
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 November 2016

Oil Search and Kikori Hospital successfully help TB patients' complete treatment.

KIKORI, GULF PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Kikori Hospital in Gulf Province has recorded 100% of patients completing tuberculous (TB) intensive treatment following an Oil Search-led food drive and ongoing support for improved nutrition.

Gulf province is one of Papua New Guinea's three TB hotspots and the Kikori hospital has a high rate of TB patient admissions. Due to budget cuts, providing daily meals has been challenging for the Hospital. Until recently, many of the patients stopped treatment in search of food. Patients ceasing treatment too early risk spreading TB and also developing the multidrug-resistant strain of the disease.

Oil Search and the Oil Search Foundation helped to address the situation with an employee-driven collection of food items recommended by the World Health Organisation.

In 2015, Kikori hospital recorded 330 new TB cases with 87 patients leaving treatment. From January to September this year, 160 new cases were registered with zero patients leaving treatment after the food drive.

Ladi Kalama the clinical supervisor at the Hospital said this was an incredible outcome.

"What we are seeing is the result of a strong and effective working partnership between the Hospital and especially Oil Search and the Oil Search Foundation for identifying this need and helping us address it," he said.

The food drive received overwhelming support from many organisations and individuals. Initial food donations included 190 kilograms of rice, 7 cartons of noodles, 6 boxes of biscuits, 7 cartons of tinned food, 5 litres of cooking oil and 70 packs of laundry detergent.

The Oil Search Foundation continues to support the hospital with ongoing food supplementation and is working with local women's groups to provide food at a low cost for patients to prepare themselves. This not only helps TB patients but also provides income generation opportunities for Kikori women.

Oil Search Foundation's Head of Health, Ingrid Glastonbury described the outcome as a 'real win' against the growing threat of TB in Gulf province.

"Reducing the burden of TB in the Gulf and PNG is a serious concern and while there's still a lot of work to be done, we're thankful to everyone who has helped contribute to this fantastic outcome."

###

Media contact

Ruth Waram
PNG Communications Manager
Oil Search
Mob: +675 7190 6078
ruth.waram@oilsearch.com

Joshua Kais
Public Relations Advisor
Oil Search Foundation
Mob: +675 76771652
joshua.kais@oilsearch.com

Photo



Caption

Oil Search Foundation Kutubu-Kikori Field Supervisor, Chrisbourne Taput officially handing over the initial food-drive donations to Mr. Kaipu, Kikori Rural Hospital Administrator earlier this year witnessed by (R-L), Sr. Mefaramu, Sr. Kaipu and Clement Kumaru.

About Oil Search

Oil Search was established in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1929. More than 98% of its assets are in

About the Oil Search Foundation

The Oil Search Foundation is a development partner in Papua New Guinea delivering signature

PNG, where it operates all of the country's producing oil fields, holds an extensive appraisal and exploration portfolio and has a 29% interest in the PNG LNG Project, operated by ExxonMobil PNG Limited. This world-class liquefied natural gas (LNG) development, which came on-stream in 2014, has transformed Oil Search into a regionally significant oil and gas producer with a long-term, low cost, high quality LNG revenue stream. The Company also holds a 23% interest in the proposed Papua LNG Project, operated by Total, which has the potential to become PNG's next major LNG development. Oil Search is listed on the Australian and Port Moresby stock exchanges (OSH) and its ADRs trade on the US Over the Counter market (OISHY).

programmes and grant management solutions to support the national development agenda in the areas of health, leadership and education, and women's protection and empowerment. Established and principally supported by Oil Search, the Oil Search Foundation has a comparative advantage working in the Papua New Guinea Highlands and Gulf region. As a development partner, the Oil Search Foundation concentrates on building partner capacity to deliver services, directing the country's resources towards national priorities that are most beneficial to communities, and engaging with stakeholders at all levels to support Papua New Guinea achieve its own development goals.