Town Hall Meetings & Vector-borne Disease Prevention Training

November- December, 2021

On November to December 2021, Palau SUPA Team comprises of the Division of Environmental Health, Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, Ministry of State and the Office of Climate Change succesfuly delivered training and town hall meetings to five states in Palau ; Airai, Aimeliik, Ngatpang, Ngermlengui and Ngardmau.

The goal of this project is to Reduce Community's Vulnerability to Water & Vector-borne Diseases in the selected communities by providing them with knowledge and tools so that they can prevent themselves from health impact of climate change.

There were two parts of this community engagement ;
1) Town Hall meetings and
2) Specific training for Water and Vector prevention

Details of the meetings in the pages following this.

Town hall meetings: All states

The Town hall meetings was successfully implemented per our calendar. This meeting was open to community members and everyone was invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting was 1) introduce the project and its stakeholder to the community, 2) review & discuss common issues with water & vector diseases related to climate change 3) provide knowledge to minimize health risk.

Specific training for Water & Vector-borne diseases, the community learned:

1. To test and treat water before use
2. Maintaining rain water catchment system
3. Understanding nature of vectors – mosquito and rodents
4. Detect and eliminate mosquito and rodent breeding site

- Reports on the training to include: date, agenda, training content, results, list of participants taking part in the training and monitoring activities

Activity	State	Date	# of participants	Remarks
Town hall meeting	Airai	Nov. 2, 2021	22	
Water & Vector training	Airai	Nov. 4 – 5, 2021	34	
Town Hall meeting	Aimeliik	Nov. 9, 2021	33	
Water & Vector-borne training	Aimeliik	Nov. 11-12, 2021	46	
Town hall meeting	Ngardmau	Nov. 16, 2021	21	
Water & Vector-borne training	Ngardmau	Nov. 18, 2021	35	
Town hall meeting	Ngatpang	Nov. 30, 2021	38	Ngatpang Governor invited Students to attend the town hall meeting provided with transportation support (school bus)
Water & Vector-borne training	Ngatpang	Dec. 2, 2021	9	Few attendees participated due

				to customery event (funeral)
Town hall meeting	Ngermlengui	Dec. 7, 2021	24	
Water & Vector-borne training	Ngermlengui	Dec. 9, 2021	16	
Total			278	

1. There were total of 278 men and women who participated and benefited from SUPA-Water & Vector-borne diseases training and town hall meetings.
2. Out of 278 participants there were 114 female participants.
3. Ngatpang town hall meeting has the highest number of audience including students.
4. There were quite few participants for water & vector training on Dec. 2, 2021 at Ngatpang state due to funeral/customary activities on that day.

Final report summarising and quantifying all the activities conducted to include:

- Summary of water and vector-borne training
  - Vector-borne diseases i.e. dengue fever and leptospirosis is a recurrent environmental related disease due to poor water, sanitation and hygiene. This further enhanced by weather conditions especially after a disaster i.e. typhoon, drought, flood and excessive rainfall. This project brought together technical experts from all relevant agency to identify environmental indicators known to cause these diseases and develop a plan to mitigate them. Our primary objective was to educate and raise community awareness on vector borne diseases and for them to learn how to response as an individual family and as a community against vector-borne diseases.
  - The Division of Environmental Health Developed vector-borne prevention training using a model called "M-RIP Concept".
  - M – Massive: Each individual need to create a mind-set that Aedes mosquito is an enemy, so we need a Massive action from each and every member from the community to at least check around the house at once a week for breeding sites and eliminate them.
  - R – Repetitive: The action of cleaning for breeding sites around the house need to be REPEATED every single week without fail
  - I – Intense: following the routine clean up around the house every week, each members of the community needs to take an INTENSE action when they identify the mosquito breeding sites problem around the neighbourhood, i.e. Community Clean Up.
  - P – PERSISTENCE (individual/community); Combine all the efforts of solving the mosquito breeding sites problem and this new mind setting or attitude needs to be PERSISTENCE, so the action will keep continue in the community over and over again. This practice will ultimately prevent/lower the chances of dengue outbreak in the community

The M-RIP concept is a cost effective tool that anyone can learn and apply at home. It's simple but require consistency and behavioural change as well. Aside from natural disaster that contributes to environmental hazards and health impact, a community needs to be mindful of man-made pollution. Because that alone can lead to environmental nuisance and threat human health.

According to community's feedback, shows that the community agrees that the method works and knowledge behind this model is traditionally practiced.

Water born training:

Most of this communities relies their water source from rainwater catchment system. This system is beneficial at those areas that do not have access to public water system as well as sewage system. The outcome of this training was to:

1. Maintain healthy rain water catchment system
2. Test and treat water before use

There were total of 140 participants who attended water & vector-borne training. For water specifically, the participants were able to do hands-on exercise on:

1. Assess quality of water
2. Collect sample for testing
3. Operate rapid water test kits
4. Obtain results
5. Treat water with Clorox
6. Know when water is ready to use – Timing

Another important lessons were maintaining healthy rain water catchment system. Although this knowledge is traditionally practiced, it was also important to note that condition of house roofing, cutters, and water filters plays role in water contamination. Water tanks also a potential breeding sites for mosquito and other microorganism if tanks are not properly covered.

- Challenges
  - Cultural events i.e. funeral and other traditional activities
  - Weather condition
  - COVID pandemic

- Lessons learnt
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- An evaluation of the outreach, training, and monitoring activities.

Town Hall meetings: Total attendees: 138

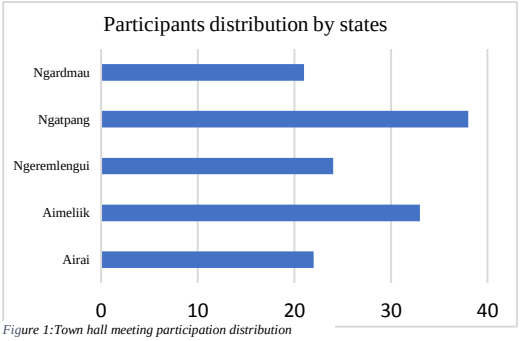


Figure 1:Town hall meeting participation distribution

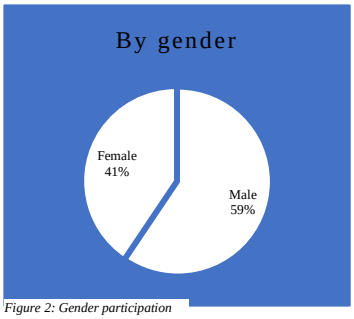


Figure 2: Gender participation

The overall success of the SUPA-Water and Vector-borne diseases town hall meeting was evaluated by the following points:

1. Radio Announcement: Most participants learned about the project meeting through Radio Announcement
2. Most participants rated the meeting venue and arrangement as “Good”.

3. Most participants rated water & vector-borne diseases as a primary health concern due to poor sanitation, water & hygiene
4. Most participants learned that climate change plays a role in environmental vectors i.e. surge of mosquito population.
5. Most participants rate the outreach as "Very Useful"

Water & Vector-borne Training – total attendees: 140

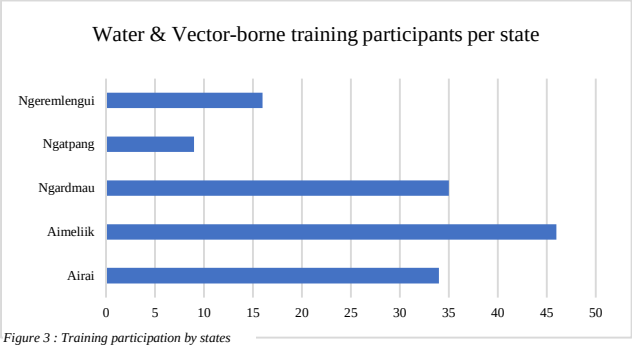


Figure 3 : Training participation by states

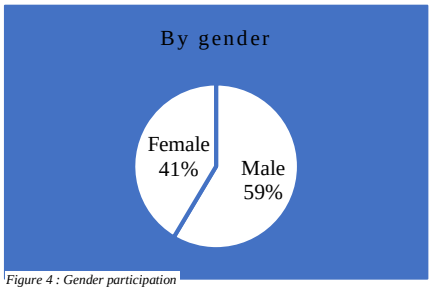
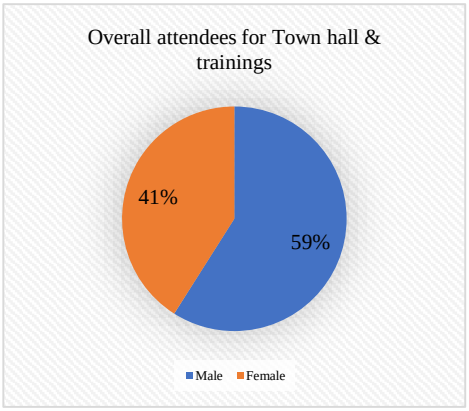


Figure 4 : Gender participation



Training Feedback through evaluation:

1. Most participants rated "good" for training aids i.e. PowerPoint presentation, brochures, interactive lesson & field activity
2. Most participants rate "good" for sequence of training content
3. Most participants rated "very useful" for information on water & vector-borne training
4. Most participants rated "important" for M-RIP Model is everyday/week practice
5. Most participants demonstrate "good" for performance on water assessment, testing, & treating water

Attachments and photos:

Figure 3: Ngermlengui State Training

Figure 4: Ngatpang State Training

Figure 6: Mosquito collection & surveillance