

Goroka Environment Eastern Highlands Province Last update: April 2015



Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province

Tingim Laip has been active in Goroka since 2005 when then-partner Save the Children began managing an intervention focussed on the Kakaruk Market. The partnership ended in 2011 and since then, TL has expanded interventions to other locations in town.

Goroka is the capital of Eastern Highlands Province. With an estimated population of 19,000 (*The PNG Census Report 2000*), it is the fourth largest centre in PNG and is second only to Mt. Hagen in importance within the five Highlands provinces. Goroka is a major stopping point for Highlands Highway traffic, situated approximately halfway between the coastal towns of Madang and Lae and highlands towns of Mt. Hagen, Mendi and Tari. Landslides further up the Highway – a relatively common occurrence – can force trucks and PMVs to wait in Goroka for many days.

Goroka has a pleasant climate, fertile land and is relatively peaceful. For this reason, it attracts both settlers and visitors from all over the Highlands provinces. People live in large settlements in and around the town, mostly in 'wantok' groups. Goroka is also the base for many businesses and industries (coffee, trucking) as well as NGOs, many of who work in HIV.

Goroka hosts the annual Goroka Show held over Independence weekend (September 16). Recently, this has been preceded with the 'Bilasim Skin' and 'Bilum' festivals. The combination of these festivals attracts thousands of visitors each year to stay for several weeks.

Goroka town is built around the airstrip – a common reference point for navigation. The Highlands Highway from the coast enters Goroka to the southeast of the airstrip in an area known as Faniufa. It then travels on the western edge of the airstrip through West Goroka and up to Kakaruk and Main Markets and Asaroiufa then Chuave Market. It departs on the north west of town towards the Highlands. The town centre is located at the north east of the airstrip – banks, post office, government offices and shops are concentrated in this area.

Three large settlements skirt the airstrip and town areas: Piswara to the northeast is home to a large population of Simbu and Merowaka District settlers. Both Ganoka Block and Banana Block are located off the Bena road to the east of the airstrip in the steep valley. Ganoka Block is located at the town end and Banana Block is located towards the Faniufa end – both are home to settlers from Eastern Highlands Districts, Simbu Province, Madang and Bougainville Provinces.

Environment of Risk

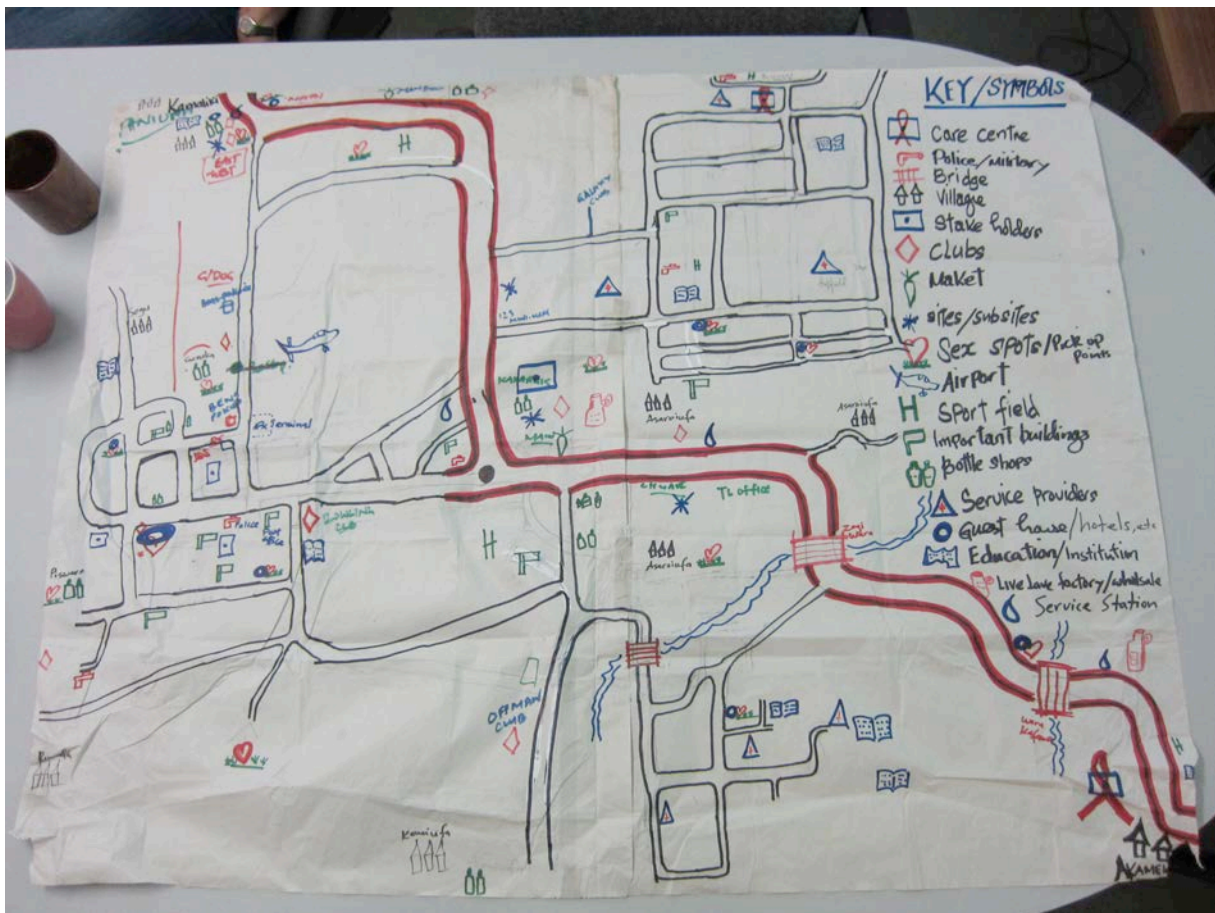
Through its micro-mapping, TL has learned that transactional sex is often arranged and then takes place through a series of complicated steps that may occur: at different locations; at different times of day; and, involve several different people. Understanding this process presents opportunities for multiple intervention points for Tingim Laip volunteers and field staff that may target clients of sex workers (MMM); women engaged in sex work; associated gatekeepers; and relevant stakeholders. Further, the timing of these interventions can be done at key stages of the process: contact establishment; negotiation; socialising before transactional sex; transactional sex; after transactional sex. This section describes the network of connected settings in which there is increased risk of HIV transmission – where people meet to make contacts, negotiate, and exchange sex.

- Faniufa/ Mambu area at the south end of town is a major stopping point for trucks and PMV drivers. There is a large service station located here that is popular with Highlands Highway traffic. Mambu field is located across the street from Faniufa at the south end of the airstrip. The Faniufa/Mambu area is active 24-hours a day, however it is most popular between 10am and 2pm, and 6pm to 10pm, and there are many cheap guesthouses (with day rates) and kai bars nearby. Many trucks stop here over night and the East West trucking company is based here. Members of key populations are generally truckies and WES. Truckies stop here for a rest, to refuel and to get food. They will negotiate for sex at the market through a local pimp, or in advance by mobile phone with a local pimp. Women who exchange sex from the area will be picked up further down the road by Paragon/ Mt. Zion, but women who exchange sex who are not from that area will hang around the *kai* bars and are picked up there. Couples will have sex in the trucks or in the cheap guesthouses close by.
- Kakaruk and Chauve Markets are located on the Highlands Highway just outside of town towards Simbu - these are the main buai trading markets. *Buai* traders sell their *buai* through residential middlemen. Once their *buai* is handed over to the middlemen to sell, the *buai* trader has free time to do as they like. Often they will make arrangements with a woman who exchanges sex from the market area and plan to meet up with them later in the evening at the town based clubs and bars, or take them to one of the 'cheap houses' surrounding the market to have sex straight away.
- Ben's Pokies/ Yumi Yet Guest House located across from the town bus stop and the entrance to the Air Niugini terminal is a bar/ gambling house/ guesthouse/ bottle shop that accepts daily and hourly room bookings. It has become popular in the last 2 – 3 months and is open from 10am until late. People often move on to the Bowling Club or Hoffmans Night Club to continue their drinking. Clients are generally public servants, coffee and buai buyers, miners and other local residents, as well as WES from Piswara, Ganoka and Banana Block settlements.
- Bowling Club is located next to the post office in town. It is a bar, but does not stay open very late (11pm). People often move from Bowling Club once it closes to Hoffmans Night Club for further partying or to guesthouses. The Bowling club also attracts people from Chuave and Kakaruk Markets. Members of key populations are

generally public servants, *buai* traders and WES. WES hang around outside the Club. *Buai* sellers outside the club or security guards act as pimps and link clients with women who exchange sex.

- Horse Race is open from 11am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and is a regular location where residential clients can pick up women who exchange sex.
- Guesthouses and Lodges: In recent months, several new guesthouses have opened in Goroka. The majority of guesthouses are now reported to accept day bookings. During the week day rates are K100 – K120 while weekend day rates are K80 – K90.

Tingim Laip recognises the transient nature of hotspots and undertakes regular reviews of this strategy to ensure drift of hotspots is recognised and interventions are adapted accordingly.



Key Populations

Tingim Laip has identified the following priority key populations to work with in the Goroka environment:

Mobile Men with Money – clients of sex workers

- Trucker drivers: These individuals drive inter-provincial trucks for small and large trucking companies. ‘Truckies’ often stop at Faniufa for rest-breaks and even

overnight. Sex is negotiated through pimps – directly or through mobile phone in advance and sex is had in trucks or in cheap guest houses surrounding Faniufa. In 2014, Population Service International (PSI) will no longer work with Truck and Security Companies in Lae, Eastern Highlands (Kutubu, IPI) and Western Highlands. TL will seek to coordinate with PSI to ensure a better sense of continuity of support and service provisions for Truck Drivers where TL is located.

- PMV bus drivers and crews: These are both local and long distance PMV bus drivers travelling through or within Goroka. Local PMV drivers are known to pick up women and take them to 'Ben's Pokies' located across the street from the town bus stop. Highway PMV drivers pick up women in the Faniufa/ Mambu area and take them to local guesthouses or the Mambu field.
- *Buai* traders: *Buai* traders travel from Madang and Lae to sell buai in large quantities for distribution in the Highlands. Generally, they arrive in Goroka and make contact with a middleman who negotiates the sale of their *buai*. It is common for *buai* traders to seek opportunities for sex and parties, in particular around Chuave and Kakaruk markets, Ben's Pokies, Bowling Club and Hoffman club.
- Residential clients, including public servants, coffee and *buai* buyers, miners and private businessmen: It is commonly known that local residents frequently engage in transactional sex Wednesday to Saturday, in particular during pay fortnights. During lunch breaks, public servants contact women engaged in sex work through second hand clothing stores, *buai* sellers (in effect a middleman or pimp) at Ben's Pokies and the main town bus stop or at Ben's Pokies itself. Contacts are made and a meeting place is arranged at local guesthouses throughout town. TL will not work public servants for the time being; however, they will be considered for future interventions.
- Women who exchange sex: TL will seek to complement Poro Sapot's long-standing work with WES by targeting clients of women who exchange sex in select locations where PSP works. TL will explore the presence of more 'hidden' women who exchange sex – 'high class' women and school girls who exchange sex - who do not have contact with PSP and who are based in and around the locations described above. TL will work with PSP to determine a suitable approach to support and deliver interventions for this group of women.
- People living with HIV: The Goroka-based network of positive people is Minivava. TL will maintain its partnership with Minivava and collaborate with the VSO volunteer working with Minivava to strengthen their organisational capacity.

TL will not prioritise work with MSM in Goroka at this time. TL will work with Kapul Champions and include MSM/TG in its workforce, outreach and referrals.

Gatekeepers

TL uses “gatekeepers” to mean *people who control or affect access to sexual networks*. In Goroka, as elsewhere, some gatekeepers are also members of key populations - police, security guards, street-based buai sellers as well as staff at clubs, bars, guesthouses and hotels.

TL has identified the following as gatekeepers in the Goroka Environment:

- Casual guards, *buai* sellers, street sellers, guesthouse/ hotel staff, club/ bar staff and pimps around lodges and guesthouses and markets: These individuals are familiar with regular customers as well as the network of WES in the surrounding area. They act as middlemen between clients and WES – they arrange for women to meet with men. There is no evidence that they take part in negotiation of sex: price, condom use, security, however they do receive payment from sex workers. They might also receive payment (cash or in-kind buai, smokes, drinks) from the clients. They often also buy sex from the WES.

Stakeholders/ Service Providers

TL uses ‘stakeholders’ to mean any individual, agency or organisation with interest in a specific HIV intervention.

	Name	Works with	Provides	Opportunity
1	AT Projects	PLHIV	Hygiene Kits Personal Finance Training Home Based Care Training	Supply hygiene kits Training
2	EH Family Voice	Gen Pop, women and children	General counselling, domestic violence counselling	Referrals
3	Friends Frangipani	FSW	Advocacy, support	Referrals, TL support outreach
4	Garden of Eden			
5	Kapul Champions	MSM, TG	Advocacy, support	Referrals, TL support outreach
6	Mercy Works	Gen Pop, KAP	Training life skills	Training
7	Minivava	Gen Pop	Advocacy, care and support	Referrals, TL support outreach
8	Provincial AIDS Committee	Gen Pop, KAP	Coordinate HIV response in province	Partnership, collaboration
9	Provincial Health Authority	Gen Pop, KAP	Direct health services in province	Partnership, collaboration
10	Police – Royal PNG Constabulary, esp. SOS and FSV Unit	Gen Pop	Legal services for sexual offenses and domestic violence	Referrals
11	PSI	Gen Pop, Kutubu Transport and IPI Trucking G4S and Guard Dog Security	Condom promotion, marital relations training	Partnership, collaboration
12	Porosapot Project	FSW, MSM,	Condom and SRH	Partnership,

		TG, WES	promotion, care and support	collaboration
	Security/ Trucking Cos			
Clinical Services				
13	Lopi Health Centre	Gen Pop, KAP	HIV testing & counselling, STI services	Referrals
14	Marie Stopes	Gen Pop	STI services, family planning	Referrals
15	Michael Alpers Clinic	Gen Pop, PLHIV	ART, HIV testing and counselling	Referrals
16	North Goroka Urban Clinic	Gen Pop, KAP	STI services	Referrals
17	St. Joseph VCT Centre	Gen Pop, KAP	HIV counselling and testing, planning for STI services	Referrals
18	Susu Mamas	Gen Pop, women and children	HIV testing and counselling, STI services	Referrals

TL Workforce and Structure

TL employs a variety of workforce types to deliver a broad range of interventions. Based on the target populations in Goroka, the workforce is as follows:

- Field Officers: TL will engage five casual workers. Four of the casual workers will be based in different areas of town to address sexual networking in that area. They will work with both the clients of sex workers as well as the gatekeepers. They will conduct targeted interventions with these groups and ensure condom distribution points are adequately stocked. They will also identify individuals to become independent volunteers.
 - Faniufa – focus on truckies as well as pimps, *buai* sellers and guards in the area.
 - Kakaruk/ Chauve Markets – focus on *buai* traders/ buyers as well as pimps, *buai* sellers and guards in the area.
 - Town – focus on residential clients of sex workers (civil servants, coffee and *buai* buyers, miners and other residents as well as gatekeepers in Yumi Guest House/ Ben’s Pokies, Bowling Club, Bird of Paradise and Horse Racing.
 - Women who exchange sex – focus on those women not targeted by PSP. TL will explore the extent to which this group exists and need for further interventions.

One last casual worker will be based at the STI/ VCT clinic. They will greet clients and assist them to navigate clinical services. They will also advocate for mobile clinic services.

- Independent volunteers: The transient nature of MMM makes it difficult to establish a regular committee. TL will seek to establish a network of individual volunteers, representing gatekeepers, clients of sex workers to conduct peer outreach in targeted locations.
- Condom distributors: Select *buai*/ other sellers or *kai* bar owners at strategic locations will be selected and engaged by TL to distribute condoms, provide information and referral individuals to TL or other services. Suggested locations include Fanifua/ Mambu; 1-2-3 Mini Mart; Chuave and Kakaruk Markets and opposite TL Office; Town bus stop and Ben's Pokies; Bird of Paradise Hotel and road to Piswara settlement.
- TL Field Staff for structural interventions: TL field staff will work with selected businesses so that employees can access information, receive regular condom supplies, increasingly access health services including testing and become peer educators to reach others within their workforce. Specifically, this will be targeted towards trucking companies, security companies and guesthouse staff.
- Technical outreach support to Friends Frangipani: TL will continue to provide support in the implementation of relevant interventions for members of FF, using the TL volunteer committee model.