



Newsletter

January - March 2024



A message from the CEO & Co-founder

The opening of 2024 is one to never forget with the aftermath of black Wednesday. Fortunately for us, we were still on holiday so it was a limited number of staff who were affected by the events of this day. Nonetheless, we took this as even more reason why we do the kind of work we do. Working with our communities is not a task we take lightly and more and more we find that with each year we are blessed with another grand opportunity to help turn things around so that we do not have to experience events like this again.

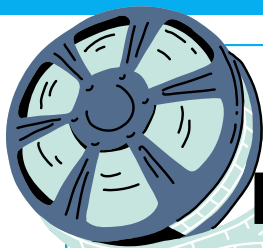
In our newsletter this quarter we are proud to share about our partnership with the Office of Censorship. This is an important pathway into harnessing the strength of both partners and ultimately being of better service to the everyday Papua New Guinean through tackling social issues that are heightened by the use of technology.

Secondly, we closed 2023 with the training of twenty (20) of our first-ever Youth Health Champions and on this feature, we are delighted to share more on their engagements with selected communities around NCD and Central province.

Their work involved carrying out campaigns in their communities on important health messaging for youth audiences. Please read up and hear about the work they have done.

Lastly, we have two big stories, one is of our trip to the Oil Palm province and the second is our team-building session delivered to our partners at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Wewak. This opportunity had the team coming together to share responsibility for delivering a 3-day session in true EPF spirit.

Again, let me say a huge thank you to you all for staying in touch with us through this platform and I look forward to sharing more as the year unfolds.



★ Office of Censorship Memorandum of Understanding

This quarter, in an effort to curb growing social issues around censorship and technology facilitated gender-based violence in the country, a special Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Office of Censorship (OoC) PNG & Equal Playing Field (EPF).

The MoU signed between the OoC and EPF marks a crucial step in addressing the pressing social issues surrounding censorship and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. This partnership signifies a proactive approach towards combating these challenges head-on.

By joining forces, the OoC and EPF are demonstrating a commitment to safeguarding individuals from harmful content and promoting a safer online environment. This collaboration sets a precedent for other organizations to follow suit and take concrete actions to tackle censorship and gender-based violence effectively.

The MoU serves as a powerful tool in driving positive change and fostering a culture of accountability in addressing these critical issues. It is imperative that all stakeholders honor their commitments outlined in the agreement to create a more inclusive and secure society for all.

As per the MoU, both organizations unequivocally acknowledge the imperative to forge a partnership dedicated to upholding human dignity and fostering respectful conduct among the audiences they engage with. This commitment is particularly crucial for safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable groups, notably adolescents and young people in Papua New Guinea.



Youth Health Champions Take Action in Local Communities

The UNICEF Youth Health Champions took to the communities in Morata NCD and Kwikila and Hiwika community in Central Province to spread awareness on a range of critical health and safety issues. With the support of service providers like Marie Stopes and the Road Traffic Authority, the champions covered topics spanning teenage pregnancy, road safety, and substance abuse prevention.

This community outreach initiative aimed to educate and empower local residents, particularly young people, on these vital public health and safety concerns. By partnering with specialized service providers, the Youth Health Champions were able to deliver comprehensive, expert-backed information to the target communities.

The program's multi-faceted approach addressed some of the most pressing challenges facing youth in the region, equipping them with the knowledge and resources to make informed, healthy decisions. This collaborative effort between UNICEF, the Youth Health Champions, and key service providers exemplifies a holistic, community-driven approach to driving positive change.



Equal Playing Field Ventures to Wewak for Impactful Mission with ILO

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In a recent endeavor, the team members of Equal Playing Field ventured to Wewak, Papua New Guinea, to conduct a week of team-building activities with the International Labour Organization (ILO). This impactful mission aimed to strengthen the collaboration and synergy within the ILO team through a series of engaging exercises and workshops.

The Equal Playing Field team, known for its expertise in fostering cohesive and high-performing groups, brought its unique approach to the ILO staff. By facilitating a range of team-building activities, the team helped the organization's members enhance their communication, problem-solving skills, and overall camaraderie.

Through interactive sessions, group discussions, and experiential learning, the Equal Playing Field team empowered the ILO staff to better understand their individual strengths, foster stronger interpersonal connections, and align their collective efforts towards the organization's shared goals. This collaborative initiative served to reinforce the ILO's commitment to creating a supportive and productive work environment.



The successful completion of this mission in Wewak underscores the valuable role that Equal Playing Field plays in supporting the development and cohesion of teams across various sectors. By leveraging its expertise, the organization continues to make a meaningful impact on the organizations it partners with, ultimately contributing to their overall success and effectiveness.

New Britain Palm Oil Limited Scoping Mission

The Equal Playing Field team recently embarked on a scoping mission to West New Britain, Papua New Guinea, in partnership with New Britain Palm Oil Limited. During their week-long visit to the province, the team met with local schools and various stakeholders to gather insights and lay the groundwork for future initiatives.

The purpose of this scoping mission was to better understand the landscape, identify key challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration that could positively impact the local community. By engaging directly with schools and stakeholders, the Equal Playing Field team gained valuable firsthand knowledge to inform their strategic planning and program development.



Through these discussions and observations, the team was able to assess the current state of education, infrastructure, and community needs in the region. This information will be crucial as the Equal Playing Field initiative moves forward, ensuring that their efforts are tailored to the specific requirements and priorities of the West New Britain province.



Child Safety Refreshers

This quarter the Equal Playing Field team facilitated a refresher session for teachers from Hagara Primary School and Bavaro Junior High School, focusing on the critical topic of child protection. The informative session aimed to equip educators with a deeper understanding of the relevant policies and acts governing this important area.

During the session, the team guided the teachers through key child protection legislation and frameworks, ensuring they were well-versed in the responsibilities and protocols required to maintain a safe and nurturing environment for their students. Discussions also centered around mapping out plans for the implementation of the Safe Schools Framework, a comprehensive approach to safeguarding children in the educational setting.

By providing this valuable training, the Equal Playing Field initiative continues to empower teachers and strengthen the education system's capacity to protect and support the well-being of young learners. The session underscores the organization's commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment for all.

Equal Playing Field is proudly supported by:

The Australian Government in partnership with Government of Papua New Guinea

