

Funafuti Water Supply & Sanitation Project: At a Glance!

The Funafuti Water Supply and Sanitation Project (FWSSP) aims to improve the well-being of people living on Funafuti by providing access to improved water supply and sanitation services and building their resilience to climate change. The project will be implemented by the Government of Tuvalu's Public Works Department (PWD). The project is funded by the Asian Development (ADB), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand and the Global Environment Fund (GEF).

1. Piped Water Supply

Under the FWSSP, clean water will be supplied to over 500 Funafuti households through a carefully designed piped network system.

Main benefits of piped water:

- Improved water quality delivered direct to the house around the clock.
- More water available for personal hygiene, cooking and other household activities.
- Less reliance on rain water.
- Reduced need to buy tanker water.
- Time savings – more time freed up, especially for women and girls, for



education and work activities.

Where will the piped water come from?

Piped Water Area

Water comes from the desalination plant and treated so that it is safe to drink. It is then pumped to 2 raised tanks built close to the PWD office. Gravity will take the water down to, and through, the piped network - over 17 kilometres of plastic pipes of different sizes - and deliver it to households and businesses. Gravity helps ensure a continuous supply of water and good water pressure - even when the electricity is off as often happens in heavy rain storms. All the

pipes in the network will be buried up to 600 mm below the roads to protect them from damage.

Getting Connected to the Pipeline

Householders and businesses will be linked to the pipeline through connection pipes to their properties. Before reaching their taps, water



flows through a water meter which measures how much water is used. PWD will then charge them for amount of water used.

Funafuti residents at a hygiene awareness session

When will piped water be available?

- Piped network design completed late 2024
- Tender for contractor: Q3, 2025
- Construction of water supply network: Q4, 2025 (beginning with desalinated plant, tanks and main pipeline)

Preparing for piped water

- PWD will let households and businesses know at least 2 weeks in advance of construction works beginning in their road.
- There will be some temporary disruption while water pipes are being laid.
- The PWD will provide regular updates to communities on construction progress.
- The PMU will highlight FWSSP's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and indicate how to raise concerns

about construction work and related issues through the GRM.

2. Non-piped water areas

Households and businesses who do not have access to piped water will continue to use their existing roof water system. They will receive training from the PWD on maintenance of their gutters and water tanks in order to reduce contamination of water. They may also benefit indirectly from the piped water network as there will be fewer people relying on water tank deliveries resulting in shorter waiting times.

Funafuti islets

On Amatuku, Papaelise and Funafala existing rain water collection systems will be restored and water storage capacity increased through distribution of gutters and water storage tanks.

Provisional timeline for non-piped areas work

- Training on maintenance of existing water systems: starts Q3, 2025
- Provision of water tanks and other materials to islets: starts Q4, 2025

3. Sanitation

Better collection and treatment of toilet waste benefits everyone. The risks of pollution of neighbouring land and the lagoon and contami-



PROPOSED SEPTAGE BEDS & PACKAGED MWTP LOCATION



EXISTING SEPTAGE DISPOSAL SITE

nation of ground water are significantly reduced.

Under the FWSSP 10 septage drying beds will be built at the northern end of Funafuti close to the dump. A new septage vacuum truck will collect toilet waste safely from households' septic tanks and cess pits and transport it to the septage beds where it will be treated and dried. The dried sewage can then be safely used as fertiliser to increase agricultural yields. Communities will receive training from PWD on

the design and maintenance of septic systems. PWD will select 30 households to pilot septage tanks.



Raising communities' awareness of FWSSP activities.

Upgrading toilets in Government Buildings

Toilets will be improved in schools and health centres and some other government buildings. They will be made gender-friendly, to benefit women and girls particularly, and will be maintained to agreed standards by the relevant government departments.

Provisional Timeline for Sanitation works

- Design of septage beds and treatment plant completed
- Tender for contractor: Q3, 2025
- Upgrading of toilets: Q4, 2025
- Construction of septage beds and treatment plant: Q4, 2025.

4. Hygiene Awareness and Education Programme (HAEP)

- Raises awareness of gender-specific hygiene issues.
- Promotes effective hygiene practices.
- Supports disease prevention.
- Boosts educational outcomes.

Timeline: Ongoing throughout FWSSP.

Contact Information:

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<https://pwd.gov.tv/funafuti-water-supply-and-sanitation-project/>