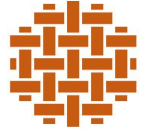




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SUCCESS STORY

Tunaniya Open Learning Centre Partners with WPBI to Raise Awareness and Expand Violence Prevention Efforts

Tunaniya Open Learning Centre begins implementing its “Family and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Project” in Bougainville.



Photo: Credit: Jennifer Williamson, Counterpart International

WPBI Chief of Party, Wilson Monori, and Josephine Kauona Sirivi, Project Director of Tunaniya Open Learning Centre, discuss capacity building needs prior to grant signing. The Tunaniya Open Learning Centre aims to strengthen, expand, and provide treatment for ex-combatants, women, and girls affected by the Bougainville crisis and gender-based violence, as well as institute prevention approaches through training and awareness-raising efforts.

In the aftermath of the decade-long Bougainville Crisis, the community struggles with high rates of violence resulting from trauma inflicted by the conflict, substance abuse, and economic hardship. While various peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts currently address the issue, family and gender-based violence still persist. The Women Peace Building Initiative, a two-year program by USAID in partnership with Counterpart International, aims to address the dire need for violence prevention by partnering with local women’s civil society organizations to implement prevention and victim’s assistance activities.

On August 12, 2014, USAID, through its implementing partner Counterpart International, awarded a grant to the Tunaniya Open Learning Centre, forming a partnership to combat violence and increase awareness of its causes and effects on Bougainville communities.

The center will implement the “Family and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment” project, which will create teams in the 11 Council of Elders (COE) areas throughout Bougainville. The teams will conduct activities to raise awareness on key family and sexual violence issues, such as long-term effects and consequences, and the importance of reporting and prosecuting incidents of violence. These efforts will involve youth, COE representatives, women, the Law and Justice sector, church leaders, and other stakeholders to educate the community in family and sexual violence prevention. In addition, Tunaniya will conduct trainings on gender-based violence and women’s business skills to supplement violence prevention efforts and contribute to women’s empowerment.

Throughout the grant, Tunaniya will also participate in Counterpart International’s Participatory Organizational Development process. This process establishes a mentoring partnership in which Counterpart will assist Tunaniya to identify, prioritize, and strengthen its organizational practices in key business management areas. Tunaniya will receive assistance, training, and resources to improve capacity in its identified priority areas, improving the organization’s long-term sustainability and ability to provide excellent services and activities to the community.

“Through the grant activities, Tunaniya Open Learning Centre hopes to contribute to an environment in which men, women, boys, and girls are engaged in the community and committed to the prevention of family and sexual violence in Bougainville,” Project Director Josephine Kauona Siviri said.