

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: SPRM

<b>TA No. and Name</b> TA 3109-KIR: Community Development & Participation Initiatives			<b>Amount Approved:</b> \$300,000	
			<b>Revised Amount:</b> ---	
<b>Executing Agency:</b> Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning		<b>Source of Funding:</b> TASF		<b>TA Amount Undisbursed</b> \$26,254.11
				<b>TA Amount Utilized</b> \$273,745.89
<b>Approval</b>	<b>Signing</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	
		<b>Fielding of Consultants</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Actual</b>
8 December 1998	14 January 1999	1 September 1999	20 December 2001	28 February 2002
			<b>Closing Date</b>	
			<b>Original</b>	<b>Actual</b>
			28 February 2002	9 October 2002

### Description

In Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati, problems related to the supply of drinking water, water for washing, disposal of sewerage and solid and hazardous wastes have existed for more than 20 years. These are now becoming worse, however, due to growing population density. The Government lacks the managerial, technical and financial resources needed to adequately address Tarawa's existing sanitation and environment problems. The effectiveness of sector institutions is further limited by a lack of community participation in addressing these problems. The Government of Kiribati recognized that these problems were having a significant impact on the social, physical and economic development of the country. In response to the Government's request, ADB approved a loan (Loan No. 1648-KIR) in December 1998 for the Sanitation, Public Health and Environment Improvement (SAPHE) Project to address priority investment requirements in water supply, sanitation, solid waste management and environment conservation. The sustainability of the infrastructure improvements provided under the SAPHE Project, however, depended on the development of improved planning, management and monitoring capacities within the sector institutions on the one hand, and improved management of water and sanitation services at the household level on the other.

For this reason, the SAPHE Project was supported by a program of assistance for capacity building and the establishment of mechanisms for community participation and changes in traditional attitudes and methods. Piggy backed to the loan, was a technical assistance (TA) project for Community Development and Participation Initiatives (CDPI). The TA was designed to strengthen and assist the Ministry of Environment and Social Development (MESD) in the development of effective programs for household level management of rainwater and sanitation as well as community education and participation.

### Objectives and Scope

The objectives of the TA were to assist in strengthening beneficiary participation and enhancing community awareness and understanding of the aims and objectives of the SAPHE Project. The community development initiatives under the TA would improve ownership by the community of the public water and sewerage system throughout Tarawa. The TA was adequately formulated with well-defined terms of reference for consultants.

The TA was intended to: (i) promote water conservation to reduce the demand on the limited availability of water from the public water supply system; (ii) promote participation of householders and community groups in the construction and use of composting toilets; (iii) promote good sanitation practices, and provide assistance in the construction and use of composting toilets; (iv) mobilize nongovernment organizations (NGOs), action groups and *maneabas* (*local communities*) in the promotion of community participation for the formulation and implementation of sanitation, environment and public health programs; and (v) support the development and implementation of effective environmental, sanitation and health education within and by the community.

### Evaluation of Inputs

A team of international and domestic consultants under the supervision of ADB staff undertook the TA assignments. An international firm was engaged in accordance with the ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants*. The performance of the consultants engaged under the TA was satisfactory. Several review missions were conducted by ADB staff for the purpose of consulting stakeholders. That level was adequate, and the international TA inputs were delivered satisfactorily as reflected in the consultants' good quality progress reports.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) in MESD was designated as the unit responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the TA. Counterpart staff were provided to participate in the reform and strengthening process and to assist the consultants in the execution of all necessary investigations and studies, including the implementation of education and awareness raising activities. The performance of the EA and ADB was generally satisfactory.

### **Evaluation of Outputs**

All the TA outputs were successfully delivered. The reports were submitted in a timely manner and their quality was satisfactory. Most of the activities planned for the TA were implemented on or ahead of schedule. One of the TA's most significant achievements was the continued regular meeting and functioning of the Working Group (WG). MESD employed a full time SAPHE/CDPI Counterpart who was solely dedicated to the TA and became a key member of the WG.

The decision-making processes within the WG were dynamic with increased ownership of sub-project activities. With various capacity building activities, the group grew in confidence and expertise. This can only increase with time and in-the-field practice, which was gained through community presentations, workshops and working group meetings. Through highly focused TA activities, the TA has been striving to instigate a positive change in the areas of community development, education and environment.

### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The way the TA has met its objectives is most readily observed by the number and quality of the materials developed and implemented, in partnership with NGOs, government ministries and community members. Overall the TA has been readily accepted among Ministries, and increasingly by community members, villages, NGOs, and community based organizations (CBOs), proving a success with increasing demand for materials and activities developed as part of this TA. Also, the TA has been on schedule and within budget, providing timely and appropriate inputs, and developing and designing education and awareness materials, as expected. Given the achieved outcome of the TA and its objectives and scope having been met to the satisfaction of both the recipient and ADB, the TA is rated as successful.

### **Major Lessons Learned**

It appears that the importance of the TA to the accompanying SAPHE Project has been underestimated and as a result will require significant resources in order to work toward ensuring sustainability of TA outcomes in the medium to long term, and also serve to minimize the potential problems and issues arising from the implementation of the SAPHE Project.

The community as a whole is becoming an active and empowered participant as a result not only of the TA but also of other projects in Kiribati which have raised community understanding of the importance of water supply and sanitation and solid waste management. This issue needs to have been kept in mind in regard to the implementation of not only the SAPHE Project but also the Public Utilities Board Institutional Strengthening TA.

### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

Issues requiring further attention in the future include the ongoing funding available to community development related activities at Government and NGO levels, the continued support and training of counterpart staff involved in community development-related activities, the design and implementation of the SAPHE Project, and the maintenance and stepping up of community education and awareness activities to support long-term TA impact and sustainability. Following this TA, a follow-on TA for Community Development and Sustainable Participation has been approved and is currently building on its success.

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