

## WORLD WATER DAY

March 22nd marks World Water Day, a globally recognized observance aimed at increasing awareness about the significance of freshwater and advocating for sustainable water resource management.

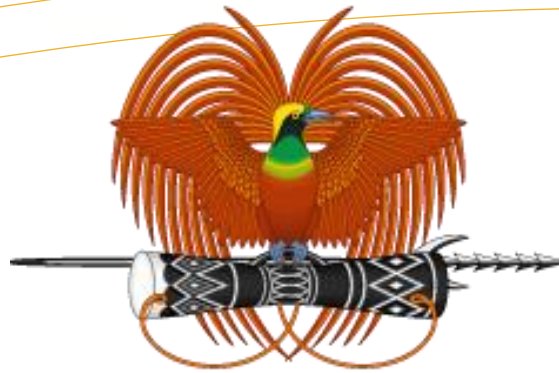
The primary goal of World Water Day is to inspire individuals and organizations worldwide to take action in addressing water-related challenges, including water scarcity, water pollution, and insufficient access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

This year's World Water Day coincided with a remarkable achievement at Pari Primary School. The school celebrated the launch of a new bore water facility, made possible by the generous support of the Australian High Commission through the Education in Emergency Rapid Response Program coordinated by UNICEF, in collaboration with the National Department of Education.

The bore water facility, equipped with a solar-powered system, addresses the critical issue of water scarcity faced by Pari Elementary School and the surrounding community. This intervention will significantly enhance water availability and meet the water needs of both the school and the community.

The official launch of the facility was attended by delegates from the Australian High Commission, UNICEF, the National Department of Planning and Monitoring - WaSH PMU, and the National Department of Education. Their presence highlights the collaborative efforts and commitment of various stakeholders to improving water access and quality in Pari.

This achievement serves as a testament to the positive impact that partnerships and coordinated efforts can have on addressing water-related challenges.



**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING & MONITORING**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) Program Management Unit (PMU)

We are pleased to share with you:

1. WASH, Water security and climate change integration Working Group
2. Strengthening Climate Resilience & Safe Water access in Rural areas in the Pacific
3. WaSH MIS NGI Regional Training

## WASH, WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION WORKING GROUP

We are witnessing a steady rise in greenhouse gas levels over the past century, primarily caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes. These emissions, including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, have contributed to the phenomenon we now know as climate change. The consequences of this global shift are far-reaching, with impacts ranging from rising sea levels to extreme weather events and the loss of biodiversity.

The Government of PNG has recognized the urgent need to address the challenges posed by climate change, especially in relation to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) services. Climate change has led to an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, which can directly affect the accessibility of safe water and sanitation facilities. It is crucial that we build resilience within our communities to ensure continuous access to these vital services in the face of changing environmental conditions.

In response to this pressing issue, DNPM WaSH PMU has established a WaSH, Water Security & Climate Change Technical Working Group. This group comprises of key stakeholders from the WaSH, health, education, climate/meteorological, and development partner sectors, all collaborating to develop a common agenda for the WaSH, water security, and climate nexus. By sharing knowledge and expertise, this

partnership aims to adopt cross-cutting approaches to tackle the interlinked issues of climate change and WaSH.

The formation of this Working Group provides an enabling environment for improved coordination and collaboration between the WaSH and Climate sectors. It allows us to address the increasing demand for climate-induced impacts on WaSH effectively. By bringing together stakeholders from various sectors, where we can develop innovative strategies to enhance the resilience of water and sanitation infrastructure and reduce vulnerability to climate-related health risks.

By focusing on climate resilience within the WaSH sector, we aim to ensure the availability and reliability of clean water and sanitation services for communities, even in the face of changing climatic conditions. Moreover, improvements in water and sanitation infrastructure can contribute significantly to increased climate resilience, providing a solid foundation for sustainable development.

At DNPM WaSH PMU, we are committed to advancing the climate resilient agenda and mitigating the impacts of climate change on water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Through our collaborative efforts, we strive to protect and enhance the well-being of communities, both now and for generations to come.

## ADB ACCELERATING ITS SUPPORT OF WASH IN RURAL PNG

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is accelerating its support for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) initiatives in our country. Aligned with the Government's WaSH Policy and in collaboration with the DNPM-WaSH PMU, this support aims to increase access to safe water and sanitation, addressing water-borne diseases that significantly impact our communities' well-being, dignity, and economic activities.

Under the leadership of Mr. Takale Tuna, the National WaSH Program Coordinator, ADB consultants and the WaSH PMU team were in East New Britain (ENB) province to provide crucial assistance for the province's WaSH endeavours. They had the privilege of meeting with ENB Governor, Hon. Michael Marum, and Acting Provincial Administrator for ENB, Mr. Levi Mano, to offer advice on WaSH developments, district WaSH Plans, and potential opportunities for ADB and the WaSH PMU to collaborate on.

The Governor has expressed his unwavering support for WaSH in the province, recognizing its critical importance for the people of ENB, particularly considering their experiences during the COVID-19 period and the prolonged drought last year. As a step forward stemming from the meetings, ADB has proposed the establishment of a Water Utility in Kokopo to manage the water supply, which is being given due consideration.

Moreover, the ADB team was conducting training sessions on Hygiene Behavioural Change, Menstrual Hygiene Management, and Operation & Maintenance for teachers and school handymen at the Malapau Conference Centre. Recognizing that WaSH disproportionately affects women and girls in Papua New Guinea, particularly in rural areas, these training sessions aim to equip teachers and handymen with the necessary WaSH knowledge to effectively train and maintain WaSH facilities in schools across the province.

We acknowledge the importance of addressing WaSH challenges and the impact it has on our communities. By partnering with ADB and other stakeholders, we can make significant strides in improving access to safe water and sanitation, ultimately enhancing the lives of individuals and fostering sustainable development.



## NATIONAL WASH MIS NGI REGIONAL TRAINING

*All East New Britain District Administrators have committed a combined total of K2.5 million for the rollout of WaSH projects in their respective districts.*

The Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) Water Sanitation & Hygiene Programme Management Unit (WaSH PMU) has successfully completed a four-day New Guinea Islands (NGI) Regional WaSH Monitoring System Training Workshop. The training was held in Rapapo Resort, Kokopo, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of March.

The training's aim was to build capacity by enhancing the skills and knowledge of Provincial Administrators and Provincial Health officers from the five NGI provinces. A total of 40 participants attended the MIS Training

During the training, participants were equipped with the necessary tools and techniques to conduct a comprehensive WaSH Baseline survey using the mWater application. These surveys play a vital role in developing District WaSH Plans, which serve as investment plans for WaSH projects in districts, to be funded either by the government or donor partners.

Representatives from various national-level organizations, including the National Department of Health, National Weather Services, Climate Change Development Authority, and Conservation & Environment Protection Agency also participated in the training.

DNPM-WaSH PMU is currently undertaking strategy 3 of the National WaSH Policy 2015-2030, which aims to promote and implement the National WaSH Management Information System (MIS) to capture WaSH baseline data before 2030. This expansion will significantly enhance WaSH data coverage and allow for effective tracking and reporting of WaSH indicators across the country.

Mr. Takale Tuna, the National WaSH Program Coordinator, emphasized that the WaSH Monitoring and Information System (MIS) is an evidence-based planning tool. This system facilitates a bottom-up planning process, enabling all levels of the government system to utilize it effectively for planning and funding purposes.

Mr Tuna extended his gratitude towards WaterAid and DFAT through the Australian Water Partnership Program for their continuous support to the Government's effort in implementing the National WaSH Policy and making the NGI WaSH MIS training a success.

Levi Mano, the Provincial Administrator of East New Britain province, stressed that hosting the WaSH MIS training was of no coincidence. After enduring the challenges of COVID-19 and the prolonged drought caused by El Niño, the people of East New Britain are determined to prioritize WaSH and welcome any assistance and support.

We are thrilled to share that as a result of this workshop, all East New Britain District Administrators have committed a combined total of K2.5 million for the rollout of WaSH projects in their respective districts. This pledge demonstrates their unwavering dedication to improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services throughout the region.

# STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE & SAFE WATER ACCESS IN RURAL AREAS IN THE PACIFIC



Estella Bunbun, our esteemed Rural WaSH Planner, together with representatives from the Climate Change Development Authority, have attended the one-week training program, from April 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, in Fiji titled "Strengthening Climate Resilience and Safe Water Access in Rural Areas in the Pacific". This invaluable opportunity is organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), who are based in Samoa.

The training program focuses on three key areas: climate science, adaptation and mitigation options, and logical framework/project management.

By delving into these topics, PNG have gained essential knowledge and capacity to address climate resilience and water access challenges faced by rural communities.

This platform allowed Ms Bunbun to share DNPM's WaSH PMU experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in the field of climate-resilient WaSH projects and also gain lessons learnt from other participants from Fiji, Solomon Islands & Samoa.

The ultimate goal of this training was to develop project proposals tailored to a country, specifically addressing climate resilience and water access for rural communities.

This presents a remarkable opportunity for DNPM-WaSH PMU and our country as a whole.

By participating actively in this program, we aim to secure funds for Climate Resilient WaSH projects in PNG, furthering our efforts to safeguard the well-being of our communities.

We extend our gratitude to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) for organizing this important training, which serves as a platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and collaboration among Pacific Island nations.

Such initiatives strengthen regional cooperation and enhance our collective ability to tackle the challenges posed by climate change.

PNG's Participation in such training reaffirms the Government's commitment to advancing climate resilience and ensuring access to safe water for rural communities in Papua New Guinea.

## WaSH in HCF Validation Workshop in Hagen

The WaSH in Healthcare Facilities (HCF) Technical Working Group recently conducted the National Validation Workshop for the WaSH in HCF Tools in Hagen from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2023. The workshop focused on validating three vital WaSH tools for HCF's: the Situational Analysis, National Road Map, and Minimum Standard & Guidelines documents.

Attended by Provincial Health Authority (PHA) CEOs and Public Health Directors, the workshop aimed to assess the practicality, efficiency, and sustainability of these tools in rural areas. Validating these essential tools is of utmost importance as they play a crucial role in promoting health and preventing the spread of diseases, particularly within healthcare settings.

By ensuring that these tools are effective and relevant to the local context, healthcare facilities can strengthen their WaSH practices and enhance overall healthcare outcomes. This validation process allows for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among key stakeholders, enabling the refinement and improvement of the tools based on their practical experiences and expertise.

The National Validation Workshop serves as an essential step in the ongoing efforts to enhance WaSH practices within healthcare facilities across the country. By incorporating feedback and insights from PHA CEOs and Public Health Directors, these tools can be tailored to address the specific challenges and needs of rural areas, where access to adequate WaSH facilities is crucial for providing quality healthcare services.

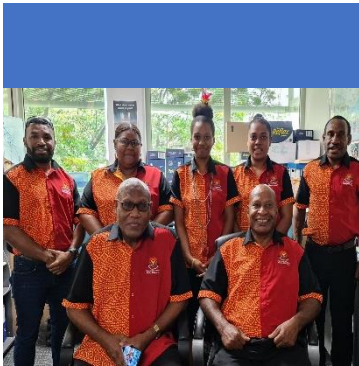
We extend our appreciation to all participants who contributed their valuable time and expertise to this workshop. Their dedication and commitment to improving WaSH in healthcare settings will undoubtedly have a positive impact on public health outcomes and the well-being of communities.

Moving forward, we remain committed to implementing the validated tools and working collaboratively with National Department of Health to ensure that WaSH practices in healthcare facilities meet the highest standards.

## THIS MONTH'S KEY WASH BEHAVIOR

Washing your hands with clean water and soap is a simple yet effective way to prevent the spread of germs and illness. So, remember, wash your hands regularly and thoroughly to stay healthy!





## WaSH PMU

Stay tuned for more updates on our collective efforts to enhance WaSH in Healthcare Facilities, Schools and Communities and promote a healthier future for all.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **National Training of Trainers (ToT) Community Led Total Sanitation Workshop**
- **WaSH Bottleneck Analysis Tool Workshop**
- **Menstrual Hygiene Day**
- **WaSH Joint Sector Finalization**
- **WASH, Water security and climate change integration Working Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**


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## DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING & MONITORING

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) Program Management Unit (PMU)

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WATER SANITATION HYGIENE PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT

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