

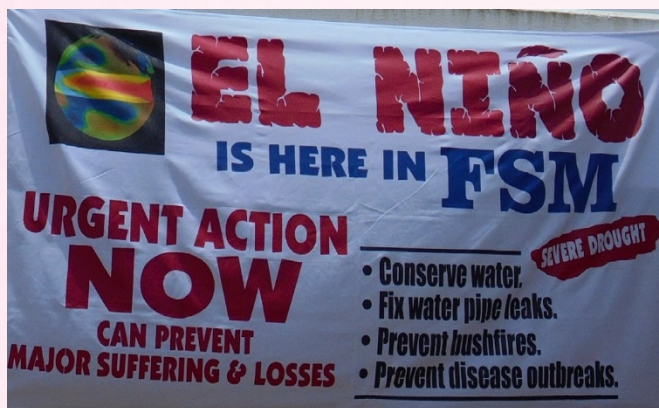


Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project

Communities securing food and water ahead of drought



Left: Responses to the 2015-2016 El Niño drought in FSM; right: temporary water collection point at RMI (Photo: Marshall Islands Journal)

About

The European Union (EU) – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project is about communities working to secure food and water resources ahead of drought. The three-year (July 2017 – November 2020) project is funded with € 4.5 million from the EU and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the governments and peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau.

Background

Following the declarations of emergency by the FSM, RMI and Palau at the beginning of 2016, and by other affected countries around the world, the European Union (EU) responded with a “Pro-Resilience – Special Measure” to assist the affected populations. The EU – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project is one component of this Special Measure, which was signed on 3 November 2016.

Key outputs

- Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience
- Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building in water and food security and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands
- Planning and technical measures to support readiness for future El Niño events

Approach

Using an integrated approach that applies participatory planning, multi-media communications, gender-sensitive and rights based processes to the interlinked food and water security sectors, all levels of government, civil society and communities are contributing to the RENI project. Collaboration and partnerships with other organisations and programmes are also part of the approach.

ADDRESSING DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK – NORTH PACIFIC

Countries selected a sector, either food security or water security, and then identified the local areas for project activities. Local area communities reviewed the coping mechanisms adopted during past droughts and discussed ways to enhance resilience for future droughts. This information formed the basis for planning project activities. Once detailed designs and costs were prepared, the activities are implemented using a gender-sensitive, rights based approach, and taking into account the needs of all stakeholders – women, men, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.



In **FSM**, water security in Kapingamarangi in Pohnpei State and Yap Proper in Yap State have been selected. In Kapingamarangi, a remote atoll near the equator, community rainwater catchments will be refurbished and replaced, while In Yap Proper abandoned community water systems e.g. wells, will be refurbished so as to provide “point water sources” during drought for community as well as people living in other areas of Yap Proper. The sites are all near the capital Colonia.

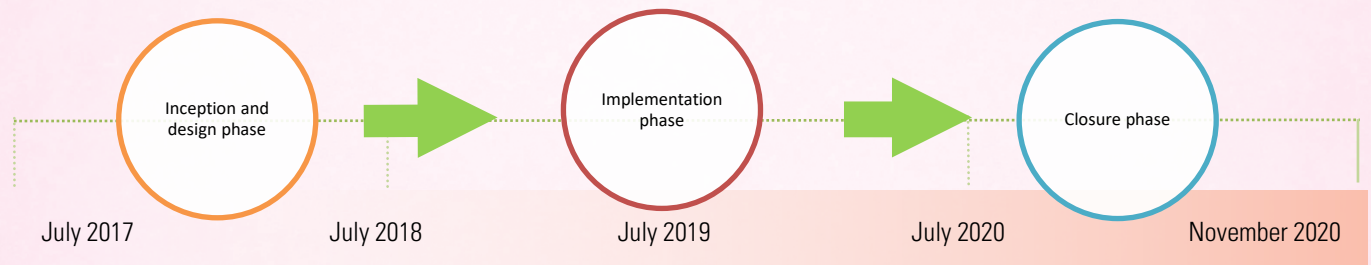


In **RMI**, food security in two remote, drought prone, northern atolls, Ailuk, a rural environment, and Santo-Kwajalein, a semi-urban environment has been selected. Food security measures include increasing the availability of local food crops, especially more drought resilient crops, improving soil management practices, and establishing nurseries. Women especially will be involved in home gardening and trained in food preservation methods. Local area disaster management plans will also be prepared.



In **Palau** emergency water security storage measures will be constructed near rivers in two states, Aimeliik and Ngatpang, both of which are near the centres of population in Koror and Airaii. These water storage facilities will be available all year to the nearby communities as well as to people living in other areas. The purchase of water tanker trucks will facilitate the delivery of water during droughts to vulnerable persons such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

Schedule of activities



Regional frameworks and partners

The RENI outputs and outcomes will contribute to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (FRDP), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2: zero hunger, Goal 6: clean water and sanitation and Goal 13: climate action.

