



REALIZING POTENTIAL

Climate change adaptation in Papua New Guinea through access to water & education

Evelyn dreams of becoming a doctor. The path to physician-hood for a young girl in rural Papua New Guinea can be daunting. Evelyn is intelligent and works hard. Yet even with the requisite educational infrastructure, it's possible her dreams will perish without water.



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Evelyn's school has a 200-litre water tank. If the tank runs dry, school is suspended.

In PNG, the government's school fee abolition initiative has raised enrollment. Despite this, female enrolment lags behind. Most schools in PNG do not have access to a piped water system; the majority rely on rainwater to meet their needs. Water is often unclean, and when shortages occur, the schools close. As women and girls are more likely to shoulder household tasks like water collection, when water becomes scarce it takes a toll on women's educational attainment.



In recognition of their increasing exposure to climate change impacts, the Government of Papua New Guinea – via its Climate Change and Development Authority - in partnership with UNDP, initiated a project to “Enhance Adaptive Capacity of Communities to Climate Change-related Floods in the North Coast and Islands Region of PNG”. With funding provided by the Adaptation Fund, the project's overall objective is to enhance the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities to make informed decisions about and adapt to climate change-driven hazards affecting both coastal and riverine villages. In particular, the project worked to build community resilience to coastal and inland flooding events.

In East Sepik Province, UNDP partnered with World Vision (PNG) Trust and World Vision New Zealand in the Wewak District to serve eight coastal communities. Wom Village received two 9000-litre tanks with full Rain Water Catchment construction materials. Elsewhere, activities included disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation training.

Sustainable water supplies are key to achieve education for all.

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