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USAID Safe Water QUARTERLY REPORT

First Quarter (Year 3: Oct – Dec 2021)

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMRB	Buayan-Malungon River Basin
CENRO	City Environment and Natural Resources Office(r)
CMS	Central Management System
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DBP	Development Bank of the Philippines
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EGS	Ecosystem Goods and Services
ELCAC	End Local Communist Armed Conflict
EO	Executive Order
EPF	Environmental Protection Fee
FALGU	Financial Assistance to LGUs
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
GAD	Gender and Development
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEF	Growth Equity Fund
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GFI	Geoscience Foundation, Inc.
GFI	Government Financing Institution
GFPS	GAD Focal Point System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPB	GAD Planning and Budgeting
GSCWD	General Santos City Water District
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPS	Indo Pacific Strategies
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Plan
JVA	Joint Venture Agreement
LBP	Land Bank of the Philippines
LGU	Local Government Unit
LWCP	LGU Watershed Conservation Plan
LWUA	Local Water Utilities Administration
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MENRO	Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office(r)
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MO	Manila Observatory
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUAD	Multi-stakeholder Alliance for Development
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NG	National Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations

NRW	Non-Revenue Water
NWRB	National Water Resources Board
OBA-BF	Output-based Aid Blended Finance
PAWD	Philippine Association of Water Districts
PBSP	Philippine Business for Social Progress
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PDRF	Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office(r)
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PPFWR	Palawan Flora and Fauna Watershed Reserve
PGP	Provincial Government of Palawan
PGNO	Provincial Government of Negros Occidental
PhIWC	Philippine Water Challenge
PIIWSF	Provincial Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework
PIWSP	Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans
PIWST	Provincial Integrated Water Security Team
PLGU	Provincial Local Government Unit
PO	People's Organization
POW	Program of Work
PPC	Puerto Princesa City
PPCWD	Puerto Princesa City Water District
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PWSSMP	Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan
SURGE	Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOW	Scope of Work
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
SW	Safe Water/ Safe Water Project
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
TWG	Technical Working Group
URAF	Unified Resource Allocation Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WC	Watershed Council
WD	Water District
WDM	Water Demand Management
WHO	World Health Organization
WMC	Watershed Management Council
WRC	Water Regulatory Commission
WRM	Water Resource Management
WSP	Water Service Provider
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

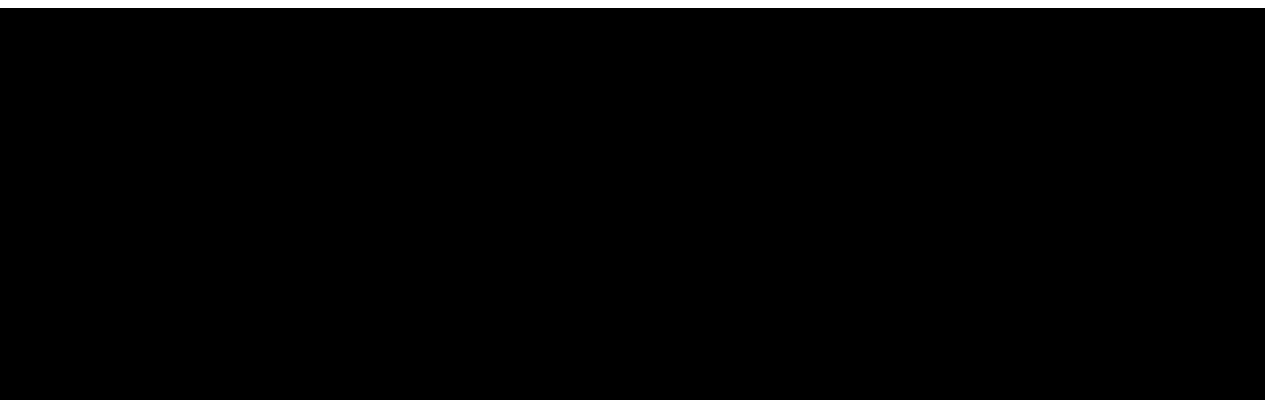
PREFACE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Mission in the Philippines, has contracted DAI Global, LLC (DAI) as the implementing partner for the Safe Water activity under Contract No. 72049220D00002. The effective date of the contract is December 2, 2019 to December 1, 2024. DAI partners with five organizations—Orient Integrated Development Consultants, Inc., Lutheran World Relief, Manila Observatory, Geosciences Foundation Inc., and CEST Inc.

This report describes the accomplishments of the Safe Water project from October to December 2021, the 1st Quarter of its third year of implementation. It also provides a summary of the planned activities for the 2nd quarter ending March 2022.

COVER STORY

MAKING SANITARY TOILETS AFFORDABLE FOR EVERY FILIPINO FAMILY PILOTING INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR SANITATION IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND SARANGANI



Tears of Joy. [REDACTED] broke into tears during household visits to the beneficiaries of an innovative financing scheme that enables poor households to access affordable sanitary toilets. Virgie said, “Thank you so much to USAID, DAI, ASA Philippines and LGU Alabel for helping people like us that are really in need of toilets. Before, it’s been really hard and inconvenient for us who don’t have toilets. If you have diarrhea, it’s just a disaster.”

Every Filipino family desires their own toilet, but many, especially the poor, are constrained by limited financial resources. USAID and DAI through Safe Water, together with partner MFIs Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation and ASA Philippines, and the local governments of Sagay City in Negros Occidental and Alabel in Sarangani piloted the Output-Based Aid and Blended Finance (OBA-BF) as an innovative financing scheme to enable poor households access affordable sanitary toilets.

The OBA-BF program combines public grants with household equity to pay for the full cost of the sanitary toilets. Public grants subsidize a portion of the cost of improved sanitation facilities, and these are complemented with household equity, based on ability to pay and sourced from microfinance loans repaid over a year on average.

“OBA-BF, as designed, is an innovative and creative approach to maximize and mobilize resources for the benefit of the poor,” said USAID Philippines Acting Mission Director Sean Callahan. “Strong local leadership and the power of public-private partnership like what we have here will ensure the sustainability of these resources.”

As a result of the pilot implementation, a total of 100 households in Sagay City and Alabel now have their own sanitary toilets.

USAID and its partners celebrated the completion of the project at ceremonies held in Alabel on December 3, 2021 and Sagay City on December 6, 2021. The Project will roll out this financing scheme to focal sites in Palawan, Negros Occidental, and Sarangani within the life of project. It will also advocate for its adoption by the national government and by other LGUs as well.

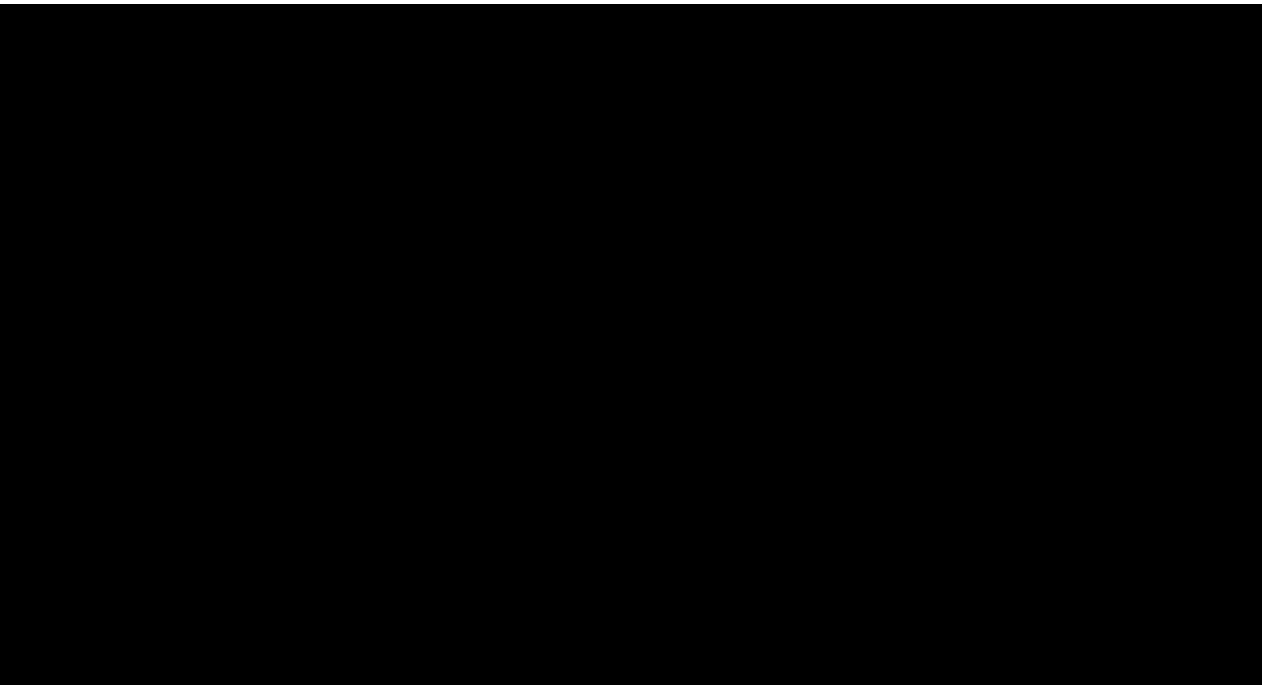
MORE THAN SANITATION

The leveraging of resources in OBA-BF that enables access to sanitary toilets benefits several stakeholders including poor families, LGUs, MFIs, the community, and their environment. Poor families, especially, are able to protect their health, gain dignity of having their own toilet, and empower women members. LGUs' limited funds are used more effectively and MFIs coverage reach more households. Moreover, environmental degradation is prevented, protecting valuable groundwater sources from pollution and contaminants.

PREVENTING WATER-BORNE DISEASES AMONG POOR HOUSEHOLDS

Around 6 million Filipinos do not have access to sanitary toilets and some 4 million still resort to open defecation. This lack of adequate facilities can lead to contamination of freshwater sources, posing risks of water-borne diseases for communities. In fact, groundwater sources for some communities in Alabel are already contaminated with fecal bacteria and pathogens due to lack of proper household sanitation services.

██████████ a Blaan resident of Alabel and OBA-BF beneficiary, shared her worries, saying, “We know we need septic tanks because our groundwater sources are shallow and can be easily contaminated. We would like to avoid illnesses from contaminated drinking water.” Another beneficiary, Loriza Mangalon, emphasized the benefit of OBA-BF on their health saying, “With a sanitary toilet, I can be assured of the protection of my family’s health and well-being.”

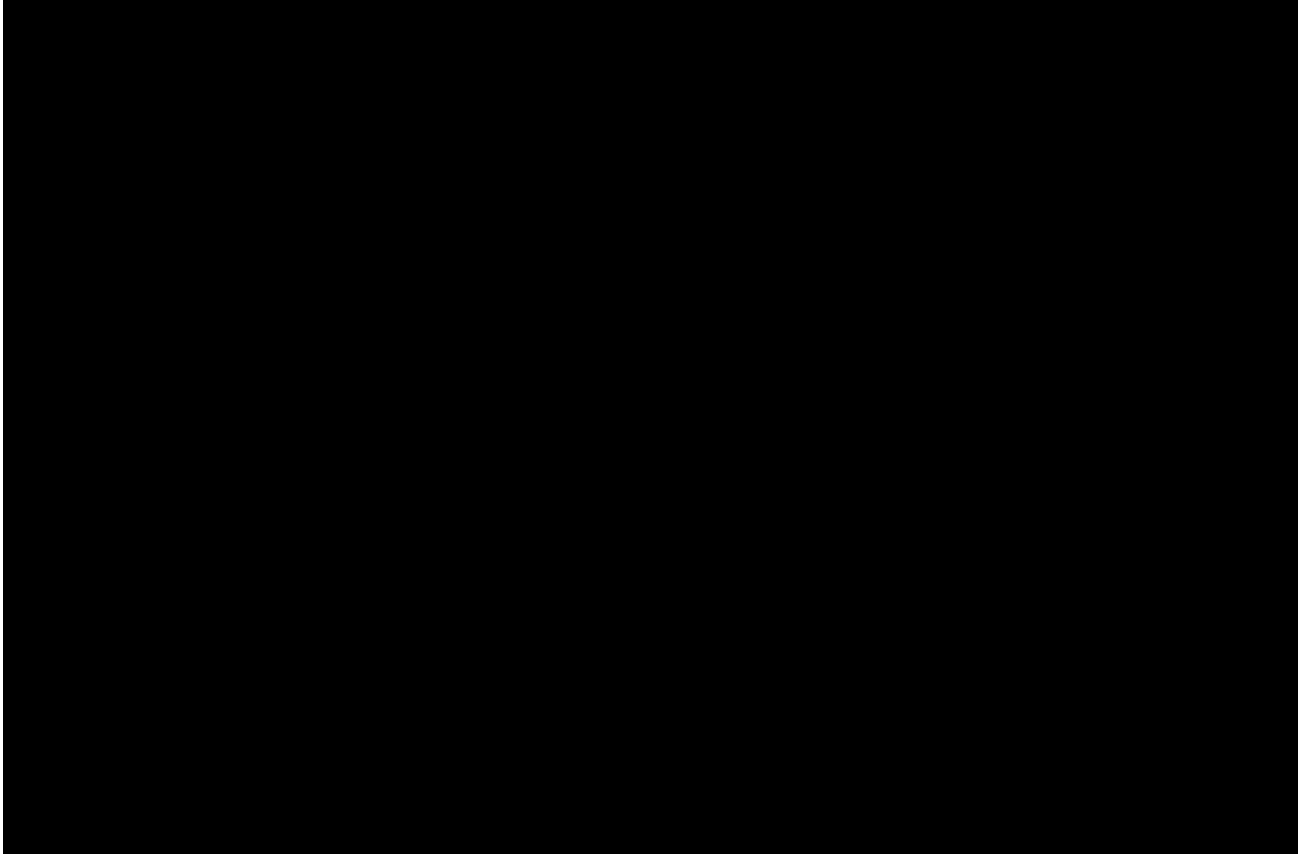


Protecting Children’s Health. ██████████ a Blaan indigenous woman and OBA-BF beneficiary shared, “That’s why we’re very thankful to USAID for this sanitary toilet. We are so happy because now we’ll be able to prevent water-borne diseases especially those that are high-risk for our children.”

PROTECTING A MARINE RESERVE

USAID recognizes the challenges faced by poor coastal communities whose livelihoods and incomes depend mainly on an ecosystem that is vulnerable to water pollution.

Water pollution, due to lack of household sanitation, endangers the Sagay Marine Reserve. One of the most important ecosystems in the Marine Reserve is the Suyac Mangrove Eco-Park. It is the community-based eco-tourism program that provides tourism livelihoods to women like Cristela Bacruya.



Protecting Women’s Ecotourism Livelihoods. [REDACTED] a member of the Suyac Island Ecotourism Association and an OBA-BF beneficiary in Sagay City, Negros Occidental. [REDACTED] shares, “this project is indeed of great help to us by protecting the island’s ecotourism and ensuring continuity of our livelihood. Through this sanitation project, we can continuously maintain the cleanliness of the seas and protect our coastal communities.”

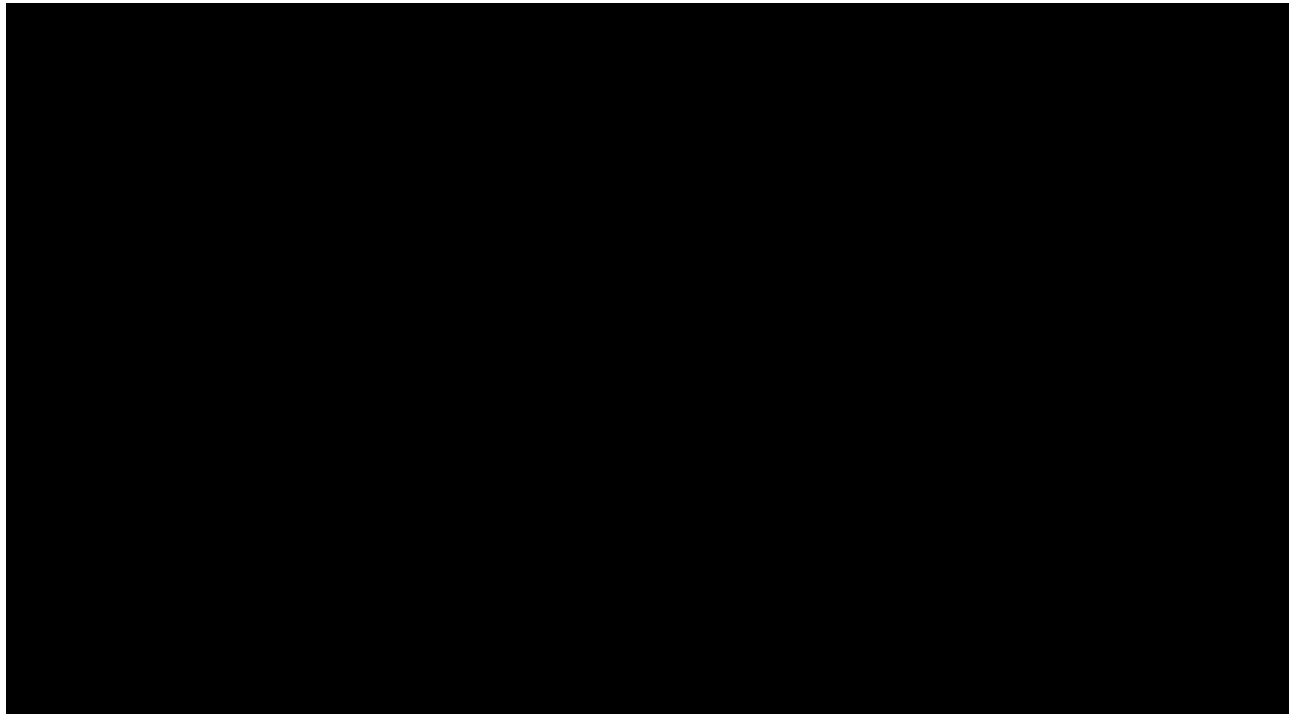
"There are still a lot of poor households without sanitary toilets. Financing and tight spaces constrain the construction of sanitary toilets. If this problem continues, we fear that our Eco-Park will be under grave threats or even destroyed," [REDACTED] shared. The OBA-BF pilot activity in Sagay City provides proof of concept that both household sanitation and ecosystems protection can be addressed by this innovative financing scheme.

WOMEN TAKING CHARGE OF HOUSEHOLD SANITATION THROUGH OBA-BF

Having the biggest need for convenience and privacy, and even security in using toilets, the decisions of women and girls related to sanitation are of critical importance. However, women are often precluded from the decision-making that would influence where and how safely managed sanitation services are provided. Water supply and sanitation (WSS) facilities are mostly planned and designed by men, without the input from women and girls often to reflect their unique concerns and/or needs.

The OBA-BF scheme empowers women firsthand. Pilot activities in Negros Occidental and Sarangani provinces were completed with women beneficiaries making decisions on financing, rehabilitation of toilets, and installation of septic tanks on behalf of their households.

While the new sanitary toilets will primarily promote personal security and provide access to female needs, benefits will also accrue to their children and families. Women shared that they are grateful as this will help protect the health of their families and children, maintain the cleanliness of their communities and ecosystems, and sustain the ecotourism livelihoods that support their families.



Recognizing women's roles in household financing. *ASA Philippines President and CEO [REDACTED] shares his message to OBA-BF beneficiaries in a recorded video during the close-out event in Sagay City.*

ASA Philippines President and CEO [REDACTED] adds that, "If we give money to the mother, the fund will be utilized primarily for the benefit of the children and for the rest of the family. If we were to support a family, then it should be through a woman."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the accomplishments of the Safe Water Project for the 1st Quarter (October to December 2021) of its Third Year of implementation. It also provides a summary of the planned activities for the 2nd Quarter of Year 3 (January to March 2022).

Safe Water is the flagship project of USAID in the Philippines for water and sanitation sector development. It is an US\$18 million initiative over a five-year implementation period, from December 2019 to December 2024.

The primary purpose of Safe Water is to improve water security of water-stressed communities in the Philippines. Water security is characterized by: i) increased access of underserved or unserved communities to Safe Water supply and sanitation services; and ii) more sustainable water management of surface and groundwater resources to meet human, economic and ecosystem needs.

The project has three inter-related objectives: increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services; improved water resource management; and strengthened water sector governance.

It operates through offices in Manila and in three focal sites, namely: Puerto Princesa City and Palawan Province, Bacolod City and Negros Occidental Province, and General Santos City and Sarangani Province.

During this reporting period the Safe Water Team (the Team) undertook the following activities, summarized in Table I.

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF YEAR 3 1ST QUARTER KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIVITIES
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water and sanitation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project development assistance to water service providers (WSPs), such as improvement of water treatment facilities, automation of billing and collection systems, surface water bulk supply development, water quality assessment, and construction supervision; • Capacity building for WSPs on operations and maintenance and non-revenue water (NRW) reduction; • Continued assistance to the provincial governments of Negros Occidental and Sarangani in the preparation of their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans; • Briefings for the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and El Nido, Palawan LGU on the pilot implementation of the Central Management System (CMS); • Preparations for the drafting of outline for the CMS Implementation Guide; and • Identification of activities for the Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Catch-up Plan, such as water quality assurance, expansion of assistance in other areas covered by partner MFIs, and collaboration with LWUA on septage management programs.
Objective 2: Improved sustainable management of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued assistance in the formulation of watershed management plans and watershed conservation and rehabilitation plans, including formation of planning teams and Technical Working Groups (TWGs), drafting MOAs and holding stakeholder consultations; • Capacity building for watershed management councils (WMCs) through training on GIS overlay analysis and watershed characterization; • Completion of additional hydrologic studies for 16 out of 60 remaining watersheds in Safe Water sites; • Conduct of training of trainers on Computational Hydrology and Water Resource Management (WRM) for national government agencies, partner LGUs and academe; • Continued negotiations for partnerships with private sector companies to support WRM and sustainable livelihoods; • Implementation of WRM and sustainable livelihoods activities such promotion of vegetable and coffee farming and the establishment of community green farms and nurseries;

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIVITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection for cost-based valuation and cost-revenue analysis to scaling adoption of Payment for Ecosystem Services; and Conduct of training of trainers on Water Demand Management (WDM Level 2) for stakeholders from the water districts, LGUs and academe.
Objective 3: Improved water sector governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of financing for WSS services through monitoring of the national LGU grant programs' Growth Equity Fund (GEF), Financial Assistance to LGUs (FALGU) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) guidelines to assist LGUs access these funds for pipeline WSS projects and technical assistance to LGUs on investment planning and programming; Development of work plan with Water.org to expand demand generation for WASH loans through other MFI partners; Complementation with other development partners' initiatives, such as iWASH planning with UNICEF and DILG, and World Bank support to the implementation of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) and Mandamus ruling Support for the implementation of the PWSSMP and the operationalization of the Unified Resource Allocation Framework (URAF); Technical support to the secretariat of the NEDA-led WSS Network; Completion of OBA-BF pilot implementation in Alabel, Sarangani and Sagay, Negros Occidental; and On-going development of knowledge products such as: CMS Implementation Guide, Updated Ring-Fencing Guide, WDM Trainer's Guide, WRM Financing Strategy Framework, OBA-BF pilot documentation.
Cross-cutting Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Gender and Development (GAD) Planning and Budgeting (GPB) Training series for water districts in Sarangani to implement the Gender Focal Point System and provide support to GAD champions among water districts; Continued promotion of greater diversity among women in WSS and WRM decision-making positions and livelihood opportunities through the newly set-up community-managed savings and credit associations in Palawan, and involvement in OBA-BF pilot activities in Negros Occidental and Sarangani; Continued advocacy activities for gender development through focus group discussions and dissemination of communication products in the Safe Water sites; Communication of project activities to partners and stakeholders and promotion of key project milestones (i.e., Philippine Water Challenge, OBA-BF) through weekly highlights, monthly newsletter, press releases videos and other collaterals; Identification of activities to support NEDA's Communication Plan for the PWSSMP (i.e., creation of PPT library, development of social media materials); Development of enhanced Safe Water web-based M&E system; Revision of MEL Plan to include clarifications on the definitions of outcome indicators 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 and indicators for inclusion in Indo Pacific Strategies (IPS) report; Gathering of baseline data for 17 cities/municipalities identified under Year 2 sites; and Selection and awarding of winners for the first Philippine Water Challenge.

The activities that contributed to targets this quarter are shown in Table 2 (the cumulative achievement on targets is shown in Table 10).

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE QUARTER

INDICATOR		TARGET IN YEAR 3	CONTRIBUTION FROM ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services			
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.1: Number of people gaining access to basic or safely managed drinking water services as a result of U.S. Government (USG) assistance	30,000	814 people gaining access to safely managed drinking water services through loans accessed by households from various Micro Financing Institutions (MFIs) under SW's partnership with Water.org. The WASH loans are used by households to pay for fees to avail water supply connection.
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.2: Number of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic or safely	100,000	209 people gaining access to improved safely managed drinking water services through loans accessed by households from various MFIs. These

	managed drinking water service as a result of USG assistance		WASH loans are used by households for improvements of their existing water supply systems.
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.3: Number of people gaining access to limited or basic or safely managed sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	40,000	11,014 people gaining access to basic sanitation facilities through loans accessed by households from various MFIs. The WASH loans are used by households to build sanitary toilets (with septic tanks)
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.4: Number of people receiving improved sanitation services quality from an existing "limited" or "basic" services as a result of USG assistance	60,000	13,383 people gaining access to improved basic sanitation facilities through loans accessed by households from various MFIs. The WASH loans are used by households (HH) for improving their existing basic sanitation facilities or shift from limited to basic sanitation facilities.
Custom	IR 1.1: Number of WSPs with increased operational, technical, and financial management capacity through Safe Water activities	5	8 WSPs: - Eight (8) WSPs that have already integrated improvement programs on the Business Planning Toolkit redeveloped and introduced by Safe Water (Murcia, La Carlota and Taytay WDs, El Nido, San Vicente, Quezon and Alabel LGU, and Savesegrow Coop.) with Safe Water technical assistance
Custom	IR 1.2: Number of coordination mechanisms institutionalized at the local, watershed, and regional levels through Safe Water activities	4	1 coordination mechanism: Executive Order (EO) issued creating the Central Management System (CMS) Task Force in Alabel
F-Indicator	IR 1.3: Value of new funding mobilized to the water and sanitation sectors (in US\$)	US\$ 17.00 M	US\$ 1.95 million broken down as: US\$ 0.026 million additional funding mobilized for the pilot implementation of OBA-BF in Alabel (Sarangani) and Sagay (Negros Occidental); and US\$ 1.92 million loans accessed by some HHs from Water.org in support of expansion and improvement of access to WSS services in SW sites.
Custom	IR 1.4: Number of feasibility studies, programs of work, and detailed designs developed that enable water supply and sanitation service expansion or improvement as a result of USG assistance	10	3 studies / Program of Works (POWs) , which include (i) San Carlos Water Treatment Plant Study and POW; (ii) Calatrava spring source for upland barangays POW; and (iii) Malogo Cluster surface water bulk supply high-level hydrologic study at proposed intake sites.
Objective 2: Improved Sustainable Management of Water Resources			
F-Indicator	Outcome 2.1: Amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced or avoided (Metric Tons)	225,000	21,029 MT of CO2 GHG emission prevented in Montible watershed (Palawan) through the implementation of community livelihood, forest patrol using the LAWIN forest protection system, and forging partnership with Puerto Princesa Water District to mobilize investments in forest protection and livelihood activities
F-Indicator	IR 2.3: Amount of investment mobilized (in US\$ equivalent) for sustainable landscapes, as supported by USG assistance	US\$ 1,000,000	US\$ 501,144 worth of investment mobilized from the on-going SW's partnership with Conrado - Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation Inc. (CLAFI) assisting various POs with livelihood activities
Objective 3: Strengthened Water Sector Governance			
Custom	O 3.1: Number of policies or plans developed, enhanced, or implemented to promote water security	10	One (1) policy: EO Issued by the City Government of Kabankalan creating their PES-TWG
Cross-cutting			
Custom	CCI: Number of tools, technologies, or measures implemented (WRM and WSS)	9	One (1) tool: Hydrologic Assessment Modules used during the TOT on Computational Hydrology and Water Resource Management. The modules cover

			use and analysis of hydrologic and climate data (e.g., watershed maps, geologic maps, rainfall, temperature and stream data); computation of surface water flows and recharge rates; and identification of recharge zones in a watershed.
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Note: Table does not reflect Safe Water indicators that have no achievements during the quarter

Major activities planned for the 2nd Quarter of Year 3 are:

OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES

1. Carry out the Catch-up Plan on Water Quality Assurance and pressure measurements in coordination with the water utilities.
2. Continue on-going technical assistant on project development for Water Service Providers (WSPs), i.e., improvement of water treatment facilities, surface water bulk supply development, non-revenue water reduction.
3. Continue capacity building for WSPs, focusing on water safety planning, ring-fencing and non-revenue water reduction.
4. Build capacity of pilot LGUs for the establishment of the CMS; and draft CMS Implementation Guidelines.
5. Continue assistance to Negros Occidental and Sarangani Provinces to formulate their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans, i.e., conduct water security assessment workshop and water summit/forum.
6. Implement work plan with Water.org and partner MFIs on financing household water connections and toilet facilities, trainings for demand generation and assistance to select water utilities on automation of billing and collection system.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1. Review and finalize the 60 hydrologic studies being prepared by GFI for the remaining watersheds in Safe Water sites.
2. Finalize task order for Manila Observatory on expanded climate risk assessment in target watersheds within Safe Water covered provinces.
3. Continue negotiation with ECLOF, SEA OIL Foundation, Inc., and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. for possible partnership agreement with Safe Water.
4. Facilitate formation and mobilization of TWGs to gather data for watershed characterization of Year 3 target watersheds in Safe Water sites.
5. Continue assistance for the completion, finalization and approval of Local Watershed Conservation Plans (LWCPs) in 6 municipalities in Sarangani.
6. Continue process of organizing watershed management councils in Malogo and Siguel watersheds and reactivation of Buayan-Malungon River Basin (BMRB), Bago and Palawan Flora and Fauna Watershed Reserve (PFFWR) Management Councils

OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

1. Follow up with supplemental Memorandum of Agreement on the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) – Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) co-financing of water district (WD) projects and endorsement of LWUA projects for financing; and implementation of septage management projects in the Mandamus area.
2. Implement work plan with Water.org to increase demand generation for WASH loans.
3. Monitor utilization of NG budget allocation for WSS investments, including issuance of guidelines to access the GEF, FALGU and ELCAC to assist LGUs to access these funds for their pipeline projects.
4. Review LWUA pipeline and AIPs and budgets for 2022, and map identified WSS projects with potential funding sources.
5. Continue advocacy to scale up the OBA-BF scheme: prepare implementing guidelines for ease in replication.
6. Continue to provide technical support to NEDA in the PWSSMP implementation through monitoring PWSSMP dashboard/key action plans; roll out of the communications and advocacy plan; conduct of WSS Network sessions, among others.
7. Complete the knowledge products in the pipeline such as hydrologic studies, OBA-BF-related reports, WRM financing framework; and continue discussions with academic institutions to formalize knowledge exchange initiative in Safe Water sites.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

1. **Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:** document the Gender Planning and Budgeting Training experiences as the basis for promoting the training series in other sites. Engage other GAD resource persons in the project sites and bolster support for the water sector thru GAD Planning and Budgeting. On training, begin documentation of new best practices in the water sector related to gender-transformative project development.
2. **Communications and Outreach:** inform and update partners and stakeholders on project activities through Weekly Highlights, Monthly Newsletters and other social media submissions. Develop and share success stories and promote key milestones. Begin implementation of the communications plan to support the PWSSMP. Implement awareness campaigns tied to the messaging of #SafeWaterSavesLives and USAID’s 60th anniversary and other international or national celebrations
3. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning:** Roll out Safe Water’s web-based M&E system. Assist the Provincial Water Security Councils and TWGs to develop a results framework of the provincial water security plans of Negros Occidental and Sarangani. Complete baseline data gathering and assessment for the remaining 46 cities and municipalities in the three focal provinces of Safe Water.

I. INTRODUCTION

USAID designed the Safe Water project to assist the Philippine Government to sustain gains made in the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector, address sector gaps, capitalize on the efforts of predecessor water and sanitation-related projects, and expand the scope to include resource management for sustainability of supply—in terms of both quantity and quality. Safe Water will contribute solutions to the following challenges:

1. **Access to Water Supply and Sanitation Services.** Approximately 12.4 million people in the Philippines still lack access to safe drinking water. Throughout the Philippines, there are still 332 waterless municipalities. In each municipality more than 50 percent of households are still in need of access to clean drinking water. According to the 2017 Field Health Service Information System of the Department of Health (DOH), 85.09 percent of the population has access to basic sanitation services but data is not yet available for the percentage of the population with safely managed sanitation services (this definition includes having properly designed septic tanks and wastewater management services). In a preliminary assessment the DOH, working with the World Health Organization (WHO), estimated that less than 20 percent of the population has access to safely managed sanitation services. This is a consequence of poorly designed septic tanks and lack of wastewater management services. Many low-income households still rely on shared or unsanitary toilets (e.g. open pit, drop/hang system); and more than four million people still practice open defecation. Even among those households that have access to improved sanitation, few are connected to sewerage or septage treatment facilities. Existing sewage collection/treatment systems serve only three to five percent of the population. Consequently, a large volume of untreated household wastewater contaminates ground and surface water resources, creating serious public health concerns.
2. **Water Resource Management.** The Philippines has 18 major river basins, 142 critical watersheds and about 24 percent forest cover. While the Philippines has an apparent abundance of water resources, these resources are unevenly distributed and face multiple threats to their ability to supply water on a long-term basis. These threats include the continued degradation of watersheds, poor water resources governance and allocation, and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events caused by climate change.

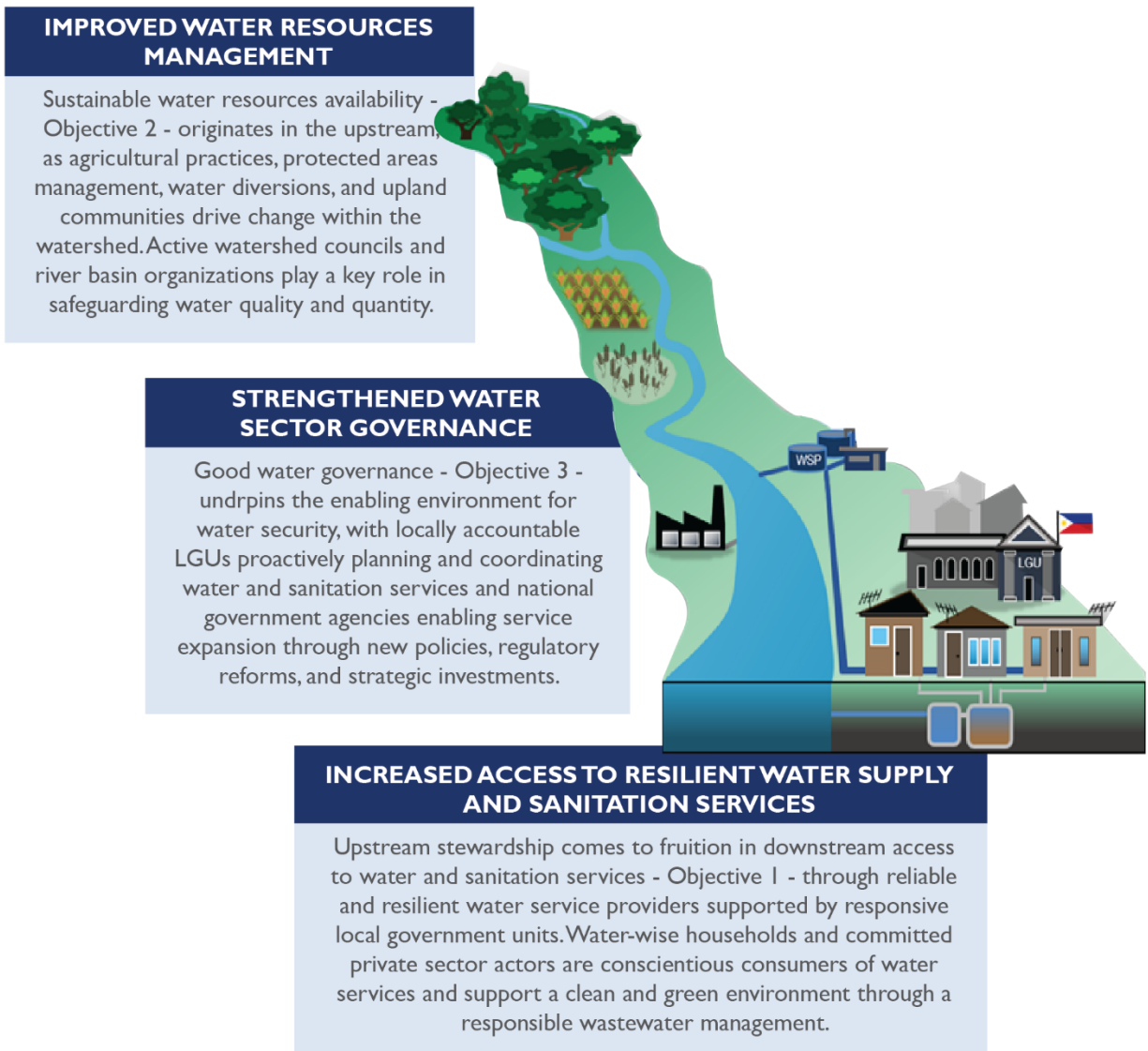
The deteriorating condition of the country's forests and watersheds has exacerbated drought and flood conditions, which now occur with greater frequency, and there is increased competition among agriculture, energy and other sectors for ever-scarcer surface water resources. In response, cities, municipalities and industries have expanded their reliance on groundwater, which is accelerating the depletion of groundwater resources. In many coastal zones, this has led to saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers.

3. **Enabling Environment.** The Philippines' water and sanitation sector is highly fragmented with no apex body. Multiple national and local government institutions are involved in WASH governance and service delivery. Economic regulation (license to operate and tariff setting) is also fragmented and ineffective given conflicts of interest within regulatory bodies due to other mandates. Local government unit (LGU)-run utilities are not regulated and hence are not held accountable for standards of service. The financing requirements needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets for of universal coverage for water supply and sanitation services by 2030 is in the magnitude of PHP 1.3 trillion, 25 times more than historical public investments.

I.1 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The primary purpose of Safe Water is to improve water security of water-stressed communities in the Philippines. Water security is characterized by: i) increased access of underserved or unserved communities to Safe Water supply and sanitation services; and ii) more sustainable water management of surface and groundwater resources to meet human, economic and ecosystem needs.

FIGURE I. SAFE WATER INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE WATER SECURITY FRAMEWORK



The Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework (Figure I) underpins the implementation plan of the project, which revolves around three objectives, as follows: 1) increased access to safe and resilient water supply and sanitation services, thereby contributing to the SDG target of universal coverage by 2030; 2) improved water resources management focusing on protection and conservation of resources, and efficient use of water resources; and 3) strengthened water sector governance, primarily supporting the enactment of policies, regulatory reforms and strategic investments at the national and local government levels.

Safe Water is working in three geographic sites to implement activities related to Objectives 1 and 2. However, the project will move beyond the prioritized areas as successful models and approaches are scaled and sustained through collaboration and communication with water and sanitation service policy makers and service providers, as well as thought leaders at the basin, regional and national levels.

Objective 3 activities are being led from the Manila office of the project. The focus is supporting NEDA’s efforts to lead the implementation of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP), which covers eight key reform areas including institutional strengthening and regulatory reforms, and the new financing policy for the sector embodied in the Unified Resource Allocation Framework (URAF).

I.2 TARGET SITES

Safe Water field activities focus on the following cities and provinces (Figure 2): Puerto Princesa City and Palawan Province; Bacolod City and Negros Occidental Province; and General Santos City and Sarangani Province.

The Team identified the following LGUs (Table 3) and watersheds (Table 4) in the focal sites to be the priority areas in the project’s Year 1 and Year 2 Work Plan. The prioritization was based on access gaps, number of people who will benefit, and economic significance of the LGUs. The Team confirmed the prioritization with stakeholders in various consultations

FIGURE 2. SAFE WATER PROJECT SITES



TABLE 3. SAFE WATER TARGET CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES FOR YEARS 1, 2 AND 3

YEAR	PUERTO PRINCESA CITY AND PALAWAN	BACOLOD CITY AND NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	GENERAL SANTOS CITY AND SARANGANI
Year 1	Four: Puerto Princesa City, Coron, Dumarán and Taytay	Nine: Bacolod City, Bago, Candoni, Isabela, Murcia, San Carlos, Silay, Talisay and Salvador Benedicto	Five: General Santos City (South Cotabato), Alabel, Kiamba, Maasim and Malungon
Year 2	Six: Aborlan, Busuanga, El Nido, Narra, Roxas and San Vicente	Nine: Cadiz, Calatrava, Enrique B. Magalona, Escalante, Manapla, Pulpandan, Sagay, Toboso and Victorias	Two: Glan and Malapatan
Year 3	Fourteen: Agutaya, Araceli, Balabac, Bataraza, Brooke’s Point, Cagayancillo, Cullion, Cuyo, Kalayaan, Linacapan, Magsaysay, Quezon, Rizal, and Sofronio Espanola.	Fourteen: Binalbagan, Cauayan, Himamaylan, Hinigaran, Hinobaan, Ilog, Kabankalan, La Carlota, La Castellana, Moises Padilla, Pontevedra, San Enrique, Sipalay and Valladolid.	One: Maitum

Table covers all cities and municipalities in Safe Water provinces

TABLE 4. SAFE WATER TARGET WATERSHEDS FOR YEARS 1, 2 AND 3

YEAR	PALAWAN	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	SARANGANI
Year 1	Irawan Montible Itangil* Abongan* Lake Manguao*	Bago Malogo Binalbagan*	Buayan-Malungon River Basin Siguel Pange*
Year 2	Aborlan Catchment Busuanga Cataban Malasgao Baton Baton Sandoval Buayan	Sicaba Himugaan Grande	Lun Padidu Lun Masla Glan
Year 3	Quezon Itangil** Aborlan** Lake Manguao**	Ilog-Hilabangan Imbang Himugaan** Binalbagan**	Kalaong Lun Masla** Glan**

*Watersheds that were not previously included as priority for Year 1

** Spillover from Years 1 and 2 due to COVID-related constraints

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS ANALYSIS BY OBJECTIVE

This section presents the key activities and accomplishments of the Safe Water Project in the 1st Quarter of Year 3 (October 1 to December 31, 2021).

2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE I: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

A. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO WSPS

Safe Water is carrying out various technical assistance to LGUs and WSPs on project development covering pre-/feasibility studies and assessments, technical advice, program of works (POW) and access to financing and procurement support.

PALAWAN

Improvement of Water Treatment Facilities: The Team further investigated the condition of the existing water treatment plant of El Nido Waterworks, which is shut down whenever there are heavy rains because of high turbidity of the raw water. During the quarter, the Team studied the as-built drawings of the water treatment plant, and recommended bypass piping schemes to prevent turbid water from getting into the treatment plant, and the installation of turbidity measuring device. The LGUs and the Team earlier found the water treatment facilities built by the provincial government, e.g., Aborlan, Taytay, San Vicente and Narra, to have identical problems which result to the need to clean frequently filter media due to clogging in the textile layer. The Safe Water Treatment Process Specialist will dig deeper into the problem and provide further recommendations for improvement.

Automation of billing and collection system: The Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP) has entered into an agreement with Multisys, Inc., a private company, to provide free cloud-based automated billing and collection system services to 10 water utilities under the management of the Provincial Government. The automated system is customizable per water utilities' requirements. Safe Water and Water.org are assisting PGP and Multisys in facilitating with the WSPs the data migration for the eventual operationalization of the automated system. This upgrade to an automated system will increase billing and collection efficiency of the water utilities, and eventually revenue stream.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Murcia WD surface water bulk supply development: In the previous quarter, Safe Water completed a high-level study for surface bulk water source development for Murcia WD, which is expected to supply both Murcia and Bacolod City. The study assessed the dependable flows of four alternative rivers, namely, Magsungay, Caliban, Puncian and Pula Rivers; conceptualized three source combinations/schemes; and presented a broad estimate of the range of capital investment depending on the source (from the cheapest to the most expensive scheme). On December 2, the Team met with the Management and Board of Murcia WD to discuss possible financing options. Murcia WD requested a financial analysis to give them idea of the loan requirement and the bulk water tariff that will make the project viable. The Team has finalized the capital costs of the alternatives that include engineering services and contingencies, estimated the annual O&M cost, and developed the financial analysis model. The initial results are currently being reviewed by the Team before sharing with Murcia WD.



Automation of billing and collection with Multisys. *Multisys Technologies Corporation headquarters in Parañaque City*

Improvement of existing water treatment plant of San Carlos Waterworks: Safe Water updated and finalized the recommendations to improve the existing water treatment plant of San Carlos City Waterworks following the site validation conducted by the Team on December 2, 2021. The recommendations are reflected in the POW that will address the problem of high turbidity during heavy rains. Among the recommendations are: construction of a pre-sedimentation basin, additional flocculation/clarifier tanks and backwash system. San Carlos City has allocated PHP 15 million for the project and is eager to implement the improvements before the rainy season in 2022.

Assessment of proposed water system for Calatrava: Acting on the request received from Calatrava LGU for the assessment of proposed water system for three upland barangays, the Team submitted a high-level analysis considering the two possible spring water sources identified by the LGU. The Team used the hydrologic study prepared by GFI for Himugaan Watershed, where the proposed sources are located, to determine the dependable flows. The Team presented the findings to Mayor of Calatrava and the management of the waterworks system on November 22, 2021. The high-level study estimated about PHP 40 million for a standard design given the distance of the water sources and the projected beneficiaries. However, the LGU budget for the proposed water system is only around PHP 10 million and the Mayor expressed that they are not keen on getting a loan, despite our explanation that getting the loan is the only way to implement the project in a timely manner. The LGU has no alternative plan to provide the service hence the three barangays will remain unserved indefinitely. Given this decision the Team will hold off from provision of further technical assistance for this project.

Sadly, this situation seems typical among LGUs in the country. They are reticent to leverage their equity with loans, and simultaneously unwilling to raise tariffs to generate more resources for capital investments.

Assessment of water quality of Kabankalan WD: The Team made a follow-up visit to Kabankalan WD on December 2, 2021 to assess a water quality problem with their new well - the flow coming out the well is rusty and flammable when lit. The Team recommended additional physical and chemical tests on certain parameters; however, the WD is already set on procuring water treatment equipment. The Team provided the WD guidelines in assessing the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the water treatment equipment.

Addressing water quality problems of Manapla WD: The Team continued assistance to Manapla WD to address water quality problem of their wells. The Team identified the best options, reviewed the recently-conducted geo-resistivity survey, developed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed well drilling, and reviewed of the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) of the well drilling. The assistance provided will help the WD implement the project efficiently and expediently.

Malogo Cluster surface water bulk supply development: The Team provided the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental with estimates of water flow volumes to substantiate their application from NWRB to extract raw water from Malogo River. This was based on the hydrologic study prepared by GFI for the Malogo Watershed and the preliminary computations from the Team's high-level study on the proposed Malogo Bulk Water Supply to serve the needs of five LGUs: Talisay, Silay, EB Magalona, Victorias and Manapla. The identification of the surface bulk water supply project was in consideration of Safe Water's advice to diversify their sources to address the overdependence of the five municipalities on scarce groundwater sources. The Province plans to lead the development of the project and is currently considering implementing it through a public-private partnership (PPP). The Team is facilitating the complementary assistance of the PPP Center of the Philippines for the project feasibility study and transaction advisory. The promotion of PPP scheme is discussed further under Objective 3. The draft MOU with the PPP Center is under review by the Provincial Government.

The Provincial Government recently got feelers from a private developer of its interest to submit an unsolicited proposal for the project. Regardless if the Province opts for unsolicited mode, PPP Center can still provide technical assistance, review the proposal and guide conduct of the Swiss Challenge.

Construction supervision support Kabankalan WD: The Team will provide construction supervision support for Kabankalan WD's water supply expansion project funded by a PHP 76 million loan from Land Bank. However, the construction is expected to be delayed because of the damages caused by Typhoon Odette (International Name "Typhoon Rai") on December 16-17, 2021. Severe flooding resulted in huge damage to the city and to the facilities of the WD. The Team is still waiting for a detailed assessment of the extent of the damage to water supply facilities.

The Team will also assist the WD in the conduct of a rapid feasibility study of the proposed water supply sub-system to a cluster of upland barangays.

Construction of toilets and septic tanks for poor households in Sagay: Through the OBA-BF pilot implementation using DAI grant funding, Safe Water facilitated the construction of toilets and septic tanks for poor households in Sagay City. The Team recommended the use of Water.org's design for the toilets' superstructure and revised the septic tank design to meet the minimum national standards.



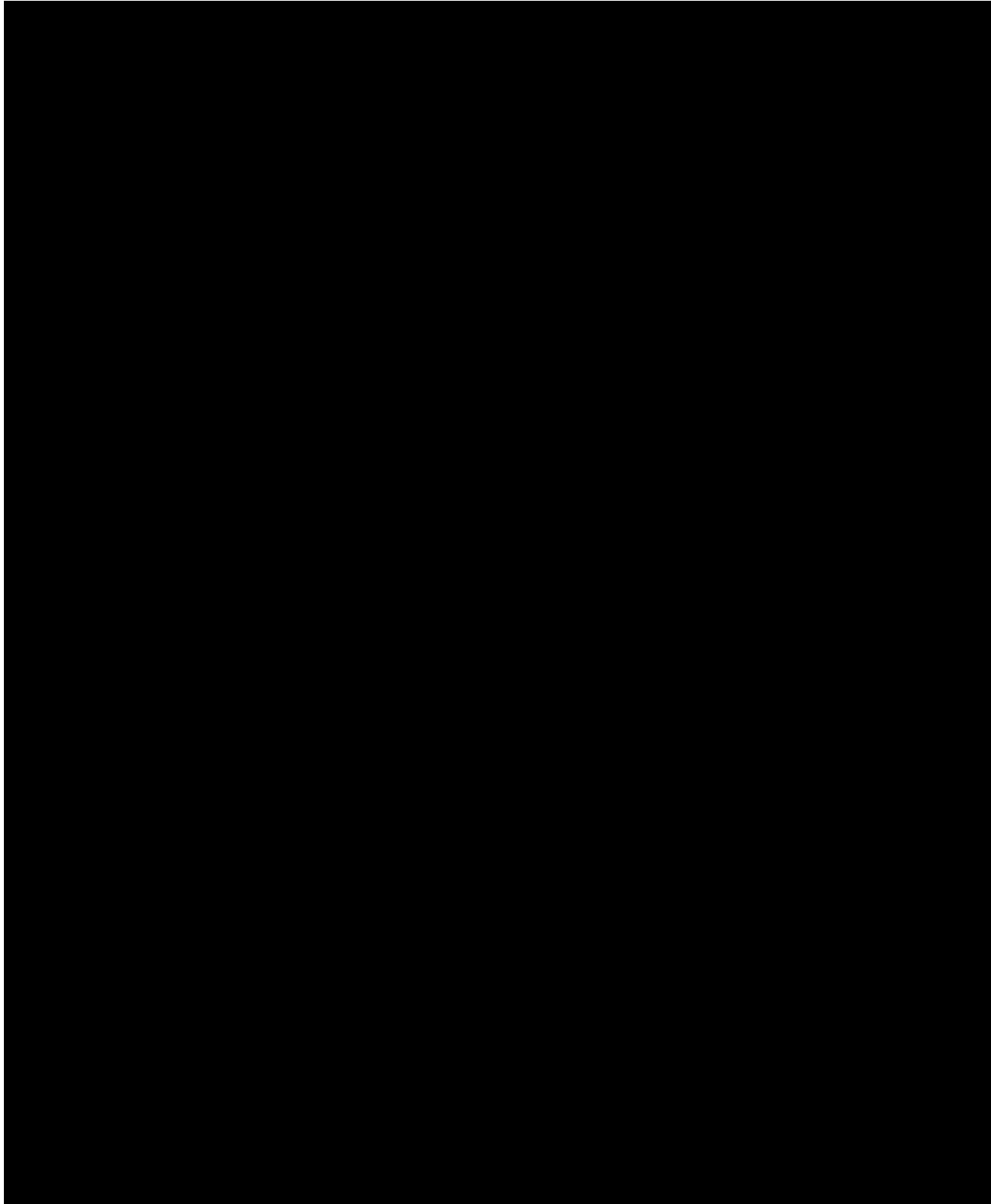
Verification of completed toilet and septic tank. [REDACTED] (center in violet) joins the guests from USAID Philippines and personnel from its Safe Water Project, NWTF and LGU Sagay City. At the center are USAID Philippines Contract Officer Representative [REDACTED] (in white) and USAID Safe Water Project Chief of Party [REDACTED] (in pink).

SARANGANI

Preparation of POW for Alabel’s additional water source: Using the Safe Water training on the preparation of POW, the municipal government of Alabel was able to prepare and submit a request for funding under the national government’s FALGU for the development of Maribulan River as additional water source for the existing customers in the Poblacion and for the expansion areas.

Assessment of Surface Water Development for General Santos City: On November 17, 2021, Safe Water representatives attended the presentation of USAID-SURGE on the results of the pre-feasibility study of the proposed surface water source for General Santos City. The Team is studying all relevant materials turned over by SURGE to determine optimum timing for the City to shift to surface water source, bearing in mind the environmental impact of 100% dependence on groundwater sources, financial feasibility of the project, and absorptive capacity of the General Santos City Water District to implement the project.

Construction of toilets and septic tanks for poor households in Alabel: Under the OBA-BF pilot implementation, Safe Water enabled the construction of toilets and septic tanks for 60 poor households in the municipality of Alabel. Because of the high water table in the pilot areas—inundating excavations—the Team and the Alabel Municipality engineers, adapted construction methods, and slightly modified the design. Despite this hurdle, the toilets were all completed in November 2021.



Tears of joy. (Top) ██████████ broke out into tears during our household visits to the beneficiaries of a new innovative financing scheme that enables poor households to access affordable sanitary toilets. (Bottom) ██████ shows her newly constructed toilet as part of OBA-BF in Alabel.

B. BUILDING CAPACITY OF WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS

Training on Operation and Maintenance: On October 18-20, 2021 Safe Water's Sarangani Team held, in person, the Training on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) for water utilities for the engineering and operations personnel of Alabel Waterworks, Glan LGU and WD, and Maasim LGU. The Team mentored the participants on the preparation of their respective O&M plans for the improvement of their services. The training will enable the water service providers to adopt sound O&M practices that would improve the quality of their service.

Training on Non-Revenue Water Reduction: Safe Water's Palawan Team conducted a Training on Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction for San Vicente Waterworks in November 2021. Following the Team's recommendation to install production meters at the water sources, the water utility found out that about 60% of water produced is lost. This information made NRW management a priority issue for the LGU. The Team will next assist the LGU to address NRW.

Presentation in Various Fora: This quarter, the Safe Water Resilient WSS Specialist also made the following presentations:

- Sewerage and Sanitation Options in the two-day webinar of the 1st National Assembly of the Philippine League of Local Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PLENRO); and
- How to Prepare feasibility studies for surface water sources and design of impounding structures, to DENR Region 4B (MIMAROPA which includes the province of Palawan) on December 7, 2021

C. PREPARATION OF PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED WATER SECURITY PLANS

As of this writing, the preparation of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans (PIWSPs) of Negros Occidental and Sarangani are at the stage of organizing data and validating threats and problems to water security, which will be used to inform the objectives and strategies of the plans.

In Negros Occidental, The Team guided the Provincial Integrated Water Security Team (PIWST) in the collation and processing of data in preparation for a Data Organization Workshop, which has been re-scheduled several times to comply with travel and meeting restrictions imposed by the Province due to the pandemic.

In Sarangani, the Team assisted the PIWST to validate the data gathered and collect additional or missing data to support analysis of the water security issues and challenges identified during the Data Organization Workshop held last quarter. The validated and additional data form part of the baseline information that is being used in the Water Security Assessment.

D. PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

On November 29, 2021 the Safe Water team met with DILG to provide updates on the on-going pilot implementation in Alabel, Sarangani and El Nido, Palawan. On December 7, the Palawan Field Team held a Barangay Water Summit in El Nido, Palawan to explain the proposed CMS set-up in their municipality.

In addition, the Team is currently preparing the CMS Implementation Guide, the outline of which was finalized during the quarter. The Guide will be finalized by March 2022.

E. SAFE WATER WASH ACCESS TARGETS CATCH-UP PLAN

In October 2021, Safe Water formulated a Catch-up Plan to achieve the WSS access targets for improved services. The Plan was included in the Year 3 Work Plan and approved by USAID in December 2021. The Plan includes the following measures:

Water Quality Assurance Activities: Although required by the Department of Health, few WSPs have Water Safety Plans. A critical practice and a requirement for compliance to the Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water Standard (PNSDW) that is not being implemented is constant measurement and calibration of chlorinators to ensure proper dosing¹ and specifically maintaining a standard level of chlorine within the entire distribution system. Meeting this standard will prevent disease outbreaks originating from the water supply. The weak enforcement of this standard compromises water quality within the entire distribution system of WSPs. Many small utilities do not have chlorine testers or adequate chlorinators, or do not have sound chlorination practices. Safe Water will focus on this aspect of water safety planning within Year 3. Trainings and mentoring will be conducted to build the capacity of WSPs to measure properly and calibrate the loading of chlorine. To ensure sustainability of the practice, barangay health units will be trained to monitor and validate adequate loading of chlorine.

In early November 2021, the Team initiated procurement of appropriate instruments to be used by the Field Teams in measuring residual chlorine.

The Field Team will also measure pressure in the extremities of the water distribution systems to detect other problems and opportunities for technical assistance.



Water Quality Assurance. Engr. [REDACTED] (left), Senior Water Utilities Development Officer of Puerto Princesa City Water District, explains to training participants the water district's chlorination process during the site visit of its facility in Irawan, Puerto Princesa.

¹ Chlorine load should not be more than 4 ppm, otherwise it will be harmful for human consumption.



Engaging MFIs through Water.org. (Left) Women beneficiaries in the City of Sagay of the OBA-BF program read through the vouchers' terms and conditions including their responsibilities as part of the program. (Right) An Alabel couple helping out in the construction of their septic tank. The Alabel LGU and ASA Philippines oriented masons including family members of beneficiaries who are interested to help, on septic tank design and construction method.

Strengthen demand generation and lending capacity of MFIs through the Water.org partnership and scale in all areas where they operate: WASH loans offered by MFI partners have been the most effective means to enable poor households to get Safe Water supply or basic or improved sanitation facilities. These household investments are facilitated by loans that can be amortized over a period in affordable repayment amounts. Two of the biggest WASH loans providers are in the project sites, namely: Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation and ASA Philippines, and have been actively reaching the market cohort among households below the poverty line who have ability to borrow. Four other MFIs in the project site are actively working on growing their market share. Safe Water will scale up demand generation and support MFIs to institutionalize financing for WASH as part of LGU and WSP wash services and community livelihood development strategies. Given that the project assistance to Water.org and partner MFIs can be standardized and productized, MFIs can capitalize on the assistance to scale up financing in all of the areas where they operate.

The Team, together with Water.org, has drawn up a work plan to expand assistance in other areas covered by their partner MFIs. This will include capacity building/training by Safe Water for Water.org and its partner MFIs.

Collaboration with LWUA on the septage management programs: The Supreme Court issued a Mandamus for the Manila Bay clean-up on December 8, 2008 directing government agencies, including LGUs, LWUA and Water Service Providers around the influence area of Manila Bay to provide wastewater management services. To date very few water districts have complied with the Mandamus.

To help accelerate project development, NEDA and LWUA have commissioned about 75 feasibility studies for septage management in the so-called Mandamus areas. Funding wise, LWUA received a PHP 527 million budget allocation this year for funding septage management projects in the Mandamus area and will likely get the same amount under the 2022 budget, which is now pending approval in Congress. Safe Water also got commitment from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to provide co-financing for these projects. DBP initially committed a PHP 425 million loan program. Since funds are from

reflows of ODA relending, DBP can offer competitive rates and a longer loan tenor, up to 15 years. Despite this project preparation support and available financing, projects have not materialized.

Safe Water met with the new LWUA Administrator, Guiling Mamondiong, on October 11, 2021 to, among others, revive discussion on the co-financing arrangement for septage management projects. The Administrator welcomed the idea and signified his interest to formalize the partnership with DBP. In this regard, Safe Water will facilitate the agreement and offer program assistance on validation of the program of works, facilitation of access to financing, preparation of procurement documents and assistance in the evaluation of bids, and if required providing training on operation of septage management.

On December 21, 2021 the Team met with LWUA again to discuss the proposed collaboration on the implementation of septage management programs in Mandamus Areas (for cities and municipalities discharging wastewater to the Manila Bay). The initial agreement was for the Team to facilitate the complementary financing from DBP. Further technical discussions will also be pursued by the team with the assigned point person, Deputy Administrator Jun Pagulayan.

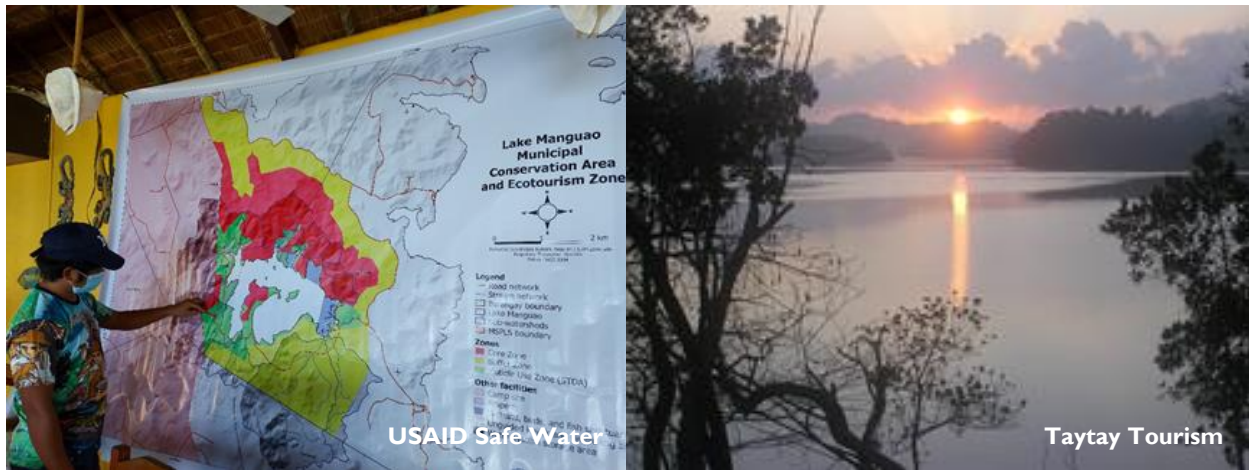
Climate-proofing vulnerable assets of water service providers: This is an additional measure to the catch up plan approved by Safe Water’s COR in January 2022—particularly in the light of the recent Typhoon Odette. The hydrology studies will inform the Team areas vulnerable to landslides or flooding. When juxtaposed with the network of water service providers (WSP), the Team will be able to identify vulnerable assets. The Team can recommend do the WSP which of their assets should be strengthened for climate resiliency. By doing so, the WSP services will be improved by preventing service interruption during and after extreme weather conditions.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

A. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FORMULATION

In Palawan, the Safe Water Palawan Field Team facilitated a stakeholder’s validation for the finalization of the Montible Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) on December 1, 2021. Together with PPCWD, the Field Team presented the process of IWMP formulation and the highlights of the plan including a brief profile of the watershed; the WD’s vision, mission, goals and objectives (VMGO); and management actions and strategies for the protection and conservation of the watershed. Attendees included representatives from Puerto Princesa LGU (City Planning and City ENRO), PCSD, DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa, BuCor-IPPF, PPCWD, an NGO (Katala Foundation Inc.), academe, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and barangay LGUs. Stakeholders agreed on the management actions and strategies contained in the IWMP of Montible Watershed and shared existing and proposed activities that can be integrated for the implementation of programs, activities, and projects in the plan.

The Field Team also worked with the Lake Manguao TWG (LGU Taytay-Tourism Office, Zoological Society of London-Philippines and DENR CENRO Taytay) to formulate the Lake Manguao Management Plan. The Field Team guided the TWG to finalize the VMGO of the Lake Manguao Management Plan and to identify appropriate management interventions for each plan objective.



Management of Lake Manguao Watershed. (Left) The multi-sectoral watershed management planning involved identification of management actions and strategies especially those addressing protection of headwaters. (Right) A photo of Lake Manguao.

The Field Team also began preparatory activities for IWMP of Year 3 target watersheds. An action plan for the formulation of the IWMP of Itangil watershed was developed with the LGU - MENRO of Dumaran, after which the Field Team together with barangay officials and community members conducted field reconnaissance of existing water sources.

In Sarangani Province, the Safe Water Sarangani Field Team is working closely with DENR-CENROs (Glan and Kiamba) on the formulation of the IWMP for three watersheds - Siguel, Lun Masla and Kalaong. Since watershed characterization and vulnerability assessment (WCVA) for Western Sarangani Watersheds (which include Siguel and Kalaong watersheds) have been completed by DENR, both CENROs agreed to start the formation of planning teams in each watershed. To facilitate the formation of the planning team in the three watersheds, the Field Team drafted an Executive Order with the recommended composition of the IWMP formulation team for review by the DENR CENROs.

Apart from IWMP formulation, the Field Team is also assisting six municipalities in formulating their respective LGU watershed conservation and rehabilitation plan (LWCRP). The LWCRP covers the entire set of watersheds within each municipality and is expected to result in the inclusion of watershed conservation activities in the LGU's annual investment plan. The LWCRPs of Alabel, Maasim and Malungon are due for presentation to their respective Municipal ENR Councils, while Glan, Malapatan and Kiamba are still consolidating their respective data and maps required to assess the condition of their watershed and water resources. These LWCRPs will operationalize at the LGU level the implementation of IWMPs, which are aligned with the provincial integrated water security plan.

In Negros Occidental, watershed management planning has not progressed due to prohibitions on face-to-face meetings as a result of rising COVID-19 cases in the province. The Safe Water Field Team focused its assistance on enhancing the PES mechanism of nearby Bago City. Section E of this report provides detailed discussions of the type of assistance provided by the Field Team to Bago City in improving PES implementation. The Field Team also closely collaborated with MUAD-Negros in implementing its P4Water Project in Bago watershed, particularly those related to spring rehabilitation and community livelihood. As discussed in section F, the field team worked with MUAD – Negros in establishing community green farms and nurseries within the P4Water project sites.



Watershed protection through bamboo-based livelihoods. (Left) A local resident cuts bamboo into strips to be used in making Christmas lanterns, one of the bamboo-based livelihoods in Lake Manguao which is seen in the background. (Right) Taytay Municipal government personnel and stakeholders come together in USAID session drawing up Lake Manguao's conservation management blueprint.

B. CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

The Safe Water Palawan Field Team conducted a 2-day workshop (October 18-19, 2021) on GIS overlay analysis and watershed characterization for the mapping task group of the Palawan Flora, Fauna, and Watershed Reserve (PFFWR) TWG. The task group, composed of representatives from DENR-CENRO, PCSDS, City Planning and City ENRO, gained skills in map overlay analysis as a tool for assessing resources, forest cover change, and potential impacts of hazards. After the workshop, the task group, together with the Barangay Council and community members, conducted ground validation of PFFWR land cover, resources and uses in four Barangays covered by the reserve (Bacungan, Simpocan, Iwahig and Irawan).

The Sarangani Field Team and DENR XII worked with the interim TWG for Siguel Watershed in drafting the MOA organizing the Siguel Watershed Management Council. The Field Team assisted DENR XII through the RBCO focal person and Conservation and Development Division chief in presenting the draft MOA to LGUs covering the watershed. The Field Team facilitated discussions covering the rationale and objectives of organizing a watershed management council, and the roles of the LGU in the development and management of water resources. With the series of consultations, the local chief executives of General Santos City and the Municipality of Kiamba were granted authority by their respective Sanggunian to sign and enter into a MOA for the Siguel WMC. The Provincial Legal Office of Sarangani province has reviewed and forwarded the draft MOA to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for the issuance of a corresponding authority to sign by the Governor. Other LGU signatories are still reviewing the draft MOA for consideration by their respective Sanggunian.

In the case of BMRB, the draft MOA reactivating the BMRB Management Council is still under review by the different offices represented in the Council. The Field Team will work with DENR XII in the next quarter to facilitate signing of the draft MOA.

In Negros Occidental, after a series of consultations with DENR, the Provincial LGU and other LGU partners, Safe Water was able to forward the final draft of the Executive Orders creating the Malogo-Imbang Technical Working Group and reconstituting the Bago River Watershed Management Council (BRWMC) to the Office of the Provincial Governor for signing. Once these bodies are created, SW will assist them in crafting their strategic plan and develop capacity strengthening program to capacitate them in watershed management.



Strengthening watershed management councils. (Left) The participants on GIS overlay analysis and watershed characterization engaged in the exercise for the mapping of strategies in the Palawan Flora, Fauna, and Watershed Reserve (PFFWR) TWG. (Right) Near the entrance into Puerto Princesa Subterranean River which is part of the PFFWR.

C. CONDUCT OF HYDROLOGIC STUDIES FOR ADDITIONAL WATERSHEDS

Safe Water, through Geoscience Foundation, Inc. (GFI), is conducting hydrologic studies for 60 more watersheds in the provinces of Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani. The results of the studies will inform the PIWSPs of the respective provinces in terms of water resources management policies, plans and programs. The hydrologic studies will provide information on total potential surface water and groundwater availability at baseline period and under the 2020 and 2050 climate change scenarios (RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5), and identification of recharge zones within each watershed that should be deliberately protected and preserved to optimize groundwater recharge. This quarter, the Team has reviewed and provided comments on the 16 draft reports submitted by GFI.

To scale up the conduct of hydrologic studies in other watersheds, Safe Water organized a virtual training of trainers (TOT) on Computational Hydrology and Water Resource Management. The two-week (November 15 to December 6, 2021) TOT program consisted of six sessions combining lectures, recorded presentations, and exercises on techniques used in the estimation of surface water flows and groundwater recharge volumes and the identification of high recharge areas through the use of available geospatial mapping tools and other resources. The skills and knowledge acquired will enable participants to draft hydrologic reports (see Table 5 for Assignment of Hydrologic Studies) and provide inputs in developing water resources management policies, plans and programs. More than 50 participants representing various agencies and universities joined the training. Qualified participants will be tapped as resource persons to capacitate local government staff of other provinces in the future.

TABLE 5. ASSIGNMENT OF HYDROLOGIC STUDIES

NAME OF WATERSHED	GROUP/AGENCY ASSIGNED
Bukaw (Zambales)	DENR – FMB
Jamulawon (Iloilo)	DENR - FMB
Padada (Davao de Sur)	DENR - FMB
Maragondon River (Cavite)	NWRB
Imus River (Cavite)	NWRB

Silway Watershed	Musuan University (General Santos Campus), Notre Dame Dadiangas University, Mahintana, LGUs (Sarangani and General Santos City)
Tigaplan (Brooke's Point)	Palawan State University and Western Philippine University
Mag-asawang Tubig (Palawan)	DENR MIMAROPA group
Guimbal River (Iloilo)	De La Salle University, Negros Occidental & Iloilo LGUs, DENR Region 6

D. DEVELOPING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS' CAPACITY FOR CLIMATE AND HYDROLOGIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Safe Water in partnership with the Manila Observatory (MO) completed its first task order on preliminary climate risk analysis in Year 2. This analysis identified the potential hazards in 5 priority watersheds and the specific physical, social, environmental and economic elements that are likely to be affected by these hazards, especially as they relate to the water sector. The analysis resulted to the identification of priority hazards in the 5 watershed which can be the focus of vulnerability assessment for the follow-on engagement of MO to expand the preliminary climate risk analysis and develop the final risk assessment based in IPCC guidelines. The scope of work for this task will include mentoring LGUs, WSPs and local communities in formulating possible adaptation options to address effects of climate change especially on the water sector. . These adaptation options will be useful for WSPs in designing their water system/infrastructures, and for Safe Water partner LGUs in informing plans such as the Comprehensive and Forest Land Use Plans, Local Climate Change Action Plan, and Emergency Response Plans, among others.

E. SCALING ADOPTION OF PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES)

After completing the PES orientation in Year 2, the Safe Water Field Teams, together with members of the PES–TWGs, are still gathering the necessary data and information for the planned cost-based valuation and cost-revenue analyses. Results of these analyses will be used during the negotiation between the users and providers of ecosystem services to arrive at an agreed amount for PES.

In Negros Occidental, a virtual meeting/consultation with the LGU of Bago City was held in October 2021 for the purpose of strengthening implementation of the City’s current Environmental Protection Fee (EPF). Among the key recommendations during the meeting was to ring-fence the EPF account along with the creation of the LGU ring-fencing team. An Executive Order for this purpose was drafted through the City’s Environment Management Office and is with the Mayor’s Office for final review. Once approved, an orientation with the ring-fencing team will be immediately undertaken.



Building hydrologic computation capacity. (Left) PENRO [REDACTED] attending the Training of Trainers on Computational Hydrology and Water Resources Management facilitated by Safe Water Project in coordination with Geoscience Foundation Inc (GFI) via virtual platform. (Right) The training used examples from hydrologic studies conducted by USAID’s Safe Water Project using downscaled climate data and updated land cover maps prepared by the Manila Observatory (MO) which included field validation.

In addition, the Safe Water Field Team in Negros Occidental made a series of PES presentations to the LGUs of Kabankalan City, Murcia, and Sagay City last October 2021 to generate interest from LGU partners and further scale up PES implementation in the Province. As a result, Kabankalan City issued an Executive Order creating their PES-Technical Working Group last December 2021 while the other two LGUs drafted similar EOs currently under review and for approval by their local chief executives.

The Team will also coordinate and meet with Quezon LGU to assess and discuss how to move forward with the PES initiative. Quezon LGU has an ordinance imposing PHP 1 per cu m water levy on customers of the recently established Quezon WS system (funded by and MDFO loan) as PES for watershed management. Proceeds from the levy (estimated at P90,000 from 2020-2021) go to the General Fund. To date, the fund has been unutilized. The Team will meet with relevant LGU departments to conduct an assessment of the PES system and confirm the commitment of the LGU to improving the PES collection scheme (to cover other WSPs and enterprises operating in the locality), ring-fence the collections into a special account, and prepare the reinvestment plan for its utilization for watershed management.

F. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT WRM AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Livelihood activities on ube contract-farming with Sunlight Foods Corp. (SFC) continued to gain traction across Safe Water sites. In November, SFC conducted a mandatory orientation on the Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code (ULSAC), a set of principles and practices that aims to preserve and protect the environment. Unilever is a major end-buyer of ube processed by SFC. The ULSAC orientation will be supplemented by training on proper soil management, fertilizer handling, pest management, post-harvest and biodiversity awareness.

Within the quarter, the Team coordinated partnership meetings between farmer associations as ube growers and NGOs as ube consolidators who will be responsible for coordinating with the farmers in transporting and shipping ube produce from the farms to the ports of exit. In Palawan, the Philippine Center for Appropriate Rural Technology and the Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives, Inc. will be the consolidators. In Negros Occidental, coordination meetings are ongoing among Alternative Trade Foundation Inc., MUAD Negros and Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation. Table 6 describes the status of these partnerships.

Implementation of livelihoods and WRM activities with partners is progressing in other field sites too. Inspired by the training on organic vegetable farming received from Safe Water and ECLOF, farmer members of Dumanguena Manaile River Irrigators Association, Inc. (DUMRIA) started cultivating their own vegetable farms. Men, women, and youth were involved in land preparation of demo sites for growing ube, vegetables, and indigenous plants.



Partnerships with ube. Ube harvested from a contract farm engaged by Sunlight Foods Corp.

TABLE 6. STATUS OF PARTNERSHIPS ON UBE LIVELIHOOD

Organization	Partnership Focus	Status as of End of Q1
1. Palawan Center for Appropriate Rural Technology (PCARD)	Ube consolidator for people’s organizations (POs) in Roxas and San Vicente, Palawan	POs are awaiting exposure visit to ube farms; preparing plan for establishment of demo farms
2. Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives, Inc. (IDEAS)	Technical assistance provider to new ube consolidators and growers in Palawan; potential consolidator for Safe Water sites outside of PCARD target areas	Agreed to host exposure visit to growers assisted by IDEAS; January target visit deferred due to recent COVID-related restrictions
3. Alternative Trade Foundation Inc. (ATFI)	Ube consolidator in Negros Occidental	MOA on contract growing with Sunlight Foods Corp. under review
4. Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTF)	Joint venture with MUAD on ube production among POs in P4WatER communities ²	NWTF reviewing joint venture concept paper submitted by MUAD
5. Association of Negros Producers (ANP)	Technical assistance provider on Good Agricultural Practices, financial literacy, product development; marketing support; funding for livelihood in Himogaan River Watershed	NOC team coordinated with the Municipal Agricultural Offices of Cadiz City and Calatrava for livelihood and watershed activities in two target barangays

Implementation of livelihoods and WRM activities with partners is progressing in other field sites too. Inspired by the training on organic vegetable farming received from Safe Water and ECLOF, farmer members of Dumanguena Manaile River Irrigators Association, Inc. (DUMRIA) started cultivating their

² P4WatER is livelihoods and WRM initiative implemented by MUAD Negros and funded by Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc.

own vegetable farms. Men, women, and youth were involved in land preparation of demo sites for growing ube, vegetables, and indigenous plants.

In December 2021, Greentropics launched the Mutu Asam Brew in the market. The coffee beans of Mutu Asam Brew are from DABOFA, one of the three (3) POs trained by Safe Water and Greentropics under the Coffee Farmers' Field School. According to Fred Fredeluces, CEO of Greentropics Coffee Enterprises, DABOFA farmers are already harvesting coffee beans of high quality by applying learnings on pruning of existing coffee trees, proper harvesting coffee cherries and elevated drying process.

Thirteen Community Green Farms (CGFs) and nurseries were also established for vegetable production, fruit and native trees propagation, and native chicken raising in Bago watershed under the P4Water project with MUAD-Negros. Twenty-six (26) caretakers (two from each PO) were identified and participated in a series of training courses on nursery establishment, seedling preparation and care, and asexual plant propagation. Unfortunately, ten CGFs and Nurseries sustained major damages during the onslaught of Typhoon Odette last December 2021.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS UNDER NEGOTIATION

Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF). Outreach to the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF) which started mid-2021 has progressed to the MOU drafting stage. ECLOF and Safe Water will jointly support livelihoods in communities in Safe Water watershed conservation areas in Palawan. ECLOF will provide both financial and non-financial interventions. ECLOF-Microfinance currently operates in Bataraza, Rizal, Quezon, Brooke's Point, Española, Narra, Aborlan, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, and Taytay, with potential areas for expansion in El Nido and other island LGUs. Non-financial interventions cover training on organic vegetable farming, business planning and marketing support. ECLOF manages the ECLOF Nature and Organic Farm (ENOF), a DA-accredited training provider on organic farming in MIMAROPA. As former partner of Lutheran World Relief under Protect Wildlife, ECLOF has suggested that Safe Water look into the lessons from Protect Wildlife to inform the partnership agreement.



Organic farming for the protection of headwaters in Palawan. Proper side dressing or organic fertilizer application during the Training on Organic Vegetable Farming and Demo Farm Establishment in ECLOF Nature and Organic Farm, Barangay Estrella Village, Narra, Palawan, on October 27, 2021.

SEAOIL Foundation Inc. (SFI). The SFI is the corporate foundation of Seaoil Philippines, Inc. (SPI) established to address needs of communities, host LGUs and other stakeholders where Seaoil operates. Through its “Tugon sa Gutom Program,” SFI assists families who are at risk of hunger to establish backyard gardens or community farms. SFI interventions include: 1) provision of technologies, seeds and other farm inputs; 2) support for marketing facilities (i.e. food hubs, trading posts) where excess produce can be sold for additional incomes; 3) creation and/or strengthening of social enterprises (i.e. product and by-product processing) that could absorb excess produce from family farms; 4) support for water access and water resource management; and 5) formation of self-help groups for collective action against hunger and malnutrition. In late December 2021, Safe Water approached SFI to collaborate with the LGU of Alabel in leveraging its their respective resources to address food security and WASH needs of common target households. SFI agreed and the MOU with Safe Water was signed on January 20, 2022.

Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI). PSFI is the social arm of Shell companies in the Philippines. It implements development programs in Shell worksites and host communities covering five themes: livelihood, health and safety, education, energy and environment. PSFI has national scale programs such as the Global Fund-supported malaria program and with local communities in Batangas, Camarines Sur, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro and Palawan. From October to December, Safe Water and PSFI conducted mapping of their respective initiatives in Palawan as basis for developing joint work in common areas. Safe Water and PSFI are exploring potential for livelihood projects, small-scale solar powered water supply system for off-grid communities and rainwater harvesting. PSFI has expressed interest in health data such as water-borne diseases in Safe Water target communities. The Safe Water Palawan Team will conduct scoping activities as input to follow-up discussions with PSFI.

G. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT (WDM)

With the easing of inter-city travel, Safe Water was able to conduct an in person WDM Level 2 (Intermediate) Training of Trainors last December 15-16, 2021. Safe Water, in partnership with PBSP/Water Alliance, trained 23 participants from LGUs, academic institutions, WSPs, NEDA, maintenance personnel from Seda Bonifacio Global City Hotel and Safe Water staff. The TOT covered strategies and tools to manage water demand for institutional and commercial users. Participants performed water savings analysis and water balance and gained knowledge on water audit through interactive discussions and hands-on exercises.

“Experiences from around the world have proven that WDM is an effective strategy to complement supply side measures. At the supply side, we protect our water resources from natural stresses and over extraction, while at the demand side, we conserve treated water and use it more efficiently.—*Joanne Dulce, USAID Safe Water COR in her closing remarks.*



Actual Water Audit. (Counterclockwise; 1) A drip vial is used to measure the leakage in a faucet. Participants calculated the liters of water that’s wasted by the leaking faucet using a formula taught during the training. (2) A participant shows a thumbs-up sign as he clicks the stopwatch after the urinal flush is completed. Another participant records the time and compares this with the industry-acceptable standard to check for water efficiency. (3) A participant measures the depth of the water closet of a dual-flush toilet as part of calculating the water efficiency of the toilet bowl.

At the end of the training, participants from Safe Water sites presented their action plans that include echo training in their respective sites, water audits of selected establishments and LGU offices, and WDM awareness campaigns. Experts from Maynilad and Nalco Water, both members of the Water Alliance, have agreed to continue providing technical support to the implementation of the action plans and in further development of the trainers through coaching and proficiency testing. A partnership with academe, such as University of St. La Salle (USLS) in Bacolod City, is being pursued as local WDM training provider.

To complement the training, Safe Water is developing a WDM Trainers’ Guide that can be used for both online and in person settings. This will be complemented by instructional videos from footages of the hands-on exercises. Cases on best WDM best practices in the commercial sector will also be developed as a supplementary knowledge product. Relatedly, the MOU between Safe Water and Ayala Land Inc. for the documentation of the company’s WDM experience in Ayala Mall Capitol Central in Bacolod is being

finalized. The team expects the documentation to commence within the second quarter of Safe Water's Year 3. The documentation of the practice of a business leader in the country will not only showcase sound technical measures, it can also be used to advocate for other businesses to adopt WDM practices.



New set of local WDM trainors. WDM trainors and participants show the water hand signal as the 2-day second session concludes at Seda Hotel BGC. (Front, center) Nalco Water Marketing Director for Asia-Pacific Engr. [REDACTED], Maynilad Water Services NRW Manager Engr. [REDACTED], (second line, center) USAID Safe Water Project Contract Officer Representative [REDACTED] and Chief of Party [REDACTED] in the group.

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

A. MOBILIZING FINANCING FOR RESILIENT WSS SERVICES

MONITORING AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO NG RESOURCES AND MOBILIZING LOCAL BUDGETS FOR WSS INVESTMENTS

The Safe Water Team provided technical assistance to NEDA in advocating for continued National Government support for WSS investments under the Water Convergence Program³. The Team prepared a technical note on justification and modality for inclusion of sanitation as a priority area for financial assistance under the proposed Growth Equity Fund (GEF). The GEF aims to address issues related to marginalization, unequal development, high poverty incidence and fiscal disparities and capacities of LGUs in the implementation of the Supreme Court's Mandanas ruling⁴. A PHP 1.25 billion (\$25M) budget for GEF has been approved for 2022 for various projects but guidelines have yet to be issued.

The Team monitored approval of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2022 and identified potential sources of financing that can be tapped for WSS projects. LWUA and DPWH remain as the main sources of NG grants dedicated for WSS investments in 2022. A total of PHP 99 million (US\$ 2 million) has been allocated through DPWH district offices for Level 2 &3 WS projects for Palawan and NOC that Safe Water can help implement. The Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) is another source of grants for various local projects including water supply. The LGSF includes the GEF, FALGU and ELCAC. The Team continues to keep track of the issuance of the GEF, FALGU and ELCAC guidelines to assist LGUs access these funds for their pipeline WSS projects.

At the local level, the Team provided technical assistance and trainings on project development, planning and programming to help LGUs identify WSS projects for inclusion in their Annual Investment Plans (AIPs) and budgets for 2022. The Team also assessed water supply facilities of WDs and LGUs to identify potential areas of interventions and investment opportunities. The Team also monitored LGU proposals for supplementary budgets to pitch for funding of pipelined WSS projects including allocation for OBA-BF replication.

FACILITATION OF LWUA-DBP CO-FINANCING ARRANGEMENT

The Team continued to actively engage LWUA and DBP on their co-financing arrangement to support WD projects. DBP has PHP 35 billion (US\$ 700 million) in available financing which can be tapped for WSS investments. The Team also reviewed the draft LWUA-DBP supplemental MOA prepared by DBP to incorporate provisions related to URAF and sanitation projects in the scope of collaboration which was not covered in the 2003 MOA⁵ between the two entities.

³ The Water Convergence Program refers to the annual investment program for WSS projects, included in the respective budgets of LWUA, DILG, NWRB, DOH and NWRB. NEDA is coordinating the preparation of the different agencies budget proposals to encourage these agencies to implement more WSS projects and to adhere to URAF principles in the prioritization of beneficiaries and in the allocation of subsidies.

⁴ The Mandanas Ruling refers to

⁵ Both parties executed a MOA in 2003 with the intent of complementing financing for WDs. However, with the changes in administration the provisions of the MOA have not been fully executed.

The Team, together with NEDA, met with the new LWUA administrator and his core team on October 11 and December 21, respectively, to discuss the co-financing arrangement. LWUA reconfirmed its interest in co-financing WD projects with DBP and committed to review the draft supplemental MOA. LWUA also agreed to share copies of program of works or ready projects for sole or co-financing with DBP. The Team will assist WDs with pipeline projects to access this financing facility. Water supply expansion projects of five WDs in the project sites (Pulupandan, General Santos City, Glan, Maasim and Malungon) have been included in the agency's priority projects for 2022.

As part of its catch-up plan, Safe Water offered technical assistance to LWUA in the implementation of septage management projects. LWUA has yet to utilize its budget allocation for sanitation projects in the Mandamus areas (cities and municipalities draining in Manila Bay) for 2021 and 2022.

LWUA also signified their interest to participate in trainings being offered by Safe Water. Early in 2020, Safe Water proposed trainings for LWUA staff on: a) conducting financial stress tests; b) strategic business planning; and c) water utility assessment. The Team will conduct the trainings based on the request and schedule set by LWUA.

MOBILIZING WASH LOANS FROM MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS

As part of the Safe Water catch-up plan, the Team, with Water.org, reviewed the potential reach of MFIs partners in areas outside of the project sites to generate demand for WASH loans. Safe Water and Water.org prepared a detailed work plan to extend technical assistance and trainings to MFI partners. The work plan covers:

- development/updating of advocacy and marketing materials for demand creation;
- acceleration of the INTEGRATE Program⁶ to scale MFI services with partner LGUs;
- replication and institutionalization of the OBA-BF for sanitation and WS;
- MFI financing program for small WUs;
- promotion of WDM, especially prototypes of household level rainwater harvesting facilities; and
- development of WASH M&E, reporting and training.

An orientation workshop on the work plan was conducted with the MFI partners on December 12, 2021. The MFI partners welcomed the initiative and assured Safe Water and Water.org of their continuing commitment.

⁶Water.org initiated the INTEGRATE Program to systematically link LGUs and MFIs to integrate the latter's WASH financing in plans and programs for WSS service expansion or improvement.



Expression of partnership. Chief of Party [redacted] Anabel Mayor [redacted], and ASA Philippines Senior for Operations [redacted] to sign the ceremonial OBA-BF voucher to express the multi-sectoral partnership of the pilot activity. Beneficiary [redacted] accepts the ceremonial voucher on behalf of the 60 beneficiaries of Anabel, Sarangani Province.

COMPLEMENTATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' INITIATIVES

Safe Water met with DILG and UNICEF to share and advocate for the adoption of Safe Water’s Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework in the updating of the WASH planning guidelines and toolkit for LGUs. DILG agreed in principle. We will continue our collaboration with them to ensure the guidelines will accurately and adequately reflect the framework, especially the link to WRM considerations. DILG agreement and cooperation is crucial because these guidelines will be institutionalized through the agency’s issuance of memorandum circulars to LGUs.

The Team also discussed with DILG and UNICEF technical assistance and capacity development activities for provincial WASH planning involving the Regional Hubs. The Team offered to provide training on ring-fencing of LGU water utilities and business planning. The Team also offered to help in pre-testing the tool in Safe Water project sites through active engagement of DILG in provincial water security planning activities. The need to prepare an inventory of planning and other capacity development tools and their complementation and/or integration was proposed for discussion with NEDA and development partners. The Team discussed this suggestion with NEDA, and it agreed to include it in the review of PWSSMP’s implementation that will be presented in the meeting with Development Partners in January 2022.

Safe Water continues to coordinate with the World Bank Team implementing the Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) activity in support of the implementation of PWSSMP, including the operationalization of URAF, and execution of the Mandamus ruling covering Manila Bay. The coordination meetings and exchange of information is useful in ensuring complementation of efforts, and coherence of approaches

and policy implementation measures. WB's ASA is a run up to the proposed program loan to support the policy reforms in the WSS sector.

Safe Water backstopped NEDA in the discussion of the ADB Report on the Local Government Financing Study and design of the proposed focus group discussions with concerned implementing agencies on the study's recommendations. The discussions enabled Safe Water to underscore the soundness of the sector's financing strategy outlined in URAF, and to ensure alignment of the study's recommendations with URAF on the rationalization of NG grants, prioritization of projects to receive NG support and NG-LGU cost sharing schemes. The Department of Budget and Management commissioned the study, as such the study's validation of the soundness of URAF policy will help with getting DBM buy-in for the Water Convergence Program.

B. SUPPORT TO THE PWSSMP IMPLEMENTATION AND URAF OPERATIONALIZATION

SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) AND WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION (WRC) AND

The Team, with NEDA, continued to monitor hearings on the consolidated DWR and WRC bill by the House Committees on Government Reorganization, Appropriations and Public Works. Plenary deliberations on the bill remain pending until Congress resumes sessions on January 18, 2022. The Team assisted NEDA in the review of the organizational structure of the proposed DWR & WRC and preparation of technical notes and messages for Congressional deliberations.

SUPPORT TO THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE URAF AND WATER CONVERGENCE PROGRAM

The NEDA Board's confirmation, through an ad referendum, of the NEDA Board Resolution Adopting the Unified Resource Allocation Policy for WSS Services remains pending. The latest draft resolution incorporates the implementation of the Mandanas ruling and EO 138 provisions and comments and recommendations of the NEDA Board's Infrastructure Committee (Infracom) members. The NEDA Board Resolution is crucial as it will serve as an explicit and formal document mandating URAF operationalization. Only upon approval of the NEDA Board resolution will NEDA be able to issue the Implementing Guidelines⁷. As of this writing, NEDA informed Safe Water that majority of the NEDA Board members have signed the Resolution. However, the Department of Finance's Undersecretary Mark Joven, said he has reservations on the URAF, and would like to discuss these first with NEDA before completing the ad referendum process. The Team has yet to see the concerns or issues of the DOF Undersecretary. The Team offered its assistance to NEDA in addressing his comments using data, evidence and analytics.

The Team kept track of the execution of Presidential Executive Order 138 (issued on June 1, 2021) that is guiding the implementation of the Mandanas ruling. It also examined the 2022 NG budget allocation of key implementing agencies (LWUA, DILG, DPWH, DOH and NWRB) for potential URAF financing and monitoring of the Water Convergence Program. For 2022, the only potential source of grants to

⁷ Safe Water, taking off from the initial work of WASHFIN has started drafting of the Implementing Guidelines.

operationalize the URAF is the LWUA budget. Safe Water is providing technical support to NEDA and LWUA to encourage the latter to utilize grants and loans following the URAF financing program.

COORDINATION WITH NEDA AND KEY IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Safe Water continued assisting NEDA to engage key implementing agencies as they work on their respective key reform action plans in support of the PWSSMP.

Safe Water reviewed NWRB's Key Reform Activities and proposed priority actions related to its policy and regulatory mandates. The following policy and regulatory agenda were discussed in the meeting with NEDA and NWRB held on November 18, 2021:

- i) Follow up approval of the Executive Order creating the National Water Resources Management Council (NWRMC) - Review of the EO is still pending in the Office of the Cabinet Secretary. Once approved, Safe Water will assist NEDA and NWRB to prepare the NWRMC's implementing guidelines and implementation plan including the agency's organizational structure, identify capacity-building activities, and estimate budget requirements. NWRMC is an important institutional reform to address some of the disaggregation and overlapping mandates of water agencies and is the next best action to the legislation of the Department of Water and Water Regulatory Commission.
- ii) Review water permit pricing policy to encourage more efficient use of water - NWRB to review legal basis and may request assistance from a development partner to do economic analysis to rationalize pricing policy reform. Presently the fees for securing water permits are so low so that water permit banking is done by speculators. They also do not encourage demand management.
- iii) Conduct more water resource assessment studies to complement those already done by NWRB and RBCO, JICA, KOICA and Safe Water; and utilize the studies to inform policy adjustments related to water allocation, pricing and demand management.
- iv) Resolve issue on economic regulation of water districts in joint venture arrangements with private partners. At the request of NEDA, Safe Water prepared a Technical Note in August 2021 on the economic regulation of water districts with joint venture agreements, concluding that they are still under the economic regulatory authority of LWUA, notwithstanding operation and management by the private sector.



Provincial Integrated Water Security Planning. Participants review hydrological maps of Sarangani (left) to guide them in their discussion about the problems and challenges in water security in the province (right).

This arose due to a recent request from a private partner for a tariff approval from NWRB instead of LWUA. From anecdotal accounts, there are fewer requirements and less rigor in the evaluation for tariff adjustments by NWRB. This request prompted LWUA to raise the issue with NEDA (NEDA is the issuer of the Joint Venture Guidelines), which has yet to take action.

- v) Economic Regulation of LGU-run water utilities. At the recommendation of USAID WASHFIN and now Safe Water, NEDA is coordinating with DILG and NWRB on the issuance of a Joint Circular setting tariff setting guidelines and key performance indicators for LGU-run utilities, so that there will be a common methodology and KPIs for benchmarking. This will support the institutionalization of the Central Management System for LGU-run utilities.
- vi) Formulation of national water security framework. NWRB will convene the TWG on the National Water Security Roadmap with NEDA and DILG to finalize the framework. Safe Water assisted NEDA in the review of existing water security frameworks and related planning processes discussed during an inter-agency TWG meeting and Cabinet Cluster for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation (CCCAM). The Team has no advice from NEDA yet on the next steps, but was notified that it will be requested to provide technical inputs to the plan and the formulation process.

Safe Water also discussed collaborative activities related to their KRAs, including:

- i) Piloting of the CMS in 2022;
- ii) Benchmarking of water service providers;
- iii) Training of Regional Watsan Hubs (RHubs) to improve their capacities for training and mentoring LGUs with governance and management improvement, integrated WASH planning, and set up of CMS; and
- iv) Development of the provincial integrated water security plans in Safe Water sites.

C. PROMOTION OF PPP AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES (PES AND OBA-BF)

PROMOTION OF PPP

The Team continued to encourage the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental to accept the offer of the PPP Center (PPPC) for technical assistance in the development of the Malogo Bulk Water Supply Project, regardless of their decision to use competitive bidding or accept an unsolicited proposal. Safe Water will facilitate another meeting between both parties to agree on the MOU. The PPP Center can provide assistance in the preliminary feasibility assessment (or business case, using the terminology of the PPP Center) and if the result is positive it can provide access to the Project Development and Monitoring Facility (PDMF). The Facility can be used to engage consultants to support the preparation of a full feasibility study, shepherding of approval and procurement processes up to contract award, and preparation of the contract management guide. Repayment can come from the winning bidder, or the Provincial Government if contract award, for whatever reason, is unsuccessful.

PILOT FOR OUTPUT-BASED AID AND BLENDED FINANCE FOR HOUSEHOLD SANITATION FACILITIES

Safe Water successfully concluded the OBA-BF pilot under the Achieving Widespread Equitable Sanitation Outcomes and Mobilizing Enterprises (AWESOME) Project of DAI. Safe Water implemented the pilot with MFI partners (ASA Philippines Foundation and Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation) and the LGUs of Alabel Municipality and Sagay City as pilot sites. The pilot established proof of concept of the

OBA-BF as a viable funding mechanism for operationalizing URAF. The pilot's outcomes and co-benefits included:

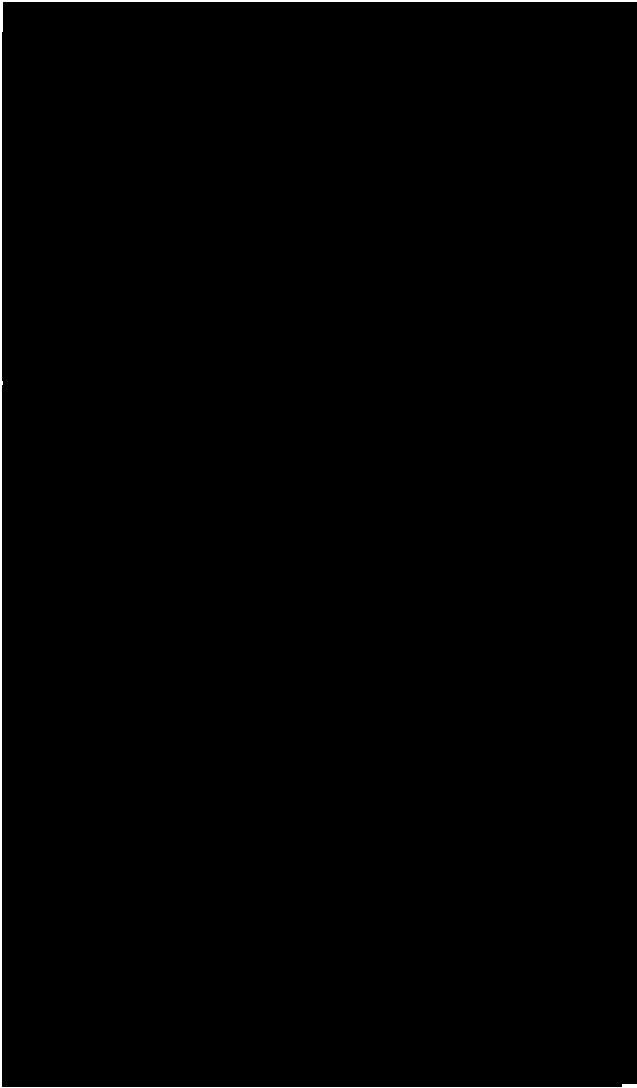
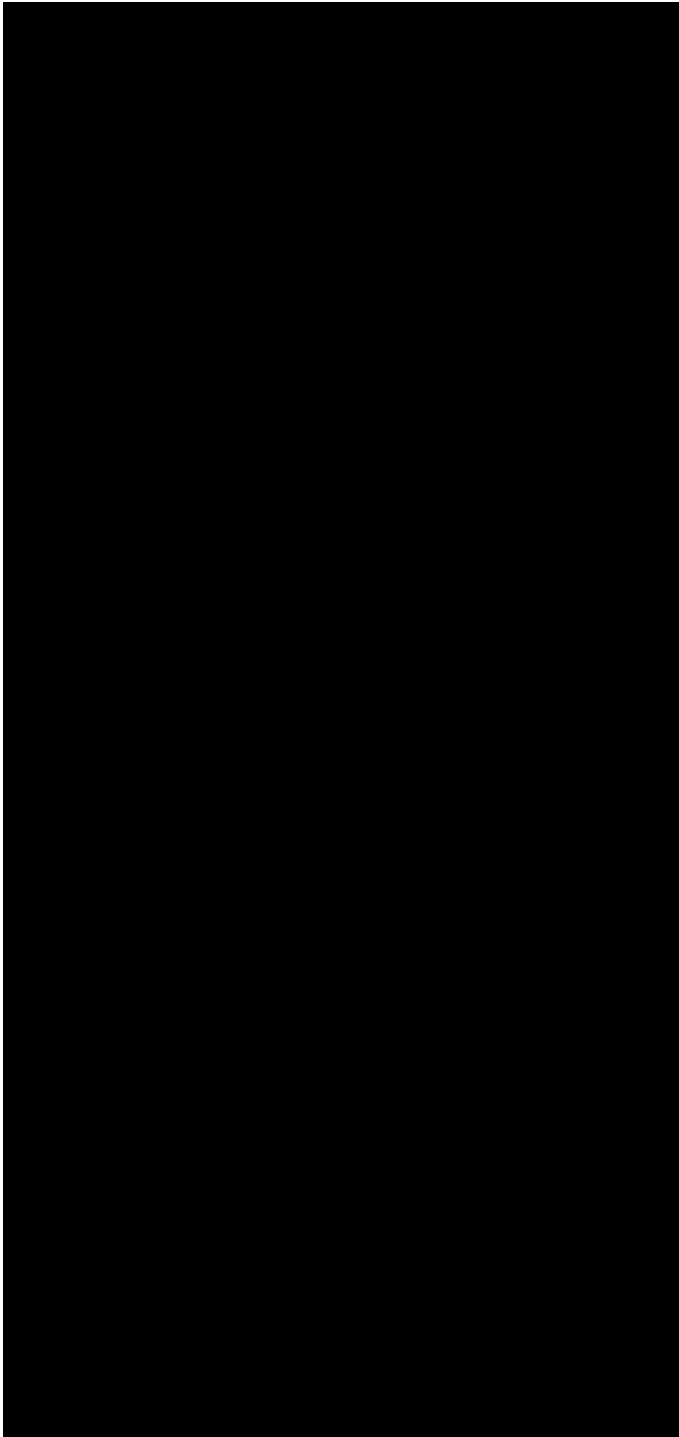
- 100 toilets constructed that meet Philippine Sanitation Code standards
- 500 people gaining access to improved sanitation
- US\$ 30,000 grant from DAI Global Inc. leveraged US\$ 46,000 more from HH loans and MFI and LGU resources for a leverage ratio of 1.5:1.
- Strengthened partnerships between LGUs and MFIs
- Expanded customer base for MFIs
- Perceived health, social and environmental benefits of adequate access to sanitation

The pilot demonstrated strong demand among poor households for loans for partially-subsidized toilets. It also showed that implementation efficiency of OBA-BF is 100% compared to the average success rate of 8% for the LGUs' regular sanitation program of distributing toilet bowls and construction materials. Although the subsidy level for the OBA-BF is higher, with the 100% success rate it demonstrates greater value for money.⁸

Implemented from July to November 2021, Safe Water held close-out events in the two pilot sites in early December. These events gathered testimonies on the benefits and efficacy of the OBA-BF from HH beneficiaries, partner LGUs and MFIs. The Team also shared learnings from the pilot during the conference of sanitary inspectors of the Province of Negros Occidental on December 9 and learning event with USAID Mission and Washington WASH practice groups on December 15. USAID WASH practice group expressed appreciation of the concept and the pilot implementation and even requested a copy of the presentation to share with other Missions with similar household sanitation programs.

The proof of concept or learnings from the pilot will be used in advocating adoption of the OBA-BF as a URAF financing scheme, and its scale up or replication in other LGUs. With the successful pilot of the OBA-BF, governments and development partners are offered a viable option to pool their resources to reach more people with affordable sanitary facilities and realize the health, social and environmental benefits of adequate access to sanitation.

⁸ Based on experience of Malungon LGU where 2 of 25 HHs given toilet bowls and construction materials actually built their toilets.



PES REPLICATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Safe Water’s activities related to scaling and improving existing PES programs are reported in Objective 2. PES is a major financing mechanism that is being developed with the goal of it being adopted as a strategy for mobilizing additional resources for watershed management and conservation.

PES Learning Session: The Team participated in the PES learning session with the Nepal Karnali Water Activity team last November 9, 2021. The Nepal project plans to replicate PES in the Karnali River Basin. Both teams agreed to share information on PES implementation in their respective sites.

WRM FINANCING FRAMEWORK

The Team is currently reviewing studies and references for the preparation of the WRM Financing Framework to support provincial water security planning and related activities. Financing for WRM has been identified as a major and recurrent gap in many development plans and is largely funded by public resources. Still, public funding accounts for less than 1% of national and local budget allocation. To address the financing gap, there is a need to mobilize other fund sources to leverage public resources. The WRM financing framework aims to guide the assessment and strengthen the financial dimension of local water security planning and investment programming through the application of analytical approaches and tools for engagement and mobilization of funding for sustainable WRM.

D. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT WSS NETWORK

Safe Water provided technical assistance and secretariat support to NEDA in the conduct of the WSS Network Session and rider events:

EVENT TITLE	SAFE WATER ASSISTANCE
TWG Meeting on Water Security (September 27, 2021)	Review of definitions, principles and frameworks on water security as guide for GOP and key implementing agencies to agree and complement related planning initiatives in relation to PWSSMP; documentation of agreements and ways forward
Cabinet Cluster Climate Adaptation and Mitigation (CCCAM) Meeting (October 1, 2021)	Preparation of NEDA presentation during the meeting based on agreements during the September 27, 2021 TWG meeting on water security
European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils. (ECCP) forum on sanitation in celebration of the World Toilet Day (October 19, 2021)	Preparation of NEDA presentation on private sector engagement in sanitation services
WSS Network Session on Financing (October 22, 2021)	Preparation of the agenda, collaboration with development partners, NEDA presentation on PWSSMP investment requirements, and documentation of session proceedings and summary of financing constraints, policy implications and ways forward
DOH-UNICEF World Toilet Day Forum on Sanitation (November 10, 2021)	Inputs to the NEDA presentation during the event

E. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Implementing Guide to the Central Management System (CMS). This guide will cover the process involved and the systems that need to be put in place for the establishment of a Municipal Water Enterprise (MWE). It will highlight the utility reform glide path and illustrate best practices for utility management (personnel and financial) as well as operation and maintenance. The CMS Implementation Guide is a supplement to the proposed program design and structure introduced under the USAID

WASHFIN Project.⁹ The outline for the guide was finalized during the quarter and the first draft will be completed by March 2022.

Updated Ring-Fencing Guide for LGU-run Water Utilities. This document updates the “Guide to Establishing LGU-run Water Utilities as Economic Enterprises” prepared under the USAID Philippine Water Revolving Fund (PWRP) Support Program in September 2011. The updated guide incorporates the application of the Government Accounting Manual (GAM) for Local Government Units issued in January 2020 which mandates the maintenance of special accounts for public utilities and economic enterprises under the general fund. The GAM supersedes the National Government Accounting System (NGAS) that was adopted in the precursor guide. The updated guide is also informed by the experiences and lessons learned from the roll out of the ring-fencing approach with several LGUs under various USAID Projects such as PWRFP, Be Secure, Protect Wildlife and SURGE. The updated guide underwent a peer review process during the quarter and results of the evaluation are being collated. The guide will be enhanced based on the evaluation.¹⁰ The Guide will be an accompanying document of the Central Management System Implementation Guide. Both will be used in the training of LGU-run utilities. Both tools will be provided to DILG for use in other LGUs.



Mutu Asam Brew. An indigenous coffee farmer in the Philippines presents two new coffee products called the “Mutu Asam Brew”, a product from Safe Water’s partnership with Greentropics Coffee Enterprise.

⁹ Setting-Up a Municipal Central Management System for Local Government-run Water Service Providers: Proposed Program Design and Structure, USAID WASHFIN, February 2020,

¹⁰ Safe Water conducted the peer review last October 21 - 29. A total of 8 peer reviewers were invited based on the following criteria: a) involvement in local governance and WASH programs, b) knowledge of or familiarity with government accounting process, and c) experience in ring-fencing; 4 responded to the review.

Hydrologic Studies for 60 watersheds in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani. In addition to the 5 hydrologic studies completed in Year 2, 60 more hydrologic studies are being completed by Geoscience Foundation, Inc. (GFI). The hydrologic studies will provide information on surface water availability and ground water recharge zones to inform water resource management and serve as crucial input in drafting the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans. Sixteen studies were completed within the quarter, and the remainder are expected to be submitted between January and March 2022.

Hydrologic Assessment Modules. The modules cover use and analysis of hydrologic and climate data (i.e., watershed maps, geologic maps, rainfall, temperature and stream data); computation of surface water flows and recharge rates; and identification of recharge zones in a watershed to enable user to draft a hydrologic report. These modules were used during the TOT on Computational Hydrology and Water Resource Management conducted by GFI during the quarter.

Water Demand Management (WDM) Trainer's Guide. Following the Intermediate Water Demand Management Training of Trainers (WDM-TOT), a WDM Trainer's Guide is being developed to serve as a training manual for the pool of WDM Trainers that will be formed. The guide will cover key topics such as water balance computation and water assessment survey.

OBA-BF Pilot Documentation Report. The OBA-BF report details the pilot implementation of the OBA-BF scheme in Alabel, Sarangani and Sagay, Negros Occidental, from demand generation and identification of household beneficiaries to the construction and turnover of toilet and septic tank facilities in the pilot sites. Documentation of the pilot experience provides evidence that the OBA-BF scheme can be an effective and efficient mechanism in improving access to sanitation at the local level. The Team will also prepare a Learning Note and Implementing Guide for ease of replication by other LGUs.

Framework for Water Resource Management Financing. The Team is developing a WRM financing strategy framework to guide WRM planning and investment programming, ensuring sustainable financing for the implementation of provincial water security plans. The Team agreed on the scope, approach and outline of the report during the quarter. The Team is targeting completion of the first draft by the end of March 2022. The framework will be presented to local partners to be used to guide the formulation of financing strategies of WRM interventions in the Provincial Water Security Plans.

Facilitator's Guide to Training of Indigenous People on Coffee Farming and Enterprise Development. This training module will localize the how-tos of coffee farming and serve as a guide for farmers as develop and manage coffee enterprises. The writer will draw insights, lessons from the documentation of the Field School Training on Climate Resilient Coffee Farming Enterprises. The Comprehensive Field School Training on Climate Resilient Coffee Farming Enterprises is a joint undertaking with CLAFI, Kasilak and Greentopics in coordination with the Municipal Governments of Maasim and Malungon in Sarangani. The Coffee Farming Field School aims to increase capacity of IP communities on sustainable coffee farming and processing practices including measures and techniques to ensure that the coffee farming is resilient to climate change. By demonstrating the income generation potential of more sustainable practices, the activity incentivizes Indigenous communities to move away from livelihood practices that harm the environment and instead adopt viable livelihood strategies that protect the watershed where they live and cultivate their coffee.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Safe Water began discussions with academic institutions in Safe Water sites for its knowledge exchange initiatives. The potential scope of cooperation includes:

- Development of a pool of trainers and/or resource persons for hydrologic studies, PES, WDM, financial management, ring-fencing, and water security planning;
- Formation of a network of peer reviewers for Safe Water’s knowledge management products; and
- Establishment of a mechanism to share and store WSS and WRM data and knowledge products developed by Safe Water.

Representatives for Palawan State University (PSU) in Palawan, University of St. La Salle in Bacolod and MSU-General Santos have participated in Safe Water trainings conducted during the quarter such as water demand management and computational hydrology. The Team will continue to engage these participants and other academic institutions to strengthen knowledge exchange.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

During the quarter, Safe Water implemented the four Gender Action Plan (GAP) strategies in order to build on the enabling conditions of achieving the increase in women’s decision making opportunities in the water sector and women’s proportion of engagement in economic activities such as livelihoods and enterprises development.

A. GAP STRATEGY 1: LGU GENDER FOCAL POINT SYSTEM MAXIMIZED IN WSS AND WRM INTERVENTIONS

Safe Water completed a 4-session GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB) Training series for the Glan and Maasim Water Districts in Sarangani Province. The series included the following sessions which were run over two quarters and completed last November 2021:

- Session 1: GAD and Gender in the Philippine Government
- Session 2: Gender Analysis and Applicable Tools
- Session 3: GAD Plan and Budget
- Session 4: GAD Agenda and Accomplishment Reporting

In the first quarter of Year 3, the Glan and Maasim Water Districts’ GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) members (13 individuals) implemented the following activities:

- applied the previous sessions’ understanding on the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) by reviewing their GMEF scores;
- identified gender issues;
- analyzed sex-disaggregated data;
- responded to the Philippine Commission on Women’s Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) checklists;

- prepared the GAD Plan and Budget for submission to the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA); and,
- completed an exercise to prepare the forthcoming GAD accomplishment report and audit.

The Team and the water districts collaboratively identified the following gender issues which are now being addressed through programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) identified in both water districts’ GPBs. A summary of the priority gender issues and PPAs is outlined in Table 7.

TABLE 7. GENDER ISSUES AND CORRESPONDING PPAS OUTLINED IN THE GPBS

GENDER ISSUES	CORRESPONDING PPAS
Limited capacity of the newly-constituted GFPS in mainstreaming gender in organizational policies, structure and programs	Capacity-building among the GFPS members to include: 1. Participation in GAD seminars/webinars and trainings organized by the national, regional and provincial agencies. Priority trainings: gender audit training, refresher courses on gender analysis and gender mainstreaming 2. Gender-responsive program development
Women occupy less than 50% of leadership and technical positions in the water districts (only 10 women officials out of 30 posts in Glan Water District and 3 out of 15 in Maasim Water District)	1. Review of human resource policies including job descriptions, terms of reference and performance appraisal 2. Orientation for potential women applicants for technical positions 2. Information drive among the technical staff regarding technical positions. 3. Mapping/search for trained women in plumbing and related skills in coordination with TESDA. 4. Target to hire 2 (two) women for technical positions in Glan Water District
Low awareness of gender issues, GAD mandate and gender mainstreaming in government	1. Participation of the organization in GAD-related activities (i.e., observance of International Women’s Day) 2. Partnership with agencies/LGUs in the observance of GAD-related activities and other advocacy and information campaigns 3. Advocacy within the organization including set-up of GAD Corner and similar activities 4. Organization-wide gender-sensitivity trainings for board members, staff and stakeholders
Lack of data/information on gender and the water sector for policy and program development	Generate sex-disaggregated data beginning with the following steps/initiatives: 1. Consultations with teams and clients 2. Mapping of existing data and identification of data gaps 3. Source technical and logistical support

The PPAs outlined above will contribute to Safe Water’s GEWE cross-cutting outcomes on increasing leadership positions and gender-related training opportunities for women in the water districts. The GPB training series experiences shall be documented in the next quarter as basis for promoting the training series in other sites especially in water districts without or with but non-functioning GADFPS as mandated by law.



Provincial Government of Negros Occidental

Empowering Women Negrenses. USAID’s Safe Water will be engaging the Provincial Council for Women to expand the project’s Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting training program to the water districts in Negros Occidental.

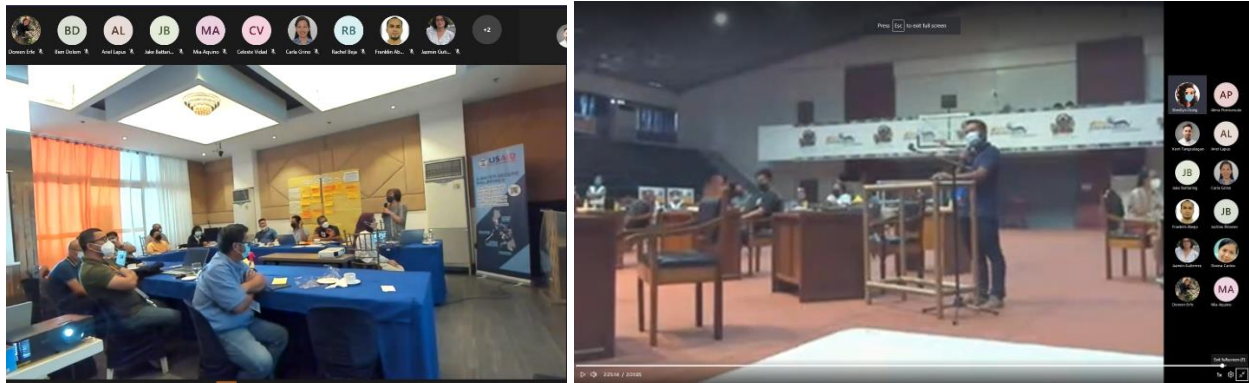
Safe Water’s support to GAD champions among water districts launched with the Gender Planning and Budgeting Training in Sarangani. In the interview of selected General Managers and key officials, they underscored the need for capacity-building for water districts to enable them to implement the GAD mandate and link gender and water issues. They are aware of the gender mainstreaming policy in government but have not participated in seminars and trainings in the last two years. They said they are also aware of the importance of the Gender Focal Point System but have encountered challenges in

setting up or sustaining the GFPS. For instance, one of the water districts, which entered into a joint venture arrangement, lost its GFPS members in the transition.

The Team plans to engage other GAD resource persons in the project sites and bolster support for the water sector. In the province of Negros Occidental, the GAD Planning and Budgeting Training can be scaled up with the help of the province-wide GFPS under the LGU and the Provincial Council for Women. By focusing on GAD Planning and Budgeting this year, the Team aims to assist water districts to leverage the GAD Budget and address broader gender-related capacity-building issues.

B. GAP STRATEGY 2: INCREASED PROFESSIONAL AND/ OR LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

With Safe Water’s work with its partners such as NGOs, MFIs, and peoples’ organizations (POs), including those led by women and indigenous peoples, the Project continued to implement measures to strengthen women’s participation in WSS and WRM decision-making positions and livelihood opportunities.



Focus Group Discussions with Local Stakeholders. *The focus group discussions organized by Safe Water provide a venue for the different partners in General Santos City (left) and Sarangani Province (right) to share their plans related to water supply and sanitation and water resource management, leverage support from USAID Safe Water, and inform collaborative efforts on water security.*

In the newly established community-managed savings and credit associations in Palawan, POs, primarily composed and led by women and members of Indigenous groups, learned about creating and growing their own savings, managing loans for members, and applying sound administration practices, such as record keeping and pro-rated sharing of dividends from interests earned. These self-managed funds provide financial access to households to ease their cash flow and especially serve as safety net in times of need, allow them to purchase household assets and invest in sustainable livelihoods.

In the OBA-BF pilot activities, women took charge of household financing decisions on the construction of new sanitary toilets or rehabilitation to make them compliant with Philippine Sanitation Code standards. When women are involved in these decisions, they are able to address their needs and their interests, including protecting the health and security of their children, and in the case of Sagay, their ecotourism livelihoods that primarily support their families.

In Safe Water’s coffee farming and organic vegetable farming training activities, the majority of beneficiaries and training participants were women and indigenous peoples. They were empowered to support watershed protection activities through sustainable growing of ube, vegetables, coffee, and indigenous plants that help fund their household needs and their children’s education.

C. GAP STRATEGY 3: SHIFTING SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS AND VALUATION OF WOMEN’S INPUT

Safe Water continued its advocacy activities for gender development through focus group discussions and communication products. In the three Safe Water sites, focus group discussions with stakeholders and partners highlighted gender challenges and issues encountered in Year 2 and the major activities that were completed to address these challenges. The challenges and corresponding activities are outlined in Table 8, next page.

TABLE 8. GENDER ISSUES AND CORRESPONDING YEAR 3 ACTIVITIES

GENDER ISSUES	CORRESPONDING YEAR 3 ACTIVITIES
Inactive Gender and Development Focal Point System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GADFPS formation • GAD planning trainings
Lack of Gender and Development trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAD mainstreaming in WSS and WRM
Lack of women in leadership and decision-making positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of critical gender champions • GEWE advocacy and campaigns
Limitations of women participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihood trainings • Establishment of women leaders' network • Technical assistance on HRM strategies
Lack of gender trainings in the water sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-balanced panels and participation • GEWE advocacy and campaigns • Men leaders, champions, and allies on GEWE

The Team also submitted a success story on OBA-BF focusing on the women’s empowerment angle to DAI Global’s GESI newsletter (see *Cover Story*). This was featured earlier during the World Toilet Day celebration campaign post by USAID Philippines of two OBA-BF women beneficiaries giving testimony to the benefits of the innovative financing scheme on household sanitation to environmental protection and health promotion. This is also reflected in all of the OBA-BF collateral that was used during the close-out events held in Sagay City and Alabel.

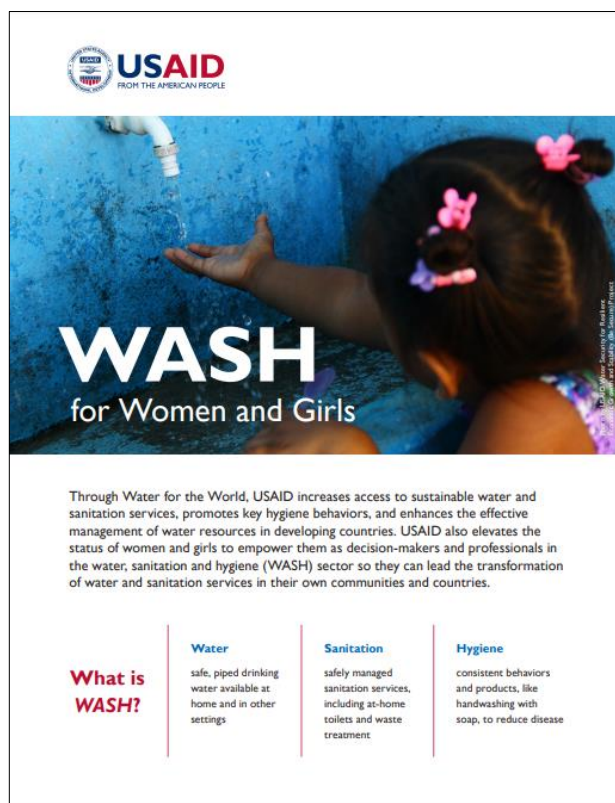
In October, Safe Water featured USAID’s [WASH for Women and Girls](#) fact sheet which outlined the following:

- Rationale of focusing on WASH for women and girls
- Strategies for advancing women’s empowerment
- Best practices for Women and WASH in action in Nigeria and Malawi

The Team will develop a similar fact sheet that outlines the same sections as applicable to the work in its different sites.

Safe Water’s Monthly Newsletters released this quarter also provided a space for women’s input and work in social media posts, such as:

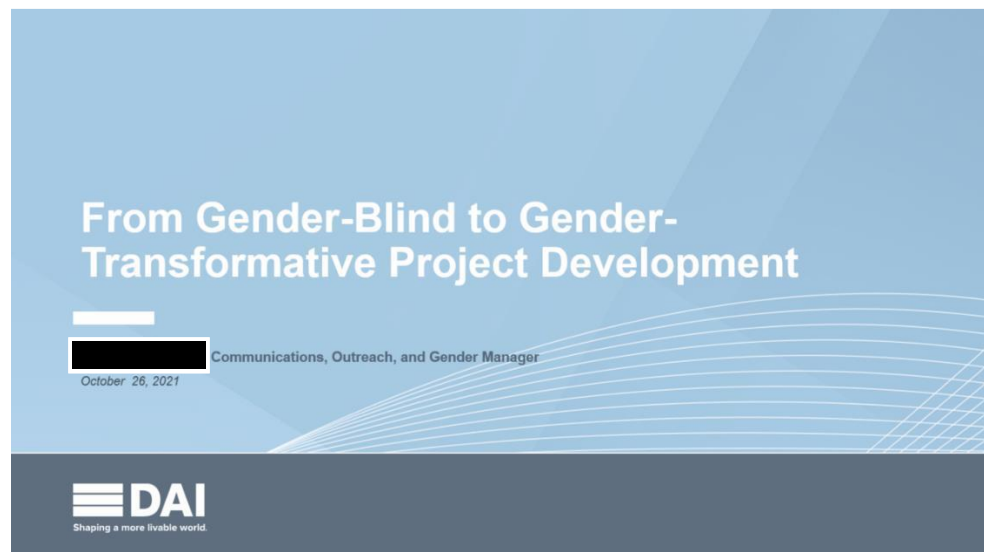
- DUMRIA’s application of lessons learned from the Gender-Inclusive Strategic Planning training done by Safe Water
- Women’s and Indigenous Peoples’ testimonials and videos on OBA-BF, coffee farming, organic vegetable farming, and community savings associations
- Indigenous Peoples’ inputs on Integrated Watershed Management Planning



D. GAP STRATEGY 4: IMPROVE SAFE WATER STAFF AND LOCAL PARTNERS' UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER EQUITY

To build on the learning sessions on gender issues discussed in Year 2, Safe Water's Communications, Outreach and Gender (COG) Manager facilitated a training on Gender-Transformative Project Development for the project staff in October 2021. The training session covered the Gender Integration Continuum, a framework developed by the USAID Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG) for designers and implementers to use in planning how to integrate gender into their programs. The continuum¹¹ categorizes development activities as:

- **Gender-blind.** These activities reinforce gender inequalities and stereotypes. Project developers and organizers are blind to the needs and challenges of the marginalized, vulnerable, excluded, and other social groups because there is a lack of awareness of these issues. In this stage, project developers and organizers are unaware of the needs and challenges of these groups and just focus on the delivery of their projects.
- **Gender-accommodating.** These activities work around existing gender differences and inequalities. Project developers and organizers may be aware of the needs and challenges of social groups but they only partially respond or address the needs and challenges which will help them complete the delivery of their projects.
- **Gender-transformative.** These activities are also considered gender-aware. These programs try to change inequitable gender-based norms and dynamics. Project developers and organizers believe that for them to complete the delivery of their projects they need to recognize and examine the needs and challenges of social groups; and that they need to address their needs and challenges.



Internal training with SW team. COG Manager shared and discussed some strategies on gender-transformative approaches from best practices implemented by different USAID projects in other countries.

¹¹ USAID Interagency Gender Working Group. Gender Integration Continuum. https://www.igwg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FG_GendrIntegrContinuum.pdf

In preparation for gender related activities in Year 3, the COG Manager shared and discussed some strategies on gender-transformative approaches from best practices implemented by different USAID projects in other countries. The Team also shared suggestions and commented on the practices that are considered gender-blind. Safe Water will begin documenting new best practices in the water sector that hopes to achieve gender-transformative project development.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

During the quarter, the Safe Water Project implemented its Communications and Outreach Plan to build shared understanding about the project, provided communication support to its component activities, and generated national interest to WRM and WSS issues being addressed through its activities.

A. COMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH PLAN STRATEGY I: BUILDING SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Safe Water uses communications to build shared understanding of the importance of WRM and WSS among key stakeholder groups and external audiences. This includes project activity updates, success stories, and key event promotions.

UPDATES ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Team used several communication platforms to disseminate updates on Safe Water implementation. These included: weekly highlights, social media posts (e.g. photos, videos, recordings, press releases) and monthly newsletters, summarized in Table 9.

TABLE 9. COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS USAGE







COMMUNICATION PRODUCT	AUDIENCE	FREQUENCY	N
Safe Water Newsletter	Safe Water partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries, trainees, etc.	Monthly	3
Highlights	USAID and DAI stakeholders	1-4/month	9
Social Media (based on newsletter contents)	USAID Spotlight	2/ month	6
	News articles	4-5/month	14
	Social media posts	4-7/month	17
	Videos/ footages	1-6/month	10
	Live event/ recording	1/month	3
	Press releases	1/month	3
	Total		53

Monthly Newsletters. In the USAID spotlights, Safe Water featured briefers and fact sheets on WASH as applied in health care facilities and in relation to women empowerment (October 2021); inclusion of the Philippines as a USG high-priority country under the Water for the World Act and USAID’s World Toilet Day celebration (November 2021); and USAID’s interventions and assistance to Typhoon Odette-affected communities (December 2021). The Team highlighted 14 news articles relating to the following activities:

- a. Watershed protection using the LAWIN forest and biodiversity protection system
- b. Trainings for WSPs, e.g. Central Management System, Operations and Management
- c. OBA-BF
- d. Livelihood assistance, e.g. coffee farming, organic vegetable farming, credit and savings groups

- e. PhiWC, e.g. webinars, awarding ceremony

The monthly newsletters also cited Safe Water-related social media postings in official and personal Facebook accounts of Safe Water participants, beneficiaries, and partners to encourage “citizen reporting” of activities, events and campaigns.

  <p>USAID'S SPOTLIGHT</p> <p>WASH in Health Care Facilities for Quality Health Systems This technical brief highlights importance of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities as part of health system strengthening (HSS) and health security. It provides evidence of how effective WASH is required to support countries in meeting their development goals and achieving the three HSS outcomes of equity, quality, and resource optimization. Read the brief from USAID.</p> <p>WASH for Women and Girls Through Water for the World, USAID increases access to sustainable water and sanitation services, promotes key hygiene behaviors, and enhances the effective management of water resources in developing countries. Read the fact sheet from USAID.</p> <p>IN THE NEWS</p> <p>USAID, DENR train watershed patrollers on Lavin forest and biodiversity protection system San Carlos City and Puerto Princesa City, October 5 - Puerto Princesa City and San Carlos City – USAID’s Safe Water Project and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) trained 100 watershed and forest patrollers in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and San Carlos City, Negros Occidental on the use of Lavin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System to improve the management of critical watersheds. Read more.</p> <p>USAID, LGU Alabel sets up the Centralized Management System in its water system Alabel, October 13 – Mayor Vic Paul Salarda led the</p>	  <p>USAID'S SPOTLIGHT</p> <p>USAID designates 21 high-priority countries under the Water for the World Act, including the Philippines The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced its annual list of high-priority countries for safe and resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance. Aligned with the requirements in the Water for the World Act of 2014, these partner countries will be the primary focus of the U.S. government’s investments to build a more water-secure world amid ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, and conflict. Read more from USAID’s press release.</p> <p>USAID celebrates World Toilet Day On November 19, USAID celebrates World Toilet Day 2021. This year’s theme - Valuing Toilets - highlights the importance of toilets in many facets of peoples’ lives, including health, gender equality, economics, and the environment. “Toilet” is often used as a simple term for – and often the most visible part of – the whole sanitation process, which includes not just the toilet or latrine, but also regulations, behavior change, sanitation sales, and the capture, treatment, disposal, and/or reuse of urine or feces. Check out resources globally on USAID’s celebration.</p> <p>IN THE NEWS</p> <p>People’s organizations apply skills on organic vegetable farming and demo farm establishment training Narra, November 3 - To protect water sources and increase farm productivity, USAID, through its Safe Water Project, is promoting organic agriculture in watershed communities. In collaboration with Nara Municipal Agriculture Office and ELOF Philippines, USAID trained farmers in Narra Municipality on vegetable growing through organic means. Read more.</p>	  <p>USAID'S SPOTLIGHT</p> <p>5 Ways USAID is responding to Super Typhoon Rai in the Philippines Manila, December 23 - On Dec. 18, Super Typhoon Rai – known locally as Odette – barreled into the Philippines, bringing heavy rains, landslides, and widespread flooding. The devastating storm killed at least 375 people, displaced an estimated 631,000 people, left many roads and bridges impassable, and knocked out power in more than 60 cities. Here are five ways USAID is responding to Super Typhoon Rai. Read more from USAID.</p> <p>U.S. Assistance for Typhoon Odette Tops Php1 Billion with New Major Announcement Manila, December 29 - The United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is allocating an additional Php900 million (\$10 million) in humanitarian assistance to help communities affected by Typhoon Odette, bringing total U.S. support for this response to more than Php1 billion (\$20.2 million). Read more below: US Foreign Aid (USAID) 2021 Philippine Daily Inquirer: ROW with Partners: OAM 1, 2 NEXUS Philippines Action Against Hunger Philippines</p> <p>IN THE NEWS</p> <p>Greentropics introduces Mutu Asam Brew coffee beans, a product of USAID’s assistance Datal Basak, Sarangani, December 7 - Greentropics, in partnership with Datal Basak Organic Farmers Association, CLAFI, DENR-EMB, Sarangani Energy Corporation and the local government, introduced its newest coffee product, the “Mutu Asam Brew” which will be available in the market in early 2022. The coffee beans are the product of Datal Basak farmers that participated in USAID’s five-week Climate Resilient Farmer Field School on Coffee Production. With the training, coffee farmers improved the quality and yields of their coffee trees, and consequently their incomes. The training is part of USAID Safe Water’s measure to</p>
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Monthly Newsletters. Safe Water shared its project updates through its spotlights, news, social media posts, and resources to its stakeholders, beneficiaries, trainees, activity participants, among others.

Weekly Highlights. The following were the weekly highlight headlines for the quarter:

- USAID supports launch and implementation of the master plan on water supply and sanitation
- Water service providers in Palawan received management and operation training from USAID and Puerto Princesa City Water District
- USAID supports development and adoption of the Integrated Watershed Plan in Narra Municipality in Palawan

- USAID and DAI Global LLC begin piloting of PHP 1.5 million innovative financing on household sanitation
- Water innovators take the spotlight in Philippine Water Challenge webinars
- USAID, Taytay municipal government and stakeholders draw up conservation management blueprint for Lake Manguao
- USAID introduces community savings approach to watershed communities in Palawan for financial resiliency
- USAID and Narra municipal government support farmers' associations in establishing organic vegetable farms
- USAID conducts year-end visit at Sarangani and General Santos City to celebrate success, monitor progress, and strengthen partnerships in water security

Videos. The videos on Safe Water activities and interventions are as follows:

- [Recording: PhIWC Webinar #2 – Bridging Innovators and Enablers](#)
- [Recording: PhIWC Webinar #3 – Diving Deep into the Israel Water Sector](#)
- [NWTF documents OBA-BF experience, a partnership with USAID, DAI and Sagay City Government](#)
- [Footage: DUMRIA Demonstration and Training Sites for Vegetable Farming](#)
- [Recording: Philippine Water Challenge Awarding Ceremony](#)
- [Philippine Water Challenge 2021 Entries](#)
- [USAID Assistance to DUMRIA Linking to Agri-product Market](#)

SUCCESS STORIES AND PROMOTION OF KEY EVENTS

During this quarter, Safe Water communications and outreach work focused on two major events: Philippine Water Challenge and the OBA-BF pilot activities. Three press releases were drafted for these events and were featured in official websites and accounts of various media entities, LGUs and NGOs, providing greater visibility for the project:

- Experts from Israel, PH address water and sanitation crisis
[Business Mirror](#) | [Manila Bulletin](#) | [Manila Times](#) | [Philippine Star](#) | [PDRF](#)
- USAID, partners install 100 toilets to promote household sanitation, environmental protection
[US Embassy](#) | [USAID](#) | [Manila Bulletin](#) | [Tribune](#) | [Radyo Agila](#) | [Newsbeezer](#)
Negros: [Digicast](#) | [SunStar Bacolod](#) | [Negros Now Daily](#) | [NWTF](#) | [The Visayan Daily Star](#) | [Daily Guardian](#)
Sarangani: [Alabel Information Office](#) | [ASA Philippines Foundation](#)
- Five Local Innovations Win Awards in 2021 Philippine Water Challenge
[US Embassy](#) | [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) | [Manila Times](#) | [PIA](#) | [Daily Guardian](#) | [Phil Muslim Today](#)

Philippine Water Challenge (PhIWC). The Team focused its communications and outreach efforts to generate interest and participation to the Challenge through social media cards for the WASH community and custom-made mailers for potential PhIWC participants from the academe, start-ups and innovators.

Output-based Aid and Blended Finance. The Team produced various collaterals that were used during the close-out events in Sagay City and Alabel:

- Videos – two 10-15 minute videos on the pilot experience for each site (Sagay video focused on environmental protection and Alabel video on public health)



OBA-BF Infographic Fact Sheets. These fact sheets describe the OBA-BF scheme with different angles for each site.

- Infographics – three infographics (one-pager formats and standees) to describe the OBA-BF scheme with different angles for each site (i.e. environmental protection, public health)
- Brochure – revised brochure mirrors the generic description of OBA-BF scheme found in the infographic and provides detailed instructions on how potential beneficiaries can avail of the OBA-BF scheme
- Success story – a success story with a women empowerment angle was submitted to DAI Global’s Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) newsletter which is circulated to development experts across the globe

B. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN STRATEGY 2: PROVIDING COMMUNICATION SUPPORT TO COMPONENT ACTIVITIES

By providing communication support to component activities, the Safe Water communications and outreach team supported buy-in to and expanded knowledge of technical approaches and tools used during the World Toilet Day and in several project activities.

WORLD TOILET DAY

The Team supported USAID’s international and national celebrations of World Toilet Day. At the international level, Safe Water shared USAID’s sanitation success story in its November 2021 newsletter. The **success story** featured how primary school latrines are designed to make toilets accessible to all. The Team also participated in an exchange of best practices on DAI Global’s Awesomeness Fund projects from which the OBA-BF pilot activity was funded, and in the briefing of USAID water and sanitation practitioners. It was an opportunity for Safe Water Chief of Party Alma Porciuncula to share the pilot experience with DAI peers and USAID staff who are in a position to advocate for the replication of the concept.

At the local level, Safe Water featured two women OBA-BF beneficiaries, Cristela Bacruya and Jessica Micoy, who shared their message of gratitude to USAID and DAI. This video generated over 400 engagements on Facebook. NWTF, the MFI partner in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, also shared a video on the OBA-BF piloting experience on Facebook which received over 700 views on the platform.



OBA-BF Videos. USAID SW developed two videos that documented the experiences of the piloting activities in Sagay City, Negros Occidental and Alabel, Sarangani.

TRANSLATION OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS TO COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

The Team has started documenting implementation of Safe Water activities to capture best practices and processes that can be translated into communications products:

SAFE WATER ACTIVITIES	COMMUNICATION MATERIALS
OBA-BF	Testimonials, videos, photos, piloting experience, etc.
PIIWSF/PIWSP	Infographics, briefers
Philippine Water Challenge	Photos, briefer on challenge entries
WDM	Videos, photos, storyboard for step-by-step instructions
Hydrological Studies	Activity documentation, photos, testimonials, etc.
Livelihood and Partnerships (e.g. coffee farming, organic farming, capacity-building for savings and credit group)	Testimonials, videos, photos, etc.

These will be used to supplement the development of knowledge products in order to maximize the utility of the project’s knowledge and communication products.

C. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN STRATEGY 3: GENERATING NATIONAL INTEREST FOR WSS AND WRM ISSUES

By generating national interest for WSS and WRM issues, the Communications and Outreach team supported broad-based engagement and demand for improved WSS and WRM in the national level. In the beginning of the quarter, Safe Water highlighted its work on the PWSSMP by featuring it in a weekly highlight entitled, “USAID supports launch and implementation of the master plan on water supply and sanitation.” The Team also provided communications support to NEDA (e.g. PowerPoint presentation, messaging) in the following events where PWSSMP was presented:

- Water Security Forum, where the PIIWSF was highlighted as a platform to cascade the PWSSMP; and,

- WSS Network Session on Financing, where the project helped introduce the different facilities, schemes, and programs for funding and financing the PWSSMP.

Safe Water also had a follow-up meeting with NEDA on the PWSSMP Communications Plan which outlines the activities to implement the plan beginning January 2022, particularly:

- Creating a library of PowerPoint presentations on the PWSSMP;
- Supporting the development of social media materials (e.g. social media cards, pictograms, infographic, videos); and
- Drafting messaging and inputs for the PWSSMP briefing kits.



Provincial Government of Negros Occidental

PhiWC Grand Prize Winner. Libmanan Water District General Manager Engr. [REDACTED] (center) shows off the PHP 250,000-check as partnership fund and the Sining Ipo trophy as part of their Philippine Water Challenge 2021 award. They will also be receiving PHP 250,000-worth of mentorship and networking packages which will help scale up the implementation of their solution, “Low Cost Digitization and Automation Solution in Management of Water Distribution System.”

PHILIPPINE WATER CHALLENGE

AWARDING

From its launch on July 29, 2021, the Philippine Water Challenge was able to generate 34 applications ranging from mobile water treatment solutions, wastewater treatment technologies, social enterprises and devices that promote operational efficiency for WSPs. Through a two-level evaluation process, entries

were narrowed down to 10 finalists by the Screening Committee followed by the selection of 5 winning solutions by the Board of Jurors, consisting of representatives from NEDA, USAID, Safe Water, PDRF and the two Metro-Manila Concessionaires. The competition concluded with the awarding event on December 14, 2021 at the Makati Diamond Hotel with 80 persons in attendance and more than 2, 000 viewers online. Details of the winning applications are provided below.

Grand Prize Winner: **Low-Cost Digitization and Automation Solution in Management of Water Distribution System** by Libmanan Water District. This solution uses data loggers that records both water volume pressure using a makeshift solution that is coded and assembled locally. This solution will enable end-users to understand their operations in real-time with automated collection and transmission of data to their central system.

First Place Winners:

- **Slum upgrading through affordable supply of clean water and holistic approach to empower and improve lives of urban disadvantaged** by Tubig at Pag-Asa/ EV Water and Life
- **TUFFAd Tough on Toxins! Utilization a customizable, and reusable zeolite water filter for low- resource settings** by ADAM Tech

Second Place Winners:

- **Portable Unihoused Water Purification and Sterilization Apparatus** by Ozone Dynamic Ventures
- **Project NexCities (Water Energy Nutrient Nexus in cities of the future): Wastewater to Fertilizer** by the De La Salle University-Araneta

The PhIWC solutions were deployed to address emergency need for safe drinking water by Typhoon Odette -affected communities in Visayas

Portable Unihoused Water Purification and Sterilization Apparatus

GiftingLife: #Water4All Through World Class Sustainable Solutions and Partnership

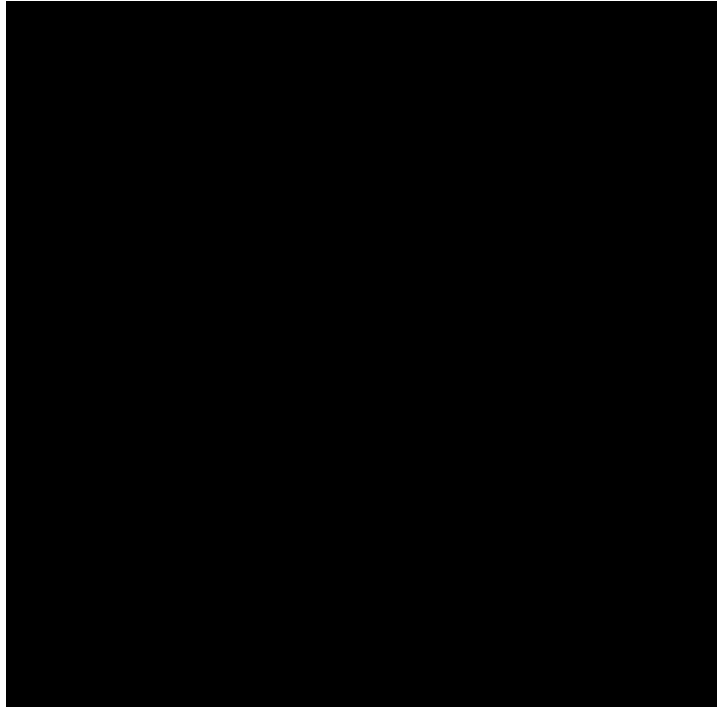
TUFFad Tough on Toxins! Utilization of a module,

PHLWC WEBINARS

PhIWC conducted two webinars in October to encourage more participation from innovators and promote awareness on WSS innovations as detailed below:

Bridging Innovators and Enablers (October 7, 2021)- In this webinar, innovators and innovation support organizations shared their experiences in hurdling the roadblocks to innovations. The webinar also discussed how incubation could help innovators access investment and the market.

Diving Deep into the Israeli Water Sector (October 13, 2021). The webinar presented solutions and key innovations from the Israeli Water Sector on municipal water supply management, sanitation, filtration and water treatment. The webinar was co-organized by PhIWC with the Israeli Embassy in the Philippines, a PhIWC prize sponsor to promote knowledge exchange between Israel and the Philippine water sectors.



MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

A. CONTINUING BASELINE ASSESSMENT

During this quarter, the Team gathered data on the state of access to WSS services and WRM for 17 more cities/municipalities. The data will be used to ensure that Safe Water assistance is aligned and responsive to the needs of stakeholders such as LGUs, WDs, POs to improve delivery of WSS services and management of water resources.

B. MEL PLAN UPDATING

The MEL Plan was revised to include clarifications on the definitions and attribution of outcome indicators 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 (water quantity and quality indicators). In addition, indicators to report Safe Water achievements against Indo Pacific Strategies (IPS) Natural Resources Safeguards and Security (NRSS) indicators were also identified.

The revised MEL Plan outlined methods and data collection tools to determine project accomplishments vis-à-vis the targets. These include:

- a. Reports from partners to track the number of people gaining access to WSS services such as: WASH loans of Water.org; Monthly Data Sheets (MDS) of water districts; and use of the WSP diagnostic tool to determine areas for improvements in the operation of water utilities
- b. Management and Performance Capacity Assessments of Service Providers to gauge institutional strengthening and capacity development
- c. GIS Tools to monitor reduction in forest/ land cover (and corresponding reduction in GHG emissions) as a result of project activities
- d. Review of reports and records of stakeholders (i.e., service connection records from water districts as a bases to account for Safe Water’s achievements regarding access to safe drinking water services).
- e. Interviews and FGDs to complement quantitative information with qualitative assessments to include feedback from various WSS/ WRM institutions and stakeholders benefitting from Safe Water assistance such as: 1) improvements in perceptions, knowledge, and skills of WSS/WRM institutions in preparing plans, operations or delivery of services, and access to financial resources; 2) improved access to WSS services; and 3) benefits from livelihood and landscape activities

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Safe Water Activity Online Monitoring & Evaluation System

Change Password Logout

Kent

- Home
- Dashboards
- Upload Information
- PIVWP
- Library
- ADMINISTRATION
 - User Management
 - Reference Information

Reports

USAID SW Annual Report: Year 2 (Oct 2020 - Sept 2021)

BROWSE REPORTS

What We Do

The **USAID Philippines**, through its **Safe Water Project** is responding to water security challenges. Working with the Government of the Philippines, Safe Water is a five-year (2019-2024) initiative that seeks to **improve water security** for water-stressed communities through increased access to water supply and sanitation services, more sustainably managed water resources, and stronger enabling environment.

General

Achieving a water-secure future for the country's most water-stressed communities

READ FACT SHEET

Negros Occidental

Achieving a water-secure future for Negros Occidental

READ FACT SHEET

Palawan

Achieving a water-secure future for Palawan

READ FACT SHEET

Sarangani/ GSC

Achieving a water-secure future for General Santos City and Sarangani

READ FACT SHEET

Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboards

Water Supply & Sanitation

Water Resource Management

Water Sector Governance

Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan

Cross-cutting: MEL, COG & KM

Weekly Highlights

USAID conducts Year-end Visit at Negros Occidental to celebrate successes, monitor progress, and strengthen partnerships in water security

December 9, Negros Occidental

BROWSE HIGHLIGHTS

Last updated: January 7, 2022

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Online M&E system. The Safe Water web-based M&E System efficiently manages the collection and processing of all data/information gathered; tracks performance by enabling real-time reporting of progress and result/outcomes by site; and generates dashboards and data sets to inform decisions related to project implementation.

- f. Safe Water web-based M&E System to efficiently manage the collection and processing of all data/information gathered; track performance by enabling real-time reporting of progress and result/outcomes by site; and generate dashboards and data sets to inform decisions related to project implementation.

C. PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

During the quarter, the Team made progress against annual targets on 12 of the 27 project indicators. The achievements are made by exploring alternative means of implementation (i.e., use of virtual platforms to deliver technical assistance and identifying focal persons from partners who champion Safe Water activities in respective institutions). The Team also banked on the strong support from partner LGUs, WSPs, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The achievements of the project as of this reporting period are summarized in Table 10.

TABLE 10. YEAR 3 1ST QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AGAINST YEAR 3 TARGETS

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual (1 st Quarter)	
						Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services							
O 1.1: Number of people gaining access to basic or safely managed drinking water services as a result of U.S. Government (USG) assistance	F		270,000	48,046	30,000	814	2.71%
	<i>Basic</i>	1,539,312	51,570		16,000	0	0%
	<i>Safely Managed</i>	1,260,760	218,430	48,046	14,000	814	5.81%
O 1.2: Number of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic or safely managed drinking water service as a result of USG assistance	F	0	800,000	1,211	100,000	209	0.21%
<p>During the quarter, 1,023 people accessed loans from Water.org's partner MFIs to install safely managed water supply systems (814 people) and upgrade service quality (209 people). Loans are valued at USD 43,720 (PHP 2.19 million). This brings the running total of people with access to safely managed drinking water services (HL8.1-2) to 48,860 and 1,420 for people with improved service quality (HL 8.1-3), which are 22.37% and 0.18% of the LOP targets respectively.</p> <p>Safe Water has no report on new access to basic/ communal faucets or level 2 services for this quarter as: (i) most of level 2 water supply projects (WSPs) being assisted by Safe Water are still in the early phase of development e.g. programming, FS preparation; and (ii) reported accomplishments on access to WSS services, so far, were obtained from WASH loan programs of partner MFIs/Water.org. The numbers are not broken down into level 2 and level 3 (safely managed/ piped to households). For now, numbers on access to water are placed under safely managed since most of the loans are used for level 3 connections. Although unable to account for achievements for level 2 service, achievements are even better, as new access is immediately level 3 or the highest level of service. Safe Water expects to meet its Y3 (30,000) and cumulative (50,000) targets for outcome 1.1 of level 3/safely managed services considering the activities lined up to expand WASH loans and facilitate project development.</p> <p>Moreover, Safe Water is working on a catch-up plan to meet its Year 3 (100,000) and cumulative (150,000) targets under outcome 1.2 (improved service quality), including improvement of water quality and pressure management.</p>							
O 1.3: Number of people gaining access to limited or basic or safely	F		210,000	85,674	40,000	11,404	28.51%
	<i>Basic</i>	2,556,952	104,890	85,674	20,050	11,404	56.88%
	<i>Limited</i>	1,821,283	105,110		19,950	0	0%

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual (1 st Quarter)	
						Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
managed sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	<i>Safely Managed</i>	1,375	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
O 1.4: Number of people receiving improved sanitation services quality from an existing "limited" or "basic" services as a result of USG assistance	F	0	310,000	66,226	60,000	13,383	22.30%
<p>During the quarter, 24,787 people accessed loans from Water.org's partner MFIs to install basic sanitation services (11,404 people) and upgrade / improve basic sanitation facilities (13,383 people). Loans are valued at USD 727,506 (PHP 36.38 million). This brings the running total of people with access to basic sanitation services (HL8.2-2) to 97,078 and 79,609 for people with improved service quality (HL 8.2-7), which accounts for 92.55% and 25.68% of the LOP targets, respectively.</p> <p>Safe Water has no report regarding limited sanitation services during the quarter due to: (i) economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in local governments postponing capital investments and delayed implementation of sanitation projects; (ii) Safe Water's accomplishments on sanitation were obtained from WASH loan programs of partner MFIs/Water.org, which do not have a breakdown of basic and limited sanitation facilities. For now, numbers on access to sanitation are counted against "basic sanitation" since limited sanitation will not require significant capital cost (e.g., excavation of pits). As basic is a higher level of service compared to limited, the achievements are even more significant. Safe Water expects to achieve the annual (20,000) and cumulative (40,000) targets for outcome 1.3 considering the activities to expand WASH loans. Safe Water is also working to provide more people with access to safely managed sanitation services through its technical assistance (TA) to water districts and LGUs in developing and implementation septage management projects. In particular, Safe Water expanded its TA to water district septage projects around Manila Bay covered by the Supreme Court Mandamus.</p>							
Objective 2: Improved sustainable management of water resources							
O2.1: Amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced or avoided (in metric tons equivalent) related to sustainable landscapes as a result of USG assistance	F	418,896	1,000,000	49,505	225,000	21,029	9.4%
<p>During the quarter, Safe Water accounted for prevention of 21,029 MT of CO2 GHG emission (Montible watershed, Palawan). This brings the running total of GHG emissions prevented (EG 13-6) across Safe Water covered watersheds to 70,534 CO2 equivalent to 7.1% of the LOP target. The key intervention for the prevention of GHG emission spearheaded by Safe Water is primarily forest patrol using the LAWIN forest protection system. Other measures include, implementation of various activities indicated in the Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) such as spring protection, implementation of community livelihood, and construction of nurseries and plant propagation, among others.</p> <p>Substantial prevention of GHG emissions is expected in the next three quarters leading to attaining annual (75,000 CO2) and cumulative (300,00 CO2) Y3 targets. It will be realized through Safe Water's technical assistance to the LGUs and other WRM stakeholders on (i) adoption and implementation of IWMPs e.g., forest protection and reforestation in Narra and Montible; (ii) Legitimization / approval of WMPs and initial implementation of LGUs' conservation area plan to protect existing forest (e.g. Bago, Malogo, Ilog Hilabangan) and protection of existing forest (BMRB), among others.</p>							
O 2.2: Number of people benefiting from adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance	F	0	600,000	154,334	125,000	0	

No additional achievement yet is reported in Q1 of Year 3 as benefits from various landscape activities spearheaded by Safe Water (apart from what had already been reported in Y2) have yet to take place in 3rd to 4th quarters of the year, which are expected to be sufficient to achieve annual (125,000 people) and cumulative (275,000 people) Y3 targets. The targets will be realized through Safe Water TA to LGUs, People's Organizations and other stakeholders on implementation of IWMPs that will facilitate diversification of water supply sources, i.e., use of surface water to expand or improve services in Dumarán, Aborlan and Quezon (Palawan); promote sustainable farming practices (e.g. ube demo farming and in Palawan); increase LAWIN system forest patrolling activities; implement livelihood activities from various partnerships forged in year 2, and protect non-harmful traditional livelihoods across watersheds in the three provinces, among others.

	F	22,450	160,000	15,280	35,000	0
O 2.3: Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or non-monetary) associated with USG sustainable landscapes activities	No additional achievement yet is reported in Q1 of Year 3 as monetary and non-monetary benefits from some livelihood activities spearheaded by Safe Water (apart from what had already been reported in Y2) have yet to be achieved in 3 rd to 4 th quarters of the year. Both annual (35,000 people) and cumulative (50,000) targets for Y3 are expected to be achieved through Safe Water's TA on enabling POs to adopt more environmentally sustainable farming practices (e.g., organic vegetable farming, sustainable ube production), implementation of livelihood activities that are tied to partnerships forged between POs and partners from the private sectors (e.g., KASILAK, CLAFI, CCPFI, MUAD Negros) as well as support to the implementation of livelihood activities developed by the LGUs (e.g., mangrove planting), among others.					
O 2.4: Changes in runoff-ratio in targeted catchments	C	Surface flow was at 2.15 billion cubic meters or equivalent to a runoff ratio at 48% VS 4.5 billion cubic meters annual rainfall	Decreased			Results will be reported in Year 5
Results of Hydrologic Studies in five watersheds (Baseline) Annual Run-off ratio (1975-2005): 48% (2.15 billion cubic meters out of 4.5 billion cubic meters rainfall)						
O 2.5: Changes in water quality as measured by water turbidity	C	FNUs at sections of river: 24.8% (upstream); 53.3% (midstream); 59.5% (downstream)	No change			Results will be reported in Year 5
Results of Hydrologic Studies in five watersheds (Baseline) Water Quality by Section of River (Turbidity measured in Formazin Nephelometric Units, FNUs): Upstream, 24.82; Midstream, 53.26; Downstream: 59.46						
O 2.6: Changes in the volume of groundwater recharge / infiltration	C	940.3 million cubic meters, equivalent to 21% GW	No change			Results will be reported in Year 5

		recharge rate against 4.5 billion cubic meters annual volume of rainfall.						
Results of Hydrologic Studies in five watersheds (Baseline) Annual Ground Water Recharge / Infiltration (1975-2005): 940.3 million cubic meters, equivalent to 21% GW recharge rate against the 4.5 billion cubic meters annual volume of rainfall.								
Objective 3: Strengthened water sector governance								
O 3.1: Number of policies or plans developed, enhanced, or implemented to promote water security	C		50	13	10		1	10%
	During the quarter, Safe Water has spearheaded issuance of an EO by the City Government of Kabankalan creating their TWG for the implementation of the PES. This brings the running total number of policies / plans developed or implemented across project areas to 14, which constitutes 28% of the LOP target. Safe Water is likely to achieve or even exceed both annual (10) and cumulative (20) Y3 targets through its continuing assistance to the development and implementation of various plans (e.g., IWMPs, WMPs, LWCRPs) and policies (e.g., EOs creating various LGU-TWGs supporting Safe Water activities, ordinances for the implementation of PES).							
O 3.2: Number of water and sanitation sector institutions strengthened to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	F	0	50	28	10		0	
	Safe Water has no report in Q1 of the year as additional results for this indicator apart from what had already been reported in year 2, are anticipated to be accounted in 2 nd to 4 th quarters of the year. The achievements (no. of WSS sector institutions) will be accounted based on evidences of improved capacity to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services (e.g. already implementing water quality monitoring, increasing interventions to high recharge areas, implementation of forest protection activities as a result of Safe Water's TA) Safe Water expects to achieve its annual (10) and cumulative (30) Y3 targets by continuing its assistance to LGUs and other institutions on the formulation and implementation of IWMPs / WMPs and LWCRPs and conduct of hydrologic studies, strengthening forest patrolling through the LAWIN system, community-based water quality monitoring, and formulation of business plans of WSPs, among others.							
-								
Intermediate Results (Outputs / Foundational Outcomes) by Objective								
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services								
IR 1.1: Number of WSPs with increased operational, technical, and financial management capacity through Safe Water activities	C	188	30	13	5		8	160%
	During the quarter, Safe Water enabled eight (8) WSPs (Murcia, La Carlota and Taytay WDs, El Nido, San Vicente, Quezon and Alabel LGU, and Savesegrow Coop.) to integrate their improvement programs in the Business Plan facilitated by Safe Water. Safe Water's TA related to this indicator in the next three quarters includes (i) development of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) reduction program in Aborlan and Narra (Palawan); strategic business planning for WSPs in Palawan (El Nido, Quezon and San Vicente) and Sarangani (Alabel, Savesegrow). O&M planning and construction supervision trainings will also be undertaken with LGUs / WSPs.							
IR 1.2: Number of coordination mechanisms institutionalized at the local, watershed, and regional levels through Safe Water activities	C		48	10	4		1	25%
	In Q1 of Y3, Safe Water assisted Alabel Municipality (Sarangani) issue an EO creating its task force for the implementation of Central Management System (CMS) for water service provision. This brings Safe Water achievement for this indicator to 11 coordination mechanisms or 25% of LOP target.							
IR 1.3: Value of new funding mobilized to the water and to the water and sanitation sectors as a result of USG assistance (Million US\$)	F	0	US\$ 75,000,000	US\$10,873,000	US\$17,000,000		US\$1,946,866	11.45%
	<i>Public</i>			US\$6,827,000				
	<i>Private</i>			US\$4,046,000	US\$17,000,000		US\$1,946,866	11.45%
	Safe Water spearheaded mobilization of US\$ 1.95 million during the quarter broken down as (i) US\$ 26,866 for the pilot implementation of OBA-BF in Alabel (Sarangani) and Sagay (Negros Occidental). and (ii) US\$ 1.92 million loans							

	<p>accessed by some HHs from Water.org in support of expansion and improvement of access to WSS services in Safe Water sites. This brings the cumulative amount mobilized at US\$ 12.82 million or 17.1% of the LOP target.</p> <p>Safe Water expects to achieve both annual (USD 17 M) and cumulative (USD 27 M) Y3 targets through the following activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical assistance to LWUA to facilitate implementation of septage management projects using its 2021 and 2022 budget allocation 2. Implementation of work plan with Water.org to increase demand generation for WASH loans; and 3. Facilitation of the utilization of National Government budget allocation for LGU WSS investments including GEF, FALGU and ELCAC. 						
IR 1.4: Number of feasibility studies, programs of work, and detailed designs developed that enable water supply and sanitation service expansion or improvement as a result of USG assistance (New)	C		50	4	10	3	30%
	<p>During the quarter, Safe Water assisted in the completion of two (2) Program of Works (San Carlos Water Treatment Plant Study and Calatrava spring source development for upland barangays; and one (1) high level study for bulk water development in the Malogo Watershed that could serve at least a cluster of five (5) LGUs and water districts. This brings the total number of project preparation studies to seven (7), equivalent to 14% of LOP target. Safe Water expects to achieve the both annual (10) and cumulative (14) Y3 targets with the assistance to the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Design preparation: Malatgao Water Supply Project 2) Development of POWs: Upper Kabankalan and five (5) Chlorine Residual (5) in Negros Occidental; and four (4) chlorine residuals in Sarangani. 						
Objective 2: Improved sustainable management of water resources							
IR 2.1: Number of hectares under improved watershed management through Safe Water activities	C	2,136	330,000	24,178	90,000	0	
IR 2.2: Number of LGU, WSPs, and watershed stakeholders with improved capacity to plan, manage and monitor water and forest resources sustainably, using data and innovative technologies	C		50	8	17	0	
IR 2.3: Amount of investment mobilized (in US\$ equivalent) for sustainable landscapes, as supported by USG assistance	F		16,000,000	10,545,780	1,000,000	501,144	50.11%
	<p>During the quarter, Safe Water facilitated mobilization of US \$501,144 additional funding for sustainable landscape activities in watersheds particularly from the on-going Safe Water's partnership with Conrado Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation (CLAFI) benefiting 133 households or 705 individuals with livelihood activities. This brings the cumulative amount of investments mobilized for WRM to US \$ 11.05 million equivalent to 69% of the LOP target.</p>						

	Safe Water just signed an agreement with Seoil and is continuing negotiations with ECLOF, Ayala Land Inc., and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. for possible partnership agreement with Safe Water to mobilize more funds especially for livelihood development in upland areas.					
IR 2.4 Number of people who apply improved conservation law enforcement practices as a result of USG assistance	C		2,000	170	400	0
	Safe Water has no report in Q1 of the year as additional results for this indicator apart from what had already been reported in year 2, are anticipated to be accounted in 3rd to 4th quarters of the year. To ensure achieving this year's target, Safe Water will train POs on the implementation of LAWIN forest patrolling system in various watersheds. Safe Water will also provide hands on assistance to the LGUs and POs during the initial phase of patrolling activities. The results for this indicator as of end of year 2 include 170 PO members capacitated on LAWIN system and mobilized as patrollers / monitors to enforce watershed conservation laws.					
Objective 3: Strengthened water sector governance						
IR 3.1: Number of major reform initiatives supported	C		10			0
	Safe Water has no Y3 target for this indicator as the translation of the project activities / assistance into this IR is expected in years 4 and 5.					
IR 3.2: Number of mechanisms developed and/or enhanced for exchanging knowledge on water security	C		15	4	4	0
	<p>The current activities under this indicator are expected to yield results in 3rd to 4th quarters of the year. The achievements / results that would be reported towards end of Y3 are expected to come from the following University Knowledge Exchange (3). Safe Water has on-going discussions with academic institutions (Palawan State University, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod and MSU-General Santos City) for knowledge exchange initiatives in Safe Water sites. Potential areas of collaboration include: (i) developing a pool of trainers that will serve as subject matter experts to facilitate transfer knowledge on WDM, computational hydrology, among others, to WSS and WRM institutions / stakeholders; (ii) sharing of Safe Water knowledge products through the university websites; and (iii) creating a network of peer reviewers for Safe Water knowledge tools and products.</p> <p>Provincial Water Security Summits (2). Provincial Water Security Summits will be held in Negros Occidental and Sarangani to present to local leaders and WSS / WRM stakeholders the barriers and challenges affecting water security and establish their commitments to realize strategies and measures to achieve PWSSMP goals.</p> <p>UDLP Knowledge Resources Portal (1). The Team is also exploring the possibility of sharing Safe Water knowledge products through the Urban Development Learning Programs (UDLP) Knowledge Resources portal, a repository for resources on urban development and public affairs such as WASH.</p>					
Cross-cutting						
Number of tools, technologies, or measures implemented to manage water resources or improved WSS through Safe Water activities	C		30	18	9	1 8.33%
	<p>During the quarter, Safe Water introduced Hydrologic Assessment Modules used during the TOT on Computational Hydrology and Water Resource Management. The modules cover use and analysis of hydrologic and climate data (i.e., watershed maps, geologic maps, rainfall, temperature and stream data); computation of surface water flows and recharge rates; and identification of recharge zones in a watershed.</p> <p>As of the period, Safe Water has spearheaded use or implementation of 19 tools / measures equivalent to 63% of LOP target.</p>					
Number of partnerships developed and/or institutionalized to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	C		23	15	2	0
	Safe Water has already achieved cumulative Y3 target for this indicator (15 partnerships) and expect more partnerships forged as it continues negotiations with ECLOF, Ayala Land Inc., and Pilipinas Shell Foundation. The partnerships with ECLOF and Shell will mobilize resources for livelihood activities and the one with Ayala will promote water demand management.					
Percentage change of women in decision-making positions in WSPs or sector institutions supported by Safe Water	C	32%	50%			0
	While this indicator doesn't have annual targets, Safe Water is building on enabling conditions to ensure that the LOP target is reached. This includes the following activities: Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting (GPB) Training (GPB) for WSPs and WMCs (Y3Q2-4), Training of Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP) Gender and Development Monitors (Y3Q2-3), and Gender-Responsive Human Resources and Management Strategies Training for WSPs (Y3Q3-4).					
Number of persons trained with USG assistance for advancing gender equality or	C		1,000	163	400	0
	The current activities under this indicator are expected to yield results in 3 rd to 4 th quarters of the year Safe Water expects to meet the targets through the following capacity development activities: Gender and Development					

female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations	(GAD) Planning and Budgeting Trainings, GAD monitor trainings, Gender-responsive HRM trainings, and gender-related trainings and workshops mainstreamed/ integrated in livelihood and partnership activities with POs.						
Proportion of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, employment).	C	40%	50%	67%	50%	0	Safe Water has no result yet for this indicator in Q1 Y3 apart from what had been reported in Y2 (67%). Efforts are underway to realize various activities that will yield results for this indicator in the next three quarters, in particular trainings on the following: (1) Training on Gender-Inclusive Strategic Development Planning for Narra People's Organizations; (2) Training on the Establishment of Community-Managed Savings and Credit Facility; (3) Training on Organic Vegetable Farming and Demo Farm Establishment; and, (4) Training on Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System for Montible Conservation Law Enforcement Stakeholders

2.2 ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

COMMON TO OBJECTIVES 1, 2 AND 3

Constraints due to the COVID-19 situation. Increasing COVID-19 cases in Safe Water sites continue to affect implementation of field activities. In Sarangani, the Field Team was placed under quarantine for 21 days in November 2021 due to double exposure to positive COVID cases. COVID cases in LGU offices also resulted in low participation from LGU employees for in-person activities. In addition, conflict in schedules of LGU partners due to other priorities brought about by the pandemic resulted to delays/postponement of activities to the next quarter. Manila-based staff continued to experience constraints to fully assist field offices because of travel restrictions and limited availability of flights, even during more relaxed quarantine or alert levels. For example, the Safe Water Treatment Specialist had to wait from November until December to get a plane ticket and carry out site validation work in San Carlos City and Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental. Some workshops, such as those for the provincial water security planning had to be postponed.

Whenever possible, the Team continued to utilize online channels or hold blended events to address the limitations posed by COVID-19 restrictions.

Damages and delays due to Typhoon Odette. Typhoon Odette (December 16-17), severely hit Safe Water sites in Negros Occidental (Murcia and Sipalay) and Palawan (Puerto Princesa City, Roxas, Dumarán, Araceli, Taytay, San Vicente and El Nido). Electricity was down in most of these areas, affecting operations of the water systems which are mostly dependent on pumped sources. The field teams are actively gathering reports of damages to the water supply facilities.

The typhoon aftermath will also cause delays in construction projects such as the PHP 176 million Land Bank-funded project of Kabankalan WD. Kabankalan City experienced severe flooding and several of the WD's water sources were submerged including office equipment and records.

The typhoon also destroyed ten community green farms and nurseries in Negros Occidental which were established under the P4Water project. This situation may require realignment of MUAD budget under its CCFPI grant.

In Palawan, electrical supply in Roxas was severely affected. Consequently, planned IWMP activities will be a challenge as it is projected that it will take several months for stable electrical power to be restored in the municipality.

Moreover, the typhoon affected MFI clients and their operations in the area. Demand generation for WASH loans may slow down with priority given to relief and reconstruction of damaged facilities. These may also delay reporting of accomplishment of access and funds mobilized targets. Adjustments will be made in the implementation of the catch-up plan with Water.org and the MFIs.

OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

Postponement of capital investments further delaying WSS Projects that require long gestation period. As reported in previous quarters, assistance requested by LGUs and water utilities mostly involve projects with long gestation periods which is worsened by postponement in capital investments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the Team continued to provide substantial assistance in project development to a number of LGUs and water utilities as described in the earlier section. These projects are necessary for long term sustainability of WSS services, as they either or both expand service capacity or improve quality of service.

Lengthy procurement of measuring instruments for the Water Quality Assurance activities.

Procurement and delivery of the selected chlorine residual tester and reagents sourced from the United States took almost a whole quarter. Local suppliers that meet the technical specifications use US brands. However, they have no inventory available; the delivery took about three (3) months from the time the purchase is confirmed. In the meantime, field staff were trained on water quality assurance testing and oriented on the Catch-up Plan strategy.

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

Improving Capacities of LGUs for WSS Investment Planning and Programming. With the implementation of the Mandanas ruling in 2022, LGUs are expected to undertake more devolved functions previously supported by NGAs.¹² Public resources for WSS investments will now largely come from local budgets. However, WSS programs, projects and activities, still remain a low priority for investment at the local level. In addition, LGUs are less capable or equipped to prepare WSS projects, compared to other infrastructure projects, especially local roads. As such, there is a need to strengthen the technical capacities of LGUs to develop and implement WSS programs and projects to ensure their inclusion in the AIPs and budget allocation for implementation.

Safe Water will continue technical and capacity building assistance to LGUs guided by the URAF framework and water utility reform glide path to improve utility governance and increase access to financing for WSS investments. Assistance to LGUs will include: a) alignment and integration of water security related projects and activities in the local planning, investment programming and budgeting processes; b) improving access to other financing sources such as GFI and private sector/ commercial windows; and c) adoption of PPPs for identified clustered projects, and scaling and replication of the OBA-BF scheme for sanitation and PES for watershed conservation and protection.

Data Availability. PES activities have been delayed due to difficulties in mobilizing the LGU TWG to gather data particularly for the CBV and CRA which are crucial in the ensuing steps of the process, but are usually not readily available. Safe Water field teams will augment assistance to LGUs in data gathering. Default or proxy values from documented PES cases will be used in the analysis and will be updated with site data once available.

¹² Supreme Court jurisprudence that increases the tax base of computing the IRA of LGUs to include not only internal revenue taxes but also custom duties and tariffs and other taxes on national wealth, as mandated under the RA 7160. With the Mandanas ruling, total IRA allocation of LGUs in 2022 will increase by 55.7% to PHP 1,083 billion from 2021 level of PHP 695 billion. The full implementation of this ruling will be in 2023.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

1. Pro-actively carry out the Catch-up Plan on Water Quality Assurance and pressure measurements in coordination with the water utilities. Augment existing manpower with the mobilization of new WSS Officers who were hired primarily for the Catch-up Plan.
2. Investigate, assess and finalize recommendations for the improvement of the water treatment facilities of a number of LGUs in Palawan to be carried out by the Safe Water Treatment Process Specialist.
3. Complete and finalize the financial analysis in the high-level study of the proposed Murcia Bulk Water Supply. Assist in the next steps of the technical assistance in project development provided to other WSPs.
4. Continue capacity building for WSPs, focusing on water safety planning, ring-fencing and non-revenue water reduction.
5. Monitor the NRW of San Vicente to see if there are improvements following the NRW Reduction training.
6. Guide and support the Field Teams on the establishment of CMS in the pilot areas by providing capacity building training to LGU staff who will handle the MWE. Complete the first draft of the CMS Implementation Guide within the quarter.
7. Continue assistance to the Provinces of Negros Occidental and Sarangani in the formulation of their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans, specifically on data validation and analysis, water security assessment and conduct of water forum/summit to present the recommendations of the plan.
8. Plan and carry out capacity building training for Water.org and its partner MFIs; continue working with them on household water connections and toilet facilities; and jointly plan and carry out assistance to the automation of billing and collection system of selected water utilities under the PGP.
9. Conduct work planning with LWUA to fast-track the implementation of septage management programs in the Mandamus Areas.
10. Gather information on the damages brought about by Super Typhoon Odette to affected water utilities, and if there is massive damage to water supply infrastructure, be ready for possible activation of CLIN-2.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1. Review and finalize the 60 hydrologic studies being prepared by GFI
2. Mobilize engagement of WMC Capacity Assessment Advisor
3. Finalize task order for Manila Observatory on expanded climate risk assessment in target watersheds within Safe Water covered provinces
4. Continue negotiation with ECLOF, Ayala Land Inc., and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. for possible partnership agreement with Safe Water
5. Facilitate formation and mobilization of TWGs to gather data for watershed characterization of Year 3 target watersheds in Safe Water sites
6. Continue assistance to the six municipalities in Sarangani for the completion, finalization and approval of LWCRPs. Safe Water Field Team will also help the municipality of Maitum prepare LWCRP.
7. Continue the process of organizing watershed management councils in Malogo and Siguel watersheds and reactivation of BMRB, Bago and PFFWR Management Councils
8. Monitor work plan implementation by partners and continue planned activities such as the conduct financial literacy training for POs, and other watershed conservation and restoration activities

9. Conduct monitoring visit with USAID, Coca Cola Foundation of the Philippines Inc., Negros Occidental Provincial Government, and MUAD in Ilijan, Bago, to see progress of programs and meet the community members involved in the P4Water Project. The visit was scheduled on March 22 to commemorate as well World Water Day 2022.
10. Facilitate LAWIN training in all Safe Water sites
11. Facilitate PES data gathering for valuation of EGS and cost revenue analysis for BMRB, Bago and Irawan Watershed
12. Continue WDM follow on activities such as: development of WDM Trainer's Guide, documentation of WDM best practices and identification of local partners for WDM advocacy

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

MOBILIZING FUNDS TO IMPROVE WSS ACCESS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

1. Follow up: a) LWUA review of the supplemental MOA on LWUA - DBP co-financing of WD projects; b) endorsement of LWUA project pipeline for DBP sole financing or co-financing; and c) discussion on implementation of septage management projects in the Mandamus area
2. Implement work plan with Water.org to increase demand generation for WASH loans; priority activities include the development and roll out of the WASH e-learning module and WASH M&E system
3. Monitor utilization of NG budget allocation for WSS investments including issuance of guidelines to access the GEF, FALGU and ELCAC to assist LGUs access these funds for their pipeline WSS projects
4. Review LWUA pipeline and AIPs and budgets for 2022, and map identified WSS projects with potential funding sources
5. Continue advocacy to scale up the OBA-BF scheme using NG or LGU budgets, and private sector / CSO grants; assist in preparation of proposals for supplemental budget to implement OBA-BF
6. Prepare the implementing guidelines for the OBA-BF scheme for ease in replication, including templates of local ordinances and MOUs with MFIs
7. Prepare financing strategy for WRM

SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWSSMP AND URAF

8. Provide technical support to NEDA in the following:
 - a) Preparation of inputs for DWR & WRC deliberations
 - b) Preparation of policy notes/ analyses on the NWMC and water security related initiatives as needed
 - c) Preparation of draft URAF Grants Implementing Guidelines
 - d) Monitor implementation of the PWSSMP dashboard/ key action plans
 - e) Roll out of the PWSSMP communications and advocacy plan
 - f) Continue technical secretariat support in the conduct of Development Partner's Forum and WSS Network sessions

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

9. Completion of the knowledge products in the pipeline
10. Continue discussions with USLS, PSU and MSU-GenSan to formalize knowledge exchange initiative; initiate discussions with other academic institutions in Safe Water sites
11. Initiate discussion with NEDA on their plans for a WSS portal (as contained in the PWSSMP)

CROSS-CUTTING

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

1. Document the Gender Planning and Budgeting Training experiences as a basis for promoting the training series in other sites especially in water districts with no or non-functioning GADFPS as mandated by law.
2. Engage other GAD resource persons in the project sites and bolster support for the water sector thru GAD Planning and Budgeting Training
3. Assist water districts to leverage the GAD Budget and address broader gender-related capacity-building.
4. Develop other WASH for Women and Girls fact sheets customized to activities being implemented at the Safe Water sites
5. Begin documentation of new best practices in the water sector related to gender-transformative project development.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

1. C&O Plan Strategy 1: Building Shared Understanding
 - Inform and update partners and stakeholders on project activities through:
 - Weekly Highlights
 - Weekly Social Media Submissions
 - Monthly Newsletter
 - Quarterly Blog
 - Share success stories and promote key milestones such as the:
 - Philippine Water Challenge
 - PWSSMP
 - Provincial Water Security Plan
 - OBA-BF
 - Hydrology Studies
 - Ongoing partnerships
 - Report results to USAID through the next quarterly report
2. C&O Plan Strategy 2: Providing Communication Support to Component Activities
 - Implement awareness campaigns tied to the messaging of #SafeWaterSavesLives and USAID's 60th anniversary
 - Translate knowledge products into communication products, specifically on the:
 - PWSSMP
 - OBA-BF
 - Provincial Water Security Plans
 - Ongoing partnerships
 - Women leadership
 - Expand usability of communication products

3. C&O Plan Strategy 3: Generating National Interest for WSS and WRM Issues
- Organize in-person and/ or virtual events to tie awareness campaigns to international and national celebrations
 - Implement communications plan of the PWSSMP

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

This section provides highlights of the financial performance, human resource management, and operational and project management activities.

4.1 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) continued to lead, coordinate and manage the day-to-day operations and implementation activities of the Safe Water Project. DAI Headquarters continued to provide backstop administrative, finance and technical support and guidance on implementation concerns.

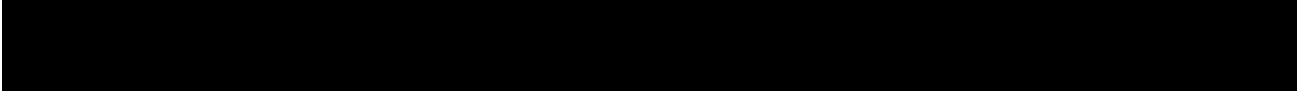

COVID-19

The Team regularly monitored the quarantine levels enforced in the project sites. From the upsurge in confirmed cases of 138,294 with a positivity rate of 5.4% as of September 30, 2021, cases declined in the following months with 14,233 actives and a positivity rate of 0.5% by December 31, 2021. The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, General Santos City revised its quarantine status to Alert Levels 1-4 from the previous ECQ/GCQ/MGCQ in December. The table below presents the status of the quarantine levels in the project sites during the quarter.

SWA Field Sites	2020												2021											
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Metro Manila																						2		
Palawan Province																						2		
Puerto Princesa City																						2		
Negros Occidental Province																						2		
Bacolod City																						2		
Sarangani Province																						2		
General Santos City																						2		

	ECQ
	GCQ wt alert levels 1-5
	MGCQ
4	Alert Level 4
3	Alert Level 3
2	Alert Level 2
1	Alert Level 1

In addition to the change in quarantine status declared by the IATF, City and municipal local government units in project sites also declared stricter measures, including granular lockdowns within their jurisdiction to contain the spread of COVID-19. Site offices adjusted project activities in compliance with LGU advisories.

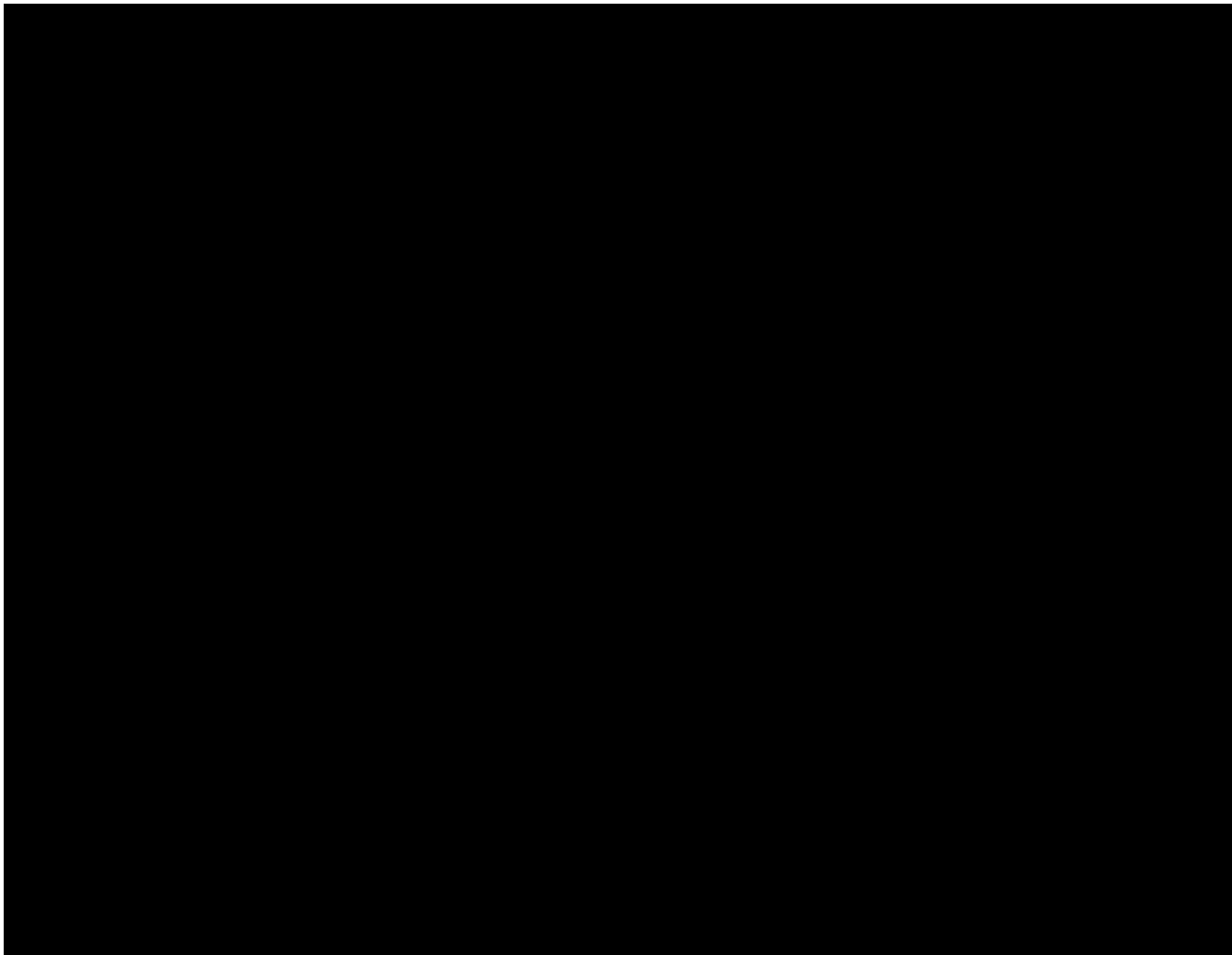



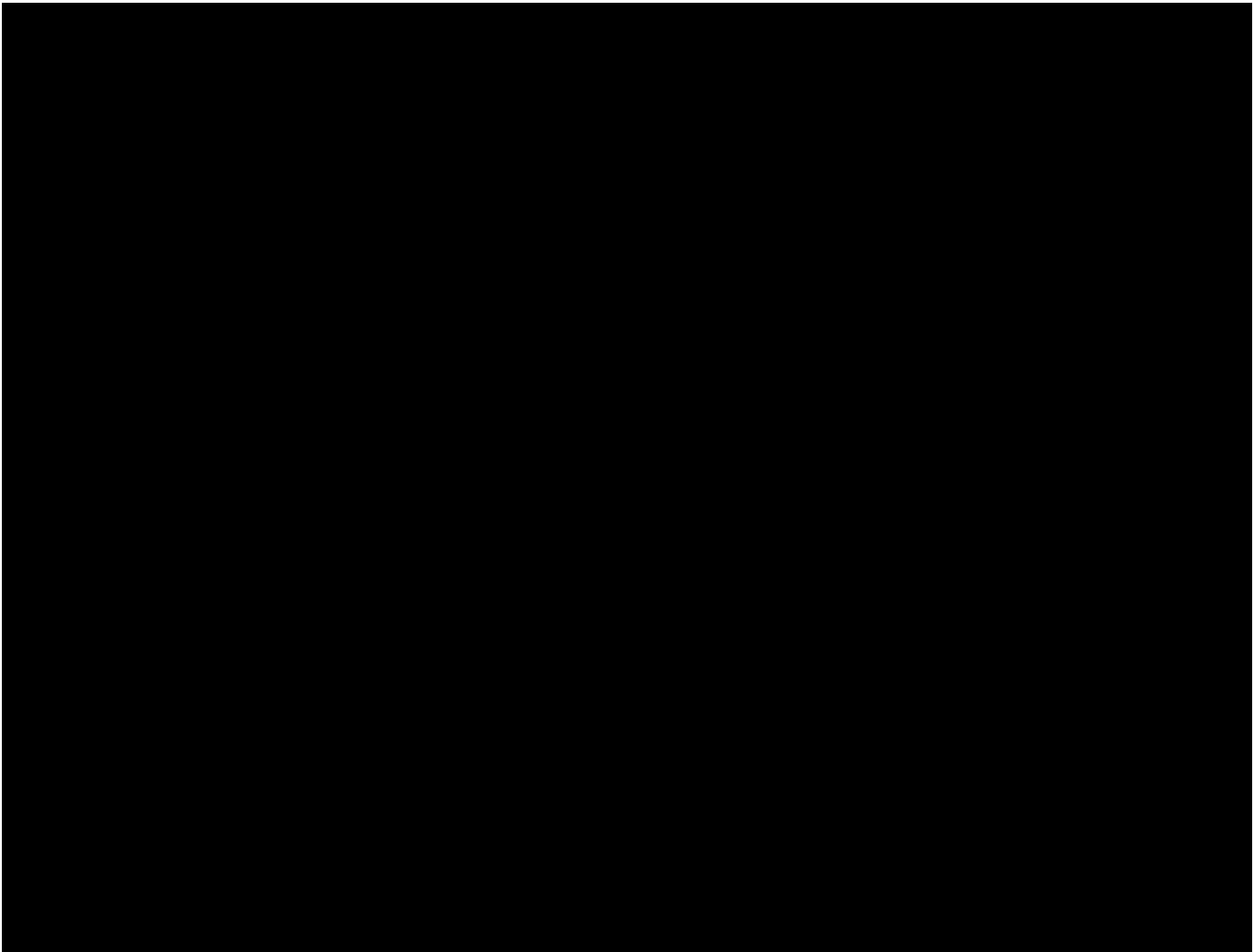
The project continued to implement different work arrangements designed to suit the unique situation of the project offices' locations. For the Manila Office, all staff members were on work from home arrangements until November 19 and reported back to office on November 22 at 50% capacity. The field offices determined site specific arrangements on a monthly basis as cleared by project management, based on the prevailing pandemic situation and government restrictions imposed in their respective areas.

STAFFING

During the quarter, the Deputy Chief of Party position, a key position was vacated. The incumbent DCOP decided not to renew his contract when it expired on December 12, 2021. The work of the DCOP was taken on by the COP and some tasks redeployed to senior staff as well as the Home Office on an interim arrangement to ensure implementation of project activities proceeded without delay. Recruitment for a replacement was carried out immediately and approval for the new DCOP was received from USAID in December 2021. The new DCOP is joining the team on February 1, 2022.

The project also completed recruitment and onboarding of additional WSS Managers and WRM Officers for the three project sites. Approval was received from USAID on the 3rd week of December. With a full staff complement by the next quarter, the project is now geared towards the catch-up plan. Below is the current organizational chart of Safe Water.





The project also hired one (1) new STTA staff during the reporting period to act as Finance Administrator for the Palawan Office to handle the financial management functions of the project office while the LTTA Finance Administrator is on maternity leave.

TABLE II. SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF BY LOCATION (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

CATEGORIES	TOTAL	STAFF TYPE		LOCATION			
		TECHNICAL	OPERATIONS	MANILA	PUERTO PRINCESA	BACOLOD	GENERAL SANTOS
No. of staff on board	64	43	21	31	11	10	12
Total Long-Term Technical Assistance Staff*	49	30	19	20	10	9	10
No. of STTA staff	15	13	2	11	1	1	2
No. of staff resigned during the quarter	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
No. of staff for recruitment*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* LTTA head count does not include completed USAID approval for the DCOP, 3 WSS Managers and 2 WRM Officers that were all secured in December 2021. WSS and WRM staff complement will join the team by January 3, 2022 and DCOP will join by February 1, 2022

The Team continued to engage the following Home Office staff to provide support for effective and efficient project implementation, that allowed the project to achieve its accomplishments during the period despite the challenges and limitations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [REDACTED] – Home Office Project Director, provided overall technical oversight in project implementation
- [REDACTED] Home Office Project Manager for Safe Water, provided technical management oversight and support. Responded to USAID requests for contractual and financial information, supported recruitment and on-boarding of key staff, led monthly and quarterly reviews with the project leadership team. Served as HO point person for the OBA-BF pilot, working with the project team to develop and deliver presentations on the pilot
- [REDACTED] - Home Office Associate, provided support in the recruitment and on-boarding of project staff including preparation of TORs and relevant documents for USAID approval
- [REDACTED] - Provided guidance in the development of contracts for procurement documents, and contracts of implementing partners. Provide guidance in ensuring compliance with USAID contractual requirements
- [REDACTED] – Provided technical support to staff on the Technical and Administrative Management Information System (TAMIS). TAMIS serves as a workflow and reporting tool that integrates activity management, project administration, impact and performance monitoring, and streamlines subcontract management along with other tasks.
- [REDACTED] Technical Writer, provided communications support to project deliverables, reports and communication pieces.
- [REDACTED] – Provided design support of Safe Water’s web-based M&E system. Worked with Team to draft the System Deployment Plan, which outlined strategies and actions to ensure efficient use of the system by both Safe Water staff and partner LGUs
- [REDACTED] – Technical Writing Advisor and Trainer, supported the repackaging of detailed technical reports into short write-ups for public dissemination, developed and conducted training sessions with Safe Water staff to improve the team’s technical/report writing capacity. In the past quarter, this resulted in the development of two instructional trainings, *Rudiments of Technical Writing and Storytelling for Technical Reports*.

In support of major activities, the project completed the following procurements during the 1st Quarter:

TABLE 12. BREAKDOWN OF MAJOR PROCUREMENTS DURING 1ST QUARTER (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021)

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL (US\$)	DATE OF PURCHASE ORDER
WDM Training of Trainers	US\$ 8,500.66	Various Nov-Dec
Philippine Water Challenge Awarding Event	US\$ 2,280.00	Dec. 6, 2021

As part of their capacity building activities, the Procurement team continued its bi-weekly discussions on the different components of DAI procurement systems and procedures. The one-hour discussions focused on procurement regulations, sharing of on-the-ground experiences, challenges and solutions. The Procurement team also continued its monthly review of transactions to ensure all backup documentation and procurement processes are audit ready.

The project also completed the external audit of its financial statements for the 2020 calendar year and complied with BIR and SEC requirements. Engagement for the 2021 External Audit was also awarded during the quarter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

1. Implement ICA LOE and Travel Projections with inputs from component team leaders for budget preparation both for internal use and for submission of quarterly accruals to USAID
2. Engagement of STTA to assist in archiving of finance records
3. Develop Project Procurement Plan to support the Year 3 Work Plan, ensure efficient and timely delivery of goods and services, and contribute to effective implementation of activities.
4. Continue recruitment of STTA needed by the project. This includes the following:
 - a. Two (2) Baseline Data Gathering professionals, one to be deployed in Bacolod and the other in Puerto Princesa
 - b. WRM Capacity Assessment Advisor
 - c. Graphics Designer
 - d. Photographer/Audio Visual Professional
5. Update the COVID-19 Project Continuity Plan, as necessary, (including return to work guidelines) to strengthen the policies and procedures in place and ensure compliance with DOH, DOLE and IATF guidelines.