



# Strengthening inclusion through working with Disabled Persons' Organisations on WASH programs

Session number 5c

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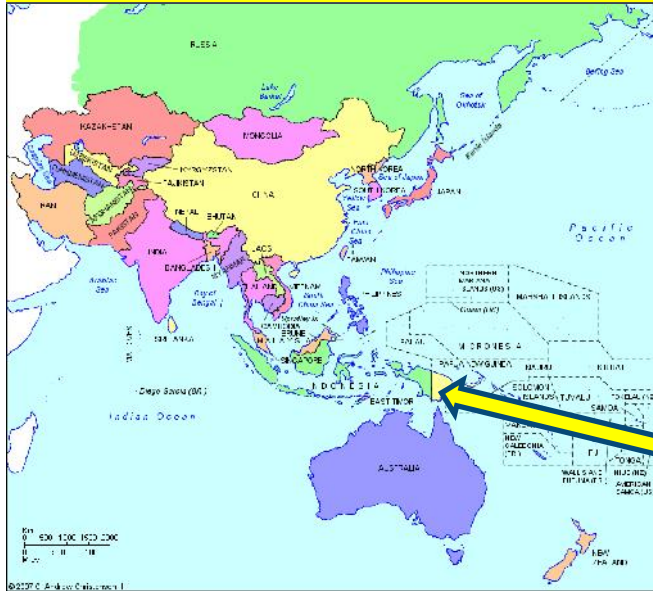


The CS WASH Fund is supported by the Australian Government and managed by Palladium International Pty Ltd.



# Context – Map of Western Province, PNG

Working Middle and Lower Fly river communities



Most underdeveloped province of PNG

20 minute boat ride to Australia;

Treaty villages travel to Australia for medical support and trading of goods

# Context of Western Province, PNG

- Villages have been missed out on vital government services such as education, agriculture, WaSH infrastructure and basic health services.
- 0% access improved toilets
- 4% access improved water
- Their life is spent paddling many kilometres to seek medical assistance and education for their family and children.
- Up to 2 week canoe ride to Daru



# Context of Western Province, PNG

- There are no roads, transport is by boat.
- Only form of transport is by boat. Can cost up to \$1,500 AUD round trip to middle fly.
- Time taken 6 – 15 hours one way
- Constant challenges with rough seas and low seas





# Context of Western Province (WP), PNG

- 12 metres of rain per year
- Mining and forestry operations has increased sediment flowing into rivers, rising river levels by as much as 10 metres in the last 20 years.
- 75% of Western Province is flat, so during monthly high tides, villages are flooded and are constantly water logged.
- Which is real challenge for walking around the village, particularly for people with mobility issues.
- Toilets have to be above ground



## *What are the specific challenges/problems that we are trying to address*

- People with disabilities in communities are not consulted with
- WASH infrastructure is not accessible to people with disabilities
- In WP there are no Disability Peoples Organsation but a small self-help group:
  - Whose role it is to advocate for people with disabilities
  - Important to support establishment of a DPO so can carry on disability advocacy role
- The National PNG Assembly of Disabled Peoples (PNG ADP);
  - lack resources to travel to Western Province to support establishment of a DPO; and
  - Raise awareness on disability with communities and government;
  - ADP lack tools on how to engage communities and measure disability.

# *Approaches we are using*

- 1) PARTNERING WITH DISABILITY FOCUSSED ORGANISATIONS**
- 2) FIELD VISITS BY OUR DPO PARTNERS**
- 3) DISABILITY FOCUS IN PROJECT DESIGN, ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET**
- 4) BUILDING WASH INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE**
- 5) HEALTHY ISLANDS CONCEPT**

# *Approaches we are using*

## **PARTNERING WITH DISABILITY FOCUSSED ORGANISATIONS**

- In Australia with CBM (Disability specialists in developing countries)
  - Provide technical support on disability inclusion to WV and National DPO throughout project cycle
  - Travel to PNG, up to twice a year to deliver training, monitor and advocate
  - Support reporting and develop case studies





# *Approaches we are using*

## **PARTNERING WITH DISABILITY FOCUSSED ORGANISATIONS**

- In PNG with Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNG ADP)
  - leading Disability advocacy group in PNG
  - supporting disability inclusion at project level through out project cycle – inception, training, baseline, MTR
  - advising CBM and WV on PNG context.
  - An MOU signed between WV PNG and ADP, covering ADP's role in CS-WASH project.

## **FIELD VISITS BY DPO**

- Who speaks to communities about disability, sets an example of of what people with disabilities can do.  
Builds confidence of people with disabilities.



# Approaches we are using

## DISABILITY FOCUS IN PROJECT DESIGN AND ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET

- Disaggregated data on disability collected
- People with disabilities involved in committees
- Any infrastructure built in schools/aid posts has accessibility
- Budget lines allocated to disability technical support, research, learning etc.
- In baseline and follow up surveys, using the Washington Group of Questions to measure disability

## BUILDING TOILETS WITH ACCESSIBILITY

- Has raised awareness on disability and importance to consider disability

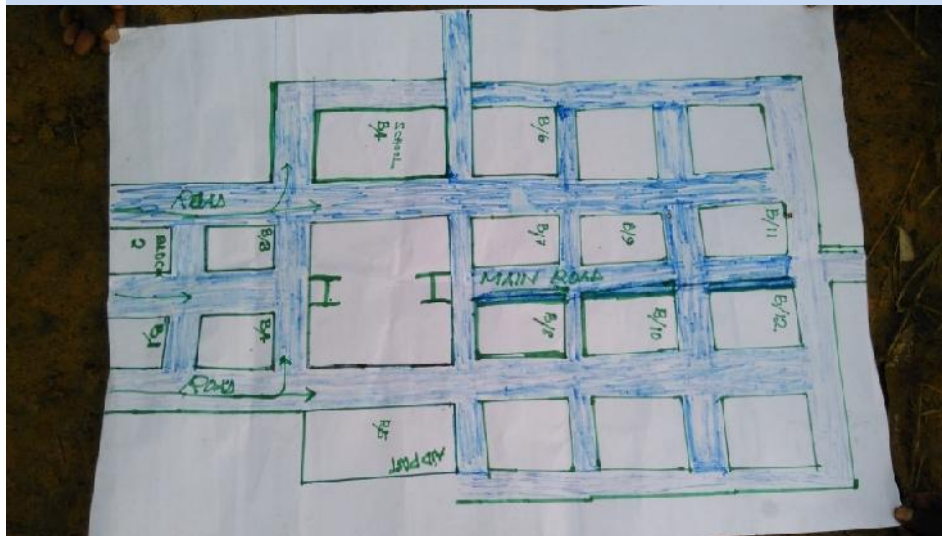




# Approaches we have adopted

## HEALTHY ISLANDS CONCEPT

- A community based approach
- Endorsed and eagerly supported by the National Government of PNG
- The HIC has a strong focus on community participation and ownership
- Based on the Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion - ***enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health and reach a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, as a an individual or community.***
- Communities have fully engaged with this approach and have taken their communities health and well-being into their own hands and run with it.



# *How well are these approaches working?*

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH CBM AND PNG ADP**

- Involvement of ADP in key project activities helped to raise awareness of disability and challenge community attitudes
- From our focus group discussions with people with disabilities and without disabilities, there is increased awareness and understanding of challenges faced by people with disabilities and their cares.
- ADP are being consulted in other WV other WASH and non-WASH projects
- Given confidence to people with disabilities in communities to speak up in their communities
- Challenge with limited administrative capacity of ADP to be responsive to reporting, invoices etc expectations of WVPNG
- ADP are mentoring and supporting community based people with disabilities
- Developed partnership with Callen services – who provide assistive devices and operate a smalls school in Daru for children with disabilities.





# *How well are the approaches working?*

## BUILDING THE ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Started conversations
- Demonstrated to builders and community how accessible toilets can be built

## HEALTHY ISLANDS CONCEPT

- Attitude changes, people are using a disability lens in how to involve people with disabilities
- Some people with disabilities attending community meetings and events and voicing their opinion.

## CHALLENGES TO WORKING IN WESTERN PROVINCE

- Which has impacted on our focus on disability
- Sea travel is a very high risk activity
- Procurement of materials from Port Moresby to Daru is a nightmare



# *Recommendations for future projects*

- 1) **PARTNERING WITH DISABILITY FOCUSSED ORGANISATIONS**
- 2) **FIELD VISITS BY OUR DPO PARTNERS**
- 3) **DISABILITY FOCUS IN PROJECT DESIGN, ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET**
- 4) **BUILDING WASH INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE**
- 5) **HEALTHY ISLANDS CONCEPT**