Engaging villagers with composting sanitation to protecting groundwater in Kiribati’s Gilbert Islands

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Country Context

- 3 main groups of islands comprising 33 islands
- 110,135 people
- Terrain - mainly coral atolls surrounded by extensive reef
- Source of water is rainwater & shallow wells
- Highest in the region for under five years mortality rates
## Toilet Coverage in Kiribati

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Islands</th>
<th>PUB flush Toilets</th>
<th>Wet Toilets</th>
<th>Dry Toilets</th>
<th>Open Defecation</th>
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KIRIWATSAN II Project Focus

- Increased access to safe drinking water supplies and appropriate sanitation facilities.
- Expanded participation, ownership and capacity to maintain safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and practices.
Project Approach

Phase I
• CLTS
• Water Resources Assessments

Current Phase II
• Community Consultation
• Menu of options for the toilets
Outcomes

- Informed decision made by the community
- Increased understanding on the impact of the water lens
- Increased acceptance on the trialling of compost toilet
- Governments declaration on ODF communities
Way Forward

• Training of the Village Welfare Group (VWG) on the cleaning & maintenance of the toilets
• Community training on usage and cleaning
• Monitoring and follow up with the VWG
Use of Water Resources Assessment and Menu of Options (toilets) have enabled communities to accept and trial compost toilets while protecting the fragile ground water resource on the atoll.

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