

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: PLCO

TA No. and Name TA 3838-KIR: Community Development & Sustainable Participation			Amount Approved: \$420,700	
			Revised Amount: \$420,700	
Executing Agency: Ministry of Environment and Social Development		Source of Funding: TASF	TA Amount Undisbursed \$54,471.01	TA Amount Utilized \$366,228.99
Date			Completion Date	
Approval	Signing	Fielding of Consultants	Original 31 July 2003	Actual 30 June 2005
01 March 2002	14 March 2002	19 August 2002	Closing Date	
			Original 31 August 2004	Actual 31 October 2005
Description <p>During the 2000 country programming mission, the Government of the Republic of Kiribati requested technical assistance (TA) to expand and institutionalize community development and participation initiatives begun under an earlier TA.¹ The TA was complementary to the ongoing Sanitation, Public Health, and Environment (SAPHE) Project,² which is providing funding to help improve water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management in South Tarawa. The population density of South Tarawa averages 2,400 per square kilometer, but is much higher in the urban settlements of Bairiki, Bekenibeu, and Betio. This stresses natural resources, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The earlier TA helped pilot test community development and training programs in the areas of community water management, and self-help, well and latrine construction. Under the SAPHE project, the quality and duration of piped water supplies has improved, piped sewerage has been provided in the three densest urban areas, and solid waste collection and disposal has enhanced. The TA helps maximize the benefits of the SAPHE project by helping (i) the majority of water users understand the water cycle, in particular, the importance of ensuring their drinking water is potable and their waste does not pollute the ground, the groundwater, or the lagoon; (ii) those who wish to, construct or install their own well improvements, rainwater tanks, water purification systems, waste management systems, or latrines, and learn how to build and operate them in the most environmentally sound manner; and (iii) create the institutional arrangements necessary for sustaining such community development and participation initiatives.</p>				
Objectives and Scope <p>The long-term goal of the TA is to improve the well-being, health, and environment of the people of South Tarawa. The short-term objective is to achieve safer water and waste handling practices amongst the majority of communities of South Tarawa, with self-help initiatives. These are now underway in a substantial number of communities, and with sustainable programs to support community development. Self-help initiatives have also been established in government agencies, schools, NGOs and the private sector. The TA was designed to consolidate and build on the achievements of the preceding TA 3109-KIR Community Development and Participation Initiatives (CDPI) in 2002 and concentrate on mobilizing community support in the development and implementation of complementary water supply systems, water conservation, and sanitation practices. Both projects were Technical Assistance associated with the SAPHE project. The TA was adequately formulated with well-defined terms of reference for consultants.</p> <p>The goal of the TA was to be achieved through: (i) support for capacity building within partner agencies, particularly the Ministry of Environment and Social Development (MESD) and beneficiary communities; (ii) production of new and existing community awareness materials; (iii) the reinstatement of selected community awareness and education activities assessed as having the greatest positive impacts; and (iv) education activities focused on school visits and teacher training in the use of materials developed for kindergarten level.</p>				
Evaluation of Inputs <p>A team of MESD officers, consultants, and staff from the Foundation of the People of South Pacific Kiribati (FSP-K), undertook the TA activities. The international firm engaged under the preceding TA (3109-KIR) was directly selected in accordance with the ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants. The team worked in a participatory manner with about 75 community groups, about 20 schools, and other NGOs, government agencies, and individuals.</p>				

¹ TA 3109-KIR: *Community Development and Participation Initiatives*, for \$300,000, approved on 8 December 1998.

² Loan 1648-KIR: *Sanitation, Public Health, and Environment Improvement*, for SDR 7.3 million, approved on 8 December 1998.

The performance of the consultants engaged under the TA was satisfactory. The terms of reference were met to the full satisfaction of both the Executing Agency and ADB. ADB performance was satisfactory with several review missions conducted by ADB staff together with SAPHE project for the purpose of consulting stakeholders on progress of the initiatives identified in the TA.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) in (MESD) was designated as the unit responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Project. Counterpart staff were provided to participate in the capacity building process and to assist consultants in the preparation and the implementation of education and awareness programs. The performance of the EA was generally satisfactory. Reports were not always submitted in a timely manner but their quality was satisfactory.

Evaluation of Outputs

All the TA outputs were successfully delivered. Delays in the final submission of reports were mainly due to key staff being ill. However, most of the activities planned for the Project were implemented on or ahead of schedule. The TA's collaboration with a wide range of organizations from government department to community groups, women's groups, NGOs, municipal waste collectors, recycling operator (Kaoki Mange), and church-based kindergartens ensured that there is now a general awareness of the need for well-considered, and sustainable development in light of the sensitivity of the island environment to poor waste disposal practices and over-exploitation of water and other resources. The most visible achievement of the TA has been the significant improvement in general cleanliness of South Tarawa. The TA also made good progress on the economic well-being activities through encouraging home gardening, compost making, and the home use of organic rubbish. While there are no quantitative data on increased number of home gardening and composting, an increase is visually evident.

The TA has made an invaluable contribution towards facilitating the changes in community attitudes and behavior that must accompany the development of physical infrastructure through the SAPHE Project in improved water and sanitation systems, the new landfills, and waste management equipment for South Tarawa. The TA has been well accepted by government ministries and community groups and there has been a growing demand for materials and activities developed through the TA.

Overall Assessment and Rating

Despite a slow start to the TA, due to changes in core personnel, overall the TA has been on schedule and within budget, providing timely and appropriate inputs in the field, and developing and designing community awareness and involvement activities 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 highly successful.

Major Lessons Learned

In education and community awareness programs, involving children from kindergarten through to junior high school is effective, especially if the exposure to appropriate educational displays and activities is continued over several years as happened with the preceding TA and this TA. Women's groups are valuable participants in economic well-being activities such as container gardening or composting.

The success of the TA demonstrates the importance of having schools, women's groups, drama/theatre clubs, and other community groups as strong partners in raising community understanding on the importance of water supply and sanitation and solid waste management. This participatory approach needs to be kept in mind by the Government during the continued operations of the SAPHE project facilities.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

The impact of the TA and the SAPHE solid waste management activities should be maintained, especially the sustainability of the recycling operations, the effectiveness of municipal waste collection and disposal operations, and the uptake of composting for gardens that have nutritional and/or economic benefits. Following the completion of the TA the Government should continue supporting and training of counterpart staff involved in community development related activities and, in particular, the community education and awareness activities to support long-term TA impact and sustainability. These activities will ensure changed behaviors are sustained.

Prepared by Pita Moala

Designation

Senior Project Implementation/
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