



What ethnography can reveal: Findings from sexual health research in Papua New Guinea

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GBV and Sexual Violence Intervention Evaluation - Southern Bougainville

History of conflict

- Japanese invasion in the Second World War,
- Bougainville Civil War (1988-1998).



The Family Health and Safety Study -

UN Multi Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific found:

- 85% men had perpetrated physical, sexual or frequent emotional or economic violence against a partner
- 40% men raped a woman who was not their partner
- 75% women experienced physical, sexual or frequent emotional or economic violence
- 15% women had been a victim of non-partner rape

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We could

- Ask different questions
- Draw on different ways of knowing / communicating
- Use different methodologies
- Allow for impacts/outcomes/answers you cannot predict in traditional evaluations
- Engage people
- Look, learn and know differently



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UNSW
KESERVE

PREDICTABLE OUTCOMES - Reduced family and sexual violence

"I heard that if a woman refuses to have sex but her husband forces her to have it, it is rape. For me this was the first time I heard that."

- Evelyn, in-depth interview, District 2

"Men used to say, 'you have no rights,' and chase us. But now they know that we have rights. I didn't understand about rights and didn't know where to seek help. Now I know where to go if my husband beats me. I can go to the police or the Safe House."

- Female participant, FGD, District 1

“Before, the men never helped their wives to fetch water or carry babies, and saw those as ‘wok bilong meri’ (women’s work). But now they do these simple chores to help their wives. Couples are sharing.

- Anton, in-depth interview, District 1

“We men used women as our slaves and we thought of ourselves as being superior and not needing to do any work. Before, men were the boss and women were underneath us. But now we understand that we are equal.”

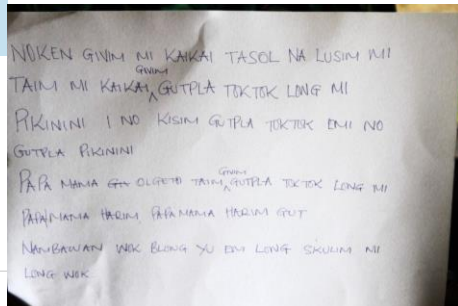
- Male participant, FGD, District 1

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UNPREDICTABL OUTCOME - Parenting

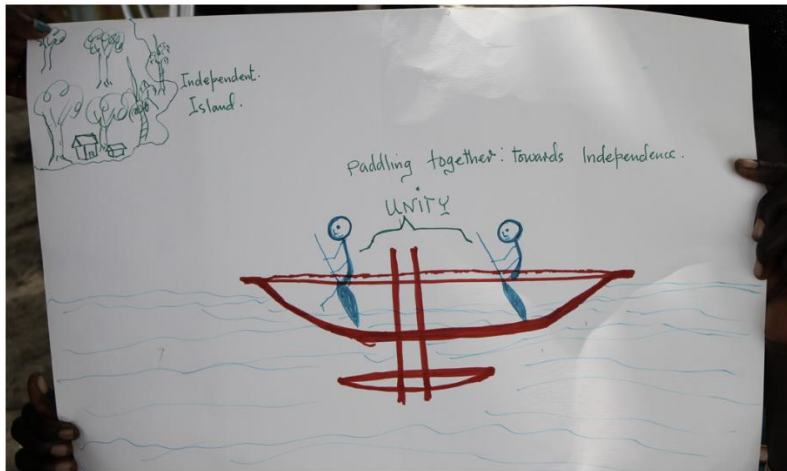
Violence between a husband and wife

Mother you come
 Father you come
 Mother you forced me to marry
 Father you forced me to marry
 He married me and now he fights me all the time
 Return the traditional shell money she says
 Return the money
 Remove my tears
 Wipe away my blood



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UNPREDICTABLE OUTCOME _ Reconciliation, community cohesion and nationhood



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So for me...

You can hear the story behind the numbers

Even when the changes are not statistically significant you start to hear and witness the momentum that is being created

It is important to contextualize any numerically driven approaches.

It allows for unforeseen and unexpected changes and impacts to be documented that could not be envisaged prior to the design of the intervention

It is also an approach that is far more participatory

Values the insights, opinions and perspectives of all involved, often already marginalized

