



Gender in WASH Partnerships, Workforce and Impact

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 new ideas and evidence to inform policy-making and program delivery. Investments in research facilitate diverse partnerships and networks, contributing to Australia's aid policy and wider diplomatic engagement with our partner countries.

Despite increasing attention to gender equality and women's empowerment in the WASH sector, there remain gaps in both evidence and guidance for practitioners and policy-makers.

Partnering with **The Institute for Sustainable Futures - University of Technology, Sydney** (ISF-UTS), this research project will look at three new areas that connect gender equality and WASH: partnerships with other civil society actors, gender equality in the WASH workforce and measurement of gender equality outcomes in Indonesia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Nepal to achieve gender and socially inclusive WASH policy, practice and outcomes.

Partnering with

SNV, IDE, THRIVE NETWORKS, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, WaterAid

Sanitation, Water, Hygiene

Research to address knowledge gaps in WASH project delivery

Research is a key pathway for development innovation, policy-making and program delivery



Melita Grant (ISF) and IV Bunthoeun (EMWF) conduct interviews with district level officials responsible for water, sanitation, and hygiene and women and children's affairs in Cambodia / Photo credit: ISF-UTS

How can Civil Society Organisations more strategically engage with other civil society actors, government and private sector actors to achieve gender and inclusive WASH policy, practice and outcomes?

The Water for Women Fund raises the bar for gender and socially inclusive WASH research and program delivery. This research project addresses three key areas identified as requiring more evidence and guidance for practitioners and policy-makers: women's leadership and voice, intersectionality and empowerment.

The project is made up of three research components that will support improved Civil Society Organisation (CSO) implementation as follows:

1. **Civil society partnerships:** The research will inform more effective, mutually beneficial partnerships between WASH CSOs and gender and women's rights organisations at national and local levels.
2. **Gender equality in the WASH workforce:** The research will contribute to CSO empowerment outcomes for female entrepreneurs, support gender equality in workplaces and more inclusive program implementation by local and national governments.
3. **Impact measurement:** The research will contribute a robust quantitative measure and qualitative methods to improve CSO partner monitoring of gender equality outcomes and broader sectoral monitoring efforts.

“This research will help provide credible evidence to support advocacy of improving national sanitation program gender and inclusion regulations at the national level while supporting the improvement of gender and inclusive implementation at the local level. In addition, this research will help us [Plan Indonesia] improve our methods of partnership with gender, disability and women's rights organisations”

Silvia Landa, Project Manager for Plan Indonesia's Water for Women project

Taking a collaborative, co-design partnership approach, including in-country researchers and specialist agencies, the research will contribute to global evidence and practical guidance for CSOs and wider development partners.

This research will contribute to other Water for Women CSO project outcomes including: WaterAid Timor-Leste and Plan Indonesia's partnerships with gender equality focussed CSOs, Plan Indonesia and Thrive Cambodia's planned empowerment outcomes for female entrepreneurs; Plan Indonesia's gender and inclusive sanitation program implementation by local government; and Plan and Thrive's national policy influence in relation to gender and inclusion in WASH.

This research will also contribute to improved measurement of iDE Cambodia's empowerment outcomes and SNV Nepal's outcomes of improved leadership, voice, and choice of women and socially excluded.

Water for Women is proud to be partnering with the **Institute of Sustainable Futures - University of Technology, Sydney**, Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e and specialist partners IWDA, CBM and Edge Effect 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.