

# Case Study 13: Strengthening the Capacity of National Advocacy Organisations and their Provincial Chapters to Ensure Sustainability

## Key Messages:

- Tingim Laip worked closely with the provincial chapters of three key population advocacy networks: Friends Frangipani, Kapul Champions and Igat Hope.
- TL supported individual members of provincial chapters of these organisations through employing members as staff of TL; engaging members as volunteers; and reaching members as peers. TL also provided basic HIV, peer education and legal literacy training to senior members of provincial and national organisations, including board members.
- Despite the work TL has done to support the national advocacy organisations there was always a need for additional support.

## Background

Tingim Laip worked closely with the provincial chapters of three key population advocacy networks: Friends Frangipani, Kapul Champions and Igat Hope. TL promoted these organisations and encouraged peers to join. The project also supported the capacity building of select provincial organisations in peer-led outreach program design, delivery and reporting. Tingim Laip shared many goals with these advocacy organisations and saw them as integral to the long-term viability of the community response to HIV in PNG. The support TL provided was aimed at promoting their sustainability while being consistent with Tingim Laip goals.

## Rationale

In 2014 the national advocacy organisations were receiving support from a range of sources including DFAT (directly and indirectly through the Australian national NGOs AFAO, NAPWA and Scarlet Alliance) and USAID through FHI. Tingim Laip was asked by each of these national advocacy organisations to assist them to work with their members and networks on peer education strategies. Tingim Laip understood the importance of building sustainability beyond the length of the project and undertook a number of strategies to do this. In early 2014 TL engaged a Technical Adviser to explore ways of supporting the work of these organisations which would contribute to their capacity, viability and sustainability. Recommendations set forth by the Adviser included training of Board Members in basic HIV and peer education; legal literacy training for members; and, additional support in encouraging key populations to become members of the networks.

## Outcomes

- Tingim Laip supported individual members of provincial chapters of national advocacy organisations through a number of means: employing members as staff of TL; engaging members as volunteers; and reaching members as peers. Staff and volunteers

“Many women have been involved in Friends Frangipani for a long time but didn’t have basic HIV knowledge. Volunteers take what they have learned from TL trainings and educate other members. This is the main way TL has supported FF.”

– FO, Hagen

received training in a range of areas which increased their knowledge in basic HIV and sexual health, peer education, HIV and the law, alcohol harm reduction and gender based violence.

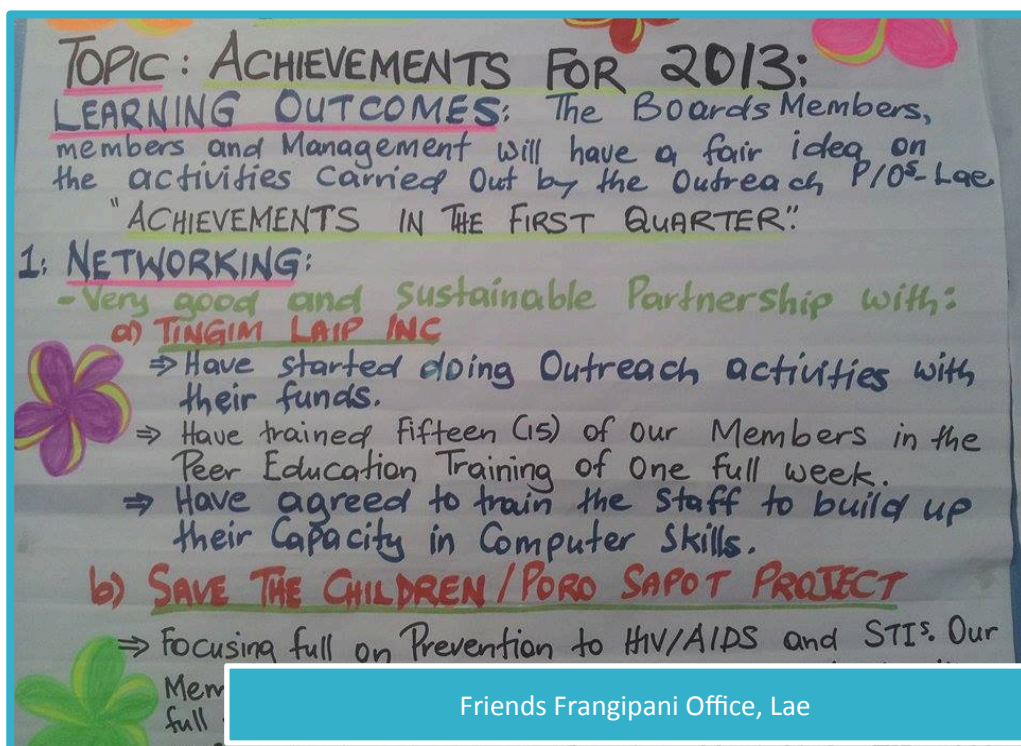
- Many staff and volunteers reported being empowered by the knowledge they gained through working with TL: empowered to take control of their own lives and empowered to educate and support their peers. Educated and empowered TL staff and volunteers who were members of

“TL provides things like bus fares, biscuits, drinks to sex workers, we (Friends Frangipani) don’t have the money to give anything. This helps us because you are helping our members. “

– Friends Frangipani, Goroka

“TL has given us (Morobe Network of Positive Living- PLHIV advocacy network) training and sometimes we use the office for meetings and to use the fax machine.”

– Morobe Network of Positive Living Director, Lae



national organisations were able to bring the knowledge they gained through the project to member meetings and educate other members who were not involved with the project. Many members of these organisations who were not staff or volunteers of TL were registered peers of the project and were therefore supported through TLs outreach and accompanied referrals system. Refreshment packs, incentives and pay received by peers, volunteers and staff relieved pressure on the advocacy organisations that had no funding to provide such support. By receiving support of individual members through training, referrals and small commodities, the organisations were able to focus on advocacy and building their networks rather than focus on meeting basic needs of members.

- Tingim Laip provided basic HIV, peer education and legal literacy training to senior members of provincial and national organisations, including board members. The organisations did not have budgets for training of senior members and many had never received formal training. The lack of training meant a lack of accurate knowledge and the inability to educate members.
- Tingim Laip adapted the curriculum for and assisted in the delivery of a workshop on rights and laws for men with diverse sexualities and transgenders in PNG for Kapul Champions. The 3-day

workshop was held in Lae in October 2014 and presented by Kapul Champions, PNG Development Law Association and Tingim Laip. The workshop had approximately 36 participants of whom most were members of Kapul Champions. Feedback from the workshop was positive with participants reporting a better understanding of their rights.

- Tingim Laip supported the national organisations by encouraging membership amongst key populations with whom it works. TL also distributed membership forms in locations where the organisations requested. TL worked closely with a number of PLHIV groups and where appropriate encouraged these groups to establish or maintain links with Igat Hope.

## Challenges

- Tingim Laip was limited in the support it was able to provide to national advocacy organisations. There was some support that was requested that did not align with TL's priorities or was beyond TL's financial or human resources capacity. This included sex worker literacy training for Friends Frangipani; assistance with the development and finalisation of a 'know your rights' training for Friends Frangipani; support with documenting and implementing Friends Frangipani's outreach model; and, the design and piloting of an MSM/ TG expert patient placement program in HIV and STI clinics for Kapul Champions.
- In some locations where TL had a project vehicle requests were made to assist the organisations to reach key populations outside of the city or province. As the vehicles were necessary for outreach and other project related work this was not feasible.

## Lessons Learnt

- Despite the work TL has done to support the national advocacy organisations there was always a need for additional support. The organisations needed funding and support from outside of the TL project and this was not always made available. As the TL project came to a conclusion the financial security of many of these organisations was unknown.

"This volunteer is very good. We always include follow up by Tingim Laip as part of counselling now. There is no Igat Hope, there is just the TL Volunteer."

– Clinic staff, Hagu Clinic, Milne Bay