

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN MARSHALL ISLANDS



Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Lifestyle Changes and Climate Resilience in the Marshall Islands



Project focus: Health Sector



Project timeframe



1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

National implementing agencies



Ministry of Health and Human Services, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Culture, Canvasback Wellness Centre

Beneficiaries



Direct benefit: **17,274 persons**

Indirect benefit: **41,139 persons**

Marshall Islands is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Project synopsis

The 'Lifestyle Changes and Climate Resilience in the Marshall Islands' project will scale up a Community Lifestyle Programme that has focused on health and wellness for diabetic patients in the Rita area of Majuro. The Lifestyle Programme will be expanded to the Delap-Uliga-Darrit communities in Majuro and to the communities in Jaluit Atoll and will incorporate food security, community and household agriculture.

How does this project address climate change adaptation in the Marshall Islands?

Given the low elevation of its coral atolls, the Marshall Islands is especially vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels, which include loss of land, flooding and saltwater intrusion of underground water lenses. Added to this, rising temperatures, an increase in extreme temperature and rainfall events, and changes in humidity are all having an adverse impact on the growth of crops and trees and the prevalence of water, food and vector-borne diseases.

Focusing on the people living in the Delap-Uliga-Darrit communities in Majuro and in the communities in Jaluit, the project will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and the rights of all residents. Skills in climate resilience will be enhanced, particularly for island council members and community leaders.

Food security measures will focus on increasing the availability of food crops by training community members to prune and replant fruit trees, remove senile trees and create home gardening at the household and school level.

Health measures will include healthy cooking classes, setting up exercise clubs with targeted activities for different groups, and the regular monitoring of basic health indicators.

These community activities will be supported at a national level through the development of a climate change and health policy and action plan.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN MARSHALL ISLANDS



The project is conducting regular health checks and increasing the availability of food crops in selected communities in Marshall Islands.

Key Highlights

Enhancing food security



- Conducting community consultations and agricultural needs assessments to design agricultural measures in Jaluit Atoll and in Majuro.
- Increasing the availability of food crops by expanding community nurseries and home gardens and providing the community with agricultural tools and equipment.
- Replacing senile food bearing trees including breadfruit, banana and coconut trees and introducing new trees and crops.
- Training in compost making, pest control, planting and plant care; and supplying seeds and seedlings.
- Training in preparation and cooking of local and climate resilient crops as well as in food preservation techniques.

Building community resilience



- The National Climate Change Health Action Plan of 2012 is being reviewed and a new climate change and health policy and action plan is being prepared.
- Building the capacity of community leaders and island council members in climate resilience through accredited training.
- Assessing island development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.

Promoting health and wellness



- Establishing new exercise/walking clubs in Jaluit and Majuro, identifying local champions and providing incentives to encourage community participation.
- Building health worker capacity to conduct regular health checks and provision of health screening equipment, e.g. blood pressure equipment.
- Motivating youth through high school sports competitions; and holding village cleanliness competitions to curb vector-breeding grounds.
- Pilot special wellness activities for men's groups, recognizing from past projects a general reluctance by some men to join exercise groups.
- Providing education and awareness on sustainable agriculture, healthy eating and wellness, and climate change through regular local radio and video shows.

Monitoring and Learning



- Monitoring and assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation projects is contributing to national strategic planning.
- Ongoing health checks for the participating community members are being compiled and analyzed to assess the impact of changing lifestyles which incorporate exercise and the consumption of locally grown crops.
- Supporting the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2020 National Climate Change Health Policy and Action Plan.

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.