

UNICEF Pacific Water and Environmental Sanitation Programme 2008-2012

Health and Sanitation is one of the five major programmes in UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2008 – 2012. The strategic vision of which is multilayered and involves bringing the child dimension to the Pacific regional policy debates, emphasizing child rights within Pacific regional strategies, and assuring the realization of key results at scale for children in three priority countries; Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu.



The water, sanitation and hygiene project falls within the Health and Sanitation programme and is aimed at providing support for the development and implementation of community based hygiene improvement and water safety plans that lead to a reduction in childhood diarrhea and other water related illnesses. Clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene are linked in many ways to people's livelihoods and sustainable development in general. It contributes directly to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 target 10, which is to "halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved drinking water sources and basic sanitation" and in one way or another is related to all the Millennium Development Goals. Through strategic coordination within country programmes UNICEF can make significant contribution to the health and environment objectives of the Millennium Development Agenda.

Who are the partners?

Government ministries at regional, national and sub-national level, regional organizations/agencies in the water and sanitation sector and WASH coalition, NGOs, private sectors and academic institutions will be the main implementing partners at various levels.



Major activity highlights in 2008

Support provided to the government implementing partners on;

- Baseline survey on water and sanitation requirements (mainly schools and surrounding communities)
- Development of implementation strategy
- Develop multi-year strategic communication plan for behavior change
- Support World Water Day 2008 (with Sanitation as main theme)
- Review and improve hygiene education curriculum with main focus on hand washing at critical periods
- Coordinate and/or organize WASH cluster approach for UN agencies, NGOs and government partners

Emergency preparedness and response planning and management is integrated in all programme components and response coordinated through country-level national disaster management offices and various government and non-governmental partners as required.