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FUNAFUTI WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT

SECOND FWSSP CAMPAIGN REPORT



Introduction:

From October 28th to November 1st, 2024, the Tuvalu Red Cross Society carried out an extensive 5-day public awareness campaign under the Funafuti Water Supply and Sanitation Project (FWSSP), focusing on promoting safe water access and improved sanitation services. This campaign is part of FWSSP’s Component 3, which emphasizes the importance of public education on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). The goal was to strengthen community knowledge and practices around water and sanitation to support public health and resilience in Tuvalu.

The campaign was structured into daily activities, each tailored to engage specific community groups and spread key messages on safe water and sanitation, with the support from relevant key stakeholders from the PMU team, PWD Water and Sanitation Division and Public Health Department. The following report outlines the activities conducted each day, engagement statistics, and the impact of the campaign.

Monday, 28th October 2024: Radio Program



The week began with a radio program highlighting the FWSSP’s objectives, particularly focusing on the significance of accessible, safe water and sanitation improvements for Tuvalu’s communities. The radio segment also introduced the community to the upcoming events scheduled throughout the week, encouraging participation and sharing key WASH messages

to set the campaign in motion. During the radio program, the PMU Communication Specialist Mr. Faoliu Teakau introduced the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) under the FWSSP.

The GRM provides a structured platform for community members to raise concerns, feedback, or complaints related to the project's implementation, ensuring transparency and accountability. Listeners were informed about how to access the GRM, including dedicated contact points for submitting grievances, the process for addressing complaints, and the project's commitment to fair and timely responses. By engaging the public through radio, the program ensured broad awareness of this mechanism, encouraging community members to actively participate and voice any issues related to water supply and sanitation improvements. The GRM rollout represents a significant step toward reinforcing trust and inclusivity in the FWSSP, highlighting Red Cross's dedication to upholding community interests throughout the project's lifecycle.

Tuesday, 29th October 2024: Vaiaku Community Outreach



On Tuesday, the team focused on engaging the Vaiaku community directly with an in-person outreach session. This outreach was held at the Tomasi Puapua Convention Center (TPCC). The program included interactive discussions among the team, stakeholders and the community on water conservation and the role of sanitation in preventing waterborne diseases. T-shirts were distributed to youth attendees as part of the outreach strategy to empower them as advocates for safe water and sanitation in sharing and spreading FWSSP's message.

The GRM was introduced to the community for the purpose of using the GRM to share any feedback, concerns, or issues related to the project's water and sanitation initiatives. It was also explained by Mr. Faoliu Teakau from the PMU, the process for submitting grievances, provided contact details for ease of access, and reassured participants that their voices would be heard and addressed in a timely and fair manner. This session was an opportunity to build trust and empower the community by giving them a clear channel to express their views and

ensure accountability throughout the project. The GRM introduction underscored the project's commitment to being responsive and inclusive, strengthening community involvement in achieving safe, reliable water and sanitation for all.

Despite the low attendance for the program, it was overall a very interactive and informational dialogue with open discussions about water supply challenges and sanitation solutions, and the interest on FWSSP observed from the awareness program. From the program, about 50 participants included volunteers from the Vaiaku area and 12 youth members and community members. With t-shirts with FWSSP messages, and water and sanitation messages, youths were empowered to carry messages to their families, and community members expressed a stronger understanding of the connection between water management and health, and the benefits from the project.

Wednesday, 30th October 2024: Funafala Community Visit



On Wednesday, the campaign extended to Funafala Islet, reaching a smaller but vital audience. The team traveled to Funafala Islet to ensure the campaign's reach extended beyond Funafuti's main island. This outreach emphasized the importance of safe water and sanitation practices for the isolated community and highlighted FWSSP's commitment to providing equitable access to WASH resources across all parts of Tuvalu.

This visit was crucial as it ensured the campaign's reach to remote areas, emphasizing the importance of consistent and reliable water supply and sanitation services for all families in Tuvalu, including those residing on outer islets. A total of 15 participants from the Funafala community members including children were able to attend the program. The low attendance from the community was due to many who were sick including the community elders who were in leadership roles.

Thursday: Fetuvalu High School Outreach



The outreach at Fetuvalu High School focused on educating youth about safe water and sanitation practices, helping instil lifelong habits. The session was interactive, with discussions about the impact of clean water on health and the environment. The event included a presentation on the science behind water purification and the impact of sanitation on public health, fostering early awareness among the younger generation.

The activities included sharing on the FWSSP focusing on improving water supply and sanitation services, and water conservation. Covered topics like rainwater harvesting, the importance of sanitation facilities, and the need to maintain clean environments. Posters were used on water conservation and handwashing to promote hygiene and sanitation.

- **Group Discussion:** Encouraged students to share their thoughts on water and sanitation issues affecting their families and communities.
- **Interactive Quiz:** Students answered questions on WASH practices for an opportunity to win campaign t-shirts.

A total of 40 students, 5 teachers from FSS participated in the event and 10 volunteers supported in the school outreach campaign.

Friday: Quiz Competition and T-Shirt Giveaway



The campaign concluded with a lively quiz competition open to the public where community members demonstrated their knowledge on WASH and FWSSP objectives. This event saw enthusiastic participation, with 21 t-shirts awarded to winners, further encouraging the community to carry forward the messages on safe water access and sanitation. From this activity, the impact was in reinforced key water and sanitation core messages including WASH within the community, and concluded the campaign on a high note, with a lasting impression on participants including the FWSSP messages shared through the campaign t-shirts.

The Tuvalu Red Cross Society's involvement in Component 3 of FWSSP has been pivotal in delivering public awareness on WASH. Effective outreach and engagement with communities directly support improved water quality and sanitation services, crucial to enhancing public health across Tuvalu. This week-long campaign strengthened understanding within communities, reinforced the Red Cross's commitment to supporting health initiatives, and fostered a positive, collective effort toward sustainable water and sanitation practices.

Participation Summary

- **Vaiaku Community Outreach:** 50 attendees (including 12 youth, 10 community members, and ~28 volunteers and staff)
- **Funafala Community Visit:** 15 community members, 10 volunteers and 4 Red Cross staff and 2 Public Health officers
- **Fetuvalu High School:** 40 students (20 boys, 20 girls), teachers, ~10 volunteers and staff
- **Quiz Competition:** Over 20 participants

Total Reach for the Week: Approximately 120 community members, students, and volunteers actively engaged in FWSSP events, not counting the indirect audience reached through the radio program played over 3 days during the week of the campaign.

Challenges Encountered

1. One of the main challenges encountered during the 5-day FWSSP outreach campaign was the limited availability of key stakeholders, which impacted the planning and delivery of some activities. Due to the busy schedules of stakeholders, the campaign had to be carefully coordinated around their other commitments. Activities like the community outreach in Vaiaku were held in the evening to accommodate the availability of both stakeholders and community members, particularly those employed during the day. Although their limited availability required flexibility, the campaign was able to proceed with targeted messages and maintain focus on community engagement and education, ensuring that essential WASH messages were delivered effectively.
2. Low attendance due to illness among community members, particularly affecting local leaders and male residents who often play a key role in community gatherings.
3. Despite efforts to publicize the event through invitation letters, church announcements, sitting allowance and a radio broadcast, participation in Vaiaku remained lower than expected. Limited turnout reduced opportunities for broader community discussions and participation.

Recommendations

1. **Targeted Community Health Support for Future Funafala Visits**
 - Collaborate with local health authorities to address health issues impacting community turnout. Offering health services or first aid sessions alongside FWSSP activities may improve attendance and engagement.
2. **Enhanced Community Mobilization and Incentives**
 - For areas like Vaiaku, consider additional mobilization strategies, such as house-to-house outreach, to directly encourage community members. Incentives like small tokens or refreshments could further motivate participation.
3. **Pre-event Community Meetings and Additional Publicity**
 - Arrange pre-event meetings with local leaders and community groups to discuss the campaign's importance and encourage active promotion. Additional publicity through multiple radio segments and collaboration with schools can also help reach wider audiences.
4. **Increased Youth and School Engagement for Sustainability**
 - Build on the success at Fetuvalu High School by expanding school outreach to other institutions. Partnering with schools enables a sustainable pathway for long-term awareness and advocacy within households and communities.

Acknowledgments and Conclusion

The Tuvalu Red Cross Society extends heartfelt appreciation to all community members, youth, and students who participated in this week's FWSSP events. Special thanks to the Project Management Unit (PMU), Public Works Department (PWD), and Public Health Department for their consistent support and valuable contributions to this campaign. Through these efforts, the FWSSP Public Awareness Campaign has successfully increased understanding of safe water and sanitation practices, building a foundation for healthier and

more resilient communities across Funafuti and beyond. We look forward to continuing our work in promoting WASH initiatives that support sustainable development and public health across Tuvalu.