

Case Study: PNG – Strengthening Community-Led Organisations for Long-Term Impact

For many years, community-led HIV organisations in Papua New Guinea carried the responsibility of supporting vulnerable communities with limited systems, infrastructure and long-term funding security.

Health Equity Matters partnered with KPAC PNG to help strengthen governance, leadership and operational capability through a peer-to-peer capacity-building model grounded in local leadership and long-term sustainability. Together, we supported the development of organisational systems, policies, leadership pathways and financial processes that enabled KPAC PNG to mature into a stronger, more independent organisation.

This transformation has already contributed to significant milestones, including KPAC PNG holding its first AGM and strengthening its ability to manage funding and partnerships more directly. Through locally led mentoring, governance support and operational strengthening, KPAC PNG has grown its organisational capability and strengthened its ability to engage with government, manage funding and deliver long-term community impact.

Rather than imposing external solutions, this work focused on walking alongside local leaders to build the systems, confidence and independence required for long-term sustainability.



Members of the KPAC PNG National Board of Delegates with Health Equity Matters' International Program Specialist Jess Hill during a Board Capacity Building Session held in Port Moresby

“For many years, community organisations have carried the weight of HIV prevention with our own communities. It is encouraging to see the Government now working in genuine partnership with us to strengthen a community-led response. With support from Health Equity Matters, we can finally build on our experience in a sustainable way. The new outreach model gives us real hope for the future, and we are deeply grateful for walking alongside us.”

— Asaeli Sinusetaki, Interim CEO of Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji

“Seeing the passion and commitment of the KPAC team within their community has been truly inspiring. Together we’ve shaped a brand that communicates with clarity while staying true to their identity: ‘Komuniti Wok, Senis Kamap - community-led work brings change for the community.’ This shared purpose reflects who we are at Your Creative and the kind of meaningful projects we are really proud to be part of.”

— Proud corporate partner Your Creative

This approach is now helping shape a scalable model for strengthening community-led HIV responses across the Indo-Pacific at a time when HIV cases are rising rapidly across parts of the region. With continued support, Health Equity Matters can work alongside local partners to expand this proven model, strengthen frontline organisations and help prevent further transmission in communities most at risk.

Read more here: <https://www.healthequitymatters.org.au/resources/strengthening-papua-new-guineas-hiv-response>



KPAC PNG's Community Led Monitoring Program Team Lead Brenda Lombange