



# **Winnovators 2024**

## **Papua New Guinea WASH Workforce Challenge**

# The Solve Challenge



Design innovative solutions or campaigns aimed at advocating educational institutions to prioritise and promote WASH-related programs. The goal is to enhance educational opportunities and bridge knowledge gaps.



# Background



In Papua New Guinea (PNG), there is limited qualifications for people wanting to enter the water and sanitation workforce.

University and vocational courses are limited; career pathways are not well-defined and often people working as WASH professionals have gaps in knowledge, technical skills and qualifications.

There is limited opportunity for water-related engineering study, career development and women's workforce and study participation is lower than men's.



# Background



In 2015, the Government of PNG developed and endorsed the country's first National WASH Policy (2015-2030), which focuses on improved service delivery of drinking water, sanitation and promoting long term hygiene behaviour change. Significant challenges remain in planning, finance and service delivery at sub-national level, and a lack of a skilled workforce to undertake technical functions in the public service to accelerate service delivery.

The new Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV) (2023-2027) prioritises WASH services as “critical enabling infrastructure”. The MTDP IV highlights that a total budget of K915 million (365 million AUD) in investment is needed to achieve the MTDP IV targets for WASH.

In addition to this, the MTDP outlines that a workforce of over 5000 WASH professionals is required.



WaterAid/ Tariq Hawari

# What's the Challenge?

Utilities like WaterPNG have difficulties managing assets due to inappropriate operational practices and poor maintenance of operators across the county.

Across rural PNG, small contractors build WASH infrastructure. It is difficult to assess and maintain quality of infrastructure which leads to damage and disrepair due to severe weather events.

All WASH infrastructure in rural areas requires maintenance. Often it is unclear who the maintenance personnel are. Even if the maintenance personnel are in place, they may not have had training, have the right equipment or skills to carry out repairs.

Evidence shows that the best performing water systems require good ongoing maintenance to remain viable.

Design innovative solutions or campaigns aimed at advocating educational institutions to prioritise and promote WASH-related programs. The goal is to enhance educational opportunities and bridge knowledge gaps.



# What do you have to submit?



**A solution in the form of one or more of the following:**

- **1,000 word report (this does not include appendices)**
- **A3 poster/board**
- **5-minute video**
- **10-slide PowerPoint**



**Final submissions are due Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August.**

# What can you win?



- **Best Water Solve**
- **Best Sanitation & Hygiene Solve**
- **Best Advocacy Solve**
- **Best Fund**

**If your team excels in the Solve and Fund Challenges:**

- **Overall Champion**



# What are the next steps?

- Contact the Winnovators team at WaterAid with questions – we're here to help [auswinnovators@wateraid.org.au](mailto:auswinnovators@wateraid.org.au).
- Don't forget to capture your journey! Remember to take photos during your meetings, discussions, and activities, and share them with WaterAid to document your Winnovators experience.
- See the Submissions Examples for Solve and Fund on the resource library.
- Start preparing your fundraising pitch for the seed funding, due 10<sup>th</sup> May.
- Start thinking the framework of your selected 'Solve' challenge. In no more than 500 words, prepare an outline and send to WaterAid on [auswinnovators@wateraid.org.au](mailto:auswinnovators@wateraid.org.au). It is not part of the submission judging. This is to help you set a framework for your chosen challenge at the start, and also for WaterAid to be able to provide feedback on your initial direction and thinking.







# Thank You



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