



Adjusting approach for government engagement in a challenging context

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Western Province, PNG

Middle and Lower Fly river communities

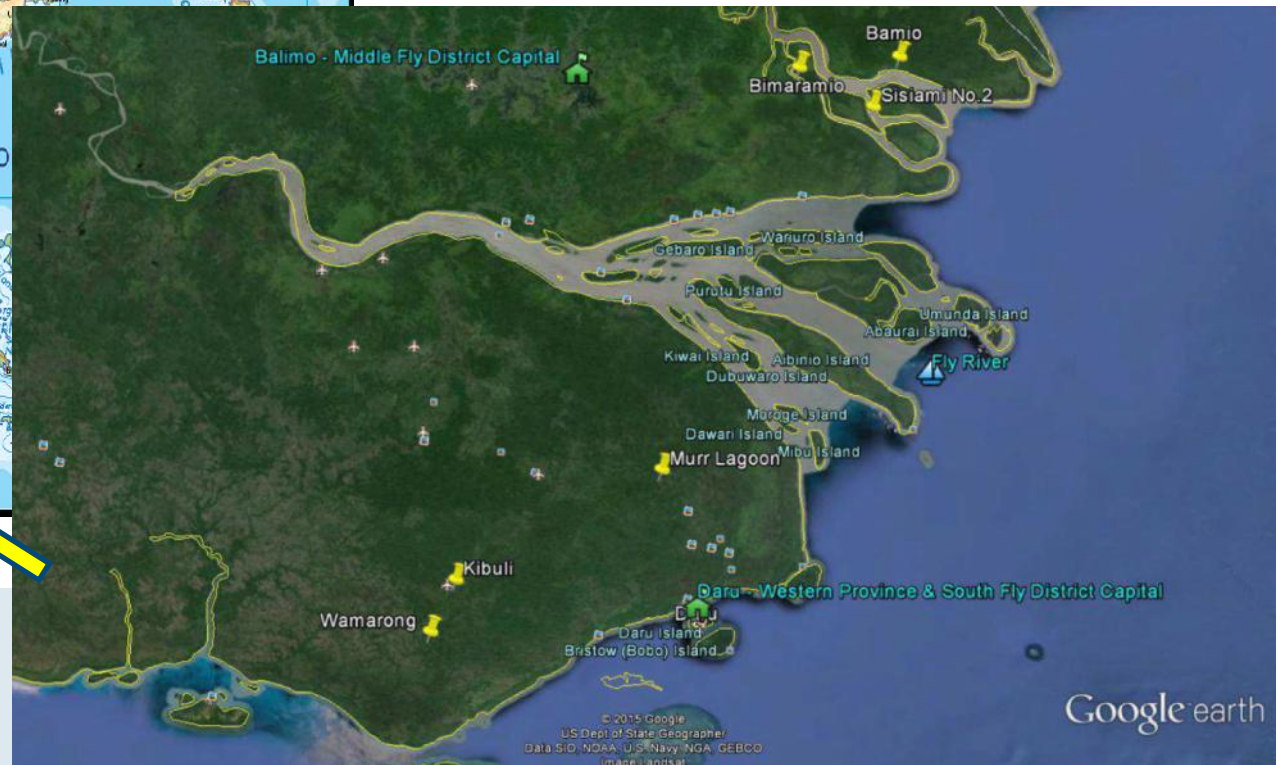


Most underdeveloped province of PNG

20 minute boat ride to Australia;

No services or infrastructure outside of (three) townships

Main hospital in Daru and Balimo; only one secondary school in Daru



Western Province, PNG

Middle Fly and South Fly communities

- Villages have been missed out on vital government services such as education, WaSH infrastructure and basic health services.
- 0% access improved toilets; 4% access improved water
- There are no roads, only form of transport is by boats. Can cost up to \$1,500 AUD round trip to middle fly. Communities paddle many kilometres to seek medical assistance and education for their family and children.
- Up to 2 week canoe ride to Daru



Challenges

Provincial and District lvl govⁿ lacks funding

Project objective to provide ongoing secretarial, governance and financial support to the PWC.

Challenges to achieving the objective:

- The Provincial Dept of Health (PDoH) has not yet re-established the Provincial Health committee.
- A funding freeze for all levels of government caused by an ongoing court case on corruption against the provincial governor (now jailed)
- Government's focus is on tackling multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB) in WP.

Challenges

Provincial and District lvl govⁿ lacks funding

Other challenges include:

- Past practices did not empower communities, resulting in dependency and unsustainable outcomes.
- Meetings would take place in Daru and Kiunga, which are only accessible by plane, which is very expensive;
- A severe 9 month El Nino drought event, so the Health Officers focused on the drought response – mainly food distribution;
- The death of the South Fly administrator, who would chair the committee; Middle Fly and North Fly administrators are also charged with misappropriation of funds

Approaches taken

Focus on District level and Local level Government

- Aligning with National WASH policy, WV supporting the Middle and South Fly District health offices and Local Level Governments (LLG) to establish, coordinate and resource **District level WASH committees** and develop WASH development plans for the Middle Fly and South Fly districts.
- The district WASH committees comprises of public and private partners, and WV facilitate regular meetings, trainings and field visits to target communities



Approaches taken

Focus on District level and Local level Government

- Setting aspirational goals for the committee, to “lead as an example” for the other districts in terms of district wide WASH implementation
- Engaging and training the committees, LLGs and other partners on Healthy Islands Concept
- Utilising the El Nino event to put focus on WASH (with the district disaster committee) and coordinate emergency response for WASH
- Working with other development partners to create momentum to bring about a greater focus on WASH within Western Province

Approaches taken

Focus on District level and Local level Government

- Providing a means for communities to feedback to government (district and local level)
- Project utilizes local media and disseminate WASH messages, with district level government participating
- As part of the national WASH taskforce, WV reports to the committees on the status of WASH implementation throughout PNG, as “yardstick” to measure progress against

Outcomes

Engagement and ownership by district level govⁿ

- District health offices have participated in every WASH committee meeting, and have drawn out list of additional partners to join the committees
- District health offices are communicating with the District Development Authorities regarding the existing and planned WASH activities, with the intention of seeking future funding from the authorities to implement plan
- Committee keen to participate in existing WASH activities carried out by World Vision

Outcomes

Engagement and ownership by district level govⁿ

- More communities are requesting to both district level government and World Vision to be equipped with training and tools to improve on health outcomes
- Good representation of WASH and health “actors” within the committees
- Other government agencies showing interest and encouragement for WASH implementation
- District health offices communicating with DFAT post on existing and planned WASH activities

Recommendations?

- Be reactive and flexible
- Find out what motivates the government actors
- Provide feedback where possible, both from the communities and from national level partners
- Be patient!

Thank you