GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: RURAL WASH

WASH in Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands has a range of policies and supporting strategies in place to ensure gender issues are addressed in the WASH sector and that women girls and marginalised groups enjoy universal access to WASH. However, translating this intent into practice on the ground remains challenging. The RWASH team in the Ministry of Health implements government policies and strategies across the Solomon Islands with support from other stakeholders such as UNICEF.

To support the RWASH team’s work, UNICEF has engaged CARE to conduct a gender assessment of the rural WASH sector in the Solomon Islands, recommend improvements, develop tools to enable the recommendations to be implemented, and support the sector to build skills to embed the tools and recommended practices in programs and activities.

The project

CARE’s assessment will review the rural WASH sector as a whole, considering the policy and programming context, and provide analysis and recommendations on gender and social inclusion and WASH. Areas analysed will include women, girls and other vulnerable groups’ involvement in WASH decision making, participation in the WASH sector, links between WASH and violence against women and girls, women and girls leadership and influence, and taboos and traditional beliefs, especially around sanitation and menstruation and other relevant factors.

Based on the recommendations of the assessment, CARE will develop gender and WASH guidelines and other tools, such as checklists and approaches, that can be used by the Solomon Islands Government and its partners to translate the WASH policy commitments on gender into practice. CARE will also develop gender and WASH indicators that will be able to be integrated into ongoing monitoring systems.

These tools will be developed in close consultation with the RWASH program team and other stakeholders, including UNICEF and local and international NGOs working in WASH. The tools will then be rolled out in a workshop for the Solomon Islands WASH sector in late 2017.

Timeframe
August 2017-December 2017

Funded by
UNICEF

Key stakeholders
Ministry of Health, RWASH program team, UNICEF, local and international NGOs working in WASH

Key programming approaches
- Maximise opportunities to build stakeholder knowledge and application of gender in WASH
- Address gender differences, promote and increase gender equality and improve gender sensitivity in WASH
- Capitalise on the collective strengths of the team and input from CARE’s global gender and WASH advisors
- Ensure a gender and social inclusion focus, capturing perspectives of different groups
- Utilise global WASH and gender tools

CARE is an international humanitarian aid organisation fighting global poverty, with a special focus on working with women and girls to bring lasting change to their communities.

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