Progressing inclusive, resilient and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 and WASH outcomes in the rural Pacific through developing approaches to enable effective community-based water management
Purpose: Improve Pacific Islands rural community water management

Global evidence – most communities struggle to manage systems, without any support, and achieve sustainable, resilience, inclusive water services

Balance of responsibility for O&M has to shift “...away from rural communities that have for too long been overburdened with the expectation that they should be independently successful ‘public service managers’” (Hutchings et al., 2017)

→ calls for ‘Community Management Plus’ (Baumann, 2006) (‘plus’ = ongoing support from government or other agencies to ensure community management is sustainable

Pacific Islands - rural communities (80% pop); Government and private sector reach to rural communities is limited (geography, capacity)
→ Dominant water service delivery model: Community Management
   Pacific Governments & CSOs do provide some external support
   But access to basic water services has not improved
   (increased by 3% since 2000)
→ What kind of support is needed for CWM?
Conceptual model: Pacific Community Water Management PLUS

**CONTEXTUAL FACTORS**

- **Community Water Management PLUS (CWM+)**

- **External actors engagement** ("PLUS" activities)

- **Political economy**

- **CSOs**

- **Government**

**Community Water Management**

(actions taken to provide water to individuals & HH in the village)

**WASH (Water, sanitation hygiene)**

(Situation experienced by individuals & HH in the village)

**Health & wellbeing**

**PHASE 1**

Strengths-based assessment of 16 Case studies – existing CWM? Strengths? Challenges?

→ “Good” water management

→ Support

**PHASE 2**

Trial additional / alternative support for good CWM
“Good” community water management?

Community Water Management
(actions taken to provide water to individuals & HH in the village)

Committee/ Group of Community Water Managers

Collective Action by All Water Users

External (non-resident) actors engagement
Actions for “good” community water management (the “what” to do)

But achieved in different ways (the “how” to do) in different countries, different communities (context influences this)
Collective action = action taken together by a group of people to achieve a common goal

- This requires **social cohesion between people** (connectedness and solidarity with others in the social group)

- But, **Villages are not a single cohesive group of people** → collective action does happen, but often at levels smaller than the whole village e.g.
  - social groups (youth, women, church)
  - "Zones" - geographical areas within the village; they often already work together / assist each other → strong social cohesion than with others in other parts of the village (sometimes zones are also linked with social groupings).
WASH situations vary between & within communities

- Assessed using SDG6 plus additional indicators
- WASH varied between villages, but, also within a village
- Most common challenges:
  - Water quality consistently unsafe (often a lack of container hygiene)
  - Large seasonal variations (esp water services)
- Lack of collective awareness of everyone’s (different) WASH situations (very much still a household-level issue)

→ CWM: within one water ‘system’, need to manage for different WASH experiences & need to build on the social cohesion that already exists within village groups or zones
→ Then, more likely to identify actions that benefit everyone, and more likely to motivate collective actions
• Assessed performance using the actions of ‘good’ water management

• Range of technical and governance challenges – different in different villages

• Most common governance problem – sustainability & effectiveness of the committee/Group – due to:
  • Membership – often doesn’t support: diversity, succession, redundancy, innovation, existing levels of social cohesion & skills
  •  Youth, women, zone/areas → stronger committee
  •  Often limited working between community committees and other skilled members (e.g. health workers)

• Most common technical challenges – proactive management of risks relating to water quality, and security (supply & demand)
Most water systems installed with support by governments & CSOs. Typically no ongoing support for CWM support delivered via “projects”. But this appears to be causing problems e.g.

- project dependency “waiting” for the next project to fix/improve the water system → reduced belief in community capabilities, & reduced motivation for collective action (?)
- limited effective capacity built (takes time & progressive learning)

→ projects are ok for some types of support to communities, but they also need ongoing support

- Social connections are strong between villages and town (family, tribe, village) – potential for Gov & CSOs to engage with Town-based connections, for some types of support
### PaCWaM+ Phase 2 – trialling approaches by enabling actors

#### Guiding Principles:

- **working with the grain:**
  - existing levels of social cohesion for action planning and representation
  - town-cousin networks
  - pedagogies/learning styles

- **Acknowledging village diversity** (modular approaches) and different social-governance contexts in Fiji & Sol Is.

- **Mix of educational & motivational** (social marketing) approaches

- **Complementing** existing actions by CSOs & gov

#### Implementation:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fiji</th>
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<tr>
<td>Water user collective action &amp; risk management</td>
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<td>Strong and Sustainable WASH group/committees</td>
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<td>Implementation: Plan Int &amp; Live &amp; Learn EE</td>
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<td>Implementation: Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Implementation: Plan Int &amp; Live &amp; Learn EE</td>
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<td>CWM training for Town-Village Committees</td>
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<td>Technical backstopping</td>
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<td>Implementation USP (with MoH, WAF, iTaukei Affairs)</td>
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<td>Implementation Water Authority Fiji</td>
<td>Implementation 1. Provincial Gov 2. Plan Int &amp; LLEE</td>
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CWSIP: Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning

Educational (technical) aspects:

- **Water systems**: Understanding water cycles, contaminants and hazards affecting quality and quantity
- **Risk management**: Identifying highest priority risks & mitigating actions → action plan (village levels actions and zone and HH level actions)

Modifications from Water Safety & Security Planning

- Learning / capacity building: *learning-by-doing & not too intense* (5 days over 2 months)
- Larger villages – *participation by zones/areas*
  - Existing social cohesion
  - Greater emphasis on collective actions at HH level
  - Improve Inclusion & collective awareness
- **Improvement is progressive and cyclical** – achievable actions, scaffolded learning
- **Gender & climate change**
(Some) Key messages

- **Good CWM requires an action group/committee**, doing a range of actions (some technical governance aspects could be strengthened)

- **Good CWM also requires collective action** - this requires social cohesion - often stronger at levels smaller than the “whole village”.

  → Work with the grain on social cohesion → action planning & collective action at levels where social cohesion exists.

  → Complement existing support for Committee/group: Deliberation about membership & ways of working: women; youth; zones; other committees/health workers

    → More inclusive CWM outcomes (better WASH for everyone)

    → Greater collective action

  → Motivate collective CWM action (social marketing)

  → Technical support & capacity building (risk management)

- **Ongoing external support to communities is needed** (Existing CWM involves no/v. limited ongoing support (only “projectised” support) & all 16 communities had some persistent challenges

  → Exploring two strategies:

    → Village-Town networks (transfer technical information; social marketing messages)

    → Technical “backstopping” (problem-based teaching & learning over extended time)
Thank you &
Happy World
Toilet Day

watercentre.org/pcwm

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