



# Newsletter

July - September 2023



## A message from the CEO & Co-founder

Hello and welcome to our 3rd quarter newsletter, your EPF family has been doing what we do best. We have been out with our children at schools, and I can say the experience is priceless. It continues to be an experience that remind us why the period of childhood is an important yet vulnerable stage of a human's life and why protecting children is uttermost.

This quarter we bring to stories from Kilakila and St Francis primary school where we conducted EPF4S. Our EPF4S program is one of EPF's primary programs that teaches respectful relationships to young people with the intention that this awareness and knowledge will encourage an environment where young people choose to be in healthy relationships.

In fact, the origins of EPF began with this journey of delivering respectful relationships and this path has informed many other areas that EPF has now stepped into. If there's anything we have been most grateful for, it's our time with these children that has given us so much learning.

Secondly, our work is driven by our volunteers, and they are a critical part of EPF's work. Both Adam (my cofounder) and I began EPF as volunteers and providing opportunities for young people to volunteer is an area we continue to provide.

We will feature a story from these very important family members as we like to call them, and I hope for those who are planning on become a volunteer with EPF that this story inspires you to come onboard and share in the experience.

Lastly, we are really keen on feedback on our newsletter content especially if there are content that you find in our social media pages that you feel we should feature more, we are more than happy to receive such feedback. So please reach out and let us know, we are really keen to tell more of our stories and also, we want to ensure we are sharing our great impact stories.

With that, happy reading and we will see you again in the next feature.

# VOLUNTEER FEATURE



**NAME: Margret Yosia**  
**VOLUNTEER BATCH:**  
**TRUE BLUE**

Margret's journey as a volunteer with EPF has been nothing short of inspiring. For nearly one and a half years, she has dedicated her time and energy to making a difference in the lives of others. It was through her big sister's involvement in EPF's Changemaker Academy that Margret first heard about EPF, and it sparked an interest within her.

Margret's journey of working with students has ignited a flame of inspiration within her. Through her volunteer work, she has discovered a deep passion for empowering and motivating the next generation. *"I felt that us going there is not just us going there and teaching about respectful relationship, but it kind of gave me affirmation that there are things that we are doing out there...it's not just an activity... the things we are doing out there is not going to waste, its actually building or influencing another generation."*

Margret believes that everyone should have a strong passion for building and influencing the next generation. She understands that by volunteering, she is not only positively impacting the lives of those she works with directly but also creating a ripple effect that can shape future generations. *"Because I want everyone to have a strong passion to build or influence the next generation. Don't come [to volunteer] for the sake of coming, come with a passion that you want to drive change or you want to influence another."*

Her commitment to inspire others is truly commendable. Margret's passion shines through in everything she does, from mentoring young individuals to organizing events that promote inclusivity and empowerment. She believes that every person has the power to make a difference, no matter how big or small. *"During the EPF4S [program] when we are out in the field there was something that the students came out and disclosed to me changes that they saw happening among their peers or new things they learned from the program that made me change my perspective after that. This project is something that grows the new generation."*

As we look at Margret's journey, let it be an inspiration for us all to find our own passions and use them to create positive change. Whether it's through volunteering or finding other ways to contribute, let us strive to build and influence the next generation with unwavering dedication and enthusiasm. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the world around us.

# FROM THIS QUARTER



## EPF4S Term 4: Kilakila and St Francis Primary Schools



We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of another term of EPF4S at two incredible schools! Our 8-week program continued to make a positive impact at Kilakila Primary School and St. Francis Primary School.

Despite some challenges with conflicting schedules, we were determined to ensure the success of both programs. Through dedication and perseverance, we managed to overcome these setbacks and deliver a truly impactful experience for all involved.

The success of our 8-week program is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our team, as well as the enthusiasm and engagement from the students. We are proud to have provided them with valuable knowledge and skills that will benefit them in their academic journey.

As we celebrate this achievement, we would like to express our gratitude to our volunteers the schools, teachers, parents, and most importantly, the students for their unwavering support throughout this term. Together, we have made a significant difference in shaping young minds and empowering them for future success.

A big Congratulations to our True Champions from both schools.

Here's to another successful term of EPF4S! We look forward to continuing our mission of providing quality education programs that inspire and empower students.



## STUDENT COMMENTS

**In the eight-week EPF4S program, what sessions/topics or activities were your favourite and why is it or are they your favourite?**



“Setting boundaries and consent because I learnt that I must respect other people and their boundaries and I learnt to set my own boundaries for other people.”

Male, 16 St Francis Primary School student



“Everyone is equal. I like it because it taught us that boys and girls should treat each other fairly.”

Female 14, St Francis Primary School Student

“Everyone is equal. It doesn't matter who you are whether you are big or small, we have the same rights.”

Male, 14 Kilakila Primary School student

A mile in their shoes and styles of communication. Reasons why week 2 was my favorite topic is because you will understand how someone feels when you are in the same situation as them.”

Female, 14 Kilakila Primary School student



# FROM THIS QUARTER

## ★ Volunteers Experience: Story of a Proud Mother



It was during our program celebration right after the presentation of our True Champions in one of the Primary Schools.

A Mother in the nearby community approached me, tapped me on the shoulder. When I turned, I saw she had teary eyes and a joy filled face, she asked what the Medals were for. I explained to her, why we give the medals and how the children are chosen for the medals.

After that she started to cry, and I hugged her and tried to comfort her. She said, *“My son is a true champion; I just saw him get a medal.”*

And she added, *“Whatever, you teach him here, he goes back home and does it and tells us about what you teach him. In the past whenever, me (Mother) and my husband get into an argument, he always steps in to stop the fight but now his approach is different, he tells my husband to walk away and me (Mother) to stop yelling and shouting and just try to communicate calmly.”*

She asked if I was the facilitator of her son’s group because she wanted to present him/her with gift. I said I wasn’t and I introduced her to the facilitator. She presented the gift to her with thanks.



## STATS FROM EPF4S

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TERM TWO: KILAKILA PRIMARY SCHOOL

MALES 49



FEMALES 45



TOTAL:  
94

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TERM TWO: ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

MALES 69

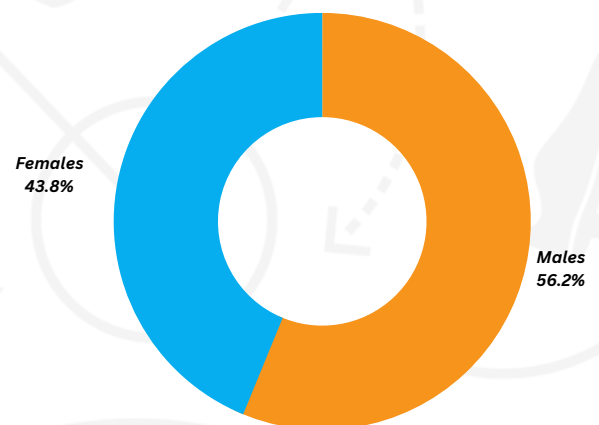


FEMALES 47



TOTAL:  
116

## Total Students: 210





# FROM THIS QUARTER

## ★ Hagara Mapping Activity

This quarter, we embarked on an important mapping activity as part of our Safe Schools Framework Program at Hagara Primary School.

This activity aimed to identify and address areas within the school premises that pose potential safety risks to our students.

During the mapping activity, 21 students took on the role of scouts, meticulously exploring every nook and cranny of the school. With a keen eye for detail, they identified areas that could potentially compromise the safety and well-being of their fellow classmates.

Their dedication and commitment were truly inspiring as they presented their findings to our staff. Not only did they highlight the issues at hand, but they also suggested practical solutions to mitigate these risks.

It is through such proactive initiatives that we can create a safe and secure learning environment for our students. By involving them in this process, we empower them to take ownership of their own safety while fostering a sense of responsibility towards their peers.



As we move forward with implementing these suggested solutions, we are confident that Hagara Primary School will continue to be a place where our students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

## ★ Bavaroko Safe School Committee

We are thrilled to share the progress we have made in collaboration with the Bavaroko Safe School Committee. Over the past few months, our team has been dedicated to drafting and refining a comprehensive Child Protection Policy for the school. This policy serves as a crucial framework to ensure the safety and well-being of every student at Bavaroko Junior High School.

Recognizing its significance in safeguarding our students' welfare, they have agreed to reconvene for an official approval of this school-wide Child Protection Policy.



# FROM THIS QUARTER



## Pacific Girl Program



Equal Playing Field (EPF) was part of a multi-country effort called the Pacific Girl Program from 2019 - 2022. The program involved 5 other pacific island countries Chuuk, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and it aimed to help adolescent girls reach their full potential.

Since October 2022 a mid-term review team has been liaising with the project teams from the 6 implementing partners and stakeholders, beneficiaries that were also part of the program to review the progress of these efforts. The Pacific Girl Convening 2023 held on 21 - 23 June 2023 in Nadi, Fiji brought project teams and adolescent girls together for the first time since 2019. The aim of the workshop was to validate the findings of the mid-term review team and work on a terms of reference for the adolescent girls advisory groups.

Equal Playing Field was represented by our School Action Group (SAG) students Shamira and Del accompanied by our staff members, Alicia Sion and Evalice Martin.

Equal Playing Field is proudly supported by:

The Australian Government in partnership with Government of Papua New Guinea

