



Samoa: Community Sanitation Project

Project Name	Community Sanitation Project		
Project Number	45520-001		
Country / Economy	Samoa		
Project Status	Closed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant		
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant 9166-SAM: Community Sanitation Project		
	Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific		US\$ 2.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Partnerships		
Sector / Subsector	Water and other urban infrastructure and services / Water supply and sanitation		
Gender	Some gender elements		
Description	<p>The project's overall goal is to give vulnerable households sustainable access to better sanitation in targeted regions of Samoa. The vast majority of Samoan households rely for their sanitation services on non-functioning, leaking septic tanks. This sanitation infrastructure pollutes groundwater and urban streams, damages such aquatic ecosystems as mangroves and coastal areas, and adversely impacts the residents' health. Samoa has the highest reported incidence of typhoid of all the Asian Development Bank's Pacific developing member countries. Typhoid periodically reaches epidemic levels and is especially prevalent in poor households in low-lying settlements in urban Apia, the capital city. The rates of diarrheal diseases are also high. The project will help improve public and environmental health in the participating regions. It will establish and pilot an innovative delivery method and institutional arrangements for providing subsidized sanitation infrastructure to low-income households. The project will establish a foundation to enable the government to establish and expand a national sanitation scheme that will help households replace and maintain their on-site sanitation infrastructure. The scheme's sustainability will be ensured by increasing the government's capacity to enforce existing health and environmental regulations and to monitor sanitation assets and water quality.</p> <p>Component A:</p> <p>The project will make households more aware of the importance of properly functioning septic tanks, how they are built and maintained, and the health implications of poor maintenance. Public awareness campaigns will target all of the approximately 15,000 households in the three pilot regions, whether they are project participants or not. These campaigns will be coordinated with ongoing sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns and build on them, making use of materials that have been accepted by the community. The results of the awareness efforts will be monitored through existing Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development (MWCSO) monthly household surveys.</p> <p>The project's public awareness activities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) advertise the pilot scheme to encourage households from selected villages to participate;(ii) inform participating households about pilot scheme procedures;(iii) inform participating households in layman's terms about how septic tanks are constructed, operated, and maintained;(iv) inform the general public about the adverse effects on human health and waterways of leaking septic tanks (or the absence of appropriate on-site sanitation infrastructure altogether), the consequences of not regularly emptying septic tanks (usually every 3-5 years), and the connection to hygiene practices;(v) inform participating households about maintenance monitoring and enforcement procedures to encourage them to carry out regular maintenance of their sanitation infrastructure and avoid penalties; and(vi) inform participating households about potential financing sources to help cover their cash contributions, if applicable. <p>Component B:</p> <p>The project will make households more aware of the importance of properly functioning septic tanks, how they are built and maintained, and the health implications of poor maintenance. Public awareness campaigns will target all of the approximately 15,000 households in the three pilot regions, whether they are project participants or not. These campaigns will be coordinated with ongoing sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns and build on them, making use of materials that have been accepted by the community. The results of the awareness efforts will be monitored through existing Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development (MWCSO) monthly household surveys.</p> <p>The project's public awareness activities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) advertise the pilot scheme to encourage households from selected villages to participate;(ii) inform participating households about pilot scheme procedures;(iii) inform participating households in layman's terms about how septic tanks are constructed, operated, and maintained;(iv) inform the general public about the adverse effects on human health and waterways of leaking septic tanks (or the absence of appropriate on-site sanitation infrastructure altogether), the consequences of not regularly emptying septic tanks (usually every 3-5 years), and the connection to hygiene practices;(v) inform participating households about maintenance monitoring and enforcement procedures to encourage them to carry out regular maintenance of their sanitation infrastructure and avoid penalties; and(vi) inform participating households about potential financing sources to help cover their cash contributions, if applicable. <p>Component C:</p> <p>The pilot will establish the structures and procedures needed and train the necessary skilled personnel to implement the sanitation scheme across the rest of Samoa after the pilot is complete. Training by individual consultants in construction supervision, septic tank inspections, asset management, and water quality testing will give sanitation officials the ability to manage the scheme after the pilot ends. The project will also build capacity by guiding the government's leadership in the day-to-day management of the pilot, by on-the-job coaching by the two full-time individual consultants, and by training implementing agency staff in ADB disbursement procedures and financial management.</p> <p>PUMA and the MWTI will carry out random inspections of septic tanks in both project and nonproject households in participating villages and throughout the pilot regions to monitor sanitation assets and enforce acts and regulations. PUMA will aim to carry out 1,000 inspections per year during 2014-2016. The imposition of fines when septic tanks fail these inspections will incentivize households to replace or upgrade their on-site sanitation system themselves (if they can afford to) and to maintain properly constructed septic tanks through minor repairs and by emptying them regularly and disposing of the contents properly. The project will provide participating households with financial support for one maintenance cycle so that they will learn routine maintenance procedures and will have the know-how required to maintain their new septic tanks after the project ends. The project will help the government to evaluate the pilot's implementation</p>		

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Poor hygiene practices and septage pooling have major adverse health impacts in populated areas, including a high incidence of typhoid and diarrheal diseases. Leaking septic tanks also contaminate reefs and marine life. The leaks from improperly designed and constructed and poorly maintained tanks occur for several reasons: minimal enforcement of septic tank design standards, poor construction methods, and lack of public awareness of proper septic tank construction and maintenance requirements. The vast majority of households in Samoa rely on non-functioning septic tanks that are beyond repair. These septic tanks present no visible problems to households and, because they leak, do not seem to need to be emptied. Households are not familiar with maintenance needs and procedures or used to shouldering maintenance costs. Because poor sanitation practices have been the norm for so long, it is difficult to incentivize households to improve their sanitation systems, even though the septic tank of almost every household is not functioning and needs to be replaced or rehabilitated.</p> <p>The government's poverty reduction strategy (Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2008-2012) and ADB's 2008-2012 country partnership strategy (CPS) for Samoa prioritize the sanitation sector to improve environmental and public health conditions. Both strategies recognize the importance of improving sanitation infrastructure and increasing access to sanitation services to reduce poverty and achieving sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals. Both strategies aim to improve the physical infrastructure for sanitation and the ability of the government and the private sector to deliver sanitation services.</p> <p>To guide sanitation investments and improve wastewater systems and management in Samoa, the government approved the 2009 National Sanitation Policy and prepared the 2011 National Sanitation Masterplan. The plan established new septic tank construction standards for inclusion in the National Building Code; recommended appropriate improved sanitation systems; and proposed improvements to the processes for granting development consent, granting building permits, supervising construction, licensing service operators, and collecting sanitation data. To prepare the master plan, a national sanitation survey was undertaken to gauge the state of sanitation in urban and rural households, the willingness and ability of households to pay for sanitation services, and household awareness of sanitation issues. The survey found that households would be willing and, able to pay up to 10% of the approximately \$4,000 construction cost of a septic tank. Consultations revealed that this contribution would need to be in-kind for many households, particularly rural ones. The project's subsidy percentages reflect this level of willingness and ability to pay and the project will allow in-kind contributions from all participating households. Maintenance costs of about \$100 every 3 to 5 years were found to be affordable for most households. A scheme to improve on-site sanitation was identified as a priority in the 2009 National Sanitation Policy and in the rolling three-year medium-term expenditure framework for Samoa's water sector.</p>
Impact	Improved public and environmental health in targeted areas
Project Outcome	
Description of Outcome	Poor households in targeted areas have sustainable access to improved sanitation
Progress Toward Outcome	After some initial delays, project implementation picked up pace in 2015. After the individual consultants were on board in late 2014, Phase 1 of civil works consisting installation to 190 households started in December 2014 and completed in May 2015. Phase 2 installation to 170 households was successfully completed in July 2015. Phase 3 works comprising initial 230 households started in September 2015 and completed in April 2016. Two variations were granted to Phase 3 works to include an additional 180 septic tanks installations utilizing the expected project savings. All these work were completed by November 2016 with a total of 770 septic tanks installed against the original project target of 470. Public awareness on the importance of proper septic tank and toilet facilities continued until December 2016. Final Payments and interest liquidation has now been completed. Financial closing was completed on 5 September 2017.
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	<p>Targeted sanitation scheme established and operational</p> <p>Septic tanks and other improved sanitation systems constructed and maintained</p> <p>Community awareness of sanitation, hygiene, and septic tank maintenance raised</p> <p>Sanitation scheme is financially and technically sustainable</p>
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	<p>Sanitation Scheme is Established and Operational</p> <p>Installation of plastic septic tanks in critical areas completed. Total of 770 (November 2016) installations completed by project closing against project target of 470</p> <p>Community awareness on sanitation is continuing</p> <p>Sanitation Scheme will be sustainable if monitoring is maintained by relevant authorities.</p>
Geographical Location	
Safeguard Categories	
Environment	B
Involuntary Resettlement	C
Indigenous Peoples	C
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	<p>Project activities will cover three coastal regions of Samoa - urban Apia, the northeast and northwest.</p> <p>The project will improve receiving environment conditions, particularly during the dry season. Water quality in open village stormwater drains, nearby streams and along the coastal foreshore should improve in the dry season as currently leaking septage from the worst performing systems will be adequately treated through anaerobic action in the septic tank and ground infiltration. Partly treated and untreated septage from these households should not reach receiving waterbodies, thereby removing this source of pathogens, decreasing nutrient enrichment and in turn improving the health of animal and marine life. Other village amenity values should also improve, including a decrease in odors.</p> <p>In villages on flood-prone land the improvement in environmental conditions during the wet season may be small as the new septic systems will be subjected to inundation and the release of partly treated sewage. It is worth noting that septic tanks with sealed lids that are flooded should only release a limited amount of septage due to small diameter inflow and outflow pipes. The secondary treatment of effluent by infiltration from the absorption trench in areas with high water table or flooded is likely to be less than optimum due to inadequate soil infiltration, resulting in partly treated septage seeping onto the ground surface or reaching nearby water bodies.</p> <p>A broader improvement to the local environment should also result from the project awareness program that will be delivered to approximately 15,000 households in the 3 target regions. It is hoped that households replacing their sanitation systems will construct better systems and that more regular de-sludging of septic tanks will occur.</p> <p>Grant Reviews:</p> <p>ADB will conduct a project performance review mission together with the EA twice annually to review the compliance of ADB safeguard policies.</p>
Involuntary Resettlement	n/a
Indigenous Peoples	n/a
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	<p>The project is innovative because the delivery method is integrated within existing government structures and procedures. The government's Sanitation Technical Subsector Committee (STC) will provide project implementation advice, as it does for other sanitation sector projects. 7 Staff from PUMA, the implementing agency, will lead the implementation of the project as part of their regular responsibilities.</p> <p>The project will help STC members fulfill their sanitation sector mandates. It will provide support to the MWTI to supervise septic tank construction, to PUMA to carry out septic tank inspections, and to the MOH to monitor water quality. Staff from these agencies will not only be trained in these skills but will also carry out their tasks during the pilot and thereby gain valuable hands-on experience in what will remain their responsibilities after the project ends. The government will evaluate the implementation of the pilot as part of its plan to expand the pilot sanitation scheme nationally.</p>

During Project Implementation

Government and community stakeholders will lead the implementation of the project. The STC will advise the implementing agency on project implementation and coordinate the inputs required of the participating government agencies. The public awareness campaign at the start of the project will disseminate information about the project, eligibility criteria, and subsidy levels in pilot villages and thus generate demand (see component B). Based on this information, each household will decide whether it wants to apply to participate in the scheme. Each completed application will be signed by the local village chief, village mayor, and/or the government liaison officer to verify its information. Village women's committees will be instrumental in encouraging households to participate and in monitoring septic tank maintenance through their regular surveys.

Responsible ADB Officer	Narayan, Vijay
Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Finance (Mr.) Iulai Lavea, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance iulai.lavea@mof.gov.ws Ministry of Finance Government of Samoa Private Bag, Apia, Samoa Ministry of Finance V-TAGILIMA@TREASURY.GOV.WS Ministry of Finance Government of Samoa Private Bag, Apia, Samoa

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	31 Mar 2011
Fact Finding	06 Jun 2011 to 10 Jun 2011
MRM	-
Approval	31 Jul 2012
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	05 Mar 2018

Grant 9166-SAM

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
31 Jul 2012	29 Aug 2012	29 Aug 2012	31 Jan 2017	-	05 Sep 2017

Financing Plan		Grant Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)	Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	2.00	Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	0.00	17 Jun 2022	0.00	1.71	86%
Counterpart	0.00	Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	2.00	17 Jun 2022	0.00	1.71	86%

Status of Covenants						
Category	Sector	Safeguards	Social	Financial	Economic	Others
Rating	-	-	-	Satisfactory	-	Satisfactory

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/45520-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=45520-001
Date Generated	05 June 2023

ADB provides the information contained in this project data sheet (PDS) solely as a resource for its users without any form of assurance. Whilst ADB tries to provide high quality content, the information are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including without limitation warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringement. ADB specifically does not make any warranties or representations as to the accuracy or completeness of any such information.