

# JWF Fund 2019 Result of the Follow-up observation

## 4. Papua New Guinea

- Organization: Morobe Development Foundation Inc. (#255)
- Project period: October 2019 to March 2020
- Country/Area: Papua New Guinea/ Morobe Province
- Cost: \$1,717.36 (\$990: JWF funds, \$27.36: beneficiaries, and \$700: Morobe Development Foundation Inc.)
- Number of beneficiaries: 800 (300 primary school pupils and 500 village residents)
- Background: The target village, Lababia, is the largest village under the jurisdiction of Salamaua local government, on the south coast of Huon District. It is on a picturesque tropical island with long sandy beaches and clear blue waters. Geographically, Lababia sits where there is a high occurrence of typhoons, with rains brought by the typhoons resulting in heavy flooding. In 2016, a strong typhoon hit the area and brought devastation to the bio-physical landscape of the community, including local sources of freshwater for drinking and domestic use. Since then, the villagers had to travel 2 hours by boat to fetch water for their day-to-day lives. The very restricted access to freshwater took its toll on public health, resulting in cases of disease, such as diarrhea, typhoid, malaria, and cholera. There was also a landslide and flood in 2016 in Lababia which destroyed food crops along with natural flora and fauna, as well as the village's water supply system. There was no government support to install a water supply and with the community school located in the village, it was necessary to construct a water supply to ensure that the children have access to quality water in reasonable qualities.
- Main activities: Action planning workshop and awareness and education activities, Training on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Water quality testing, Installation of water hand pump, Training on installation, monitoring and preventive maintenance of water hand pump and Setting up community-led monitoring



Water pump damaged by rust



Pump installation

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### 【Current situation】

- **Installed hand pump**...The pump has been supplying ample water throughout the year. The village has faced rains and storms during the last few months, and the makeshift structure built to protect the pump and the bamboo fence around it were damaged, but both were later restored.
- **Operation and maintenance**: Community leaders were trained to use the pump and they have so far overseen its use, ensuring that people are using it correctly.

### 【Changes】

- **Reduction in disease**: Beneficiaries have noted reductions in morbidity and mortality caused by water-borne diseases from contaminated water.
- **Hygienic behavior**: Thanks to the health department's awareness campaigns on the need to wash hands, people are beginning to wash their hands before eating and always cover their food to protect it from flies. Hand-washing and avoiding handshakes and close contact are now common in the village.

### 【Others】

- **Rules of use**: The communities faced issues when some of the villagers used the pump to do laundry, which led to arguments, fist fights, and the near destruction of the pump. After the dispute, a community leader created a new law stipulating that water from the pump be used solely for cooking and drinking and that laundry must be done in a river located some distance away.
- **The role of community leaders**: The most important thing community leaders did was educate the youth through forums and after-church meetings. They also told the community to look after the pump and take ownership of it, highlighting the importance of water for their daily survival.



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### Voices from the beneficiaries (Excerpts)



Mr. David Tom, 50 years old,  
a Community Leader

Since completion of the project, there have been positive changes, for example, as well as taking water for cooking, residents seem to be bathing more. In the past, people usually didn't bathe for days. There is more cash flowing in the community and people seem to be fishing and gardening and even selling their produce in the market in Lae, capital of Morobe Province. Because of the awareness activities and training done by MDF and the District, people now consider water usage a very important part of sustaining their livelihoods.



Mr. Sarah Wiji, 36 years old,  
a user of the hand pump

I usually use the pump. It is now easier for us because we don't have to travel long distances. After completion of the project, our family doesn't get illnesses like diarrhea and my little brothers and baby are growing strong.



Moris Bewa, 60 years old,  
an attendee of the WASH training

I'm getting old and it's harder to walk long distances. The pump has helped us a lot. Our family is healthy and does not often have to go to Lae to get medical care. We don't have a medical centre here at the village, so we previously had to travel to get medicine. Hand-washing, hygiene, and daily bathing are paramount for a good and healthy lifestyle.