

Annual Update: Eliminating Violence against Women in PNG

Oxfam is an international NGO that aims to end poverty and injustice. In Papua New Guinea, Oxfam supports 12 community-based organisations in nine provinces working to eliminate violence against women (EVAW). Our EVAW Program delivers crisis services including safe house accommodation, counselling, and emergency relocation, as well as paralegal advice, and community outreach to raise awareness among men and boys on the rights of women.

This Annual Update summarises some key results. To better understand the epidemic of violence against women, we need better data. In this Update we highlight some early findings emerging from our work.

Oxfam partners and locations

Partners	Location
Kup Women of Peace (KWP)	Simbu
Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association	Goroka
Voice for Change (VFC)	Jiwaka
Nana Kundi Crisis Centre	Maprik-Wewak
Mama Emma Crisis Centre	Gawi-Wewak
St. Anna 's Crisis Centre	Wosera-Gawi-Wewak
Family for Change	Wewak
Madang Provincial Council of Women	Madang
Lifeline Port Moresby	Port Moresby
Papua Hahine Social Action Forum	Port Moresby
Kedu Seif Haus	Alotau
FSV Case Management Centre	Lae

The table below provides a summary of our relocation work.

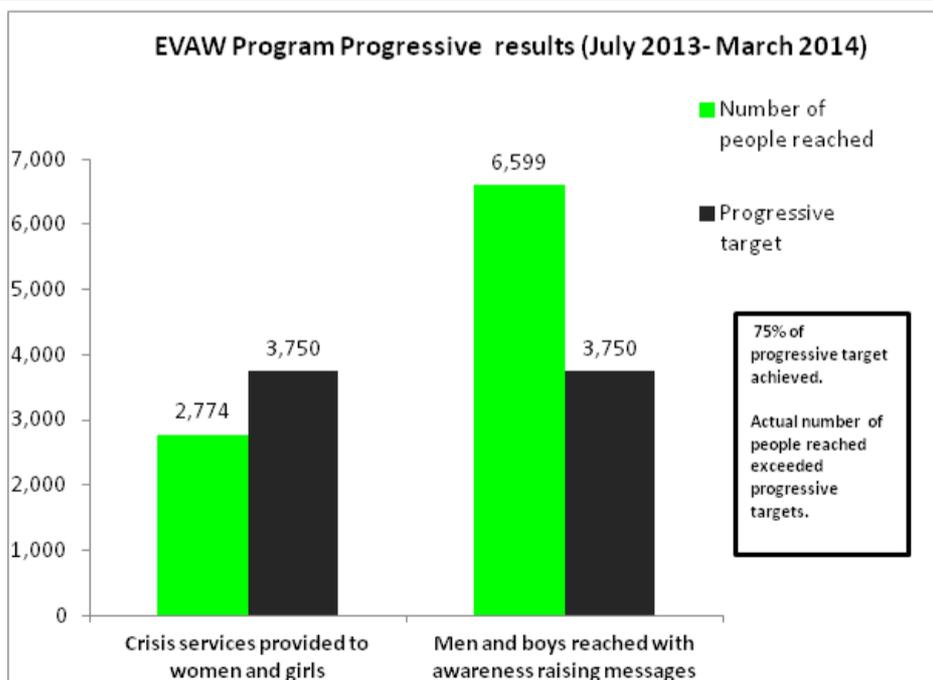
Cases of relocation	
Number of cases of relocation (primary clients)	25 cases (19 female, 6 male)
Number of people relocated (primary clients plus accompanying people assessed to be at risk)	122 people
Number of these cases where the primary client was a child	3 cases (two teenage girls and one girl child)
Types of violence	
Number of cases due to sorcery-related violence	24 cases
Number of cases due to other forms of GBV	1 case
Places of relocation	
Number of cases relocated within the same province	13 cases
Number of cases relocated to a neighbouring province	4 cases
Number of cases relocated to a distant province	8 cases

Causes of violence

Oxfam has undertaken a detailed analysis of a sample of clients from rural, urban, and semi-urban locations to help better identify the causes of violence. Early findings are set out in the graph below. The preliminary findings are drawn from a sample consisting of 70 per cent female victims and 30 per cent male victims. The average age of a male victim is 37. The average age of a female victim is 32.

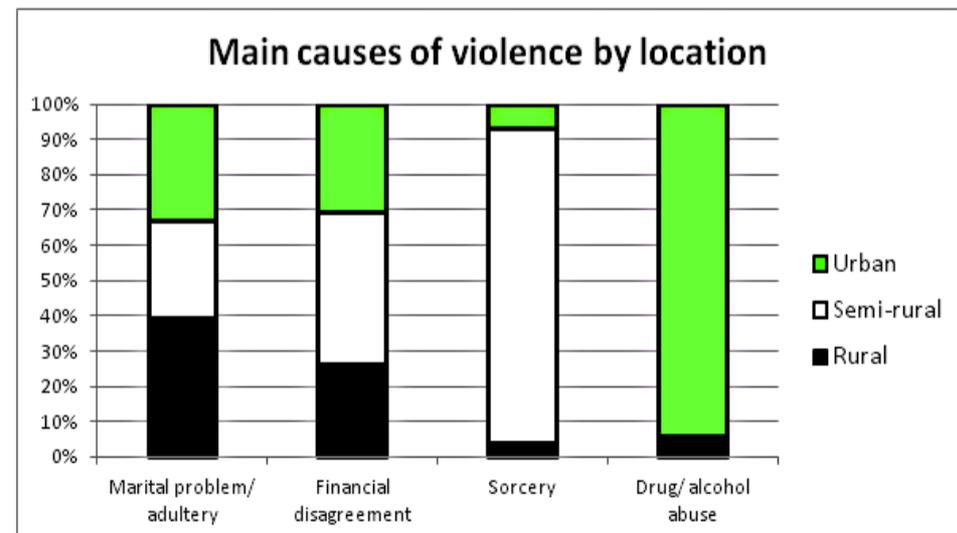
From the sample we have studied, four key causes of violence have been reported by victims:

- Marital problems including polygamy-related arguments and adultery.
- Disagreements over financial management
- Violence caused by accusations of sorcery.
- Violence caused by drug and alcohol abuse.



Violence & Sorcery in Highlands

Oxfam supports the Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders Network (HWHRDN) which provides counseling, referral, and relocation of clients facing life-threatening violence. Since October 2013 Oxfam and its partners have, on average, rescued three people a week facing extreme violence - the vast majority were accused of sorcery.



Oxfam's Eliminating Violence against Women (EVAW) Program is supported by private donors in Australia, supporters of Oxfam, and the Australian Government.

Authorised by Phillippe Allen, Associate Country Director, Oxfam.