



## PACWAM+ PACIFIC COMMUNITY WATER MANAGEMENT PLUS

### Project update: May 2020

Phase 1 of PaCWaM is drawing to a close. The key activities of Phase 1 included:

- Research describing community water management, WASH and social settings in 16 case study villages across Solomon Islands and Fiji has been completed.
  - The village-specific research domains included: WASH situation, social relations and context, community water management arrangements and practices
  - An initial analysis of data for each village has been completed.
  - A “Key findings” summary report, tailored to each of the participating villages, is prepared for each of the 16 villages and will be distributed over the coming months. (Given the current global COVID-19 pandemic, these village-specific reports will include information relating to protecting against COVID-19 transmissions)
- The data from 8 case studies in Solomon Islands was combined and analysed for key lessons across villages and across domains; the same was completed for Fiji.
- A political economy analysis of rural community water in both Solomon Islands and Fiji was completed: Policy briefs are currently being prepared
- A country synthesis report of the key findings of Phase 1 research is currently being prepared for each of Fiji and Solomon Islands.





The phase 1 research enabled some of the key strengths of good community water management to be identified, from villages where there are good WASH and water management situations, as well as identifying persistent challenges faced by communities. Some of the key findings include:

- The case villages were selected because of anecdotal evidence they were examples of 'good' water management, and most did have many strengths and successes relating to water management.
- No case villages had 'ideal' water management (i.e. were achieving inclusive, resilient, sustainable WASH outcomes). But, none had ongoing external support (confirming the need for Community Water Management Plus)
- Some factors that were previously suspected to be required for good water management, were found not to be correlated with 'good' water management:
  - The amount of money in the village (income + remittances + financial support) was not aligned with good water management practices
  - The availability of water resources was not a limiting factor in most case villages, but water systems to access and distribute water were not well designed and/or managed
  - Access to supply chains for spare parts to maintain water systems was mostly manageable, however spare parts left following installation were not always usable, and, accessing finance to purchase spare parts was a barrier.
- Many factors were found to correlate with 'good' water management; some of these factors, external actors can influence/support, however some are foundational and cannot be changed. Some of these foundational factors have diagnostic benefit - identifying the status of them during initial community engagement and assessment can guide which approaches to supporting community water management are likely to be more effective.





Governments and civil society organisations already use a range of approaches to support community water management in Solomon Islands and Fiji. This research is focused on identifying the critical gaps, or additional support required by communities to achieve good water management. Broadly, these encompassed a range of educational needs (relating to specific technical knowledge needs), and community mobilisation needs, which we propose to address through motivational activities.

Phase 2 of this research entails trialling some of these approaches, through the codesign, implementation, assessment and refinement of tools - conducted with our CSO partners. The specific approaches to be piloted in each country reflect the critical needs identified through the research and the alignment with our CSO partner program objectives; these are identified in the boxes below.

**Phase 2 - approaches proposed for development and trial in Solomon Islands**

**Enhanced diagnostic (Community profile) to include:**

- Past experiences with better / worse water systems
- Levels of social cohesion and collective actions
- Socio-cultural factors affecting water uses & mngmnt
- Land, resources and leadership disputes

Motivational strategies		Educational strategies	
<p><b>Video Stories to motivate collective actions</b></p> <p>Motivation using social marketing techniques – videos for <u>social media</u> and use in <u>facilitating community discussions during community engagement by CSOs</u> stories highlighting ‘benefits’ of collective actions by households, groups of households or villages</p>	<p><b>Strong and Sustainable WASH group/committees</b></p> <p>Workshop activity with Water/WASH Group/committee to <b>motivate different ways of working with their community</b>, and how to <b>maintain their strength for sustainability</b> – using a video story from a strong water/WASH committee</p>	<p><b>Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning</b></p> <p>Modified WSP approach to include climate change, water quantity, pedagogy for Sol Is villages, work with levels of social cohesion within a village)</p>	<p><b>Technical backstopping</b></p> <p>3 visits/12 months to provide technical advice for O&amp;M (to villages that had a water system installed 2-5 years ago)</p>

**Phase 2 – approaches proposed for development and trial in Fiji**

**Enhanced diagnostic (Community profile) to include**

- Past experiences with better / worse water systems;
- Levels of social cohesion and collective actions
- Land, resources and leadership disputes
- Socio-cultural factors affecting water uses & management (including Mataqali social structures)

Motivational strategies		Educational strategies	
<p><b>Video Stories to motivate collective actions</b></p> <p>Motivation using social marketing techniques – using video stories (for <u>social media</u> and use in <u>facilitating community discussions during community engagement by HFH-F</u>) stories highlighting ‘benefits’ of collective actions by households, groups of households or villages</p>	<p><b>Mobilising inclusive, proactive Water Comm’s</b></p> <p>Workshop activity with Water/WASH Group/committee to <b>motivate different ways of working with their community</b> (inc GESI), and how to <b>maintain their strength for sustainability</b> – using a video story from a strong water/WASH committee</p>	<p><b>Motivate and Mobilise Mataqali</b></p> <p>Engaging Mataqali reps in <b>village to motivate and mobilise community WASH</b> Action Plans using Talanoa / similar activity to identify benefits and actions by indiv. Mataqali clans to carry out WASH/Water management</p>	<p><b>Actions to mitigate risks and actions to water quality &amp; quantity</b></p> <p><b>Graphical flyer</b> communicating the most common causes of contaminated water (including poor water container hygiene) and to water quantity – with an emphasis on actions that individuals and communities can easily take to mitigate these risks. To be used by CSO in <b>training packages</b></p>

In response to interest from PIA and LLEE in Solomon Islands, research and development the Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning approach commenced during Phase 1. Following field trials by Plan-LLEE to assess implementation aspects of the CWSIP tool and initial community responses, and targeted research into gender aspects of the CSWIP approach, the tool is currently being refined. The gender research was completed as an IWC Masters of Integrated Water Management (WASH) thesis. This tool will be carried through to Phase 2 for further testing and refinement.