

WFP Australia Launches Pasifika Micro-Credit Program in Papua New Guinea

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The Pasifika Micro-Credit Program (PMC) is a project established by WFP Australia specifically to support women within the island nations of Oceania. This project was launched in Papua New Guinea from January 15-18, 2020.

A Training Program was held to introduce the PMC project to rural women in Minj, located in Jiwaka Province in the Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Participants were introduced to the philosophy of the project along with the basic elements of running a micro-business using a mix of group discussions, worksheets and presentations.

Participants were organized into small groups led by a supervisor who assisted them in filling in their business plans during the Business Planning sessions. Some of the businesses chosen were to raise livestock such as chickens or pigs for sale in the local markets, sewing garments for sale, expanding and developing coffee fields, setting up trade stores and setting up wholesale businesses. The supervisors who are local professionals will continue to provide mentoring support in business management.

After attending the three day program, sixty one women were presented with their certificates. We look forward to hearing from our friends in Minj PNG to learn how they are progressing in their business endeavors and we wish them every success as they work towards long term positive outcomes for their rural communities.