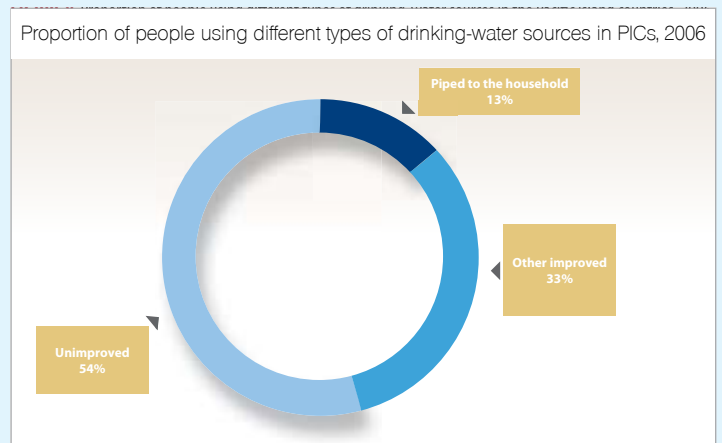
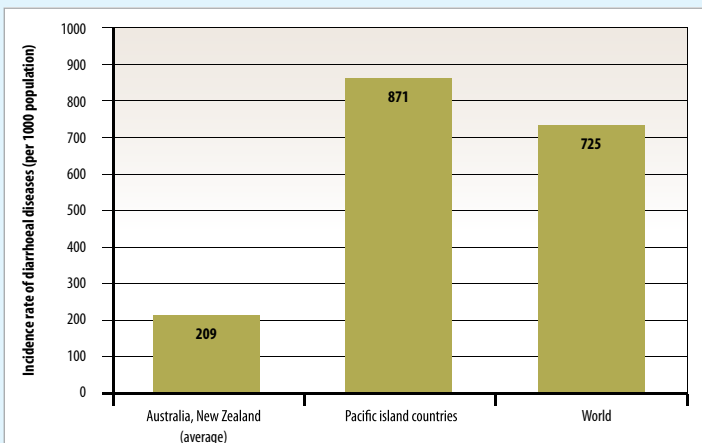


Pacific Drinking Water Safety Planning Lessons Learned

3 August 2009, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga

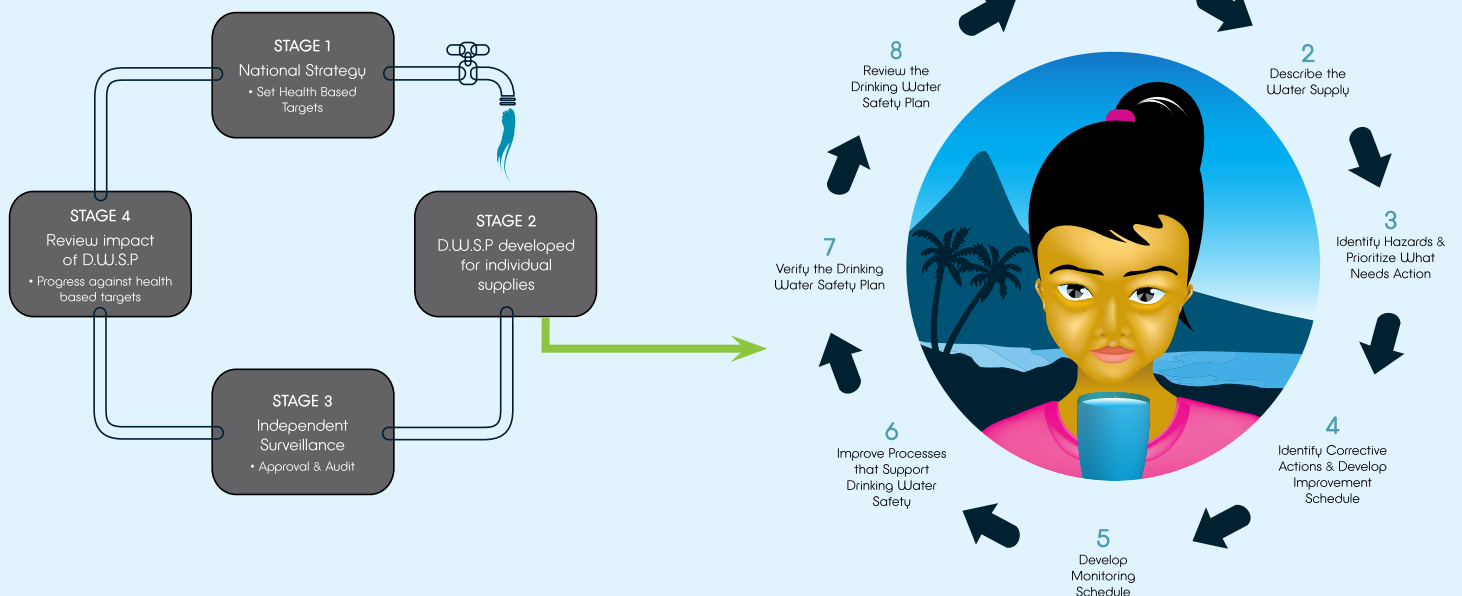
Access to safe drinking water is a basic human need and essential to public health. Illness and death arising from drinking unsafe water has continuing impact on communities throughout the Pacific.

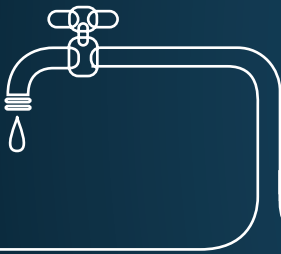
A recent report *Sanitation, Hygiene and Drinking water in Pacific Island countries: Converting Commitment into Action* (WHO/SOPAC, 2008), states that every year 2800 deaths in Pacific island countries (PICs) result from diarrhoea, and most are children under five years of age. These tragic diarrhoeal deaths are **preventable** as they are often linked to unsafe water, lack of proper sanitation facilities and poor hygienic practices. In 2006, only 46% of people in PICs had access to any type of improved drinking water facility.



Effective preventive management through a framework for **Drinking Water Safety Planning (DWSP)** is an efficient mechanism for ensuring the safe quality of drinking water. Drinking water safety planning is a comprehensive risk assessment approach that encompasses all aspects of a drinking water supply, from catchment to consumer, to consistently ensure the safety of drinking water supplies.

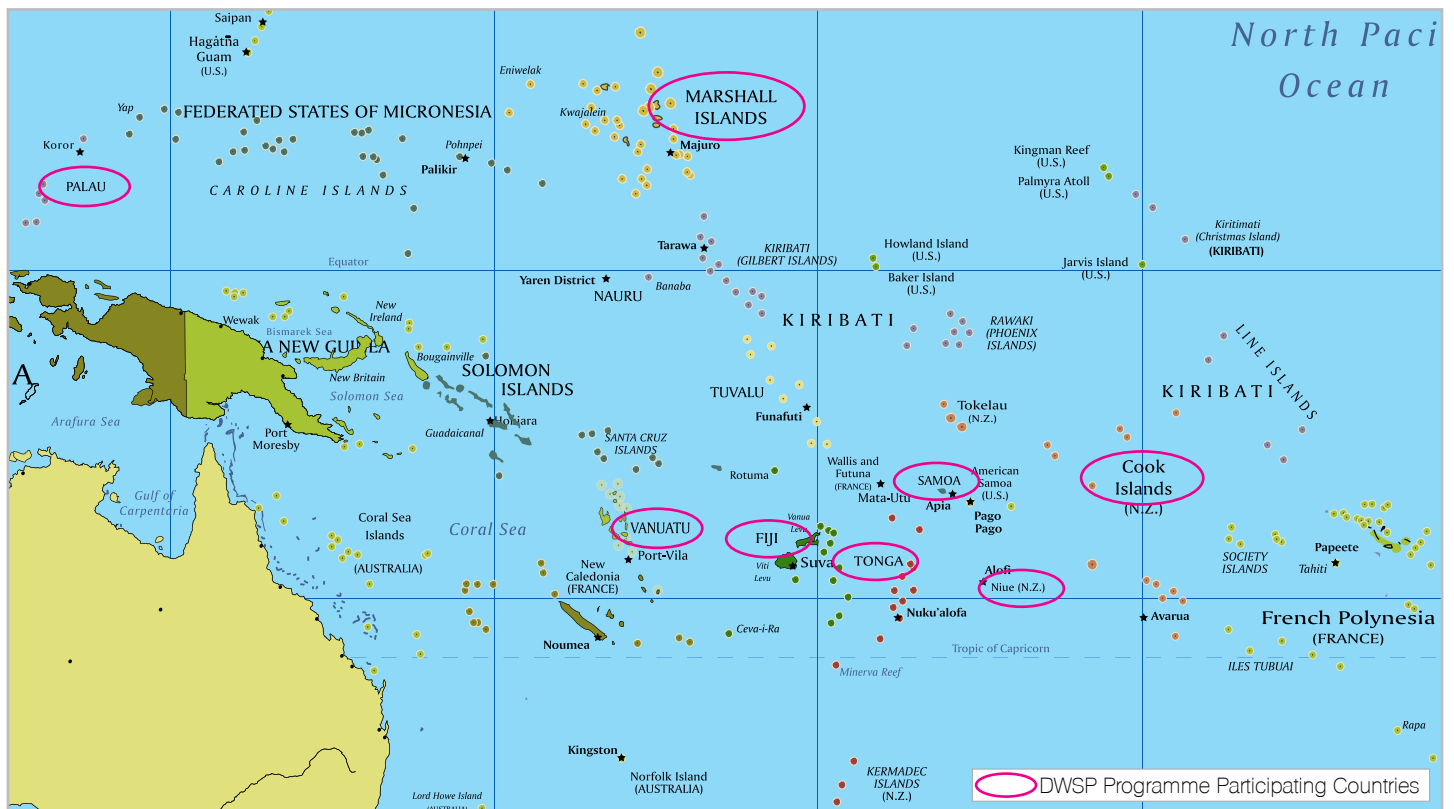
Stages in the Drinking Water Safety Planning Process



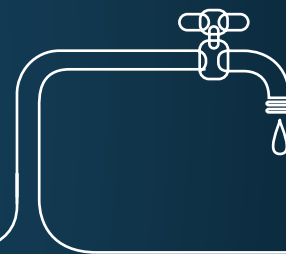


The Pacific DWSP programme, supported by the Australian government, commenced in late 2005. It is being implemented by SOPAC and WHO, with 'in-kind' technical support from the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

The DWSP programme is providing support to participating countries to build their capacity in developing system-specific drinking water safety plans and implement subsequent improvement schedules which will increase the safety of drinking water supplies.



Participants sharing experiences during DWSP lessons learned break out sessions



Overview of Progress

The table below demonstrates the varying stages of DWSP within the Pacific.

Drinking Water Safety Planning	Countries													
Component	CI	FSM	FJ	KI	RMI	NR	NI	PA	PNG	SA	SI	TO	TV	VA
DWSP team in-country	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed
Water supply system description	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed
Hazard identification and prioritization	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Completed
Improvement schedule	Completed	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Completed	Completed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing
Monitoring schedule	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	Completed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Completed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing
Improve processes that support DWSP	To be developed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	Underway or ongoing	To be developed	To be developed
Using the DWSP	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed
DWSP review	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed	To be developed

KEY: ■ To be developed ■ Completed ■ Underway or ongoing

Lessons Learned

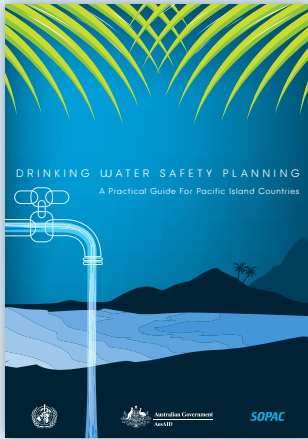
A Pacific Lessons Learned workshop was organised on the 3rd August to allow participating countries to share their experiences and respective outcomes from implementing the DWSP approach in selected urban and rural water supply systems. The day also provided a forum to gauge the interest of 'new' countries to adopt the DWSP risk management framework, as it was dovetailed to the Pacific Water and Wastes Association (PWWA) Annual Conference.

The following **key lessons learned** came out of the workshop.

1. Drinking water safety planning process would work more efficiently if it has champions and stakeholders committed to a common goal such as striving for better health of people
2. Stakeholder collaboration is very beneficial but at the same time can become challenging if there is conflict of interests on the end goal
3. Water resources protection and its management is very important in Pacific island countries
4. Water users will pay for safe drinking water
5. Improvements in water supply takes time
6. Mechanisms should be established to better support community water supply and rural water supply
7. Linking water safety planning to other ongoing in-country water initiatives is valuable
8. All operations staff and those involved in the provision of safe water supply need to be thoroughly involved in drinking water safety planning
9. The timeframe for capacity building and knowledge/skills transfer should be recognised and realistic



Resources



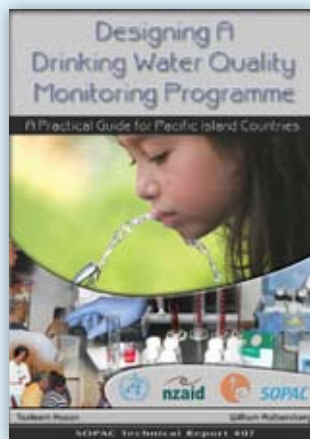
Pacific Drinking Water Safety Planning Guide



Keeping your drinking water safe - Community Toolkit



Converting Commitment to Action - Access to water and Sanitation report



Designing A Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Programme



Water Demand Management Programme

SOPAC

www.pacificwater.org



www.wpro.who.int/southpacific

Drinking Water Safety Planning in the Pacific is being supported by Australia and New Zealand



SOPAC

