

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN NIUE



## Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

### Enhancing water security and resilience to climate change in Niue



**Project focus:** Water Sector



#### Project timeframe



1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

#### National implementing agencies



Department of Environment, Department of Public Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Project Management and Coordination Unit, Project Oversight Steering Team, National Emergency Operation Centre

#### Beneficiaries



Direct benefit: **500 persons**

Indirect benefit: **1,219 persons**

*Niue is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.*

#### Project synopsis

The 'Scaling up water storage and water quality monitoring in Niue in response to climate change' project will expand previous water security interventions to establish effective backup water systems for households. Capacity building for key government agencies to monitor and analyze the quality of the stored water is another component of the project.

#### How does this project address climate change adaptation in Niue?

Niue is a raised limestone island with no surface water and the entire population relies largely on the groundwater lens for potable water. The effects of climate change on temperature, rainfall, weather extremes, and sea level rise pose challenges for Niue, and the need for back-up water systems has emerged as a priority especially during prolonged power outages following storms and cyclones.

Focusing on the scaling up of household water storage and the improvement of water quality monitoring, the project will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and the rights of the householders in Niue. Water quality monitoring skills and the capacity of key government departments will be enhanced, and community leaders will acquire improved skills in climate resilience.

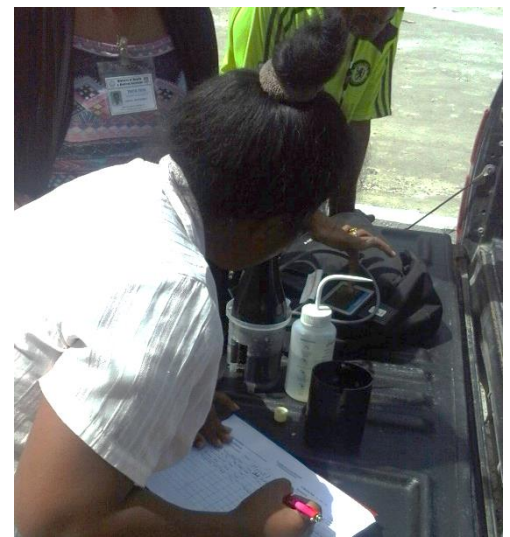
After village inspections and assessments, rainwater harvesting systems will be connected in selected households and a programme for maintenance and oversight of the systems, supported by a specially designed communications programme, will be implemented by the householders.

The capacity of the Ministry of Health to sample, analyze and report on water quality will be addressed through the provision of specialized water testing equipment and training. Improved responses to water shortages will be achieved through the pilot electronic monitoring of village reservoirs.

The institutional capacity of the Climate Change Unit in the Department of the Environment will be enhanced through the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).



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The project will install rainwater harvesting systems for the most vulnerable households and will also provide water quality testing equipment and training.

## Key Highlights

### Scaling up backup water storage for households



- Conducting village inspections of household water storage systems
- Developing selection criteria that address the needs of the most vulnerable for households where rainwater harvesting systems need installation.
- Designing and delivering a communications plan.
- Installation of (existing) rainwater harvesting systems at identified households.
- Establishing a programme for regular maintenance and oversight of the rainwater harvesting systems by householders.

### Enhancing institutional capacity



- Reviewing the existing Climate Change Framework in Niue.
- Developing Standard Operating Procedures for the Climate Change Unit.
- Monitoring and assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation to contribute to national strategic planning.

### Enhancing water quality monitoring



- Providing water quality testing equipment to the Public Health Unit.
- Supplying a vehicle to the Public Health Unit so that they can efficiently collect water samples from all communities in Niue.
- Building the capacity of the Public Health Unit and other relevant authorities to conduct the laboratory analysis of the water samples and to compile and analyze the results.
- Establishing a programme for householders to test the quality of the water in their back-up rainwater storage tanks.
- Piloting of electronic remote monitoring of identified village reservoirs by the National Emergency Operation Centre.

### Building community resilience



- Building the capacity of community leaders and island council members in climate resilience through accredited training.
- Assessing community development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.

## Activities meet the following SDGs:



## About the SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019-2023) is funded with € 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific island countries.

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.