

Supporting communities in Bhutan with inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Bhutan is now on track to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. These achievements, which will deliver widespread benefits for the whole community, could not have been realised without the commitment of the governments of Australia and Bhutan and dedication and determination from all partners throughout our longstanding engagement.



**Water For
Women**

SNV

**Australian
Aid** 

Find out more at
waterforwomenfund.org



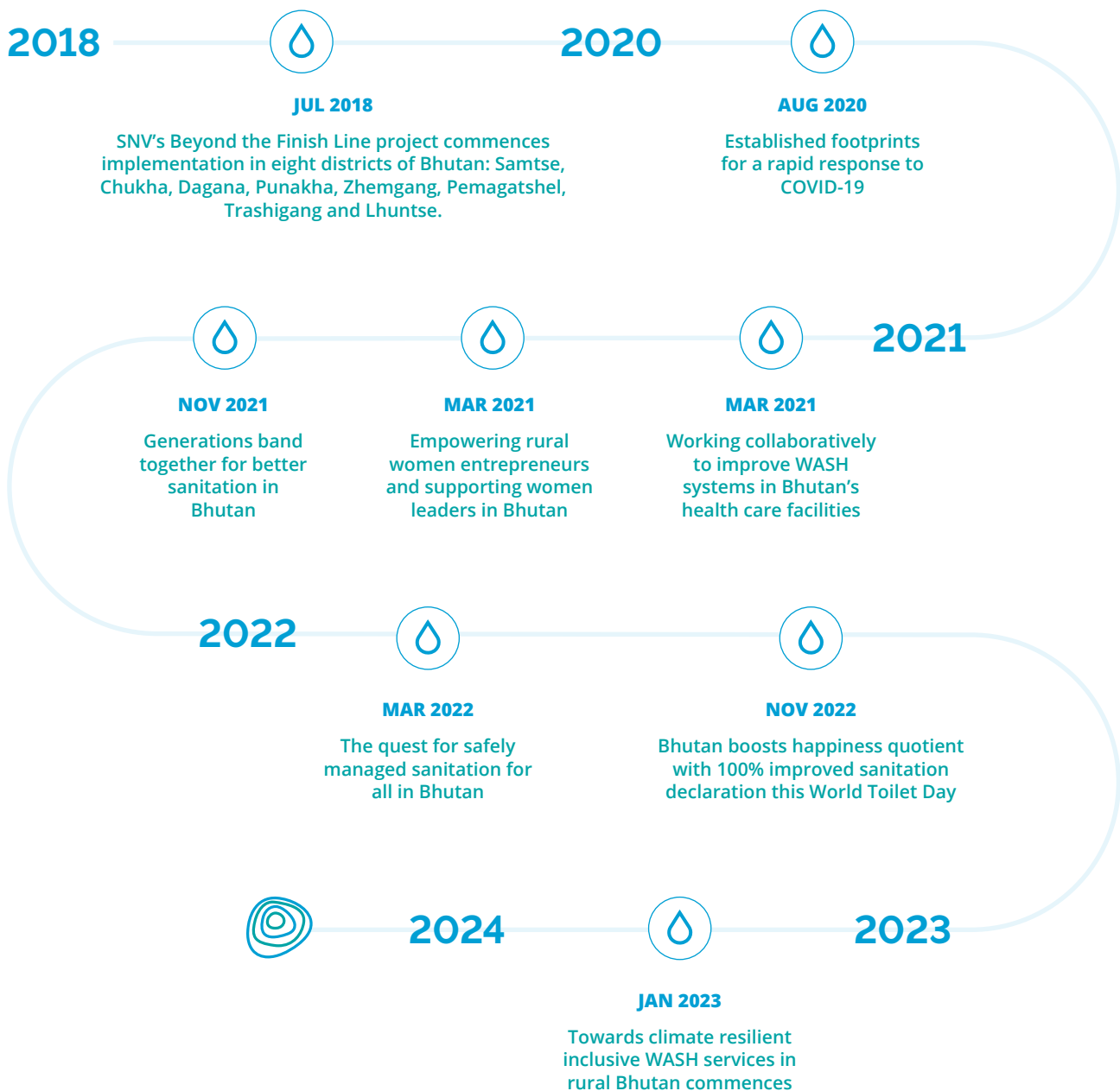
Aum Gyem is 80+ years old, she cannot speak properly, is hearing impaired and uses hand and body actions to communicate. Aum and her sister are now the proud owners of a ceramic pour flush toilet, after SNV's national rural sanitation and hygiene program reached her district in 2019, funded by the Australian Government, through Water for Women.

Bhutan Overview

This year marks 20 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bhutan. In partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan, we have been taking steps to make universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) a reality for all of Bhutan.

Australia's current support for Bhutan is being delivered by SNV through its Water for Women project, Beyond the Finish Line: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All which will reach an estimated 214,000 people in Bhutan by the end of 2022, which a focus on rural and vulnerable populations, to reach the last mile.

SNV's work will continue from 2023 to 2024 through Water for Women's extension phase, under the project, 'Towards climate resilient inclusive WASH services in rural Bhutan.'



Our Progress



Total beneficiaries

214,000

by Dec 2022



Women & Girls

100,400+



People with a disability

19,800+



Access to sanitation

35,600+

**Safely
managed
sanitation for
all at scale**



**Supporting
transformative
leadership**

**214,000
people reached**

by December 2022



“ I have attended WASH trainings before and have been using the knowledge from then. Now this time, **I realised that gender, disability, and inclusion is important to consider.** In the villages, there are those who can afford, and **for the last mile we need to support them.** Otherwise, I don't think we can say we have achieved sanitation; we must ensure that everyone in the community elderly, people living with disability and women receives the adequate support.”

Former Local Leader

“ I had the chance to learn new concepts thanks to the training's content. The program **motivated us and gave us the skills required to effect change.** I would like to share this training experience and urge other women with disabilities to participate in such trainings, inspiring more women to get involved in community life and encourage others to talk about their disabilities. **I now recognise the value of women taking up leadership roles.**”

Female training participant



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- The quest for safely managed sanitation for all in Bhutan
 - Leading with Integrity: Namgay is a role model for rural Bhutanese women
 - Working collaboratively to improve WASH systems in Bhutan's health care facilities
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SNV



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What next?

While Australia's partnership with Bhutan over the past 20 years has achieved significant gains for the country and our region, it is only the beginning.

We recognise the significant challenges Bhutan's three climatic zones face from climate change, as wet periods become wetter and dry periods drier, and the consequent threats to rural WASH services, water availability for pour-flush toilets and hygiene, to water quality, and socio-economically to women, girls and vulnerable groups, who will be most impacted.

The project extension, Climate resilient rural WASH services for all will build on existing partnerships and leverage national government WASH programme investments to develop inclusive, sustainable and resilient services for households, health facilities and district centres in Dagana, Zhemgang, and Trashigang districts. In Bhutan's Himalaya, climate change is impacting the functionality of rural WASH services, undermining important gains and widening inequalities. With support to address these risks systematically, local governments can take adaptive actions to manage the impacts of water-related risks of floods, dry spells, and landslides on sanitation and hygiene, and embed resilience efforts within existing programmes, policies, and budgets. Responding to emerging water governance and security challenges, the project seeks to bridge the gap between rural WASH services, water security and the national climate change agenda.

For more information please contact

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