

**High Level Pacific Regional Consultation on  
Water**

**29 July – 3 August 2002, Sigatoka, Fiji**

**Case Study:**

**Community Development & Participation  
Initiatives Project**

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**FROM VISION TO ACTION:  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
IN THE PACIFIC**

**THEME 3 – AWARENESS**

**Case Study: Community Development & Participation Initiatives Project,  
Kiribati.**

**Rationale**

The CDPI Project is grounded on a strong community awareness and participation strategy that is a very important part to the SAPHE Project and which encourages a strong sense of community ownership and responsibility, empowering members of the community to take action and responsibility regarding water supply, and sanitation resources and facilities.

The Government of Kiribati (GoK) places a high priority on the provision of water supply and sanitation because of the positive effect of proper water and sanitation practices and facilities that can have on the well being of Kiribati people. It is also acknowledged that there have been problems in the past concerning water and sanitation such as:

- the lack of community participation in the planning, management, decision-making and maintenance of water supply and sanitation.
- The large numbers of existing water supply systems that need improvement and better management, where some are not working and some have insufficient supply.
- The shortage of properly trained staff at all levels in community development, participation, water supply and sanitation to meet demand.

The Government acknowledges the important links between health, water supply and sanitation and is committed to resolve the above issues and work towards a better future. Commissioning of the SAPHE Community Development and Participation Initiative TA is a result of this commitment. The Project was located within the Ministry of Environment and Social Development, and is encouraged to build strong links with other relevant agencies including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Public Utilities Board, and the Ministry of Works and Energy to achieve its objectives.

The main component of the project involve:

1. Community education and awareness activities.
2. Development and dissemination of education and awareness materials.
3. Testing of low impact, low scale appropriate technologies such as composting toilets.
4. Community consultation.
5. Support and strengthen project counterparts in community development, participation, education and awareness.

**Goal**

The goal of the CDPI Project is to improve the long term ownership and participation by the community of public water supply and sewerage systems throughout South Tarawa.

## **Objectives**

The overarching objective is to strengthen beneficiary participation and enhance community awareness and understanding of the aims and objectives of the SAPHE Loan Project.

More specifically the Project will:

- ?? Promote water conservation to reduce the demand on limited availability of water from public water supply systems;
- ?? Promote participation of households and community groups in the construction and use of complementary Water Supply systems, including rainwater tanks;
- ?? Promote good sanitation practices and provide assistance in the construction and use of composting toilets;
- ?? Mobilize Non Government Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations, and action groups, in the promotion of community participation for the formulation and implementation of sanitation, environment and public health programs; and
- ?? Support the development and implementation of effective environmental, sanitation and health education within and by the community.

## **Implementation Arrangements**

The overall executing agency for the SAPHE Project and the CDPI Technical Assistance has been the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MFEP). The Project Management Office (PMO) for SAPHE coordinates and facilitates activities with the Project's Implementing Units within Ministry of Works and Energy (MWE), Ministry of Environment and Social Development (MESD), Ministry of Health (MOH), and Kiribati Housing Corporation (KHC).

The SAPHE PMO, mandated by MFEP was responsible for the overall implementation of the CDPI Project. The Project Management Unit in the Ministry of Environment and Social Development (MESD) was designed as the unit responsible for the day to day implementation of the project. Counterpart staff from MESD and the SAPHE Project were provided to participate in the reform and strengthening process and to assist consultants in the execution of all necessary investigations and studies, including the implementation of education and awareness raising activities. Overall, MFEP has taken a 'hands off' approach to this TA, being updated regularly on the projects performance.

The Executing agency in reality for the CDPI Project, has been MESD, with communication of the projects achievements and progress being made on a regular basis to the MFEP.

The CDPI Project commenced on 1 September 1999, while both the SAPHE Loan and the PUB Institutional Strengthening TA started much later in 2000.

Further to the above implementation arrangements, the Australian Managing Contractor (AMC) Coffey MPW Pty Ltd (CMPW) was awarded the project via ADB tender processes. CMPW formed an active partnership with the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP/Kiribati). This partnership involved FSP who directly employed a local Project Officer, who filled the position of domestic consultant, and the project position of "Community Development Field Worker".

## **Program Focus**

The work plan has been developed following community consultation and data available from previous studies concerning community knowledge and practices in relation to water and sanitation in South Tarawa. Previous studies include the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey conducted as part of MESD/FSP KEEP Project (April 2000), the SAPHE Socio-economic survey Design Document (Atoll Research Centre, 1996), and 'Issues, Traditions and Conflicts in Groundwater Use and Management' (Water Research Foundation of Australia, May 1999).

Following the consultation, the Project team supported the view taken in these studies that the priority need for community education and awareness raising is to improve knowledge about the "water cycle" in

general. This approach is essential because without a clear understanding of the water cycle, efforts to encourage water conservation, water quality preservation, use of composting toilets, links between water and health, etc will be less effective. People must first understand the whole system, and the interrelationships between “above ground” or land activities on the fragile lens, before understanding the benefits of changed behaviours.

All project workshops, whether it includes promotion of composting toilets, well protection or water conservation, all began with education (awareness raising) about the water cycle in Kiribati.

### **Project Staff and Committees**

The CDPI Project contracted staff include:

- ?? Domestic Consultant (and also Project Field Worker) whose duties include undertaking community tasks in support of the SAPHE Project, Hold ‘maneaba’, interest group and other public meetings to promote the water conservation and sanitation awareness aims of the SAPHE Project, including the benefits of improved sanitation and water conservation practices, coordinates the working group, and provide training and support to project counterparts.
- ?? Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Specialist (International Staff) whose duties include reviewing water supply and sanitation options appropriate from a cultural, social, technical, economic, and affordability standpoint for Kiribati, and work with communities and project personnel to identify and prepare pilot studies of possible water supply and sanitation options.
- ?? Community Development Specialist who was also the Team Leader for the project whose duties include developing a program for public awareness education campaign through churches, councils, NGOs, Ministries and other agencies to develop public awareness; assist in the establishment of the Community Development Coordinating Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary MESD to coordinate activities of all agencies involved in community development under the SAPHE Project; Prepare materials such as handbooks for community workers; and liaise with PMO and major works consultants in assessing project implementation and ownership by the community and prepare reports regarding these.
- ?? Three Counterpart Staff were provided – two from the SAPHE Project and one from the Social Welfare division of MESD. The Counterpart Staff assisted in the development and implementation of education and awareness materials, provide training and support to other project counterparts, and assist in other activities as directed by the international TA or the Community Development Field Worker.

A Working Group was formed with members made up of ‘working representatives’ from all relevant Ministries at the implementation level i.e. members implementing Ministries work programs concerning Water, Sanitation, and Public Health). These include environmental health and health education from the Ministry of Health (MOH), Water section of the Ministry of Works and Energy (MWE), Environment & Conservation and Social Welfare divisions of the Ministry of Environment and Social Development (MESD), Land Management division within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development (MHARD), the Kiribati Housing Corporation (KHC), Public Utilities Board (PUB), and Agriculture division within the Ministry of Natural Resources Development (MNRD). The purpose of the Working Group was to improve the communication amongst Ministries, and also to improve, and assist in the development of education and awareness materials and activities that were relevant, appropriate and of the highest quality possible.

A Community Development Coordinating Committee (CDCC) was also established. Members were from relevant Ministries (of whom working group members were derived) who are at the management and senior level. The role of the CDCC was to provide a forum for regular consultation between Government Departments involved in water and sanitation in South Tarawa; provide a forum for consultation and coordination between this TA project, the SAPHE Project and other TA (Institutional Strengthening for the PUB); encourage departments to discuss and prioritise issues for public education and awareness raising regarding water and sanitation, and ensure that the messages are coordinated and consistent.

### **Local Project Activities and Subproject Activities**

Subproject activities have included the following:

- ?? Purchase of Materials Development Supplies
- ?? Flip Chart
- ?? Posters
- ?? Community Workshops
- ?? Special Interest Workshops
- ?? Demonstration Workshops
- ?? Radio shows and advertisements
- ?? Video production
- ?? Calendar for 2001
- ?? World Water Day 2000 and 2001
- ?? Drama development and performance
- ?? Billboards
- ?? School Information and Activity Packs
- ?? Postage Stamps
- ?? Community Resource Manual
- ?? Fact Sheets
- ?? Compost Toilet Booklet
- ?? Poster Reprint
- ?? Flash Cards.

#### *✍* **Materials Development**

?? *Flip Chart:*

A flip chart was developed with the assistance of a local artist, to assist with community education workshops. The flipchart consisted of 5 pages, detailing the water cycle in Kiribati and the effects of pollution and overuse of water. Fifty copies were produced and distributed to relevant Government Ministries, schools and NGOs for which training was provided also prior to distribution.

?? *Posters:*

A number of posters were produced around the key issues of the project. These included the water cycle, groundwater protection, promotion of composting toilets, well protection, water conservation, and diarrhoea disease transmission and prevention. The posters were also being used in workshops and often left with the community after each workshop. Copies were also displayed in Government Departments, public places, schools and private businesses. All posters were printed in the local language apart from one ('Good Water Management') which was printed both in Kiribati and also available in the English Language.

?? *Video:*

The Health Education Unit within the Ministry of Health offered the use of their video equipment for development of a video, but expenses were met by the project. The video titled 'Nimara Te Ran' translated as 'Our Drinking Water' was completed in early 2001 and 120 tapes have been dubbed and distributed to working group members, MESD, FSP, schools, relevant Ministries and Community groups as needed. The video set on both the outer islands and South Tarawa contains messages of pollution of the water lens, public health, water conservation and environmental sanitation.

?? *Calendar 2001:*

A 6 pages, A2 size calendar with pictures and messages was developed and 500 copies produced. The calendar focused on the themes of water, sanitation and waste management. These have also been distributed to schools, NGOs and Government departments.

?? *Billboards:*

A set of two billboards with pictures and messages encouraging water conservation were built and erected at the two large public areas in of Bairiki and Betio.

?? *School Activity Pack:*

A 'Kindy Kit' – preschool and early primary school information and activity pack was developed and all activities were based on the theme of water awareness, conservation and protection. The activities were in the form of games, puzzles, colour in sheets, and few others that could be easily reproduced by teachers. A number of copies were reproduced and used in the Preschool teacher training workshops for preschool teachers on South Tarawa.

?? *Fact Sheets:*

A series of 6 fact sheets were produced for use as an educational and communication tool by the project, communities, schools and NGOs. The fact sheets covered areas such as Leaking Taps, Toilet Options, Well and Pumps (Construction and Maintenance), Water-borne Diseases, Water Cycle and Water Conservation, and Environmental Health and Sanitation.

?? *Flash Cards:*

About 200 sets of comprehensive flash cards were also being produced as an additional community education resource and communication tool. Each set contains 11 cards (including instruction card). The cards were a combination of photos of such items as wells, toilets, rainwater tanks, the water cycle, pollution, taps, standpipes, and other aspects determined as needed along with key messages. Information about each picture flash card was printed on the back of the cards. A set of instructions on the use of the cards was also produced. The cards were distributed to Environmental Health Inspectors, the Project Working Group members, NGOs, community groups, and schools.

?? *Compost Toilet Booklet:*

Composting Toilet booklets (design and construction manuals) printed as bi-lingual were also produced as a result of the project's composting toilet construction and demonstration trials. These were developed by the Water Supply & Sanitation Specialist contracted by the project and with some input by a technical Officer employed by the SAPHE Project based at the Kiribati Housing Corporation. The booklets were provided to community members trained to construct composting toilets, to community members requesting the booklets, and to the Kiribati Housing Corporation who is implementing the Loan Revolving Fund for improvement of household water and sanitation systems.

?? *Postage Stamps:*

A set of 5 postage stamps designed by school children all on the theme of water conservation was produced through schools competition in early 2001. With the support of the Kiribati Philatelic Bureau, around 20,000 sets were published and printed. Winning students all received prizes. The Project obtained a thousand sets free for its use. The stamps including first day cover envelopes have become the official national stamps of Kiribati.

?? *Community Resource Manual:*

This is one of the key subproject activity which is geared mostly to be used by Community Facilitators as a resource tool. The manual covered numerous aspects ranging from health issues, to water supply and sanitation, rainwater tanks, wells and toilets. Copies were distributed to schools, NGOs, community groups, churches, and relevant Government agencies.

~~??~~ **Education and Training**

?? *Radio Usage:*

Radio Advertisements were developed and aired through the national Broadcast station BPA. The themes were also based on water conservation and sanitation, and it included promotion of composting toilets, rainwater tanks, and proper solid waste disposal.

The Project utilized the FSP's fortnightly radio programme "Boutokaan Maeuraoin te I-Kiribati" along with other projects. Recently the PUB SAPHE Project Community Relations TA established a new radio programme specifically for the SAPHE Project and runs also on a fortnightly basis. Radio scripts, interviews and water and environment songs were all part of the radio shows. Radio has been and continues to be very applicable and appropriate means of communicating to the public at large information and messages about water, sanitation, public health and the environment.

?? *Drama:*

Two water plays were produced with the local drama group, "Te Itibwerere Community Theatre". The dramas were developed around the key issues of the project – water supply limitations, water conservation, use of toilets, health, water and sanitation. Drama performances were ongoing and have been taken to schools, community groups including the outer islands, and performed at national events including world water day celebrations.

?? *World Water Day:*

Two world water day events were held and funded by the project, in 2000 and 2001. A variety of items and activities were held during the days. These include talks, poster and information displays from the project and other invited Ministries, water technology displays, song competition, prize-giving for stamp competition and drama performances. The events were highly successful and recommended that it become an annual event.

?? *Community Workshops and Special Interest Workshops:*

Numerous community workshops were conducted during the project. The project worked with FSP community workshop program linking more with the Kiribati Environmental Education Project (KEEP) and also as a team made up of Working Group members from relevant Ministries in implementing the workshops. The workshops focused on improving awareness of the water issue on Tarawa, the water cycle, water conservation, impact on the water lens, composting toilets, and the objective of the SAPHE loan project in general.

Special interest workshops include women's group, youth, teachers, councillors, and schools.

?? *Demonstration Workshops:*

Several workshops usually of two weeks duration, were conducted on composting toilet construction, use, maintenance and cleaning. The sessions also included importance of well protection and simple hand pumps. Seven units were constructed for trial at family households and one located at the FSP compound.

## **Gender Issues**

Issues of gender including gender equity has been considered an important cross-cutting issue in the project. Because it is an important issue for the project, there was a brief gender analysis undertaken during the inception phase.

From the analysis it is found that both men and women are involved in water and sanitation activities in South Tarawa, however consultations revealed that the responsibility and main burden of water collection rests on women, and to a lesser extent children. This was the case for collection of both PUB water and well water. Women have also the main responsibility for disinfecting water (usually by boiling), washing clothes, cooking and bathing children. It is mostly mothers that are responsible for health education for children and it is also mothers and elder sisters who bath children, clean them following defecation, and teach sanitation practices.

Traditionally women are not actively involved in community meetings at a maneaba, as can be seen by their seating position (behind men) and lack of involvement in discussions and decision-making during formal meetings.

The project community education campaign has aimed to influence the attitude and behaviour of the whole of South Tarawa community, men and women, young and old. However women's key role and responsibility in household water and sanitation has and will continue to strongly influence decisions in relation to project activities such as targeting of messages. In light of this, the project saw the need and conducted 'women only' workshops or meetings outside the normal community workshops often delivered in a traditional maneaba setting. The project has worked with women's church groups, TUC recognised women's committees including pre-school teachers network who have provided a good point of coordination for awareness raising activities aimed at women and children.

### **Outcomes**

Project outcomes include the following:

- ?? The development and production of highly successful IEC materials which are highly regarded and used by Government Ministries such as Health, Education, and Environment.
- ?? The successful Education and training workshops conducted to communities and Government on South Tarawa.
- ?? Built Composting Toilets and continue demand from the community.
- ?? Dramas developed on water cycle and water conservation that have been well-received and popular by communities and schools.
- ?? Increased level of awareness by community and public at large (South Tarawa and the Outer Islands) about water and sanitation issues and the objectives of the SAPHE Project.
- ?? Positive impact of project messages to have lasting effect on the quality of life across South Tarawa.
- ?? Improved skills and experience of counterparts including working group members in community education and facilitation, and in working as a team.
- ?? Established and improved working relationships of the project (including SAPHE) with Government ministries which is important for the achievement of the SAPHE Project's objectives.
- ?? Simple, reliable, and easily measurable monitoring tools developed as part of Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation for the project activities. This include the involvement of the drama group in review of effectiveness of workshops and benefits measured by increase in demand of water and sanitation facilities promoted by project, demand for education and awareness materials and workshops, level of participation in workshops, and feedback to radio broadcasts. Additional means of M & E have also been included in activities concerning Gender Issues, and Village Mapping.

## **Obstacles**

The CDPI Project overall has been successful whereby it has been readily accepted amongst Ministries, increasingly by community members, NGOs and community based organisations particularly as there has been increasing demand with materials and activities developed as part of the project. Nonetheless the project also faced several obstacles for which would really affect achievement of several of the project's objectives and the practical long term benefits to communities. The obstacles faced by the project include:

- ?? Sanitation facilities are still not in place, rehabilitated or still expensive as incomes are very limited, and so people continue with using the beach and the bush.
- ?? Cost of composting toilets. The cost of construction of these which is around AUD\$2,000 or less is seen as still very expensive to some community members. The cost should therefore remain as affordable and flexible as possible so people have a choice.
- ?? The coup in Fiji and airline suspensions has really affected completion time for printing of several items as the project was relying on the Printers in Fiji. Several items, as a result had to be prepared in Australia, thereby impacting on costs and allocated budgets.
- ?? Long term benefits or lasting change in the areas of environment, water, sanitation, and public health is known to have a slow start up and is not able to be measured easily over the life of a short project as this one.
- ?? With the nature of recruitment of contracted staff for the SAPHE and also CDPI Project there was no clear arrangements of local project staff positions to be maintained until implementation of further stages of the project. This is particularly the case for the Domestic Consultant who is also the Community Development Field Worker that was employed by FSP for the project.
- ?? The lack of infrastructure for proper waste management like landfills and lack of established waste collection system in certain areas in South Tarawa are some of the main factors contributing to continue solid waste disposal problems.
- ?? Groups such as churches or community organisations who may wish to loan for rainwater catchment systems using galvanized roofs of their churches or maneabas seem not eligible under the Revolving fund loan scheme implemented by the Kiribati Housing Corporation under the SAPHE Project who encouraged mostly individual families.
- ?? One important community issue is with residents on the Bonriki water reserve area. Encroachment onto the water reserve at Bonriki has been observed over the past few years. Although the project has reached these people and are therefore aware of the impact of their settlement on the quality of the water, most continue to be reluctant to move from the water reserve. The SAPHE Project, MWE, LMD are working on this through a Committee for Water Reserve Management of whom members are also from Bonriki and Buota communities.

## **Lessons Learnt**

Lessons learnt for the project include the following:

- ?? That positive change in attitude and behaviour of people as a result of positive impact of project messages and activities normally require more than 5 years and so evidence of such changes may not be possible or significant within timeframe of short projects as this.
- ?? Desired changes in behaviours of people particularly regarding proper sanitation practices and solid waste management require supporting infrastructure, effective legislation, and incentive means.
- ?? The use of village mapping and hopes/fears activities as consultative and participatory information collection tools has proved very effective and served as a means of raising issues, practical understanding and solutions at the village level. It is important that such methods be further developed and used in later stages of the project.
- ?? The problem with printing of materials in Fiji due to the coup has impacted on the project activities deadlines and budget. It is important that later stages of the project consider alternative Printers and particularly to sought possibilities locally.
- ?? Introduction of composting toilets is still quite a new concept in Kiribati and so many people feel uncomfortable using these and in particular removing the compost. Continue support to families, institutions, and organisations currently using these, in the form of available technical staff for supervision and monitoring is vital to the success of the composting toilets.

- ?? Collaborative working relationship with the Loan team, Government Ministries, and NGOs in project implementation is very important to the successful attainment of project objectives and in building trust and working relationship with communities.
- ?? Long term benefits will be difficult to measure over the 20 month duration of the project, thus it will require a separate monitoring and evaluation process at some stages after completion of the TA.

### **Future Possibilities and Needs**

Possibilities and needs important and recommended for future stages of the project and also for Government's attention and hence allocation of resources for sustainability of the SAPHE Project initiatives include:

- ?? reproduction of information and education materials needed by communities and schools for continue knowledge and understanding of water and sanitation matters including impact on the water lens, and possible solutions to problems.
- ?? That monitoring and evaluation of composting toilets be maintained and that adequate resources be provided to support needs associated with these such as available trained staff/personnel for advice, follow ups, supervision of emptying, etc;
- ?? The increase in demand for community workshops from community groups, schools, and others is important as it has shown effectiveness of the activities and community receptiveness and desire for positive changes, and therefore these workshops should continue to form part of the activities for the later stages of the project.
- ?? more women and teacher training workshops particularly designed for needs and practical solutions for women and teachers who have significant roles on the management of water resources.
- ?? development of more specific, tailor made information, education and activity packages on the themes of water and sanitation for school children. This could be developed with the Curriculum Development Resource Centre of the Ministry of Education, Training and Technology.
- ?? To continue community consultation for project sustainability there's the need for community development and extension funds to be made available by GoK. Also more ministries should be encouraged not to neglect this area but to take active role.
- ?? To maintain close working relationship with active NGOs, MESD, MWE, MOH, MHARD and other relevant Ministries.
- ?? Support KHC if they are to implement building of composting toilets (such as community relations, monitoring and evaluation of the toilets)
- ?? Working more closely and in parallel with the SAPHE Project team during the construction phase of the project.