

Fly Breeze Newsletter



This Fly Breeze newsletter is a bi-monthly news bulletin

May - June 2025 Issue 85



Official handover of the keys to home owner at Wangbin village

OTDF delivers 15 Infrastructure Projects to the Mine Villages

The total number of completed infrastructure projects across the six mine villages has reached 15, following the official handover of two new houses in Wangbin village on Friday, 13 June.

These projects were funded using their Village Development Funds (VDFs) administered under a special mine agreement by the Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML) and managed by the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF).

The event in Wangbin marked a continuing milestone in OTDF's commitment to improving living standards in the mine-impacted communities.

Wangbin Councillor Mr. Samuel Mereng, speaking on behalf of the community and new homeowners, thanked OTDF for its consistent support. "The standard upheld by OTDF in delivering projects, especially in financial management, sets a benchmark for transparency," he said. "Despite delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical challenges, OTDF has delivered. We ask for continued partnership and cooperation from all stakeholders."

Mr. Mereng also encouraged the Wangbin community to support OTDF by engaging constructively in development processes. "Let's stop relying on handouts and start taking ownership of our future. The VDFs are here to help us, and OTDF is the vehicle to deliver. Let's use it wisely."

OTDF Acting CEO, Mr. Andrew Mari, acknowledged community concerns and reaffirmed OTDF's commitment to working closely with local leaders.

"While we cannot meet every expectation at once, we can address key priorities through proper planning," Mr. Mari said. "I urge Wangbin leaders to develop a five-year community development plan. This plan will be a roadmap to guide the implementation of projects in Wangbin village. Having a shared vision and well-coordinated approach is essential for meaningful progress."

He praised the leadership within Wangbin, saying their unity and cooperation are helping drive visible improvements.

Mr. Mari also encouraged homeowners to take responsibility for maintaining their new houses and highlighted the need for stronger investment in education. "Education is the key to long-term development," he said. "We urge communities to consider using VDFs to support students pursuing higher and technical education."

According to OTDF infrastructure records, 15 projects have now been delivered across the mine villages: Finalbin (5 houses), Bultem & Atemkit (2 houses), Kavorabip (5 houses), Wangbin (2 houses), and Migalsim (a 3-in-1 classroom).

In this issue



OTDF Lease vehicle from LANCO's



Women Sign Agreement with OTML



OTDF appreciate Industry career women



Women fund viability training



This newsletter is produced by the OTDF Public Relations to update and report on developments OTDF is carrying out throughout the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) region, including the Western Province.

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Official handover of the keys to a/CEO Mr. Andrew Mari at the OTDF Office car park, brown house 2

OTDF signs lease with women investment company

In a simple but momentous program for a women-led enterprise in the Western Province, Suki Fly Gogo Women & Children’s Investment Limited (SFGWCI LTD) presented a new 5-door Toyota Land Cruiser to Ok Tedi Development Foundation on 13 May in Kiunga.

Following the presentation and handover of keys, the Vehicle Lease Agreement was signed between Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) and the women investment company for OTDF to use the vehicle for its operations.

The leased vehicle will support operational mobility in delivering community programs in Kiunga. This lease agreement signifies OTDF’s partnership reflecting the ongoing collaboration between OTDF and community-based investment companies to empower women and foster sustainable local enterprise for community for growth and development.

The handover and signing were witnessed by the four women presidents of the South Fly trust regions, the staff and a/ CEO of Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), President for Suki Fly Gogo Women and Children Association, Saridu Saudi thanked OTDF Trust Administration and Business Development team for their dedication and effort to seeing the company grow.

She said “It has been a journey to get our investments in place. I am proud to see this investment come through. I also want to thank OTDF Business Development Team for their guidance and perseverance in seeing this investment through.”

This marks the third major investment milestone for the Suki Fly Gogo Women & Children’s Investment Limited, reaffirming the company’s growing presence and confidence in local economic development initiatives. External Director to the investment company, Mr. Raphael

Nali, also expressed his excitement during the signing: “I am so proud to see what we discussed at meetings become a reality. As Directors, we understand the capabilities of the company. That’s why we push for the manifestation of decisions made at the board level.”

OTDF a/CEO commended the leadership and determination shown by the women of Suki Fly Gogo, noting this as a model for other regional groups aiming to harness their collective strength for tangible, long-term benefits. Mr. Andrew Mari in his keynote speech said:

“It is a proud moment to see board decisions and discussions translate into tangible projects. Your investments add value to decision making process in the future. With the limitation in funding, you have done extremely well, and I acknowledge my hard working staff for their endless commitment to serve the communities, especially the effort of the Trust and BD Team in facilitating this investment.”

The event ended with the handover of the car keys to the OTDF a/CEO and signing of the lease agreement at the OTDF carpark, brown house 2.



Signing of the vehicle lease agreement in Kiunga



The nine women presidents with staff from OTML and OTDF display the agreement documents after the ceremony at Cassowary Hotel in Kiunga

CMCA Women Investment Company and OTML sign lease agreement

The nine Women Investment Companies from the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) regions have formalised their first major investment partnership with Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML), marking a significant step forward in women-led commercial ventures in Western Province.

The five-year lease agreement, signed on 15 May 2025, reinforces a K5.2 million investment by the Women Investment Companies into the newly constructed Kedi Illimbet Donga a 150-bed accommodation facility at OTML’s Bige Operations.

The Illimbet Donga is the first direct investment into OTML operations undertaken by the CMCA Women Investment Companies and reflects the strategic ambitions of the Women & Children Associations to support long-term income generation for their communities.

The Donga facility, already in use and leased by OTML, provides modern and secure accommodation for the company’s workforce.

The investment is expected to deliver a steady revenue stream to the Women and Children Investment Companies, thereby directly benefiting the women and families across the CMCA regions.

Ms. Charlotte Matthews, President of the Middle Fly Women & Children Association, said the investment represents a milestone in the women’s journey toward economic self-reliance. “This is a proud moment for the CMCA Women Investment Companies. It’s more than an investment for women, it empowers us to be better development partners.

OTDF’s Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Andrew Mari, acknowledged the achievement because of long term planning, trust, and partnership. “This agreement is the result of strong collaboration between

OTML, the Women Investment Companies, and OTDF.

It’s a great example of how communities can be active participants in development not just beneficiaries.”

OTML Economic Program Officer, Mr. Moses Rhape added: “This investment is a first of its kind under the leadership of Mr. Illimbit and we are proud to be working alongside the women as a team.”

This agreement signals a new chapter in the relationship between CMCA women and OTML built on shared value, commercial discipline, and a commitment to sustainable development.



Ms. Charlotte Matthews signs for the Middle Fly women & children



L-R: Wai Tri Women & Children Association President Ruth Ukins presents certificate to participant Mr. Misimbi as Human Development Institute General Manager and Lead Trainer, Mr. Grand Wavine looks on.

Empowerment through Personal Viability Training

The Wai Tri Women and Children Association funded a two-week Personal Viability (PV) Training ending with the graduation of 26 local participants on June 13, at the Kiunga Technical and Vocational Education Training Centre (KTVETC).

The participants originate from Middle Fly, Tutuwe, and Wai Tri regions enrolled in the training, with 26 receiving Level 1 Certificates in Personal Viability from The Human Development Institute (HDI), marking a transformative journey in personal and community development. This training was facilitated by the Community Development Team of the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) in partnership with HDI.

The General Manager and lead Trainer Mr. Grand Wavine, shared a powerful message with the graduating class:

“This training has been about learning to think for yourself as an individual, to better improve yourself. With the 17 group topics, I continuously told you all to challenge yourselves to be a better version of yourselves.”

His words captured the essence of the training and empowerment from within, through reflection, courage, and discipline.

A Male participant from Ambaga village, Mr. Alexis Misimbi, in an interview shared his thoughts about this training, he said, “This training has opened my mind to do more with the little I have, to start small and have a goal and vision to work towards achieving big with my poultry project and small vanilla farm. With the small profit I earn from this, I will look at it positively and give enough room to grow financially. After this training, I am confident I will have a renewed mindset and think differently, change my attitude to become a better version of myself”

The participants, some of whom had inadequate access to formal education or training before, expressed newfound

hope and confidence. The opportunity not only provided essential life skills but also fostered a sense of self-worth and direction among participants.

The Chairlady of the Wai Tri Women and Children Association, Mrs. Ruth Ukins applauded the efforts of both the participants and OTDF for the successful delivery of the training.

She highlighted this initiative as in line with the association’s vision to invest in people, particularly at the grassroots level, and to promote inclusive development: “We believe empowering individuals with the right mindset and skills is key to unlocking sustainable development in our communities. This training is a beginning, we are confident these participants will go on to lead and inspire others in their villages.”

She also emphasised that this initiative is not a one-off, but part of a long term plan by the Association to promote human resource development within the Mine impacted areas.

Following the success of this training, the Wai Tri Women and Children Association has indicated plans to sponsor additional training programs in the future, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, leadership, and small-scale income generation initiatives.

The hope is that graduates will form community groups, start small businesses, and pass on the knowledge and values to others.

For now, the certified graduates return to their homes with heads held high and a renewed sense of purpose, ready to become agents of change in their families and communities.



OTDF Staff take part in the planting ceremony at the Brown House 2 car park to commemorate the day

OTDF marks World Environment Day 2025 with tree planting and awareness activities

In recognition of World Environment Day (WED) on June 5, 2025, the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) joined the global community in commemorating the occasion through a tree planting activity involving Executive Management and staff.

WED, established by the United Nations in 1972, is the world's largest platform for environmental outreach. This year's theme, "Ending Plastic Pollution," aligns with the UN's global campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, which calls for urgent action to tackle environmental challenges such as plastic waste, pollution, and climate change.

As a subsidiary of Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML), OTDF embraces OTML's Environment Policy, which states: "Valuing and Respecting the Environment in Everything We Do." The shared goal across the organisation is Zero Significant Environmental Incidents, with an emphasis on sustainable, responsible, and legally compliant environmental practices.

To support the 2025 theme, OTML adopted the slogan "Plastic-Free Starts With Me" to raise awareness and promote action across all operational areas.

As part of World Environment Day 2025 commemorations, Safety Coordinator Shane Tarue addressed the issue of plastic waste mismanagement with a day of planting trees.

In his presentation, he highlighted the environmental and health risks posed by improper disposal methods such as open burning, dumping in waterways, and unsanitary landfills. "Mismanaged plastic waste refers to plastic waste that is not properly recycled, incinerated, or disposed of in a secure landfill," he explained.

Mr. Tarue emphasised the urgent need for responsible waste handling to safeguard communities, wildlife, and ecosystems. The OTDF tree planting event served as both a symbolic and practical contribution to reforestation and sustainability in Western Province.

OTDF remains committed to protecting the unique biodiversity of the region while empowering local communities through awareness and environmental education.



OTDF Management and staff plant trees on Environment Day



Miss Rominah Sabah and Audrey Aedwood with sewn garments they had sewn during the training

Community Development

Miamrai sewing training empowers youths

Rominah Sabah and Audrey Aedwood were amongst 18 participants (women) who participated in a two-week sewing training at Miamrai Four Square Church grounds from the 9 – 20 June.

This training was facilitated by Wai Tri Women and Children and carried out by the TOT's who graduated from Kiunga Technical Vocational Education Training Center (KTVETC) in a life skills training facilitated by OTDF.

“As the young show interest and participate in such like skills, we as leaders know we are leading in the right direction. There is nothing we want more than to lead the young in the right direction, as they are tomorrow’s leaders in our communities. As a parent myself, I am pleased these young women have shown interest and participated in the training.” Ms. Kiwami Grwem said during an interview after the training.

The life skills training is a continuous effort in the Five Year Women and Children Revised Action Plan (WCAP) 2019-2024 to run basic life skills training for the benefit of the community. To equip them with the skills and knowledge to sustain their lives in the long run.

Manager Program Services Sustainable Development, Mr. Moses Kalup encouraged the participants to make use of the knowledge attained through these trainings to help improve your lives.

“Do not waste these skills you have just learned. Get these skills and go teach someone you know in the community. In that way you will have imparted knowledge and skill onto someone else so they too can learn the skills that can benefit them.”

He further encouraged the participants to always be open minded and be ready to learn, the more you learn the more you become self-reliant and grow as an individual.

TOT of the sewing training and former vice president Wai Tri Women & Children Association, “I am pleased to have the young participate in such life skills trainings. With these generation of young teenagers and adults engaging in activities that will have parents in a place where they can no longer control their children, I am happy that these young women have participated to portray to the others that these are the sort of activities they should engage themselves in.”



Garments sewn by participants on display at the training closing



OTDF staff celebrate Mothers Day with a cake

OTDF staff celebrate as career women during Mother’s Day

The Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) joined the annual global celebration of Mother’s Day this year by paying heartfelt tribute to the remarkable women and mothers who are part of the organisation.

Held at the OTDF Conference room, the small yet meaningful program gathered female staff from various departments to honour and appreciate the contributions, strength, and resilience of the womenfolk in the workplace. We celebrate and appreciate the “The Strength of a woman.”

The day was a powerful reminder of the invaluable role that women especially mothers play not only in society, but also as career women within the corporate and development space.

In his remarks, a/CEO Mr. Andrew Mari expressed admiration and gratitude for the women of OTDF. “Behind every successful project, every positive impact we deliver across the CMCA region, there’s a strong woman—whether at home or at the frontline. Today, we celebrate not just your role as mothers, but as leaders, colleagues, and warriors of resilience.”

The event featured special acknowledgements and a cake for all female staff. It was a moment of reflection and joy, filled with laughter, stories, and heartfelt gratitude from OTDF male colleagues.

Mrs. Jean Koaea, one of OTDF’s longest-serving female staff, gave a touching message:

“Being a mother is more than a role—it’s a commitment to show up even when it’s hard, to lead even in silence, and to nurture not just families, but our teams, our workspaces, and our communities.”

She added, “At OTDF, we are not just working women. We are builders of futures—for our children, for the CMCA people, and for Papua New Guinea.”

The celebration also served as a reminder of OTDF’s ongoing commitment to gender inclusion and women’s empowerment—values deeply embedded in its programs and corporate culture.

Through various initiatives in education, health, and economic empowerment, the Foundation continues to uplift women and advocate for their full participation in development.

In honouring its mothers and female staff, OTDF not only marked a special day but reaffirmed its respect for the women whose dedication continues to drive change across Western Province.



Mr. Aliya Kambare with fellow sewing participants during the closing ceremony at Bige CLC

Learning a lifeskill is limitless & gender inclusive

Amongst 14 women who participated in a sewing training at Bige Village in the Wai Tri Region, 28 year old Mr. Aliya Kambare, joined the women in hopes of putting to good use his skills as a young person would use to make garments to sell and earn an income.

During an interview, Mr. Kambare shared his story as a young boy who had learned the skill of sewing bags from his sisters. He said: “I have been sewing market bags for two years, and when I heard of this training, I knew I had to take part. I told myself, if I know how to sew a bag, I can do this. I can sew blouses and shirts. If I continue to sit and see the mothers learn skills that they can use to make money, then I have the potential to do the same as a male. Life skills are for everyone there are no boundaries, and these trainings are inclusive for all.”

To be the only male amongst the mothers, I am not ashamed. To learn skills that will benefit me, now that is what I am proud of. With no educational background, these are the skills that I believe will keep me working hard to make me a better person.

The two week training held at the Bige Community Learning Center from the 9 - 20 June, led by Trainer Francisca Liborius, from logie village. She spent two weeks training the participants in an aim to identify in the community a Trainer of Trainers (TOT) to further carry out trainings at the community

level. “I am a happy women knowing that I can use the knowledge I have to impart a skill that will be used for a longtime.”

The trainings run by the Women’s Association is inclusive for all and aims to make or better equip the communities with the necessary life skills to take care of themselves and make a better living,



Lifeskills training is gender inclusive & limitless - File Photo, 2023

Month in pictures



World Bank visit OTDF Office, Kiunga, WP



M&E presents quarter 2 updates



OTDF Staff at the 2025 Nari Show, Lae Morobe Province



OTDF Farewell Business Development Team Leader Ms Tapie (middle)



Wai Tri W&CA donate sewing machines to mothers in Wai Tri Region



HDI level two certification program participants flanked by trainers



Monthly Safety Presentation



Tutuwe Teine asset approved for sale and release



Mrs. Ruth Ukins (L) presents 3 sewing machines to Wai Tri women, witnessed by OTDF Manager (PSSD) Mr. Moses Kalup

Women Association boost support for community self reliance

Thirty-two women and youth from the Wai Tri region successfully completed a two-week sewing training designed to build practical skills and increase self-reliance in rural communities.

The training, held in Miamrai and Bige villages, was facilitated by the Wai Tri Women and Children Association under the Five Year Women and Children Revised Action Plan (WCRAP) 2019-2024.

The program builds on OTDF's Training of Trainers (TOT) initiative at the Kiunga Vocational Centre, which equipped local trainers to deliver community-based sewing programs.

During the two-week sessions, participants learned key advanced sewing techniques such as pattern drafting, stitching and finishing, enabling them to produce a range of clothing items.

At the closing ceremony in Miamrai, held at the Four-Square Church grounds, OTDF Manager Program Services Sustainable Development (PSSD), Mr. Moses Kalup, commended participants for their commitment. He urged them to apply their skills to improve their households' income and livelihoods.

"Trainings like these align with the WCRAP's goal of improving living standards in the region. With continued practice, these skills can help you become self-reliant and even start your own businesses," Mr. Kalup said.

To help sustain the initiative, four sewing machines were distributed, two to Miamrai and one each to Senamrai and Demasuke Women's Social Issues Concern Groups (WSICG). These will remain as shared community resources for ongoing practice and future trainings.

At Bige village, OTDF Manager Program Services – Operations, Mr. Philemon Nahuet, congratulated the

participants and welcomed the inclusion of one male trainee saying: "Life skills benefit everyone. Continue practicing and refining what you've learned — these are tools to help you improve your life and your family's future," he said.

The sewing training forms part of the Life Skills Development component of the WCAP, which addresses key areas including education, health, income generation and skills development for women, youth and families in CMCA communities.

OTDF's Community Development Team encouraged participants to work together to establish home-based enterprises or cooperatives using their new skills.

This initiative reflects OTDF's ongoing commitment to empower women and youth in the CMCA regions through practical, income-generating skills.



Lifeskills training participants



Daniel (R) explains to OTDF extension support staff methods in handling vanilla vines in nursery

OTDF Graduate Development Scheme progressing

Building on the success of its first intake, the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) is once again investing in young talent through the second batch of its Graduate Development Scheme (GDS) Program. Among this group Mr. Daniel Steven from the Middle Fly region is attached to the Livelihood Development Program (LDP), gaining hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture. Through this placement, he is learning the critical role Livelihood Development plays in driving OTDF's community development initiatives.

Since joining the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), Daniel has been active in the LDP section promoting sustainable agriculture across the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) regions of Western Province.

Recognising the importance of food security, he contributed to the design and implementation of a food security program aligned with OTDF's five-year Strategic Business Plan in 2024. While doing so helped coordinate the distribution of flood relief food supplies to villages in the Upper Middle Fly and carried out a vanilla baseline survey to inform future agricultural planning.

He was instrumental in establishing vanilla nurseries in the Middle Fly and South Fly regions, which now serve as source plants providing vines to local farmers. His work includes conducting eaglewood trials using different types of inoculants, aimed at identifying suitable methods for future use in CMCA communities. He has supported the extension of vanilla cultivation into the CMCA regions, with focus on standardising practices and ensuring consistent block establishment. He has trained model farmers in the initial rollout, distributed shade trees and vanilla cuttings to new and existing farmers and coordinated a three-month on-the-job training program for four university students, demonstrating his commitment to both agricultural development and capacity building.

Through this experience Daniel has developed a broad range of skills and knowledge. He has become adept at conducting baseline surveys, collecting and analysing

data, and producing detailed reports. He has gained hands-on experience in vanilla cultivation, both in open field and greenhouse settings, and has learned to operate small agricultural machines for food crop development. In addition to technical skills, Daniel has shown strong leadership in planning and facilitating community training programs for both farmers and field officers.

Mr. Steven shares that this experience has groomed him in his field of profession.

"I'd never thought that when I was given the chance to pursue my GDS program here, I would be able to lead programs in the communities and contribute so much to this development space. It is truly an honour to be part of this program, and I am grateful to OTDF to have given me the chance to grow and develop."

Among the skills Daniel values most are his ability to coordinate and manage community projects, his experience in handling project funds responsibly, and his capacity to work effectively in a team environment. His professionalism and adaptability have enabled him to contribute meaningfully to complex, multi-region programs that require both logistical coordination and cultural sensitivity.

Daniel has also embraced innovation as a key to sustaining and improving livelihood outcomes. He is currently trialling different mulching techniques using coconut husk and organic matter to determine the most effective approach for vanilla farmers. He is also exploring the use of alternative shade tree species that are better suited to the province's clay soil conditions. Additionally, his work in testing different drilling techniques and inoculants for eaglewood trees is laying the groundwork for future community-based agroforestry initiatives.

Through a combination of practical experience, continuous learning, and a deep commitment to community development, Mr. Daniel Steven continues to make a strong contribution to the long-term success and sustainability of OTDF's livelihood programs.

Time Out



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2



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4



5



6

- 1. OTDF team farewell a colleague
- 2. CES team at the Samagos Study Center
- 3. Safety is paramount in OTDF

- 4. South Fly women leaders appreciate the partnership
- 5. Promote community partnership & respect at all levels
- 6. Greetings from Tapila Field Base

STRONGIM
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PASIN