Projects and ActivitiesThu Mar 28 05:45:18 HST 2024

Name	Impact of Climate Change and Variability on Water Resources in the Outer Islands of Kiribati
Capability Area: Impacts/Adaptations	- Understanding Climate Impacts and Informing Adaptation - Climate Adaptation - Training and Capacity Building, Education, Outreach - Best Practices/Guidance - Policies and Legislation - Assessment and Evaluation
Sectors	- Public Health and Safety - Fresh Water Resources - Community Planning and Development
Status	- Ongoing
Focus Area	- Fresh Water Resources and Drought
Regions	- South Pacific - Kiribati
Description	Together with SPREP, USAID seeks to improve the ability of communities in the outer islands of Kiribati to address the impact of climate change and variability on water resources, including through increasing the capacity for rainwater harvesting and storage and enhancing existing ground wells (e.g., through better surfacing, water quality monitoring to shut down pumps at certain levels of contamination, etc.). Kiribati is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with few natural resources. A ground water lens exists on the atolls and is the main source of potable water for the majority of people on the outer islands. Climate change will affect rainfall and width of the land through erosion and accretion, which will in turn affect the availability of the fresh water lens. The government of Kiribati identified in its 2007 National Adaptation Programme of Action water, and specifically well improvement, as one of nine key areas for adaptation implementation. The program will respond to this urgent and immediate need. It will also provide training and technical assistance to the Health Ministry, which has recognized the importance of adaptation and its own lack of capacity on this issue, to integrate adaptation into national health planning and policies.

Objectives/Outcomes	Main elements of the strategy include: 1) Training communities in Kiribati on vulnerability assessments, disaster risk reduction, and identification and prioritization of adaptation and risk reduction strategies and activities; 2) Identifying and assessing with communities cost-benefits of options for adaptation and risk reduction; 3) Working with communities, technicians, and service providers to implement adaptation and risk reduction measures, such as improving the capacity for rainwater harvesting and storage and enhancing underground water wells to increase their resilience to storm surges and run-off through better surfacing, water quality monitoring, etc.; and 4) Training environmental health officials at the Ministry of Health in Kiribati on climate variability and change.
Lead Agencies	USAID, SPREP
Partnering Agencies	Communities, technicians, and service providers in Kiribati, as well as health officials in the Ministry of Health
Required Resources	1.15 million USD
Projected Timelines	2 years