WOMAN’S Security

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Hako Women’s Collective

Bougainville Delegate to Global Seminar – Workshop: Indigenous Women, Climate Change & REDD+

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WHO ARE WE?
HWC is the umbrella body for all women in the North of Buka Island. Our Hako language is one of 3 main languages in Buka spoken by about 20,000 people. We are a distinct culture and territory within the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB). Open membership and inclusive policies govern our ‘sisterhood’.

WHY DO WE EXIST?
HWC was formed in June 2006 by the indigenous village women in response to the critical needs of the society- post conflict (10 years of war 1988-1998, and the next 8 years of the Peace Process 1998-2006). We are all ordinary village women but many of us were displaced from careers by the war so we have collected our teaching, nursing, secretarial skills etc and use these as freewill offerings to our initiatives in facing our community needs.

Bougainville is in the Reconstruction period since 2005 when a civil government was elected, known as the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). Bougainville remains part of the nation of Papua New Guinea until a Referendum on Independence will be held – expected around 2015. Each term of office is for 5 years.

HOW DO WE OPERATE?
HWC has built partnerships between all the women’s groups, clans, tribes, churches and communities of Hako. We then set out to build partnerships with Hako Youth – and supported their initiative of the Pacific Black Box NGO that now works in the Pacific as well as Bougainville. We then set about forming partnerships with Government and Non Government bodies to open the doors and provide the logistics for them to come into Hako and help us deliver programs and assist Hako people.

Our main partnership with ABG is through the Department of Community Development at Regional level,
- with Buka District Office at Sub Regional (or District) level and
- with Munhil Assembly (Council of Chiefs) at Constituency or Local Government Level

Our main partnerships with women in civil society include our MAMA organisation - Bougainville Women for Peace and Freedom (BWPF), The peak body for all women of Bougainville – Bougainville Women’s Federation (BWF)

Our partnerships with Non Government Agencies include UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNDP, OXFAM, CJLU, CARS Int. and numerous local Institutions for all forms of social service, health & education that have been formed like we have to meet the needs of the people of Bougainville.

WHERE ARE WE?.....
Challenges we face in Hako, North Buka, Bougainville with WOMAN’S SECURITY

- **Sea level rise** – need to relocate villages to cliff tops – fresh water springs at sea and reef flooded, critical access to fresh water, need new practices for Hygiene & Sanitation

- **Post Conflict law & order and justice issues** from war related trauma, ‘lost generation’ young adults and youth with no/limited education & opportunities

- **Economic Security** with lack of Income generating Life Skills for many who missed out on education due to 20 years of conflict - many women are unable to generate income beyond cash cropping and gardens

- **Disaster Risk Management** – there is no government office or presence in North Buka to warn or respond to any disaster. Village communities rely on traditional knowledge for survival

- **Shelter & Security** – lack of transport access to basic services affect health and safety of families – overcrowding and lack of resources for building homes affecting domestic & sexual violence, rape, incest, infanticide, abortion etc

- **Abandoned wives & children** (widows of the living) and Widows of the dead (war widows) with poverty of single parenting, lack of money for education & literacy

*Photo*: Hako women with Buka District Women’s Federation at BWF workshop being briefed on new PNG Social Security law ‘Lukautim Pikinini Act’ (Child Welfare Policy), November 2010
Location: Relationship of Bougainville to Papua New Guinea & Australia
Buka & Bougainville Islands

The low lying Carteret Islands are already feeling the effects of sea level rise.
HAKO Women’s RESPONSES to these challenges

Hako Integrated Women’s Development Project HIWDP

HELP Community

Honesty & Transparency
Empathy- for Hako each other
Loyalty – To teams, HWC & Hako
Punctuality/ Participation

Community Commitment
GOAL 1 To empower and enable women to participate in building a safe, secure and just society and to work towards ensuring a safe, secure and just society.
GOAL 2 To equip women with knowledge of CEDAW, UNSCR 1325, CRC, Child Protection Orders & Lukautim Pikinini Act

Juvenile Mediation Training at Buka Court House, Buka Passage.

Hako women leaders were selected to join magistrates, community police and social welfare workers in training for mediation roles with children in conflict with the law (7-18 years of age). HWC leaders also work (unpaid) as probation and parole officers.

A role play is in session during the training.
GOAL 3  To educate and unite the Hako community on environmental issues and management of natural and renewable resources

Bougainville has one of the highest rainfalls in the world yet it is in a race against time to learn to harness water, conserve it for the climate change drought periods and to keep water clean and uncontaminated. River pollution on the mainland is of major concern and the provision of water tanks in Buka and on atolls is a current community and government project.

Alternative energy sources such as solar and wind generation require constant education and advocacy rather than the common use of diesel power generation.

ABG is planning hydro power on Bougainville at Ramazon River that will supply North Bougainville & Buka Island
Goal 4 a) To build necessary infrastructure to cater to the community and support the HIWDP
To establish a permanent Hako Collective Women’s Resource Centre
Goal 4 b) To establish a HAKO BUS SERVICE
Facilitate and advocate to lobby ABG for improved access to health services and medical transport for Hako

HWC Program Coordinator, President & Vice President present petition for a Hako Ambulance to serve the 15,000 people of Hako to the Autonomous Bougainville Government Cabinet at Parliament House.

After three delegation visits (2008, 2009, 2010) and thousands of signatures, added to over the years, Hako has received an ambulance in September 2010 from the Government. We still seek to work closely with the Health Department to ensure delivery of service and proper use of, maintenance and care of the vehicle.

Other programs and projects have involved several government departments and technical staff. NGO partners include UNIFEM, Democratic Governance, CARE International, OXFAM, Community Law & Justice Engagement Unit, Leitana Nihan, UNDP, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Pacific Black Box, Bougainville Women's Federation.
Goal 5 b)
Facilitate and advocate to lobby ABG for improved access to health services and medical transport for Hako

Hako Collective Women’s working bee. Over 50 women, chiefs and youth scrub the entire centre as there are NO cleaners provided by the Health Department.

Her the executive are seen donating cleaning equipment and medicines to our Hako local community sub health centre prior to conducting Health, hygiene & sanitation awareness to patients.
Goal 6
Develop active partnerships & networking of HWC as a civil society organization with CSOs, NGOs and Government Agencies

Sisters of Nazareth at Chabai, North Bougainville with Hon Terry Mose MHR for Selau Constituency in ABG, together with HWC. The sisters were celebrating International World Food Day October 10th 2010 with an open day educational program on Food Security, cultivation methods and Hygienic and well designed homes and kitchens or ‘hauskuk’ improvements (village style).

Hako is planning a program for 2011 with Bridgette (far right) to coordinate with EEA Teams.
Goal 7 Strengthen Hako Civil Society through Peace and Reconciliation processes

Sporting activities for youth have become a major strategy in bringing former enemies and ex combatants together in Bougainville.

Hako Women opened up sports for Hako in 2007 with three years of friendly games and 10 sporting codes (Volleyball, seen here in 2008), Basketball, netball, rugby touch, soccer, badminton, boxing, cricket, Tae Kwon Do, Athletics.

Hako Sports Authority now exist and have recently hosted the Buka Games for 6 Constituencies in the Buka District. Gender balance is celebrated and leadership skills gained among youth is employed towards other community activities.
Rehabilitation holistic with Food Security on display at Sisters of Nazareth Open Day 2010
The Sisters at Chabai and the Rehabilitation Centre homes display to village people how it is possible for native material construction to accommodate modern home comforts – Important features of woman’s security to provide families with safe, secure home environments that offer privacy and proper sleeping quarters.
Traditional kitchens can be developed into ideal work spaces that offer clean, hygienic and multi functional styles of cooking and food preparation.
Goal 8 Strengthen the capacity of the women leaders, community volunteers and facilitators through knowledge building skills and development

Members of newly elected ABG Parliament at the swearing in ceremony June 2010.

Dressed in white, Hako woman Hon Elizabeth Burain Member for North Bougainville; followed by –

Minister for Women Hon Rose Pihei, Member for South Bougainville; followed by –

Hon Joanne Jerome, Member for Central Bougainville.

The 3 Regional Women's seats were elected by votes of both men and women of Bougainville.
Goal 9 To ensure that HIWDP is achieving its goals and objectives and that our women and communities are benefiting from the services provided.

HWC executive cleaning out the medical store in our Hako Sub Health Centre at Lemanmanu. The store was littered with wasted, unused syringes yet many times a year patients are sent away when there are no medical supplies.

Our previous Member of Parliament’s wife, Mary Tenevi assists HWC Treasurer Ruthy Sawa in a vain attempt to rescue some of the vandalized supplies.

Despite all our valiant efforts and hard won achievements, we have an ongoing battle to fight disease, suffering, ignorance, poverty, and now climate change in a race against time and with meagre resources.
Our strength to face the future lies in our unity of hearts, mind and spirit; 
Our sisterhood, our love for one another and our Lord