

# RESEARCH

TYPE 2



## Climate Change Response for Inclusive WASH

Water for Women is the Australian Government's flagship Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program aimed at improving the health, gender equality and wellbeing of Asian and Pacific communities through inclusive, sustainable WASH.

Research is an important element of Water for Women, it is a key pathway for development innovation and helps to inform policy-making and program delivery. Investments in research facilitate access to diverse partnerships and networks, contributing to Australia's aid policy and wider diplomatic engagement with our partner countries.

The impacts of climate change are a serious and growing threat, already leading to water stress and insecurity that threatens the sustainability of WASH services across the Indo-Pacific.

Partnering with the **Institute for Sustainable Futures - University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS)**, this research project is supporting Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to assess climate change impacts and improve the service, gender and social inclusion outcomes of WASH programs in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.





 Jeremy Kohlitz – UTS

## Assessing climate change impacts to improve the service, gender and social inclusion outcomes of WASH programs

The Indo-Pacific region is among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, there are significant gaps in WASH sector knowledge about how to address the multiple, intersecting impacts of climate change on WASH services and the health, gender equality and wellbeing of communities.

**“[The research] strengthens our program cycle implementation to improve our management of water resources, linked to climate change impacts. It deepens facilitators’ knowledge about cycles of climate change impacts on WASH”**

WaterAid Timor-Leste  
Water for Women Project Manager

Working with partner CSOs on their Water for Women projects in Indonesia (Plan International) and Timor-Leste (WaterAid), ISF-UTS will explicitly seek to understand how women and people living with disabilities are differentially affected by climate change impacts through WASH, and how their roles and meaningful participation in responding to impacts can lead to sustained WASH access and transformative change.

This research will generate new knowledge for CSO partners, partner local governments and WASH sector actors, on how to conduct integrated and inclusive climate change assessments within WASH programs. This will enable WASH practitioners to achieve more climate resilient WASH outcomes whilst maximising opportunities for shifts in gender and social inclusion.

The overall benefit is improved sustainability and equality of WASH services affected by climate change, especially in the CSO partner project sites.

**“This process is very participatory, and we are very involved – while we don’t know anything about research- we feel equal and that it is very meaningful. We are valued equally in the research, and very involved from first week until the last week in design and field work so that the effect is very good for the future”**

Plan Indonesia  
Water for Women Project Manager  
reflecting on positives at end of research trip.

Water for Women is proud to be partnering with **The Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney**, WaterAid and Plan International in this important research work.



Australia believes that equitable WASH access is of crucial importance to develop communities. Water for Women and our partners provide innovative solutions to WASH delivery and use research to contribute evidence to the global WASH sector. By working together and building evidence, we can create better, more sustainable WASH outcomes whilst also contributing to strengthened gender equality and inclusion.



Type 2 Awards support implementation of Water for Women projects. Research is closely associated with the work of partner CSOs and covers inclusive WASH approaches, partnerships and topic areas. Research results will help improve projects and inform future inclusive WASH design and implementation.

