



### **Introduction**

Some NSAs may already have a commitment to the communities they intend to work with under RWSSP, they may be communities that the NSA have worked with over a number of years, and as such there is actually little selection to be done. However, even where such a situation exists it is still essential that improved hygiene and sanitation is identified as a priority development need in that community and by that community. However, an identified needs may not be the only criteria for appropriate village selection, this should be matched against additional selection criteria such as Community Commitment, Sustainability and Access.

The following sections are intended to provide a basic understanding to assess the viability of a potential project. It should be remembered that at all times when selecting villages for inclusion in the RWSSP, outside interests must be avoided such as political interference, proselytising or nepotism.

### **1. Access & Logistics**

NSAs need to be sure that they can complete the project with the resources available. Remoter communities may require more time to complete, and more money, to pay for staff over a longer period, increased transport costs etc. Working in remoter communities if fine – just account for the logistics involved.

Some project proposals would be better when grouped by district or valley region rather than scattered across different districts or provinces. An NSA is more likely to achieve project objectives if there is some consideration to the resources that are necessary to reach project sites

- Remember that part of the project proposal evaluation will be based on value for money, cost/beneficiary.
- Distance from the community to the nearest provincial centre may affect the NSA capacity to implement the project in a timely manner
- Type of transport required and time taken to reach the village will affect the costs and time.

- Access may be restricted at certain times of the year. Can your project withstand a 3 month delay caused by landslides, impassable roads?
- Will remoter communities be in a position to pay their 10% community contributions?

### **2. Need**

It is difficult to determine whether one community deserves the right to project inclusion over another, considering that most rural communities in PNG face very similar hardships. An overall objective of water supply and sanitation is improving health. Formal requests must come directly from a village, and be endorsed by the LLG. RWSSP has produced a TAN on Needs Assessment which can help identify a communities need.



### **3. Sustainability**

The purpose of a project proposal will be to sustainably enhance access to increased water and sanitation. There is no point in completing a project unless you feel the outputs can be sustained over the long term.

- Conflict should be a low risk
- Cohesiveness between clans needs to be evident through mutual cooperation



- Links and networks in the community with community based, church, non-governmental organisations and LLG to promote future development
- Committees at the village level have to be strong enough to make decisions which are effective
- Land ownership should never be an underlying cause of project delay or village disputes.
- There needs to be a long term commitment to behavioural change concerning improved hygiene and sanitation practises.

addition an NSA needs to think about the level of community motivation and ownership as well as the logistics.



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#### **4. Community Commitment**

Community participation and ownership is essential throughout the project cycle and requires strong commitment. This may be evident from the past history of the community where they have been involved in other community based activities. All communities need to show a willingness and ability to contribute towards the financial cost of the project as well as to contribute their labour when required. In addition they should show integrity when different clans work together

A Rural water supply and sanitation project should not be 'sold' to a community. The need and demand should come from them with a very clear commitment that they will assist throughout the project process. If there is a doubt about their willingness to embrace the project and to assist in ensuring its sustainability then it might be better to look elsewhere.



#### **Concluding Comments**

Whilst need is an important criteria for RWSSP selection, it is not the only one. In