

# Daru Environment

## Western Province

### Last update: April 2015



#### Overview

Daru is the provincial capital of Western Province. It is a small island (approximately 2.5km x 2.5 km) off the south coast of Western province and just south of the mouth of the Fly River. It is home to approximately 20,000 people, roughly 85% of who are youth, although there are tremendous fluctuations in population. Although Daru is still considered the provincial capital, the majority of provincial administration has been relocated to Kiunga, including the Provincial Administrator and Treasury and Planning departments. Health, Education and Community Development departments are still located in Daru. There are four urban LLG Wards on Daru Island namely Karawara, Tamale, Air and Darowaro. The common spoken languages are English and Kiwai.

Daru airstrip runs roughly from east to west across the middle of the island. South of the airstrip is commonly referred to as 'Texas'. The Provincial Health Office is located here, as well as a number of schools - 4 primary schools, 1 secondary school and 1 vocational school and churches.

Two parallel roads travel north from the airstrip into town – approximately 25 minutes walk. Shops and services are located along these two main streets, with bank, post office, fuel depot, market and wharf located at the northern most part of the island.

For the most part, Daru residents live in settlements – 'corners' – that are named after villages on the mainland. In this way, people from the mainland can easily locate their wantoks and find support and safety. Settlements are densely populated and overcrowded. It is common for three, four or five families to live in one dwelling. Access to food and water are daily challenges for many residents. Not all dwellings have access to a water supply however water can be accessed through town water supply taps that are shared in the settlements. Water is often only available for a few hours in the morning and again for a few hours in the evening. Electricity is available through town supply when bills have been paid. Easipay has not yet been installed but it is rumoured to be coming. The majority of settlements are located on the west side of the island.

In addition to the settlements, there is also a 'tent city' located at the north end of town at the entrance to Frog Town. Visitors who have no place to stay on the island live in semi-permanent tents that have been put up along approximately 100m stretch of coast across from the wharf. Individuals and whole families live in these tents until such time their business in the capital is complete and they have money to return home- it is worth noting that some 'tent city' dwellers have been there for more than a year. People also reside on their canoes near the wharf. Tides are quite high in the area, and when the tide is out the canoes sit on the sea floor, which is littered with rubbish and human waste.

The majority of residents are unemployed. There are very few formal employment opportunities on the island and most people rely on compensation payments or informal means of cash income – which include selling fish or exchanging sex.

Food security is a major concern on the island. With the majority of land occupied, there is little space for gardens. Much of the island is mangrove and swamp. Very little is grown on the island and store-bought food is very expensive. Many women turn to sex exchange to provide for their families.

Cost of living in general is very high. Fuel is incredibly expensive (K6.00/L) and affects mobility and costs of goods and services. Frequently distances are measured in 'litres' (of fuel) rather than km or time to get there.

There is tremendous movement of people on and off the island for a variety of reasons:

- Relocation – some people have relocated to Daru permanently because of environmental damage to their villages
- Marketing – many people travel to Daru to sell their goods in the market – fruit, vegetables, fish, venison, pandanus leaves and so on. People will travel for the day, or may stay for a few days or longer with wantoks. Once they have a bit of cash, it is common for people to have a few drinks and then look for sex.
- Services – many people travel to access medical, educational and other government services. They may stay for a day, month or years depending on their needs.
- General Compensation – based on the 8<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Agreement, is paid to the leaders of clans who have suffered environmental impact from the Ok Tedi mining operations. Only one member of a clan/ family needs to be present to collect the payment. Payments are made directly to BSP and micro bank accounts and are around K200 per person.
- Compensation – Based on the 9<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Agreement, is paid in September – October each year. When payments are made all landowners, (men and women) are required to be present, although this money is also transferred into the bank account of the family head. These payments are also around K200 per person. People travel to Daru for 2 – 3 weeks, during which time they collect their payments, drink and have a good time. Although alcohol is banned during this period, there is still a lot of drinking (black market beer, home brew) and partying. Increased sexual activity without condom use during this time is confirmed by the hospital's labour ward experiencing a significant increase in monthly birth rate nine months after the most recent compensation week – 80/month, up from usual 30/month.
- *Buai* traders – people travel from Gulf Province (daily), POM, Wewak and the Highlands to sell *buai* in Daru. The main *buai* market is in town, a half-block from the post office.
- Government meetings – As the Provincial capital, Daru hosts an array of government meetings. Quarterly the Provincial Assembly meets prior to the sitting of the National Parliament. Provincial Executive Council meetings alternate quarterly

between Daru and Kiunga, as do gatherings of the Provincial Management Team. Government officers are a consistent set of clients for WES.

- Shipping— Steamships shipping regularly send cargo to Daru, about once/month. Consort shipping sends vessels irregularly based on hire, often by contractors. Cargo ships comprise one segment of clients for WES. Funded by the PNGSDP, the single passenger ship, the *Fly Hope*, makes a monthly circuit from Kiunga to Daru.
- Sea Cucumber – Beginning in the late 1980s Indonesian buyers promoted the collection and preparation of beche de mer (sea cucumber) to meet the demands of the Chinese market. It happens year round and was the basis for people settling on the beach area that has become the Frogtown settlement. While currently banned for a second 3-year period, collection of this specialty continues illegally: Indonesian buyers were in a neighbouring village during TL’s visit to Daru. Sellers may make up a small portion of WES clients.
- Contractors – Based on infrastructure development projects, construction and engineering companies bring in workers who also make up another segment of WES clients, often paid on the fortnight alternating with the government fortnight. Such projects have included the extension of the main wharf, the airport terminal renovation and the hospital’s new or renovated TB wards.

The proximity to two international borders adds an interesting dimension to life in Daru. From Daru it can be only 2 – 3 hour dinghy ride to the Australian border. There is a traditional treaty in place between Australia and Papua New Guinea so that people living along the border can receive diplomatic permission (as traditional border crossers) to move between the two countries easily. Many people in Daru are related to Torres Straits Islanders, and TL had the impression that many in Daru feel they have more in common with TSI than with other parts of Papua New Guinea. Due to increased levels of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, this situation is changing and the border may be getting tighter, although drug resistance may be caused by poor adherence within PNG

In contrast, the proximity to the Indonesian border has little impact given the expense of getting to the border. This might change once construction of the deep-water wharf commences.

There is a lot of development going on in the area. All of this has the potential to add to overcrowding and strain on existing services. It is also likely to increase cash flow and movement of people into the area.

- Logging in the Middle Fly
- Deepwater wharf off of Bristow Island (to the south of Daru)
- Shipping – regular passenger and goods shipping

### **Environment of Risk**

In addition to high mobility and industry in the area, TL observed a general attitude of promiscuity and openness around sexuality and sexual activity. In fact, Daru was described as “The Island of Love and Divorce,” reflecting the impact of this behaviour on marriage. High levels of alcohol and marijuana use are also reported.

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.

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.

### *'Island of love and divorce'*

Key locations (*note: due to confidentiality, private residences are not named*):

TL identified four broad categories of areas where transactional sex takes place: government houses and buildings; private residences, where owners draw on family and neighbourhood networks to provide food, alcohol and women to paying clients; hotels; and, public spaces.

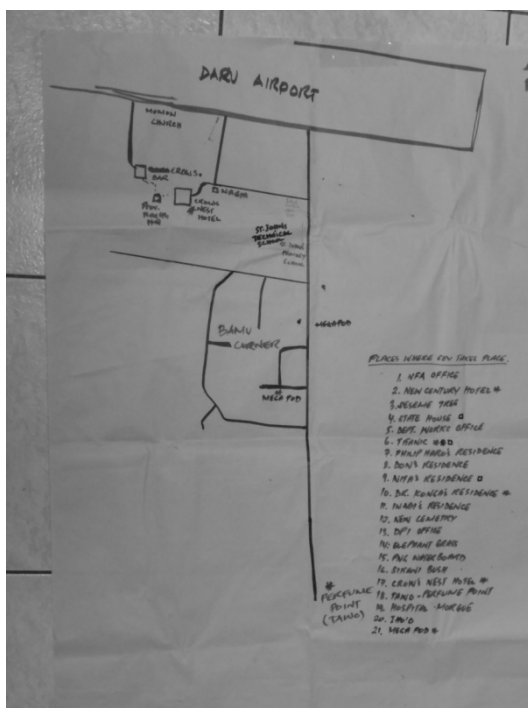
- National Fisheries Authority buildings: Government owned buildings situated on Daru wharf. It is a dark place at night and used as location to have sex by women exchanging sex, crews of cargo ships, local fishermen and others. Especially active when ships are docked and it is not considered to be a very safe spot late at night.
- Sesame Tree: This is a ficus tree that is a popular pick-up spot in town next to the New Century Hotel. Women exchanging sex hang around the tree and hotel guests or people in vehicles pick up the women. It is popular between 6pm and 8pm.
- New Century: Located in the centre of town, the hotel offers accommodation as well as a bar. It has a large civil servant clientele (approximately 80%) who travel frequently to Daru on duty travel such as quarterly government meetings. Women exchanging sex often seek clients here. The bar operates between 10am and 8pm but will stay open until midnight if busy.
- State House: This is the old governor's house, located just east of the wharf. Now there are a number of families living there and it is very run down. Many women who exchange sex stay there and it is also popular for gambling. It is popular with civil servants, cargo ship crews and local people with money. It is frequented at any time of the day or night, and women are always available there.
- Hospital Morgue: 'let's go look for firewood' is the phrase TL was told locals use when setting up meeting in the bush behind the hospital morgue area
- Private residences: Many also operate as beer stores. Guestrooms are available. Popular with civil servants, contract workers and other residents of Daru as well as

women in sex work. They are often available 7 days a week and will accept guests until late in the night. Owners will often connect guests with women exchanging sex.

- DPI – run down government building where people go to drink and have sex
- Department of Works Office: Located in front of the WPAC. The officer leases office rooms for sex to civil servants, male residents and women who exchange sex. It is popular on working days.
- Sikani bush, Iho’o, Bomana, New Cemetery – people with vehicles – go to drink and have sex on weekends and afternoons during working days, in particular pay week.
- Crow’s Nest Hotel: Located out of town, on the south side of the airport. This is a hotel that offers guestrooms, bar and regular darts games every Saturday. It is popular with civil servants, duty travellers, dart players and women who exchange sex.
- Perfume point – dump (rubbish tip) – a few people have houses there; nearby is a place where people go to park cars and drink



Map, showing Daru town from wharf to airport



Map, showing area south of airport, "Texas"

## Key Populations

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

### Women exchanging sex:

- Younger unmarried women 14 – 20 years (who are sometimes pimped by relatives including parents) – hang around as a group – they have regular boyfriends – spend days playing Bingo and other games – found through existing informal networks. Young girls have much higher STI rates (confirmed by STI clinic).
- Single mothers – living with relatives – 18 – 40 years – in similar manner and connections being made through houses
- Young WES, ages not specified, who cater for senior public servants and others who can afford K200+ fees

### Clients:

- Civil servants: provincial and national officers – regular salary payments – hotels
- Local fishermen – regular payments depending on sales
- Crews of cargo ships (seafarers)
- Landowners (especially when receiving compensation; also sellers of beche de mer and crocodile skins, although neither of these groups is seen as significant)
- Contract workers, generally of infrastructure projects

### PLHIV:

- *Meto*, "Friends", local PLHIV network formed during TL visit (May 2013)

- Much stigma is attached to being HIV+; once on ART, PLHIV living in remote areas have a better record of adherence than those living in Daru

MSM:

- There are now four MSMs who regularly visit the TL office. It is expected that this number will increase in the next 12 months.

### Gatekeepers

TL uses “gatekeepers” to mean *people who control or affect access to sexual networks*. In Daru, 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 Daru Environment:

- Drivers – (private, hotel, company and government drivers): Pick up and drop off women in sex work to the clients in the hotels. People also hire private vehicles as taxis to go for a drink, collect women and take them to public spaces, private residences or hotels. Government office drivers are known to take girls and beer to hideouts during weekday lunch and on weekends. It is reported that they receive cash from clients. Drivers also connect passengers with marijuana, steam and black market alcohol.
- Hotel Staff: Act as pimps and can arrange women for clients. They also receive cash from the men, and sometimes from the women to make these arrangements. These also connect customers with marijuana, steam and black market beer.
- Security guards – private and company: Act as pimps and can arrange women for men who ask. They also receive cash from clients and sometimes from women to make these arrangements. Similar role in making connections for illegal substances, as above.
- Young men - acting as security and pimps (15 – 20 years age) for WES, escorting them to the water front and to hotels; similar role in making connections for illegal substances, as above; sometimes paid in food or beer
- Owners (male/female) of private residences. The owner gets the clients, and the client brings beer and food to share with the family, so there is a relationship between client and owner. The owner introduces the women to the clients, who can be one-off or regulars. Clients are generally local men (public servants, fishermen, crocodile skin sellers). Owners also have role in making connections for illegal substances, as above.
- Husbands who sell their wives, and other family members who pimp a female family member (such as parents pimping daughters).

## 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	Meto (newly formed local PLHIV network)	PLHIV	(plans to provide) support and advocacy	TL could assist in training; possibility of KAP volunteers who are HIV+
2	Police	General Population	--	Could be sensitised, trained on human rights and advocacy
3	Provincial AIDS Committee	General Population	Coordinating Body One Training for PLHIV Assisting set-up of PLHIV network	Important to ensure strong relationships Maintain good relations
4	Provincial Health Office	General Population	(more information needed)	Important to ensure strong relationships
5	United Church Social Concerns Desk	General Population	Pilot: Community Conversation trainings at Tureture in relation to community issues, and TB/HIV, and stigma and discrimination re PLHIV	Possibility of providing KAP sensitivity or other trainings for CC volunteers
<i>Clinical services</i>				
	Name	Works with	Provides	Opportunity
7	Himara Kigiro ("Our Life") Clinic	General Population, PLHIV	STI and HIV services STI (syndromic management) ANC referrals – PPTCT PICT – medical wards PEP – instant PICT Paediatric care (EID) ART	TL could help create demand for existing services Establish referral pathways Support adherence
8	TB Ward/World Vision	General Population PLHIV	Provides clinical and treatment monitoring and support Community outreach workers conducts awareness on TB Clinical referrals	Possibility of providing HIV, KAP sensitivity or other trainings for community based 'observers' and medicine dispensers.

## TL Workforce and Structure

The TL workforce in Daru reflects the target population and type of intervention proposed for that environment.

- Volunteers:
  - WES: TL will support a group of 8 women who exchange sex as volunteers. They will be trained in knowledge and skills and supported through a small grants program to deliver outreach programs to their peers. Through this outreach program, peers will learn about HIV, STIs and SRH and linkages will be strengthened with clinical and other service providers.



- MSM: TL will support a group of 8 MSM as volunteers. They will be trained in knowledge and skills and supported through a small grants program to deliver outreach programs to their peers. Through this outreach program, peers will learn about HIV, STIs and SRH and linkages will be strengthened with clinical and other service providers.
- PLHIV: TL will support and strengthen the outreach work of an existing PLHIV support group, Meto. PLHIVs will be trained to conduct relevant care and treatment activities to their peers.
- Field Officers
  - FO WES: Field officer will be responsible for identifying key women to form a committee and will provide leadership and guidance to the volunteer committee.
  - FO MSM: Field officer will be responsible for identifying key MSM to form a committee and will provide leadership and guidance to the volunteer committee.
- Condom Distributors/ Refill Points (10): Buai sellers or other small traders at strategic locations will be selected and trained in condom demonstration and distribution. Sellers primarily demonstrate and distribute condoms but this is expected to include service promotion over the next 12 months. Suggested locations:
  - Opposite New Century Hotel Gate at the waterfront next to May Fuel
  - Church Hill by the State House
  - Junction – near Kuki Hotel, SE corner facing Gaima Corner
  - Rabis Compound
  - Night Market (HG Store) – at top end of Titanic, opposite Works CompoundTrain Compound
  - Cameron Street
  - 42 Kona