



# Strengthening WASH Practices in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia

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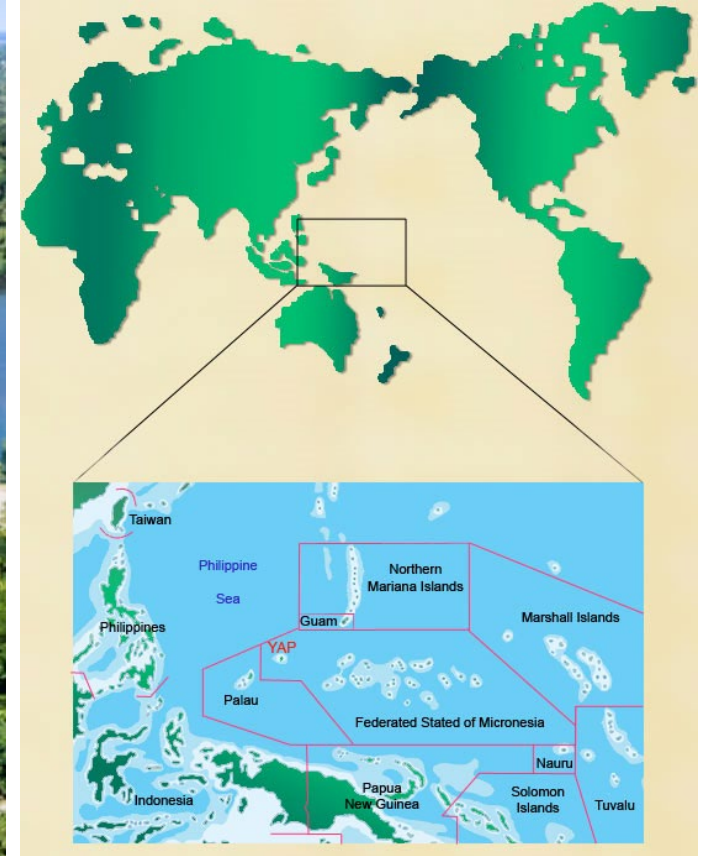


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#WaWF23



## Background

TA6551 – Strengthening WASH Practices in the Pacific

# About Yap

- Yap is one of four states of the Federated States of Micronesia
- Population of approximately 11,600
- Yap State comprises 4 main islands, 7 neighbouring islands and 134 atolls covering a land area of approximately 46 square miles
- Population density of 250 people per square mile





## Public Facilities

- Lack of public facilities
  - There is a low distribution of public handwashing facilities available to residents of Yap State.
  - The Southern Yap Water Authority estimates that 90% of public spaces in Yap have no handwashing facilities.
  - Most schools and health clinics provide a water source that is inadequate for the population they serve.



## Design process

- Local solution based on a range of design options
  - Customized for local conditions and materials
  - Community feedback on options
- Local labor
  - Important to support the local community with work opportunities
- Local suppliers used where possible
  - Support for the local economy



# Local Constraints

- Availability of materials
- Long lead times
- Supply chain limitations
- Identification of suitable locations
- Land use agreements
- Maintenance
- Water supply
  - No piped water supply available
- Environmental impacts





## The Solution

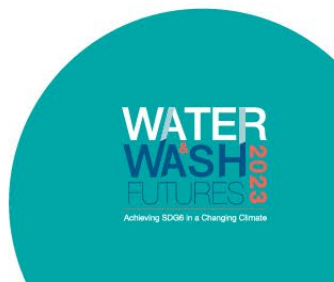
- A water tank on a trailer
- 30 handwashing facilities at key locations
- A handwashing campaign



# WASH Campaign

- “Feel Fresh and Clean”
- Communication of the WASH messages
  - Social media
  - Sticker for the handwashing facilities
    - Link the stations to the jingle
  - Handwashing jingle
    - Broadcast on local radio and Facebook

- *Jingle: Feel fresh & clean* 







# Handwashing Facility Location

## Key issues:

- Places where handwashing has not yet been made available
- Areas of high traffic
- Areas where transmission is higher risk
- Fair distribution across Yap
- Geographic constraints
  - Grounding, Shade, ability to divert wastewater
- Extensive consultation
  - Health
  - Schools
  - communities
- Flexible in approach
  - Meeting the changing needs of the community

## Launch

- An essential step
  - Community event
  - Social media live stream
- Senior government representatives
- Handwashing demonstration



# Initial feedback

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- *“The design is socially inclusive.”*
- *“You don’t have to turn on the faucet, you don’t actually touch it. So, you use your foot to press the pedal and the water comes out to wash your hands. I love the fact it’s a hands-free wash station.”*
  - *Health workers in Yap*



# Key Learnings



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- Local leadership and ownership of the solution by the local utility
  - Importance of consultation and sustainable local solutions
  - WASH campaign supported by facilities
  - Positive competition and pride that these are the first public handwashing facilities in all of the states of FSM
  - Persistence through long implementation timeframe and supply chain challenges

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