

Pacific Women Final Report for Implementing Partners

This report provides the opportunity for each Pacific Women implementing partner to provide an activity update on outputs, major achievements, challenges and gaps over a six-month reporting period. It also provides the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Pacific Women Support Unit with an assessment of progress towards project outcomes and contributes to Pacific Women six-monthly reporting processes.

1.0 Context/situational update – for this reporting period

1.1 Have there been any changes (positive and/or negative) to your project's operating environment (e.g. country context, gender policy-related developments, etc.)?

If so, please provide details.

Various political changes, health issues and social movements in Papua New Guinea (PNG) affected the operation of the Komuniti Lukautim Oi Meri Project Phase III (KLOM III or the project). In 2019, the new Prime Minister James Marape and new Minister for Police Bryan Kramer showed a renewed energy in addressing gender-based violence (GBV). The new government led to changes in administrative functions. These changes included the creation of the Social, Law and Order and Health Sectorial Committee, which coordinated all efforts from its covered sectors for better coordination in addressing critical issues at the national level. The Department of National Planning and Monitoring also spearheaded the Voluntary National Review Committee. Comprised of nongovernmental organisations and development partners (including FHI 360), the committee would help PNG achieve its sustainable development goals.

The *National Demographic Health Survey 2016–2018* was released in November 2019. It was the first-ever survey that captured vital data on domestic violence and women's empowerment in PNG. The survey revealed that women with higher education experience higher cases of spousal violence than those with elementary education.

In 2020, the world halted as it faced a global health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic put PNG in a state of emergency, and travel restrictions affected KLOM III's GBV response. As a result, the project could not implement outreach awareness on violence prevention through community engagement — a critical part of KLOM III's social-ecological model. The pandemic limited GBV and family sexual violence (FSV) services in family support centres (FSCs) and hospitals. The closure of schools also paused KLOM III's establishment of the Safe Schools Club; however, the club continued after schools reopened in June 2020. Christian and catholic health service partners were closed but reopened in late 2020 after the government released their funding.

While physical movement was restricted, an online movement against GBV was brewing. The uproar started when images and videos showing violence against women in PNG surfaced online. The posts caught global attention and triggered a nationwide people's protest to end domestic violence.

In August 2020, the country was preparing to shift to a "new normal" through the National Pandemic Act of 2020. The ease in restrictions enabled the project to revisit work plans and redesign an implementation strategy. However, these changes were short-lived as a COVID-19 surge took place in 2021.

Government-imposed travel and physical restrictions impeded KLOM III's plan of reengaging with provincial stakeholders. As a result, FHI 360 shifted to a remote work set-up and limited the number of staff in its country office in Port Moresby. Travels and community-based activities were also suspended. When travel restrictions eased, FHI 360 organised a strategic meeting to develop an integrated work plan to implement all projects funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

With the emergence of COVID-19's Delta variant, PNG experienced another COVID-19 surge that impacted KLOM III. Community-based activities in project locations were cancelled, scaled down or significantly delayed. Travel plans to project sites were also disrupted. The endline survey was one of the main activities affected by the surge. FHI 360 returned to working remotely after some staff members tested positive for COVID-19. FHI 360 also developed a COVID-19 standard operating procedure, shared with other partners and offices for adoption and adaptation.

Despite restrictions, avenues for learning and exchange of knowledge among Pacific Women partners within and outside PNG continued. One of these is the Annual Learning Forum hosted by the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program in August 2021.

The project also achieved two milestones on 8 December 2021:

- The launch of PNG's first Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Clinical Practice Guidelines to guide health care workers in providing quality post-GBV services to survivors of violence
- The launch of the National GBV website (www.ngbvs.gov.pg) — managed by the National GBV Secretariat, a body mandated to steer the implementation of the National GBV Strategy (2016–2025) — and the signing

of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) among UNDP, the FSV Action Committee, and the Department of Community Development and Religion to strengthen actions and advocacy on key development challenges such as FSV

The Special Parliamentary Committee on GBV's public inquiry in May 2021 — which included the participation of nongovernmental organisations, civil society partners and government agencies — signalled government actors to be more accountable in supporting GBV interventions. On December 30, committee chairman Charles Able urged provincial governments to establish GBV secretariats to support local initiatives addressing violence. His pronouncement occurred a day after women leaders condemned two "barbaric" acts of violence against women in the Southern Highlands and Enga provinces due to accusations of sorcery. National Central District Governor Powes Parkop supported Able's call, encouraging provinces to adopt the committee's key recommendations from its public inquiry.

1.2 Have there been any changes (positive and/or negative) in your organisation's capacity and resourcing to deliver the project (e.g. staff, funds, equipment, etc.)?

If so, please provide details.

Staff

From 2018 to 2021, the project experienced multiple changes in key management roles. Former Project Director Dr Pamela Kamya voluntarily disengaged from FHI 360 by the end of March 2021, resulting in a temporary gap in the leadership of the three DFAT-funded projects. KLOM III's project director is vital because she oversees the overall program management for DFAT projects implemented by FHI 360 and reports directly to the country representative. A new project director, Donald Kanini, joined on June 7 2021. Before his recruitment, Country Representative Dr Ignatius Mogaba covered for the project director position.

Other notable recruitments include a nursing officer to collect GBV data for FHI 360 and its implementing agencies, a gender consultant to conduct gender sensitisation training and a full-time monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officer. The latter's departure in the first half of 2021 meant seeking an M&E consultant to support field activities across DFAT-funded programs. FHI 360 extended support for the project throughout these changes to ensure a smooth transition.

KLOM III promoted all of its associate project officers to project officers for better management of field sites. These project officers managed all field sites with an increased scope of work to cater for additional administrative and technical functions.

KLOM III also opened to provincial governments the possibility of its staff members transitioning to gender officers as the project's in-kind grant arrangements covered their salaries. However, the staff needed further training (in computer literacy, data management and report writing) for the transition.

Funding

In 2019, the project raised a need for an in-kind grand arrangement with East Sepik Province's (ESP) government. The agreement would help build the capacity of community development and health staff to sustain the project's impact in the province. It was formalised a year later.

DFAT allocated funds to FHI 360 in 2020 to increase support for FSCs in the country, ensuring they remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project focused on conducting a government-approved preliminary assessment of proposed locations and prepared concept notes with proposed activities and budget.

Due to the low expenditure rate because of multiple COVID-19 surges and staff transitions, the project recorded some underspending but received an additional AUD 300,000 to extend its work. Pacific Women then granted a no-cost extension on KLOM III's performance period until December 31 2021. This extension allowed the program team to complete data collection for the endline survey, establish the Distributor Agent Model (DAM) and implement other activities disrupted by COVID-19.

Equipment

KLOM purchased and upgraded various technical equipment for project sites to ensure clear communication, high-quality documentation and timely data submission. The equipment included MiFi modems with data plans, laptops, cameras and hard drives. Project vehicles were also maintained regularly.

The project procured information and communication technologies (ICT) support and laptops for new staff and field offices to enable remote work during the pandemic. KLOM III also implemented new operation strategies.

As part of the project's transition to the "new normal," the staff were given adequate personal protective equipment to safely engage in essential physical and face-to-face events. They also received ICT support (i.e., laptops, internet data bundles and call credits) to work remotely when necessary.

Project sites

FHI 360 relocated KLOM to Nuku District after operating in Vanimo Green for six years to decentralise services to locations where GBV prevention and response are not available. Subsequently, FHI 360 demobilised its support staff at the Vanimo General Hospital FSC and the Vanimo community mobilisers (CMs). Its partnership with West Sepik Provincial Administration continued through the Community Development Division.

FHI 360 also conducted the first stakeholders' meeting in Nuku District in April 2019. Stakeholders participated in identifying key challenges in GBV in the province. Using participatory mapping, the stakeholders mapped the local government areas into 14 zones to maximise program implementation and effectiveness and proposed 28 representatives from the existing district development group. The district oversaw the project implementation while the District Council of Women provided full support. A month after, KLOM III and Kisim Femili's projects in Maprik District were launched.

One of KLOM III's achievements in Western Highlands Province (WHP) was signing the new subcontract with the provincial administration, which enabled FHI 360 to work closely with the Community Development Division in the province to strengthen and spearhead KLOM III's prevention interventions, data collection, recording and reporting.

1.3a What are your project's key achievements for this reporting period?

You can list these as bullet points.

Objective 1: Prevention

KLOM reached 130,070 individuals through various forms of GBV interventions from 2018 to 2021. CMs reached a total of 70,071 individuals in WHP (35,606 men and 34,465 women) and a total of 59,999 individuals in West Sepik Province (WSP) (29,255 men and 30,744 women).

The project's community outreach prevention interventions decreased in 2020 and 2021 due to government restrictions on large community engagements to prevent the spread of COVID-19. KLOM's outreach strategy shifted to home visits; one-on-one discussions; community discussions; distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials; and action group discussions.

As the project approached its original end date of March 31 2021, CMs' contracts were terminated, and activities declined significantly. The COVID-19 surge delayed CMs' contract renewal. These developments hindered prevention and outreach activities in WSP, but the impact was less in WHP, where CMs maintain a zeal to continue outreach activities.

Table 1.3.1: Total prevention outreach in WSP and WHP (2018–2021)

Year	Sex	Location		Total
		WHP	WSP	
2018	Male	11,830	10,457	22,287
	Female	11,842	10,958	22,800
	Total	23,672	21,415	45,087
2019	Male	9,336	6,323	15,659
	Female	8,531	6,860	15,391
	Total	17,867	13,183	31,050
2020	Male	8,024	10,304	18,328
	Female	8,090	10,897	18,987
	Total	16,114	21,201	37,315
2021	Male	6,416	2,171	8,587
	Female	6,002	2,029	8,031
	Total	12,418	4,200	16,618
Total	Male	35,606	29,255	64,861

	Female	34,465	30,744	65,209
	Total	70,071	59,999	130,070

The outreach prevention intervention in WHP covered three districts (Dei, Mount Hagen town and Tambul Nebilyer), four local-level governments (LLGs) and 14 wards, which comprise seven intervention communities. Each community has two CMs, one female and one male.

Most of the individuals reached through one-on-one visits were between 19 and 49 years old, comprising more women than men. Home visits target families as a group. Consequently, the age group reached was spread among different age categories. CMs reached individuals in group discussions and community discussions, with the majority of those ranging between the ages of 15 and 49. Group and community discussions reached more men than women.

In 2020 and 2021, the project launched a monthly local radio program to raise awareness of harmful gender norms and support prevention messages. The program also focused on distributing COVID-19 safety messages in preparation for further community engagement.

Table 1.3.2: Prevention outreach in WHP by gender and type of intervention (2018–2021)

Types of intervention	Sex	Number of individuals reached per year				Total
		2018	2019	2020	2021	
Home visits	Male	2,730	2,718	2,395	1,428	9,271
	Female	2,743	2,704	2,384	1,342	9,173
	Total	5,473	5,422	4,779	2,770	18,444
One-on-one discussions	Male	1,524	1,658	1,162	1,063	5,407
	Female	1,121	948	1,249	1,069	4,387
	Total	2,645	2,606	2,411	2,132	9,794
Group discussions	Male	2,093	2,423	1,957	1,159	7,632
	Female	2,226	2,409	2,047	1,169	7,851
	Total	4,319	4,832	4,004	2,328	15,483
Community discussions	Male	4,375	2,405	2,299	1,650	10,729
	Female	4,744	2,364	2,194	1,327	10,629
	Total	9,119	4,769	4,493	2,977	21,358
IEC materials	Male	712	0	40	721	1,473
	Female	700	0	47	689	1,436
	Total	1,412	0	87	1,410	2,909
Action group discussions	Male	396	132	171	395	1,094
	Female	308	106	169	406	989
	Total	704	238	340	801	2,083
Total	Male	11,830	9,336	8,024	6,416	35,606
	Female	11,842	8,531	8,090	6,002	34,465
	Total	23,672	17,867	16,114	12,418	70,071

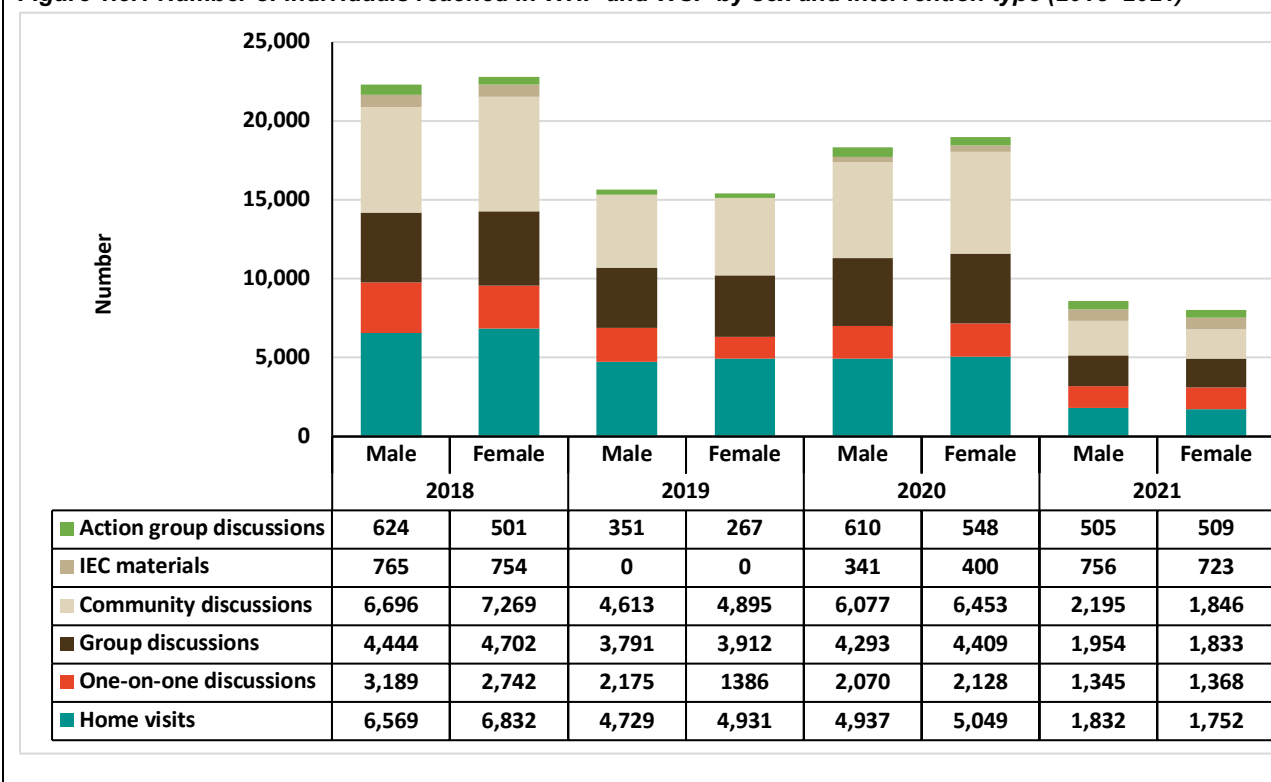
The outreach prevention in WSP covered two districts (Aitape-Lumi and Vanimo Green), four LLGs and 13 wards, which comprise 12 communities. In each community, there are two CMs: one female and one male. Most of the individuals reached in WSP were women over the age of 18. Home visits, group discussions and community discussions were used to reach individuals under 18.

In 2020 and 2021, the project launched a monthly local radio program to raise awareness of harmful gender norms and support prevention messages. The program also focused on distributing COVID-19 safety messages in preparation for further community engagement.

Table 1.3.3: Prevention outreach in WSP by gender and type of intervention (2018–2021)

Types of intervention	Sex	Number of individuals reached per year				Total
		2018	2019	2020	2021	
Home visits	Male	3,839	2,011	2,542	404	8,796
	Female	4,089	2,227	2,665	410	9,391
	Total	7,928	4,238	5,207	814	18,187
One-on-one discussions	Male	1,665	517	908	282	3,372
	Female	1,621	438	879	299	3,237
	Total	3,286	955	1,787	581	6,609
Group discussions	Male	2,351	1,368	2,336	795	6,850
	Female	2,476	1,503	2,362	664	7,005
	Total	4,827	2,871	4,698	1,459	13,855
Community discussions	Male	2,321	2,208	3,778	545	8,852
	Female	2,525	2,531	4,259	519	9,834
	Total	4,846	4,739	8,037	1,064	18,686
IEC materials	Male	53	0	301	35	389
	Female	54	0	353	34	441
	Total	107	0	654	69	830
Action group discussions	Male	228	219	439	110	996
	Female	193	161	379	103	836
	Total	421	380	818	213	1,832
Total	Male	10,457	6,323	10,304	2,171	29,255
	Female	10,958	6,860	10,897	2,029	30,744
	Total	21,415	13,183	21,201	4,200	59,999

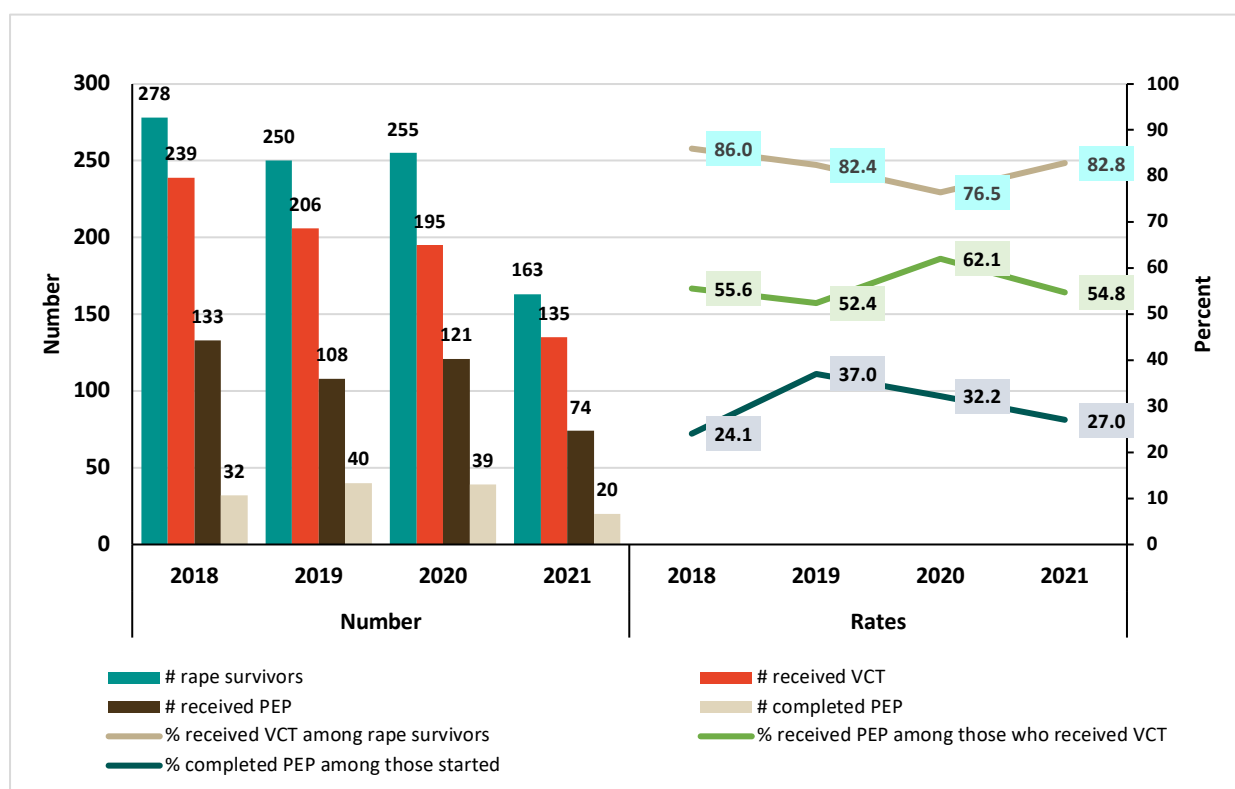
Figure 1.3.1 Number of individuals reached in WHP and WSP by sex and intervention type (2018–2021)



Objective 2: Response

Post-GBV service delivery increased from 2018 to 2019 but decreased in 2020 and 2021 mainly due to (1) COVID-19 restrictions and scale-down of health service delivery at clinics and hospitals and (2) decreased commitment to documentation and lack of access to clinic data leading to gross under-reporting during the extension period. A summary of referral cases in the project areas from 2018 to 2021 is presented below.

The three project sites in ESP, WHP and WSP provided GBV services to 2,110 GBV survivors, including 1,839 women and 271 men, from 2018 to 2021. As the project was approaching its end date in 2021, FHI 360 could not renew its subagreement with the PHAs; hence, the FSCs in Aitape were not obliged to share clinic statistics with KLOM III for 2021. Of the cases seen and recorded, rape (47.3 percent), physical assault (37.7 percent), psychological and emotional violence (8.5 percent) and sexual assault (4.9 percent) accounted for most of the GBV cases reported in the three provinces.



[...]

Objective 3: Empowerment

Safe Schools Club

With the support from the Division of Education, the project established the Safe Schools Program in 16 schools throughout all project sites. To prepare schools for a full rollout in 2021, teachers in select schools were trained through their in-service programs for the fourth school term. FHI 360 developed a teacher's resource guide to support the Safe Schools Program. The resource material included 10 months of topics to cover throughout the school year. It was created based on the "rights, respect, resilience" curriculum adapted from the Doorways curriculum implemented by ChildFund and Equal Playing Field within Port Moresby, National Capital District. Training teachers on the use of the curriculum provided them with the resources required to commence the program during the 2021 school year.

In **WHP**, five schools implemented the program. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 disruptions, the Division of Education advised FHI 360 to start the program with teachers in-service training in January 2021, when the school year resumed.

In **WSP** (Aitape and Nuku), seven schools implemented the program (three schools in Aitape and four in Nuku District). In Aitape, 43 teachers (36 women and seven men) undertook in-service training on the Safe Schools Resource Guide conducted by FHI 360. In Nuku, eight teachers (four women and four men) attended the training.

In **ESP** (Maprik), four schools implemented the program. Twenty school leads and headteachers (nine women and 11 men) from all selected schools attended a Safe Schools Resource Guide training conducted by FHI 360.

Financial Literacy Training and Empowerment

KLOM III launched its third pillar, the empowerment component, in 2018. It aimed to create an enabling environment in communities to support women and girls accessing financial training and loan services, starting microeconomic activities and participating in decision-making.

Women and girls in its target communities opened 119 bank accounts in 2018. Loans were disbursed in three batches to 22 women who applied for them based on the business plans they submitted. The bank also assessed the collateral these women presented as security for the loan. The loan amounts range from PGK 1,000 to PGK 5,000.

In the second half of 2018, Papua New Guinea Micro Finance Limited (PML) rolled out a microfinance scheme to improve women's financial inclusion in WHP, while Pacific Adventist University (PAU) provided financial literacy training. FHI 360 selected four sites (Holy Trinity, Kinzibi, Kotna and Pultimb) to roll out the microfinance program. These sites were chosen in collaboration with community leaders based on the effort and progress in reducing GBV in the community. In 2019, loans were disbursed to the four intervention sites after each area received financial literacy training, a prerequisite of PML's microfinance scheme.

PAU completed its Financial Literacy Program in 2020 and produced a report. The subaward for PAU with FHI 360 was successfully closed in December 2020.

Nationwide Microbank Limited (MiBank), which PML acquired, partnered with FHI 360 in 2021 to explore sustainable approaches to economic empowerment for target populations in WHP and options for liquidating the recovered funds from the microfinance program. MiBank developed a concept paper for the implementation of the Distributor Agent Model (DAM), which seeks to: (1) bring banking services (cash-in/cash-out) closer to target populations; (2) offer members of the target population to be distributors or resellers; and (3) facilitate the acquisition of soft loans by members of the target population.

Activities implemented under the empower component aimed to establish DAM in Mount Hagen in partnership with MiBank. DAM sought to bring banking services (cash-in/cash-out) closer to target populations; offer members of the target population opportunities to be distributors or resellers; and facilitate the acquisition of soft loans by members of the target population.

MiBank, with funding from the project, implemented the following activities:

- Conducted a financial literacy awareness training in Dei, Mul Baiyer and Tambul Nebilyer districts of WHP, aimed at orientating participants on DAM, its potential benefits and its opportunities for community members. The training also helped to raise awareness on how to access savings and loans facilities which could help members start or grow small businesses
- Conducted agent training for 12 agents (six women and six men) selected from six action groups to represent 195 (62 men and 133 women) members. The purpose of the training was to introduce the chosen agents to DAM and orient them on various equipment and gadgets (including tablets) that they would use for their operations (banking services).
- After being commissioned in September, the 12 agents commenced opening accounts within their catchment areas. A total of 174 (43 men and 131 women) accounts were opened in the six sites. The majority of the account owners were farmers.

[...]