

November 1, 2013

Continued progress of claims under the Porgera Remediation Framework

The following is an update on the Porgera Remediation Framework, a program created by Barrick to respond to incidents of sexual violence against women at the Porgera mine in Papua New Guinea.

The Framework is designed to ensure that victims of sexual violence at the Porgera mine feel comfortable coming forward, have their confidentiality respected, and receive an appropriate remedy – a critical element in addressing human rights violations. It is a standalone process, distinct from the Porgera mine’s grievance process, and it is staffed mainly by women who operate independently of Barrick and the Porgera mine.

Approximately three quarters of the claimants eligible to receive remedy packages have signed agreements accepting their individual remedy packages and resolving their claims. The finalization of claims corresponds with direct requests from the women themselves, many of whom have suffered acts of violence and desire some element of closure and finality.

The remedy packages were developed through discussions between claimants and members of the Framework team, and tailored to the specific circumstances of each claimant. They consist of a range of services and financial support components (such as business development grants, trade good credits and bank savings accounts) that will provide a lasting benefit for the claimant.

The value of remedy packages provided to date is generally in the upper range of civil damage awards provided in comparable cases in the Papua New Guinea justice system.

Barrick and the independent team implementing the Framework continue to engage with claimants and their representatives, key experts and other stakeholders regarding enhancements to the remediation process. At the same time, we are endeavoring to complete the remediation process expeditiously in keeping with the wishes of claimants.

The Framework has already been the subject of an independent, mid-program review by the respected social consultancy, BSR, and BSR’s suggested improvements have been incorporated into the program. As Barrick has stated publicly, the company intends to have an independent third party review the outcomes of the Framework upon the conclusion of the individual remedy process. The results of that assessment will be made public.

Barrick condemns acts of violence that have taken place in or around the Porgera mine, including violence against women that may have been perpetrated by employees. Efforts regarding the Framework reflect our continuing commitment to provide a fair, accessible and effective remedy process for women whose rights have been violated.