



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Water Is Everyone's Business Community Engagement - Solomon Islands

DECEMBER 2021



Research Organisations



CSO Partners



With the support of



Visit our [website](http://www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm)
www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the research communities that have contributed to the PaCWaM research project, as well staff from Live & Learn Solomon Islands, Plan International Solomon Islands & Australia, the Ministry of Health (RWASH) and Department of Water Resources who all provided input to the development of this guide.

Suggested citation

Love, M., Hagabore, J., Benjamin, C., Beal, C., Bugoro, H., Panda, N, and Souter, R.T. (2021) Pacific Community Water Management – Water is everyone's Business in Solomon Islands – Implementation Guide International WaterCentre at Griffith University.

Cover image D. Gonzalez, International WaterCentre

Contents

Overview of <i>Water is Everyone's Business - Community engagement activity</i>	4
Who is this Implementation Guide for?	4
Purpose of <i>Water is Everyone's Business</i>	4
How to use this Implementation Guide	4
Background.....	5
Workshop - Water is everyone's Business.....	5
Water is Everyone's Business Community Workshop	6
Further reading	7
Appendix 1: Water is everyone's business flyer	8

Overview of *Water is Everyone's Business* - Community engagement activity

The International WaterCentre (IWC) at Griffith University, in partnership with the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), have prepared this Implementation Guide for implementing the *Water is Everyone's Business* community workshop, for rural communities in the Solomon Islands.

WHO IS THIS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR?

This Implementation Guide provides a "how to" for community engagement or WASH field officers from CSOs, governments, utilities, or any other organisation supporting rural community water management, to undertake the *Water is Everyone's Business* community engagement activity.

It can also be used by WASH programmers when designing water supply or WASH community projects.

PURPOSE OF *WATER IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS*

Research conducted by IWC, USP and SINU, in Fiji and Solomon Islands, has indicated that the water systems of rural communities cannot be managed by the Water/WASH Committee alone – that the actions of everyone in the village affect the water system for everyone. Collective action means a group of people – in this case, all the residents and visitors using a village water system – working together towards a common goal – water security. That research formed the basis of *Water is Everyone's Business*.

The *Water is Everyone's Business* workshop is designed to motivate community members to take actions to look after the water systems and contribute to water security. The workshop, involving video stories, is focused more on motivating action, rather than explaining actions that can be taken. Most of these are not complex, and there is a good awareness of many actions that can be taken by all water users. Some ideas for individual or household water actions are included, but the focus is more on motivation to undertake action.

The videos comprise stories from interviews with Solomon islanders from rural villages, about their ideas and opinions on community water management. The videos are designed to share the voices of other people facing similar situations, with a focus on the benefits of taking action, rather than waiting for outside help.

HOW TO USE THIS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

This guide contains the steps required for planning and conducting *Water is Everyone's Business* community activity.

This activity involves showing 3 short videos, with some community discussion. This guide includes ideas for discussion prompts to best provoke interest and thinking about collective action for water. This guide is separate, but related to the *Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities* guide – which described a series of activities to be undertaken with the Water/WASH Committee.

***Water is Everyone's Business* should be incorporated into a broader set of community engagement activities.** It is designed to complement approaches such as Community-based Water Security Improvement (CWSIP), or RWASH's guides for community engagement, including the "WASH Committee Manual: A 'how to' manual to be used by WASH Committees".

Community facilitators should decide on an appropriate time during their larger engagement process to use these video tools, and who in the community to display and discuss them with. Every community is different, and facilitators should adjust their activities to suit the community situation.

The 3 videos can also be distributed to community members for sharing amongst each other – they are designed to be short enough to be easily transferred.

BACKGROUND

Community-based water management is the dominant water service model in the Solomon Islands and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. And, good community-based water management is necessary for communities to achieve good WASH services: water supplies, sanitation and hygiene practices that are safe and sustainable.

Good community water management, supporting reliable, safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable water supply, requires all water users - community members and visitors - to work together to look after their water systems.

Everyone in the community has a role to play. Water is everyone's business.

Collective action is most influenced by the social cohesion and relationships within the village, and village leaders also have an important influence. However, enabling actors such as Governments, CSOs and utilities can provide some encouragement and support to communities, raising awareness of their responsibilities as water users.

These videos, made from interviews with Solomon Islanders about their opinions and attitudes toward community water management, are designed to promote discussion and thinking about water management. A key message is that water management is not just the role of a Water/WASH committee or a select few people, but that everyone has a role to play in ensuring a good, safe and reliable water supply. Additionally, the videos and discussion are also designed to help people recognise that a diversity of people are required to keep a water supply system going and that women and young people, in particular, should play a strong role in Committee's that manage the water or WASH systems.

WORKSHOP - WATER IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Activities: Conduct the workshop as described below. It involves watching the 3 short videos, pausing after each video and facilitating a brief discussion based on the questions below.

Purpose: To motivate interest amongst community members in meeting their responsibilities to manage community water, and to provide some awareness about actions they can take.

Participants from Communities: everyone in the village is welcome, and the workshop should be held at a time and place that allows most people to access and participate.

Preparation:

- Video projector, computer and, sheet for a screen, audio speaker (everything charged)
- Copy of the video “*Water is everyone's business*” videos stored on the computer or a USB (videos can be obtained from iwc@griffithedu.au, or viewed on the webpage: www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm:
 - Water is everyone's business [3:42 min].
 - Youth and Water [3:15min]
 - Women and Water [2:26min]
- Copies of the flyer, “Water is everyone's business”, which may be useful in discussing actions everybody can take.
- Venue – try to conduct activity in a place where there is shade, or the evening (so the image is clearly visible on the screen)

Timeframe: 30-45 minutes

WATER IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

THE FACILITATOR SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF PLAYING AND PAUSING THE VIDEO (AND ASKING THE QUESTIONS).

1. FACILITATOR TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY (SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION)

- *We want to share some stories, some videos and messages about community water management that have come from other communities in the Solomon Islands. Some communities are very strong in managing their water systems, with everyone in the community taking responsibility to play their part.*
- *These videos were made by SINU and International WaterCentre in two communities – one in Malaita, and another in Isabel. These villages participated in the PaCWaM research project on good community water management. After the research, these two communities were identified as having amongst the best water management systems.*
- *SINU interviewed water committee members and members of the community, including women and youth. They were not told what to say; simply asked questions. Their responses have been edited and are presented in this 30-minute video.*

2. FACILITATOR TO PLAY THE VIDEOS

AT THE END OF EACH SHORT VIDEO, TRY TO STIMULATE SOME DISCUSSION – A BRIEF "TOK STORI" – ON THE KEY POINTS RAISED IN THE VIDEOS. FACILITATORS SHOULD ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AMONGST COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE AS LONG AS IT IS USEFUL AND RESPECTFUL.

SOME QUESTIONS FACILITATORS CAN USE TO START A DISCUSSION ARE LISTED BELOW EACH VIDEO.

I. "WATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS" (SHORT VERSION) [3:42 MIN]

- What do you think about the comments made by the people in this video?
- Is water everybody's business in this village?
- Do you think it is important that water is everybody's business?
- What are some actions everybody could take to make the water system stronger? Does everybody know what they should do?

AFTER THIS VIDEO, YOU MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO SHARE THE POSTER/FLYER "WATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS" WHICH IDENTIFIES SOME ACTIONS THAT EVERYONE CAN TAKE TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY WATER MANAGEMENT.

Some examples include:

- Every house paying the water fee or voluntary contributions to fundraising for water management activities
- Reporting broken taps to the water committee
- Household cleaning the tap stand; helping clean the dam; cleaning their water tank
- Household fixing the tap stand (or paying for the tap stand to be fixed)
- Joining the Water Committee because "water is life"
- Helping other people get water
- Using less water where possible and saving drinking water for non-drinking water purposes
- Voluntary support towards technical operations

II. "YOUTH AND WATER" [3:15MIN]

- What do you think of people's comments in this video?
- Are young people involved in water management in this village here?
- Should they be more involved?
- If yes, what can the community do to make this possible? What are the reasons youth are not involved enough?

III. "WOMEN AND WATER" [2:26MIN]

- Are women actively engaged in water management in this village here?
- What do you think of people's comments in this video?
- Should they be more involved?
- If yes, what can the community do to make this possible? What are the reasons women are not involved enough?

The "WATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS" videos can be obtained from iwc@griffithedu.au, or viewed on the webpage: www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm

FURTHER READING

Love, M., Souter, R., Gonzalez Botero, D., Pene, S., and Beal C., 2021. Pacific Community Water Management Plus: Phase 1 Findings Report for Fiji. International WaterCentre, Griffith University. Nathan: Australia. Available at: https://www.watercentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PaCWaM-Fiji-Country-Report_FINAL.pdf

Love, M., Beal, C., Gonzalez-Botero, D., Bugoro, H., Panda, N., Roiko, A., Benjamin, C., Hagabore, J., Ooi, J., Magreth, C., and Souter, R.T. 2020. Pacific Community Water Management Plus: Phase 1 Findings Report for Solomon Islands. International WaterCentre / Griffith University: Brisbane, Australia; Solomon Islands National University: Honiara, Solomon Islands. https://www.watercentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PaCWaM-Sol-Is-Country-Report_FINAL.pdf

Love, M.W., Beal, C., Gonzalez, D., Hagabore, J., Benjamin, C., Bugoro, H., Panda, N., O'oi, J., Offer, C. and Souter, R., Forthcoming. Challenges and opportunities with social inclusion and community-based water management in Solomon Islands. Development Policy Review. [published online and citable]: <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12597>

Love, M., Hababore, J., Beal, C., Pene, S., Panda, N., Bugoro, H., Ravai, A., Shrestha, S., Ruuska, D., Benjamin, C., Trina, P., Kalea, K., Funubo, S., Tanabose, L., and Souter R.T. 2021. Backstopping Rural Community Water Management - Lessons From Solomon Islands and Fiji. Practice & Research Brief. December, 2021. International WaterCentre / Griffith University: Brisbane, Australia; Solomon Islands National University: Honiara, Solomon Islands. Available at: www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm

The PaCWaM+ research project has produced a range of implementation guides and resources to support Pacific Community Water Management Plus, which are freely available from the PaCWaM+ webpage: www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm. These include

- **“Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities in Fiji” – Implementation Guide**
- **“Water is Everyone’s Business” poster** – Fiji (Fijian and English versions)
- **“Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities in Solomon Islands” – Implementation Guide.**
Including associated resources:
 - o **Video “Strong Water Committees – Strong WASH Communities”** - standalone copies can be obtained from iwc@griffith.edu.au (with or without English subtitles), or viewed on the webpage: www.watercentre.org/research/pcwm
- **“Water is Everyone’s Business – Community workshop in Solomon Islands” – Implementation Guide.**
Including associated resources
 - o **Video: Water is everyone's business**
 - o **Video: Youth and Water**
 - o **Video: Women and Water**
 - o **Poster: Water is Everyone’s Business**
- **“Water Committee Backstopping in Solomon Islands and Fiji” – Implementation Guide**
- **Supplementary activities for Drinking Water and Security Planning (DWSSP) in Fiji - Implementation guide**
- **Community-based Water Security Improvement Planning – Solomon islands – implementation guide (3 volumes)**

APPENDIX 1: WATER IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS FLYER

(FOLLOWING PAGE)



Water is everyone's business!

In my water-smart family we...



- ✓ Wash my hands and my children's hands before collecting or handling drinking water



- ✓ Store my drinking water in a container with a lid
- ✗ Don't let people dip their hands or cups into the water



- ✓ Wash my water containers with soap or bleach once a week, or leave in sun




- ✓ Save drinking water for drinking and cooking and use other water for washing and cleaning



- ✓ Keep animals fenced in so they can't touch taps or water source



- ✓ Contribute to community actions to maintain the water system
- ✓ Help pay for the repairs
- ✓ Help clean out the system



- ✓ Fix leaking taps, or ask the water committee for help

