



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

Communities securing food and water ahead of drought



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

An integrated approach, which applies participatory planning, multi-media communications, gender-sensitive and rights-based processes to the interlinked food and water security sectors, has been applied throughout. National and local government, civil society and communities are the key implementing partners as well as being the beneficiaries of the RENI project. Collaboration with regional and international organisations has also been integral.

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 considering the needs of all stakeholders – women, men, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

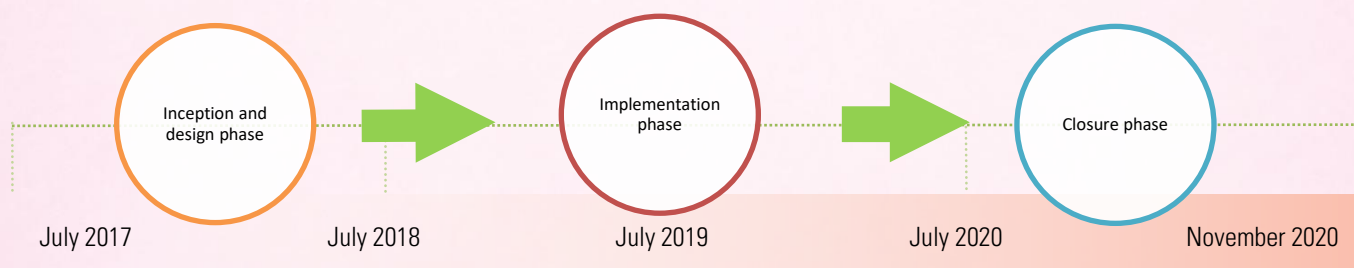


In **Palau**, water security was selected, with a focus on providing additional water storage for use during drought. Hydrological assessments of the Tabecheding River, Ngatpang State, and the Ngerderar River, Ameliik State were conducted. The Tabecheding River was selected as the most suitable system for the supply of water during droughts. Following preliminary design of a water extraction and storage system an environmental assessment was conducted of the Tabecheding River, which demonstrated its suitability for purpose with minor environmental impact. Final engineering designs were prepared for a Tabecheding water extraction and storage system. The project also supported education and awareness activities during National Preparedness month, held in September 2018 and in 2019.

In **FSM**, water security in Kapingamarangi in Pohnpei State and Yap Proper in Yap State was selected. In Kapingamarangi, a very remote atoll near the equator, the focus has been on securing water resources for the most vulnerable: the elderly, the sick and the youth. In Yap Proper, rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in four communities and ecological purification systems in two communities. A hydrogeological assessment of the main underground water resource, the Tomil Gagil aquifer, has been conducted and this together with regular monitoring is helping Yap water authorities meet water demand during normal rainfall conditions and during drought. Support has been provided to women's groups for education and awareness activities centred around water conservation.

In **RMI**, food security in two remote, drought prone, northern atolls, Ailuk, a rural environment, and Santo-Kwajalein, a semi-urban environment was selected. An integrated approach was adopted combining food security measures with healthy lifestyles and focusing on the most vulnerable people: women and youth. The availability of local food crops has been increased, plant nurseries and home gardens established, and training provided in soil management practices and pest control. With the help of local organisations, a "garden to plate" concept has been introduced combined with regular exercise and health checks to enhance overall wellness. A local area disaster management plan for Ailuk has been prepared together with a model plan for use by the other atolls.

Schedule of activities



Regional frameworks and partners

The RENI outputs and outcomes 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.

