

Goal of Approach:

In partnership with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the U.S. Government seeks to improve the ability of outer island communities of Kiribati to increase resilience of water resources. It will address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change by increasing 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.). The partnership 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.

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 the amount of habitable land through erosion and accretion, which will in turn affect the availability of fresh water. The Government of Kiribati identified water in its 2007 National Adaptation Programme of Action, and specifically well improvement, as one of nine key areas for adaptation implementation. The program will respond to this urgent and immediate need.

Input provided by: United States (USAID/Barbados)

Main elements of the implementation strategy

SPREP and USAID seek to strengthen the climate-resilience of water resources among communities in Kiribati. Main elements of the strategy to reduce climate risks include:

- Training communities in Kiribati on vulnerability assessments, disaster risk reduction, and identification and prioritization of adaptation and risk reduction strategies and activities.
- Identifying and assessing with communities cost-benefits of options for adaptation and risk reduction.
- 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.
- Training environmental health officials at the Ministry of Health in Kiribati on climate variability and change.
- Providing technical assistance to environmental health officials at the Ministry of Health as they integrate adaptation into national health policies and planning.

Targeted beneficiaries

Communities, technicians, and service providers in Kiribati, as well as Ministry of Health officials.

Any significant lessons learned**Resource requirements**

\$2 million through 2015.

Potential for replication or scaling-up

Any additional information