report to HELP-R in late May. This meeting will take the shape of a workshop at which reports from the teams will be compiled and finalized. ASPBAE will then facilitate a follow-on NGO-government dialogue on issues raised by the Citizen’s Education Project. Activities will culminate in a peoples’ festival in early June, ending with the commencement of the election.

There were many good governance/anti-corruption campaigns underway at a national level in the lead up to the June election. Most rely on Port Moresby and commercially produced posters, booklets and radio messages, many of which will not reach the bulk of the population. Too many of these publications are also in English which is inaccessible to many people in non-urban areas. The East Sepik project has been the only coordinated effort at local and provincial level, and the only one that has produced substantial training and information materials. It is participatory, and it utilizes many modes and techniques of adult learning. The collaboration between HELP-R, The East Sepik Council of Women, Baua Baua, ASPBAE and CDI has been fruitful and is reaching hundreds of grassroots rural and urban communities and citizens.