

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Strong Water Committees - Strong WASH Communities in FIJI

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Overview of *Strong Water Committee - Strong WASH Communities*

The International WaterCentre (IWC) at Griffith University, in partnership with the University of the South Pacific (USP), and Solomon Islands National University (SINU) have prepared this Implementation Guide for implementing the *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* community workshops, for rural communities in Fiji.

WHO IS THIS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR?

This Implementation Guide provides a “how to” for water supply or WASH field officers from CSOs, governments, utilities, or any other organisation supporting rural community water management, to undertake the *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* community activities.

It can also be used by WASH programmers when designing water supply or WASH community projects.

PURPOSE OF STRONG WATER COMMITTEES – STRONG WASH COMMUNITIES

Research conducted by IWC, USP and SINU, in Fiji and Solomon Islands, has indicated that sustaining the membership and action of Water Committees remains a significant challenge, and that enabling actors such as Governments, CSOs and utilities, can provide some encouragement and support to Committees to enable them to become stronger (Refer to Additional reading for references of these research reports). That research formed the basis of the *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities*.

Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities workshops are designed to facilitate encourage the committees to reflect on how they can make their committee stronger and work better with the whole community.

As noted above, the *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* activities are designed to complement the existing guidance provided by Governments and CSOs to Committees which usually focus on roles and responsibilities, and strengthening the technical capacity of the Committee. These topics are not addressed in *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* and need to be addressed separately.

HOW TO USE THIS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

This guide contains the steps required for planning and conducting *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* activities.

This *Strong Water Committee* guide contains two parts. Both of these should be implemented, in the order of Part 1, then Part 2. Ideally these will be implemented at two different community visits, with a few days to a few weeks in between, to give the community time to think about and discuss Part 1 before moving on to Part 2.

As noted above, The *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* activities are designed to complement the existing guidance provided by Governments and CSOs to Committees which usually focused on roles and responsibilities and building the technical capacity of the Committee. This guide does not address these topics.

BACKGROUND

Community-based water management is the dominant water service model in Fiji, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. And, good community-based water management is necessary for communities to achieve good WASH services: water supplies, sanitation and hygiene practices that are safe and sustainable.

Good community water management, supporting reliable, safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable water supply, requires community members to work together to look after their water systems. Everyone in the community has a role to play, but it is also important there is a group of people taking on leadership of the management of the water system so that it continues to function as designed and everyone has access to safe and plentiful water.

In Fiji, the government requires all rural communities to have a Water Committee, who has leadership on WASH – although they should be working with the Health Committee and others in the community on sanitation and hygiene. The Water Committee has leadership on managing community water supplies, ensuring everyone has access to safe, reliable and sustainable supplies.

In July 2021, the Department of Water and Sewage released its updated Rural Water and Sanitation Policy. Whereas the previous policy mentioned water committees just twice, the new policy mentions it ten times. This highlights the growing appreciation for the importance of having a strong Water Committee. The government acknowledges the following as key water management challenges. (Fiji Gov, 2012, 2021)

- Over reliance on a single water source
- Lack of initial training in operation and maintenance
- Lack of support for maintenance
- Inadequate estimates of water demand
- Increasing impact of climate change on water resources
- Lack of clear management responsibility.
- Communities lack the awareness that they are responsible for minor maintenance
- Adequate and appropriate training is not provided to communities

Strong water committees are needed for communities to become strong WASH communities.

The Water Committee is a group of people who work together, often without compensation, but also often with the assistance of others in the community to a range of water management tasks. These include: doing reactive maintenance (e.g. fix things when they break, clean the dam when it is blocked), doing proactive and routine maintenance (to prevent problems before they become too big), encouraging all water users to cooperate and support the water system (e.g. by adopting particular water use and management behaviours, and contributing financially to the water system), communicating and reporting about Water Committee finances, undertaking regular risk assessments, assessing the accessibility and reliability of the water supplies, and working with others in the community to promote good WASH behaviours.

Water Committee must be strong so that it can manage a range of water management problems. To be strong, a committee needs to have appropriate membership, and to be working with other community members and groups.

Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities was designed to assist communities to form strong Water Committees that work with their community, by conducting the following activities:

- Collecting information about the existing Water Committee (Activity 1A)
- Talanoa session that includes information from other Water Committees in rural Fiji (Activity 1B).
- Water is everybody's business (Activity 2A)
- Water Committee communication (Activity 2B).
- Wrap-up (Activity 2C)

PART 1 - (WORKSHOP 1) STRONG WATER COMMITTEES

Activities: Conduct the workshop as described below in activities 1A and 1B. It involves collecting information about the existing committee followed by a *Talanoa* session that includes information from other Water Committees in rural Fiji.

Purpose of Part 1: To raise awareness on the importance of having strong committee membership and to encourage the existing committee to reflect on how it could be stronger. At the end of Part 1, the Committee should be able to:

- Recognise how inclusivity and representation can increase the strength of the water committee
- Be able to critically reflect on the membership of their own WC
- Identify any additional members or input that would strengthen the committee in their community

Participants from Communities: Water Committee members – as many as possible. Possibly also some Community Leaders if they are influential and support the Water Committee.

Preparation: Print *Water Committee Members* form (Activity 1A); Guidance notes for *Talanoa* (activity 1B); pens. large/butchers papers.

Timeframe: 60 minutes

Output: Completed *Water Committee Members* form. This can be left with the Committee (recommend taking a photo and storing with Community information files for future monitoring of changes to membership)

1A WATER COMMITTEE MEMBER DETAILS

1. COMPLETE THE WATER COMMITTEE MEMBERS FORM BELOW

(ALSO ADD ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT ARE NOT PRESENT DURING THE WORKSHOP)

Community: _____ Date: _____ Document filled-in by: _____

Name	Gender	Age	How long have You Been a member?	Roles in Water Committee*	Roles in any other Committees? §	<i>Mataqali</i> (if relevant)

* E.g. Chairman, secretary, treasurer, general member § E.g. *Turaga ni koro* or other community leaders, community nurse, President of Youth Group, member of Women's group, School committee treasurer, etc.

Participants in this workshop:

Total Number men: _____ (number of men under 35 years old): _____

Total Number women: _____ (number of women under 35 years old): _____

1B TALANOA

NOTE: This activity involved discussing stories about two communities. Below, there are two sets of the two stories – the first is suited to koros, and the second set is suited to other rural communities in Fiji.

1. FACILITATOR TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY
(SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION)

“I would like to tell two short stories of two villages. These examples are taken from research in villages in Fiji. There are differences between these villages and their Water Committees, and we would like to talk about this.”

2. FACILITATOR TO READ TWO STORIES – EITHER SET 1 OR SET 2

3. FACILITATE A DISCUSSION, USING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What do you think are some strengths and weaknesses of each of these committees?

(prompt- Having women on the committee? Having youth on the committee? Having an active community nurse on the committee? Reporting to the whole community? Gaining community support?)

Write five strengths and five weaknesses (from the stories) on a piece of butchers paper in two columns:

- a. For anything listed as a strength – ask if this is a strength they have in their existing committee? For the ones that are not – is this a strength that could be added to this Committee?
- b. For weaknesses/challenges – is this a challenge they have had with their committee? Are there other weaknesses of this Water Committee?
- c. Are there other people in this the community that could make the Committee stronger and more sustainable if they joined? How else could the committee become stronger?
 - Women’s roles on the Committee?
 - Mentoring youth to join (future leaders)
 - People from different areas of the community (where the water experience is different)?
 - Member from the Health Committee?
 - Community health worker?
 - Representatives from different family groups (*mataqali*) in koros)

In closing, thank the group for their time and input, and let them know that in Part 2 you will continue this discussion and talk about working with the whole community for good water management. ***But before the next workshop, the Water Committee should think about and discuss the following question ...***

HOMEWORK: THINKING ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE STORIES, AND YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THE STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES OF YOUR OWN COMMITTEE, WHAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD YOU MAKE TO YOUR WATER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP THAT COULD MAKE COMMUNITY WATER MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY BETTER?

(AND, IF YOU THINK THE MEMBERSHIP COULD BE STRENGTHEN, PLEASE TRY TO DO THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE).

SET 1: STORIES FOR KOROS

Koro 1 is a small village with a Water Committee that has 4 main members. The members are all men, and all are older (above 30 years old). They are fairly knowledgeable and can solve problems quickly, but it is mainly just one member – the chairperson – who cleans the dam regularly, usually every month. The dam is a long way away and many younger villagers and even one of the Water Committee members have never seen the dam. The village has no freshwater sources of its own other than shoreline springs. The younger generations are so accustomed to having piped water they don't know where the old shore-line springs are located. The Turaga ni koro renewed solesolevaki over a decade ago and the first week of every month is community work, which includes cutting the grass and cleaning the main drain that all the village tap stands and some household kitchen sinks drain into. There are growing problems with low water pressure because more and more households are connecting straight into the water pipes – some houses have three taps, others have none and rely on the older village tap stands. The Committee plan to meet every month, but sometimes they can't meet because one of them is looking after his sick wife whilst another has a yaqona business and travels regularly to town, so sometimes it takes the committee a long time to take any proactive action and if they are not around there is very few people who know how to fix things. The community health worker is formally listed as a member of the WC, but in practice, she has never been invited to attend a water Committee meeting, other than being present at the village Bose Vakoro. The nurse is married into the koro and has no maternal links to the village and feels she does not have the right to speak-up. She is frustrated because she feels that she has much to offer because she understands the links between water and health, and she could assist the committee and the community in reducing sickness from unsafe water.

Na I matai ni Koro e koro lailai ka 4 na lewe ni komiti ni WASH. E ra turaga kece na lewe ni komiti ka ra sivia toka na 30 na yabaki ni bula. E tu na nodra kila, ka rawa ni ra walia totolo na leqa, io levu na gauna e dau dua ga na lewe ni komiti – o 'chairman' - e dau savata vakawasoma na I lati ni wai – ena veivula. Na I lati ni wai e yawa mai nakoro, e levu vei ira na tabagone ka vaka kina e dau vei ira na lewe ni komiti ni WASH e sega ni sa raica na I lati ni wai. Na koro e sega kina na vure ni wai me vaka I koya, ka tiko ga na wai vure e na baravi. O ira na tabagone era sa matau ena bula ena wai ni paipo, ka ra sega ni qai kila na vanua makawa e dau vure mai kina na wai e baravi. E a vakavoutaka na solesolevaki ena 10 na yabaki sa oti o Turaga ni Koro ka dau vakayacori ena I matai ni macawa ni vei vula ka ra dau sasamaki vakoro kina, e dau caka na koti co, sasamaki ena veisala ni wai duka mai na vei paipo ka vaka kina na veisala ni wai duka mai na wai ni siqi ni valenikuro. E sa rui levu sara tiko na vei leqa ni malumu ni wai baleta ni sa rui levu na veivale era vakayagataka na paipo, e so vei ira e tolu na nodra paipo, e so e sega na nodra ka ra vakararavi vei na vei paipo makawa era dau tu e tautuba. E ra dau tuvatuva na komiti me ra dau bose ena vei vula, eso na gauna era dau sega ni rawa ni sota baleta ni dua e dau vei qaravi tiko vei na marama na watina ni tauvimate, ka dua tale e tiko na nona bisinisi ni yaqona ka dau lako vakawasoma e tauni, na vuna e dau tara e dua na gauna balavu me ra qai dau bose na lewe ni komiti, ka so na gauna ni ira dau yali eso na lewe ni komiti e dau lailai na tamata e dau kila na kena vakavinakataka e so na ka. E lewe talega ni komiti ni wai e dau vei ira na tabana ni tiko bulabula, io ena levu na gauna edau sega ni sureti vei na veibose ni komiti ni WASH, io e dau tiko vakalevu ena bose vakoro. O nasi e vakawatitaki ena koro ia e sega ni vasu ki na koro ka mani levu na gauna edau nanuma ni sega kina na nona dodonu me vosa cake. E dau rarawataka vakalevu sara baleta ni tu na nona nanuma ni levu na veivuke kei na vakasala e rawa ni solia baleta ni matata vei koya na veiwekani ni wai kei na tiko bulabula, ka vaka kina na nona rawa ni soli veivuke vei na komiti kei na koro ena kena taguduvu na mate e dau yaco ni duka na wai.

Koro 2 is another small village, but the Water Committee has 8 members - including 4 women, some youth (male and female) and the female community health worker. There are 4 Mataqali in the village and they each have at least one member on the Committee. They meet as a committee every 4 weeks, and they report every month to the community at the Bose Vakoro about actions they are taking to manage the water system or making requests or giving instructions for community members to take certain water actions. They also meet every few months with the Health committee and the Youth committee, which they find helps with gaining further support for community water management actions and getting agreement on solesolevaki activities that they suggest at the Bose Vakoro, such as cleaning the five village rainwater tanks in the dry season every year. The village nurse has maternal links to the village and is very active and vocal. She makes regular announcements about cleaning household water containers and washing hands with soap, as well as keeping drains free of rubbish and waste. The committee found that involving some of the youth as members in the Water Committee was initially a bit difficult, but now they say that training and involving younger people has been advantageous as they have lots of energy and the rest of the younger people are now more active when they request assistance with maintenance activities and contributions to fundraising for new parts for the water system. Each house is allowed a kitchen tap and water piped to a bathroom and toilet, but must request permission from the Water Committee. During the dry season, the water pressure sometimes gets low and does not reach houses at the far end of the village. After raising the issue at the Bose Vakoro, at the next Water Committee meeting they decided to solve the problem by having a member of the Water Committee turn off the gate valve at the reservoir tank late in the evening and turn it back on early the next morning, so the storage tank fills-up more overnight and has enough water pressure to reach every household in the village for at least the first half of the day.

Na I ka rua ni Koro e dua talega na koro lailai io e 8 na lewe ni WASH komiti - e 4 na kena marama ka so na kena tabagone (gonetaganene kei na goneyalewa) ka vaka kina na marama e tiko ena tabana ni bula. E ra yadua mai na vei mata era mata taka mai na 4 na Mataqali era lewena tale tikoga na komiti. Era dau sota na lewe ni komiti ena vei macawa 4 era qai dau soli tukutuku ni veivula vei ira na lewe ni koro ena gauna ni bose vakoro me baleta na I tuvatuva kei na cakacaka e ra cakava na komiti me baleta na kena maroroi na veisala ni wai, se na kena soli vakasala vei ira na lewe ni koro me baleta na kena mareqeti na wai, se na kena kerei se soli na vakasala vei ira na lewe ni koro me baleta na wai. E ra dau bose ena vei vula kei na komiti ni tiko bulabula kei na komiti ni tabagone, ka dau laurai ni levu na veivuke kei na veitokoni mai vei ira na lewe ni koro me baleta na kena maroroi na wai kei na kena vakadonui me caka na cakacaka ni solesolevaki era dau vakatura ena Bose Vakoro me vaka na kena samaki na lima na taqi ni uca ena loma ni koro ena gauna ni draki mamaca ena veiyabaki. Na nasi ni koro e tiko na kena I sema vakavasua ena loma ni koro ka dau gugumatua ka doudou. E dau vakarogotaka na kena dodonu me sava na I talotalo ni wai kei na kena sava na liga ena sovu, ka vaka kina na kena tiko vakasavasava ni veisala ni wai duka ka kua kina na benu ca. Era raica na komiti ni a dredre na matai ni gauna e oka kina na I tabagone ena komiti ni WASH, io na gauna oqo era sa tukuna ni yaga vakalevu sara na nodra mai vakaitavi na tabagone me vaka ni ra se bulabula ka levu tu vei ira na kaukauwa, ka vaka talega kina na nodra makutu na kena veivuketaki ni cakacaka ena kena vakavinakataki na sala ni wai kei na kena cakacakataki na kena vaqarai na I lavo me voli kina eso na gacagaca ni sala ni wai. E vakatarai me ra vaka paipo ni valenikuro kei na paipo ni valenisili kei na vale ni vakacegu, io era dodonu mera vaqara na veivakadonui mai vei ira na lewe ni komiti ni WASH. Ena gauna ni draki mamaca edau malumu na wai ka dau sega ni yacova yani na veivale e yawa sara toka ena yasa ni koro ka dua. E a mani vakaturi cake yani kina bose vakoro na leqa oqo, ka sa tukuni ena bose tarava ni komiti ni WASH me I wali ni leqa me dua vei ratou na lewe ni komiti ni WASH me dau sogota na I doladola ni wai ena taqi ena veibogi qai dola tale ena matakailai ni siga tarava, me rawa ni tawa tale na taqi ni wai ena bogi ka me rawa ni bau kaukauwa tale na wai ka yacova yani na veivale ena loma ni koro ena loma ni veimama ni dua na siga.

SET 2: STORIES FOR NON-KORO RURAL COMMUNITIES

Settlement 1 is a small settlement with a water committee that has 4 main members. The members are all men, and all are older (above 35 years old). They are fairly knowledgeable and can solve problems quickly, but it is mainly just one member – the chairman – who cleans the dam regularly, usually every month. The dam is a long way away and many younger people and even one of the water committee members has never seen the dam. Most of the younger people in the settlement leave when they can to continue their education, so there are not many from the younger generation around to help with the committee. The committee plan to present each month at the settlement meeting, but only a few people usually turn-up to the meetings. This means that the same people tend to be active in lots of different committees in the settlement, including the water committee, and sometimes there is no time to work on the water supply. The community health worker is formally listed as a member of the WC, but in practice she has never been invited to attend a water committee meeting, other than being present at settlement meetings. The nurse is married into the settlement and is from a different religion to the rest of the committee and feels she does not have the right to speak-up. She is frustrated because she feels that she has much to offer because she understands the links between water and health, and she could assist the committee and the settlement in reducing sickness from unsafe water. A few years back there was a serious drought in the settlement and the dam could not supply enough water to all the residents in the settlement. This caused some resentment because those nearest the dam were better off, while those further away often struggled and had to sometimes rely on bottled water. For those that could afford this, it was ok, but there were many who could not. Eventually some help was received from the District Advisory Councillor, but this was a long process as they had many other communities to work with.

Settlement 2 is another small settlement, but the water committee has 8 members - including 4 women, some youth (male and female) and the female community health worker. There are 4 main family groups in the village and they also each have at least one member on the committee. They meet as a committee every 4 weeks, and they report every month to the settlement at the general settlement meeting. They briefly talk about the actions they are taking to manage the water system and make requests or give instructions for settlement members to take certain water actions (e.g., conserving water, cleaning the drains around the tap stands). They also meet every few months with the Health Committee, and they find this helps with gaining further support for water management actions and getting agreement on activities that might need help from the broader settlement that they suggest at the settlement meeting, such as cleaning the five village rainwater tanks in the dry season every year. The village health worker is from one of the largest family groups in the settlement and is very active and vocal. She makes regular announcements about cleaning household water containers and washing hands with soap, as well as keeping drains free of rubbish and waste. The committee found that some of the youth that left the settlement to study in the city were studying subjects such as engineering and accounting. When they come home during religious and other holidays, some of them are no involved with the water committee. Whilst involving them in the actions of the committee was initially a bit difficult, the committee say that involving younger people has been advantageous as they have lots of energy, new knowledge, and the rest of the younger people in the settlement are now more active when they request assistance with maintenance activities and fundraising for new parts. The committee also introduced a small levy a few years back, which allowed them to arrange water trucking for the whole settlement during the last period of serious drought and this meant they did not have to ask the government for additional help. The committee is now looking at ways to address emergency water supplies for the settlement in a more sustainable manner, such as having enough household, settlement, and institutional water storage tanks to last them the whole year. They plan to use some of the levy to pay for this and to be used for operation and maintenance of the system.

PART 2 - (WORKSHOP 2) STRONG WATER COMMITTEES & COMMUNITIES

Purpose of Part 2: To raise awareness that a strong Water Committee is a committee that

- Does not work in isolation but actively works with other groups and individuals in the community
- Is aware that water management occurs at different levels – individual, household, area/zone, and community levels.
- has a clear plan that uses different communication and management strategies at these different levels in the community.

Activities: Conduct the workshop as described below in activities 2a-2e

- 2A Introduction and review
- 2B Water Committee links across the community
- 2C Water Is Everyone's Business
- 2D Being heard and hearing others in the community
- 2E Wrap-up and reflections

Participants from Communities: Water Committee members – as many as possible, and including any new members since the last workshop. Possibly also some Community Leaders if they are influential and support the Water Committee.

Preparation: Guidance notes; Butcher paper and pens (see details below for writing that needs to be prepared in advance), Printed copies of the *Water is everyone's business* flyer (Appendix 1)

Timeframe: 60 minutes

Outputs:

- completed Water Committee linkages table
- levels of water action table
- butchers paper summarising key discussion points

2A INTRODUCTION TO PART 2

FACILITATOR INTRODUCTION TO THIS ACTIVITY:

(SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION)

- *Every community is different – different people, different environment, different infrastructure. And so, each Water Committee needs to understand the WASH situation in their own community and identify water management actions and policies to suit their own situation.*
- *Having a good understanding of the WASH situation in a whole community means understanding that different people, different households, have different WASH experiences – because not all people are the same, and not all WASH is the same in different places in this village.*
- *A strong Water Committee also understands that over time, these actions and policies might need to change - what works today's might not work in five years' time (with pollution increase, weather changes etc.).*
- *In our last workshop on “Strong Water Committees” we discussed two stories from two different communities in Fiji. We discussed some of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the Water Committees in these two communities.*

Can anyone recall some of the strengths or weaknesses from these case-studies and from this Committee? (a short discussion to highlight some important strengths and weaknesses)

- *That last workshop focused on discussing the membership of Water Committees and the importance of diversity in the types of members.*
- *Today, we are talking about how a strong Water Committee is a committee that ...*
 1. *Does not work in isolation but actively works with other groups and individuals in the community*
 2. *Is aware that water management actions need to happen at different levels across the community – individual, household, area and village-wide.*
- *A strong and effective Water Committee understands this and has a clear plan that targets different communication and management strategies at these different levels.*
- *Today we will talk about*
 - *links this committee already has with others in the community and links that could be made*
 - *everyone in the community playing a role in managing the water systems – looking at different levels of water actions in the community*
 - *communicating with others in the community.*

2B WATER COMMITTEE LINKS ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

Resources: Pre-prepared, butchers paper - with 'Water Committee linkages' written across at top and three vertical lines/columns (see example Table below)

Facilitator introduction:

- *As we saw with the example of the second community story, the Water Committee meet every few months with both the youth committee and the women's church group, and this had been especially useful in engaging young people in water management activities, such as cleaning the five communal rainwater tanks the same time every year*
- *Melanesian culture is built on the understanding that an individual is only as strong as the sum of their relationships. This part of the session explores the relationships and links between the Water Committee and other groups and individuals within the community.*

FACILITATE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (ADDING INFORMATION TO THE BUTCHERS SHEET AS YOU GO)

1. Who does the Water Committee currently engage with outside the committee– both individuals and groups from this village? (i.e., who is linked to the water committee)?
In the left-hand side column, write down the individuals and groups mentioned.
2. What is type of link is each of the linkages?
Add to "type of links" some points about whether the link is through formal meetings, or shared members, or sharing of minutes, or informal meetings etc, and how often these links happen
3. How does this link influence water management in the village?
Write down – in just dot form and a few words – the details in the middle column (e.g., "youth group clean tanks", "Tevita gets spare parts from Suva", "Health committee – made sure the new toilets not built near the creek")
4. Do you think each link is 'strong', 'medium' or 'weak'?
Add this to the 3rd column, next to each link). For the weak ones – should this be improved? (write 'to be improved' – if this is the case)
5. Are there any other individuals or groups that the committee don't currently link with but should? (Who else in this community would be helpful in discussing actions or policies)?
Write these down at the bottom of the butchers paper in a different colour.
(Prompts): Teacher? Pastor? Business person?
6. For those links with 'medium' or 'to be improved': why might linking with these individuals/groups improve water management outcomes in the village?
Ask the group to think about what they might do differently in the future to either make new links or strengthen current links.

Table: Water Committee linkages (EXAMPLE – DO NOT COPY THE DETAILS)

Individual/groups	Type of link	'Strong', 'medium' or 'weak' & 'to be improved'
<i>TnK</i>	<i>Member of WC. Provides governance support (e.g. at the Bose Vakoro)</i>	<i>Strong</i>
<i>Health Committee</i>	<i>Nurse on WC and Health committee Provides guidance on health and water issues. Reports to WC on outbreaks of diarrhea, issues with drainage and mosquitos (dengue), speaks to community about boiling water after flood events when water is dirty. Has policy about sanitation (where toilets can go)</i>	<i>Strong (nurse on WC)</i>
<i>Women's Group</i>	<i>2 WC members in Women's group, but no formal linkages. No real management linkages, but have provided information to WC in the past when an elderly widowed woman had issues with her water connection (low water pressure)</i>	<i>Medium</i>
<i>Youth committee</i>	<i>Youth go and clean dam when asked, but not involved in any decision making</i>	<i>Weak - To be improved</i>
Links that should also exist:		
<i>Teachers/headmaster</i>	<i>No links Linking with school could provide a platform for sharing important information on: hygiene, water conservation, looking after taps, maintaining drains etc.</i>	<i>Weak - To be improved</i>

2C WATER IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Resources: Pre-prepared butchers paper with 'Water management levels' written across at top and four vertical lines/columns (see Table below for example); Bring printed copies of the *Water is Everyone's Business* flyer

FACILITATOR INTRODUCTION TO THIS ACTIVITY

- ***Water is everyone's business*** – everyone has a responsibility to take action to look after water, not just the Water Committee. Everyone that uses water has a responsibility to use it wisely and to protect the water system.
- There are many actions that everyone can take to help with water management.
- But we also know that different people and different households have different WASH experiences and that the access to water is different in different parts of the community – some have better water pressure, or more reliable water, or cleaner water, than others do.
- This means that even though there are some actions that could apply to everyone in the community, there will also be some actions that are suited only to some people or some households, or some areas of the community.
- It is important for the Water Committee to be identifying and promoting actions that happen at these other levels in the community (individual and household level, area/water zone level, community level)
- There are also other social groups in the community that can take on some actions, such as Youth groups, church groups, family or mataqali groups
- A strong Water Committee works to identify specific management actions at different levels in the community.
- A strong committee also communicates regularly with people at these different levels – to keep the community up-to-date with the WASH situation, and to help build ownership of the water system and responsibility for caring for the water system across the community. We'll discuss communication more in our next activity.

FACILITATE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (ADDING INFORMATION TO THE BUTCHERS SHEET AS YOU GO)

1. When we say "Water is everyone's business" – what do you think that means in practice?
Pass out Water is Everybody's business handout for other examples.
2. What are some actions that the water committee, or other community members already do, at the community level to look after the water system? ADD TO TABLE
e.g. Clean the dam, clean the main pipes, announcements at church and community meetings
2. What about the household level? ADD TO TABLE
e.g. Clean roofs and rainwater tanks, asking permission from the committee to install new taps
3. Individual level? ADD TO TABLE
e.g. Turn off taps when not using them, save drinking water for drinking and cooking
4. What about areas or zones of the village? Are there groups of houses that share a part of the water system or that face similar problems? Would this be a useful level of action? What actions could they take together? ADD TO TABLE
e.g. If several households share a water tank, tap stand or a drain, they need to work together to use and look after that system. Do households work together to manage water use or undertake infrastructure maintenance in any way? Do households work together to raise money for contributing to water maintenance?
5. What about at the mataqali level, or other social groups? (e.g. do members of the same mataqali undertake solesolevaki together with regards to water management?)

Table: Water management at different levels

Level of action	Current WC actions/policy/communication
Individual	
Household	
Area / water zone	
<i>Mataqali</i> or other social groups (e.g. youth, women's group, church groups)	
Community-level	

This table will be useful for any action planning – such as Water Safety Planning (or DWSSP). Incorporate these different levels of action into the community's action plans.

2D BEING HEARD AND HEARING OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

FACILITATORS INTRODUCTION:

For *koros*:

- *Good water management is dependent on clear communication, transparency and accountability.*
- *The Bose Vakoro is the respected forum where decisions on village activities, regulations and protocols are made, but today many people across Fiji **report that regular attendance at the Bose Vakoro is declining.** A Strong WASH Committee should be aware that announcements or decisions made at the Bose Vakoro are not always heard by all residents, or that decisions made in those forums reflect the view and experience of everyone in the koro.*
- *As we have discussed, **Water is everyone's business** – a good water system needs everyone in the village doing their part. That cannot happen if not everyone in the village is hearing announcements, or knows about decisions, or has the opportunity to share their views.*
- *A strong WASH Committee should ensure that announcements or consultation with community members is not only taken at the Bose Vakoro but also in other ways, such as announcements after church services, at Youth group meetings and at Women's church group meetings. Only then can we be really sure that everyone has heard what the committee has to say, and that the committee has heard from the whole community."*

For other communities

- *Good water management is dependent on clear communication, transparency and accountability.*
- *Most communities have community meetings, where decisions on community activities, regulations and protocols are made. However, today many people across Fiji **report that regular attendance at these meetings is declining.** A strong water committee should be aware that announcements or decisions made at community meetings are not always heard by all residents, or that the decisions made in these forums necessarily reflect the view and experience of everyone in the community.*
- *As we have discussed, **Water is everyone's business** – a good water system needs everyone in the community doing their part. That cannot happen if not everyone in the community is hearing announcements, or knows about decisions, or has the opportunity to share their views.*
- *A strong water committee should ensure that announcements or consultation with community members is not only taken at the community meeting but also in other ways, such as announcements after church services, at Youth group meetings and at Women's church group meetings. Only then can we be really sure that everyone has heard what the committee has to say, and that the committee has heard from the whole community.*

DISCUSS WITH THE COMMITTEE, AND WRITE ON BUTCHERS PAPER:

1. What are the existing ways the Water Committee communicates with the community members?

2. What other ways could be used to ensure that

- messages from the committee are heard by everyone
- the Water Committee has the opportunity to hear from people in the community about their WASH situations?

2E WRAP-UP FROM THE STRONG WATER COMMITTEES – STRONG WASH COMMUNITIES WORKSHOPS

Discuss the key lessons from the two workshops and how these can be used by the Water Committee

Some prompts:

Key points about Strong Water Committee

- *The critical need for diverse membership on the committee, considering:*
 - *women*
 - *youth [Male and Female]*
 - *community nurse and members of other committees*
 - *area representatives / Mataqali representatives*
- *Maintaining regular links (e.g. meeting every month or two) with other community committees and helpful people*
- *Water is everyone's business - Identifying water actions for different levels in the village:*
 - *community-level actions*
 - *area actions*
 - *household actions*
 - *individual water user actions*
- *Two-way communication between the committee and community members needs to happen in more than one-way to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, and that the Committee is heard by everyone.*

FURTHER READING

- Department of Water & Sewerage, 2021. Rural Water and Sanitation Policy, July, 2021. Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services
- Love, M., Souter, R., Gonzalez Botero, D., Pene, S., and Beal C., 2021. Pacific Community Water Management Plus: Phase 1 Findings Report for Fiji. International WaterCentre, Griffith University. Nathan: Australia. Available at: https://www.watercentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PaCWaM-Fiji-Country-Report_FINAL.pdf
- Love, M., Beal, C., Gonzalez-Botero, D., Bugoro, H., Panda, N., Roiko, A., Benjamin, C., Hagabore, J., Ooi, J., Magreth, C., and Souter, R.T. 2020. Pacific Community Water Management Plus: Phase 1 Findings Report for Solomon Islands. International WaterCentre / Griffith University: Brisbane, Australia; Solomon Islands National University: Honiara, Solomon Islands. https://www.watercentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PaCWaM-Sol-Is-Country-Report_FINAL.pdf
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- Nelson, S., Abimbola, S., Mangubhai, S., Jenkins, A., Jupiter, S., Naivalu, K., Naivalulevu, V. and Negin, J., 2021. Understanding the decision-making structures, roles and actions of village-level water committees in Fiji. International Journal of Water Resources Development, pp.1-18.
- Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), 2016. Rural & Maritime Water Supply Scheme: What communities need to know when applying for the Water Supply Scheme. <http://www.waterauthority.com.fj/en/brochures/>
- Souter, R.T., Love, M., Sanderson, R.P., Shrestha, S., Pene, S., Ravai, A., and Beal, C. (2021) Pacific Community Water Management Implementation guide: Supplementary activities for Drinking Water and Security Planning (DWSSP) in Fiji. International WaterCentre at Griffith University.

The PaCWaM+ research project has produced a range of implementation guides and resources to support Pacific Community Water Management Plus, which are freely available from the PaCWaM+ webpage:

www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm. These include

- **Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities in Fiji – Implementation Guide**
- **Water is Everyone’s Business poster** – Fiji (Fijian and English versions)
- **Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities in Solomon Islands – Implementation Guide.**
Including associated resources:
 - o **Video Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities** - standalone copies can be obtained from iwc@griffith.edu.au (with or without English subtitles), or viewed on the webpage: www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm
- **Water is Everyone’s Business – Community workshop in Solomon Islands – Implementation Guide.**
Including associated resources
 - o **Video: Water is everyone's business**
 - o **Video: Youth and Water**
 - o **Video: Women and Water**
 - o **Poster: Water is Everyone’s Business**
- **Water Committee Backstopping in Solomon Islands and Fiji – Implementation Guide**
- **Supplementary activities for Drinking Water and Security Planning (DWSSP) in Fiji - Implementation guide**
- **Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning – Solomon Islands – implementation guide (3 volumes)**

APPENDIX 1 WATER IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS FLYER, IN ENGLISH AND FIJIAN

[next page]

Water is everyone's business!

In my water-smart family we...



✓ Wash my hands and my children's hands before collecting or handling drinking water



✓ Store my drinking water in a container with a lid
 ✗ Don't let people dip their hands or cups into the water



✓ Wash my water containers with soap or bleach once a week, or leave in sun



✓ Save drinking water for drinking and cooking and use other water for washing and cleaning



✓ Keep animals fenced in so they can't touch taps or water source



✓ Contribute to community actions to maintain the water system
 ✓ Help pay for the repairs
 ✓ Help clean out the system



✓ Fix leaking taps, or ask the water committee for help



Na wai e noda i tavi kece!

Ena loma ni neitou vuvale, keitou dau...



✓ Vakasavasavataka na ligaqu kei na ligadratou na gone ni bera ni vakatawani se vakayagataka na wai ni gunu



✓ Maroroya na wai ni gunu ena loma ni itawatawa vaka i sogo
✗ Vakatabui ira na tamata me ra kakua ni tori-a na ligadra se luvuca na bilo e loma ni wai



✓ Vakasavasavataka na itawatawa ni wai ena sovu se na wainimate ni sasamaki me vaka dua ena loma ni macawa, se sigani e tautuba



✓ Maroroya na wai ni gunu me vakayagataka vakatabaki dua me wai ni gunu se wai ni vakasaqa ka vakayagataka na vei wai tale eso me baleta na savasava kei na sasamaki



✓ Vakabaitaka na manumanu me ra kakua ni tara se volekata na gusu ni vaivo kei na i takataka ni wai



✓ Veivuke ena loma ni itikotiko me baleta na kena maroroi na veisala ni wai
✓ Veivuke ena kena saumi na vakavinakataka ni veisala ni wai
✓ Veivuke ena kena vakasavasavataki na veisala ni wai



✓ Vakavinakataka na gusu ni vaivo era leqa, se kere veivuke vei ratou na komiti ni wai



[illegible]

[illegible]

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PACIFIC COMMUNITY WATER MANAGEMENT-PLUS

