

Session Summary

Bridging the climate-resilient water and sanitation financing gap in Pacific Islands Countries including blended financing options

Session Coordinators: UNDP Pacific and UNICEF EAPRO

Session Details: Wednesday 30th April, 4pm, Suva Fiji - Auditorium

The session commenced with an acknowledgement of the Plenary Session conducted beforehand and the linkages to the challenges of financing that were discussed and how to ensure water and WASH work was connecting with and integrated as part of climate resilience.

A short, recorded presentation was provided by Mr Tim Foster, Research Director at the Institute of Sustainable Futures. The research, undertaken in partnership with UNICEF, detailed the breakdown of financing for the WASH and water sector in the Pacific (across 14 countries) and specifically in PNG. This was followed by two case studies on community water infrastructure being implemented in Tonga by the Ministry of Climate Change (MEIDECC) and in Fiji by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management (MRMDDM). Ms Makeleta Moala, Senior Climate Finance Officer in Tonga spoke to the National Water Tank Initiative and the role of the Tonga Climate Trust Fund and other donors who have supported this. Mr Soko Tuima, Manager of Planning at MRMDDM discussed the Gov4Res initiative and how the partnership with UNDP has changed the approach of the Ministry, with risk-informed development now being the principal way for the Ministry to approach their development work. Both Governments have adopted a blended financing approach and provided examples of how they are implementing climate resilient development – undertaking priority water infrastructure work but doing it in a way that incorporates climate change and disaster risk and gender and social inclusion. Fiji MRMDDM have been able to calculate the climate additionality cost for their community water infrastructure and have successfully increased the Government budget being provided to the Ministry, as a result.

The session ended with a short Q&A and panel discussion bringing together Mr Soko Tuima, MRMDDM Fiji, Ms Makeleta Moala and Mr Maikolo Founa, MEIDECC Tonga, Ms Aude-Sophie Rodella of the World Bank and Mr Nick Pigrim, the Lead Consultant for the development of the Rural WASH Investment Plan in Fiji. The audience asked questions related to the reason for decreased funding to the sector, the role of the private sector and the need for advocacy to leadership for addressing water insecurity and water poverty and achieving economies of scale in the sector.