Water for Women: Papua New Guinea
Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Papua New Guinea
Gender equality and social inclusion is 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 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Water for Women will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community.

Water for Women is the Australian Government’s flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.
Implementing Inclusive WASH for the people of Wewak

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.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) presents several challenges when it comes to WASH delivery with a majority of the population living in rural areas and in some cases, extremely remote locations.

• Only 37% of the population have access to at least a basic drinking water supply.
• Only 19% of the population has access to at least a basic level of sanitation, which includes the use of septic tanks and pit toilets.
• There is a widespread practice of open defecation.

Gender inequality is also a major development challenge in PNG, with a range of traditional and cultural factors preventing women from realising their rights and sharing equally in the benefits of development.

Inclusive WASH for Wewak aims to benefit communities in Wewak using an adaptive planning approach to explore strategies that will ensure:

• More inclusive, equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) services.
• The empowerment of women and people with disabilities (PWD) through the creation of, and effective participation in, decision-making forums associated with WASH service delivery.
• Collaboration with partners to take a district-wide approach to the planning and provision of WASH services, working with both rural and urban service providers.

Further, while progress on addressing disability inclusion has been made, stigma against people with disabilities remains a significant barrier to equitable WASH access. Physical barriers also remain an issue, with WASH infrastructure in communities not being fully accessible.

“We know how important strong local systems are to delivering and sustaining WASH services. This funding will allow us to work with local government to strengthen the WASH sector, bringing inclusive and sustainable WASH to the people of Wewak District.”

- Mark Wolfsbauer, Program Director, WaterAid Papua New Guinea

The Australian aid program is investing in WASH delivery in Papua New Guinea over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with WaterAid and a number of local partners including: East Sepik Council of Women, East Sepik Disabled Persons Organisation, Assembly for Disabled Persons, National Research Institute, Christian Health Services, Provincial Health Authority, and Wewak District Development Authority.

Find out more at waterforwomenfund.org
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.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) presents some serious challenges when it comes to universal access to WASH and water security, with a large disparity between WASH access in urban areas compared to rural areas, where over 85% of the population live.

In rural areas:
- Only 29% of people have access to a limited, basic or safely managed water source.
- Only 13% have access to improved sanitation facilities.

In PNG, Water for Women will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

WAVE aims to improve access to gender and socially inclusive, sustainable WASH especially for women, girls and people with disabilities in marginalised communities in Western Province, in the urban areas of Daru and in selected rural areas.

The project will directly benefit approximately 40,000 women, men, girls and boys.

Australia understands that equitable WASH access is crucial in developing countries. Water for Women and our partners will provide innovative solutions to WASH delivery in Papua New Guinea, and contribute to global WASH evidence and research.

WAVE will engage change agents and communities to: strengthen inclusive WASH service provision and governance; improve gender equality and disability inclusion; and test innovative WASH and community-based solutions to support marginalised communities.

Water for Women is proud to be partnering with World Vision Australia in the delivery of WAVE. Other partners include: Care Australia, CBM Australia, WaterAid PNG, Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons, Callan Services, and Daru Disabled Persons' Self-Help Group.
Resilient WASH in the Islands Region of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea’s (PNG) current WASH indicators are some of the worst in the world.Access to basic level sanitation and water services are 8% and 35% respectively in rural PNG and 48% and 86% in urban areas. Low access to WASH is reflected in PNG’s rankings at the bottom of Pacific countries for all WASH related health statistics. In light of this, a National WASH Policy (2015-2030) provides clear guidance for the sector and sets contextually ambitious national WASH targets for water supply and sanitation: access for 70% of the rural population, 95% (water) and 85% (sanitation) for urban populations, and 100% access for educational institutions and medical centres. Complementing the National WASH Policy is the recently launched national policy and accompanying standards for WASH in Schools, which are to apply to all schools in PNG.

PNG also ranks poorly in regards to gender equality and social inclusion (GSI).

Women’s representation in decision-making and leadership positions is limited across all levels in PNG, and there are strong cultural and social gender norms that mean that men are seen as the main decision makers.

The Project will align with national and sub-national government WASH sector and other development policies and plans, and take an ‘assess, plan, act, monitor’ cycle with communities, institutions and government to implement a ‘WASH Resilience Planning’ approach founded on risk-based approaches to water and sanitation improvements.

In New Ireland, the Project will work in Wards, schools, and Health Care Facilities across the province’s two districts (Kavieng and Namatani); while in Bougainville activities will focus on the Northern Region where the Project will model approaches to WASH improvements in schools and Health Care Facilities.

Resilient WASH in the Islands Region of Papua New Guinea aims to improve the health and wellbeing of rural people in New Ireland and Bougainville by increasing the quality and accessibility of resilient WASH services in rural schools, Health Care Facilities and communities and by strengthening WASH sector systems. The Project will seek improved gender and social inclusion in rural areas, and contribute to an enhanced evidence base relating to GSI and WASH.