

## Project Evaluation Summary

### PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	PNG Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Program Area	Poverty Alleviation and Social Empowerment
Partner Name	United Church in Papua New Guinea Development Unit	Unit	Relief and Development
Project Location (Country, Province)	Papua New Guinea	Evaluation Date (Month, Year)	June 2018
Project Years Evaluated (eg. 2018-2021)	2014-2018		

### BACKGROUND

- UnitingWorld has been working with United Church in Papua New Guinea (UCPNG).
- The project aims to improve rural communities' access to clean water and awareness of health and hygiene practices.
- We conducted an evaluation to track the progress, results and effectiveness of the project over the most recent three year period, from financial year 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Rural communities in Papua New Guinea, are frequently isolated and lack access to many basic services. Lack of access to reliable, clean water supplies is a significant issue, with women and children highly affected by both the burden of carrying water and water borne diseases. For close to 20 years, this project has operated using ANCP and other donor funds to provide clean water, sanitation facilities and community health and hygiene awareness training. The introduction in 2015 of a dedicated behaviour change component to the program has shifted the focus from health awareness and water supply to a community- led campaign to increase handwashing with soap. The project works with community enablers who are leaders in their community. These community enablers assist in the facilitation of a 4-week campaign to increase awareness about and change behaviour around handwashing at key times.

Direct beneficiaries of this project are the men and women and children in the three trial communities who have participated in the campaign activities. Women and children particularly benefit through reduced workload freeing them up for other domestic and educational activities. Other beneficiaries include people from adjacent villages that access health and education facilities that are improved through water supplies.

### EVALUATION FINDINGS

#### Achievements

- The Rait Mama campaign is a good starting point for introducing behaviour change through change agents, and improved practice of washing hands with soap has a high impact on improved health. The campaign on hand-washing knowledge also triggered other behaviour change in some households – including general improvements to home and yard cleanliness, building new or improved toilets, and beautification of gardens.
- Communities expressed high support for the Rait Mama campaign and appreciate the health benefits of having hand-washing facilities in each household.
- Other communities not currently included in the activities have observed the benefits and wanted it to be held in their areas.
- Since the Rait Mama campaign has been conducted, it appears that the number of cases of diarrhoea and stomach pains have reduced.

## Recommendations and Response

Recommendations from the evaluation included:

- Revise the Rait Mama toolkit to provide ideas and activities for follow-up mini-campaigns or “nudges” to provide reinforcement of positive messages and achievements in hand-washing practice several months after the initial campaign
- Develop a revised campaign tool kit for Change Agents and local champions to be able to replicate the campaign in a smaller or simple way in neighbouring villages.
- In communities where there is a school the project should integrate a simple WASH in Schools program alongside the Rait Mama campaign.
- Build Gender and Social Inclusion activities and monitoring into the design of the next phase
- Build stronger relationships with other PNG-based community WASH implementers

The recommendations/learnings from the evaluation will be used to inform the design for the next phase of the project, which is being developed during 2018-19.

## STORY OF CHANGE

One of the change agents in one of the communities shared their feedback about the project:

*“All I want to share is I want to be really thankful. Because in the past years I live very close to the health centre with sickness after sickness. But after this program came here I am so thankful there is big improvement in the people’s life and their health, especially their health. In this island health was a problem to us, but now this Rait Mama campaign, after we completed it, it has given us a big help and big improvement in our healthy living. There is less sickness, less people coming to the hospital. Now the outer islands are asking us to move out and help them improve their situation that we are using in our community today. In some outer islands they come and study from here and they go back and try to emphasise the thing we are doing here, handwashing. So I am so thankful to the water and sanitation people that have brought us this system to improve our healthy living. Thank you. They want us to move out and explain to them how to go about this hand-washing. I think this is good, so that it will promote more healthy good living there.”*



*Rait Mama volunteer in one of the project communities*