



Making participatory design inclusive: Including diverse residents in water and sanitation infrastructure design

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- on behalf of the RISE Water for Women team

Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environment (RISE)

Indonesia, Fiji, and Australia



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Achieving SDG6 in a Changing Climate



#WaWF23

Our Team



Research Team



RISE Indonesia



RISE Fiji



Relationship to key themes/motivation of the research

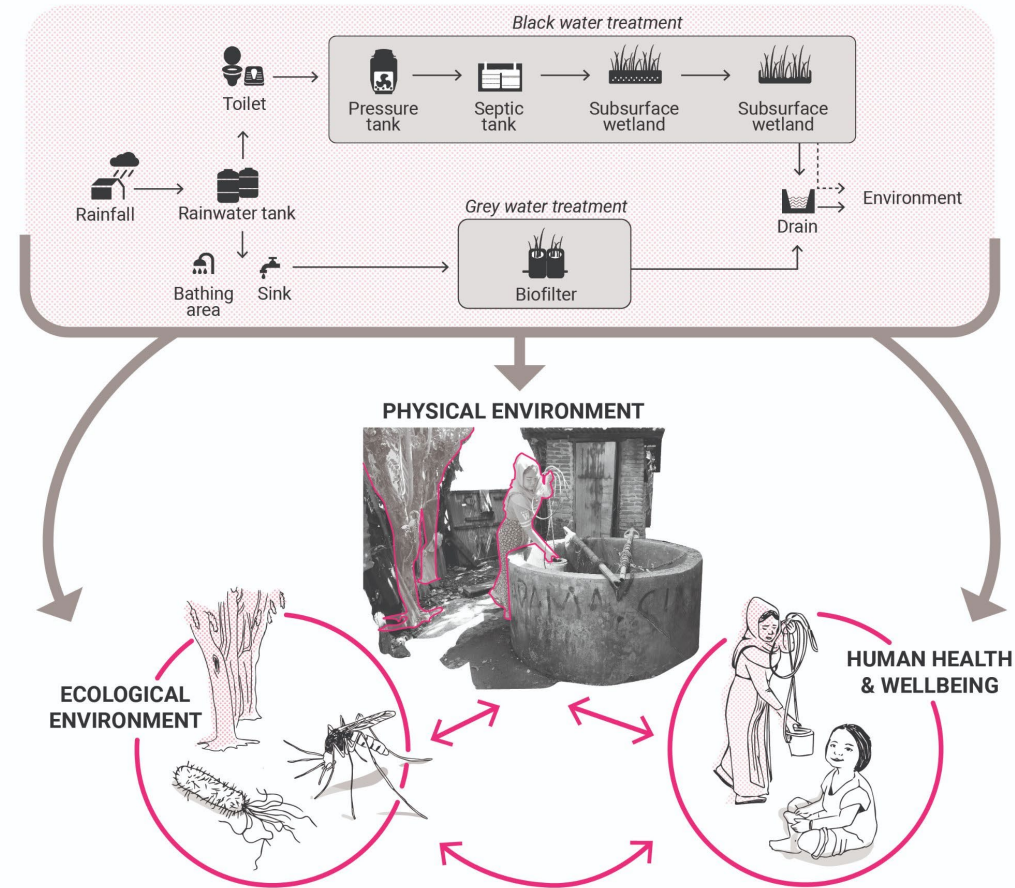
- In general, lessons from WASH projects emphasise outcomes and impacts, rather than the approach or intervention itself.^{1,2}
- Participatory approaches are increasingly being promoted as part of transformative WASH interventions, so we need to define the mechanisms used to implement these approaches.



1. Venkataramanan, V., et al. (2018), Community-Led Total Sanitation: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Review of Evidence and Its Quality, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 126(2): 026001-0260017

2. Haque, S.S. & Freeman, M.C. (2021), The Applications of Implementation Science in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Research and Practice, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 129(6): 65002

Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments



Leder, K. et al. 2021. "Study Design, Rationale and Methods of the Revitalising Informal Settlements and Their Environments (RISE) Study" *BMJ Open* 11 (1): e042850. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042850>.



Research question and methodology

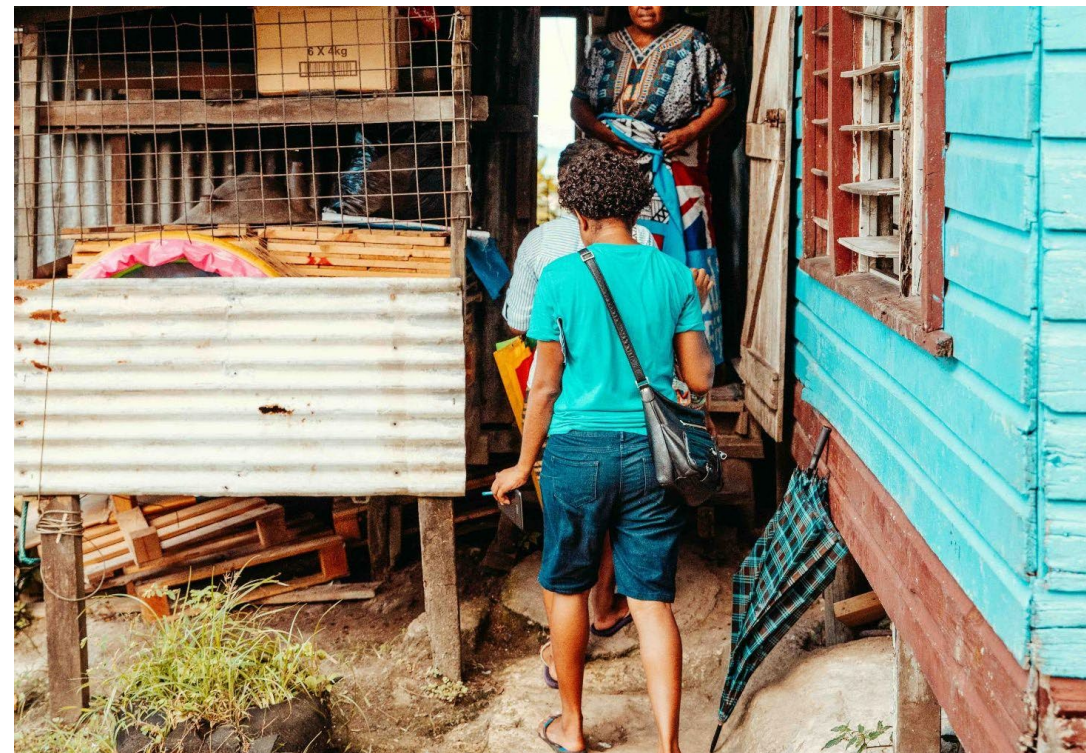
What mechanisms were used to engage diverse people in the Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) program?

- The research grouped 'mechanisms' into two categories:
 - Activities - specific events or tasks organised by the RISE program
 - Approaches - ways of organising activities with respect to timing, group sizes, invitations to activities, access, staff rapport etc.
- The research methods included collecting data after the participatory design activities, through interviews with RISE staff in Indonesia, Fiji, USA and Australia, as well as interviews and Focus Group Discussions with residents in RISE intervention sites in both Fiji and Indonesia.

Key Mechanisms

1. Engaging with residents at the household level (and potentially the individual level)
2. Incorporating flexibility and adaptability throughout the program
3. Having a diverse team
4. Maintaining regular contact and positive rapport between the staff and participants

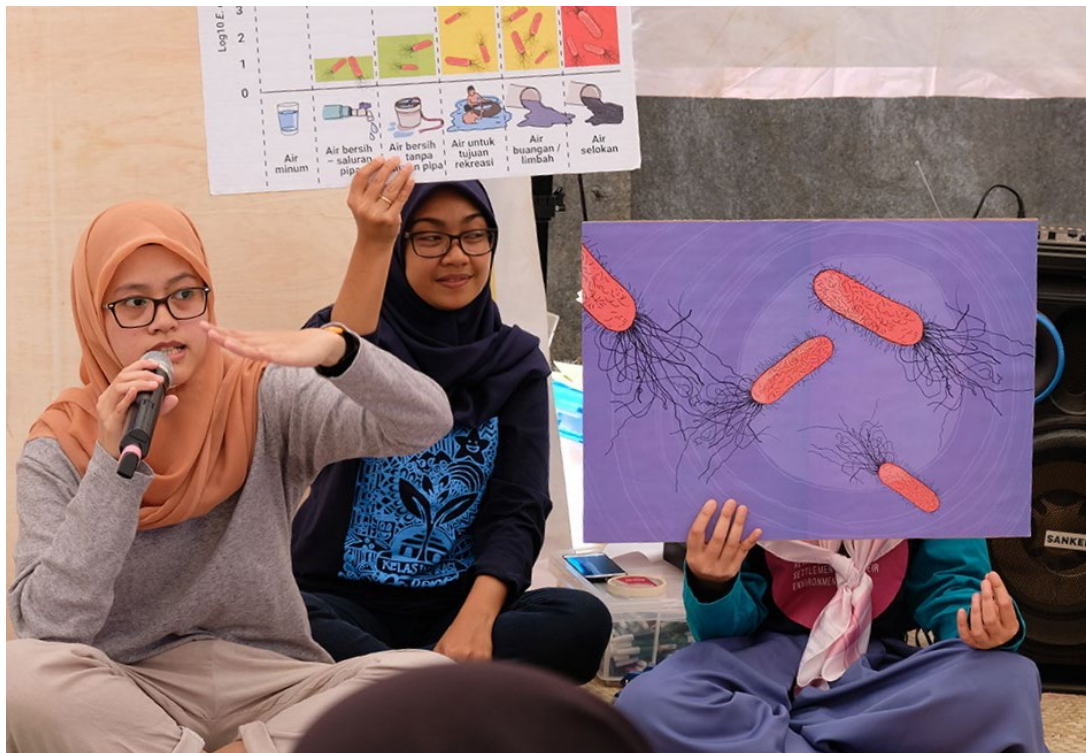




**Engaging with residents at the household level
(and potentially individual level)**



Incorporating flexibility and adaptability throughout the program



Having a diverse team



Maintaining regular contact and positive rapport between the staff and participants

Implications for research and practice



The Participatory Design process:


- enables access for ALL residents to the services,
- can increase trust and buy-in of the communities,
- has direct implications on what is delivered.

To put it into practice...

POLICY BRIEF

Promoting Inclusive Participatory Design of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Urban Informal Settlements

4 STEPS TO IMPROVE PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION



Water For Women

Australian Aid

rise
REVERSING INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS

MONASH University

EMORY UNIVERSITY

UNHAS
The University of the South Pacific

USP
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

REFLECTING ON WATER & SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A TOOLKIT FOR WASH PRACTITIONERS ON GENDER AND SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATORY DESIGN APPROACHES IN URBAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



Booklet

How can you find out about... identities, consider... status?

How might this infrastructure connect different houses in...?

In what ways might participants prefer to provide feedback? Do these differ according to their gender, level of education, disability status, etc.?

Water For Women **Australian Aid** **rise** **MONASH University** **EMORY UNIVERSITY** **UNHAS** **USP**



Our research findings informed the development of a toolkit and policy brief for the gender sensitive and socially inclusive participatory design of WASH services in urban informal settlements
Access them at: <https://reflect-on.org/>



More information

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Toolkit and Policy Brief <https://reflect-on.org/>

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