



Achieving SDG 6 in Melanesia, Pacific: The impact of poor urban settlements

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Key messages



- Improving SDG6 targets is fundamentally about overcoming poverty and supporting economic and human development → progressing them is important
- SDG6: 6 targets that are interlinked – progress of one affects the progress of others
- SDG6 progress will depend upon improving WASH in all communities and populations
- WASH situations in informal urban settlements around Melanesian cities is poor, and needs to be improved to:
 - Improve health and wellbeing of residents of informal settlements
 - Contribute to (not undermine) progress of all SDG6 targets for the country

Informal settlements in/around Melanesian cities

- 20-50% population is urban; Urbanisation rapidly increasing: urban populations expected to double within 25 years
- Low government/technical capacities, unplanned growth & complex land tenure systems → limited formal land & housing **increasing urban poverty and growth of informal settlements**
- **Urban informal settlements – 20-40% urban populations;** growing faster than urbanisation
- Status: illegal occupation of private / state/ customary land (some formalization processes in place on small scale)
- Settlements are **not temporary** (3rd and 4th generations of families)
- Economically – critical role in **linking rural and urban economies**; large informal economy (markets for rural products)
- *Melanesian informal settlements complex: high diversity of ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic groups, and of socioeconomic status* → **provision of basic services is problematic**

WASH situation in urban/peri-urban informal settlements

- Statistics on water & sanitation coverage in settlements difficult (“hidden” in rural or urban stats) → gap in scale of the WASH situations (some closure e.g. Sol Is)
- Settlement-scale statistics (case studies e.g. Live & Learn Environmental Education)

Safety?	Drinking water source (primary)	Range (Melanesian)	Sanitation and Hygiene	Range (Melanesian)
?	Access to piped water (HH, neighbour or shared)	0-94% 0-67%	Population	610-3800
	Local groundwater (Springs, bores, wells)	0-86%	Basic sanitation (%HH)	8-67%
	RW tanks, containers, drums	0-25%	Safe sanitation?	7-18%
	Tanker truck/cart	0-10%	Households have no toilet (sharing or OD)	2-49%
	Bottles	0-8%	Sharing their toilet (%HH)	10-58%
	Surface sources		HW location with soap	7-58%





6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



Sustainable Development Goal 6: water & sanitation

By 2030...

6.1



All have access to safe and affordable drinking water

6.2



All have access to adequate sanitation and hygiene, and open defecation is eliminated

6.3



Improve water quality by reducing pollution, minimising release of hazardous chemicals, and having the proportion of untreated wastewater

6.4



Increase water efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable supply of water to reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.5



Fully implement integrated water resources management – which looks at water resources holistically

6.6



Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

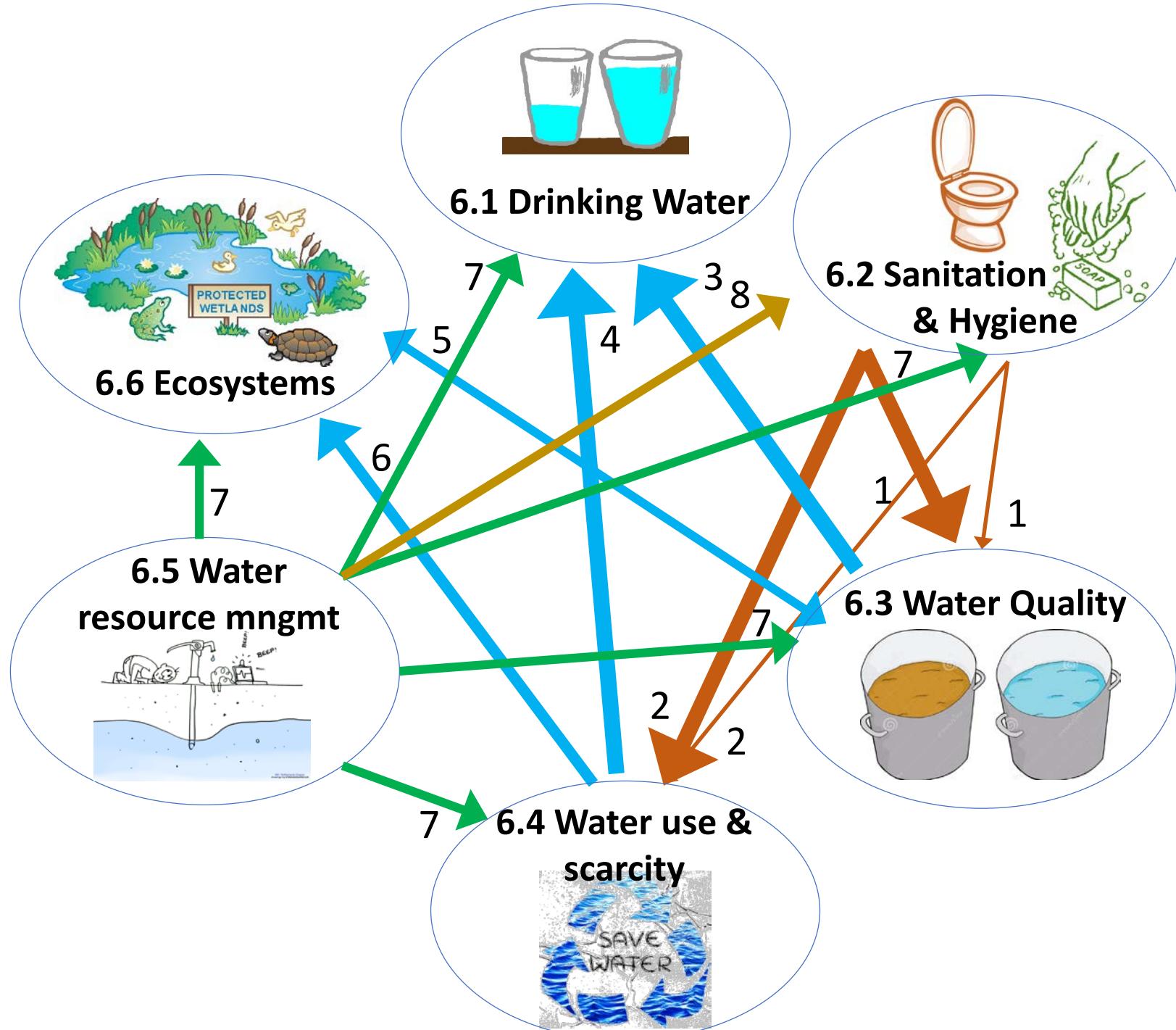


SDG6: measuring and supporting progress

- Reporting scale: global, regional, national (to influence national-scale action)
- National-scale reporting of performance against the targets:
 - aggregate the results across all different populations & geographical settings
 - aiming for universal WASH → **all populations are important** for achieving any one target. (e.g. urban sanitation coverage – summed across all urban populations)
- But also, SDG6 reminds us that these targets are all related through the water cycle – the performance against one target can affect the performance of another.
- If want to make progress across all SDG6 targets → important to understand each target separately (including different populations or geographical settings) but also how they might influence each other



SDG6 – interlinked targets: synergies and conflicts between targets



Case study: How might the WASH situation in urban/peri-urban informal settlements affect progress towards SDG6 in Solomon Islands?

Water resources:

- High annual average rainfall: 2000-4500 mm
- Diversity of sources & availability: large rivers & small streams (high mountainous islands); rainwater harvesting and thin lens' of underground aquifers (small low-lying atolls and islets).
- Renewable water resources: ~77,000 cubic metres/person/year (Oceania: 45,000) (2014)

Demographics:

- Total population ~600,000 (2016)
- ~20 % total population is 'urban'
- 4.7% urbanisation growth

Informal settlements (urban/peri-urban): **~35% of urban (2006), growing at ~6% p.a.**
(2018? Maybe 40% urban population?)

Status of SDG6 indicators in Solomon Islands?

Target	Indicators	National Status / Trend
6.1 SAFE DRINKING WATER	6.1.1 % population using safely managed drinking water services	
6.2 SANITATION AND HYGIENE	6.2.1 % population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	
6.3 WATER QUALITY	6.3.1 % wastewater safely treated	
	6.3.2 % bodies of water with good ambient water quality	
6.4 WATER USE & SCARCITY	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	
	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	
6.5 IWRM	6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	
6.6 WATER- RELATED ECOSYSTEMS	6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time (area, quantity & quality water, ecosystem health)	

If formal urban population achieves SDG6 targets (achieves universal drinking water, sanitation & hygiene; 100% wastewater treatment; high water use efficiency; protected ecosystems)...

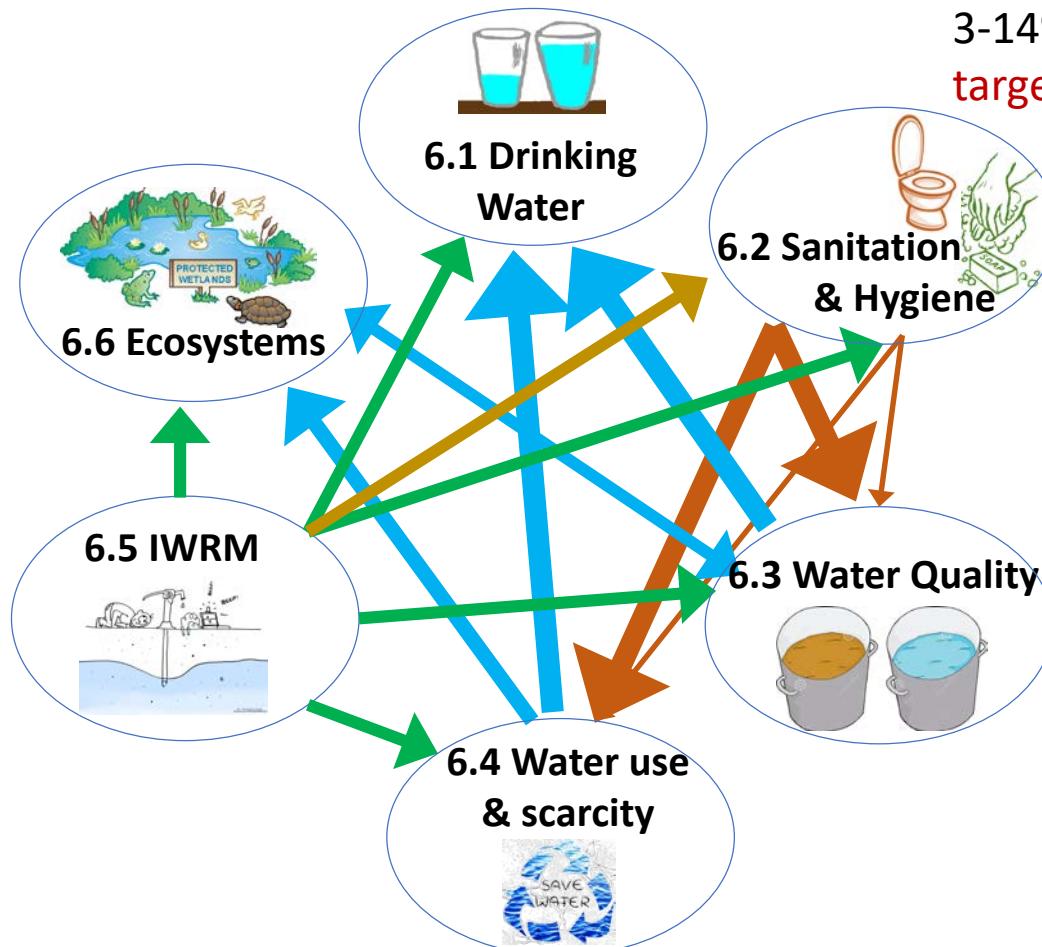
What would be the impact of no improvement (or decline) to WASH in the urban/peri-urban informal settlements, on progressing SDG6 targets?

35% urban population, <25% safe drinking water
reduce total urban target by 26%

35% urban population, 17% basic sanitation →
30% urban pop without even basic sanitation;
3-14% safe sanitation; reduce total urban
target by 30-33%

~33% of urban pop wastewater
→ compromised ecosystem
health of all local & adjacent
groundwater and surface water
ecosystems

? Subregion failure of
target (unlikely to be
measured this way)



Highly renewable sources
Less consumption per HH (fewer piped connections),
but high NRW in informal setts could sig. increase urban NRW
(if improvements to access to utility water & increases to safe sanitation and
hygiene → likely increase water consumption)

Conclusions: WASH in Melanesian urban/periurban informal settlements

Understanding how the **water cycle links WASH situation in settlements with national SDG6 targets can support more cost-effective investments:**

- Influence monitoring (locations, timing) that is intended to support progress of SDG targets, especially to understand causes of limited progress → assist in **directing investment to strategies with greatest benefits**
- inform **decisions about trade-offs** e.g. which target will be prioritised? How can trade-offs be mitigated? (e.g. increase use of water for drinking, sanitation & hygiene may increase water scarcity)
- Inform **decisions about synergies** e.g. where can investments create extra benefits in other targets (e.g. improving safe sanitation and wastewater treatment → improved water quality & protected ecosystems)

Thank you

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