

CRP conference

“Scaling up Government Support for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation”

DWS with the support of MoHMS, UNICEF and the Suez Consulting team made a presentation on “Scaling up Government Support for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation”. The introduction highlighted the scale of the challenge (over 1,600 communities) and limited implementation capacity and explored links to other sessions at the conference relating to water safety planning, decentralization, and bridging the financing gap. The introduction drew attention to the lack of financing in rural WASH in Fiji compared to urban water supply and sewerage, and identified areas that are particularly neglected due to their remoteness such as in the Northern and Eastern Divisions. The technical presentations identified specific challenges such as the need for drinking water treatment, improved back-end septic systems and faecal sludge management. The need for a formal approach to prioritize rural WASH projects, a common data base and MIS and stakeholder coordination platform was also discussed by participants.

Two important topics raised for discussion were (1) The need to integrate Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSP) with Water Supply Management Plans (WSMP) to address recurrent asset maintenance, water quality, source sustainability, climate proofing and sanitation; and (2) The need for a more flexible funding mechanism than currently exists under the MoF annual budget process. This would provide incentives to implement improvement programmes and can be linked to performance monitoring.

The session concluded by proposing that 2025 to 2030 focus on achieving physical coverage with accelerated investment in safely managed water supply and sanitation through divisional programmes, and 2030 to 2050 focus on the vision 2050 to have a government led programme with sustainable and resilient service delivery with a five-year periodic planning review under the WSMP and annual DWSSP, technical and financial audits, and monitoring framework.