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Climate Resilience Pathways:

Water Security and WASH in Asia Pacific

Localising Water Safety Planning (WSP) practises for Climate Resilient Water Security in the Pacific

TUESDAY 29TH OF APRIL 2025

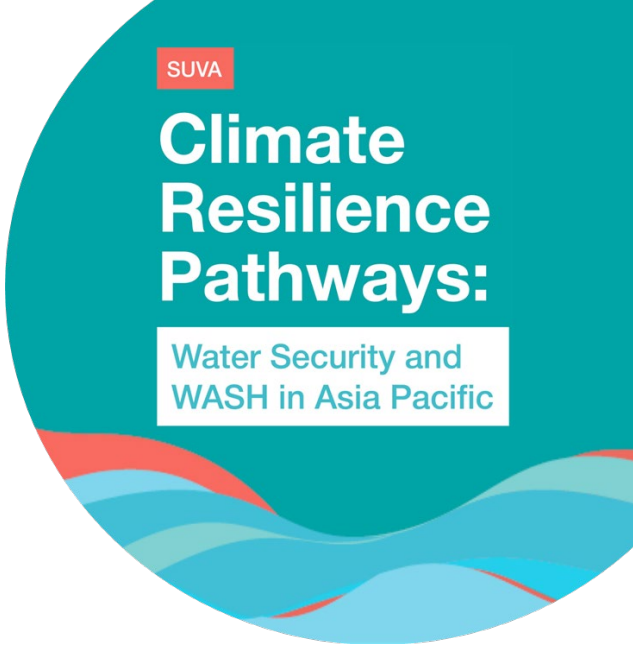
9:00 – 10:30AM

1. Erie Sami - Department of Water Resources, Vanuatu

2. Epi Dauniwaqalevu - Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji

3. Tom Rankin, Nixon Panda & Collin Benjamin - Plan International Australia &
Solomon Islands National University

4. Regina Souter – International WaterCenter, Griffith University



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Localising Water Safety Planning (WSP) practises for Climate Resilient Water Security in the Pacific

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Climate Resilience Pathways:

Water Security and WASH in Asia Pacific

Advancing Climate-Resilient Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSP) to meet National Goals

Erie Sami

Department of Water Resources- Vanuatu

DoWR

Department of Water Resources

Presentation Outline

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Climate Resilience Pathways:

Water Security and WASH in Asia Pacific

- Vanuatu and Climate Resilience
- WASH Access and Situation in Vanuatu
- Development of the National Implementation Plan & Capital Assistance Program (NIP/CAP)
- NIP/CAP Process and DWSSP process within the NIP/CAP
- How DWSSP advanced Vanuatu WASH Sector
- Results and Achievements (2013 – 2024)
- The Success of Risk-Informed Capital Investments
- Conclusions/Recommendations

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Vanuatu and Climate Resilience

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Climate Resilience Pathways:

- Vanuatu situated in the Melanesian region of the South Pacific Ocean, faces significant water security challenges.
- With a population of 302,000, scattered around the 62 inhabited islands and 78% live in rural areas.
- Ranked as the most vulnerable country towards natural disasters; exposure to cyclones, droughts, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, while having limited capacities to respond.
- Rural communities, constituting 42%, depend on rainwater and are vulnerable to droughts, El Nino, and natural disasters.
- Water shortages are already seen and are expected to become more frequent (NAPA).

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WASH Access and Situation in Vanuatu

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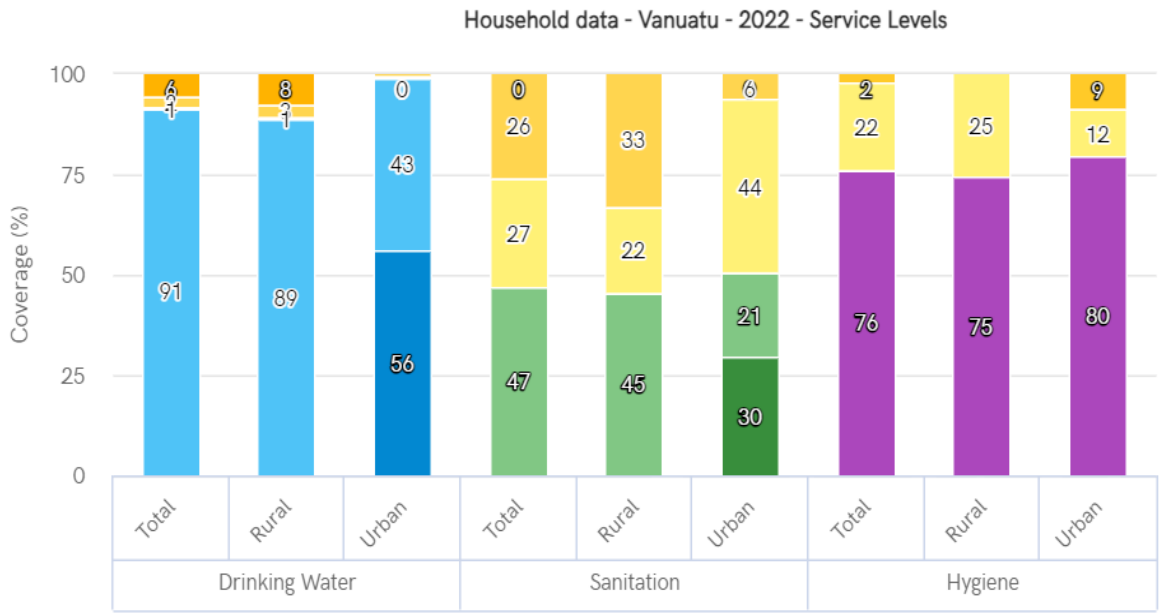
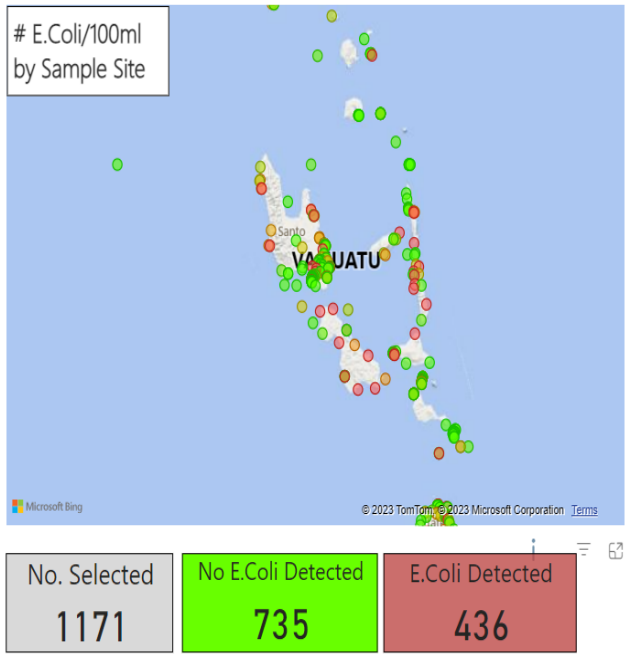
- 91% of households having basic water access, only 56% of urban dwellers have safely managed drinking water
- Half of the populations have access to basic sanitation services





37% of Water Samples Contaminated at the Source/Collection Point (DoWR Water Information Management System)

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National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP)

National Sustainable Development plan

1 **Government Departments Acts**

2 **Policy & Strategies**

3 **Regulations & Standards**

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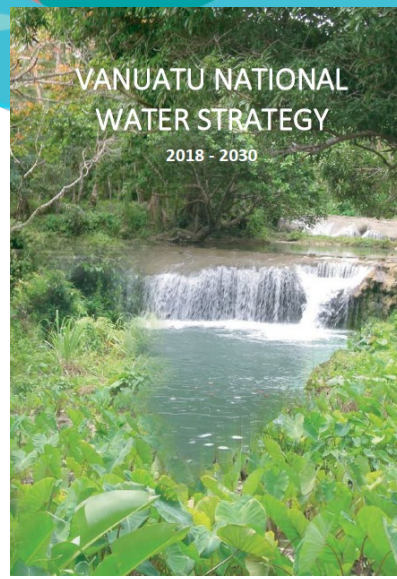

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National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP)

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Asia Pacific

1 Government Departments Acts

20G Functions of a Rural Water Committees

(1) The Rural Water Committee has the following functions:

(a) to develop, implement and maintain:

(i) water supply conservation measures; and

(ii) management of the water supply scheme; and

(iii) a community drinking water safety plan to ensure water safety and security; and

10A. Drinking water safety plan

(1) Each water supply system operated or maintained by a Concessionaire must have a drinking water safety plan.

(2) A Concessionaire is required to prepare the water safety plan for each water supply system that is operated or maintained by that Concessionaire.

(3) A drinking water safety plan must identify the risks that may affect water quality and quantity and must provide for the manner in which the risks can be reduced.

2 Policy & Strategies

1.1 Water Safety & Security

Understanding the appreciable gains that have been made by Vanuatu in achieving high levels of proximate access to an improved drinking water source; *the Policy endeavours to address the premier SDG challenges of drinking water safety and security*

3 Regulations & Standards

PART A: DRINKING QUALITY WATER STANDARD FOR INSTITUTIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS 9

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National Implementation Plan (NIP) and Capital Assistance Program (CAP)

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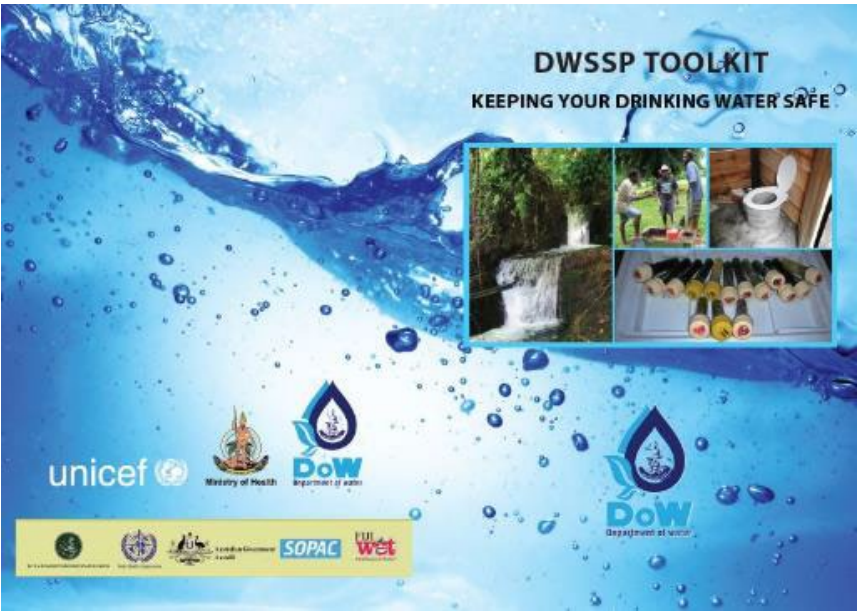

NIP

The Department of Water Resources (DoWR) developed the NIP and CAP for safe and secure community drinking water.

CAP

The NIP and CAP was developed through a Partnership between MFAT, DoWR, UNICEF

To prioritize communities for water infrastructure upgrades;

- **Utilize a drinking water safety and security plan (DWSSP) approach**
- **Capital investments are prioritized based on risk ranking**

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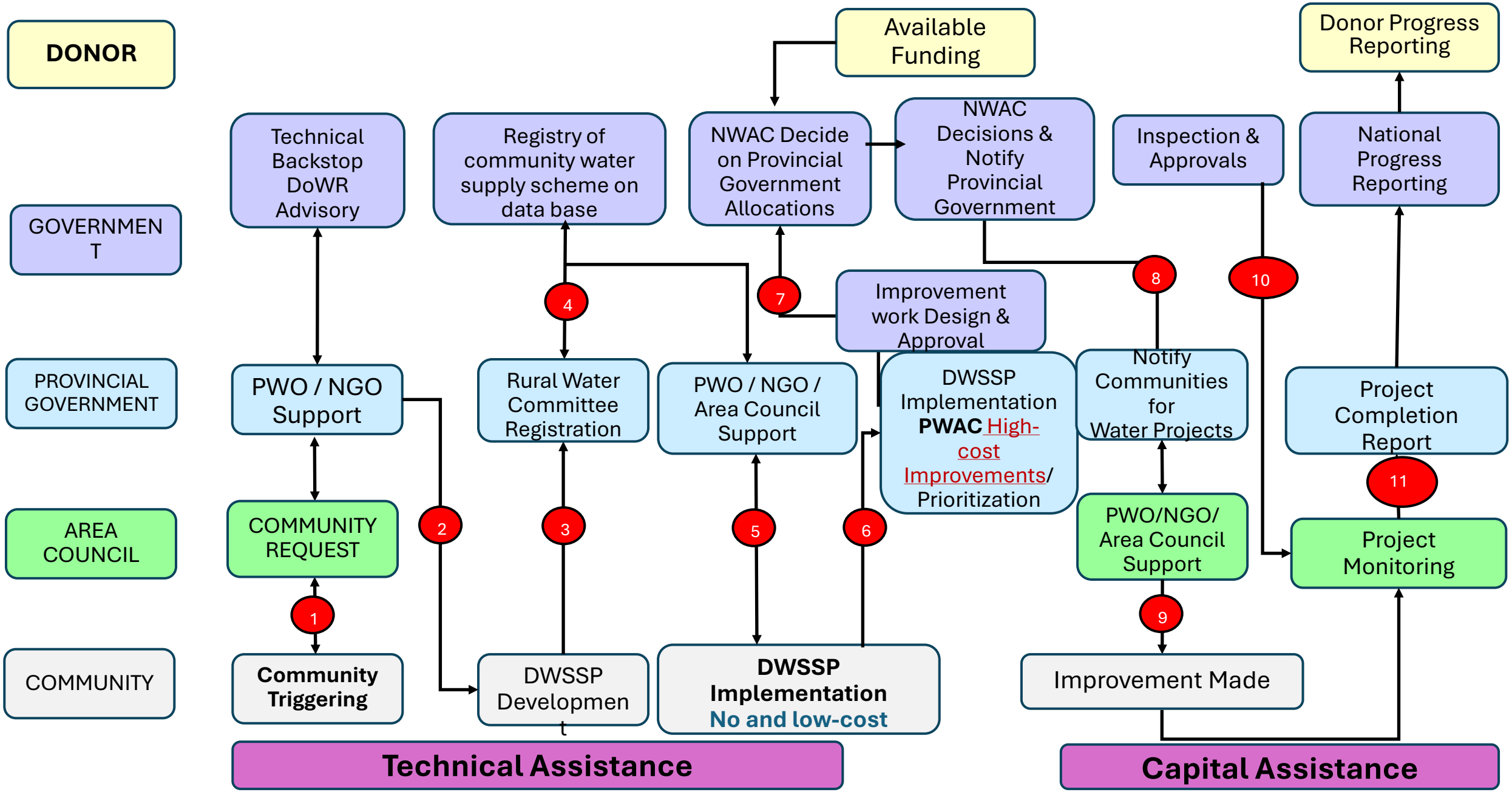
NIP/CAP Process/Flow Chart in Vanuatu



Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP) process within the NIP and CAP

- A multi-barrier approach to assess strengths and weaknesses in the barriers of a drinking water supply to reduce risks and contamination
- To have an effective water harvesting, adequate storage, careful water demand management, and an alternate or supplementary water source to provide water security
- Updated DWSSP guide and the WASH infrastructure designs include climate-resilient features for climate impacts and uses of materials to withstand extreme weather and natural disasters
- These proved to be resilient after category 4 Tropical Cyclones in 2023 as most of the systems remained operational

Climate Resilient Solar Powered & Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Solar Panels are installed in a way that's easy to dismantle before a cyclone hits

Indirect Gravity Fed System Tank stand built as a concrete kiosk to accommodate solar panel control unit against severe weather at Mele Health center.

Rainwater Harvesting System built with cyclone straps.

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How DWSSP advanced Vanuatu WASH Sector

- Help the communities to enhance their water quality, quantity, and reliability, as well as to protect their water sources and infrastructure against natural hazards.
- Foster greater awareness/community participation in managing water supply systems.
- Customize DWSSP for WASH assessments and improvements in schools and healthcare facilities.
- Improve transparency in allocating government investments for water supply services. By combining demand and supply, it strengthens decentralization.
- Bottom-up process empowering communities to make their own WASH investments – Low/No Cost Improvements.
- Strengthen collaboration among WASH stakeholders such as DoWR, Donors and WASH partners paving the way for a sector-wide approach.
- Strengthen institutional capacity at both national and decentralized levels, benefiting communities across Vanuatu.

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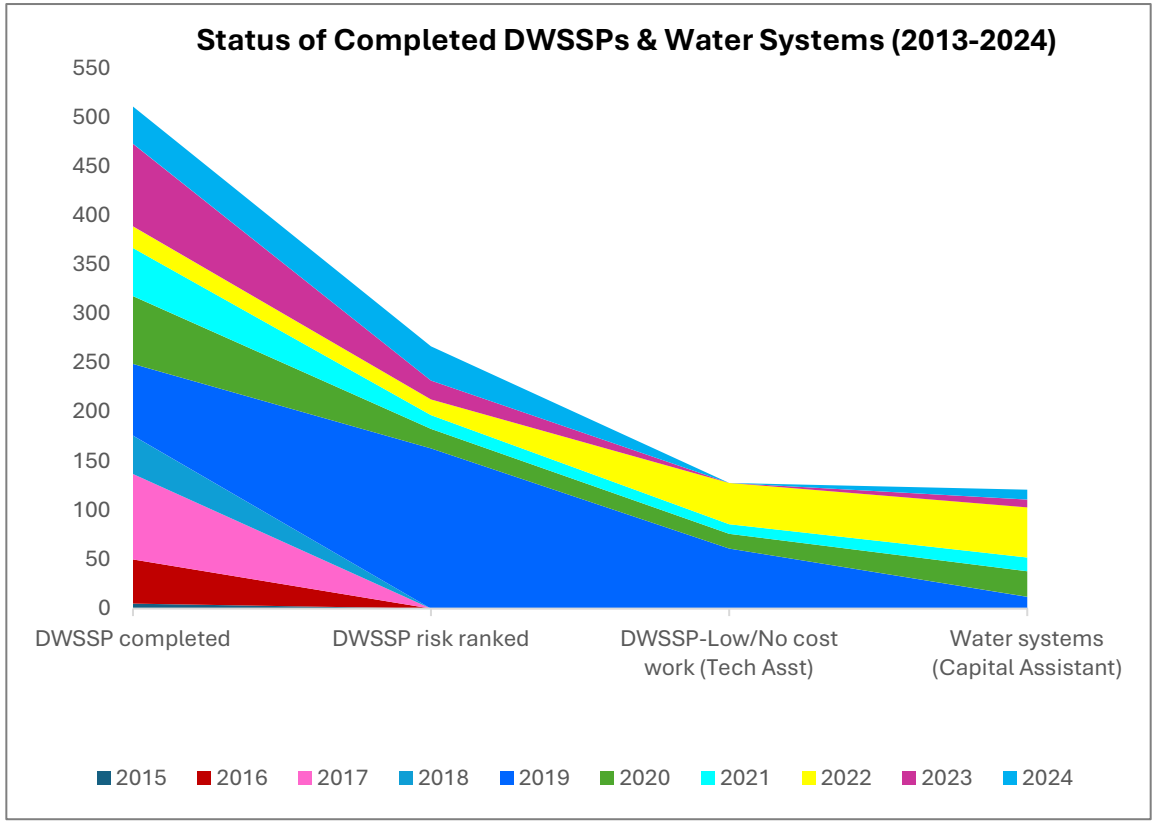
Results and Achievements (2013 – 2024)

Year	DWSSP complete	DWSSP risk ranked	DWSSP-Low/No cost work (Tech Asst)	Water systems (Capital Assistant)	People reached
2013-2018	179				
2019	73	163	61	12	4,389
2020	69	20	15	26	5,926
2021	49	14	10	14	4,394
2022	22	16	42	51	9,035
2023	85	19	0	8	679
2024	38	35	0	10	1,023
Total	**515**	**267**	**128**	**121**	**25,446**
%		**52%**	**25%**	**24%**	
% of People reached		**Total Pop**	**300,019***	**Urban + Rural**	**8.48%**
% of People reached		**Total Pop**	**233,266**	**Rural**	**10.91%**



*2020 Census – Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics

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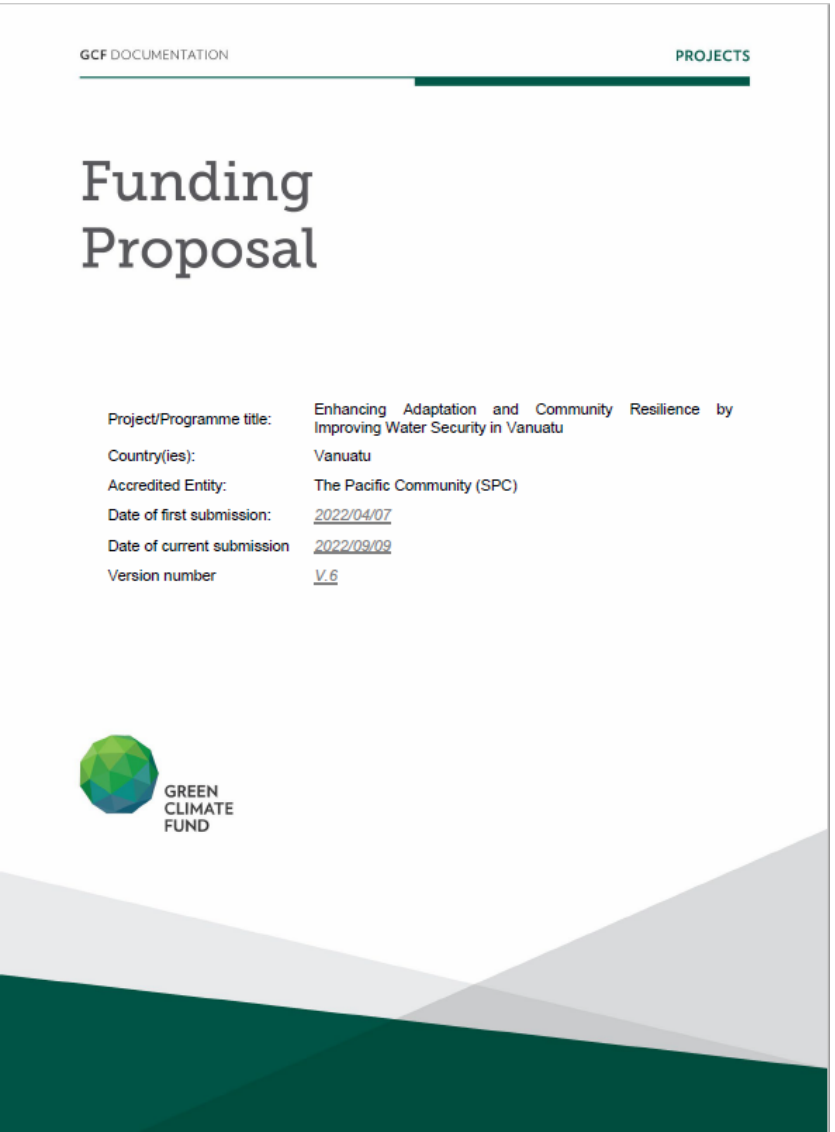
The Success of Risk-Informed Capital Investments


GCF DOCUMENTATION PROJECTS

Funding Proposal

Project/Programme title:	Enhancing Adaptation and Community Resilience by Improving Water Security in Vanuatu
Country(ies):	Vanuatu
Accredited Entity:	The Pacific Community (SPC)
Date of first submission:	2022/04/07
Date of current submission	2022/09/09
Version number	V.6

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Green Climate Fund Project: Enhancing Adaptation and Community Resilience Water Security in Vanuatu

- Total Budget: $28.3 million

Project Targets:

- Develop DWSSPs in 600 communities
- Climate-resilient infrastructure upgrades to 270 communities

Key Benefits:

- Strengthens institutions to better respond to climate risks
- Attracts additional funds for investment in the WASH sector

Long-term Impact:

- Supports the Government of Vanuatu's goal in the People Plan for all Ni-Vanuatu to have access to safe and secure water by 2030

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Conclusions/Recommendations

- Customize the DWSSP approach to fit each specific context.
- Engage stakeholders, including local communities, throughout the process.
- Improve transparency in allocating government investments and donor funding for water supply services.
- Strengthen the capacity and coordination of government agencies, private sector, and communities.
- Enhance decentralization by empowering local communities at the Area Council level to manage and sustain water systems.
- Foster collaboration among government agencies, donors, NGOs, and communities.
- Establish a robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting system.
- Promote knowledge exchange through regional and international forums.

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Current Drinking Water Safety & Security (DWSSP) approaches and its transition to Water Safety, Security and Sanitation Planning (WSSSP) in Fiji

MR. EPI DAUNIWAQALEVU

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES, FIJI

MINISTRY of HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES
Shaping Fiji's Health

USP THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

IWC International WaterCentre

Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland, Australia

Water For Women

Australian Aid


FIJI
0 km 20 40 60 km
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Great Sea Reef
NORTHERN DIVISION
Nubu
Naduri
Labasa
Rabi
Natewa Bay
Buca
Votua
Bua
Savusavu
Waiyevu
Somosomo
Qamea
Taveuni
Nabouwalu
Vanua Levu
Yadua
Yasawa Group
Yasawa
Nacula
Yaqeta
Naviti
Waya
Bligh Water
WESTERN DIVISION
Rakiraki
Tavua
Vatukoula
Ba
Lautoka
Nadi
Korovou
CENTRAL DIVISION
Nausori
SUVA
Navua
Sigatoka
Viti Levu
Beqa
Vatulele
Kadavu Passage
Tavuki
Kadavu
Koro
Namacu
Makogai
Wakaya
Levuka
Batiki
Nairai
Sawaleke
Gau
KORO SEA
Vanua Balavu
Mavana
Lomaloma
Northern Lau Group
Mago
Tuvuca
Tarakua
Cicia
EASTERN DIVISION
Nayau
Lakeba
Tubou
Naro
Moala
Vuaqava
Namuka-i-Lau
Kabara
Totoya
Tovu
Matuku
Southern Lau Group
Futuna
Ogea Levu
Rotuma
Ahau
Cikobia
Ono-i-Lau
Vatoa
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

Country Background

- Tropical climate with approximately 333 islands of which 110 are inhabited.
- Suffers frequently from natural disasters of which TC Winston in 2016 was the worst.
- Fiji's population was 884,997 - Census 2017
- Increasing Urban pop, 61% of pop expected to live in urban areas in next 20 years.
- Education access is free for primary, secondary with government support available for tertiary education.
- Life expectancy at birth stands at 74.8 years
- Maternal mortality rate is 30/100,000
- Mortality rate for under 5 is 25.3/1,000
- NCD main health issue

JMP status of drinking water services in Fiji – Census 2017

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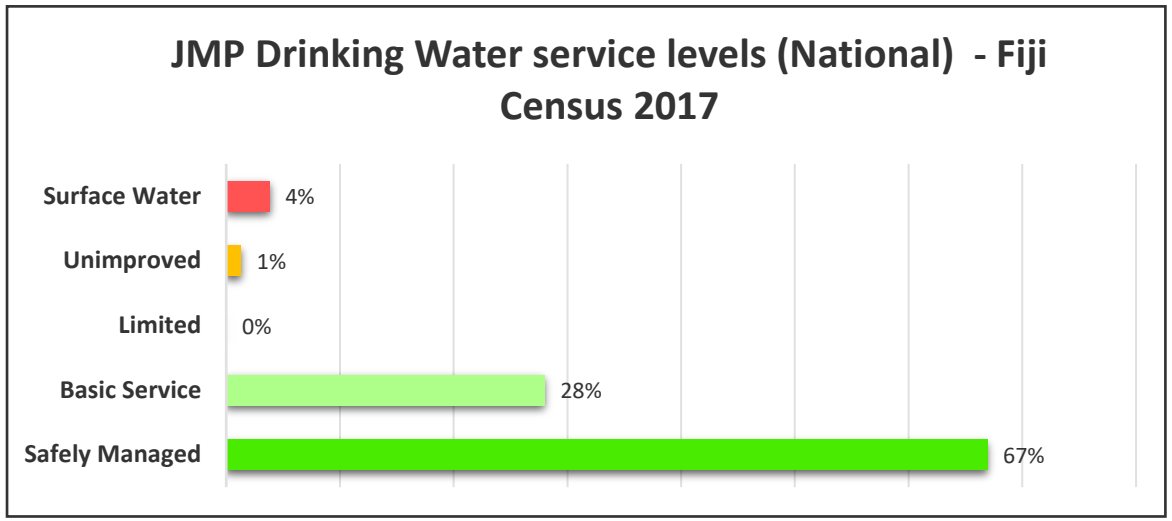
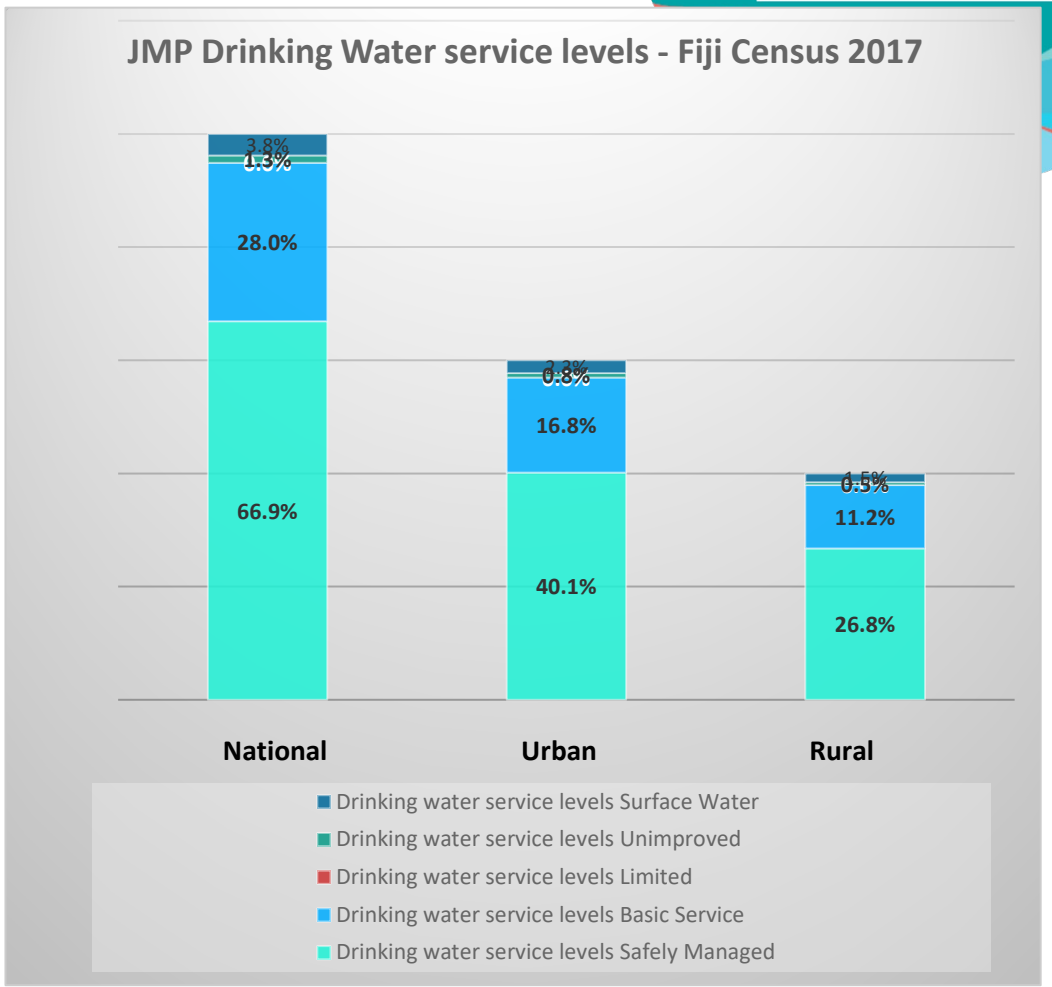
JMP category	National	Urban	Rural
Safely Managed	66.9%	40.1%	26.8%
Basic Service	28.0%	16.8%	11.2%
Limited	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unimproved	1.3%	0.8%	0.5%
Surface Water	3.8%	2.3%	1.5%





Water service levels in Rural settings & Health Implications

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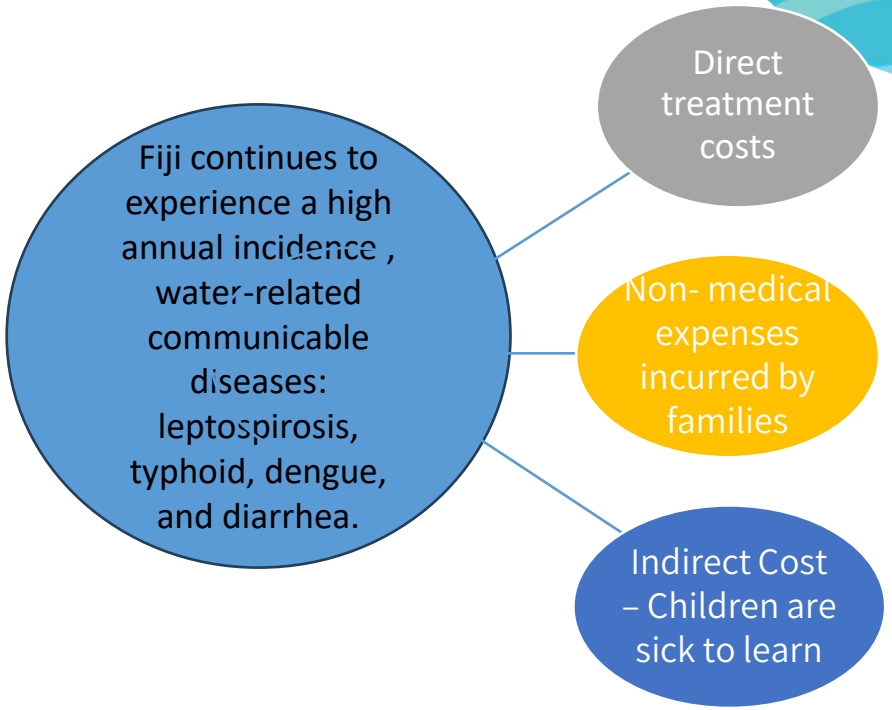
Challenges in Community-Managed Water Systems (CWM)

- Almost all Water supply in the rural are Community Managed System
- Drinking water is untreated and quality is often poor
- Water quantity at the POU is inconsistent, affected by seasonal variations, climate, and operational and maintenance (O&M) challenges.
- Significant variability exists in the reliability of water services across communities, including issues with pressure and quality.
- Infrastructure has a high failure rate, with an average lifespan of about two years before repairs or replacements are needed.
- Impact of Climate change is intensifying these issues.
- Sanitation and hygiene services are generally inadequate, compounding health risks.



Addressing rural drinking water & CWM challenges

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Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) - WASH Program

Focus Areas

- WASH in Emergencies
- WASH in Schools
- WASH in Health Care facilities
- **Communities WASH Program**
- Specific WASH Project – collaboration with Donors
- Research and Project Innovation – IWC, Field Latrine etc
- Important Events – Global Hand Washing Day, World Water Day, World Toilet Day

MoHMS Annual Business Plan (target)

Implementation of Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSP) in 21 high risk communities

Current Approach - DWSSP

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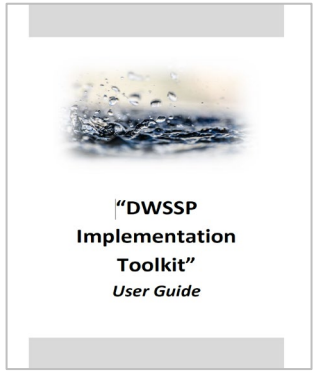
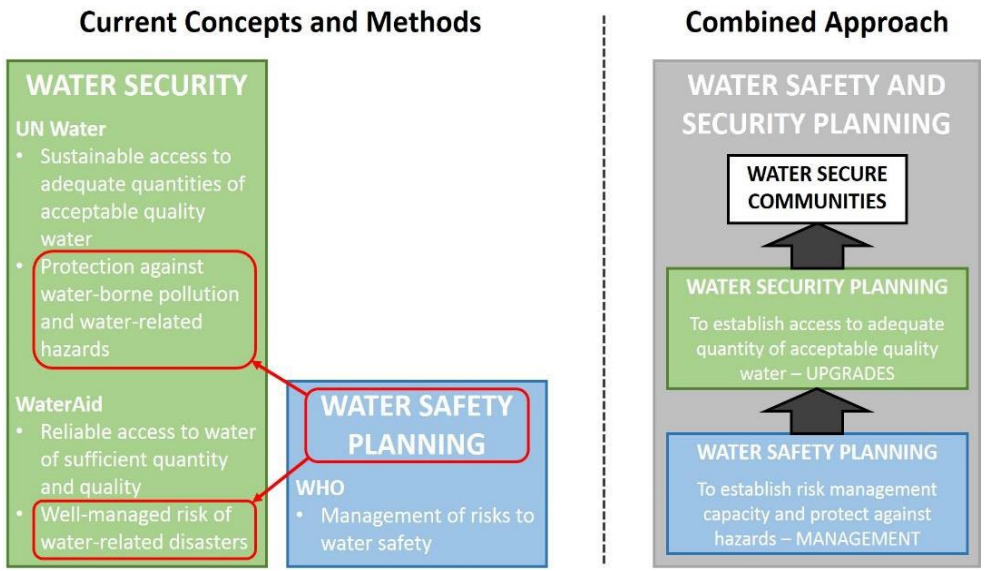
- The existing DWSSP framework by MoHMS has three modules – (1) Community Engagement, (2) Drinking Water Safety Planning (DWSP), and (3) Water Security Upgrade Planning (WSUP).
- Each module contains multiple sessions with activities designed for facilitators and participants to follow.
- Training is structured to be delivered in a single community over four consecutive days



Limitation of this Approach

- The intensive training schedule, with full-day sessions over multiple consecutive days, makes it challenging for Water Committees (WC) to absorb all new information and skills effectively.
- Sustaining the engagement of community members for 3-5 consecutive days is difficult due to their busy lives and competing priorities.
- The training currently focuses on only a single community at a time.



Transition - Water Safety, Security & Sanitation Planning (WSSSP)

- Research & Development approach inc. co-development with MHMS over 12 months (including Pilot in 4 communities in 2 clusters)

- **DWSSP → Water Safety, Security & Sanitation Planning (WSSSP)**
  - Inclusion of drainage, sanitation & hygiene (handwashing), climate resilience
  - Resources for active learning
  - Multiple-community clustered training (for some days)
  - Strengthen WC membership
  - Water cycle/pathway/risks training
  - Capacity of WC for HH & community engagement (collective action)

The “Cluster Approach”

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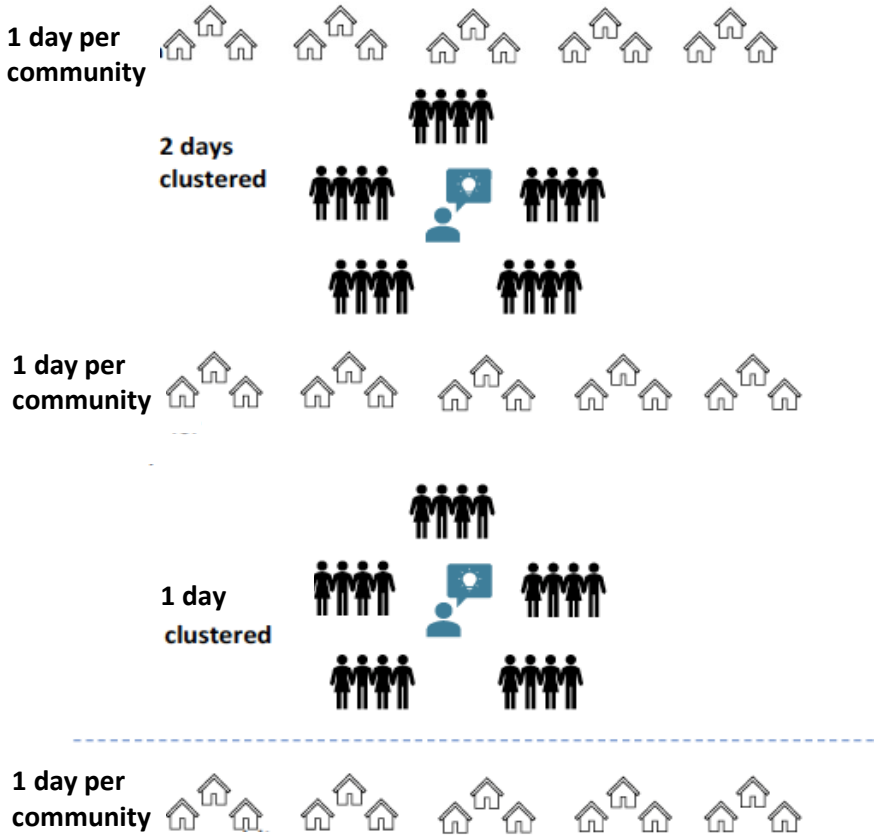
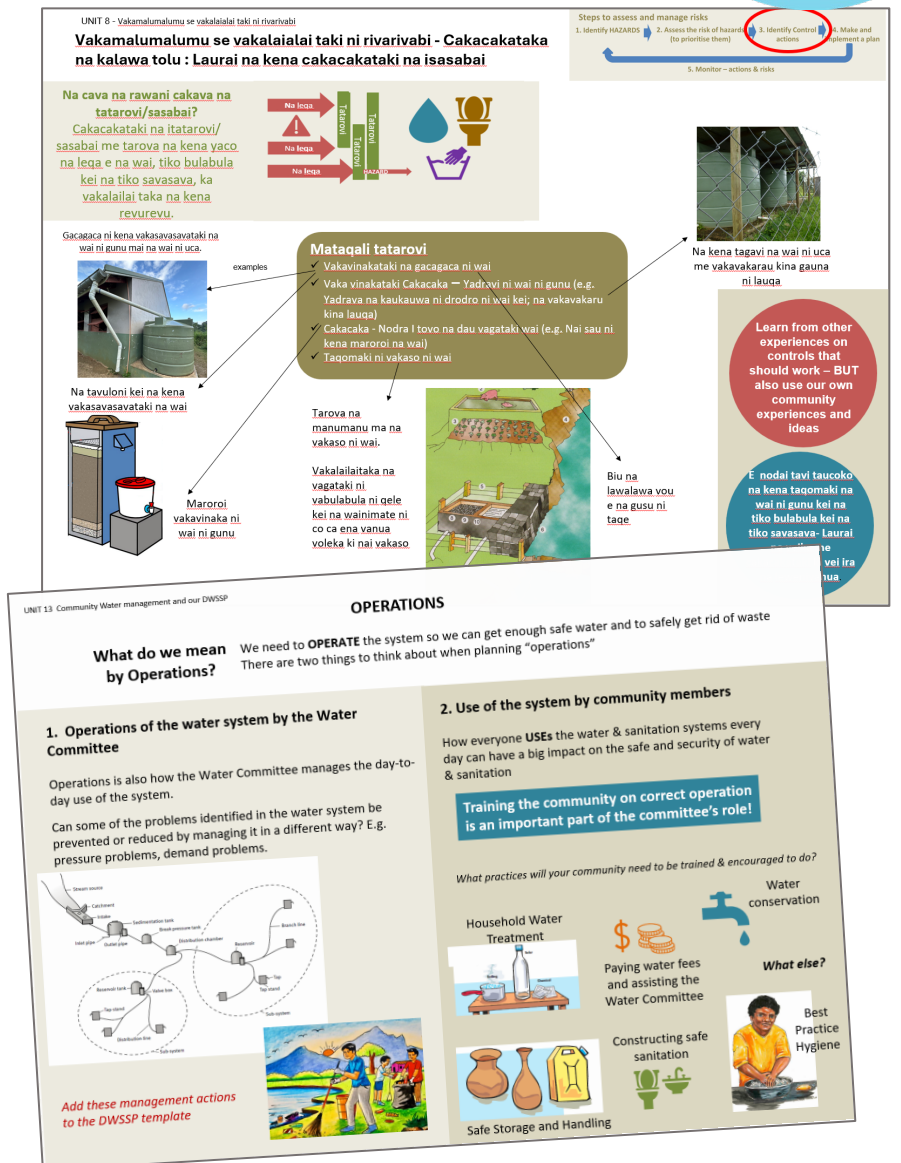
- Total training - 6 days staggered in 3 weeks
- Mix of Individual community (day 1, 4 & 6) & Clustered training (Day 2, 3 & 5)
  - Peer-based learning
  - Informal inter-community Water Committee networks
  - Cost-efficiencies
- More interaction – discussion & group work



Learning resources:

- Less/no ppt (very large posters or flipchartys– support better interaction)
- handouts
- more graphical/visual
- (some) local language
- Resources designed for ongoing community use (sanitary inspections)



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Simplified sanitary inspection forms – for ongoing use by Water Committees

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INSPECTION CHECKLIST: Water Piped distribution network *Note: for large networks, divide the network into zones and complete an inspection for each zone*

COMMUNITY NAME: Roma DATE OF INSPECTION: 15/07/2024 INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY: John Malivanua, Mary Rose

PIPED NETWORK: ZONE/AREA NAME: Hill zone Estimated population served by this zone of the network? _____ Number of connections _____

Problem (causes of hazards)	Problem is Present? (tick)	HIGH RISK (Tick all that apply) Human waste contamination possible?	Significant water loss possible?	Occurs often or affects many people?	What control actions are needed? e.g. repairs, replacements, maintenance, operations or behaviours, management decisions
EXPOSED PIPES **Are there any exposed network pipes visible?** Exposed network pipes (e.g. caused by soil erosion from surface water, traffic or footfall) are at risk from damage and illegal connections. This could result in contaminants entering the water supply (e.g. surface water entering the network via cracked pipes), or water loss through leakages.	✓	✓	✓		*Protect all exposed pipes (extra dirt and rocks on top, prevent walking/driving on top) When laying new pipes/replacing old pipes, bury at least 50 cm deep, avoid areas of high traffic, record location for future reference*
LEAKS **Are there any water leakages visible from the network (e.g. pipes, valves, fittings)?** Contaminants could enter the network from leaking pipes or valves. This can also result in water loss. *Note* – underground leakages may be indicated by water ponding on the surface along the network pipelines. Unusual vegetation growth in dry areas may also indicate leakages.	✓			✓	*Repair all leaks immediately Replace pipework for major leaks (and protect the pipe),*
PLANTS **Is there vegetation present that could damage the network?** Contaminants could enter the network if roots penetrate and damage network components (e.g. break-pressure tanks, pipes). This could also result in water loss from leakages.					
ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS **Are there problems with non-approved (illegal) connections?** These may be poor quality (e.g. leaking) and increase the water demand of the whole system (lowering water pressure), or allow contamination to enter	✓				
LOW PRESSURE **Does the network have intermittent or low-pressure supply?** Contaminants can enter the network during intermittent supply outages due to low pressure conditions within the network pipes (e.g. resulting in contaminated water entering the network pipes).					
MAINTENANCE **Is there a lack of routine maintenance and inspections?** Failure to routinely inspect, maintain and monitor the network may result in unsafe drinking-water being supplied or water insecurity	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Nominate maintenance inspections team Schedule monthly inspections Encourage community to report all maintenance issues immediately*
TREATMENT **Does the network water lack disinfection / water treatment?** Failure to adequately disinfect water with chlorine or other means can result in unsafe drinking-water being supplied.	✓				
Addition observations or comments (e.g. problems with water pressure, taste, odour or appearance of the water, water source reliability).					

IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED (infrastructure upgrades, other works)

(List improvements to infrastructure that are required or works required; maintenance

Water sources

Location	Action	Problems / hazards being addressed	When to be implemented	Re re
	Replace pipework for major leaks (and protect the pipe),			

WATER COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – managing risks to water & sanitation

Management (operational) actions by the Water Committee to manage risks

Location	Management action (e.g. regulations / rules to protect sources, manage demand, etc)	Problems / hazards being addressed	When to be implemented	Resources required	Respon to imple arrange implem

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Location / parts of water system	Maintenance action	Problems / hazards being addressed	Timing (how often)	Resources / tools required	Respo
Piped network	*Inspect and repair leaks*	*Loss of water, contamination of water supply*			

COMMUNITY ACTIONS & SUPPORT

Water (water containers, household storage, treatment , water conservation, protect

Target behaviour	Water Committee actions to improve the behaviour	Timetable for Water Committee actions
Encourage community to report all maintenance issues immediately		

Household sanitation, hygiene & drainage behaviours

Target behaviour	Water Committee actions to improve the behaviour	Timetabl Committ

Initial Results of the WSSSP Pilot

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Progress of Pilot

- Conducted in 4 communities in 2 clusters (Korovou & Rakiraki)
- Day 1 – 5 completed in both cluster. Day 6 to be done in the last week of Nov

Cluster Approach Effectiveness:

- The cluster approach (bringing together 2-3 Water Committees (WCs) was beneficial and efficient. Training benefitted multiple WCs, enhancing time and resource use.
- Social Connection - The program leveraged existng kinship relations and social networks (Tikina networks) which increased participation.
- Women's Participation - In the Central Division, women were more actively involved than men engagement. They also expressed interest in practical skills, like plumbing.

Content and Activities

- Participants showed strong interest in understanding risk-related content, though the concept of risk was new to many.
- Technical concepts were better understood when taught through hands-on activities and exercises.
- Some days were shorter than planned, starting late, leading to dropped or shortened units where participants already showed understanding.

Participant Demographics and Engagement

- Composition - The WCs included a good mix of youth, women, and local chiefs, creating diverse group dynamics.
- Engagement Challenges - Longer sessions led to fatigue, especially after lunch. Ice-breakers were suggested to improve energy levels.

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VINAKA – ANY QUESTIONS

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Localising Water Safety Planning (WSP) Practices for Climate-Resilient Water Security in the Pacific

TUESDAY 29TH APRIL – 9:00AM

AUDITORIUM – ID55

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

live & learn ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Water For Women

Australian Aid

IWC International WaterCentre

Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland, Australia

SINU SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Water Safety Planning in the Pacific

Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning in Solomon Islands

Tom Rankin[1], Collin Benjamin[2], Nixon Panda[2]

1. Plan International Australia
2. Solomon Islands National University

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Water Safety Planning in Solomon Islands

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- Dispersed populations
- Vulnerable to climate
- No formal WASH planning processes
- Expectation of community managed water
- Poor WASH access / practice

CWSIP development

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CWSIP 1

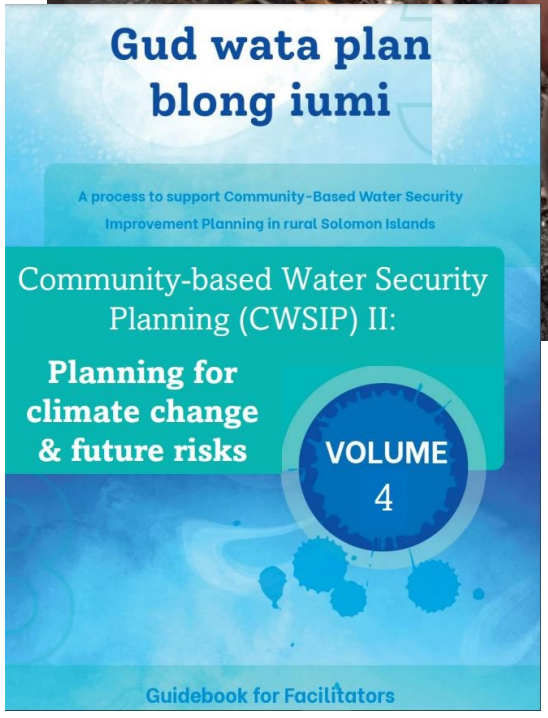
- Merged existing materials
- Field testing in communities

CWSIP 2

- Refinement and sharper CR focus
- Extension of CWSIP 1

Catchment level engagement

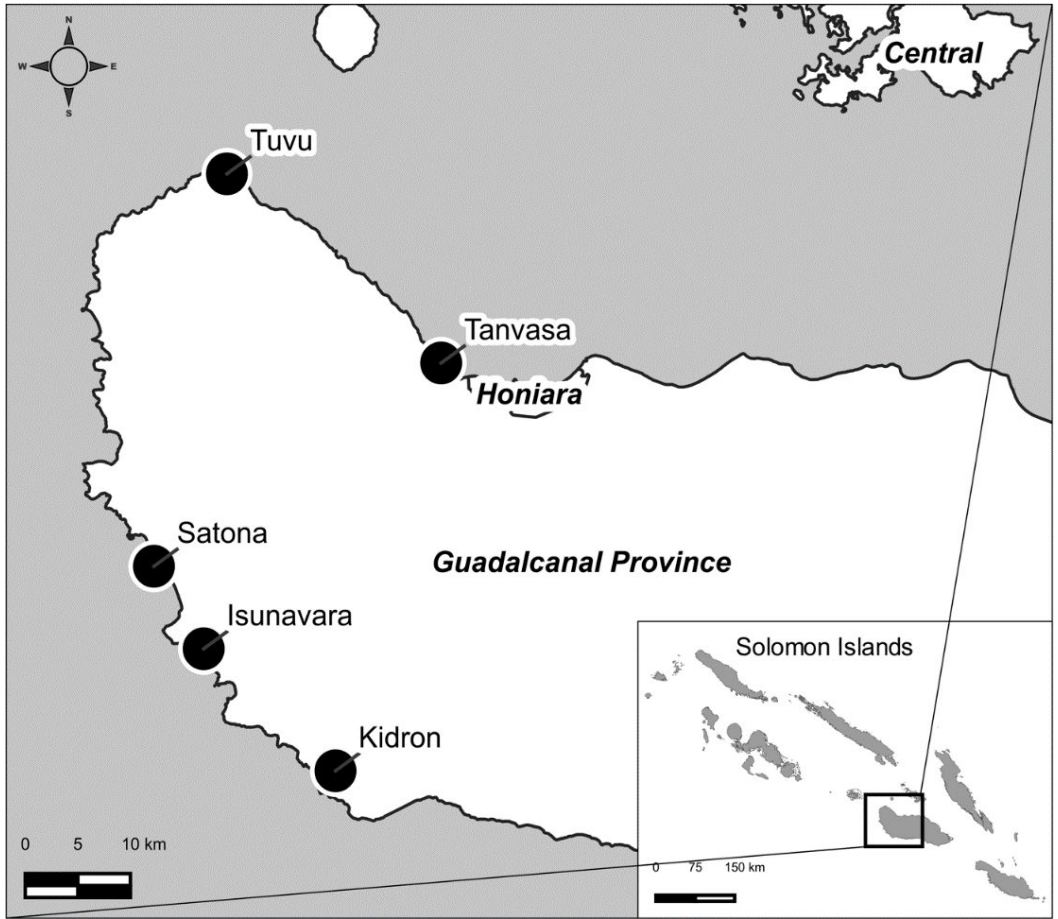
- Intergenerational dialogue



Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning *(CWSIP-2)*

Work done: CWSIP

- Rural communities in West Guadalcanal, since 2019
- Workshop, KII, observation, FGDs, etc.



Step 1: Catchment Mapping

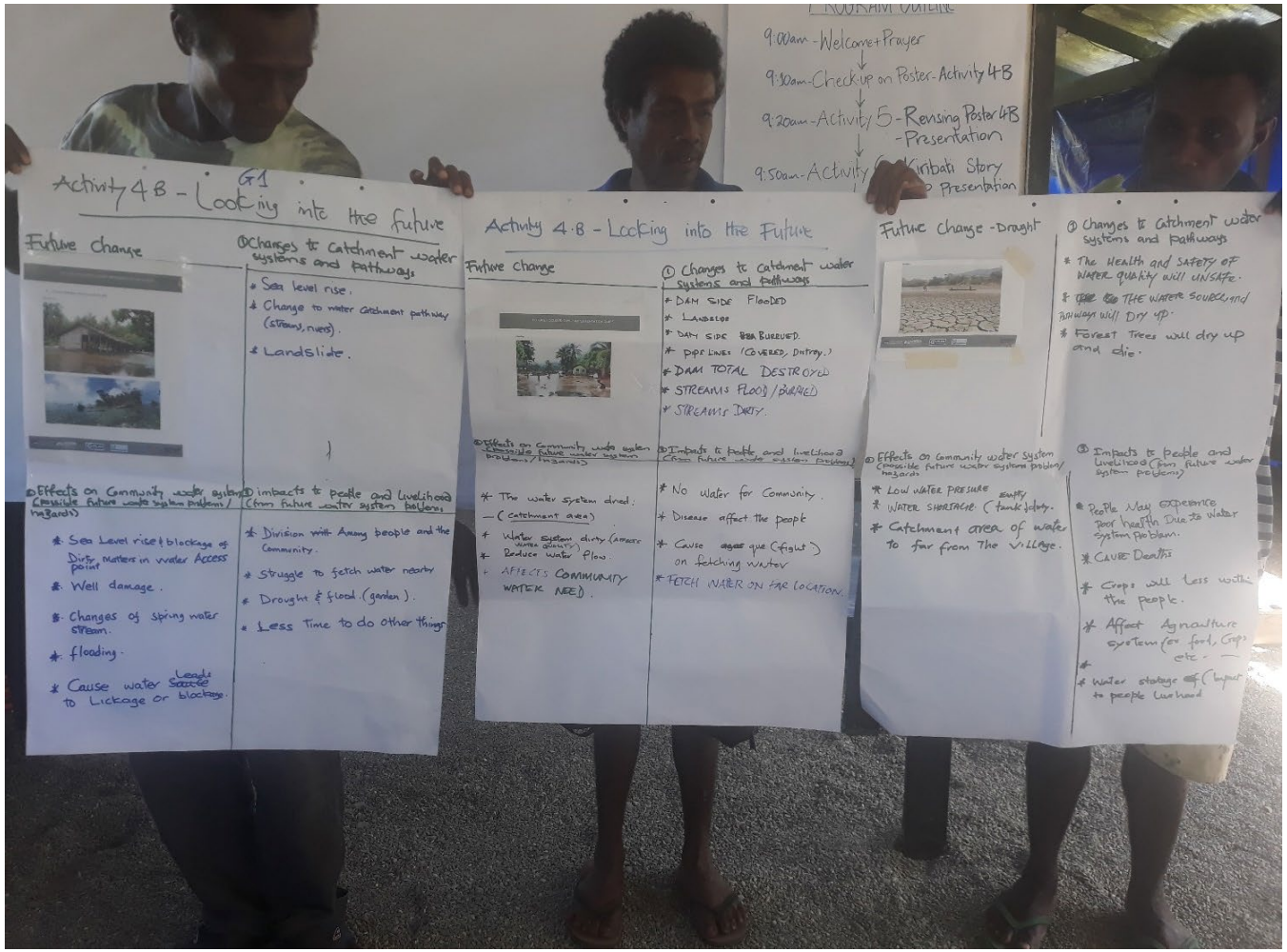
Step 1: The past & water futures, CWSIP-2

A. Tok stori - Learning from the past experiences

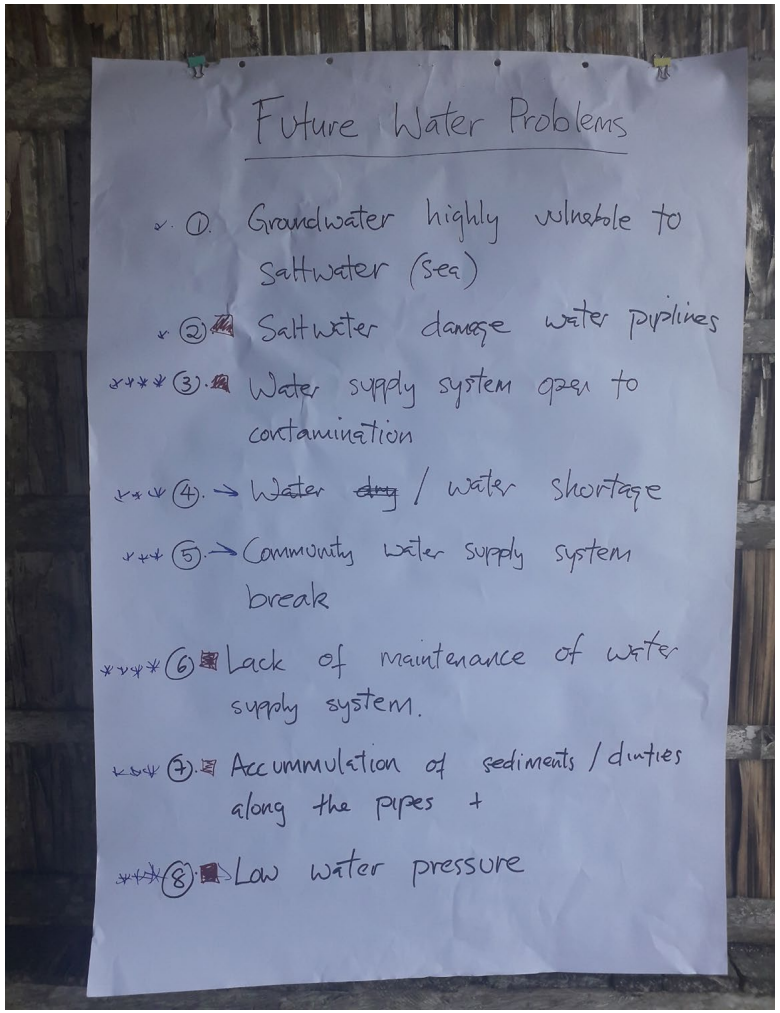
A. Looking into the future

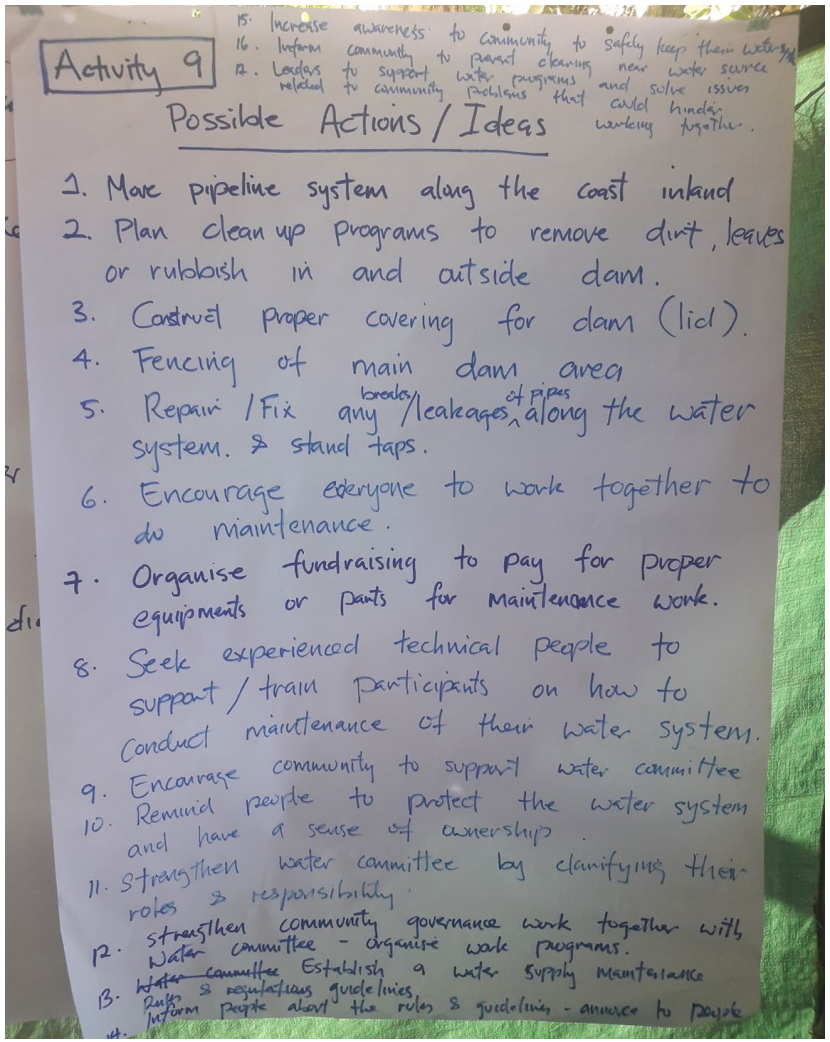
Impacts and thinking about the Future

Water Impact Tok Stori

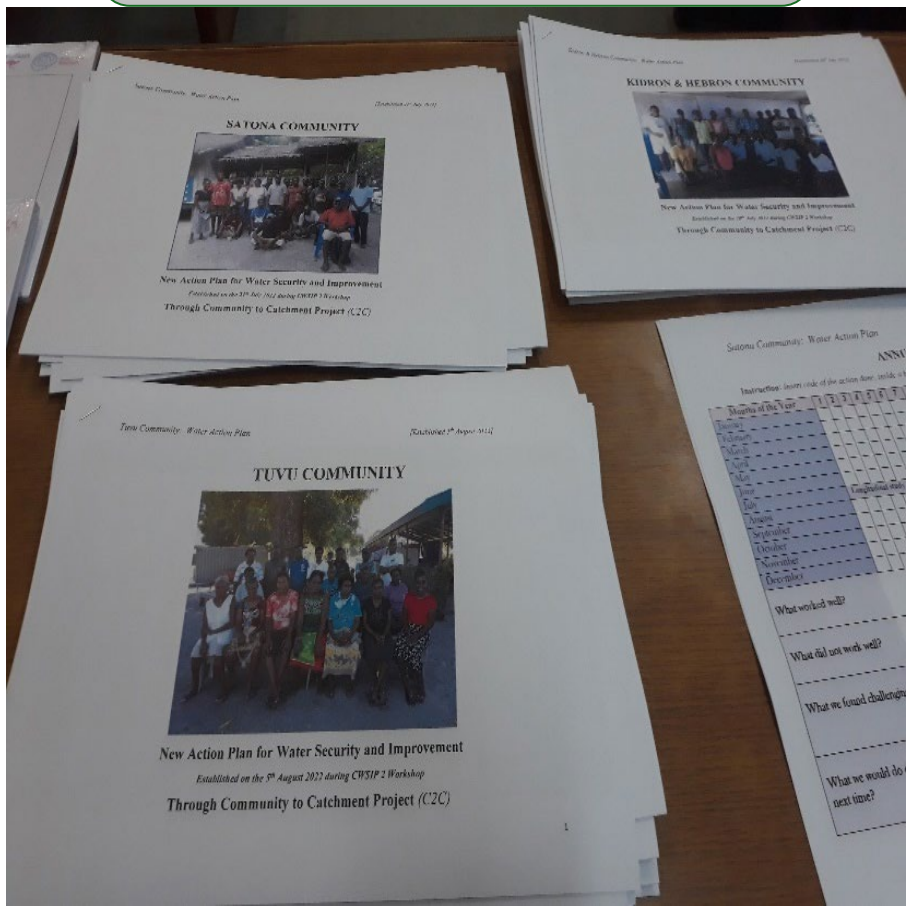


Step 2: Identifying Future Water Problems & Control Actions





10b. <u>Update Water Action Plan</u>
- Prioritize, tweak and add new actions to CWSIP1 action plan



Step 3: Follow-up Support & Celebration

Outcome: Improve Water Availability

New dam for zone 4 - Satona community

Modified tap – Isunavara community

New dam for zone 1 - Tuvu community

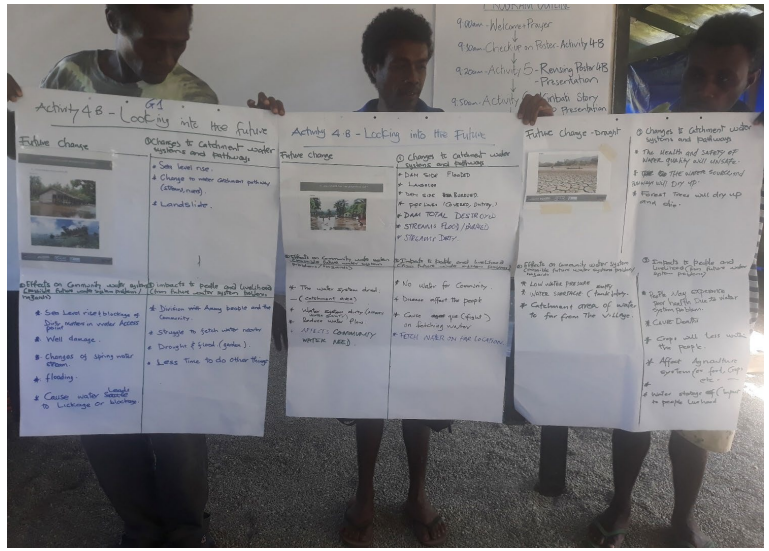
Borehole - Satona community

Burying of pipes – Isunavara community

Benefits for today and tomorrow

- Delivers immediate benefits to the water system.
- These are *“no regrets”* actions.
- Some climate risks may not eventuate.
- AND possible future benefits.
- So relevant

Faced some setbacks?



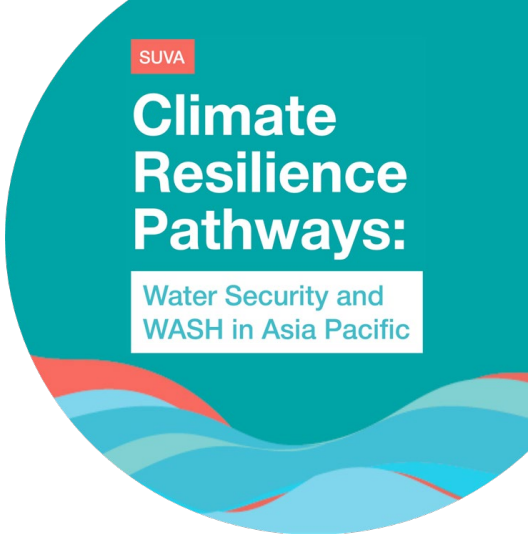
Great Quotes

*"The visit was positive… **now feel more empowered**… if it wasn't for such program, my community would not prepare and protect our water and slowly…" (KH-EL-F1)*

*"Because it taught us… **We feel prepared and have the capacity** to address any future problems." (KH-EL-F1)*

*"It **has empowered many of us**… we learned how to manage water and to keep our drinking water clean." (TA-EL-F2)*

*"Please visit us… **We don't need money** but rather we need to be updated with future relevant information and advices." (IS-EL-M1)*



Thankyou for Listening!

Welcome any questions

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Climate Resilience Pathways:

Water Security and WASH in Asia Pacific

Localising Water Safety Planning (WSP) Practices for Climate-Resilient Water Security in the Pacific

TUESDAY 29TH APRIL – 9:00AM

AUDITORIUM – ID55

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Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland, Australia

SINU SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Localisation of WSP for Pacific Island Countries is critical to address ineffective implementation

- (Where users have day-to-day responsibilities): Have capacity development as a priority outcome – not too intensive, participant-led, clustering communities (local networks of WCs)
- Attention on Water Committees: membership, motivation, community engagement, accountability & authority (prior, during and post WSP)
- Consider cluster-training
- Accommodate assessment and management of multiple supplies, and multiple uses
- Promote Collective action (all users):
  - Incorporate promotional (or social marketing) information to assist with the prioritisation of water
  - Emphasise the importance of non-infrastructure-based improvements (promote self-reliance)
  - Conduct assessment, planning and community engagement aspects of WSP to within-community spatial levels (e.g. zones)

→ **Work "with the grain" of community settings (pedagogies, social cohesion, social marketing)**

→ **Embed WSP in a Community Water Management PLUS model (ongoing support, motivation and accountability of Water Committees & Communities)**

→ **National strategies, targets, coordination & Communities of Practice**

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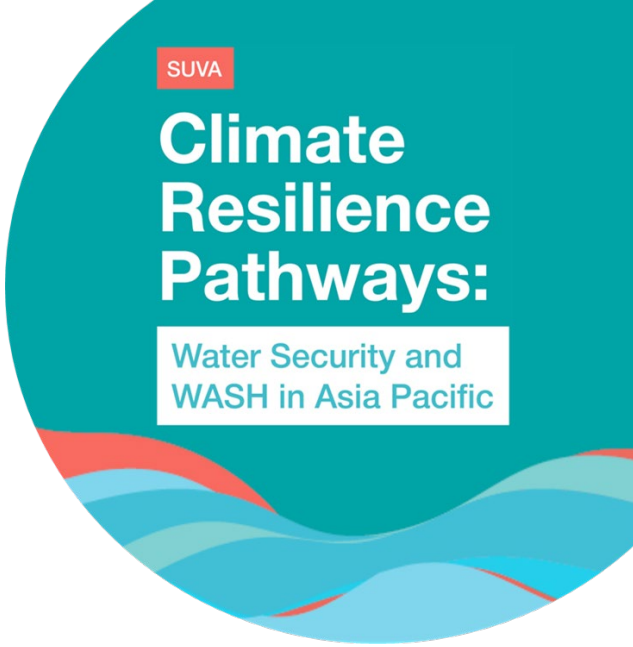
Climate Resilience Pathways:

Water Security and WASH in Asia Pacific

Discussion/Talanoa Session

Questions/Discussion Points



1. What FORM/FOCUS does water safety planning have in your countries?
    - Water safety? Water safety & security? Sanitation & hygiene?

2. MODE OF DELIVERY
    - Languages
    - PPT / flipcharts
    - Tok stori / Talanoa approaches

3. MONITORING & FOLLOW-UP
    - How? / when? / Who does it?

4. CLIMATE CHANGE
    - (How) is climate resilience and adaption incorporated into Water Safety Planning?

5. CHALLENGES

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

7. BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON ‘WATER SAFETY PLANNING IN THE PACIFIC’