



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) Papua New Guinea

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	5,711
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	93
Total adult literacy rate (%)	64

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	88	67
Rural	32	41
Total	39	45

Country Setting

- ▶ Despite abundant natural resources, poverty is deepening in Papua New Guinea – over one-third of the population lives in absolute poverty.
- ▶ The per capita gross national product has declined from \$1,300 in 1994 to an estimated \$540 in 2002.
- ▶ 87 per cent of the population lives in hard to reach remote areas and islands.
- ▶ The country is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods and droughts.

WES Sector Setting

- ▶ Water and sanitation coverage is low by regional standards (Oceania: water 52%, sanitation 55%), and there are serious geographic and urban/peri-urban/rural coverage disparities in the country.
- ▶ While water resources are generally abundant, some parts of the country are subject to seasonal water shortages.
- ▶ Water and sanitation is governed by the Public Health Act, the Environment Act and the National Water Supply and Sewerage Act. However budget allocations to the sector are relatively small.
- ▶ The 2001-2010 National Health Plan includes provisions for water quality monitoring, community driven sustainability programmes, the drought-proofing of water supplies, safe disposal of wastes, and safe water supply and sanitation.

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- ▶ The WES programme is part of UNICEF's Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development programme.
- ▶ It has three main components:
 - Access to safe water;
 - Personal and environmental hygiene;
 - Enabling and nurturing home environment.
- ▶ Work is carried out in four provinces, in line with Government's performance-based self-help approach.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- ▶ UNICEF has introduced the community-based Home Fit for Children programme with the objective of promoting behavioural change to ensure the survival, healthy growth and development of children and family members.
- ▶ Programme monitoring has registered improvements in some of the key behavioural practices in participating communities.
- ▶ To date, UNICEF has supported service provision in two communities.