

# WaterAid PNG Country Strategy 2023 - 2028

Ending the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis  
together for everyone, everywhere



WaterAid/ Photographer name



**WaterAid**

# Contents



**We are WaterAid**

**The state of WASH in Papua  
New Guinea**

**Our Aims**

**Internal priorities to make it happen**

# We are WaterAid





Our vision is a world where everyone, everywhere has safe water, sanitation and hygiene.



Our mission is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Our values define our culture and are at the very heart of WaterAid – who we are, what we do and how we do it.



**Respect:** We treat everyone with dignity and respect and champion the rights and contribution of all to achieve a fairer world.



**Accountability:** We are accountable to those whose lives we hope to see transformed, to those we work with and to those who support us.



**Courage:** We are bold and inspiring in our actions and words, and uncompromising in our determination to pursue our mission.



**Collaboration:** We work with others to maximise our impact, respecting diversity and difference in the pursuit of common goals.



**Innovation:** We are creative and agile, always learning, and prepared to take risks to accelerate change.



**Integrity:** We act with honesty and conviction and our actions are consistent with openness, equality and human rights.

# WaterAid in PNG: results of our previous strategy

## WaterAid PNG role

WaterAid has particularly excelled in its systems strengthening approach of engaging with government and working through existing structures and systems to **inform and strengthen policy at national level** and **develop, test and refine inclusive and climate resilient service delivery models at sub-national level**, to increase prioritization and commitment to WASH and increase access to WASH across the areas that we work.

At national level, we have a **long-standing relationship with the national WaSH coordinating body – the National WaSH Programme Unit (PMU) providing technical support in key areas including the development of a national WaSH Management Information System (MIS) in 2019 and subsequent roll-out of system** including training of government and other implementing sector partners.



# WaterAid in PNG: results of our previous strategy

## Driving change in Papua New Guinea

Revival of WASH National Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and re-establishment of networks for Sanitation & Hygiene and WASH in HCFs, and CoP for Menstrual Health & Hygiene

Consulted on review of key national WASH policies including the review of the 2018 WASH in Schools Standards & Guidelines and national manuals for Healthy Islands & Community-Led Total Sanitation and initiated work with the national WASH in HCF TWG to develop national standards and guidelines for WASH in HCF

Finalized inclusive WASH in Schools infrastructure designs and installing in 10 schools, reaching nearly 5,000 students and teachers, hygiene and handwashing awareness provided for 10,000 schools students in Central Province and Wewak District

Water supplies constructed benefiting nearly 2,000 people in Wewak District with access to clean, safe water. Service delivery models trialled and tested by and with sub-national government for Wewak District

Facilitated a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signing between Water PNG (national utility) and Motu Koita Assembly (MKA) (assembly of councillors for the traditional Motu Koita villages) to re-connect water for the nearly 5,000 people of Pari village and test a peri-urban water supply service delivery model



# The state of WASH in Papua New Guinea



# Access to WASH in Papua New Guinea

## Current WASH Access Levels in PNG



Papua New Guinea has the **lowest water and sanitation access indicators amongst the 15 developing Pacific Island nations**. The latest (2021) update of the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) estimates **access to basic safe drinking water and basic improved sanitation in PNG in 2020 at 45% and 19% respectively**. While access to **hand washing with soap is 28%** (DHS2018).





# Access to WASH in Papua New Guinea

## Impact of Inadequate WaSH Access on Health



Adequate WASH access is key determinant to a healthy population and inadequate WASH access has contributed to a number of health issues in PNG. 2021 data states **non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at (40.3%) of reported patients registering at healthcare facilities**, while **infectious diseases including malaria make up 21.3%**, and **water-borne diseases including diarrhoea make up 11%**.

Adequate WASH access is also **important for proper maternal and child healthcare**. Reports on PNG show **maternal mortality rates at 171 deaths per 100,000 pregnancies**. With an **under-five mortality rate of 57 per 1000 live births**, an estimated **15,400 children or one in 13 children, die each year in PNG**, mostly from preventable diseases.



WaterAid/ Photographer name

## Our Aims



# Aim 1 Universal Access

**All people have access to reliable, resilient and inclusive WASH services in communities, health facilities and schools**



## Key challenges to achieving this aim:

The disparity between rural and urban household water access is significant. Urban households are nearly five times more likely to have access to piped water (74%) compared with rural households (16%), and the majority of these urban households enjoy the convenience of a household or yard connection, rather than a communal standpipe facility found in rural areas.



The vast development needs and budget limitations amplify inequalities with marginalised groups deprioritised due to complexities in governance and decision making, for instance communities residing in informal settlements are constrained from accessing urban piped water due to challenging governance, lack of land titles and poor prospects of the utility recovering the costs for providing the service.



While there is commendable progress at national level in the development of key WASH sector reforms, there remains significant capacity challenges in planning, finance and service delivery at sub-national level and a lack of a skilled workforce to undertake technical functions required to accelerate service delivery. LLGs, who are responsible for WASH service delivery, are constrained by remoteness, under-resourcing and low technical capacity.

# Aim 1 Universal Access

All people have access to reliable, resilient and inclusive WASH services in communities, health facilities and schools

**Outcome 1:** Improved sub-national coordination, planning and monitoring for District-wide WASH services in target districts

We will continue to implement and promote the district-wide approach taken in Wewak so that the coordinated service delivery approach can be replicated and up-scaled to other districts

We will continue to support the National WASH PMU in the roll-out of the national MIS and mWater system so that more districts and provinces in the country have access to data for more coordinated planning.

We will continue to support sharing of sub-national WASH service delivery experiences with other implementers and stakeholders esp. at national level to continuously refine and replicate coordinated WASH service delivery at district level

**Outcome 2:** Improved national level, coordination planning and monitoring of WASH

We will continue to support the key national level partners, particularly the National WASH PMU to facilitate effective national-level coordination mechanisms particularly TWGs for great greater learning and coordination in the sector

We will continue to support the PMU to ensure that the National WASH MIS is sound with the most appropriate indicators so that the correct data is collected to use for more coordinated planning

We will continue to co-facilitate and support the review and development and/or revision of key national level WASH policies and guidelines for improved service delivery

**Outcome 3:** Greater financial investment in WASH services to achieve PNG WASH policies and targets

We will continue to support stakeholders and particularly government at national and subnational level to advocate with the relevant parties on the importance of WASH and the architecture of the WASH sector to raise the profile, interest and prioritization of WASH

We will work with relevant partners including government in the areas we work to identify and address capacity gaps for accessing WASH within the sector, to have sector stakeholders who can independently access WASH funding

## Aim 2: WASH in public health

### Improved public health through better hygiene and infection prevention control



#### Key challenges to achieving this aim:

While there are some successful hygiene behaviour change tools and approaches Provincial Health Authorities face challenges in adoption and delivery. There is also a need to continue to review and adapt BCC tools to increase effectiveness and meet the challenges of the context where there are low literacy rates, difficult terrain, and varying community governance situations



Provincial Health Authorities (PHA) and provinces have ultimate responsibility for improving health care facilities but are not fully empowered and resourced to do this. Information does not always flow to PHAs or down to individual facilities. The re-formation of the National WASH in health care facilities Working Group provides an opportunity to improve sector coordination at the national level between NDOH, the WASH PMU and other stakeholders, and move the WASH in HCF agenda forward.



There are no comprehensive WASH services standards and guidelines for health care facilities in PNG. Their absence is seen as an impediment to achieving basic levels of WASH in health care facilities and as creating gaps in the National Health Sector Standards. Lack of resources (money and personnel) and difficult terrain/topography to reach particularly the rural areas with WaSH awareness

## Aim 2: WaSH & Health

### Improved public health through better hygiene and infection prevention control

#### Outcome 1: Improved hygiene behaviours in communities

We will advocate for and work with relevant national government departments including the PMU and NDoH to review and refine existing government policies and approaches on behaviour change for sanitation and hygiene based on learning from implementers within the sector.

We will continue to take a collaborative approach to menstrual health & hygiene, working with key partners within the CoP including government bodies so that any tools, policies, IEC materials that are developed will be based on and endorsed after representative input from key stakeholders and technical advisors.

We will work with and support relevant government authorities in the areas we work, particularly Provincial Health Authorities to embed endorse Healthy Islands as the official approach for sanitation & hygiene in communities and assist PHAs with a S & H strategy for especially more rural communities.

#### Outcome 2: Improved hygiene, sanitation and infection projection control within Health Care Facilities

We will work with NDoH and the WASH in HCF TWG to develop standards and guidelines that integrate mechanisms and work with existing systems to monitor and sustain quality WASH facilities and practices in HCFs

We will work with and support key stakeholders and implementers particularly NDoH and the WASH in HCF TWG to advocate and work with Provincial Health Authorities (PHAs) to coordinate and monitor the uptake of developed WASH in HCF standards & guidelines in HCFs including trialling in areas where we already work.

We will work with key stakeholders NDoH and the WASH in HCF TWG to launch the WASH in HCF standards and guidelines once completed and include the roll-out to wider stakeholder as part of our work to get more buy-in and support at sub-national level.

## Aim 3: GEDSI in WASH

### More women, girls and people with disabilities are empowered through equitable and inclusive WASH

#### Key challenges to achieving this aim:



The biggest challenge to achieving our target for especially gender equity and equality is a less conducive base context to work with, with some of the lowest rates of female participation and leadership across the region and globally. These power imbalances and inequalities are steeped in our largely patriarchal culture that has permeated our society structures at all levels.



The Gender Inequality Index ranks PNG among the lowest-ranking countries in the world at 159 out of 189 countries. GEDSI and especially gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a national issue for PNG with at least 68 per cent of women in PNG having experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at some point in their lives, which is double the global average (UNDP, 2021).



38% of employees but hold only 18% of senior management roles.<sup>16</sup> The low representation of women extends to political functions and other decision-making positions, including seats in Parliament or on the boards of SOEs.



winning a seat in the 11<sup>th</sup> PNG parliament after the 2022 NGE. This represents only 2% of the 118 seats and adds to only 7 other women who have made it into parliament since independence in 1975.

With Gender Inequality being a major issue in the country, the mandated government organizations such as Department of Community Development are unfortunately constrained by limitations in resources including funding and human resource. For people with disabilities, similar structural and institutional challenges exist as for Gender Equality with Department of Community Development being mandated to coordinate efforts for both women and girls and people with disabilities in the country.

## Aim 3: GEDSI in WASH

## More women, girls and people with disabilities are empowered through equitable and inclusive WASH

### Outcome 1: Inclusive WASH approaches are integrated into targeted government policies

and involvement in the WASH sector at all levels to increase their leadership and decision-making for more socially inclusive WASH

We will continue to advocate and build capacity for integrated and inclusive WASH with all WASH and non-WASH actors using ours and

WASH service delivery.

We will continue to build the organizational capacity of our rights groups partners and stakeholders for them to effectively advocate to policy-makers and other decision makers for more inclusive WASH

### Outcome 2: Women and people with disabilities are empowered to contribute to communities

We will work with relevant partners and stakeholders to design and implement evidence-based community-based GEDSI initiatives for both women and girls and men and boys to sensitize communities and create environments for behaviour change to more socially inclusive communities.

We will work through our networks at national level and particularly the National WASH Consultative Forum to share experiences from the field to inform and influence policy for more inclusive WASH



## Aim 4: Climate Resilient WASH

### Increased resilience of WASH services and systems to the impacts of climate change



#### Key challenges to achieving this aim:

The key challenge for achieving more climate resilient WASH in the areas where we work is government buy-in for a more sustainable systems strengthening government-led approach



Climate change has received relatively less exposure and priority by the PNG government than GEDSI. It can be said that there is generally more global and donor and non-government prioritization on climate change than by the national government. The extent of the national focus on climate change is illustrated in the outcomes from the participation in CoP26, where much focus was on the more economic/commercial aspects of climate change such as carbon trading, clean energy and deforestation



More awareness and knowledge-building is also needed at community level for similar buy-in and leadership as for government as new tools, approaches, and technology are developed.

## Aim 4: Climate Resilient WASH

### Increased resilience of WASH services and systems to the impacts of climate change

#### **Outcome 1:** PNG WASH and climate actors have greater capacity and systems in place to plan for climate resilient WASH

We will continue to provide support and collaborate with national level partners and particularly the WASH PMU through the WASH Consultative Forum and WASH & Climate TWG to inform and influence policy and practice on resilient WASH

We will work with government and other stakeholders at sub-national level to integrate and embed resilience within the WASH service delivery model

We will work with the National WASH PMU and the Monitoring TWG to include climate and resilience indicators into the National WASH MIS and support the roll-out of the MIS across the country to integrate into service delivery for more resilient WASH outcomes.

#### **Outcome 2:** More effective approaches to climate resilience and community-based water resource management in target communities

We will utilize national, subnational, regional, and program-level partnerships, collaborations and forums to share and discuss evidence and experiences to inform best practice on technical and cost effective approaches for climate resilient WASH

We will work with sub-national partners and utilize predictive weather data, as well extracting experiences from the communities themselves to develop community-based and led water resource management strategies

groups and their networks to lead and develop water resource management strategies for communities for increased and sustainable resilience

## Internal priorities to make it happen



## 3 Internal priorities for success

To accelerate our impact and achieve our aims and outcomes, we will focus on



### 1. Strong People & Culture

With a growing program and reputation it is imperative that we recruit a strong team with the right technical skills and attitude to continue to implement our grant portfolio with quality work to achieve targeted outcomes. Good organizational culture is then needed to retain our staff and this includes supporting the staff in their career/professional as well as personal growth with good performance management and support system.



### 2. Efficient Grant Management System

A growing portfolio of grants also requires efficiency to manage by having both competent people (1) but also strong systems and processes to guide the successful implementation of grants to reach our targets and deliver quality outputs within given timeframes. This includes monitoring and reporting systems.



### 3. Communications & Branding

An expansion strategy whether deliberate or organic requires good reputation including sector (development & WaSH) demonstration of sustainable outcomes from our work. A good communications strategy and team would assist in guiding increasing our profile and reputation in this regard.



# Thank you

Navara Kiene  
Programs Director WaterAid PNG

01/12/2022

