



 SNV/Aiden Dockery

Water for Women: Bhutan

Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Bhutan with *Beyond the Finish Line: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All*

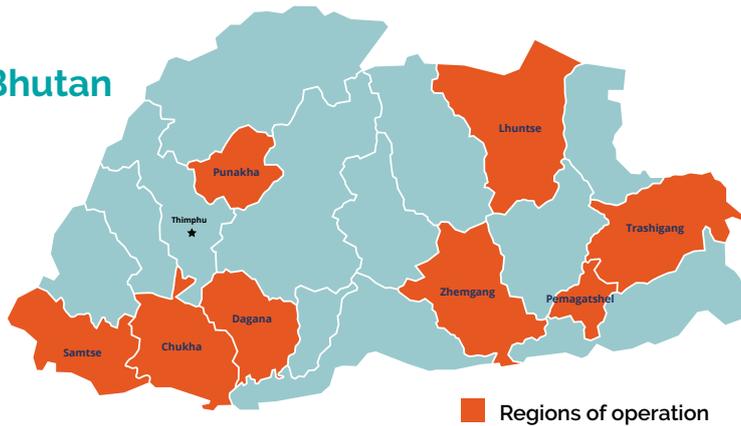
Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to health and wellbeing.

Water for Women is partnering with SNV Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) to deliver *Beyond the Finish Line - Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All*, providing equitable, universal access to safely managed sanitation and hygiene to an estimated 277,000 people in Bhutan.

Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women. Actively involving all people within communities (women, men, marginalised groups, people with disabilities) ensures more equitable and inclusive processes, which lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in WASH.

Water for Women is the Australian Government's flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.

Bhutan



Regions of operation



SNV

Beyond the Finish Line: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All

The Australian Government is committed to delivering effective and sustainable WASH access. Water for Women will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), water and sanitation for all.

Despite Bhutan having made significant progress in improving rural sanitation and hygiene, evidence shows that these successes have not yet yielded equal benefits for poor households and disadvantaged groups, while there are further inequities related to income, gender (e.g. female-headed households) and remoteness.

Only 57% of rural households have access to basic sanitation services and poor hygiene practices result in diarrhoea being among the top five communicable diseases. Stunting rates also remain high (nationally 21.2%; rural 26.1%).

Beyond the Finish Line will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

The goal of this project is to contribute to improved health and wellbeing of people in rural districts of Bhutan through strengthening the performance of the national rural sanitation and hygiene programme, systems and actors to increase equitable access to and use of safe sanitation and hygiene, by 2022.

“Bhutan will require strong leadership and investment not only from the development partners but also from the government. This means prioritising sanitation and hygiene in budgets, in plans, and in the minds of our local leaders. If we can do that, we can achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation and hygiene.”

- Mr. Rinchen Wangdi, Chief Engineer, PHED of Ministry of Health, Bhutan

The outcomes of this project have been designed to align with the Sustainable Development Goals and Bhutan’s own upcoming Five Year Plan and National Key Results Areas.

The expected benefits of *Beyond the Finish Line* by 2022 are:

- 110,000 additional people use basic sanitation services that meet their needs;
- 54,000 additional people use safely managed sanitation services that meet their needs;
- 65,000 additional people practice hand washing with soap and water at home;
- 17,000 boys and girls use basic disability accessible WASH facilities at school;
- 8,000 additional female students are able to practice safe menstrual hygiene management in schools and monastic institutions;
- 40 health care facilities with basic disability accessible WASH facilities.



The Australian aid program is investing in Bhutan over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and research partner, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.