



## **Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority**

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### **Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority brings clean water to Tengtenga Community**

More than 20,000 people in the Tengtenga community, located outside Mt. Hagen City, will benefit from access to clean and safe drinking water, thanks to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA). This initiative coincides with World Water Day and is expected to have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of the community, particularly the younger generation, helping them grow up strong and healthy.

During the opening ceremony last Friday, WHPHA Acting Chief Executive Officer Jane Holden, officiated the event, along with PHA staff. On that same day, a memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Tengtenga Health facility and the WHPHA.

Holden noted that the facility has had a challenging history and requires improvement with the community's support. "This community was selected among many that needed clean water because of the high risk of illness associated with unclean water. Now that we have funded the water supply, we will monitor its use," she stated.

She urged the community to practice handwashing until it becomes a habit to reduce the number of children needing hospital admissions. Furthermore, she encouraged parents to bring their children for vaccinations, as statistics show that a significant number of children in that particular community have not yet been vaccinated.

Director of Population Health Dannex Kupamu reiterated the importance of looking after the water supply, emphasizing that it will benefit not only the community now but also future generations.

The K100, 000 Tengtenga water supply project was initiated and funded by the WHPHA under its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) program, and was facilitated by the Environmental Health Section of the Population Health directorate.

Panamex Limited and City Pharmacy Limited also contributed by donating hygiene supplies to the Tengtenga Elementary School and presenting water maintenance tools for the community to maintain the water taps.

A total of nine water taps were installed.

The water supply was established to ensure that the communities and neighboring villages have access to safer and cleaner water.

Local leaders, women leaders, parents, and teachers expressed their gratitude upon receiving the water taps. For decades, they had traveled long distances to fetch water for cooking, drinking, and other essential uses. With the installation of water taps in their households, they felt blessed and celebrated as they opened the water for the first time to drink.

Providing clean, safe, adequate and accessible water supplies to communities along with better sanitation and hygienic practices contributes to improved health outcomes and various socio economic benefits. Therefore, WHPHA prioritizes WaSH initiatives in communities to promote health and prevent communicable diseases. Ends///

**Picture Captions:**



1. **L-R City Pharmacy Ltd team posing for a picture with the WHPHA team after the opening of the water supply recently**



2. **Tengtenga Elementary School Students happily showing off their hygiene gifts from City Pharmacy Limited**



3. A local, drinking from the new water supply at Tengtenga Community