

# Grow Healthy, Grow Strong Newsletter Issue #14 - April 2024



Photo: Grow project team, Onawuta Kesuwao (Project Officer), Melvin Karigal (Admin Support Officer), Graham Barip (Project Support Officer/Driver) and Thalia Wat (Project Coordinator)



## COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

Our health workers from Rabaul Urban Clinic and Vunapope Hospital will be doing their health facility exchange visit in May. These two facilities are very different to Rabaul Provincial and Warangoi Rural Hospital so it will be interesting to see what the health workers feedback. The community outreach continues, with more ward members stepping up to independently lead the parent discussion groups. This is an incredible way for local members to support nutrition initiatives that can be sustained long after the project has finished because they can implement activities on their own.

Photo above: Mid-term Review Training at Kokopo Beach Bungalow

## GROW PROJECT UPDATE

The Grow team are extremely proud to announce that we have been successful in our application for funding from the Digicel Foundation. Our project was one of a few out of hundreds that was chosen. Project Officer Onawuta attended the Digicel Foundation workshop, held in Madang, from 18-19th of April. The purpose of the workshop was to help guide and support grant recipients in effective project management and reporting. The funding from this will support us to reach additional areas in our community engagement, along with extending other project activities. Thank you to the Digicel Foundation for this incredible opportunity!

Our bi-monthly Nutrition Advocacy Group meeting was held on the 5th of April, chaired by the Partnership Coordinator of the East New Britain PHA, Ashwin Lau. Project updates were provided to the group with active discussion and feedback to the Grow team. This included encouragement to the health facility staff to take learnings from project trainings back to their colleagues, in doing so, extending the capacity building to others. The following week, Lisa Davidson (Senior Technical Advisor) conducted a 3-day training on the Mid-Term Review, which aims to support the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation of GROW and other Burnet projects. Burnet and PHA staff attended the training, which created a pool of people with the skills to conduct monitoring and evaluation for any project or program.

The fifth parent group discussion was held in Zone 2 of the Rieit Ward. It was the second group in this zone and also the first to be entirely led by Ward Development Committee (WDC) members Chris Kimi, Elias Ingal, Freddy Issan and Pastor Joe Henry. We are delighted that after a short time, the WDC felt confident in leading these groups on their own.

# HEALTH FACILITY EXCHANGE

During the last week of April, two health facilities participated in a 'Health Facility Exchange'. This was an activity suggested by the Health Workers last year as a novel way to encourage peer-to-peer learning. This first round of facility exchanges was hosted by Warangoi Rural Hospital and Rabaul Provincial Hospital. The idea of this exchange was for health workers to explore potential ways of improving the nutrition services provided by learning from each other. Guided and facilitated by Grow Project Coordinator, Thalia Wat, Warangoi staff visited Rabaul Provincial Hospital on the 23rd of April, and vice-versa on the 26th of April. One of the difference noticed by Warangoi staff was the types of nutrition activities supported at the Rabaul Provincial Hospital. There were more nutrition treatments being provided there compared to the largely preventative care given at the rural hospital. Health care workers teams were able to see how their nutrition activities complemented each other. Additionally, both teams noticed that the growth charts and digital height measurement devices provided by the project were useful in their practice. Overall, this was the first successful implementation of this novel learning approach and health workers were encouraged by each other in their nutrition work.



Health Facility Exchange visit: Dr Veronica Kalit, Sr Elizabeth Noah, HEO Sylvanus Ariija and Sister Rachel Guere



Sister Gilda Pinggah (from Warangoi Hospital) setting up the play mat outside their Well Baby Clinic on the Health Facility Exchange visit



Project Officer, Onawuta, pictured with some other participants at the Digicel Workshop



Rieit Ward Development Committee Members (L-R): Titus Morgan, Chris Kimi and Freddy Issan