Outline

• Water supply & essential characteristics
• Sector profile
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• District and rural WASH
• District WASH Committee
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Water supply & essential characteristics

- Fresh water source
  - Abstraction
- Storage
  - Treatment
- Distribution
  - Consumption

- Basic necessity
  - Livelihood, health, social and economic growth, environment
- Capital-intensive and natural monopoly characteristics
- Increasingly becoming a commodity but still seen as public good
  - Accessible as shared resources and basic service delivery
Sector Profile

- Water sources in PNG are mainly from surface, ground and rainwater.
- Less than 10% of PNG population have access to piped water system.
- Peri-urban and rural areas remain poorly served, with estimates of 33% access to safe water.
- Increased incidences of water borne diseases, most notably diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera.
- Water (WASH) sector appears not a mainstay in PNG development priority.
- National target – 70% of population to have access to improved water source by 2030.

Policy, legislation & Institution

• National WASH POLICY (2015-2030)
  • Improve quality of life through reduction in water-related diseases, improved health and economic opportunities, and increased equity of services. Key components include;
    • Establishment of National Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Authority (NWSHA),
    • Enhance coordination, leader and increased sector funding,
    • Sector capacity building and training.

• Relevant legislation

• Institutions & service providers
  • WASH Project Management Unit in DNPM
  • Water PNG Limited (WPNG)
  • Municipal authorities
    • E.g. Goroka Urban Local Level Government
District & Rural WASH

• Rural water schemes are typically community owned and operated with no charges levied.
  • Unclear which agency has overall responsibility for rural water.
  • According to the National Water & Sewage Act (2016), Water PNG has responsibility for rural and urban areas, but while their role in urban centres is to ‘provide’ services, for rural areas they only ‘promote’ water supply and sanitation.
  • SOE Water PNG focuses on cost-recovery and profit generation, and is unable to operate in rural areas unless specifically funded to do so.

• District Development Authorities (DDAs) with the support from development partners are engaging in the delivery of WASH services in rural schools, health centres and communities.
  • Piloted districts include Goroka, Hagen Central, Nawaeb;
  • Water tanks, toilets and handwashing facilities are being provided as part of the partnership.

• Establishment of District WASH Committee who would be championing the WASH service delivery at the sub-national level under the guidance of District WASH Plans.
District WASH Committee

- Established to support extending access to sustainable, inclusive and resilient WASH services in a particular district.

- Tasked to produce and deliver a five-year District WASH Plan.
  - Guide conduct of a district-wide baseline assessment, setting realistic targets based on well-costed budget estimates and a clear plan to build capacity to deliver WASH services.
  - Other tasks include coordinating support from LLG Managers, developing an annual WASH budget, reviewing and approving project proposals, promoting participatory approaches to community consultation, reviewing project progress reports, monitoring expenditure on WASH services, and sharing updates with the DDA Board

- Membership
  - DDA CEO (chair) • LLG Managers • District Environmental Health Officer • District Primary School Inspector • Provincial Civil Engineer • Water PNG Branch Manager • District Planner • District Treasurer • Provincial/District Community Development Officer • Women’s Rep
Issues

• Growing concern and need for access to clean water supply (piped)

• Delay in the establishment of National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Authority (NWSHA).

• Capacity issues and limited commitment at the district level. e.g., there is no dedicated WASH officer at the district level.

• Ongoing financial constraint as evident in recent WASH pilot projects which were largely funded by development partners
  • Daunting task for the DDAs to prioritise funding on WASH activities. For sustainability of WASH projects at district level, WASH funding will have to be sourced internally.

• WASH infrastructure - water mains, reservoirs and waste treatment plant are in dilapidated state.
  • Increasing water demand from urban expansion are exerting pressure on existing infrastructure
  • Population growth, natural disaster and climate variability have adversely impacted water quality and availability.
Way forward

- Prioritise delivery of equitable and reliable water related projects into rural communities.
- Districts should consider establishing District WASH Committee when considering investment in the sector, to better coordinate with various agencies that have a role to play in WASH service delivery.
- Strong political leadership and willingness of development partners, private sectors and civil societies, would be key in sustaining implementation of WASH projects overtime.
- State utility and partners will need to develop viable operating model in close collaboration with provincial and district administrations to extend WASH services into districts and rural areas.