Water for Women: Solomon Islands

Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Solomon Islands with New Times, New Targets: supporting Solomon Islands Government WASH transition and resilient WASH for all

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

Water for Women is partnering with Plan International to deliver “New Times, New Targets” to improve WASH services, access and practice in 60 rural communities, 8 rural health clinics and 22 schools of western Guadalcanal Province in the Solomon Islands, reaching an estimated 14,600 people.

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.
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. Guadalcanal Province is home to approximately 93,600 people living in rural communities and settlements. The Solomon Islands has some of the most challenging WASH statistics in the world with those living in rural areas particularly vulnerable:

- only 54% have improved water access
- only 13% have improved sanitation access
- approximately 80% practice open defecation

Solomon Island women are impacted the most by poor water and sanitation services.

The benefits of improved, safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are clear. Not only does access to WASH prevent disease and death, it also has profound, lasting socio-economic impacts on a community and its ability to prosper, particularly for women and girls.

The Solomon Islands Government rural WASH strategy sees a shift in the roles and responsibilities of key actors in the WASH sector and provides a solid foundation for improved practice.

New Times, New Targets will be led by Plan International Australia in collaboration with Live & Learn Environmental Education. The project will be implemented in rural areas of western Guadalcanal Province and will collaborate with national and provincial government authorities to improve WASH services and gender equality in rural communities.

The project will support the Guadalcanal Provincial Health Service to improve WASH facilities and management in 8 rural health clinics and the Guadalcanal Provincial Education Authority to strengthen WASH in 22 selected schools within west Guadalcanal Province.

The project will also contribute to improvements in gender equality and inclusion of marginalised people within household and community level WASH decision-making and management.

“The New Times, New Targets project provides a great opportunity to collaborate with the Solomon Islands Government, and the communities they serve, to establish evidence based approaches to rural WASH and create real social change toward equality.”
- Tom Rankin, Program Manager WASH - New Times, New Targets Project Manager.

The Australian aid program is investing in Solomon Islands over a five-year period to improve WASH services in rural Solomon Islands. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with Plan International Australia and Live and Learn Environmental Education.