

November 27, 2014

Response to EarthRights International

Barrick strongly condemns all violence against women, anywhere in the world. The sexual assaults perpetrated by employees at the Porgera mine in Papua New Guinea were appalling. Addressing the needs of the victims has been a key priority for the company. Barrick believes the right to remedy is a critical element in addressing such human rights violations. The company worked with leading experts to develop a meaningful remedy program for women who were victims of sexual assault. Throughout the process, Barrick and the Porgera Joint Venture have been open to constructive feedback. We have made several changes to improve the program, based on input from our stakeholders. A majority of the participants in the remedy program have expressed satisfaction with the process, and with the remedies they have received.

Remedy Framework Supported by Leading Human Rights Experts

- The Porgera Remediation Framework was developed after 18 months of extensive consultation and research with leading national and international experts in human rights.
- The Framework has been upheld as compatible with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- It is being independently administered by prominent and highly qualified Papua New Guineans.

How Compensation Is Determined

- Most claimants have settled their claims through the program and are now receiving the various components of their individual remediation packages.
- Claims packages were developed on a case-by-case basis based on discussions between the independent assessment team and the claimants themselves.
- The types of packages provided were designed to meet the needs of women in the Porgera Valley.
- These packages consist of services and financial support, such as business grants, business skills training, trade good credits, school fees for children and savings accounts.
- Remedy packages also include financial support for counselling, medical examinations and proscribed medications and rehabilitation.
- The value of remedy packages is in the upper range of civil damage awards provided in comparable cases in Papua New Guinea.

A Voluntary Program that Protects Rights

- Barrick does not and has not required women to waive their right to legal recourse to access the Remedy Framework.

- However, under the Remedy Framework, if claimants accept a final remediation package they are required to agree that they will not pursue further compensation claims or civil action against Barrick or the Porgera Joint Venture for the specific incident they are being compensated for.
- This means the claimant cannot be compensated for the same claim twice by Barrick or the Porgera Joint Venture.
- To be clear, this agreement takes place at the end of the claims process after a claimant accepts a final remedy package.
- Prior to that, claimants can withdraw from the process at any time if they are not satisfied with the program or the remedy offered to them.
- At all times, claimants have the right to pursue criminal charges or civil claims against individuals or others who may be implicated.
- Claimants are also advised by independent legal counsel throughout the remedy process.

Translation Services

- While translation services have always been available for claimants who speak languages other than English and Tok Pisin, amendments have been made to the Framework documents and procedures to ensure claimants are advised of their right to have material translated into a language of their choice where requested.
- The provision of translation services is also formally recorded as part of the case document prepared for each claim.

Community Initiatives/Community-Level Projects

- As part of its response to the occurrence of violence against women at the Porgera mine, Barrick and the Porgera Joint Venture are supporting a number of initiatives to develop the capacity of the local government and community to address the problem of violence against women.
- This range of initiatives includes:
 - Design and construction of a multi-purpose women's facility in Paiam Town that will serve as a hub for welfare and support services and activities for women in Porgera. The project is due to be completed in early 2015.
 - The establishment and operation of the Porgera Women's Welfare Office, which provides counseling and welfare support to women who have who have experienced physical and sexual violence.
 - Support for the development of a National Curriculum for advanced training of trauma-specialist counselors, and support for the establishment of a professional body for counselors operating in Papua New Guinea.
 - Support for the development of a strategic plan to help govern development and expansion of welfare and support services and facilities in the Porgera District.

- Support for the development of a documentary film highlighting issues relating to violence against women in Papua New Guinea. The film, which has been completed, will be available for free distribution in Papua New Guinea, and some joint rights to commercialize the production in future are retained by the Porgera Remedy Framework Association.
- Support for specialist training of senior female Porgera community members at the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre in Suva, Republic of Fiji Islands. This training took place during 2012 and 2013.