Supporting rural communities in Papua New Guinea with water, sanitation and hygiene

Long-term livelihood programme

Improving the lives of over 30,000 people

Funding needed $465,000 over the four years of the programme

Project timeline 2019-2023

“This programme is match-funded! This means your donation has five times the impact!

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SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA WITH WATER, SANITISATION AND HYGIENE

“Now that the water is close to my house ... my school marks started to improve. It also helps my parents to do other work too.”

Rosalyn Kuman, 16, in Kopas Village, Papua New Guinea.

Brea Kaupa has lived in Kopas village for almost 30 years. Before Oxfam installed water tanks in his community, people were sick all the time. He says the water collected by the villagers at the river source was polluted with human and animal excrement from upstream. Brea says that three to four people a week needed to be hospitalised with waterborne sicknesses. Today this number has decreased significantly.

“Our mothers can use clean water to drink. And they can also use clean water to wash the kitchen utensils. And at the same time, they can use clean water to cook. Washing their food with clean water.”

Brea

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For the Papua New Guinea government, providing improved water and sanitation services to seven million citizens represents a significant challenge, especially for roughly 85% of the population living in rural communities. In these remote Eastern Highlands, only one-third of the rural communities have access to safe water, and only 13% enjoy adequate sanitation coverage.

Limited access to improved water and sanitation infrastructure has a significant impact on morbidity and mortality rates. At 44% the early childhood height to age ratio is poor compared to the rest of the region: stunting leads to lifelong effects on children.

Oxfam’s four-year FLOW programme will improve the health, resilience, and quality of life in 12 rural communities in the Eastern Highlands Province by installing high-quality sustainable water supplies and sanitation infrastructures in 12 schools and 8 health centres, with an estimated reach of 30,000 people.

Oxfam will partner with local community-based organisations, Touching the Untouchables and Appropriate Technology Projects, and closely collaborate with government stakeholders. This programme is designed to motivate government agencies to implement the new WaSH policy and to stimulate communities to demand and support the rollout of essential WaSH services.

The programme’s key long-term goal is to create sanitation-related behaviour change by delivering hygiene and sanitation training to surrounding communities. This will ensure holistic support for WaSH-related behaviour change.

Gender empowerment: Increase women’s participation in WaSH decision-making processes by delivering gender awareness training to men and women, including government and community members.

The programme will improve hygiene practice and menstrual hygiene management by delivering hygiene, sanitation, and menstrual hygiene package to schools and health centres.

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