

Mt. Hagen Environment Western Highlands Province Last update: December 2014



Environment of Risk

Tingim Laip has had an active presence in Mt. Hagen for 8 years, and evolved three “site committees” over that time, identified as Kaiwe Market, Waipa Zone and Waghi Valley. Mt. Hagen is a big town – the largest centre of industry, service provision and business in the Highlands. The town’s population is growing as people seek better services, commercial banking and employment opportunities, and it has become a major transit point for the Highlands Highway – the gateway to Enga, Southern and Hela Provinces deeper in the Highlands and a major destination for travel from Morobe and Madang coastal provinces. Its location is strategic for businesses – private, public and internationally owned – based in Hagen as well as industries in neighbouring provinces: LNG in Hela and Southern Provinces, oil and gold in Enga Province. Most trucking companies have their Highlands headquarters located here as well as resting places and depots to support shift changes, loading and unloading. Numerous guesthouses have opened in the last two years in response to increased business opportunities associated with LNG. Many residences are being converted to guesthouses.

In the context of HIV, Mt. Hagen is a centre of risk as well as service provision. Mt. Hagen is commonly known as a ‘party’ town and there are a steadily increasing number of guesthouses and clubs that sell alcohol. The transient population associated with industry means there is a large group of mobile men with money. As the largest Highlands town, it has also attracted a large number of NGOs and other service providers contributing to the response to HIV.

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; 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 planned 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, and in which HIV makes a great impact.

The Tingim Laip Mt. Hagen Environment follows the path of the Highlands Highway through the town. From the Southern Highlands and Enga Provinces the Highlands Highway enters Mt. Hagen at Kaiwe market. Guesthouses are located along the roadside into town. The Highway runs through the centre of town with the main shopping centre to the north and main market to the south. Most guesthouses, clubs and settlements are located in the south

and southeast of the town along with the industrial area where trucking companies have their depots and rest areas. The Highlands Highway continues east out of town. Trucking companies and guest houses line either side of the road along with associated businesses to service 'resting' and off-shift drivers. Along this stretch of road are numerous plantations – plantation owners welcome settlers and allow them to stay with them until their royalty payments are processed. The road to the Mt Hagen airport turns off the main Highlands Highway and is lined with guesthouses that also serve alcohol. Outside of town boundaries, guesthouses and drinking establishments can operate 24 hours a day.

Since September 2013, there has been a general and unofficial movement amongst police and other leaders in the Hagen area to clear town of women engaged in sex work. There have been a series of violent attacks by police and others on these women reported to Tingim Laip. Women are generally fearful and have taken to avoiding guesthouses in the town area (Yumi Yet, Gypsy, Haus Piksa) to stay away from the police. Areas south of the Highway are becoming more popular for the women due to greater security.

Tingim Laip is working closely with PNG Baptist Union to coordinate its work with key populations. TL will focus its interventions as follows:

- Kaiwe Buai Market – located 3 – 4 km out of town, this is the main Highlands buai market and stopping point for trucks and PMV drivers. The Market is open late into the night and offers a range of cooked food and tucker boxes
- MMS Lodge – this is the only club in Mt. Hagen. It is an open space that offers music, pool tables and good security – MMS provides transport for clients to guesthouses and residents. There is also a guesthouse on the side that is popular with Pogera mineworkers and LNG landowners. It is popular with civil servants, buai and other goods traders and sellers. It is open 7 days a week and busiest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday when there is a separate dancing area. The club closes at 10pm.
- Guesthouses and night clubs from Kaiwe into town
 - Keltiga Guesthouse
 - Private residence – owner acts as a pimp and lets out rooms to clients
- People know the residential area at the entrance of town, as a place where women exchanging sex live and where sex can be negotiated. Further down the road in Hagen Park Market, there is the Brick House, which is another place known by male clients – landowners, mineworkers and people with money – as a place where they can go to negotiate for sex. There is also a company owned house that is rented to a group of women engaged in sex work.
- Highlands Pokies – popular nightclub. It offers good security and people are known to negotiate and have sex on the premises, generally in the washrooms.
- Hagen Haus Piksa and KK Paradise – series of shops and a kaibar that operate 24 hours and are located across from the Hagen police station in town. It is also located across from the truck park where truckies park overnight and is a known pick-up spot for people to get a ride on a truck if they have missed the PMV.
- Yumi Yet Guest House – owned by Southern Highlanders and is popular with landowner, mineworkers and other people that are travelling. Women exchanging

sex are not attached to the guesthouse, but are regulars there – staff and security guards know them. Girls are often underage – 13, 14 and 15 years of age.

- Gypsy Guest House – has rooms upstairs and is owned by a Hagen man, however the women engaged in sex work are from Southern Highlands and is popular with MMM from that province.
- Guesthouses and night clubs in Warakum
 - Kanges Guesthouse – offers beer, pokies and rooms
 - Sunrise Guesthouse – offers beer, pokies, rooms including day rooms (K30/day and K80/night)
 - Saris T-school – offers a haus piksa and women from the surrounding settlements come here to sell sex
 - Imbokere Lodge – many women exchanging sex like this location, as it is away from town and more secure. There is a strong ‘mummy boss’ who watches over the Lodge. It is popular with Highway drivers.
 - Warakum Lodge – offers day rate for rooms (K30/day) and is popular with truck drivers
 - KC Country Club – sells home brew (steam) cheaply
 - Kimininga Police Barracks – police ‘singles’ quarters that has loose security
 - Wanwake Club – offers cheap beer and is popular with women engaged in sex work, police from Kimininga Barracks, truck drivers and buai sellers
 - Mondo Plaza – club and offers rooms – popular with Porgera miners
- Guesthouses and clubs in the Tarangau area
 - Camp 5 guesthouse – attracts women from the surrounding settlements and is popular with teachers and men from surrounding villages
- Nu Waka Guest House
- Kamnga Wurr Buai Market - local sellers and traders for Western Highlands Province, the market is much smaller than Kaiwe
- Kalakai Buai Market/ 4 line market - -there are a lot of trucking companies in this area and after trucks go into the yard, people go out to the market for food, buai, smokes, alcohol and to find sex workers. Red Kapa guesthouse/ club is also located here.
- Guesthouses and trucking companies between Dobel and Komun Crusher on the road out of town towards the airport: Gold Line; Zuma; Afoka; TK; Airport; Flyers; Waghi Por
- Komon Krasher guesthouse and club is located at the east end of town close to the airport road junction. Alcohol is sold 24 hours a day and it is common for clients to be picked up at MMS or in town before going to Komon Krasher for a late night party. The settlement in this area is quickly growing attracting people from Mendi, Tari and Simbu. Panga Kofi Club, Banana Club and River Lodge are two recent additions to the area and are popular with local settlers. It is a rough area, and people generally travel in cars or in groups.

Security is a major concern in Mt. Hagen and affects the way that people move through town. The main town area and Highway-to-Airport stretch are owned by two different groups and this affects the security of movement between these locations.

Key Populations

TL has identified the following key populations to work with in the Mt. Hagen Environment:

- Female sex workers and women engaged in sex work
- Truckies:
 - Kaiwe - Essar Construction Compound
 - Kaiwe - Dae-won Truck Drivers
- Buai traders and PMV Drivers: Buai traders from coastal markets in Madang and Lae go to Kaiwe market to sell to local sellers or to traders from Southern, Hela and Enga Provinces. This is a very large and lucrative cash based business – a 10 toea betel nut in Madang can be sold for K2 in Mt. Hagen and K4 in Enga or Southern Highlands provinces – a K50 – K70 20kg bag in Madang can be sold for K200 – K400 in Mt. Hagen and up to K1000 in Southern Highlands and Enga province. As in other locations, middlemen negotiate buai sales between traders. Traders as well as PMV drivers associated with traders have a lot of free time with not much to do.
- Security Guards (mobile): provide escorts to trucking companies and other transport companies. They often pick up women to travel with them between the Highlands and the coast
- Static guards: these guards are associated with guesthouses and clubs and often have 'dinau' (credit) sex with regular women who exchange sex.

Gatekeepers

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

TL has identified the following gatekeepers in the Mt. Hagen Environment:

- Security guards:
- Buai sellers: (Kaiwe) Buai sellers around Kaiwe know the regular truckers and PMV drivers that move up and down the Highlands Highway. They act as middle people between clients and sex workers, facilitating the connection between client and woman who exchanges sex. Buai sellers are also located outside guesthouses and can facilitate the connection between women engaged in sex work and men who regularly frequent the guest house.
- Guest house owners and employees

- Police – The recent action in town to remove women engaged in sex work has led to numerous violent attacks on these women at the hands of police and others which have been reported to Tingim Laip.
- Trucking residential dorms and security and dorm managers
- Mummy boss (Popes Oval Brick House): self appointed leader of group of women who exchange sex. She can act as a pimp and help to negotiate sex between women and their clients. She receives some money for her role.

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
Stakeholders				
1	Friends Frangipani	WES		Partnership, TL Referrals, TL support outreach
2	Kapul Champions	MSM		Partnership, TL Referrals, TL support outreach
3	Tru Warriors	PLHIV		Partnership, TL Referrals, TL support outreach
4	Police – Sexual Violence Desk			Partnership and collaboration
5	Trucking Companies			Partnership and coordination
6	Security Companies			Partnership and coordination
7	Guest Houses			Partnership and coordination
8	MMS Public Bar			Partnership and coordination
9	Yumi Yet			Partnership and coordination
10	Gypsy Guest House			Partnership and coordination
11	Komun Crusher			Partnership and coordination
12	FHI360 – Nickson Kawagi	CW, Cty Mobilisers, general awareness	GBV – Warakum, Kagamuga, Holy Trinity, Kotna	Partnership and coordination
13	Baptist Union	Outreach, volunteers and peer educators	Key populations	Partnership and coordination
14	PSI		G4S/ Guard Dog Trans Wonderland,	Partnership and coordination

			Traisa, Mapai, IPI	
15	Paul Charity Care Centre			
16	Red Cross		Distribute condoms/ general awareness	
17	Provincial AIDS Committee			Partnership and Coordination
Clinical Services				
1	Tinginga STI/ HIV Clinic		STI, VCT	Referrals
2	Rebiamul VCT – Catholic HIV Offices		VCT	Referrals
3	Susu Mamas Clinic			Referrals
4	Anglicare VCT		VCT	Referrals
5	Marie Stopes			Referrals
6	Provincial Health – Disease Control Officer			Referrals

TL Workforce and Structure

TL engages a variety of workforce types to deliver a broader range of interventions. The workforce in each project location is selected to best suit the target population and type of intervention in that proposed for that environment.

- Volunteers – two volunteer working groups, each with eight volunteers recruited primarily from women engaged in sex work in two main locations TL will be targeting in Mt. Hagen. Volunteers will conduct peer-led prevention and care interventions throughout the Mt. Hagen Environment. The main role of volunteers is to conduct peer education outreach that: increases knowledge and understanding of HIV, STIs, SRH; increases male and female condom use; increases uptake of STI And VCT services; increases ART and ART adherence support for key populations living with HIV.
- Condom Distribution Points – Select buai/ other sellers or kaibar owners trained as condom distributors. These sellers are strategically positioned in spots where sexual negotiation and exchange is known to happen. They will be recognizable by TL yellow umbrella/ flag. Sellers/ owners will distribute condoms; provide information and referrals to other services. They will be monitored and supported on a weekly basis by Project Officers or Field Officers. Suggested locations include:
 - Forest
 - Daewon wholesale
 - Essar Compound Gate
 - Kaiwe Market x 3
 - Rabiamul Junction
 - Keltiga Guesthouse
 - Stand Bomb
 - Farmset
 - Ela Police Barracks

- Home and Away Guesthouse
- Brick House
- DCA Gate at airport
- Power station
- Hagen Park Junction
- Saris T-school
- Parga service station
- Tega truckers compound
- Mondo Gate Plaza
- Kolokai buai market
- Field Officers: TL will engage 5 field officers as follows:
 - FO WES Guesthouse and condom monitoring (MMS)
 - FO WES Guesthouse and condom monitoring (Town)
 - FO MMM (Kaiwe to Town)
 - FO MMM (Town to Airport)
 - FO Clinic based expert

