



# USAID Safe Water QUARTERLY REPORT

First Quarter (Year 4: Oct – Dec 2022)

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMRB	Buayan-Malungon River Basin
CCFPI	Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc
CENRO	City Environment and Natural Resources Office(r)
CLIN 2	Contract Line Item Number 2
CMS	Central Management System
COMSCA	Community-Managed Savings and Credit Association
COVID	Coronavirus disease
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DBP	Development Bank of the Philippines
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DEO	District Engineering Office
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DWR	Department of Water Resources
ELCAC	End Local Communist Armed Conflict
EO	Executive Order
EPF	environmental protection fee
FALGU	Financial Assistance to LGUs
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
GAA	General Appropriations Act
GAD	Gender and Development
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GFI	government financing institution
GFPS	GAD Focal Point System
GHG	greenhouse gas
GPB	GAD Planning and Budgeting
IP	indigenous peoples
IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Plan
LCE	Local Chief Executive
LGU	local government unit
LWCRP	Local Watershed Conservation and Restoration 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
NWSS	Narra Water Supply System
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NEDF	Negros Economic Development Foundation
NG	national government
NGO	nongovernmental organization

NRW	non-revenue water
NWRB	National Water Resources Board
NWTF	Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation
OBA-BF	Output-based Aid Blended Finance
PAWD	Philippine Association of Water Districts
PBSP	Philippine Business for Social Progress
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office(r)
PES	payment for ecosystem services
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
PNSDW	Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water
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
RBCO	River Basin Control Office
Safe Water	Safe Water/ Safe Water Project
SALT	Sloping Agricultural Land Technology
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
SFC	Sunlight Foods Corp.
TA	technical assistance
TOR	terms of reference
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
WD	water district
WDM	Water Demand Management
WMC	Watershed Management Council
WRC	Water Regulatory Commission
WRM	Water Resource Management
WSP	water service provider
WSS	water supply and sanitation

## **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.

This report describes the accomplishments of the Safe Water project from October to December 2022, the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of its fourth year of implementation. It also provides a summary of the planned activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ending on March 31, 2023.



## COVER STORY

### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS ENABLING WATERSHED COMMUNITIES TO BOOST WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

“A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from the stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining the natural resource base” – *Chambers & Conway*

The promotion of sustainable livelihood lies at the core of Safe Water’s water resource management strategy as incentive and enabler of communities to support watershed conservation and protection efforts. Given the right incentive and support, communities who depend on natural resources for their livelihood can serve as effective watershed managers. In fragile ecosystems such as watersheds, the adoption of sustainable livelihoods is crucial to addressing the economic needs of poor communities and managing the natural resource base.

Across project sites, Safe Water and partner organizations have initiated various livelihood activities such as ube production and organic vegetable growing in Palawan, seedling propagation, nursery establishment and community green farms in Negros Occidental, and coffee farming and cacao production in Sarangani. This quarter, Safe Water’s sustainable livelihood activities are bearing fruit.



#### **Spotlighting the nexus of gender, agriculture, and water security.**

USAID through its Safe Water Project celebrated International Rural Women’s Day on October 13 with three organizations based in the municipality of Narra, Palawan namely Dumangueña Manaile River Irrigators Association, Inc. (DUMRIA), Dumangasanon Rice Farmers Association (DURFA), and Dumangueña Farmers Association (DUMFA).



**Good agricultural practices on ube production in Palawan.** Through its partnership with Sunlight Foods Corporation (SFC), Safe Water assisted Peoples' Organizations (POs) across the province of Palawan to establish ube demonstration farms. These demo farms serve as learning sites for the POs on proper and sustainable ube farming practices that meet Unilever's Sustainable Agriculture Code (ULSAC) as standard for responsible sourcing of raw materials. Unilever is SFC's major client and has designated the Control Union as independent auditor to assess compliance of ube suppliers to ULSAC.

During the pre-audit visit by Control Union this quarter, PO members of the Community-Based Wildlife and Environment Protection Association in Bataraza have shown success in cultivating ube in their farms and complying with good agricultural practices under ULSAC. From their initial experience in the demo farms, the PO members signified willingness to plant more ube in the next cropping cycle. Other ube farm PO members visited have also confirmed their interest to participate in the next cropping cycle.

**Seedling propagation in Negros Occidental.** Safe Water and MUAD Negros have engaged partner POs in the propagation of native trees for the rehabilitation of springs and fruit trees seedlings for the establishment of retirement tree farms within Bago and Malogo watersheds.

This quarter, thirteen (13) POs planted a total of 880 native tree species (such as Toog, Bacan and Tambuyog) covering 1.408 hectares in areas surrounding the natural springs and other water sources in different barangays in Don Salvador Benedicto, Murcia, Bago City, La Carlota City and San Carlos City. In addition, 550 species of fruit trees (such as Avocado, Jackfruit, and Pomelo) were planted in farms of PO members covering approximately one hectare. 4,000 seedlings of native and fruit trees were also raised and ready for transplanting.

**Enabling watershed communities to earn from watershed protection.**

(Photo 1) DUMFA Assistant Treasurer Teresa C. Mediano proudly shows her ube farm.

(Photo 2) P4WatEr empowers local farmers to implement watershed conservation initiatives that help provide safe water access for domestic and agricultural use.

(Photos 3-4) PhilCafe's resource persons explain good practices in coffee harvesting and demonstrate how to identify pests and diseases affecting coffee trees.

**Coffee Farming in Sarangani.** Safe Water and PhilCafe (a USDA ACDI-VOCA project) are working with Greentropics and the Conrado & Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation, Inc. (CLAFI) to assist the Sarangani Coffee Industry Development Council in upgrading the skills of indigenous farmers on proper coffee production, harvesting and post-harvest techniques. USAID and PhilCAFE are also training these coffee farmers to become mentors to other farmers.

This quarter, 25 coffee farmers from Sarangani Province and General Santos City participated in the Training of Trainers held last October and November. Each coffee mentor is expected to train at least 20 other coffee farmers in their respective organizations and tribes.

In the 1st Sarangani Coffee Festival which showcased the different origins of coffee beans in the province, the top three coffee beans graded as “fine robusta coffee” (considered specialty coffee) were awarded to coffee farmers trained by Safe Water and PhilCAFE. This recognition will open opportunities for the indigenous farmers to access both local and regional/ international markets for their coffee beans. This will also encourage more farmers to engage in coffee bean production and pave the way for specialty coffee production.

These livelihood activities are not only beneficial for increasing farmer incomes but contribute to the protection and conservation of watersheds as well. Through the identification of suitable crops and use of proper and sustainable farming techniques, soil erosion is avoided, forest cover is improved, and groundwater quality is protected in watersheds with high recharge areas.

Safe Water will continue to build on sustainable livelihood activities as an incentive to promote watershed conservation and protection, and the Project will also continue to harness partnerships, both public and private, to accomplish this.



**Showcasing the best coffee beans from USAID-trained indigenous coffee farmers.**

Three coffee farmers, namely Ramil Libana, Jaime Aban, and Arkohami Sawali Alab, bagged a total of PhP 45,000 (US\$ 900) as their coffee beans were graded as “fine robusta coffee” during the first-ever Coffee Cupping Event organized by the Provincial Government of Sarangani and the Sarangani Coffee Council.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the accomplishments of the Safe Water Project for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (October to December 2022) of its 4<sup>th</sup> Year of implementation. It also provides a summary of the planned activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Year 4 (January to March 2023).

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 4 1ST QUARTER KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Objective 1</b> Increased access to resilient water and sanitation services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project development assistance to local government units (LGUs) and water service providers (WSPs) covering pre-feasibility studies, technical advice, programs of work (POWs), and access to financing and procurement support such as improvement or expansion of water systems, bulk water supply development in Negros Occidental.</li> <li>• Assistance in water quality assurance and service improvement through continued monitoring of chlorination and pressure management by WSPs; capacity-building on hydraulic modeling; water security plan implementation; and POW preparation for service improvement of septage treatment facilities, among others.</li> <li>• Capacity-building of WSPs on well development and construction, public-private partnership (PPP) implementation, and demand generation.</li> <li>• Assistance to the Provincial Governments of Negros Occidental and Sarangani on the approval and adoption of their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans, and to Puerto Princesa City for the formulation of their City Integrated Water Security Plan.</li> <li>• Orientation for the Municipality of Narra, Palawan on the Central Management System (CMS); assistance to the Municipality of Alabel in the update and improvement of its Business Plan; and assistance to the Municipality of Malapatan in the finalization of its ordinance creating their Municipal Water Enterprise (MWE).</li> <li>• Finalization and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Contract Line Item Number (CLIN) 2 implementation in Palawan.</li> <li>• Training on Septage Design, Construction Management and Commissioning for the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).</li> <li>• Finalization of detailed work plan for groundwater analysis for General Santos City under the Ambassador’s Water Experts Program (AWEP).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 2</b> Improved sustainable management of water resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued assistance in the formulation of integrated watershed management plans (IWMPs) and local watershed conservation and rehabilitation plans (LWCRPs) across all project sites, including the formation of planning teams and Technical Working Groups (TWGs), drafting Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) and Executive Orders (EOs); holding orientation and action-planning workshops as well as stakeholder consultations.</li> <li>• Assessment of organizational capacity of watershed management councils (WMC) through the organizational capacity assessment tool (OCAT); facilitation of WMC meetings.</li> </ul>

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIVITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field reconnaissance, profiling of Montible watershed, conduct of key informant interviews with local communities, and completion of the vulnerability assessment report for Montible watershed.</li> <li>• Continued training on Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System across project sites.</li> <li>• Conduct of targeted watershed rehabilitation activities (i.e., application of soil and water conservation measures) in Negros Occidental and Sarangani.</li> <li>• Execution of new partnership agreements with Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. (CCFPI), Negros Economic Development Foundation (NEDF), and Globe Telecom, Inc. (Globe), and continued negotiations for prospective partnerships with private sector companies to support water resource management (WRM) and sustainable livelihoods.</li> <li>• Implementation of WRM and sustainable livelihood activities, such as ube (purple yam) farming and organic vegetable farming in Palawan, community green farming and cogon handicraft-making in Negros Occidental and Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) and coffee farming in Sarangani.</li> <li>• Facilitation of consultations for a PES agreement covering Irawan watershed; holding Cost-based Valuation and Cost Revenue Analysis Validation workshop for Alabel and Malungon.</li> <li>• Conduct of Water Demand Management (WDM) 101 Training for National Water Resources Board (NWRB) staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 3</b> Strengthened water sector governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and facilitation of access to national and LGU budget allocation for water supply and sanitation (WSS) investments (i.e., monitoring national government funding for 2023 and other sources).</li> <li>• Mobilization of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) loans for WSS services through collaboration with Water.org and its partner microfinance institutions (MFIs) through second roll-out of WASH training, demand generation in Palawan, and operationalization of web-based WASH tracking system.</li> <li>• Assistance to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in the review of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) Bill.</li> <li>• Promotion and roll-out of the Output-based Aid-Blended Finance (OBA-BF) in Cauayan, Negros Occidental.</li> <li>• Technical assistance to NWRB in the development and implementation of a national WDM policy for municipal water supply, now pending NWRB Board approval; and training on Economic Instruments and Water Demand Assessment.</li> <li>• Drafting of technical paper on WRM financing for peer review by NEDA and other concerned agencies and LGUs.</li> </ul>
<p>Cross-cutting Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance to LWUA and NWRB in the consolidation of their respective Gender Focal Point System (GFPS) and production of their Gender and Development (GAD) Plans and Budget for 2023.</li> <li>• Communication of project activities to partners and stakeholders and promotion of key project milestones (i.e., activities in line with OBA-BF, Safe Water Partnerships, Provincial Integrated Water Security Planning, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine Water Challenge) through weekly highlights, monthly newsletters, press releases, videos, and other collaterals.</li> <li>• Promotion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine Water Challenge and related events such as the Knowledge Exchange on Water Security.</li> </ul>

Contributions to project targets this Quarter are shown in Table 2 (the cumulative achievement on targets is shown in Table 20).

The reported low accomplishments for some indicators this Quarter are not for lack of effort, but due to on-going evidence gathering to verify the targets achieved.

Among the major activities planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Year 4 are:

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

1. Hold Conference with provincial LGU's key departments and units on the cascading of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) to city and municipal LGUs and WSPs and conduct Programming with the provincial LGU (January 2023).
2. Present the approved PIWSP and the cascading strategy to all local chief executives (LCEs) of municipalities and cities of Negros Occidental and Sarangani during the LCEs' regular convention (January–February 2023).
3. Cascade PIWSP, focusing on programming of investment requirements to achieve targets with priority municipalities and cities in Sarangani and Negros Occidental (February–June 2023).
4. Roll out PIWSP monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to the provincial governments of Negros Occidental and Sarangani.
5. Formulate Water Security Plan for Puerto Princesa City (February–June 2023).
6. Extend technical guidance to Isabela City Water District on Water Security Planning (October–June 2023).

7. Continue assistance in water quality assurance (WQA) and pressure management of WSPs in the three project sites.
8. Conduct CMS Orientation for Narra.
9. Assist Alabel *Sangguniang Bayan* (City Board) in the finalization of MWE Ordinance.
10. Prepare Operational Plan on community-wide septage management for municipalities in Sarangani with existing septage treatment plants.
11. Perform calibration activities for the PPCWD Hydraulic Model and finalize the model to inform pressure management and service expansion design.
12. Undertake technical assessment of the existing water treatment plants in Brooke's Point, Aborlan, and El Nido in Palawan.
13. Work with DPWH District Engineering Offices (DEO) Construction Section in Negros Occidental to verify budget allocations from the 2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA) for water supply projects, which will include site validation, system designing, and review of specifications.
14. Assist the Provincial Health Officer of Negros Occidental in the implementation of the 2023 DSWD-funded Cash for Work Sanitation.
15. Finalize the results of the topographic and geo-resistivity surveys for CLIN 2 and start with the detailed engineering design.
16. Assist the Ambassador's Water Expert Program Consultants in carrying out the groundwater analysis technical assistance for General Santos City.
17. Assist the PPP Center/Asian Development Bank consultants in the preparation of the full feasibility study of Bulk Water Supply for Negros Occidental.
18. Finalize the scope of assistance to LWUA on sanitation pricing.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1. Finalize the organizational capacity assessment tool (OCAT) for watershed management councils.
2. Facilitate the formulation of the Sarangani Reforestation Development Plan.
3. Continue assistance in establishing PES in Palawan, Negros Occidental, and Sarangani provinces.
4. Continue training on SALT with infiltration canals, pest management and control, establishment of Community-Managed Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA), and other sustainable landscape initiatives with partners such as Multi-stakeholder Alliance for Development (MUAD) Negros, NEDF, Kasilak Foundation, Conrado & Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation, Inc (CLAFI), ECLOF, and Sunlight Foods, Corp., among others.
5. Conduct vulnerability assessment of Bago watershed.
6. Continue mentoring community patrollers on Lawin forest protection system to strengthen protection of existing forests.
7. Assist the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) of the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental to organize and convene the TWG for Malogo/Imbang watershed management planning.
8. Assist NEDF in preparatory activities leading to the implementation of key activities of the SWATH project in Himogaan watershed covering the cities of Cadiz and Sagay and the Municipality of Calatrava, (e.g., preparation of detailed work plan, M&E plan, securing endorsement from the Northern Negros Natural Park Protected Area Management Board or PAMB, etc.).
9. Continue assistance to the Partnership for Water and Economic Resilience (P4WatER) in implementing its Year 4 activities.

10. Conduct organizational capacity assessment with the watershed management council of Ilog-Hilabangan watershed using the OCAT.
11. Assist LGUs in seedling production and sourcing of planting materials.
12. Organize Water Monitoring Teams and identify monitoring sites.
13. Continue advocacy on WDM and conduct of water audit by trained WDM /water auditors.
14. Continue technical assistance in the implementation of sustainable livelihood activities.

## **OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE**

### **MOBILIZING FUNDS TO IMPROVE WSS ACCESS AND SERVICE DELIVERY AND WRM**

1. Assist LGUs to access available national government (NG) budget allocation in the 2023 GAA for WSS investments (e.g., DPWH, FALGU, NTF-ELCAC and GEF) and LGU budgets for identified and eligible water supply and sanitation projects, and continue to promote and facilitate access to other funding sources (e.g., National Sewerage and Septage Management Program or NSSMP, Japan GGP, and commercial loans)
2. Help LGUs identify funding sources and assist in the implementation of priority WSS and WRM programs, projects, and activities in their PIWSPs, Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs), Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), 2023 Annual Investment Plans (AIPs), and budgets.
3. Support NEDA through the Water Convergence Program in guiding the allocation and preparation of implementing guidelines and utilization of NG grants and investment programming and budgeting for 2024.
4. Promote adoption of the OBA-BF scheme with the LGUs to complement their sanitation programs (e.g., zero open defecation or ZOD and septage management programs) and the private sector for subsidy allocation; and share the OBA-BF implementing guide, including templates of local ordinances and MOAs with interested LGUs and MFIs to facilitate replication and budgeting for the program by the LGUs in their supplemental and 2024 budgets.

### **SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWSSMP AND URAF**

1. Provide continued technical support to NEDA and key implementing agencies (NWRB, Department of Interior and Local Government or DILG, and LWUA):
  - Preparation of communications and advocacy plan and technical notes and other inputs related to the DWR and WRC bill, Unified Resource Allocation Framework (URAF) and other key reform agenda of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP);
  - Review and monitoring the PWSSMP dashboard/key action plans to align with the water sector agenda of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023–2028 and other water security-related plans;
  - Promotion of water utility governance reforms (e.g., benchmarking and harmonization of key performance indicators, pilot implementation of the CMS and establishment of MWEs/ local economic enterprise or LEEs); and
  - Technical and secretariat support for the USAID Program Management Committee (PMC) and high-level meetings (NEDA, Department of Finance or DOF, and Department of Budget and Management or DBM), and one-on-one consultations with WSS agencies (LWUA, NWRB, Department of Health or DOH, DPWH, DILG) on the government’s water security agenda and its alignment with the new PDP 2023–2028.



2. Prepare for the U.S. Learning Visit in March for key government officials to show U.S. experiences on regulation and financing strategy and draw lessons therefrom for the operationalization of URAF and advocacy for the DWR and WRC bill.
3. Provide technical secretariat support in the conduct of the WSS Network sessions

## PROMOTION AND SCALE-UP OF INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS

1. Assist LGUs in the institutionalization of PES for sustainable financing for watershed protection and conservation.
2. Follow up development of the PES Guidelines and Toolkit for Water Use with DENR-RBCO.
3. Conduct consultations with concerned agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders to enhance the WRM Financing Framework paper.

## CROSS CUTTING ACTIVITIES

### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

1. Develop knowledge products utilizing the multiple gender analyses conducted by water districts and LGUs from Years 2 to 3
2. Undertake technical assistance to LGU-GAD and water teams in Palawan to ensure integration of water sector proposals in the LGU GAD Plans and Budgets for 2024
3. Produce new training and/ or communication materials emerging from GEWE analysis made in Year 3
4. Undertake strategic planning for Year 4 with the Field Teams and plot a new series of TOT for the Field Teams in the integration of GEWE in WSS, WRM, and livelihood activities starting with Sarangani
5. Launch the women in water conference as part of the observance of International Women's Day to amplify GEWE and water security
6. Sustain efforts to ensure gender balance in activity design checklists, partnership agreements, and other instruments

### COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

1. Inform and update partners and stakeholders on project activities through Weekly Highlights, Monthly Newsletters and other social media submissions.
2. Develop and share success stories and promote key milestones based on list of longitudinal stories (topics for the quarter include OBA-BF, GAD planning and budgeting, SALT, private sector partnerships)
3. Translate knowledge products into communication products.
4. Continue implementation of the communications plan to support the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan.
5. Implement awareness campaigns with focus on water security during International Day of Women and Girls in Science (Feb 11), International Women's Day (March 8), International Day of Forests (March 21), World Water Day (March 22) and tied to the social media campaign of #SafeWaterPH and its versions in the local sites, e.g., #SafeWaterPalawan

## MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

1. Continue development of an online system for tracking contributions of MFIs' WASH loans to access to WSS services.
2. Continue documentation of evidence of achievements against indicators.

## 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 quantity and quality. Safe Water will contribute solutions to the following challenges:

### 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, 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.

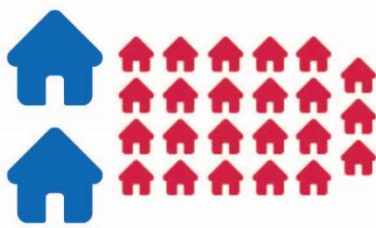


**Contributing to the global strategy.** USAID Safe Water contributes to the US Global Water Strategy that lays out a catalytic, locally led, and climate-resilient plan for advancing a water-secure world for all.

**FIGURE I. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACCESS (NATIONAL AND SITE LEVEL) BY THE NUMBERS (APIS, 2020)**



**23 of 25 households**  
do not have access to sewerage systems



**Untreated domestic water**  
ends up contaminating the ground or at water bodies



## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Philippines has 18 major river basins, 142 critical watersheds, and about 24 percent forest cover. While the country 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 continued degradation of watersheds, poor water resources governance and allocation, and 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; 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.

## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The Philippines' water and sanitation sector is highly fragmented with no apex body. Multiple national and local government institutions are involved in water, sanitation and hygiene (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-run utilities are not regulated and, hence, not held accountable for standards of service. The financing requirements needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 targets for 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.

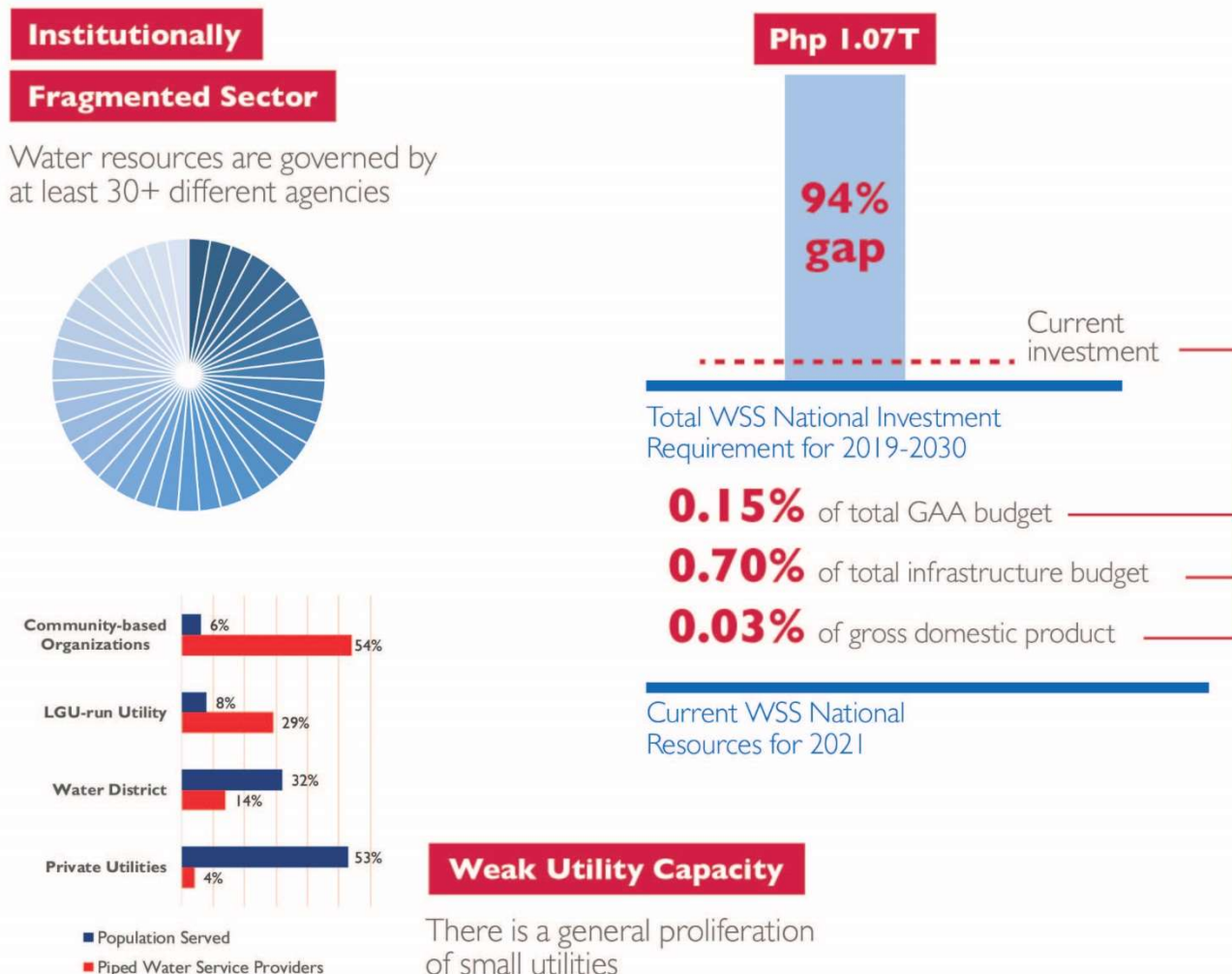
### **BOX I.** FIRST USAID PHILIPPINES INITIATIVE TO INTEGRATE WSS AND WRM

Safe Water is primarily a water, sanitation and hygiene or WASH project, helping local governments and water utilities expand their services to the underserved and most vulnerable communities. In USAID's long history of providing support in the water sector, Safe Water is its first initiative to integrate water resource management. By better managing forests, watersheds and water resources, water provisioning becomes sustainable.



The Water System Plant Guard from Brooke's Point, Palawan shows a part of the LGU-run pipeline which runs deep in the municipality's watershed. He says that protecting the watershed does not only help ensure the continuous flow of the water source, but also serves as a resilient ecosystem for protecting these pipelines from the harsh effects of climate change impacts and extreme weather events.

**FIGURE 2. WATER GOVERNANCE (NATIONAL LEVEL): REGULATORY AND FINANCING**

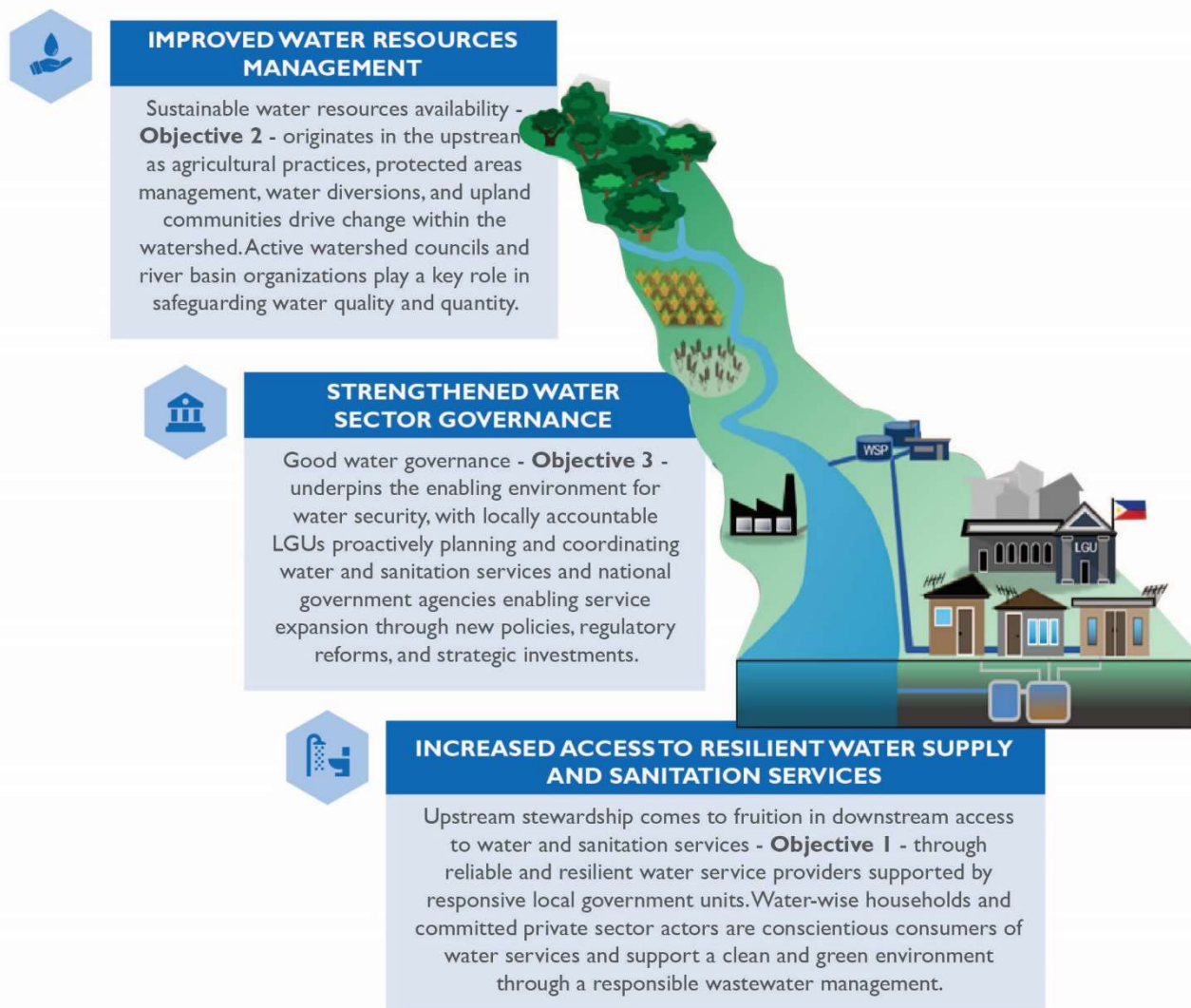


## I.1 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

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.

The Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework (Figure 1) 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 governments.

**FIGURE 4. SAFE WATER INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE WATER SECURITY FRAMEWORK**



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 the efforts of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) 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.

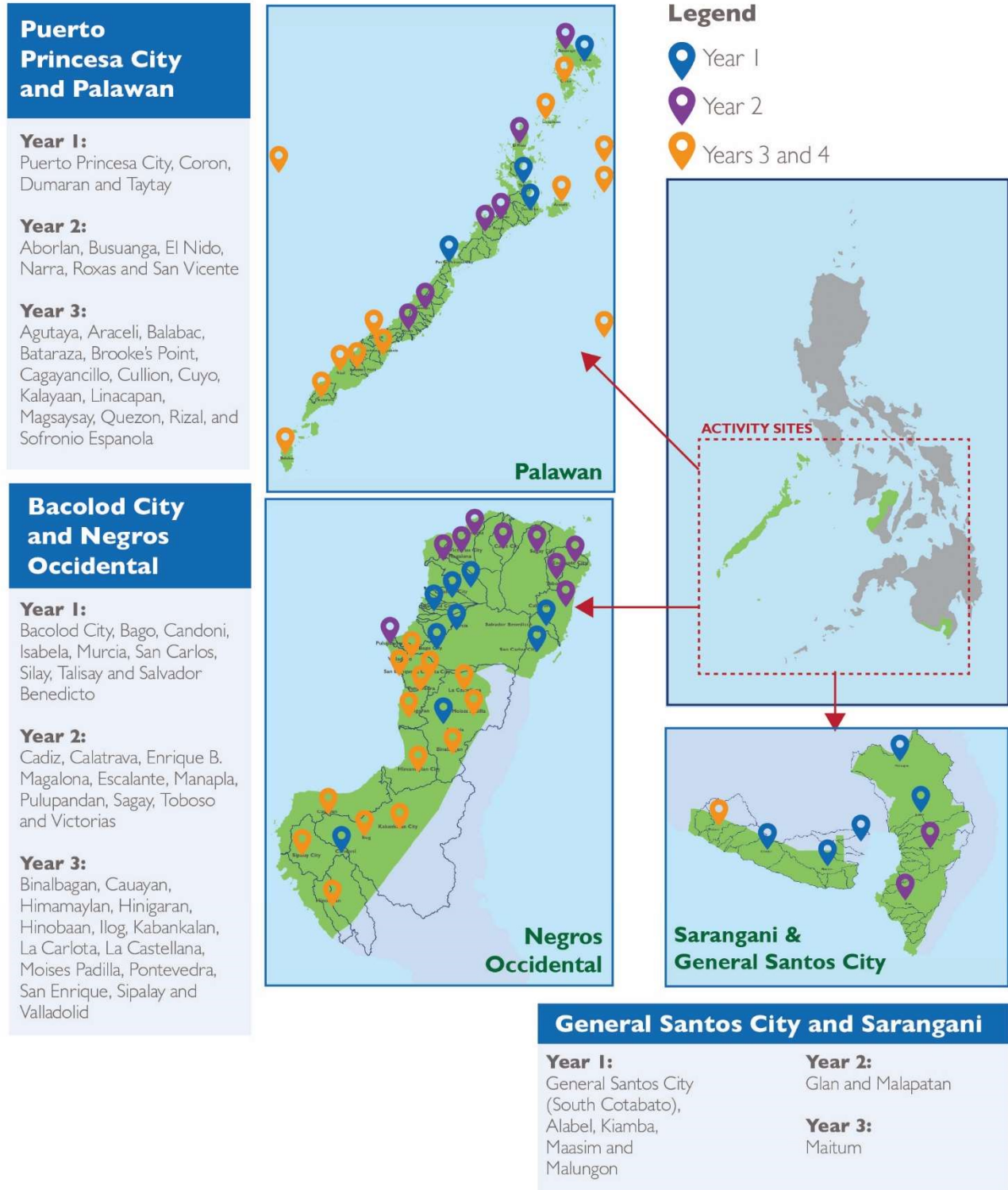
The Team identified the following local government units or LGUs (Table 3) and watersheds (Table 4) in the focal sites to be the priority areas in the project’s annual Work Plans. The prioritization was based on access gaps, number of people who will benefit, and economic significance of the LGUs. The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

**FIGURE 5.** USAID SAFE WATER SITES

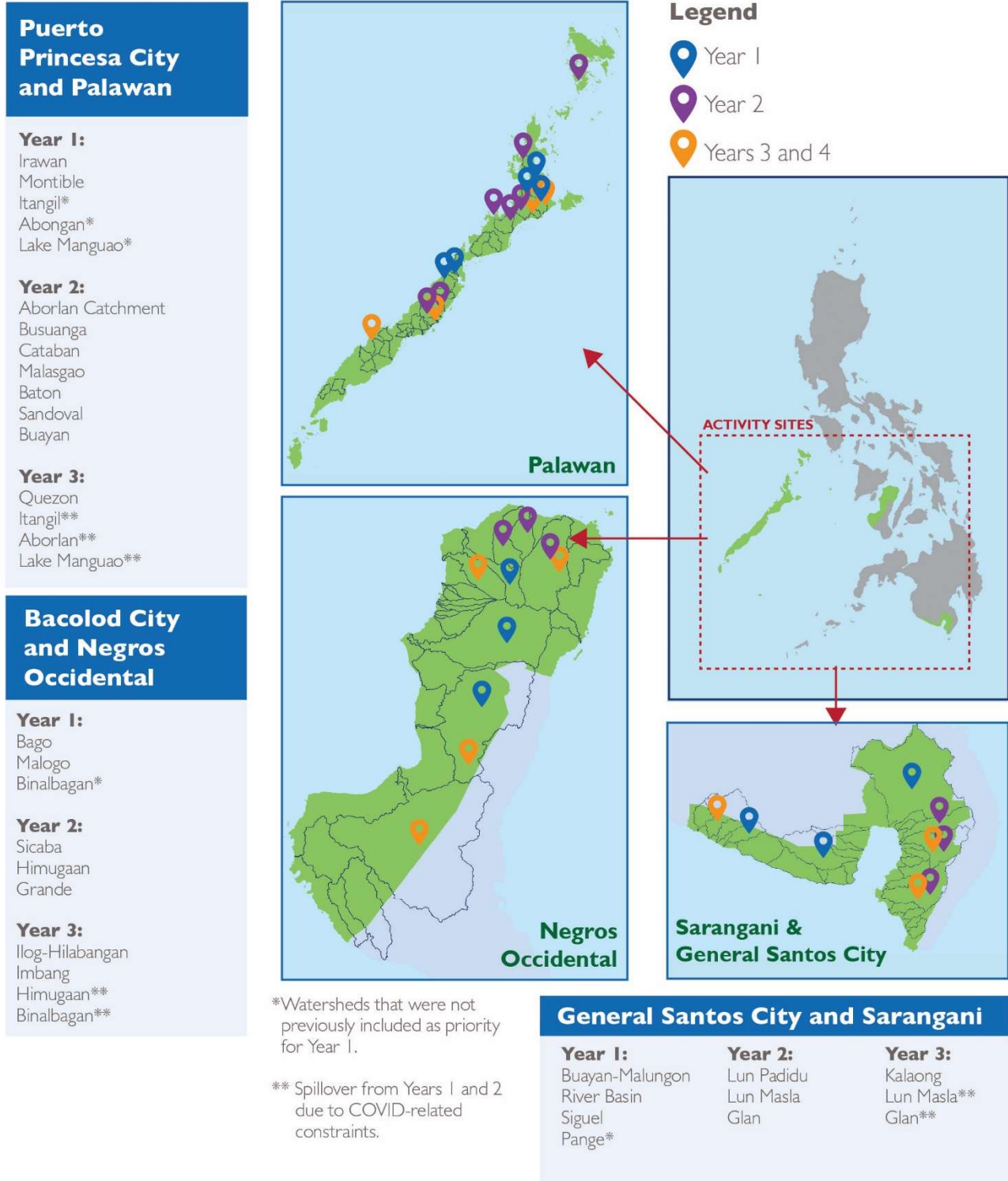




**FIGURE 6. SAFE WATER TARGET SITES FOR CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES**



**FIGURE 7. SAFE WATER TARGET SITES FOR WATERSHEDS**



## 2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS ANALYSIS BY OBJECTIVE

This section presents the key activities and accomplishments of the Safe Water Project in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Year 4 (October 1 to December 31, 2022).

### 2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVES

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

##### A. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS

Safe Water is carrying out technical assistance to LGUs and water service providers (WSPs) on project development, covering pre-feasibility studies, technical advice, programs of work (POWs), and access to financing and procurement support. The technical assistance provided in each project site is discussed in the sections below.

##### PALAWAN

**Assistance to El Nido in procurement of geo-resistivity survey services.** Safe Water assisted El Nido municipality in the procurement of a Geo-Resistivity Survey contractor. The LGU allocated funding for the survey to determine groundwater potential in four sites in three barangays (Barotuan, Corong-Corong, and Villa Libertad). Safe Water provided templates for the POWs and Terms of Reference on Geo-Resistivity Survey, which were adopted by the LGU. Safe Water assisted the LGU with the procurement by identifying potential service providers in December 2022, which enabled the LGU to award the contract in January 2023.

#### INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION TYPES OF ACTIVITIES



Project Development



Water Quality Assurance and Pressure Management



Capacity Building: Operations & Maintenance



Capacity Building: Well-drilling and Construction Supervision



Capacity Building: Water Safety Planning



Capacity-Building: Strategic Business Planning



Governance and Utility Reform: Provincial Integrated Water Security Planning



Governance and Utility Reform: Central Management System

## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

**Negros Occidental Bulk Water Supply Feasibility Study.** Safe Water assisted the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental (PGNO) in preparing business cases for bulk water supply projects for clusters of cities and municipalities in the province. Safe Water completed the preliminary studies for the development of Imbang River as water source for the cities of Bacolod, Talisay, and Silay, and for the development of Malogo River as source for Victorias City and the municipalities of E.B. Magalona and Manapla in Year 3. Safe Water then facilitated assistance from the Private-Public Partnership (PPP) Center for the detailed feasibility study and preparation of bid documents, and the PPP Center was able to get an Asian Development Bank (ADB) grant for these activities.



The PPP Center team with the ADB consultants commissioned to prepare the Imbang River Feasibility Study held the kick-off meeting on December 15 with PGNO's PPP technical working group (TWG), which was created under Executive Order or EO 22-32, series of 2022. Prior to the meeting, the team with PGNO personnel led by its PPP focal person and the Safe Water WSS team visited the proposed intake sites located in Malogo River at Barangay Kapitan Ramon and in Hinalinan tributary at Barangay Guimbalaon in Imbang River, both locations within the administrative jurisdiction of Silay City.

The full Feasibility Study will build on Safe Water's Baseline Assessment Report, Imbang and Malogo Hydrologic Studies, and the High-Level Feasibility Assessment for Bulk Water Supply of Imbang and Malogo Rivers.

During the kick-off meeting, it was agreed that the PGNO through the PPP Focal Person will initiate data gathering and compilation of needed documents prior to the start of field work. These include:

- technical documents (e.g., maps, list of landowners for right-of-way acquisition);
- legal documents (e.g., copy of Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA)–PrimeWater joint venture agreement, EO creating the PPP TWG, application for water permit of PGNO);
- environmental-related documents (e.g., kmz files of maps in Safe Water reports, Comprehensive

Land Use Plans of LGUs within Malogo and Imbang watershed plus Bacolod City, Malogo Watershed Management Plan, Northern Negros Natural Park or NNNP Management Plan, and others); and

- financial documents (e.g., 2018–2021 audited financial statements of BACIWA, existing water tariff structure, and proposed, if any outstanding).

The table below shows the indicative timeline of the PPP bulk water project in Negros Occidental as discussed during the kick-off meeting:

**TABLE 3. INDICATIVE TIMELINE OF PGNO BULK WATER PROJECT**

ACTIVITIES	INDICATIVE DATE
Kick-off Meeting	December 15, 2022
<b>Capacity-building Activities</b>	
Project Study Preparation	January – mid-May 2023
• Interim Report	March 2023
• Final Report, including template bidding documents	May 2023
Investors Conference	May 2023
SP Approval	June 2023
Bidding Stage	July – October 2023
Notice of Award	November – December 2023

**Assistance to DPWH-funded water supply projects.** Safe Water continued to assist LGU grantees of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) with POW review, project site validation, material specifications and standards, and operation and maintenance training. The assistance has facilitated project implementation and supports sustainability through sound operation and maintenance practices. A total of 9,000 people from seven barangays in five LGUs have gained access to newly constructed and operational water supply systems implemented by DPWH in Negros Occidental, with funding from the 2022 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

**TABLE 4. GAA-FUNDED DPWH WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS AS OF DECEMBER 2022**

DPWH DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE (DEO)	PROJECT LOCATION		LEVEL OF SERVICE	STATUS	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	
	No. of LGUs	Brgys. Served			No. of HHs	Equiv. Population
2 <sup>nd</sup> DEO (Binalbagan)	3	3	Level 2	Operational	800	4,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> DEO (Binalbagan)	1	2	Level 3	Operational	400	2,000
4 <sup>th</sup> DEO (Bago City)	1	2	Level 2	Operational	600	3,000
Total	5	7			1,800	9,000



### Implementing DPWH-funded Water Supply Projects.

Construction of the following water system facilities in Negros Occidental funded by the GAA 2022 implementing the DPWH 2nd DEO including the: (Top) Level II water system in Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, and (Bottom) generator set to support provision of water services in two Barangays Payao and San Jose in the Municipality of Binalbagan.

Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Engineering Office (DEO) stationed at Binalbagan, four water supply systems (one Level 3 and three Level 2) were completed and operationalized, benefitting 6,000 people in five barangays in four LGUs (Binalbagan, Isabela, and La Castellana municipalities and Himamaylan City). Of these, 2,000 people in 400 households in Barangays Payao and San Jose in Binalbagan now have access to Level 3 or piped water supply. DPWH used its 2002 budget to provide the Binalbagan Water District with a generator set and pipes, enabling the water district to extend water supply services to these two barangays. Additionally, Safe Water’s water quality and pressure management training for pump tenders/operators are expected to improve the services of the water district.

The 4<sup>th</sup> DEO stationed at Bago City installed a Level 2 water system in November, serving Barangays Cubay and Balabag of La Carlota City. The newly constructed system provides basic water services to 3,000 people in 600 households.

Except for the Level 2 water system in Barangay Bulad in Isabela, which was funded from the 2021 budget, all other water systems completed in this Quarter were funded under the 2022 budget of DPWH.

Since all DPWH-designed Level 2 water systems lack a chlorination system, Safe Water recommended the inclusion of chlorination equipment in all future DPWH-funded water supply projects.

## SARANGANI

**Water source development for Glan and Maasim Water Districts.** The Glan and Maasim Water Districts (WDs) plan to get a loan from the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) to fund their water expansion projects. During the Quarter, Safe Water reviewed the conceptual design for the proposed intake box and inspected the feasible location of the new water supply source and treatment facility of Glan WD. Safe Water will continue assisting the WDs through the review of engineering designs and recommendations to improve its operations.

**Savesegrow Multi-Purpose Cooperative Expansion Project.** Safe Water carried out an initial review of the draft engineering design prepared by the Provincial Government of Sarangani for the proposed expansion project of Savesegrow Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC). The proposed project intends to supply the unserved areas of Savesegrow’s franchise area and inter-connect these with its existing water system in Malandag, Malungon. Safe Water has recommended revisions and improvements to the drawing presentations and will continue to assist Savesegrow in reviewing the detailed engineering design and ensuring completeness of documents to support its loan application.

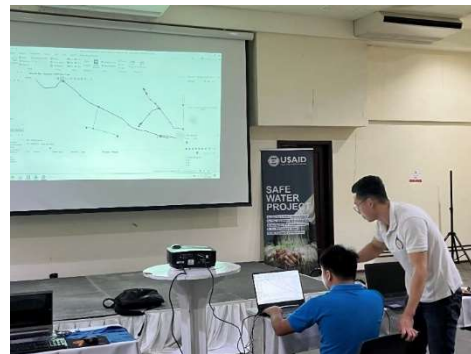
## B. WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

### PALAWAN

**Hydraulic modeling of PPCWD main water system.** Safe Water, through sub-contractor CEST, Inc., has completed the initial hydraulic model of the main water system of Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) using EPANET. To produce the model, Safe Water, CEST, and PPCWD collected relevant data and validated the locations of existing system operations, pipelines, and water sources.

From November 29 to December 2, selected technical staff and managers of PPCWD underwent rigorous hands-on training in hydraulic modeling, which enabled the PPCWD personnel to run the hydraulic model themselves. The initial model was able to identify possible deficiencies of the existing system, and recourses for service improvement were presented to PPCWD. To further enhance the accuracy of the model, pressure monitoring points were identified to validate the model results. Actual pressure reading is scheduled in January 2023.

“Network modeling is crucial for the smooth operations of our Water District in Puerto Princesa. We are happy that, with USAID assistance, our hydraulic modeling is gaining ground,” -Walter Laurel, General Manager of PPCWD



#### Developing the hydraulic model of PPCWD.

(Top) Engr. Jubie Franz Fortuito, resource speaker from CEST, gives an overview of hydraulic modeling during the first day of the training for PPCWD.

(Middle) Participants from PPCWD look on as a CEST hydraulic modeler (seated, in blue) demonstrates the functions of a water system modeling software.

(Bottom) Reniel Mayor (standing), PPCWD Engineering Aide, consults Jayson Pahimnayan (seated), Hydraulic Modeler from CEST, on the use of the PPCWD hydraulic model.



**Completing the hydraulic model of PPCWD.**

(Top) PPCWD General Manager Walter Laurel delivers his message during the closing of the Safe Water Training on Hydraulic Modeling. (Bottom) PPCWD Engineers display their certificates after completing the three-day training.

The management of PPCWD looks forward to calibrating and further improving the accuracy of the model, which they see as an indispensable decision support tool to design improvements or expansion of its water distribution network.

**Assessment and climate-resilient design preparation for El Nido’s transmission mains.**

In response to El Nido LGU’s request, Safe Water conducted an assessment of four vulnerable segments of El Nido’s transmission pipelines: two segments where uPVC pipelines are dangerously hanging without adequate support, another segment where uPVC pipelines are laid along the riverbed without any protection from flooding (the most vulnerable segment which needs to be addressed immediately), and another segment where the uPVC pipeline is exposed and strapped along the side of a bridge. After the assessment, Safe Water, in consultation with the LGU, prepared the following climate-resilient design recommendations which the LGU plans to adopt:

- support hanging pipes with concrete pedestal;
- protect exposed uPVC pipes with water-based paint or replace with GI pipe; and
- realign pipes and attach these to the existing box culvert/bridge.

**Assistance to PPCWD in the implementation and monitoring of Water Safety Plan.**

The PPCWD Water Safety Plan Team reviewed and finalized the updated PPCWD Water Safety Plan based on the comments of Safe Water and LWUA. The PPCWD Board of Directors adopted the revised plan through the issuance of Resolution No. 20-22-147 during its regular meeting on September 19, 2022.

Under the Water Safety Plan Team, a Core Group headed by the Secretariat will be tasked to monitor the implementation of the necessary improvement plan. Monitoring includes verification of the effectiveness of the proposed control measures to reduce the impact of identified moderate and high risks into the system, from catchment up to the consumer’s tap. Safe Water will facilitate a meeting with the Secretariat and the Core Group in January 2023 to discuss the process of monitoring and verification, and inclusion of the health sector of the city as a third-party member of the verification and audit team.



### **Mentoring on pressure management in Sofronio Espanola.**

In the Strategic Business Planning workshop held in September 2022, Safe Water highlighted the water system's very high non-revenue water (NRW) of about 68 percent. Safe Water then conducted a mentoring visit to determine the cause of the high NRW and identify possible solutions to address the problem. One key finding is the big difference in elevation between the surface water source and service area that creates too much pressure resulting in pipes bursting and consequently disruption of services. The Team determined the actual pressures along the transmission/distribution line, identified existing pressure gauges and plotted these in drawings, and recorded pressure readings. Thereafter, the LGU, led by Engr. Jesus Oblan, will conduct pressure monitoring during high/peak demand (7:00 am and 6:00 pm) and low demand (2:00 pm and 10:00 pm). A thorough analysis of the system together with these pressure measurements will help identify remedial measures to manage the high pipeline pressures by either installing pressure reducing valves or making gate valve adjustments.



### **Follow-up mentoring visit in BWSAs of Narra.**

Following the chlorine residual test (which resulted in zero values) done during the water quality assurance training, the Barangay Waterworks and Sanitation Associations (BWSAs) in Barangays Dumanguena, Bagong Sikat, and Estrella Village installed their respective drip-type chlorinators. Safe Water advised the BWSAs to increase chlorine dosage to meet the standard 0.30 ppm to 1.5 ppm values. Narra Palawan Waterworks and Sanitation Association, which has 1,897 household connections, has started daily chlorine residual monitoring, and results showed that the standard minimum values have been attained, making water safe to drink.

### **Monitoring Water Quality.**

In the photo, chlorine residual tester displays a result of 0.03 mg/L which does not pass PNSDW's minimum 0.3 mg/L value. Safe Water has been conducting WQA orientation and demonstration activities in the project sites to help WSPs meet the PNSDW standards.

## **NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**

### **Water quality assurance monitoring and training for various WSPs.**

Safe Water has pinned down common issues affecting WSPs' capacity to comply with Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW) on chlorination (in particular, chlorine residual valued at 0.3 to 1.5 mg/L at any given time in the water distribution system). These are as follows:

- (i) Lack of and/or no maintenance of the equipment (e.g., clogging, worn-out parts, etc.);



- (ii) Inadequate skills of pump tender/operator to conduct basic troubleshooting;
- (iii) Insufficient dosage of chlorine in the pumping stations/water sources; and
- (iv) Improper chlorine storage and handling, leading to active chlorine concentration deterioration.

These issues are common in most WSPs, particularly LGU-run water systems. Safe Water addressed these concerns in its training and demonstrated troubleshooting measures. For instance, in November 24, Safe Water conducted a water quality assurance (WQA) and pressure management orientation and demonstration in one of Binalbagan WD's sampling point. The result of the residual chlorine testing that day was 0.03 mg/L, which does not pass PNSDW's minimum 0.3 mg/L value (*refer to picture in previous page*). Immediately, Safe Water performed troubleshooting and shared tips and techniques to pump tenders, such as adjusting the chlorinator's stroke rate. The next day, Safe Water and the pump tenders tested the same sampling point, using the same procedure. The results showed improved chlorine residual concentration in the distribution system with a value of 1.45 mg/L, passing PNSDW's chlorine residual standards (*refer to picture on this page*).



In addition to WSPs, the Provincial Health Office requested Safe Water assistance to train concerned staff of cities and municipalities in the province. Safe Water conducted a two-day training, combining lectures and on-site demonstration, concluding with a workshop on the second day. The two batches of trainees comprised LGU sanitation inspectors, WSP pump tenders/operators and technical personnel, and representatives from the construction section of DPWH 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> DEOs (for southern LGUs only) from the northern and southern LGUs, totaling 90 participants.

**Improving water quality through USAID assistance.**

After Safe Water's WQA orientation session and chlorinator troubleshooting with pump tenders, emphasizing stroke rate adjustment, testing results in same sampling point revealed changes in chlorine residual readings. In the picture, the test results show 1.45mg/L, that meets PNSDW standards.

Moreover, at the request of the city LGU, Safe Water conducted a joint Water Quality Assurance activity (residual chlorine testing and pressure reading) with water quality personnel from the Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA) Central Monitoring Unit and Primewater-Bacolod on November 3.

**TABLE 5. WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE RESULTS**

NAME OF WSP	TOTAL	TARGET FOR IMPROVEMENT	TEST DATE	NO. OF CONNECTIONS IMPROVED	POPULATION EQUIVALENT
Binalbagan WD	5,326	4,064	Oct. 21, 2022	431	2,155
Sagay City WD	18,289	16,000	Dec. 7, 2022	397	1,985
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,615</b>	<b>20,064</b>		<b>828</b>	<b>4,140</b>

Twelve sampling points were tested during the two-day activity and all sampling points passed the free chlorine residual standard of the PNSDW.

Safe Water, in coordination with Bacolod City Health Office, also held a refresher session for 15 sanitation inspectors. The session focused on chlorine residual monitoring (including a brief demonstration on chlorine residual testing) and chlorination of other water sources in the city outside of BACIWA’s service area. This activity was organized in response to the request submitted by the City Health Officer, Dr. Ma. Carmel Gensoli.

**SARANGANI AND GENERAL SANTOS CITY**

**Water quality assurance monitoring in General Santos City RWSAs and Water Districts in Sarangani.** In Year 3, Safe Water noted that WSPs, especially RWSAs, do not comply with the PNSDW, particularly the regular measurement and calibration of chlorine dosing. Thus, the WSPs are unable to maintain the standard level of chlorine throughout their water distribution system. To help WSPs comply with the PNSDW, Safe Water trained WSPs on residual chlorine and pressure monitoring and conducted follow-on coaching and mentoring activities to monitor improvements in the chlorination practices throughout 2022. As a result, by the end of Year 3, eight RWSAs in General Santos City and three WDs in Sarangani are practicing regular monitoring and applying appropriate chlorination techniques.

This Quarter, Safe Water continued to conduct water quality monitoring for select RWSAs in General Santos City, resulting in an additional 14 RWSAs adopting daily chlorination, which benefitted approximately 6,586 service connections. However, the residual chlorine requirement has not been met.

Safe Water also observed that the structure of elevated water tanks poses risks to RWSA personnel assigned to



**Building capacity of water service provider personnel to conduct water quality assurance.**

Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA) CMU personnel with PrimeWater water quality personnel and USAID Safe Water WSS Field Team performed a joint free chloring residual reading in 12 sampling points within the BACIWA service area last November 3.

undertake chlorination of the water system. To address this, Safe Water introduced a modified drip-type chlorinator that can sustain chlorine dosing for up to three days. Four RWSAs, namely MANUWASA, SARRUWASA, MAYRUWASA, and Purok Estrella RWSA, have adopted the modified drip-type chlorinator.

With the constant follow-up in adopting daily chlorination, two RWSAs, namely, Bagong Silang RWSA and New Mabuhay RWSA, have purchased hypo chlorinators while MANUWASA has an approved budget of Php 70,000 for the purchase of two hypo chlorinators. This Quarter, New Mabuhay RWSA installed the new hypo chlorinator in its water system while Bagong Silang RWSA and MANUWASA intend to install the equipment in their respective systems in early 2023. Lower Purok Acharon RWSA and Diamond Valley (DIVARUWASA) are also planning to purchase and install their hypo chlorinators in early 2023. Safe Water will continue to monitor compliance to PNSDW and reach more RWSAs to meet the Year 4 targets.

**Preparation of POWs for the improvement of existing septage treatment facilities in Alabel, Glan, Malapatan, and Maasim.** Safe Water is assisting coastal municipalities of Sarangani set up systematic community-wide septage management services. In Year 3, Safe Water guided these coastal municipalities to come up with their respective septage treatment plant (SpTP) improvement action plan. This Quarter, Safe Water assessed the sedimentation ponds of Alabel, Malapatan and Kiamba SpTPs and observed presence of inorganic matter such as plastics, bottles, and detergent wrappers mixed with the desludged septage wastes. Safe Water recommended to the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officers (MENRO) of Alabel and Malapatan to construct a septage receiving chamber to avoid clogging the manhole of the distribution box. The Team provided the MENROs with a conceptual design and program of work (POW) for the proposed septage receiving chamber. In the next Quarter, Safe Water will update the POW to include sludge drying beds to make the SpTPs totally operational and efficient.

## C. BUILDING CAPACITY OF WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS

### PALAWAN

**Mentoring on well development for Brooke's Point RWSA** In October 2022, the 20-hp submersible pump in the municipality's RWSA, Inc.'s Deepwell No. 2 was damaged, disrupting water supply. At the request of the RWSA, Safe Water inspected the damaged pump and determined that the well screen has been compromised due to corrosion, allowing pebbles used as gravel pack to enter the pump chamber and damage the pump impeller. As a result of the inspection, the RWSA installed a replacement pump. Safe Water also advised the RWSA to redevelop the well by airlifting and to perform pumping tests to determine well flow rate and drawdown to maximize the well's capacity. Safe Water also pointed out the need to develop new deep well sources to replace non-operational wells. Brooke's Point RWSA will follow Safe Water's recommendation on well re-development and pumping tests have been scheduled for May. The RWSA is also considering the recommendation to drill a replacement well near the existing well, subject to the availability of funds.

**Actual demonstration and on-site mentoring on well development and construction for Roxas Water District.** Technical staff and officials from Roxas, Rizal, Quezon, Narra, El Nido, and San Vicente attended the Safe Water training on well construction and well development in Roxas WD's well site in Barangay IV (Poblacion), Roxas.



Through lectures, demonstrations, and on-site monitoring made in the WD's ongoing well-drilling project, Safe Water helped the WD accomplish its target of drilling the first deep well using its newly acquired rotary drilling machine. Safe Water also capacitated the six abovementioned municipal water service providers in well-drilling technology through actual demonstration of casing installation, well development, and pumping test.

Prior to the training, the Team provided Roxas WD with technical assistance for its ongoing well-drilling project:

- 1) advised that the correct drilling mud viscosity must be maintained to avoid frequent collapse of the borehole during drilling, which enabled the drilling operation to proceed without further delay and reach the target drilling depth of 120 meters;
- 2) helped the WD to identify the company that will conduct electric logging and the result of the e-logging was used as basis in preparing the well design;
- 3) convinced the WD to use stainless steel screens instead of the low-yielding perforated pipes;
- 4) provided the WD with a punch list of materials and equipment needed for casing installation, well development, and pumping test;
- 5) facilitated PPCWD's assistance in providing the airlifting materials and equipment (airline and compressor), pumping unit, and generator set to be used during the pumping test.

Proper development and construction ensure productivity, less maintenance and longer economic lives of the production wells; this optimizes yield, ensures continued water supply, and reduces costs of maintenance and reinvestment for new water sources.

**Demand generation.** After the Water.org training on demand generation in September 2022, Safe Water in collaboration with Water.org, Palawan Water, and two microfinance institutions or MFIs (ASA and Lifebank Foundation) designed a Training of Trainers on Demand Generation and Innovative Marketing for 13 municipalities of mainland Palawan. The training is scheduled for February 2023 and will focus on increasing water connections of LGU-managed water utilities that will be financed by the MFIs through small loan provisions with a

minimum interest rate per annum. Each water service provider will participate and come up with a Communication Strategy and Marketing Plan.

## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

**Capacity-building for Negros Occidental province on PPP implementation.** Part of the PPP Center’s assistance to the Office of the Governor is capacity-building on PPP arrangements. The PPP Center will use an immersive, learning-by-doing approach in the course of the preparation of the feasibility studies for the bulk water and septage management projects to train provincial government staff in developing, managing, and executing solicited PPP projects. The capacity-building assistance of the PPP Center entails training members of the Provincial PPP TWG, the Selection Committee, members of the Provincial Board (*Sangguniang Panlalawigan*), representatives from civil society organizations, people’s organizations (POs), and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), which currently sit as members in the Provincial Development Council. Representatives from the WDs and LGUs in Malogo and Imbang watershed will also be included in the capacity-building training and workshops.

## D. PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED WATER SECURITY PLANNING

### PALAWAN

On October 13–14, Safe Water co-organized a forum with the City Government of Puerto Princesa, PPCWD, and other partners to present the Puerto Princesa City Water Security Situationer. The forum apprised participants from the public and private sectors on the current situation and development prospects of water, sanitation, and water resource management in the city. The forum also introduced to stakeholders, including members of the Puerto Princesa City Water Security Council, the framework, process, and data requirements to develop a City Integrated Water Security Plan. The stakeholders identified water security data sources and data gaps and agreed on an action plan to complete the Puerto Princesa City Integrated Water Security Plan. Puerto Princesa City is set to be the first city to craft such a plan, which cascades the PWSSMP down to the LGU level.



### Tapping the water sources of Malogo and Imbang watersheds.

The planned bulk water supply development in Negros Occidental will tap the water sources of the Malogo (top) and Imbang (bottom) watersheds.



“We thank USAID for establishing a local alliance with us to develop a City Water Security Plan that will catalyze actions to improve water and sanitation access levels in the city and protect its water resources”, -Angel Madriñan of City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), delivering the opening message of City Mayor Lucilo Bayron during the forum



“Water security planning for the city is everyone’s responsibility. It engenders collaboration of a range of stakeholders for the plan to be actionable and implemented on the ground,” -Paul Jeffery, DAI Home Office Project Team Director during the closing of the event



### NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

During its 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting on October 25, the Provincial Development Council of Negros Occidental passed Resolution No. 17, Series of 2022, “Adopting and Approving the 2023–2030 Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan of the Province of Negros Occidental and Endorsing the same to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for Concurrence/Approval.” In attendance were the Local Chief Executives (LCEs) representing the municipalities of Villadolid, Don Salvador Benedicto, and Manapla with a representative from the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On the same day, the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* of Negros Occidental unanimously adopted and approved the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) during its regular session upon presentation of motion by the 1<sup>st</sup> District Board Member. This completes the 10-step PIWSP planning process.

Governor Lacson officially approved *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* Resolution No. 0913, series of 2022, on December 1, 2022, effective immediately. This issuance mandates the adoption and implementation of the 2023–2030 PIWSP by component cities and municipalities in the province.

## SARANGANI

In Year 3, Sarangani completed its first PIWSP, which was approved by the Provincial Integrated Water Security Council and endorsed to the Provincial Development Council and *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* for final approval and adoption. The Provincial Development Council, with the favorable recommendation from the Environment Sectoral Committee, approved and endorsed the PIWSP to the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, which approved the Plan on December 19, 2022.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Safe Water will: orient and secure support from key officials of Sarangani in cascading the PIWSP; hold a conference for LCEs to champion PIWSP implementation; and develop capacities of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Council TWG on the web-based M&E system.



## E. PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### PALAWAN

Safe Water conducted the following activities in relation to the pilot implementation of Central Management System (CMS) in Narra:

1. CMS orientation for the Municipal Economic Enterprise Development Office (MEEDO) and Narra Water Supply System (NWSS) LGU staff. The Head of MEEDO and LGU Chief of Staff, Mr. Albert Felizarte, were open to having Narra as the pilot LGU for CMS implementation.
2. CMS orientation for Narra Municipal Mayor, Hon. Gerandy Danao. After a detailed discussion on the advantages of adopting the CMS for





NWSS, Mayor Danao expressed interest in Narra as the pilot LGU in Palawan. Since NWSS is already operating under the MEEDO, most of the requirements to become a Municipal Water Enterprise (MWE) are already in place.

3. As required in the CMS, NWSS is finalizing its Business Plan to be presented to the *Sangguniang Bayan* in January 2023.
4. In November 2022, NWSS requested Safe Water to assist them in updating their water tariff. On November 28–29, with the help of Safe Water, NWSS came up with a new tariff schedule based on NRW requirements. The tariff is recommended to be updated from Php 15 to Php 19 to cover costs of implementing a program to reduce non-revenue water (NRW) from 87 percent to 25 percent. Safe Water will also be assisting NWSS in NRW reduction.

In January 2023, the Team will arrange meetings with the *Sangguniang Bayan* Committees on Rules and Laws, Public Utility, and Health and Environment to discuss the draft CMS ordinance.

## SARANGANI

In Year 2, the Municipality of Alabel signified interest in the pilot implementation of the CMS and created a task force to spearhead the development and implementation of a CMS plan. This intervention supports the planned creation of a MEEDO, which will include the LGU-run Level 3 water system and septage management program. In Year 3, Safe Water trained and mentored Alabel LGU in crafting a municipal ordinance establishing its Municipal Water Enterprise (MWE). In the *Sangguniang Bayan's* deliberation of the MWE ordinance, it became apparent from questions raised that the Business Plan of the Alabel Level 3 Water System had to be updated.

Accordingly, Safe Water guided Alabel Level 3 Water System in updating and improving its Business Plan through a series of coaching on infrastructure and facility-related improvements, and review of the financial requirements needed to make the operation of the facility

financially viable and sustainable. At present, the waterworks serves only 13 percent of the population and plans to double the population served in the next three years. Based on the proposed improvements to the water facilities and service expansion, Safe Water estimated the revenue requirements and the necessary tariff for cost recovery. This will be the basis for the revision of the LGU's revenue code, which will effect tariff/ fee adjustments. Safe Water will continue to assist Alabel LGU in establishing its MWE and in implementing CMS activities. In addition to Alabel, Safe Water is also helping the Municipality of Malapatan finalize its MWE Ordinance.



## G. CLIN 2 ACTIVITIES (PALAWAN ONLY)

**Drafting of MOU and consultation meetings.** In November 2022, Safe Water held consultation meetings with local officials from Roxas, Aborlan, and Narra on the scope of the Safe Water CLIN 2 MOU. CLIN 2 mobilizes Safe Water to provide post-disaster support by rehabilitating water systems that are damaged by natural disasters and making these systems climate resilient. The MOU between Safe Water and three municipalities aims to rehabilitate and restore heavily damaged water supply systems in four areas: Barangay Jolo in Roxas, Barangay Princess Urduja in Narra, and Barangays Cabigaan and Culandanum in Aborlan. Under the MOU, the three municipal LGUs and Safe Water will combine expertise and resources in redesigning and reconstructing damaged water supply facilities to resilient standards.



### **Building back better water supply systems damaged by Typhoon Odette.**

Back in June 2022, USAID Safe Water started working with municipalities in Palawan to build back better water infrastructure and mitigate the impact of climate change on essential facilities that cater to people's basic needs such as water.

On December 4, the Safe Water Team attended a special session of the Narra *Sangguniang Bayan* Committee on Rules and Laws to fast-track the *Sangguniang Bayan's* approval of the MOU and issuance of the authority to sign the MOU by the Mayor of Narra. A series of meetings with the LGUs provided the Team with an opportunity to confirm the respective LGU project counterparts – Roxas and Aborlan committed to provide safe and easy access to the project sites while Narra will purchase the lots for the well drilling location. In relation to this, Safe Water assisted Narra LGU in identifying available areas in Barangay Princess Urduja where the geo-resistivity survey will be undertaken. The surveys will identify new groundwater sources, which is necessitated by the extreme vulnerability of the existing surface water source and pipelines.



**MOU signing ceremony.** On December 6, the MOU signing ceremony was held.



In their messages, the three LCEs expressed heartfelt gratitude to USAID for its development initiative to deliver safe water to various barangays in their municipalities. Upon formal signing of the CLIN 2 MOU, the Palawan Field Team of Safe Water coordinated with the three recipient LGUs and facilitated two key preparatory activities: geo-resistivity survey and topographic survey.



**Topographic survey in Roxas and Aborlan.** The topographic surveys were conducted in Barangays Culandanum and Cabigaan in Aborlan and Barangay Jolo in Roxas by LG Maratas Surveying and Engineering Services. The field survey activities were conducted on December 14–21. The final outputs of the surveyor, consisting of the plan and profile of the sites and pipeline routes, are expected to be completed in January 2023. By then, the detailed engineering design can start.

**Geo-resistivity survey in Narra.** Falcon Geo-Environmental Services was mobilized to the project site in Barangay Princess Urduja on December 8. The geo-resistivity survey field work, consisting of ten Vertical Electrical Soundings, was completed on December 15, and the final report containing the groundwater assessment is expected to be completed in January 2023.

## H. OTHER ACTIVITIES

### *NATIONAL*

**Training on septage treatment design, construction management, and commissioning.** Safe Water conducted training on the design principles, construction management, and commissioning of septage treatment plants for the technical and advisory staff of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) on October 5–6. The training included a site visit to the existing septage treatment plant of Baliwag Water District. The training workshop will prepare the LWUA staff for the septage treatment plants that will be constructed for the water districts under the Manila Bay Mandamus.

**Sanitation pricing for water districts.** The LWUA requested assistance from Safe Water in the formulation of a Sanitation Pricing methodology, particularly for the septage management programs of water districts. Safe Water held a coordination meeting with LWUA on December 2 to gather information on existing septage management tariffs being charged by water districts and discuss associated issues, including the possible set-up where water districts are clustered (one water district hosting the treatment plant and other water districts bringing the desludged septage and paying tipping fees). Safe Water will finalize the scope of assistance to LWUA in early 2023.

### *GENERAL SANTOS CITY*

**Groundwater analysis for General Santos City under the Ambassador’s Water Experts Program.** With a strong commitment to collaboration, Safe Water assisted the U.S. Embassy ECON Section in finalizing the detailed work plan of the consultants who will conduct the training on groundwater monitoring and management under the Program. The Program is scheduled to start in early February 2023, with a roundtable meeting of stakeholders, and is expected to be completed by June 2023.

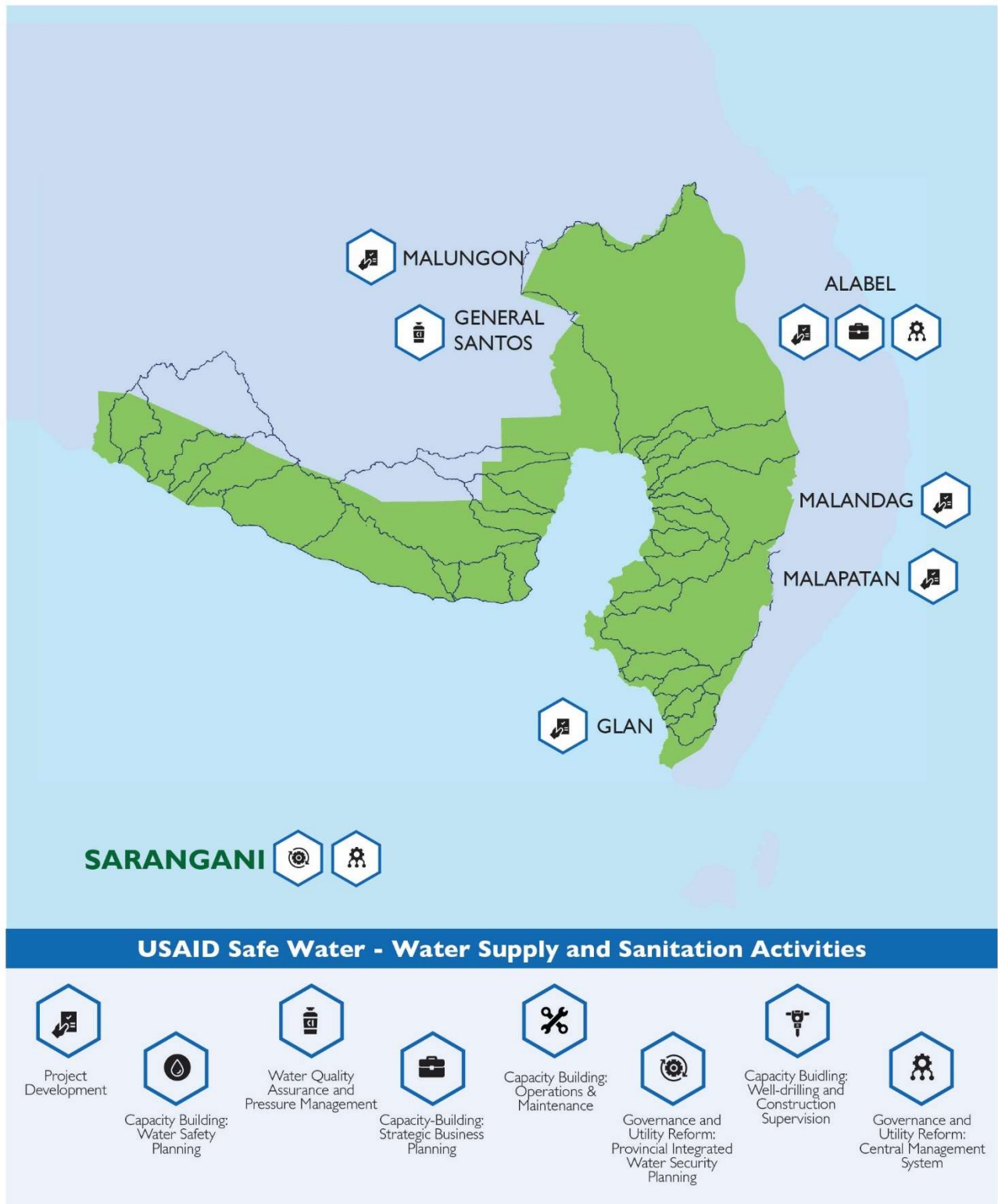
**FIGURE 8. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES IN PALAWAN**



**FIGURE 9. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**



**FIGURE 10. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY AND SARANGANI**



## OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

### A. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FORMULATION

Safe Water, in coordination with DENR, continued assistance to LGUs and watershed stakeholders in formulating watershed management plans. The plans will guide the protection and rehabilitation of watersheds to improve water supply and to minimize, if not prevent, impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on water resources.

#### PALAWAN

Safe Water and the Municipal Government of Aborlan, with the Provincial Government of Palawan, DENR, and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, held two three-day training sessions in October and November to discuss pertinent issues facing the municipality's ten watersheds and come up with an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The Safe Water Palawan Field Team presented the hydrologic study, watershed characterization and climate change vulnerability assessment of DENR in the training sessions, which informed the formulation of the Aborlan IWMP. The Field Team and partner resource persons guided participants in mapping out issues confronting their water resources and livelihoods and developing goals and management actions to address challenges in the watersheds.

More than 60 participants from the barangays and the municipal LGU attended the training, pledged to support the protection of the watersheds, and identified solutions such as: designation of restoration zones in degraded areas; protection of the integrity of riverbanks; strict regulation of quarrying activities within the river system; prevention and control of river pollution from land-based sources; and public information drives on watershed conservation management.

## IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TYPES OF ACTIVITIES



Watershed Management Plan Formulation



Creation and Strengthening of Watershed Management Councils



Strengthening Partnerships to Support WRM and Sustainable Livelihoods



Implementation of WRM and Sustainable Livelihood Activities



Strengthening Forest Protection through the Lawin System



Targeted Watershed Rehabilitation



Scaling Payment for Ecosystem Services



Conduct of Hydrologic Studies and Training on Computational Hydrology



Developing Local Stakeholders' Capacity for Climate and Hydrologic Risk Assessment



Capacity Building for Water Demand Management



## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The Negros Occidental Field Team is working with DENR-CENRO and the municipality of Hinobaan to formulate its Local Watershed Conservation and Rehabilitation Plan (LWCRP). To facilitate LWCRP formulation, the municipal LGU issued Office Memorandum No. 054 on October 5, creating the TWG tasked to draft the LWCRP and update its five-year Forest Land Use Plan. Safe Water held a three-day training from October 25–27 for the TWG to orient them on the LWCRP formulation process, profiling of the LGU's watersheds, conduct of preliminary analysis and identification of priority interventions. The priority activities identified in the LWCRP focus on: a) watershed protection (patrolling, and detection and apprehension of violators); b) reforestation and livelihood; c) sustainable financing options; d) strengthening watershed governance; and e) active engagement and institutionalization of collaboration among watershed stakeholders. The training-workshop was participated by representatives from DENR-CENRO Kabankalan, including the CENR Officer Forester Wilfredo Canto, along with the Negros Occidental Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) technical staff and academe representatives from Central Philippine State University.

## SARANGANI

Safe Water assisted the municipalities of Alabel, Malungon, and Maasim, and the City of General Santos in finalizing their LWCRPs. The LWCRP of Maasim and General Santos City were approved by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Council, and Environment Sub-Committee of the City Development Council respectively. Both plans were favorably endorsed to their respective Local Development Council for approval. The LWCRPs of Alabel and Malungon will be presented and reviewed by their respective Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Councils in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Year 4.



### Formulating Hinobaan's Local Watershed Conservation and Rehabilitation Plan.

(Top-middle) Safe Water Negros Occidental Field Team members facilitate the LWCRP formulation process of the Municipality of Hinobaan which include profiling of the LGU's watersheds, preliminary analysis and identification of priority interventions. Photos courtesy to Hinoba-an LGU Facebook. (Bottom) Hinoba-an TWG members together with representatives from the Negros Occidental Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) share their workshop outputs during the Local Watershed Conservation and Restoration Planning.



**Identifying priority interventions for Western Sarangani Watersheds.** Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) is an effective method for controlling soil erosion and increasing soil fertility without use of unsustainable practices such as uncontrolled land expansion, use of inorganic fertilizers, among others.

Safe Water shared the hydrologic study of the Buayan-Malungon River Basin (BMRB) to DENR to serve as their reference in formulating the IWMP of the river basin. The BMRB Management Council approved the IWMP of BMRB during its meeting on November 4, 2022. The IWMP of Western Sarangani watersheds was also reviewed by the Siguel Watershed Management Council (WMC) during its meeting on November 4. One of the programs cited in the IWMPs concerns water resource management, involving the following interventions: 1) protection of existing forests especially in identified protection areas, applying the Lawin forest protection system; 2) rehabilitation of 73,969 hectares of denuded areas within the BMRB and 6,000 hectares in the western Sarangani watersheds through spring rehabilitation, reforestation, agroforestry and SALT, to be included in the enhanced national greening program of DENR; 3) establishment of small water impounding structures to support water supply for communities and for maintenance of agroforestry and forest plantations; and 4) establishment of water quality monitoring sites. The Council recommended the inclusion of the LGUs' programs and projects in the plan as a condition for its approval. Safe Water trained the Western Sarangani planning team, composed of DENR-CENRO Kiamba and LGU representatives, on the conduct of a situational analysis, including the holding of community consultations, and identification of priority interventions such as forest protection measures, targeted reforestation, agroforestry, and contour farming. The Team also shared the hydrologic studies of the watersheds located within the municipalities of Maasim, Kiamba, and Maitum to serve as reference for the planning team in preparing the IWMP.

## B. CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

Safe Water assisted DENR and the LGUs in organizing Watershed Management Councils (WMCs) which are multi-sectoral bodies that provide oversight in watershed management. The Team also developed a tool for assessing the organizational capacity of watershed management bodies, crucial to the proper identification of capacity strengthening requirements to ensure functionality of WMCs.

## PALAWAN

The Palawan Field Team provided technical support in the creation of the WMC and its TWG in Taytay, Palawan. As stipulated in EO No. 46 issued by the Municipal Mayor of Taytay on December 20, 2022, the Taytay WMC shall provide oversight in the proper management of watersheds in the municipality and in the implementation of protection, conservation, and rehabilitation activities as indicated in the LGU's LWCRP.

In November, the Field Team also conducted a pilot assessment of the organizational capacity of the Narra Watershed Regulation and Evaluation Committee, using the organizational capacity assessment tool (OCAT) developed by the Manila Team. The organizational capacity assessment report, which was completed in December, indicates that the current version of the WMC OCAT can guide the identification of strategies to strengthen watershed management bodies.

## SARANGANI

The Sarangani Field Team facilitated the second and third meetings of the WMCs of the Buayan-Malungon River Basin (BMRB) and Siguel. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the memberships of the BMRB and Siguel WMCs were expanded to include those prescribed under DENR Administrative Order 41-2021, particularly on representation from the private, academe, and NGO sectors, and other national government agencies. In addition, the WMCs organized their working committees, created the Ad-Hoc Committee to review/revise the draft Manual of Operations, approved the IWMP of BMRB, and authorized DENR-CENRO Kiamba to finalize and present to the Council the draft IWMP of Western Sarangani Watersheds. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> WMC meeting, Safe Water held a focus group discussion on administering the OCAT with the WMC members in attendance. The respondents appreciated the value of the OCAT process as it defines the ideal state of a WMC and recognized the need to administer the tool on a regular basis to track the council's progress.



### **Operationalizing Watershed Resource Management in DENR Soccsksargen.**

DENR Soccsksargen and USAID hosted the 2nd Watershed Management Council meeting. The meeting tackled the designation of chairpersons for the working committees in their respective watershed management councils and the creation of a manual of to guide the operations of the councils. *Photos courtesy to DENR Soccsksargen Facebook.*



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

Safe Water engaged the UPLB Foundation, Inc. (UPLBFI) to undertake climate and hydrologic risk assessment in Bago and Montible watersheds in Negros Occidental and the BMRB in Sarangani. UPLBFI has started field activities in Puerto Princesa City. They have held coordination meetings with the city LGU, Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD), Bureau of Corrections, and the IP communities. They have also conducted field reconnaissance, profiling of Montible watershed, and key informant interviews with local communities. Consistent with the schedule of deliverables, UPLBFI submitted the vulnerability assessment report for Montible watershed, which is now under review by the Water Resource Management (WRM) Specialist. Results of the assessment will be used in formulating climate change adaptation options for water supply and sanitation (WSS) and WRM. This will help water service providers to adopt climate-resilient designs for their water system/ infrastructure, and LGUs to inform their plans, such as their Comprehensive and Forest Land Use Plans, Local Climate Change Action Plans, and Emergency Response Plans, among others.

## E. STRENGTHENING FOREST PROTECTION THROUGH THE LAWIN FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SYSTEM

Safe Water works with DENR and local government units (LGUs) in the protection of existing forests by improving local capacity on forest protection through the adoption of the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, an innovative forest protection system that combines environmental law enforcement with monitoring of forest conditions. Lawin implementation was boosted further with Globe Telecom's donation of mobile phones to the LGUs for use by community patrollers.

### **Strengthening forest protection through the Lawin system.**

The Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System is an innovative system that combines monitoring of forest conditions using mobile phones, environmental law enforcement, and local community participation in forest protection.

### **PALAWAN**

Safe Water in partnership with DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City and the Municipal Government of Aborlan conducted training on the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System for municipal-wide conservation and protection of water resources by watershed stakeholders in Aborlan. The Lawin system is one of the major strategies

identified by the Aborlan Watershed Management Council and stakeholders during the preparation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Aborlan watersheds.

A total of 65 participants (18 women and 47 men) participated in the Lawin training; they were from municipal government offices, government and private water service providers, communities, and people's organizations, IP groups, and barangay LGUs. Resource persons from Safe Water and DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City delivered the lectures on the Lawin system and facilitated workshops on the use of the CyberTracker application in recording ground observations, such as forest conditions, threats, and indicator species.

At the conclusion of the training, DENR-CENRO and Aborlan MENRO agreed to establish an offline Lawin database at the LGU level. MENRO Aborlan will assign personnel as Data Manager to manage the offline database. S/He will directly report the data gathered by Aborlan Lawin patrollers to the Data Manager of DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City. This DENR-LGU partnership strategy will improve coordination among DENR, LGU, and local communities on forest protection.

The Field Team also partnered with DENR-CENRO Taytay and Zoological Society of London–Philippines in organizing a Lawin system training for El Nido enforcement and natural resource officers. A total of 20 participants attended the Lawin training, which included El Nido MENRO forest rangers and staff, Philippine National Police, and Bantay Gubat Community Volunteers.

## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Safe Water in partnership with the LGUs and DENR organized 524 patrollers from ten LGUs in Negros Occidental. Of this, 353 patrollers from six LGUs were trained; these patrollers are regularly patrolling the LGUs' watersheds using the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, in collaboration with concerned DENR-CENROs. The LGUs provide monthly honoraria to the patrollers as part of their incentive. Recently, Globe Telecom provided 36 mobile phone units to strengthen forest and watershed protection activities. The number of forest patrollers per LGU and the number mobile phones received from Globe Telecom are summarized in the table, the next page.



### Partnering with Globe Telecom for forest and watershed protection.

(Top-Middle) Lawin is an innovative system that combines monitoring of forest conditions using mobile phones, environmental law enforcement, and local community participation in forest protection.

(Bottom) USAID Safe Water Chief of Party turned over the mobile phones provided by Globe Telecoms to the LGU representatives which will be used by their forest patrollers in Lawin system implementation during the Abanse Negrense Good Environmental Governance and Negros Occidental Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards.

**TABLE 6. MOBILE PHONES DONATED BY GLOBE IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL PER LGU**

LGUS	WATERSHED	NO. OF PATROLLERS	NO. OF MOBILE PHONES RECEIVED
Bago City	Bago	30	3
Cadiz City	Himogaan	61	4
Calatrava	Himogaan	30	3
Hinobaan	Pagatban	30	3
Himamaylan	Ilog Hilabangan	50	3
San Carlos City	Bago	130	6
Silay City	Malogo/Imbang	30	3
Sipalay City	Sipalay	37	3
Talisay City	Malogo/Imbang	94	6
Victorias City	Malogo	32	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>524</b>	<b>36</b>



**Mobilizing people’s organizations in seedling production.**

Multi-stakeholder Alliance for Development (MUAD) Negros, with the Safe Water Livelihood Coordinator, mobilized partner people’s organizations (POs) in the production of native and fruit trees seedlings to be used in spring rehabilitation.

**SARANGANI**

Community patrollers in Sarangani continued to conduct foot patrols in forested areas within the Buayan-Malungon River Basin, Siguel watershed, and other priority watersheds identified by the LGUs. Safe Water with DENR and MENROs are monitoring ground patrols by conducting assessment meetings with community patrollers to identify problems and issues encountered during patrol work. A common issue brought up by the team patrols is the need to have mobile phones so that they can utilize the Lawin system. This concern will be partly addressed once the mobile phones donated by Globe are distributed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Year 4.

**F. TARGETED WATERSHED REHABILITATION**

Planning and implementation of watershed rehabilitation activities were undertaken by partners in Negros Occidental and Sarangani with technical guidance from Safe Water, targeting groundwater recharge areas in priority watersheds.

**NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**

Multi-stakeholder Alliance for Development (MUAD) Negros, with the Safe Water Livelihood Coordinator, mobilized partner people’s organizations (POs) in the production of native and fruit trees seedlings to be used in spring rehabilitation. Throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 13 POs planted 880 native tree species, such as Toog, Bacan, and Tambuyog, covering 1.408 hectares in areas surrounding

the natural springs and other water sources. In addition, 550 species of fruit trees, e.g., Marang, Jackfruit, Avocado, Rambutan, Pomelo, Guyabano, and Durian, were planted in various individual farms of PO members, covering approximately one hectare. Additional 4,000 seedlings of native and fruit were raised in the nurseries during the period, which are ready for transplanting.



The application of soil and water conservation measures and use of organic fertilizer and botanical pesticides are important interventions in watershed rehabilitation to minimize soil erosion, increase groundwater infiltration, and reduce chemical contamination of water resources. Safe Water trained two batches of trainees on Biofertilizer and Botanical Pesticides Production, and Soil and Water Conservation in October and November 2022. The training was conducted in partnership with the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental–Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Central Philippine State University, and MUAD Negros. Mr. Reynic Alo of MUAD Negros gave a lecture and hands-on training on the integration of swale in Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) as a soil and water conservation technique while Ms. Flora Mae Billena, Supervisor of the Negros First Organic Agriculture Technology Center, was the primary resource person on biofertilizer and botanical pesticides production.



Twenty-five participants (9 women and 16 men) composed the first batch of the three-day training: representatives from eight POs and the City/ Municipal Agricultural Offices of Himamaylan, Cadiz, Isabela and Sipalay. The second batch comprised 15 participants (6 women and 9 men) from 7 POs and from the City/ Municipal Agriculture Office of Cadiz and Calatrava.



## SARANGANI

In Year 3, Safe Water began conducting training sessions on Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) as soil and water conservation measures in critical watersheds of Sarangani. The training was done in partnership with the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Year 4, Safe Water with the Municipal Agriculturist of Glan, trained 29 additional upland farmers from Barangay Burias in Glan. Safe Water introduced the concept of integrating infiltration canals in SALT demo farms to reduce soil erosion, catch upstream surface water run-off in the canals, and improve groundwater recharge. The trained upland farmers established a 1,000-square-meter SALT demonstration farm with infiltration canals and planted acid Ipil-Ipil seeds along contour lines. The farmers were guided by the Field Team in locating contour lines within their farms using the A-Frame. The Municipal Agriculturist mentioned that the established SALT demo farm with infiltration canals will become the model on soil and water conservation in Glan, especially for those barangays within the Pangyan Watershed, and will also be the source of acid Ipil-Ipil seeds that will be used in stabilizing contour lines and hedgerows along canals in other areas of Glan.

Safe Water also participated in the launching of the one million trees project held in Calminda Watershed in Alabel in October 5. The launching served as a kick-off activity of the reforestation development project supporting the Sarangani Governor's *Ronda Probinsya para sa Kinaiyahan* program. To facilitate formulation of the development project, the Provincial Governor issued EO 35-2022 creating the Technical Working Committee tasked to formulate the Provincial Reforestation Development Plan. Safe Water held an orientation training on the crafting of the reforestation development project on November 9, and discussed technical requisites, rationale, objectives of reforestation planning, and process of formulating the Provincial Reforestation Development Plan. The participants identified preliminary priority sites for reforestation based on identified criteria during the training. The Plan will support the strategic interventions of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan and will operationalize the integrated water resources management (IWRM) framework.



## G. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Out of the six partnerships in the pipeline by the end of Year 3,<sup>1</sup> Safe Water has formally confirmed agreements with Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. (CCFPI), Negros Economic Development Foundation (NEDF), and Globe Telecom, Inc. Negotiations for the rest of the target partnerships will continue in the next Quarter.

CCFPI has awarded a grant to NEDF for a three-year watershed conservation and protection program. CCFPI and NEDF signed the MOA in December 2022 in Bacolod City. The MOA signing event was attended by USAID, led by Environment Office Director Ryder Rogers, and LGU officials from Calatrava, Sagay City, and Cadiz City. The project, “Sustaining Watershed Health through Sustainable Livelihood and Agroforestry (or SWATH), will rehabilitate 26 natural springs and support the forest-based livelihood of 1,000 farmers in Sicaba and Himogaan River Watershed.

Globe and Safe Water have signed an agreement for the donation of mobile phones to be used for Lawin patrol. As of January, Globe has provided 120 units of mobile phones valued at approximately Php 750,000 (US\$15,000). These phones will enable forest patrollers who were mostly doing conventional patrolling using pen and paper to record and report observations. With the mobile phones, patrollers can now report observations in real time. Safe Water has been training Lawin patrollers in collaboration with the DENR offices in the target LGUs.



**Expanding watershed protection through a new USAID-Coke-NEDF partnership.** (Top) NEDF and CCFPI signatories seated with USAID, USAID Safe Water, and LGU personnel as witnesses behind them. (Middle) Delegation visits the farm of Cornelia Santiana, one of the SWATH beneficiaries in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. (Bottom) SWATH beneficiary Cornelia Santiana shows off her rice paddies which will benefit from the project.

<sup>1</sup> The six partnerships in the pipeline at the end of Year 3 were: CCFPI, NEDF, Globe, OMF, IDEAS and Forest Philippines Foundation.

**TABLE 7. MOBILE PHONES DONATED BY GLOBE IN ALL SAFE WATER SITES**

PHONE TYPE	TOTAL	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	PALAWAN	SARANGANI
<b>Brand New Phones (Sub-total)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>
Samsung Galaxy A51 Black	4	2	1	1
Samsung Galaxy A51 Blue	6	2	2	2
Oppo A92 Black	5		3	2
Oppo A 92 White	29	10	11	8
Samsung Galaxy M12 Blue	25	8	10	7
Samsung Galaxy M12 Green	5		4	1
Realme 7i Blue	20	6	7	7
Realme 7i Green	4	1	1	2
Xiaomi Redmi Note 10 Green	1			1
<b>Refurbished Phones (Sub-Total)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
Samsung Galaxy A72 Demo	1	1		
Samsung A51 Demo	1	1		
Samsung A50 Demo	4	1	1	2
Samsung Galaxy A50s Demo	3	1	2	
Samsung A32 5G Demo	1			1
Samsung Galaxy A30s Demo	2		1	1
Oppo A92 Black	1	1		
Samsung A20s Demo	8	2	5	1
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>



**Tapping solar power to support ube processing.**

One Meralco Foundation will provide solar power for the ube processing plant of IDEAS, Inc., the NGO ube consolidator in Palawan. In photos, farmers show their newly harvested ube.

**PROSPECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

One Meralco Foundation (OMF) has sent its engineers to assess and design the solar equipment to power the water pumps in Barangay Sibaltan of El Nido Waterworks. Installation of the solar equipment will commence when the LGU permit is secured. OMF has also lined up solar power for the ube processing plant of IDEAS, Inc., the NGO ube consolidator in Palawan. IDEAS has supplied four tons of semi-processed ube to Sunlight Foods, but the operation has been put on hold pending the FDA approval of the processing facility. OMF’s solar power assistance to IDEAS will also await facility upgrade by IDEAS in compliance with FDA requirements.

**H. IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES WITH PARTNERS**

**PALAWAN**

**Ube Farming.** The Palawan Field Team continued monitoring the status of Safe Water-assisted ube demo farms of people’s organizations (POs) in Narra and Puerto Princesa City. This activity is part of Safe Water’s

commitment under the partnership agreement with Sunlight Foods Corp. (SFC) and is a way for Safe Water to address issues encountered on the ground and adjust implementation approaches as necessary. Based on the monitoring activity, high mortality of ube plants in the demo farms is a major issue affecting some PO farmers. This can be attributed to several causes, which differ with each PO. High mortality is evident in farms where POs do not regularly maintain the farms or have not strictly followed the protocol provided during the training by Safe Water and SFC. Unfavorable weather (i.e., frequent rains) also affected the growth of plants of six POs in Puerto Princesa City. Some farmers reported the infestation of pests and fungus while some attribute the poor growth to a batch of poor-quality ube seedlings received from SFC. In one demo farm in Puerto Princesa, the absence of a perimeter fence led to the intrusion of stray animals that consumed the ube plants and damaged the trellis.

The Palawan Field Team and SFC have been closely working with the affected farmers to address the issues and come up with solutions to mitigate them. A solution being explored is the replacement of affected plots with gabi (taro) plant. Some POs also re-established perimeter fencing around the demo farms to prevent stray animals from damaging the ube plants. Lessons learned during the growing of ube are valuable in assessing ways forward and in evaluating the capacity of PO members to engage in individual ube farming based on their performance in (collective) demo farming.

To ensure Safe Water-assisted demo farms comply with standards contained in the Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code 2017, Safe Water teamed up with SFC and Control Union to visit and inspect the farms on December 7–10 for a pre-audit on compliance to the Code and to plan for the next ube farming cycle.

Findings of the pre-audit are:

- PO members of Community Based Wildlife and Environment Protection Association in Bataraza appeared to have success in their farms and signified willingness to plant more ube in the next cropping cycle (1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023).



**Implementing the Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code 2017.** Safe Water, SFC and Control Union visit demo farms for a pre-audit on compliance to the Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code and to plan for the next ube farming cycle.



**Harvesting from their organic farms**

Farmers take photos of their organic produce following the application of sustainable agricultural practices they learned from Safe Water trainings.

Majority of other ube farm PO members visited were also willing to participate in the next cropping cycle.

- Planting material for the next cropping cycle will be taken from the selected demo farm harvest in Palawan (green variety).
- Soils need to be analyzed beforehand, prior to land preparation in February to March. Planting will be from March to April.
- The schedule of the training on organic concoction for ube growers and vegetables as cash crop needs to be prioritized. It will be undertaken within the next Quarter.
- All current ube demo farms will be planted by vegetables after the harvest. The schedule of ube harvest is March 2023.
- Demo farms that encountered issues in ube growing will be supported by Safe Water and SFC through further training on maintenance, organic concoction, and shift to gabi (taro) planting.

**Organic Vegetable Growing and Marketing.** Safe Water collaborated with ECLOF Philippines, the Provincial Government of Palawan, Project Zacchaeus Marketing Cooperative (PZC), DENR, and the Municipal Governments of Aborlan and Roxas in training members of farmers associations in Aborlan and Roxas on organic vegetable growing, watershed conservation and management, women’s role in water resource management, gender awareness, and market linkage support using an existing digital app on farm products clustering and consolidation (through the Farm Konek Program of PZC). The training was conducted for two batches of trainees (October 18–21 and 24–27):

- 101 farmers (51 women and 50 men) from 15 farmers associations in Aborlan; and
- 91 farmers (59 women and 32 men) from 6 farmers associations in Roxas, including 48 individual farmers who are borrowers of ECLOF Philippines.

The POs received a starter pack of vegetable planting materials and farm tools, and the training team helped them develop an action plan on the establishment of a vegetable demonstration farm that will showcase what the POs have learned from the training. They were also linked to PZC’s

Farm Konek marketing program, which is a digital marketing platform that helps farmers, producers, and suppliers market their produce directly to consumers. In addition, they received a loan orientation from ECLOF Philippines on their products and services.

In terms of market access, Safe Water linked farmers from watershed communities in Quezon, Narra, and Aborlan to PZC, which developed the Farm Konek mobile app. Farmers linked by Safe Water to PZC have enjoyed the benefits of managing their planting and harvest schedule, farm clustering, and consolidating harvests for more efficient delivery to markets and consumers.

**Community Managed Savings and Credit.** Safe Water is also scaling up Community-Managed Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA) facilities for selected organizations to benefit members through savings and loan services. With the existing credit and savings facilities established through Safe Water assistance, COMSCA members have generated savings that they can use to finance their household expenses and invest in rice farming and other livelihoods.

In October, 25 women IP members of the Ma' res nga mga Babay Kat Barangay Sagpangan attended the two-day training on COMSCA establishment. Through the training, participants were taught financial management, including the value and habit of savings. As of December, the COMSCA of the women's IP organization was already operational.

## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The Negros Occidental Field Team continue to work with partners to mobilize POs in implementing sustainable livelihood activities. MUAD assisted farmers in Bago watershed in establishing community green farms and savings mobilization, while the Association of Negros Producers (ANP) is helping farmers in handicraft-making using cogon as raw material. SFC also provided assistance in ube production and marketing.

**Community Green Farms.** Training for 11 POs on the establishment of community green farms were conducted by MUAD with the assistance of the Safe Water Field Team. Topics discussed during the training include: asexual seedling propagation, nursery establishment and maintenance, growing of high-value crops, and integrated



**Learning about organic vegetable farming and integrated farming systems.** Farmers from Palawan learned about the benefits of organic agriculture as they planted vegetable seedlings and prepared organic fertilizer. The farmers also learned first-hand various organic farming techniques in land preparation, cultivation, compost mixing, plotting, planting, and farm and crop management and maintenance.

pest management. The community green farms are expected to provide an alternative livelihood to PO members and contribute to increasing their income.

**Savings Mobilization.** MUAD, in partnership with Safe Water, continued mentoring POs in Bago and Malogo watershed on sustaining the operations of Environmental Development Savings and Investment Associations (EDSIAs). From October–December, total savings mobilized by the 23 POs (with membership of 1,612) have amounted to Php 4,829,109 (US\$ 96,582.18). The breakdown is presented in the table below:

**TABLE 8. SAVINGS MOBILIZED FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATIONS (EDSIAs)**

NAME OF PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS	SAVINGS MOBILIZED: OCT–DEC 2022 (IN PHP)
Prosperidad Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Assoc.	61,800
Magazine 2 General Savings and Investment Assoc.	1,311,570
Brgy. Igmayaan Farmers' Assoc.	51,580
Benejiwan ISF Farmers' Assoc.	163,000
Bago Proper 1 General Savings and Investment Assoc.	580,480
Pandanon ISF Tuguisan Farmers' Assoc., Inc.	479,000
Bago Proper 2 General Savings and Investment Assoc.	230,538
Family EDSIA Group	136,477
Barangay Minoyan Integrated Forest Protection Farmers Assoc.	733,042
United Ilijan Agricultural Workers for Sustainable Devt2.	180,150
Barangay Amayco ISF Farmers' Assoc.	43,755
Friends of the Highlands Agrarian Reform Coop (1&2)	40,340
Barangay Aral-AI Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Assoc.	9,500
Pasto Small Farmers Association	91,965
Magazine 3 General Savings and Investment Assoc.	150,100
Dahon Dahon EDSIA	19,720
Sitio Balagnan Integrated Farmers' Assoc.	32,400
Nataban Organic Farmers Assoc (Odiong)	335,300
Nataban Organic Farmers Assoc (Benoni)	162,000
Bunga Irrigators Farmers Assoc.	2,500
San Vicente I Agrarian Reform Cooperative	5,902
Pandanon Silos ISF Farmers' Assoc.	3,620
Campuestohan Porters and Farmers Assoc.	4,100
Kudiawan Barangay Bunga Irrigators' Assoc.	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,829,109 (\$96,582)</b>



**Cogon Handicraft Making and Marketing.** Safe Water and ANP conducted a two-day training on business skills, cogon dyeing and weaving, and coiled basketry for 30 participants from four POs of Barangay Celestino Villacin, Cadiz City, namely: Melancholy Farmers Association; Barangay Celestino Villacin Integrated Farmers Association; Alimatoc Irrigators Association; and Alimatoc Coconut Farmers Association. The skills enhancement training taught the participants not only techniques in dyeing and weaving but also how to effectively manage their respective community enterprises.



Safe Water also assisted Barangay Celestino Villacin Integrated Farmers Association to gain access to a sustainable market for their vegetables and fruit products by linking them with ANP's Bugana Market. The Bugana Market was established to provide small farmers an opportunity to have a strategic location in Bacolod City for marketing their products. Bugana Market also promotes products that are Good Agricultural Practices-certified.



**Ube Production.** The Negros Occidental Field Team continued monitoring the ube plantations of farmers. Various challenges were observed during the monitoring of the ube production sites of the ten POs for the month of November to December 2022. Due to irregular weather (hot and humid then sudden heavy rains), many ube setts developed fungal infection resulting in high mortality rate (an average mortality rate of 37 percent was observed). Strong winds and rains brought by Typhoon Paeng also damaged the standing ube plants and trellis. Aside from challenges brought about by natural conditions, there were POs that did not follow production protocols, which contributed to the high mortality rate of ube setts.



The community facilitator conducted monthly coaching sessions with Pos to reiterate the importance of adhering to ube production protocols, emphasizing the Unilever Sustainable Agricultural Code, which SFC is bound to comply with since Unilever is its main customer of processed ube. The Field Team also facilitated consultation meetings with SFC to address concerns on pest and fungal infection management.

**Abaca Production.** In coordination with the CENRO of Himamaylan, the Negros Occidental Field Team initiated the assessment of abaca production sites in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Carabalan on November 19 and December 7 respectively. The assessment was conducted upon the request of two POs, the Himamaylan City Abaca

Growers Farmers Association, and Buenavista Upland Tree Growers Association. These POs are actively involved in forest protection activities and are interested in developing the 20 hectares of abaca plantation in their area. The Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority has classified Himamaylan City's native abaca fiber as first class, and this is a great opportunity for sustainable and alternative livelihood for the Bantay Bukid volunteers.

## **SARANGANI**

**Coffee Farming.** Safe Water continued to mobilize the partnership with USDA ACDIVOCA PhilCAFE Project and Greentropics in capacitating the coffee farmers in Sarangani on good agricultural practices and increasing their knowledge and appreciation on the whole coffee value chain.

With the modular Coffee Training of Trainers, the partnership with USDA ACDIVOCA PhilCAFE Project has produced 25 coffee mentors from Sarangani and General Santos City. The coffee mentors were trained on the following:

- 1) Farm Planning and Farming as Business,
- 2) Coffee Farm Establishment, Care and Maintenance,
- 3) Integrated Nutrient Management (Plant Nutrition and Fertilization),
- 4) Integrated Pest and Diseases Management with Pruning and Rejuvenation,
- 5) Selective Harvesting, Post-Harvest Handling and Processing, and
- 6) Processing, Sensory Analysis and Cupping Protocol.

Each coffee mentor is expected to teach at least 20 coffee farmers from other POs or sitios/barangays in their respective municipality. Cascading of learnings on coffee farming will start next Quarter. Of the 25 coffee mentors, 22 are from Sarangani and 3 are from General Santos City. The 22 coffee mentors in Sarangani are members of existing POs while the coffee mentors from General Santos have their own coffee farms and manifested their intention to revive their respective associations



Safe Water supported the Provincial Government of Sarangani, Sarangani Coffee Industry and Development Council, and Department of Trade and Industry Region XII in holding the 1<sup>st</sup> Sarangani Coffee Festival during the MuNaTo 2022 held in November. The coffee festival highlighted the different origins of coffee beans in Sarangani, which were graded and cupped to determine the best coffee suited to be called Kape Sarangani. Ten coffee farmers trained by Safe Water and USDA PhilCAFE participated in the coffee quality competition. Of the 12 entries of green coffee beans, 5 were classified as Fine Robusta, 3 as Premium Robusta, and 4 as commercial/off grade quality, a manifestation that coffee farmers applied their learnings on post-harvest and processing, which resulted in good-quality beans.

Greentropics, with the Sarangani Field Team, visited coffee farms of trained coffee farmers in Datal Basak, Kablakan, Maasim, and measured the sugar content level of the ripe Arabica coffee cherry using a refractometer to emphasize to coffee farmers and staff of the Conrado & Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation, Inc. (CLAFI) the relevance of having high sugar content to quality coffee beans with high value. Greentropics also reiterated its commitment to continue assisting the coffee farmers in planting more Arabica coffee seedlings and providing post-harvest mentorship.

Since the last quarter of the year is the season to harvest coffee, Safe Water and Greentropics held a one-day Coffee Harvesting and Post-Harvest Processing session and trained coffee farmers from Barangay Nomoh on proper Robusta coffee cherry sorting (separating ripe cherries from unripe ones), coffee processing (natural, honey, and washed), and the importance of picking “red” ripe cherries as strip type of harvesting affects the taste and quality of coffee.

A coffee appreciation session was also held to provide an opportunity for the coffee farmers to understand and appreciate the difference in fragrance, aroma, and taste of specialty coffee versus commercial coffee. Recognizing its importance, the coffee farmers committed to harvesting only red cherries and processing these properly. The activity also served as a venue for the coffee farmers to meet their potential buyers/market—the coffee shop owners of General Santos and Koronadal Cities. The coffee shop owners and Greentropics encouraged the farmers to apply the learnings; they expressed intention to buy the farmers’ Robusta coffee beans. The training was done in coordination with the coffee mentor from Barangay Nomoh who will act as the contact person for the coffee shop owners/processors when buying Robusta coffee beans.

Safe Water’s assistance to coffee farmers opens opportunities for the farmers to take part in the global value chain. Sustainable and good agricultural practices applied in coffee farms are not only beneficial for increasing incomes of upland and indigenous communities but also in improving agroforestry cover in watersheds with high groundwater recharge.

**Bamboo Value Chain.** Safe Water organized a learning exchange in collaboration with another USAID grant, the Bamboo Value Chain Development Project, implemented by BUKTAMACO for LGU partners from Negros Occidental Province and the Municipality of Malungon in Sarangani Province. From October 3–6, participants learned more about the bamboo industry value chain, community organizing for bamboo propagation and planting, establishment of bamboo plantation, production of engineered bamboo, and use of bamboo as a nature-based solution against riverbank erosion. The learning exchange included a visit to the bamboo dike in Malungon designed to prevent erosion and flooding. It also included a visit to BUKTAMACO and Rizome Philippines, which showcased their bamboo reforestation project and engineered bamboo production, and an initiative for carbon trading as add-on economic benefits to the host communities. The learning exchange helped generate commitments from the participants to replicate best practices from the visit, thereby scaling up the initiatives for nature-based solutions to climate change hazards, reforestation with bamboo, and developing commercial use for processed materials.



**Hosting a learning exchange on bamboo industry value chain development.**

(Top) Female nursery staff undertaking regular maintenance and care of potted bamboo seedlings. (Middle) Learning exchange participants observe how bamboo poles are slice into smaller pieces. (Bottom) Actual construction of bamboo dike along Lower Mainit River using Giant bamboo or apos (*Dendrocalamus asper*) as bamboo material.

## I. SCALING PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

### *PALAWAN*

Safe Water continued to facilitate consultations with Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) and the city LGU towards the crafting of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) agreement covering Irawan watershed. The Palawan Field Team provided PPCWD with a copy of the salient provisions of the PES MOA previously discussed by the PES TWG, which the latter is now reviewing for further discussion in the next meeting of the PES TWG of Puerto Princesa City.

### *NEGROS OCCIDENTAL*

In Year 3, Safe Water assisted Bago City in formulating the three-year work and financial plan (WFP) of the City Environment Management Office (CEMO) with a proposed budget based on the LGU's annual average collection of Php 2 million from the environment protection fund. The WFP was prepared to be used as basis for CEMO's request for supplemental budget, but CEMO was later informed that the PES collection could no longer be accessed since its use has lapsed, being part of the general fund of the LGU. With this, the CEMO will use the WFP in proposing its 2024 budget.

### *SARANGANI*

Activities to scale up PES in Sarangani, particularly at BMRB, such as training on cost-based valuation (CBV) and cost revenue analysis (CRA) was completed in Year 3. On November 10–11, the Safe Water Team held a validation workshop with the municipalities of Alabel and Malungon on the needed data and information for CBV and CRA, and started to explore and negotiate with BMRB stakeholders, particularly water users/enterprises and LGUs on PES establishment. A meeting with the General Santos City Water District and CENRO was also conducted on December 6–7 where possible PES arrangements were discussed. Next Quarter, Safe Water will assist the LGUs in crafting the MOA between LGU and water users and in drafting of PES ordinance.

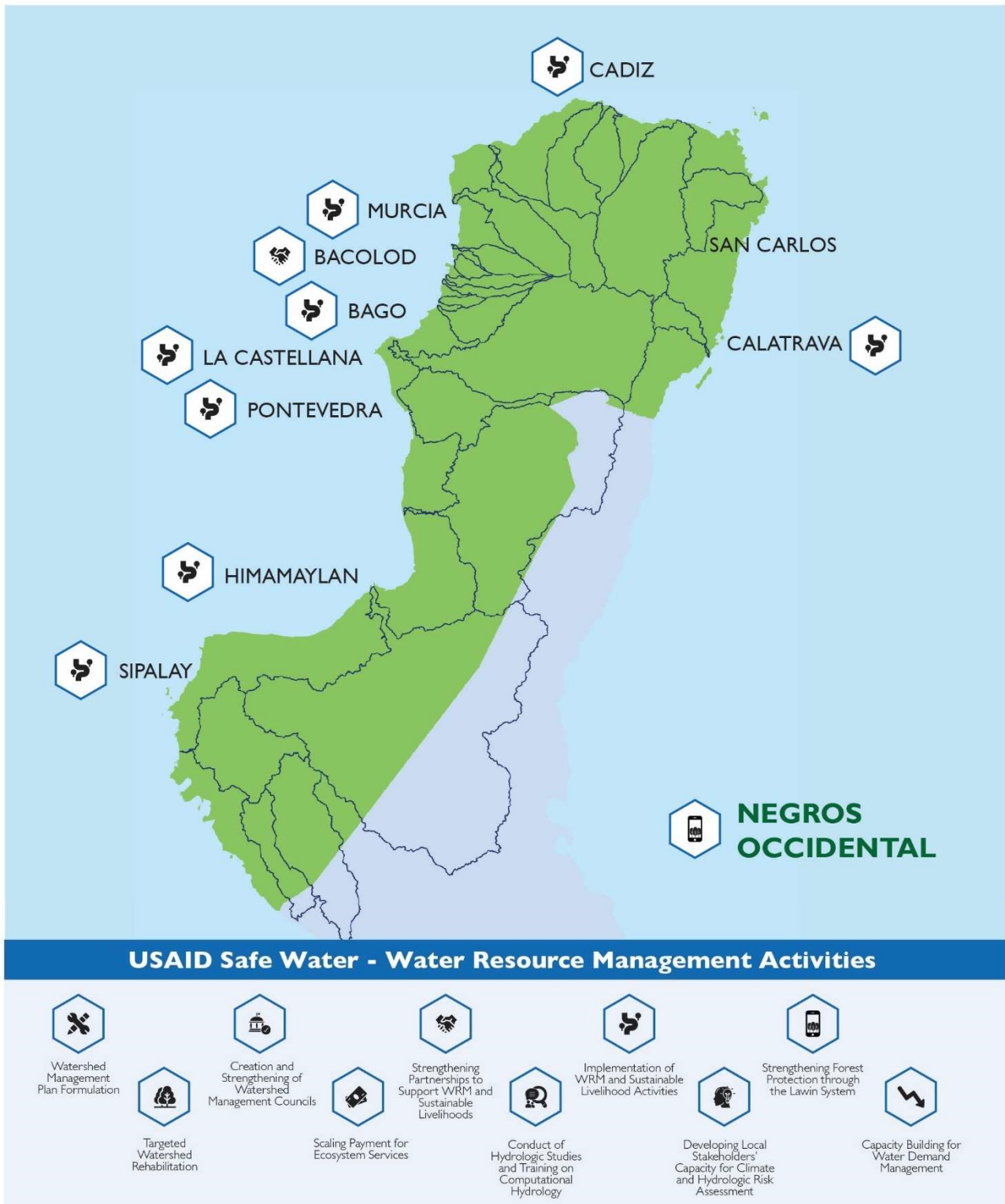
## J. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Safe Water organized a Water Demand Assessment Training for 18 participants from NWRB, NEDA, and SEDA Hotel Engineering Staff held at the Seda Hotel Vertis North on October 5. The training introduced participants to the water balance concept (and computation), and a hands-on water audit of selected hotel facilities was made. This water demand management (WDM) activity complements Safe Water's support to the development of the national policy on WDM. Participants from Seda Hotel benefited from the training as the skills learned will aid them in the implementation of their WDM program for the hotel.

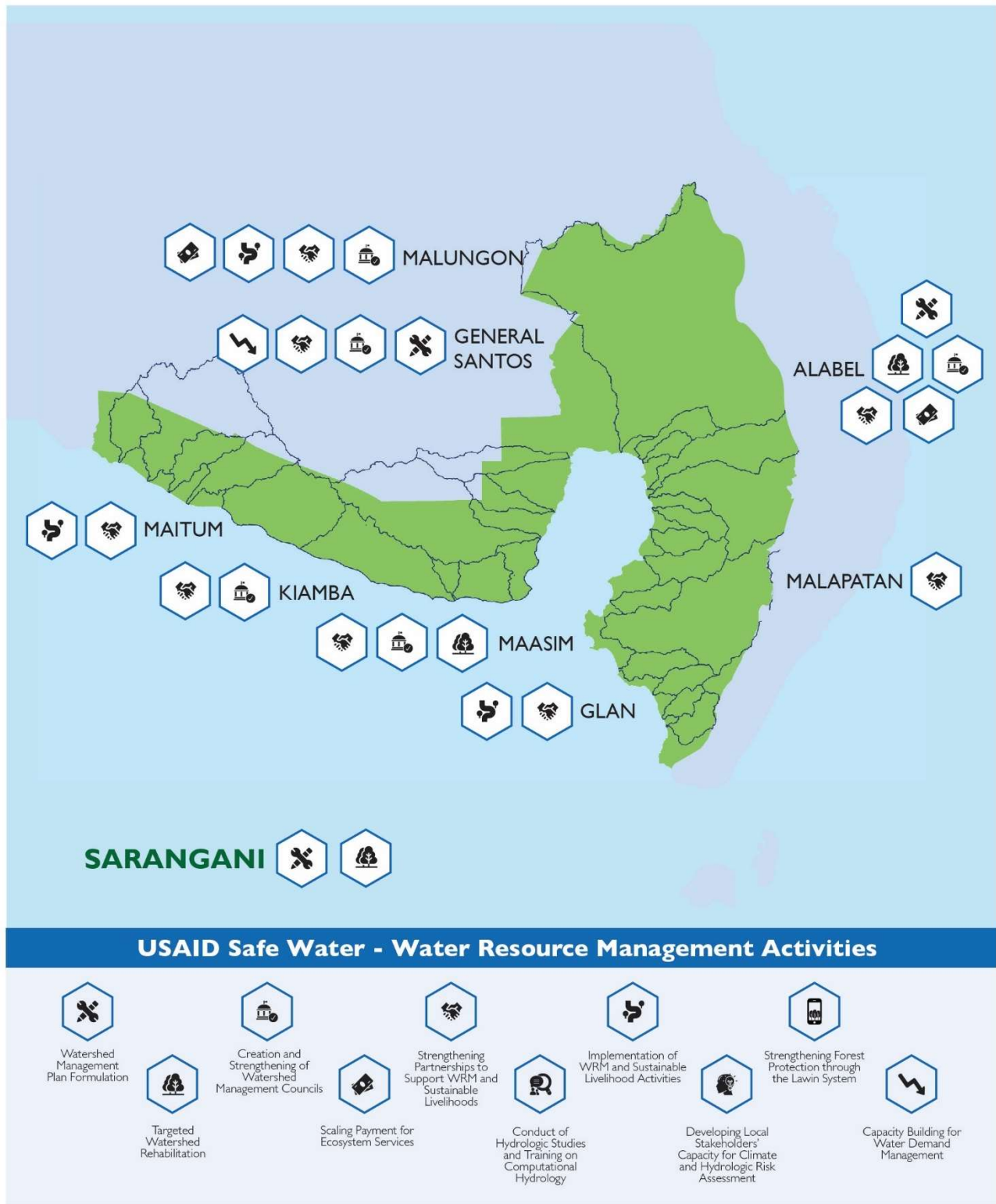
**FIGURE 11. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN PALAWAN**



**FIGURE 12. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**



**FIGURE 13. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SARANGANI AND GENERAL SANTOS CITY**



## OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

### A. MOBILIZING FINANCING FOR RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES (WSS)

#### MONITORING AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND MOBILIZING LOCAL BUDGETS FOR WSS INVESTMENTS

**Monitoring of national government funding for 2023.** Safe Water actively monitored the passage of the 2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA) or national budget in the last quarter of 2022 and the budget allocations available for water supply and sanitation (WSS) investments. For 2023, national government (NG) grants available for WSS investments include financing facilities managed by concerned national agencies (Table 11, next page). LWUA had no budget allocation for capital investments under the 2023 GAA. The Team will provide technical and facilitation assistance to eligible LGUs in the project sites to access and utilize financing from these sources. The specific guidelines to access the funds will be shared with the LGUs as soon as available.

## STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES



Mobilizing Financing for Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation Services



Complementing Development Partners' Initiatives



Technical Assistance to Key Implementing Agencies



Technical Secretariat Support to the NEDA-led WSS Network



Promotion of PPP and Innovative Financing Schemes (PES and OBA-BF)



Development of Policy Tools and Knowledge Production

**TABLE II. AVAILABLE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR WSS INVESTMENTS**

AGENCY/ PROGRAM	PHP M	FUND PURPOSE
DPWH – Basic Infrastructure Program (BIP)	2,291	For construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of Levels 2 and 3 public water supply systems
DBM – Local Government Support Fund		
Growth Equity Fund (GEF)	1,000	Various projects including construction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement of water supply projects of poorest, disadvantaged, and lagging LGUs in terms of income bracket; poverty incidence; and per capita share of the Fiscal Year 2023 National Tax Allocation
Financial Assistance to LGUs (FALGU)	1,925	Various infrastructure projects including construction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement of water supply projects
Support for Capital Outlays and Social Programs to LGUs	7,236	Social programs of LGUs to include health, education, gender, etc.
Support to the Barangay Development Program of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (SBDP-ELCAC)	6,336	Various projects including construction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement of water supply projects in barangays identified and certified by the NTF-ELCAC.

### ***FACILITATION OF LWUA-DBP CO-FINANCING ARRANGEMENT***

Facilitation of the co-financing or sole financing arrangement between LWUA and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for WSS investments has been put on hold, pending the designation of the LWUA Administrator. The co-financing arrangement aims to augment LWUA’s internally generated funds with DBP’s WATER and LINIS Programs, with available funding of Php 25 billion (US\$ 50 million) for water supply projects and Php 10 billion (US\$ 20 million) for sanitation projects, to expand financing opportunities for WSS projects of water districts.





**Engaging Microfinance Institution partners in providing WASH loans.** Safe Water and Water.org carried out a second round of the online WASH Seminar for 294 middle management and area managers, and WASH Training for 353 branch managers and loan officers from different branches nationwide of five MFIs and cooperatives.

## MOBILIZING WASH LOANS FROM MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS

Safe Water continued collaboration with Water.org and its partner microfinance institutions (MFIs) to improve the delivery of WASH services to low-income households in underserved communities.<sup>2</sup>

**Second roll-out of WASH training.** As part of the joint work plan to engage key MFI partners to accelerate demand generation for loans for WASH products and services in the project sites and other areas, Safe Water and Water.org carried out a second round of the online WASH Seminar for 294 middle management and area managers (November 25), and WASH Training for 353 branch managers and loan officers from different branches nationwide of five MFIs and cooperatives (November 24–25). Participants’ feedback on the WASH seminar and training indicated that these would help strengthen their knowledge and capacity in improving WASH loan services and open opportunities for MFIs to expand their market while contributing to the government’s social, health, and environmental agenda.

The Team also continued to promote and facilitate integration of microfinance services in LGU plans and programs, such as PIWSP, zero open defecation (ZOD) programs, and sanitation and septage management programs.

**Integrate program for demand generation in Palawan.** After the conduct of Water.org training on demand generation in September 2022, Safe Water in collaboration with Water.org, Palawan Water, and two MFIs (ASA and Lifebank Foundations) initiated and agreed to conduct training of trainers on demand generation and innovative marketing training for 13 municipalities of mainland Palawan. The training is scheduled in February 2023 and will be co-implemented with Water.org. The training will be focused on increasing water connections of LGU-managed water utilities that will be financed by the MFIs through small loan provisions with a minimum interest rate per annum. Each water service provider will participate and come up with a Communication Strategies and Marketing Plan.

On November 18, Safe Water, Water.org, Palawan Water, and ASA Foundation Philippines held a meeting with the

<sup>2</sup> The key MFI partners under the Safe Water–Water.org collaboration include: ASA Philippines Foundation Inc., Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc., Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc., Community Economic Ventures, Inc., and Life Bank, Inc.

Provincial Economic Enterprise Development Office (PEEDO) Office to explore collaborative activities, including innovative financing mechanisms such as OBA-BF. The PEEDO expressed support for the Safe Water initiative and recommended including El Nido in the OBA-BF approach.

**Operationalization of the web-based WASH Tracking System.** The WASH Tracking system developed by Safe Water was operationalized during the Quarter with the five key MFI partners. The tracking system aligns with the United Nations Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) WASH indicators that will enable attribution of MFI contributions to SDG targets. It tags MFI data by loan products to the JMP WASH indicators, uploads raw data for automated processing into dashboards, and generates report forms useful to MFIs aligned with SDG indicators.

### *COMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' INITIATIVES*

Safe Water continued to coordinate with development partners to complement efforts and ensure coherence of approaches and policy implementation measures with the PWSSMP, adoption of URAF principles, and promotion of water security initiatives.

The Team participated in a meeting held by the World Bank in November on their follow up Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) for the proposed program loan to support policy reforms in the WSS sector. ASA 2 will have three pillars: 1) development of a WSS program; 2) identification of demonstration projects; and 3) study of water storage and dams focused on water-stressed areas identified by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. In the earlier study (ASA 1), the set-up of a performance-based grant fund under DPWH management to leverage WSS investments with equity from water service providers, commercial funding, or private equity was proposed. Safe Water and other development partners during the meeting agreed on data exchange and complementation in alignment with PWSSMP and URAF.

Safe Water continued to coordinate with UNICEF in the promotion and replication of the OBA-BF approach and in pushing for the water convergence initiative through budget advocacy for higher national government allocation for WSS investments. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and UNICEF intended to pilot test the IWASH sector planning in two provinces (Northern Samar and Zamboanga) in the latter part of 2021, but this activity has been delayed with the redirection of UNICEF efforts to disaster-related activities. Safe Water continued to discuss opportunities for alignment of its Provincial Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework (PIWSF) and planning approach with the pilot implementation of the IWASH sector planning in provinces.

Through DENR-RBCO, Safe Water complemented with the GIZ-assisted Ecosystem-based Adaptation in River Basins (E2RB) in the drafting of the “Guidelines on the Development of PES for Water Use to Finance Watershed Management in the Philippines” and the accompanying Toolkit (refer to Section E on Innovative Financing, page 75).

Safe Water continued discussions with NEDA, development partners (World Bank and UNICEF), and key implementing agencies on: a) harmonization of local planning initiatives including the provincial and municipal WASH planning process and tools; and b) development of benchmarks for water utility performance for LGU-run utilities and water districts based on the size and resources of the utilities (key performance indicator or KPI thresholds).

## **B. SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION MASTER PLAN AND THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE UNIFIED RESOURCE ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK**

Safe Water continued to provide technical support to NEDA in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the eight key reform agenda (KRAs) outlined in the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) with the key national implementing agencies (DILG, LWUA, and NWRB).

### ***SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION***

The Team held two workshops with NEDA on November 7 and 18 to review the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) bill; identify contentious areas of the draft bill and trade-offs on the proposed transfer of agencies, line bureaus, and functions of existing water-related agencies to the DWR; and update the proposed organizational set-up of the DWR and WRC. The inputs gathering during the workshops informed NEDA’s preparation of the unified version of the bill and organizational structure, which will be recommended to the Presidential Legislative



Liaison Office<sup>3</sup> for official endorsement to the concerned Congressional Committees as the Executive version. The updated version was submitted to the NEDA Secretary in December for endorsement to the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office. Safe Water will continue to provide technical and advocacy support to NEDA to push the bill's passage.

### ***SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE UNIFIED RESOURCE ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK AND WATER CONVERGENCE PROGRAM***

Safe Water continued to promote alignment of financing initiatives in the sector with the principles of the Unified Resource Allocation Framework (URAF) through active advocacy on the utilization and augmentation of public resources for WSS investments, cascading of the PWSSMP at the local level, and promotion of innovative financing schemes, e.g., the OBA-BF for household sanitation services. The approval of the NEDA Board Resolution to operationalize the URAF and the preparation of its implementing guidelines were put on hold by NEDA until comments from the Department of Finance (DOF) on the resolution were further discussed and addressed.<sup>4</sup> NEDA may couch the operationalization of the URAF for WSS Services under the proposed DWR and WRC bill.

### ***COORDINATION WITH NEDA AND KEY IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES***

#### **LWUA**

Support for the implementation of septage management projects in the Mandamus Areas – Commencement of procurement for the pipeline septage management projects is pending approval by the LWUA Board, which has yet to convene.

LWUA-DBP co-financing of WD projects – Safe Water will continue to pursue the co-financing arrangement once the new LWUA Administrator has been designated. The Team will facilitate access of water districts (WDs) with pipeline projects for sole or co-financing arrangements with DBP as part of its legacy activities.

Technical assistance on pricing of WD septage management services – The Team met with LWUA on November 16 and December 2 to discuss the scope of collaboration on sanitation pricing. It was agreed that further study will be conducted to determine potential Safe Water assistance related to pricing of septage management services undertaken by WDs. Safe Water will prepare the TOR for the technical assistance. Another session with the LWUA team will be conducted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter to review the application of the three pricing methodologies prior to the drafting of the TOR.

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<sup>3</sup> This Office directly coordinates affairs regarding the Executive Branch's legislative agenda with the Congress of the Philippines. The Office serves as the technical advisor to the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, particularly in the formulation and shepherding of the shared policy reform priorities of the two branches of government under a Common Legislative Agenda.

<sup>4</sup> The draft EO was prepared as an alternative issuance to the NEDA Board Resolution previously prepared and adopted ad referendum by majority of the Infrastructure Committee members to mandate the operationalization of the URAF. An EO or NEDA Board Resolution is crucial to serve as an official and explicit document mandating the operationalization of the URAF-WSS.



## NWRB

Roundtable discussion on the draft WDM policy and TOR – Safe Water supported NWRB in the roundtable discussion with other WSS implementing and regulatory agencies (LWUA, DILG, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System or MWSS, TIEZA Regulatory Office, and Department of Trade and Industry–Bureau of Philippine Standards) held on October 12. The draft NWRB resolution and TOR were presented to solicit inputs to harmonize water demand management (WDM) policies and implementation of WDM measures in light of current water security issues; to gather insights on how other key implementing agencies and regulators can get the support of water utilities to adopt WDM measures; and to agree on the policy instrument, mechanisms, and next steps to push the WDM policy and TOR forward. The participants confirmed the relevance and application of the policy and TOR to pursue WDM. The NWRB WDM policy for municipal water supply can be scaled up to other users and sectors.

Submission of WDM policy for municipal water supply and TOR for the development of the holistic WDM policy – On November 8, Safe Water submitted to NWRB the following:

- Draft NWRB Board Resolution Adopting the Policy Guidelines to Implement Water Demand Management for Municipal Water Supply – The guidelines comprise the initial policy measures in promoting and implementing WDM for municipal water supply to help NWRB operationalize the National Water Security Roadmap and its key action agenda under the PWSSMP. The policy measures are aligned with existing policies and programs including NWRB’s Standard Rules and Regulations in the Operation of Waterworks Systems (2021).
- TOR for the Development and Operationalization of a Comprehensive National Water Demand Management Policy – The TOR maps out the requisite activities to guide NWRB (and other key implementing agencies for the water sector) in developing a comprehensive WDM policy

framework covering the municipal, agricultural, and industrial sectors including the foundational qualitative and quantitative analysis, consultation support, institutional and capacity development assistance, and drafting assistance to develop and implement the holistic policy. The TOR has a modular structure, with components that can be conducted as stand-alone activities or as a package depending on availability of resources.

The draft Board resolution is included in the list of NWRB policies subject for internal and external consultations. The WDM policy guidelines and TOR can inform NWRB's budget request, development partner assistance, and preparation of more detailed TORs related to WDM.

Training on Economic Instruments for WDM – Safe Water held a training on October 11 to orient participants on the use of economic instruments and the enabling environment required in the promotion of WDM to support the implementation of the National Water Security Roadmap and the PWSSMP's action plan under KRA 6 (balancing water supply and demand). Staff from NEDA and key implementing agencies (NWRB, LWUA, and DILG) participated in the training. The training highlighted three categories of economic instruments that which are most applicable to the Philippines to encourage WDM: 1) tariffs and pricing to influence consumption and efficiency; 2) pricing to influence water abstraction and allocation; and 3) incentives to influence uptake of new technologies and adoption of WDM practices and approaches.

Conduct of Water Demand Assessment (Water Audit) Training – Safe Water, in partnership with PBSP/ Water Alliance, conducted a WDM 101 hands-on training for NWRB on water demand assessment (water audit) on October 5 to provide an appreciation of the water balance concept as well as water reduction solutions and best practices in specific industries.

Support to the collaboration between NWRB and LGUs in water resources monitoring – Safe Water initiated the proposed collaboration between NWRB and LGUs in joint monitoring and data collection activities for integrated and cohesive land use and water resources management as part of Safe Water's water security and



**Leading the promotion of water demand management among national government agencies.**

Representatives from the key water implementing and regulatory agencies including NEDA, LWUA, DILG, MWSS, TIEZA, SBMA and DTI-Bureau of Philippine Standards confirmed the need for a strong enabling environment encompassing institutional, regulatory and governance measures to promote WDM.

WDM initiatives.<sup>5</sup> The proposed collaboration focuses on three areas: 1) sharing of data and information for policy and planning, and integration of water availability and demand in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan; 2) coordination on the issuance of local clearances/permits and water permits; and 3) cooperation and support for monitoring and enforcement of water permits. The review of the draft MOU remains pending with NWRB's Legal Unit.

## **DILG**

Synchronization of water security and WASH planning activities at the local level – DILG is scaling up the preparation of Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plans in provinces, targeting 20 provinces in 2023. The pilot implementation was delayed pending funding from UNICEF. Safe Water has involved DILG in the cascading of the PIWSP to the municipal LGUs' WASH plans in Sarangani province.

Piloting of the CMS and enhancement of capacity-building tools on water utility improvement – Safe Water will continue to involve DILG in the pilot implementation of the CMS in Alabel and Narra in Year 4.

Harmonization of water utility performance improvement and governance initiatives – Safe Water with DILG will continue to coordinate with NEDA and other key implementing agencies on the development of benchmarks for water utility performance for LGU-run utilities and WDs based on the size and resources of the utilities (KPI thresholds) as well as the harmonization and complementation of the tools on water utility performance improvement.

## **C. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES (PES AND OBA-BF)**

### ***ROLL-OUT OF OBA-BF SCHEME FOR HOUSEHOLD SANITATION***

The Team coordinated with the Municipal Government of Cauayan in Negros Occidental on the adoption of the Output-based Aid Blended Finance (OBA-BF) scheme in the implementation of their Environmental Health and Sanitation Program. The Program integrated the OBA-BF scheme to address open defecation in the municipality. Seven of ten people in the Cauayan do not have access to sanitary toilets, and two out of ten people practice open defecation. The lack of adequate sanitation facilities has increased contamination of underground water sources and incidence of waterborne diseases in the municipality. The LGU signed a MOA With Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTF) on September 15, 2022, initially providing a subsidy of Php 1 million (US\$ 20,000) to 40 households for the construction of toilets with septic tanks compliant with the Philippine Sanitation Code standards. NWTF advanced the subsidy and provided microloans amounting to Php 260,000 (US\$ 5,200) to recipient households for the construction materials for the toilet super-structure, including labor costs.

The OBA-BF scheme was integrated with the DSWD Region VI cash-for-work assistance amounting to Php 158,000 (US\$3,160), given to the recipient households for the septic tank construction and installation of the toilet bowls provided by the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental. Funds mobilized for program implementation totaled Php 1.45 million (US\$29,000) (Table 13). The Program was officially launched on November 25 in Barangay Manuling. The LGU of Cauayan made additional allocation commitments of Php 2 million (US\$40,000) for program scale-up in their 2023 budget.

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<sup>5</sup> Safe Water drafted the MOU on the NWRB-LGU collaboration in July 2021 and revised it in September 2021 to incorporate NWRB's comments. NWRB requested to further review the revised draft MOU to ensure harmonization of the proposed cooperation with their regulatory functions.

**TABLE 13. OBA-BF REPLICATION IN CAUAYAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (PHP)**

TOTAL NO. OF BARANGAYS	COMPLETED TOILETS AS OF DEC 2022	FUND SOURCES			
		LGU FUNDS	DSWD CASH-FOR-WORK	PGNO/PHO IN-KIND GRANT	HOUSEHOLD EQUITY/ LOAN
25	40	1,000,000	158,000	32,000	260,000

\*PGNO – Provincial Government of Negros Occidental; PHO – Provincial Health Office



#### **PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES REPLICATION AND IMPROVEMENT**

The PES is being promoted to water users and providers as an innovative financing scheme for sustainable conservation and protection of watersheds and water resources. For a PES scheme to be successful, full consultation, engagement of the local community, and evidence-based analysis should be made available to all stakeholders. Safe Water activities to scale up and improve existing PES programs in identified LGUs during the Quarter are reported in Objective 2, on page 61.

Safe Water participated in the consultation workshop and write shop coordinated by the RBCO with the GIZ-assisted E2RB Project on the draft DENR Administrative Order (AO) on the “Guidelines on the Development of PES for Water Use in Watersheds and River Basins” and the accompanying Toolkit on December 6, 7, and 13 respectively. The Team provided comments and recommendations to the draft AO and shared Safe Water’s CBV and CRA templates for the accompanying toolkit.

#### **D. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT SUPPORT TO THE NEDA-LED WSS NETWORK**

Safe Water serves as Technical Secretariat of the NEDA-led Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Network Session, a platform for knowledge sharing, coordination, fostering collective action, and monitoring of the PWSSMP implementation. In lieu of a WSS Network Session, Safe Water supported NEDA in the following: 1) conduct of WDM policy-related workshops and El Nido training with NWRB in October; 2) review of DWR and WRC bill on November 2 and 7; and 3) holding of the Philippine Water Challenge (PhiWC) Knowledge Session with the Israeli Embassy on November 17.



## E. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

This Quarter, the Safe Water Team completed the following knowledge products:

**Water Resource Management Financing Framework.** The Team shared the draft of the technical paper on the WRM Financing Framework with NEDA Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff (ANRES), RBCO and Forest Management Bureau of DENR in November to get their comments and recommendations on the framework. Given the minimal investments that flow into WRM, the Team developed the financing framework to influence investment programming and resource allocation for the PIWSP and other local plans by providing a strategic approach to:

- a) guide the allocation, generation, and mobilization of financial resources for priority investments in long-term, sustainable watershed management;
- b) identify financing modalities and instruments for sustainable watershed conservation and protection; and
- c) engage stakeholders (LGUs, water service providers, private sector, civil society organizations, and communities) in establishing and/or strengthening financial responsibilities and alliances for sustainable WRM financing.

The technical paper will undergo further peer review with other concerned agencies, LGUs, and the Field Team, and will be discussed with NEDA, being the coordinating agency for planning to programming for the water sector, to shepherd the establishment of a financing policy for WRM. The proposal for the WRM financing policy will then be discussed with DENR, which can serve as the fiscal agent for any NG subsidy to LGUs for WRM.

### **Field School Training on Climate-Resilient Coffee Farming Enterprises: Facilitator's Guide.**

This guide applies adult learning principles and farmer-to-farmer approach to build a coffee farming enterprise. The training modules will provide technical agricultural, environmental, and social enterprise training for farmers broken down into five modules:

1. Community Preparation;
2. Introduction to Coffee Farming as a Profitable Business;
3. Coffee beans Processing and Consolidation, Organizational Business Planning, and Gender in Coffee Farming;
4. Coffee Enterprise Benchmarking; and
5. Revisiting Coffee Demonstration Farms and Implementation.

**Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool for Water Resources Management.** The OCAT analyzes the organizational capacity of watershed management bodies in terms of structure and function, which can serve as a useful guide in identifying strategies to strengthen watershed management bodies and in designing policies for establishing Watershed Management Councils (WMCs). A pilot assessment of the organizational capacity of Narra Watershed Regulation and Evaluation Committee was made using the OCAT, and a focus group discussion was held with WMC members of the BMRB and Siguel Watershed (as discussed in Objective 2, pages 43-44). The OCAT will be refined in the next Quarter.

**Professional Course on Water Governance.** In partnership with the University of the Philippines – Centre International De Formation Des Autorités Et Leaders (UP-CIFAL),<sup>6</sup> Safe Water co-developed the Professional Course on Water Governance. The course provides a holistic framework that addresses the issues surrounding water sustainability and its relation to integrated water resource use. It deals with the complex issues of water governance and explores how adaptive solutions might be explored and pursued in the local context. This is a certificate course with 11 learning sessions, spread across nine (9) weeks. The course modules will feature the work of Safe Water on the creation of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) and its experience in water resources management. Specialists from Safe Water and partners will serve as resource persons and mentors under the online course. The course will be launched this February 2023 and is targeted for mid- to senior-level personnel of agencies and government units, water service providers, and the private sector involved in water.



**Launching the Professional Course on Water Governance.** Safe Water and UP CIFAL co-developed the Professional Course on Water Governance (PCWG) which will be launched in February.

Other knowledge products in the pipeline include:

- Septage Management Toolkit/Operational Plan for Septage Management Programs
- Water Demand Management Trainer’s Guide and Documentation of Best Practices
- WASH Training Modules for MFIs<sup>7</sup>

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND LEARNING EVENTS

**Bamboo learning visit.** Safe Water organized a learning exchange to the Bamboo Value Chain Development Project implemented by BUKTAMACO for LGU partners from Negros Occidental Province and the Municipality of Malungon in Sarangani Province in October 2022. Participants learned more about the bamboo industry value chain, community organizing for bamboo propagation and planting, establishment of bamboo plantation, production of engineered bamboo,

<sup>6</sup> UP -CIFAL is one of the CIFAL Global Network that delivers some 130 training and capacity-building activities, reaching out to 10,000 beneficiaries annually. The CIFAL Global Network comprises 25 CIFAL Centers located across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Australia, Europe, North, Central and South America. On October 24, Safe Water and UP-CIFAL signed an MOU, and assistance to the delivery of the Professional Course on Water Governance is one of the items in said MOU.

<sup>7</sup> This has undergone a second roll-out and will be finalized based on inputs from resource persons and feedback from participants.



**Highlighting Water Conservation Innovations.**

(Top) The Embassy of the State of Israel in the Philippines through MASHAV and USAID through its Safe Water Project co-organized a learning event on water security strategies.

(Middle) National Water Resources Board Policy Chief Susan Abañó recognized the Philippine government’s partnership with USAID in its recent efforts to address water scarcity, including a proposed national policy on Water Demand Management.

(Bottom) Israeli Water and Sewage Authority Senior Deputy Legal Adviser Tahel Brandes shared Israel’s experience on how reforms paved the way for innovation and mechanisms to address the country’s water sector challenges.

and use of bamboo as a nature-based solution against riverbank erosion (as discussed in Objective 2, page 57).

**PhiWC knowledge exchange on water security strategies.** As part of the activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine Water Challenge, a knowledge exchange event was held in partnership with the Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation, where the following topics were discussed: Philippine Water Security Outlook; Managing Water Scarcity in the Philippines; and Israeli Innovations to Manage Water Scarcity (as discussed in Cross-cutting, page 76).

**Local Water Alliance.** In October 18, 2022, Safe Water facilitated the Planning and Organizational Meeting of the Local Water Alliance of General Santos City, represented by a core group of 11 organizations and institutions with Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU) as the host institution and convenor. The core group identified areas of concerns to be tackled by the Alliance: 1) Research and Knowledge Management, 2) Awareness and Advocacy, 3) Policy Support, 4) IWASH, including Water Demand Management and Water Conservation, and 5) Outreach and Recruitment/Membership, including resource mobilization. Safe Water will continue to assist and build the capacity of the newly organized Alliance and strengthen NDDU as host institution and convenor. Safe Water will also assist NDDU in the establishment of a Water Resources Center and development of the university’s capacity for WRM.

The Negros Occidental Field Team is also initiating the formation of a local water alliance in the province. The team is in the process of identifying a potential host institution and convenor of the alliance. Initial consultations with University of St. La Salle were done to explore the possibility of the university as convenor.

**U.S. study visit on state revolving funds.** Safe Water is organizing a study visit to U.S. institutions implementing federal grants and state revolving funds for the water and sanitation sector. The study visit aims to provide participants with lessons from the implementation of the state revolving funds, and to facilitate exchange of ideas among Philippine Government key implementers on the road map for the institutionalization of the URAF and the passage of the DWR and WRC.

## CROSS-CUTTING PHILIPPINE WATER CHALLENGE

During the quarter, Safe Water promoted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine Water Challenge (PhIWC) through the following activities:

**PhIWC presentation to the Climate Diplomacy Fair.** To kick off the roadshows to promote the 2<sup>nd</sup> PhIWC, Safe Water presented the PhIWC to the Climate Diplomacy Fair Philippine Leg held on October 25. Organized by the Association of Young Environmental Journalists, an ecological literacy non-profit working to educate and engage civil society on environmental sustainability through Communications for Development, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge management. The fair attracted more than 100 young and emerging climate advocacies and champions from different schools and universities in the country. The event was intended to strengthen the participants' understanding of climate and its convergence with different sectors of society. Safe Water presented on the theme Climate x Water, which interrelates climate change and the challenges on water supply and sanitation.

**Knowledge exchange on water security strategies.** Safe Water, in partnership with MASHAV or Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation, organized the “Knowledge Exchange on Water Security Strategies” on November 17 at Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City. The blended event drew 120 in-person and online participants who were presented with the current water security outlook of the country. Director Susan Abano of NWRB shared the challenges of the Philippines as water availability continues to fall as demand expands. She also presented the WDM policy that NWRB is developing through the assistance of Safe Water. Representatives from Maynilad and Manila Water and MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Ty presented their perspectives on managing water scarcity in the Philippines. The Israeli companies highlighted Israel’s innovation and technology to inspire and encourage the



Smarter for Water:  
Innovations and Solutions  
to Water Scarcity

**PHILIPPINE WATER CHALLENGE**

The **Philippine Water Challenge (PhiWC)** is looking for promising technologies, innovations and solutions to water scarcity to help Filipinos become **Smarter for Water!**

- Solutions that reduce water consumption
- Solutions that recycle used water for other uses
- Solutions that capture wastewater or rainwater for reuse

**Submit now!**  
<https://www.pdrf.org/philippine-water-challenge-year-2/>

**pdrf** **MANILA WATER** **Maynilad** **USAID**

**PHILIPPINE WATER CHALLENGE**

**PARTNERSHIP FUND IN CASH**

- GRAND PRIZE**  
PHP 300,000.00
- FIRST PRIZE**  
PHP 200,000.00
- SECOND PRIZE**  
PHP 100,000.00
- TWO RUNNERS-UP**  
PHP 75,000.00

**ALL WINNERS WILL ALSO BE ENTITLED TO mentoring support from Philippine Water Challenge partners.**

**How to apply?**  
<https://www.pdrf.org/philippine-water-challenge-year-2/>

- Download and accomplish the Application Form** Describe your solution – how was it developed, what problem does it address, how does it work, and what are the results?
- Attach supporting documentation about your solution** Provide a high-resolution photo/ video, testimonials, published articles, or other proof of concept.
- Submit the Application Form and attachments by Jan 31, 2023** Send your application and supporting documents via email to [applications.philwaterchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:applications.philwaterchallenge@gmail.com).
- Pitch and showcase your solution** If you are selected as a finalist, you will be given a chance to present your solution to the Board of Jurors and showcase it during the awarding ceremony.

**pdrf** **MANILA WATER** **Maynilad** **USAID**

### Promoting PhiWC Call for Applications

Safe Water developed two (2) PhiWC standees which were used during the PhiWC knowledge exchange event.

Philippine water sector, businesses, and LGUs to invest in technologies that will help manage water sustainably. Among the Israeli companies who presented their water technologies were ARAD Group, Atlantium, Okiana, and Watergen. The technologies were introduced together with good policies and regulations that enabled Israel to meet the growing need for water despite 50 percent of its land area being a desert.

**Embassy of Netherlands Support to PhiWC.** Safe Water also partnered with the Embassy of Netherlands, which agreed to become a sponsor for the Challenge by contributing prize money for the winners and promoting the PhiWC. In addition, the Embassy has agreed to become a technical resource and share Dutch innovations on water demand management. The innovation landscape in the Dutch water sector is touted as one of the most robust in Europe, with the government designating water as a top sector to support research and development, business incubation and commercialization.

**Communications and outreach support to promote PhiWC.** To promote the call for applications on PhiWC and engage online participants to the knowledge exchange event, Safe Water produced the following communication products:

- Two (2) animated videos posted on USAID Philippines and PDRF social media accounts;
- Three (3) press releases published, and 1 (one) weekly highlight submitted on the topic of the USAID-Mashay joint knowledge exchange event;
- Branded and marked PhiWC application form uploaded in the PhiWC website;
- Branded and marked PhiWC primer, webinar e-packet, and master slides developed for use on the PhiWC knowledge exchange event;
- Branded and marked PhiWC standees used during the PhiWC knowledge exchange event; and,
- PhiWC mailer containing all information and links on the challenge, sent for review by PhiWC organizers.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

During the Quarter, Safe Water implemented its revised Communications and Outreach (C&O) Plan based on the Year 4 Work Plan, focusing on new activities that build shared understanding about the Project, provide communication support to component activities, and generate national interest in WRM and WSS issues.

### A. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN STRATEGY I: BUILDING SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Safe Water communicated the importance of WRM and WSS among key stakeholder groups and external audiences through project activity updates, success stories, and promotion of key events, as listed below.

#### *INFORMED/ UPDATED PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES*

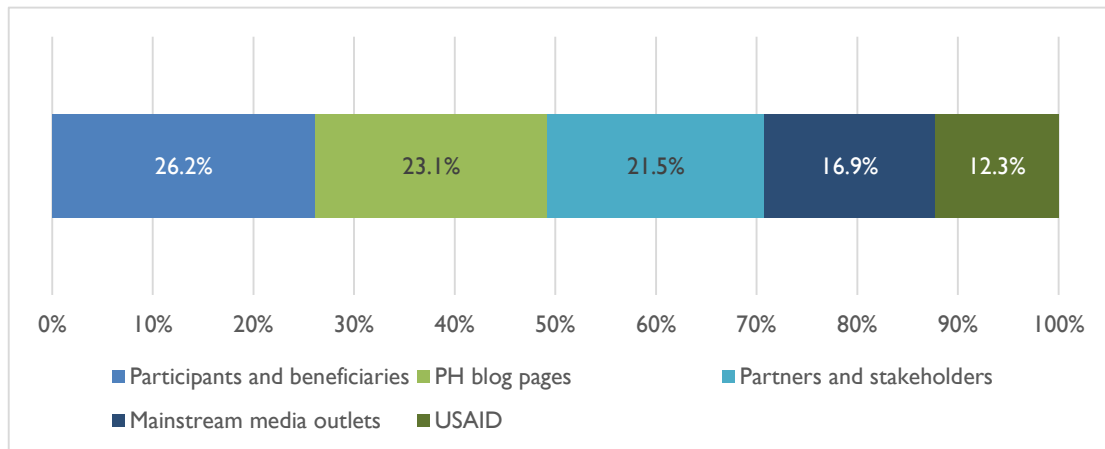
In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, the Safe Water exceeded its internal quarterly targets for communication products used for project updates, except for the monthly newsletter (see Table 14). The Team only released two of three newsletters – September and October 2022. Safe Water will release a joint November–December 2022 newsletter in January 2023, considering there were fewer activities in December because of the year-end holidays.

Majority of project updates are still shared through citizen journalism (Box 2), and while most updates continue to revolve around livelihood and partnerships, stories related to WSS and WRM are starting to gain an almost equal level of exposure, which was committed in the Year 4 Work Plan.

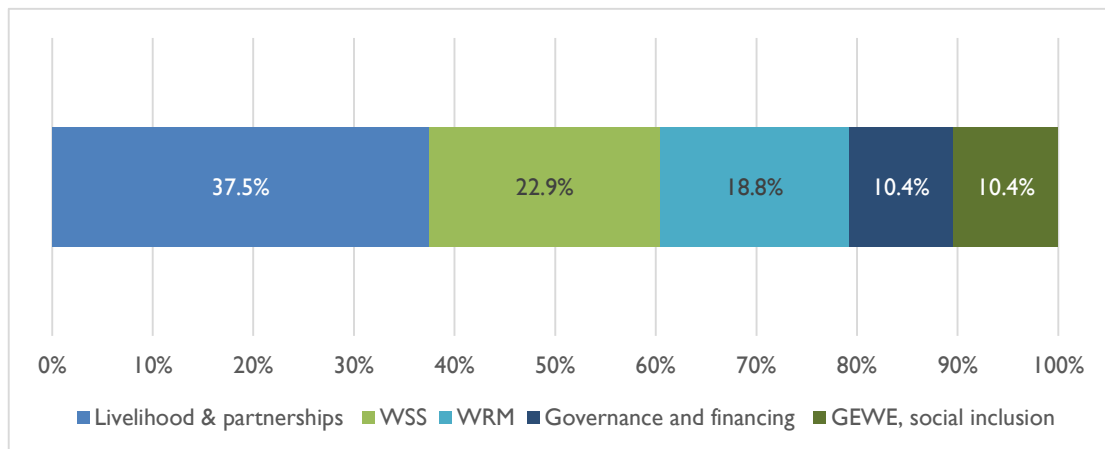
## BOX 2.

### SOURCES AND TOPICS FEATURED IN PROJECT UPDATES

As in Year 3, over 70% of project updates comes from citizen journalism – with Safe Water partners, stakeholders, participants, and beneficiaries playing an active role in disseminating news and information about Safe Water and its activities, and more importantly, promoting awareness on WSS and WRM issues. Citizen journalism, as an approach, continues to be organic – reaching untapped audiences and extending to local communities and networks that may not be traditional audiences of USAID and development organization platforms.



In the Year 4 Work Plan, the Team committed to promote a more balanced reporting of project updates anchored in the Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework. While stories on livelihood and partnerships continue to top the theme of updates, the Team has begun to balance stories between WSS and WRM (compared to Year 3 distribution of WSS at 30% and WRM at 20%). The Team will explore other measures to achieve a balanced messaging.





**Monthly Newsletters.** Safe Water shared project updates with stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries through USAID Spotlight, news articles, social media posts, and other resources. For the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, the Team published the September and October 2022 newsletters.

**USAID'S SPOTLIGHT**

**Climate-Resilient, Low Emissions Water Security and Sanitation Technical Brief**  
 Washington, September 2 - This brief is part of USAID's Water and Development Technical Series, which provides guidance on important topics for developing and implementing water and sanitation activities in support of the U.S. Government Global Water Strategy and USAID's plan under the strategy. The technical brief provides guidance on USAID climate-resilient and low-emissions water security and sanitation programming. It emphasizes policy and regulation, planning, budgeting and management, data collection and analysis, financing, and behavior change to drive climate solutions in water security and sanitation programs.  
[Global News](#)

**US, I'vrite Sector back National Roadmap on Water Supply and Sanitation, Launch Call for Innovations on Water Security**  
 Manila, September 8 - USAID gathered over 200 representatives from the public and private sector to work with the Water Alliance led by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) to develop a strategy to support the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP). The implementation of the Plan is overseen by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).  
[USAID.gov](#) | [Manila Bulletin](#) | [ESP.gov.ph](#) | [USAID PH Q4](#)  
 Watch the recorded [roadmap](#) [tag](#).

**USAID Wins from 2021 Philippine Water Challenge Invite New Innovations to Solve Water Security Solutions**  
 I'vring City, September 9 - Philippine Water Challenge 2021 winners share their stories of success and challenges and invite new innovations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine Water Challenge to propose solutions addressing water scarcity. This year's theme is on water demand management. The PWC is an annual competition that aims to identify innovative solutions that benefit both water services providers and users, identify community demonstration projects, and promote cross-sectoral collaboration to address water challenges.  
[Water World](#) | [PH](#)  
 For mechanics and other details, visit [tag](#).

**IN THE NEWS**

**Ago Agua participates in USAID-4PESI-4UNHCR Water Forum 2022**  
 Makab City, September 1 - Ago Agua Infrastructure, Inc. President Anna Lu was among the panelists at the 2022 Water Forum, tackling Corporate Action to Address Shared Watershed Risks. She talked about water security, Ago Agua's watershed protection efforts, and the facility's unique sustainability features. With the theme, "Innovations and Partnerships for Water Security", the event gathered water industry

**USAID** FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE **USAID at 60**

**SAFE WATER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
 Volume 2022 | October Issue

**USAID'S SPOTLIGHT**

**USAID celebrates World Coffee Day, highlights world coffee farmers**  
 Manila, Philippines, October 1 - USAID celebrated the World Coffee Day and shared a success story about the coffee farmers in the Philippines. The Philippines is one of the world's top coffee producers. USAID has supported coffee farmers and other members of the coffee value chain through various programs. USAID is committed to supporting coffee farmers and other members of the coffee value chain through various programs. USAID is committed to supporting coffee farmers and other members of the coffee value chain through various programs.

**US Government releases updated 2022 Global Water Strategy**  
 Washington, October 12 - The U.S. government released the updated Global Water Strategy to help the world achieve water security and sustainable water services. The strategy focuses on water security, water services, and water ecosystems. The strategy also focuses on water security, water services, and water ecosystems. The strategy also focuses on water security, water services, and water ecosystems.

**SAFE WATER KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT**

**Product Informed and Inclusive Water Security Framework and Planning Guide**  
 A new publication for the water security and inclusive water services and water ecosystems. The publication provides a framework for water security and inclusive water services and water ecosystems. The publication provides a framework for water security and inclusive water services and water ecosystems.

**IN THE NEWS**

**USAID leads first government personnel, citizens, indigenous people in Lumbreras watershed restoration**  
 Manila, Philippines, October 1 - The first government personnel, citizens, and indigenous people in the Lumbreras watershed restoration project. The project aims to restore the watershed and improve water security and water services. The project aims to restore the watershed and improve water security and water services.



The top five social media posts related to project updates were all published in the official USAID Philippines Facebook page, with the top post garnering over 2,900 engagements. The Safe Water post is also the fifth social media post with the highest engagement in the official Facebook page of USAID Philippines for the quarter.<sup>8</sup>

**TABLE 15. TOP FIVE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS DURING THE 1ST QUARTER OF YEAR 4**

SOCIAL MEDIA POST AND LINK	PUBLISHED BY	ENGAGEMENT		
		Reactions	Comments	Shares
USAID supports PPCWD to stay on track at producing their 1 <sup>st</sup> Gender and Development (GAD) strategic plan <a href="https://shorturl.at/elqRVV">shorturl.at/elqRVV</a>	USAID Philippines	2,900	18	17
Local Water Alliance convened in General Santos City <a href="https://shorturl.at/lnpt3">shorturl.at/lnpt3</a>	USAID Philippines	2,800	47	29
USAID pitches localization of water security planning <a href="https://shorturl.at/efQTZ">shorturl.at/efQTZ</a>	USAID Philippines	1,900	20	26
USAID dialogues with Palawan partners to highlight solutions to water sector challenges amid climate change <a href="https://shorturl.at/hptv5">shorturl.at/hptv5</a>	USAID Philippines	1,800	9	12
USAID supports NEDA to organize a Delphi session on water security <a href="https://shorturl.at/DEHQX">shorturl.at/DEHQX</a>	USAID Philippines	1,300	21	27

In USAID Philippines’ top 12 social media posts for the year 2022, Safe Water earned one of the 12 spots ([shorturl.at/acoPI](https://shorturl.at/acoPI)) with the August post on the Lawin training in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental ([shorturl.at/qrFM0](https://shorturl.at/qrFM0)), which garnered 2,500 reactions, 68 comments, and 65 shares.

### SHARED SUCCESS STORIES AND PROMOTED KEY MILESTONES

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, four communication platforms featured Safe Water’s success stories and key milestones:

1. **USAID Water (YouTube)** – Safe Water as a case study for Localizing Strategic Objective I of the 2022–2027 U.S. Global Water Strategy [shorturl.at/djFU3](https://shorturl.at/djFU3)
2. **GlobalWaters.org (Blog)** – Safe Water as an example of unlocking public climate finance through water security plans [shorturl.at/elpqV](https://shorturl.at/elpqV)
3. **Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. (Annual Report 2021)** – Safe Water partnership between CCFPI and MUAD Negros as a partner story on saving watersheds through sustainable livelihoods [shorturl.at/fqCM8](https://shorturl.at/fqCM8)
4. **DAI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit)** – Safe Water submitted a DEI Case Study as contribution to the Asia region on increasing decision-making positions for women in water sector institutions

<sup>8</sup> The top social media post in the USAID Philippines Facebook Page is the story on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which currently has over 12,000 engagements.

### BOX 3 FEATURED SUCCESS STORIES AND KEY MILESTONES

WASH Lead for USAID/Philippines Joanne Dulce presented the first Strategic Objective of the 2022–2027 U.S. Global Water Strategy in the Philippine context during the U.S. Global Water Strategy Lightning Talk at the **2022 UNC Water and Health Conference**.

#### Localizing Strategic Objective I

Strengthen Water and Sanitation Sector Governance, Financing, Institutions, and Markets



**Joanne Dulce**  
USAID/Philippines

#### USAID Support: Safe Water Activity

##### Integrated water security planning

Assisted local governments develop integrated water security plans that identify priority investments in water supply and sanitation, paving the way for them to contribute to achieving national targets.

##### Mobilizing finance for water and sanitation services

Facilitated water service providers' access to public and private capital, including public-private partnerships, and piloted new financing schemes.

USAID Senior Water and Sanitation Advisor Ella Lazarte and USAID RFS Center for Water Security Sanitation and Hygiene Program Management Specialist Natalie Gill wrote a **Global Waters** blog, entitled “USAID PREPAREs for Climate Resilience”, which cited Safe Water’s Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans as a platform for unlocking public climate finance.

**Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc.** reported its accomplishment in saving watersheds through sustainable livelihoods through the USAID and MUAD Negros partnership in Negros Occidental. The partnership story tackled the gains of the Partnership for Water and Economic Resilience (P4WatER) in strengthening community organizations, protecting and rehabilitating natural springs and forests, and promoting sustainable economic development in the area.

#### USAID PREPAREs for Climate Resilience



WASH-FIN supports a topographical survey and design of the Kitanga and Makyau water projects in preparation for a proposal to leverage commercial financing for Machakos Water and Sanitation Company in Kenya. March 2021. Photo credit: USAID/WASH-FIN Kenya





**In the same manner that benefits provide refuge for these animals, the declining health of a watershed also negatively affects the life surrounding it, including watershed communities.**

Guided by the Year 4 Work Plan, the Team finalized its strategy and topics for its longitudinal storytelling.<sup>9</sup> These longitudinal stories will cover themes that are relevant to the three objectives and cross-cutting areas of Safe Water vis-à-vis its intermediate results.

<sup>9</sup> Longitudinal storytelling employs a strategy of documenting change, growth, and impact of project interventions on beneficiaries or partners during project implementation.

They will be developed in consultation with project members, stakeholders, beneficiaries, and other public and private sector partners. The Team also began the hiring process for writer-editors, media trainer, photographer-videographer, and graphic artist who will help translate project interventions into longitudinal stories. The communication products developed during the Quarter in relation to longitudinal story topics are listed in C&O Strategy 2, page 90.

### STRUCTURED COMMUNICATIONS, BRANDING, AND MARKING

The Team started to apply the same look and feel across all communication materials to ensure that Safe Water's identity is consistent and recognizable. In terms of messaging, the Team started implementing the #WaterSecureFuture social media campaign on USAID Philippines' social media to integrate all messaging towards the attainment of SDG 6 and cascading of the PWSSMP among local governments. In terms of look, the Team is merging the official color palettes of USAID and Global Waters in its published communication and knowledge products (Box 4).

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

#### IMPLEMENT AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

During the Quarter, the Team produced awareness campaign materials and celebrated relevant national and local events to promote water security messaging.

**World Coffee Day (October 1)** is a celebration of the coffee sector's diversity, quality, and passion. It is an opportunity to support the millions of farmers whose livelihoods depend on coffee production.<sup>10</sup> The Team promoted the celebration by spotlighting USAID's work with coffee farmers, especially women and indigenous peoples, and how sustainable coffee farming practices support watershed and water source protection and augment incomes of families living in the upland areas of the watershed.



**Promoting World Coffee Day.** T'boli coffee farmer Cedelia Mozo from Sarangani, Philippines shares about the benefits her tribe has gained from USAID trainings on sustainable coffee production.

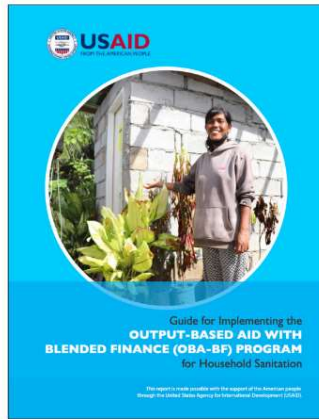
<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ico.org/international-coffee-day.asp>

## BOX 4

### CONSISTENT BRANDING AND MARKING FOR SAFE WATER PRODUCTS (EXAMPLES)



Updated Ring-Fencing Guide



OBA-BF Guide



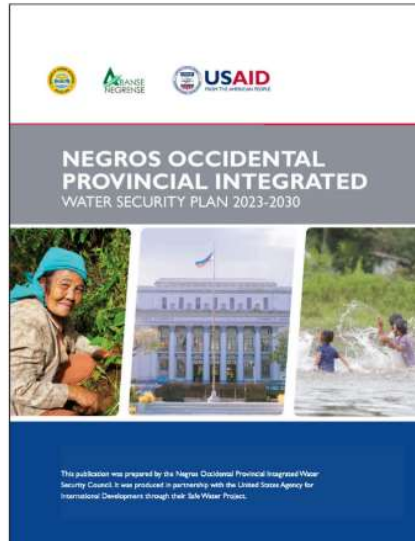
OBA-BF Voucher (Tarp)



OBA-BF Voucher (Tarp)



Standees for Coffee Farming event



NOC PIWSP Guide



The communication products and activities related to World Coffee Day include:

- Post on USAID Philippines social media highlighting the story of T'boli coffee farmer Cedelia Mozo from Sarangani, Philippines ([shorturl.at/zV258](https://shorturl.at/zV258)).
- Press release on coffee mentorship training conducted jointly by USAID through Safe Water and ACDI/VOCA-PhilCAFE Project ([PIA](#) and [Mindanao Today](#)).
- Safe Water's October email newsletter focused on the USAID celebration of World Coffee Day ([shorturl.at/hpvWX](https://shorturl.at/hpvWX)).
- Rene Boy Takyawan, USAID Safe Water coffee mentor and multi-awarded coffee farmer, is used as the official USAID Philippines Facebook cover photo ([shorturl.at/mrty8](https://shorturl.at/mrty8)).
- DAI Director for Asia Paul Jeffery's visit to the Inag Coffee model farm in Lower Mainit, Sarangani on October 19.

**World Habitat Day (October 3)** looks at the problem of growing inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements. Cities and local governments play a frontline role in responding to crises and emergencies and in planning for an inclusive, resilient, and green future.<sup>11</sup> The Team highlighted the use of bamboo dikes as a nature-based solution against potential hazards such as flooding and soil erosion in riverbanks. On October 3–6, Safe Water and the Bamboo Value Chain Development Project organized a Learning Exchange to the Malungon bamboo dike. The bamboo dike is a joint project of Malungon Municipality and Kasilak Foundation. They also visited the sites of BUKTAMACO and Rizome Philippines, which showcased their bamboo reforestation project, engineered bamboo production, and carbon-trading initiative as add-on economic benefits to the host communities.

**International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (October 13)** is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made towards preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies, and basic infrastructure. Access to early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments have accelerated

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/observances/habitat-day>

this progress. The Team spotlighted the urgency of data, evidence, and assessments during the forum on the Puerto Princesa City Water Security Situationer held on October 14. The city’s water resources and watersheds, which the growing population and expanding economy depend on for water, are currently threatened by the impacts of climate change such as flooding resulting in the destruction of WSS facilities. The city LGU is set to craft its City Integrated Water Security Plan (the first in the Philippines), which will implement actionable interventions including climate resilient WSS services and facilities, in support of the PWSSMP.

**International Day of Rural Women (October 15), World Food Day (October 16), and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17)** were celebrated by USAID Safe Water by spotlighting its work on the nexus of gender, agriculture, and water security. The communication products and activities for the celebrations include:

- Safe Water’s October email newsletter social media section highlighted different posts from organic vegetable and coffee farmers and the support they have received from USAID ([shorturl.at/hpvWX](https://shorturl.at/hpvWX)).
- DAI Director for Asia Paul Jeffery’s visit and dialogue with three farmers’ organizations in Palawan to visit their organic vegetable farms and listen to their stories.

**EU-ASEAN Climate Diplomacy Week (October 22–31)** is the annual global campaign launched by the European Union and its Member States to foster cooperation on climate change and inspire real action. The Climate Diplomacy Week shares learnings, celebrates progress, and continues to build the momentum for climate action between the EU and the Philippines. The communication products and activities for the week’s celebration include:

- USAID, through Safe Water, joined a panel of PechaKucha speakers ([shorturl.at/oBDIZ](https://shorturl.at/oBDIZ)) to give a presentation containing only images to portray climate change concepts, often seen as intimidating and technical, creatively through stories of the interconnections of climate change



**Celebrating International Rural Women’s Day in Palawan.**

(Top-Middle) Rural farmers welcomed Safe Water Chief of Party Alma Porciuncula, and DAI Program Manager Paul Jeffrey during the visit to the ube (purple yam) demonstration farm managed by the members of DUMRIA in Barangay Dumanguena.

(Bottom) Safe Water Chief of Party Alma Porciuncula, and DAI Program Manager Paul Jeffrey spoke with women farmers and officers to learn about their successes and challenges in sustainable ube production and organic farming.



**Interacting with OBA-BF beneficiaries.**

Chris Homan, the senior adviser on national security and foreign policy of US Senator Dick Durbin, visited Sagay City and Bacolod City to dialogue with beneficiaries of USAID, through its Safe Water Project. During the visit, the OBA-BF beneficiaries shared with Homan their experience in the OBA-BF process recounting how they learned about the new scheme, managed their microloans, did the construction of sanitary toilets, engaged with verifiers, and maintained their toilets.

to different sectors, such as water. Safe Water’s October email newsletter news section included the story ([shorturl.at/hpvWX](https://shorturl.at/hpvWX)).

- The European Union in ASEAN released a short video summing up highlights from the event with a link to the recording of the PechaKucha talks ([shorturl.at/gisT8](https://shorturl.at/gisT8)).

**World Toilet Day (November 19)** celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 3.6 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation. It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and achieve SDG 6 (water and sanitation for all) by 2030.<sup>12</sup> The Team marked the celebration by promoting its innovative financing scheme on household sanitation, OBA-BF, in social media and activities. The communication products and activities for World Toilet Day include:

- Post on USAID Philippines social media lauding the accomplishments of the OBA-BF pilot activity in Sagay City, Negros Occidental and Alabel, Sarangani ([shorturl.at/kloyW](https://shorturl.at/kloyW)) and resharing the USAID Medium story, entitled “Virgie’s Hope for Sanitation” ([shorturl.at/eir48](https://shorturl.at/eir48)).
- Virgie Montero’s photo, subject of the USAID Medium story on OBA-BF, is used as the official USAID Philippines website landing page cover photo (<https://www.usaid.gov/philippines>).
- Communication materials on the launch of OBA-BF in Cauayan municipality (Visayan Daily Star press release, USAID Philippines social media post, NWTF video).
- U.S. Senate staff<sup>13</sup> Chris Homan’s visit in Sagay City to dialogue with OBA-BF beneficiaries.

**International Mountain Day (December 11)** creates awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development, and to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.<sup>14</sup> The Team promoted the event by spotlighting USAID’s private sector partnerships and how these help conserve, protect, and rehabilitate watersheds and water sources, which often are located in mountain ecosystems. It also highlighted women during a launch of a new project in Negros Occidental, with women and farmers taking the lead in watershed protection, in line with the celebration’s

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.worldtoiletday.info/learn>

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Senator Dick Durbin’s senior adviser on national security and foreign policy.

<sup>14</sup> <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/international-mountain-day-2022/>

2022 theme “women move mountains”. The communication products and activities for International Mountain Day include:

- Communication materials on the turnover of donated mobile phones from Globe Telecom to Negros Occidental and Palawan Lawin patrollers (USAID Philippines social media posts for [Negros Occidental](#) and [Palawan](#), [GlobeCON video](#)).
- USAID Philippines social media post on the Php 27 million grant from Coca-Cola to conserve the Sicaba River and Himogaan River Watersheds to be implemented by the NEDF ([shorturl.at/rxzS9](https://shorturl.at/rxzS9)).
- SWATH fact sheet used during the NEDF-CCFPI launch of the project ([shorturl.at/ejSY1](https://shorturl.at/ejSY1)).

#### TRANSLATE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS INTO COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS TO EXPAND KNOWLEDGE OF COMPONENT ACTIVITIES AND EXPAND USABILITY OF COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

In the Year 4 Work Plan, the Team set annual internal targets for communication materials in relation to knowledge products.

Aside from using Safe Water communication products for social media publication, marketing, and events, among others, the Team continued to expand the utility of these products such as those listed in Table 17.



**TABLE 17. UTILITY OF COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS**

TOPICS/ THEMES RELEVANT TO SAFE WATER	COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS	UTILITY OF COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS
Partnerships for WSS and PES financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (5 infographics, 8 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Updated OBA-BF-related collaterals used in the U.S. Staff delegation visit</li> <li>• Cauayan municipality’s launch of OBA-BF (video by NWTF)</li> <li>• Lightning talk on USAID Safe Water posted by USAID Water</li> <li>• Unlocking public climate finance through water security plans (anecdote from GlobalWaters blog post)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote PPP and encourage investments in WSS service provision</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (3 infographics, 3 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Updated P4WatER fact sheet</li> <li>• SWATH Project fact sheet</li> <li>• “Achieving water security through sustainable coffee farming in Sarangani Province” standees</li> <li>• Blog posts and videos posted by coffee mentors and farmers</li> <li>• CCFPI and MUAD partnership featured in CCFPI Annual Report 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support upstream community livelihoods and enterprise activities</li> <li>• Document Safe Water-assisted community livelihoods and enterprises as models and examples</li> </ul>
Improved service provision and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (7 infographics, 6 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Updated Safe Water fact sheets</li> <li>• DENR PMC presentation on Safe Water Year 3 accomplishments and Year 4 Work Plan</li> <li>• PIWSP collaterals (i.e., PowerPoint presentations, infographic, packaged PIWSPs of Negros Occidental and Sarangani)</li> <li>• October 2022 newsletter cover photo of turnover of Sarangani PIWSP to Sarangani Province Governor Rogelio Pacquiao</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Safe Water IIWSF</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (1 infographic, 1 success story short)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight Safe Water-assisted decisions and policy directions adopted by governance bodies such as protected area management boards or PAMBs, LGUs, WMCs, and ancestral domain and tenure holders</li> </ul>
Enhanced evidence-based decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (2 infographic, 2 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Brochure on water-borne diseases to address Negros Occidental cholera outbreak</li> <li>• Updated joint USAID-Water.org WASH module PowerPoint presentations</li> <li>• PechaKucha presentation on climate X water used during the EU-ASEAN Climate Diplomacy Week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Safe Water support of water source education, research, monitoring, and innovation for improved WSS service and water resource development and management</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (3 success story shorts)</li> <li>• PhiWC collaterals (i.e., primer, fact sheet, standees, animated videos, social media posts, press releases)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight breakthroughs in technology development, innovations, and emerging trends for WSS service expansion and WRM</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WDM collaterals (i.e., PowerPoint presentations on WDM draft policy guidelines, economic incentives, and draft TOR)</li> <li>• Globe Telecom donates mobile phones for Lawin patrollers (video)</li> </ul>	
WSS and WRM policy and regulatory reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (4 infographic, 6 success story shorts)</li> <li>• September 2022 newsletter cover photo of WSP personnel, featured in Global Waters' USAID Water and Development Technical Series brief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate Safe Water support to evidence-based WRM</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (5 infographic, 1 infographic, 4 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Negros Occidental Water Supply and Sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate Safe Water support to improved WSS service</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (2 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Situationer infographic developed by PNGO (reviewed by USAID)</li> <li>• Updated WSS and WRM scorecards for Sarangani LGUs, Negros Occidental province, and Sagay City</li> <li>• Brigada news report on water stress in General Santos City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence policy-making and practice at the national and local levels, especially among relevant stakeholder organizations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanatory figures in USAID Annual Report (4 infographic, 5 success story shorts)</li> <li>• Presentation on USAID lessons learned in GAD planning and budgeting delivered during the GAD Plans and Budget training with LWUA and NWRB</li> <li>• DAI's DEI case study on increasing decision-making positions for women in water sector institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) integration in water security</li> </ul>

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

In the Year 4 Work Plan, Safe Water identified and further refined its planned communication support to NEDA to raise awareness on the importance of water security, highlighting WSS and WRM issues, including solutions related to the PWSSMP's key reform agenda (KRA). This Quarter, the Team delivered communication support to this strategy through the following:

- Started the #WaterSecureFuture social media campaigns on USAID Philippines' social media. These posts included new water source development in Palawan, U.S. staff Chris Homan's visit in Sagay City to dialogue with OBA-BF beneficiaries, Cauayan municipality's OBA-BF launch, SWATH project launch, LWUA and NWRB's commitment to GEWE, and call for applications to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine Water Challenge.
- Reinforced messaging about the PIWSP in all project updates and success stories by:
  - Connecting Safe Water interventions and achievements (as reported in weekly highlights, social media posts, and other published project updates) to the attainment of SDG 6 and localizing of the PWSSMP.
  - Featuring major PIWSP activities of Negros Occidental and Sarangani in Safe Water's newsletters (e.g., turnover of Sarangani PIWSP to the Governor as cover photo for October newsletter, and PIWSP guide featured in the knowledge product spotlight).

- Developing PIWSP collaterals focusing on the cascading of the PWSSMP (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, updated fact sheets, and scorecards), used in joint sessions, activities, and learning exchanges led by NEDA.
  - Highlighting the PIWSP as an approach for unlocking public climate finance as part of a Global Waters blog post ([shorturl.at/gCRTW](https://shorturl.at/gCRTW)).
- Updated the Sarangani and Negros Occidental PIWSPs, including provincial and municipal scorecards on WSS, WRM, and investment targets.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Year 4, Safe Water commenced Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) initiatives with capacity-building on gender mainstreaming with national partners. Having provided technical support to water districts and LGU partners on gender analysis and gender and development (GAD) planning and budgeting in Year 3, Safe Water shifted its focus to LWUA and NWRB. During the Quarter, Safe Water worked with LWUA and NWRB to consolidate their respective Gender Focal Point Systems (GFPS) and produce their GAD Plans and Budget for 2023 with the goal of increasing women’s decision-making positions in water institutions through the GFPS mechanism (cross-cutting or CC indicator 3).

Safe Water also continues to implement combined targeted and integrated training activities to promote GEWE among partner organizations (CC-4). In Year 4, the Project aims to reach an additional 100–200 trainees. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, the targeted training benefitted 39 LWUA and NWRB GFPS members.

Livelihood activities, particularly training on cogon craft production, organic vegetable farming, monitoring of ube farms in Negros Occidental, and SALT training in Sarangani, contributed to maintaining 50 percent women participation in Safe Water livelihood activities.

### INCREASING DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS FOR WOMEN IN WATER SECTOR INSTITUTIONS

During the Quarter, Safe Water devoted its technical assistance in GEWE to the GFPS teams of LWUA and NWRB. The GFPS teams are in-charge of developing the GAD Plan and Budget of their respective agencies that was due on November 22; Safe Water facilitated the GPB training on November 7–11, in time for the submission of their GPBs.

Prior to the training, the GFPS teams also underwent preliminary sessions on October 21 and 24 to review their regular programs utilizing the Harmonized GAD



**Shifting Gender and Development (GAD) from local to national.** (Top to Bottom) LWUA and NWRB personnel completed a week-long training on gender analysis, and GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB) facilitated by USAID Safe Water GPB trainer Lou Turiano, Gender Advisor Mia Aquino, and Communications, Outreach and Gender Manager Kent Tangcalagan.



**Optimizing Gender and Development budget utilization in existing programs.**

(Top) Safe Water Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting Trainer Lou Turiano guides the LWUA Institutional Development Section personnel in using the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines to evaluate the gender mainstreaming in their projects. (Bottom) Safe Water Gender Adviser Mia Aquino guides the NWRB team in the same process.

Guidelines (HGDG)<sup>15</sup> tool. LWUA requested a write shop prior to the GPB training and funded the two-day session. By assessing their regular programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) using the HGDG tool, agencies are able to identify pertinent gender issues and enhance their interventions. This was an important step in optimizing the use of their GAD Budget. The write shop enabled the LWUA and NWRB teams to assess, attribute, and enhance selected PPAs to be incorporated in their 2023 GAD Plan and Budget. These PPAs are: 1) San Pablo City Sanitation Project; 2) LWUA’s Advisory Services to Water Districts; and 3) NWRB’s Education Campaign on Water Demand Management.

**RECONSTITUTION OF THE GFPS**

The composition of the NWRB GFPS meets the criterion of diverse representation of the organization’s departments and units; however, the head of the agency needs to be appointed as chairperson of the GFPS to meet provisions of the Magna Carta of Women. At the moment, the NWRB GFPS consists of nine members, seven of whom are women.

Safe Water continues to capitalize on the GFPS to ensure women have a say in the decision-making process, particularly in terms of designing PPAs. Active and trained/capacitated GFPS can address gender and water security concerns within the mandate of their agency, utilizing the agency’s budget allocation of at least 5 percent for gender PPAs.

LWUA, for its part, agrees that it needs to revisit and beef up its GFPS. Currently, only eight of the GFPS members representing four major branches—the Administrative, Institutional Development, Engineering, and Financial Services—are active as most of the original GFPS members have already left the agency. The remaining eight GFPS members call themselves “the remnants” and are quick to point out that four of them are due for

<sup>15</sup> As per Philippine Commission on Women Memorandum Circular No. 2020-05, agencies may attribute portions of budgets from regular programs to their GAD budget allocation, following the assessment of gender mainstreaming using the HGDG tool attached with relevant documentation and means of verification. For instance, getting a 10 out of 20 score from the HGDG means the agency may attribute 50 percent of the budget from the assessed regular program. USAID Safe Water facilitated a pre-workshop with both agencies on the tool and reoriented the agencies during the week-long training in order to select regular programs they can subject to the HGDG.

retirement in the next two to three years. LWUA hopes to select new GFPS from the participants in the GPB training, in time with the appointment of the incoming LWUA Administrator.

For LWUA, reconstituting the GFPS is urgent, especially from the point of view of the water districts that rely on the agency generally for technical assistance and particularly for the review and approval of GPBs.<sup>16</sup> This Quarter, Safe Water engaged LWUA in developing the capacity of incoming and potential GFPS members in gender analysis, planning and budgeting to: 1) enhance decision-making roles in program and project design and implementation among its women officers in the GFPS; and 2) address the gap in the review and approval of GPBs in the water sector.

Both LWUA and NWRB included reconstitution of their respective GFPS among their priority activities in their proposed 2023 GPB.

### **GAD PLANNING AND BUDGETING TRAINING**

The joint GAD orientation and the GPB training for LWUA and NWRB demonstrated not only the application of the mandated gender analysis tools but also the integration of GAD with WSS and WRM. The week-long activity produced the initial GAD Plans and Budgets of LWUA, amounting to Php 187.32 million (US\$ 3.74 million), and of NWRB, amounting to Php 6.60 million (US\$ 132,000). The budgets will fund targeted gender activities benefiting their respective clients and organizations and gender mainstreaming in their regular programs. Both agencies await the review and approval of their respective GAD Plans by the Philippine Commission on Women.



### **Preparing a new “breed” of gender experts and advocates.**

(Top) The “remnants” of the LWUA GFPS representing the Administrative, Institutional Development, Engineering and Financial Services with the Safe Water Gender Team. (Bottom) NWRB and LWUA’s GAD Focal Point Systems (GFPS) technical working groups (TWG) members participate in reviewing water sector programs, projects, and activities to optimize GAD budget attribution.

<sup>16</sup> The Philippine Commission on Women–NEDA–DBM Joint Circular 2012-01 assigned the review and endorsement of GPBs submitted by water districts to LWUA. This was followed by Memorandum Circular 2015-03, which set a moratorium stating that “[g]iven, however, that the LWUA needs time to build its personnel’s knowledge and skill on gender mainstreaming, particularly on GAD planning and budgeting, to be able to effectively carry out the review of GPBs, a moratorium on the review and endorsement of water district GPBs is, hereby, imposed for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.” The moratorium has since been extended annually.

**TABLE 18. PROPOSED GAD PLANS FOR YEAR 2023**

AGENCY	PROPOSED PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES IN THE 2023 GPB AND INDICATIVE BUDGET
Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconstitute members of the GFPS and provide enhancement training on GPB</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build capacity on the preparation of gender-responsive project proposals, especially for technical team members</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt policies to institutionalize a functional GFPS</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate GAD targets in the Office Performance Commitment Review (OPCR) and the Individual Performance Commitment Review (IPCR) of the agency</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare LWUA's GAD Agenda</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institute policy to integrate GAD in the preparation of PAPs, including establishment of sex-disaggregated data (SDD)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institute policies and measures to support women employment in LWUA infrastructure projects (activities for 2023 include: GAD orientation to the contractors during pre-bid conference; reflect women employment in project TOR and bid documents; include GAD responsibilities in the project teams' OPC and IPC; and conduct GAD training for LWUA project teams)</li> </ul>
	<p>Attributed PPAs utilizing the HGDG:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility Study on Concept Design for Sanitation Project in San Pablo, Laguna</li> <li>Management Advisory Services to Local WDs to Ensure Gender Responsiveness</li> <li>Training and Development of Competency Framework for LWUA Employees</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Php 187,321,400 (US\$ 3.75 million)</b></p>
National Water Resources Board (NWRB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct training-workshop on the impacts of decreasing water availability and deteriorating water quality to women and men</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish SDD database for use in GAD programming</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake awareness-raising sessions with NWRB officials and staff on GAD-related mandates and initiatives</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include provision of gender-appropriate logistics and material support in the training of field personnel on monitoring and evaluation, inspection of water users, and compliance to existing NWRB laws, policies, regulations, and protection</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake capacity-building activities to strengthen the GFPS; hire contractual staff to serve as GAD Secretariat</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institute GAD mainstreaming in NWRB through establishment of policy to develop GAD Agenda and review/revision of TORs, IPCR and OPCR</li> </ul>
	<p>Attributed PPA utilizing the HGDG:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education Campaign on Water Demand Management</li> </ul> <p><b>Php 6,601,000 (US\$ 132,020)</b></p>

LWUA and NWRB participants noted that Safe Water’s training stood out for its emphasis on the application of the gender analysis tools, namely the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) and HGDG. Safe Water’s GPB training provides participants with hands-on experience in employing these tools and a deeper appreciation of how gender and water security concerns can be linked. As a result, the new GPBs include attribution of regular programs grounded on the HGDG checklist.

Their GPBs reflect basic building blocks for strengthening the GFPS, including policy support, establishment of sex-disaggregated data, capacity development on GFPS, and inclusion of gender mainstreaming in the individual and organization performance commitment review (IPCR and OPCR). Equally important, the GPBs for 2023 incorporate initiatives to promote participation of female staff in WRM and WSS initiatives. For example, NWRB proposes logistical and material support for female personnel during field training and actual field inspection.

### **GENDER ANALYSIS USING MANDATED TOOLS**

As with all the GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB) Training, Safe Water held workshops with LWUA and NWRB to apply the gender analysis tools prescribed by the Philippine Commission on Women. Both national agencies, however, devoted extra time and resources by undergoing an additional two-day write shop in October to review their regular programs and utilize the HGDG tool.

LWUA chose the following project proposals for purposes of the HGDG write shop: 1) Feasibility Study of Concept Design for Sanitation Project in San Pablo, Laguna; 2) Management Advisory Services to Local WDs to Ensure Gender Responsiveness; and 3) Training and Development of Competency Framework for LWUA Employees. NWRB focused on its education campaign on water demand management. The agencies were able to identify the gaps in their programs and measures to improve them using the HGDG. As a result, they produced revised proposals that incorporated: sex-disaggregated data, women participation in project design, and involvement of other community-based stakeholders. Equally important, they were able to adopt these projects in their 2023 GPBs that can be attributed for their gender dimensions.

### **GAD STRATEGIC AGENDA TRAINING**

Having completed the GAD Strategic Agenda, the PPCWD, with support from Safe Water, was able to fulfill the requirements of the Commission on Audit before the close of 2022. Initially, PPCWD requested the GAD Agenda Training to comply with the Commission's recommendation; in the end, it proved to be a capacity-building process for PPCWD's GFPS representatives. PPCWD integrated livelihood and watershed protection in its six-year plan, in addition to gender mainstreaming in WSS services. In the next six years, PPCWD aims to strengthen partnerships in gender mainstreaming and water resource protection, formulate policies, and build capacities geared towards gender equality and water security.

With a new set of vision, mission, and goals translated into programs and projects that are aimed at addressing gender gaps and needs in WSS and WRM, PPCWD joins the ranks of water districts that have completed the strategic planning process to produce a six-year blueprint for gender mainstreaming and water security.



**Completing the first GAD Strategic Agenda for PPCWD.** PPCWD GFPS proudly displays their 6-year GAD strategic agenda with their vision, mission, and goals. Behind the personnel are the meta-cards and illustrations completed in a series of workshops for their gender analysis.



**TABLE X. PPCWD VISION, MISSION AND GOALS**

<b>VISION</b>	To be a model gender-responsive public water utility agency with globally acceptable standards, contributing to a safer, healthier, water-secure and economically progressive Puerto Princesa City.
<b>MISSION</b>	We commit to provide sustainable and equitable access to water supply and sanitation services by establishing gender-responsive policies, building a GAD-competent workforce and strengthening collaboration with stakeholders
<b>GOALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institutionalize gender mainstreaming</li><li>• Adopt GAD-responsive policies</li><li>• Implement a laddered GAD training</li><li>• Strengthen effective partnerships with stakeholders to promote gender equality and women empowerment and intensify water resources protection</li></ul>

## **B. TRAINING FOR GEWE ADVANCEMENT THROUGH ROLES IN INSTITUTIONS**

To advance GEWE in public and private WSS sector institutions and organizations, Safe Water built the capacity of partners through a range of targeted and integrated activities.

### **TARGETED TRAINING**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Safe Water held a GPB training for 39 staff from LWUA (30) and NWRB (9); 18 staff (15 from LWUA and 3 from NWRB) underwent further training by joining the HGDG write shop and review of regular PPAs. The GPB Training, with the HGDG write shop, equipped the GFPS members with knowledge and skills in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming to address gender issues relevant to water security. All the NWRB participants to the Safe Water GPB training are active GFPS members. From the LWUA trainees, the new set of GFPS officers and members will be appointed soon.

### **GAD AND WATER CHAMPIONS**

For this Quarter, Safe Water featured GAD and water champions from project sites and national partners. From among the national partners, Safe Water identified LWUA's Department Manager from the Engineering Service, Engr. Virgilio Bombeta, as ally and GAD and water champion. Engr. Bombeta was an active participant in both the GPB training and HGDG write shop. He initially opined that gender is a non-issue but progressed towards rallying his staff of junior engineers to ensure women's participation in infrastructure and other WSS projects by the end of the week-long training.

From Palawan, PPCWD's Environment Specialist Annilie Lagan, facilitated the participation of representatives from the indigenous communities in the watershed areas in PPCWD's GAD Agenda formulation. These efforts resulted in the inclusion of partnership for watershed protection as among the four major goals of the water district for the next six years. She went an extra mile by guesting in one of the local radio programs right after the GAD Agenda training to share PPCWD's vision, mission, and goals.



**Spotlighting GAD and Water Champions.** (Top) LWUA Department Manager of the Water Supply, Sanitation, Planning and Development Virgilio Bombeta present their respective draft Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budgets (GPB) following a week-long GAD orientation, gender analysis, and GPB training hosted by USAID Safe Water. (Middle) PPCWD’s Environment Specialist Annilie Lagan presented one of their four GAD goals related to water resource protection. (Bottom) Dr. Ayessa Hugnatan raised over Php 3 million for the OBA-BF initiative in the municipality of Cauayan and led the replication of the program in barangays with prevalent open defecation practice.

In Negros Occidental, Cauayan Municipal Health Officer Dr. Ayessa Hugnatan raised over Php 3 million for the OBA-BF initiative in the municipality of Cauayan and led the replication of the program in barangays with prevalent open defecation practice.

Lastly, Cedelia Mozo, representing one of the T’boli communities in Sarangani, is one of the women farmers trained in sustainable coffee farming. She shared the new sustainable practices she learned in USAID Philippines’ social media post during World Coffee Day in October.

### C. INCREASING WOMEN’S ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Safe Water continues to promote women’s access to productive economic resources by employing proactive strategies to meet the targeted 50 percent participation from women in livelihood activities. During the Quarter, Safe Water focused on women participants in the training on cogon craft production, organic vegetable farming, monitoring of ube farms, and SALT.

In Negros Occidental, the monitoring of ube demonstration farms in various sites (Sipalay, Himamaylan, Pontevedra, Bago City, Murcia, Don Salvador Benedicto, Cadiz City, and La Castellana) in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter mobilized 14 LGU staff and PO members. Of the 14 participants in the monitoring activity, a lone female member was present. In contrast, the training on cogon product enhancement with the Association of Negros Producers (ANP) had 30 (all women) participants. Lastly, 15 women (38 percent) and 25 men (62 percent) participated in the training on biofertilizers, botanical pesticide production, and soil and water conservation in the province. Although women participants dominate livelihood activities in Negros, the Team will continue to explore strategies in the succeeding quarters to provide opportunities for women participants to be engaged in ube and soil and water conservation activities. In Sarangani, 71 women (54 percent) from 131 PO members benefited from the series of SALT training in the municipalities of Glan and Malungon during the Quarter.

## ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

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

**Low priority given by LGUs to WSS projects.** Despite pronouncements by most LGU officials that the provision of water supply and sanitation (WSS) services to their constituents is among their top priorities, the reality is that LGUs continue to allocate little funding to WSS projects and WRM activities. Safe Water assistance hopes to help LGUs realize the magnitude of funding needed for various WSS projects. Safe Water continues to extend assistance to LGUs and WSPs to identify and tap funding for WSS projects. While there has been an increase in funding, the levels are still way below the requirements to meet growing demand. Safe Water's initiative to cascade the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans to cities and municipalities will focus on programming more funds for WSS and WRM.

**Small WSPs lack funds to implement regular chlorination.** Several small WSPs are foregoing chlorination because they cannot afford to either buy chlorinators or supply chlorine on a regular basis. These WSPs should account for the cost of chlorinators and chlorine in computing for the correct tariff. Given these conditions, Safe Water continues to promote the institutionalization of chlorination in water supply operations and training on standard protocols, citing the water quality requirements of the PNSDW and the public health risks of not practicing chlorination.

**Water service disruptions in southern Palawan due to extreme weather events.** From December 2022 to January 2023, WSPs in southern Palawan experienced continuous and heavy rainfall resulting in flash floods that damaged domestic water supply systems such as those in Sofronio Espanola and Brooke's Point. In Brooke's Point Waterworks System, intake weirs and transmission and distribution lines were washed out. The LGU waterworks office of Brooke's Point estimated that it will take two to three months to rehabilitate and bring back water supply services to affected barangays outside the Poblacion. Exposed transmission/distribution lines of water systems in Quezon, Rizal, and Sofronio Española were also damaged by landslides and floods. Total damages to the three water systems are estimated at Php 7 million. Apart from lack of funding for repair and rehabilitation, these WSPs have no emergency response plans. Reprioritizing scarce investment funds for the restoration of damaged systems will take away funding for improvement and expansion of services.

### OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

**Pest infestation in PO farms.** Pest and fungal infection due to intermittent heavy rains has affected ube farms in many areas of Palawan and Negros Occidental, resulting in high mortality rate. Regular monitoring of ube farms and consultation meetings with SFC are being undertaken by field staff to address observed problems of Pos in ube production.

**Funding support for watershed conservation solutions.** Safe Water is introducing the installation of infiltration canals and wells in upland areas within priority watersheds. This nature-based solution has been found very effective in other countries in improving groundwater recharge. However, it is very labor-intensive and takes time away from farmers for livelihood activities. Hence, without funding support, the installation of infiltration canals is difficult to sustain since farmers are not able to devote enough time to construct a sufficient number of canals that can generate significant impact in terms of groundwater recharge. Safe Water is initially adopting this solution in areas where there is funding support from partners like CCFPI and is coordinating with DSWD to include labor for the installation of canals in its cash-for-work program. Information dissemination is also being undertaken in LGUs so that support is institutionalized in their annual investment plan.

### OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

**Weak capacity of LGUs to access available financing resources.** While there are available financing facilities, access of LGUs and WDs remains weak, given the lack of capacity to prepare concept notes and project proposals, inadequate data, lack of water source, and priority of LGUs for other infrastructure investments like roads and health facilities. Knowledge and capacity development remain to be crucial in increasing awareness and commitment of LGUs and WDs to invest in WRM and WSS activities. There is a need to intensify efforts to promote the prioritization of WRM and WSS interventions by the LGUs in their planning, investment programming, and budgeting processes.

**Mismatch between LGU budgets and required investments.** Budgets allocated by LGUs and WDs are typically insufficient to address the required WSS investments for meeting access targets and WRM interventions. This will require deliberate effort to intensify advocacy for increased budget allocation for WSS project pipelines of WDs and LGUs, provide capacity-building and technical assistance, incorporate water resource planning and management, and improve utility governance. Safe Water will continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building activities to strengthen capacities of LGUs and WDs to plan and program WSS investments and WRM interventions and access financing opportunities.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

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

1. Hold Conference with provincial LGU key departments and units on the cascading of the PIWSP to city and municipal LGUs and WSPs and conduct Programming with provincial LGU (January 2023).
2. Present the approved PIWSP and the cascading strategy to all LCEs of municipalities and cities of Negros Occidental and Sarangani during the LCEs' regular convention (January–February 2023).
3. Conduct PIWSP Cascading–Programming with selected/priority municipalities and cities in Sarangani and Negros Occidental (February–June 2023).
4. Roll out PIWSP M&E system to the provincial LGU and municipal and city LGUs of Negros Occidental and Sarangani.
5. Formulate Water Security Plan for Puerto Princesa City (February–June 2023).
6. Extend technical guidance to Isabela City Water District on Water Security Planning (October–June 2023).
7. Continue assistance in WQA and pressure management in the three project sites.
8. Conduct CMS Orientation in Narra.
9. Assist Alabel *Sangguniang Bayan* in the finalization of MWE Ordinance.
10. Prepare Operational Plan for the selected existing septage treatment plants in Sarangani.
11. Perform calibration activities for the PPCWD Hydraulic Model and finalize the model to inform pressure management.
12. Undertake technical assessment of the existing water treatment plants in Brooke's Point, Aborlan, and El Nido in Palawan.
13. Work with DPWH DEOs Construction Section in Negros Occidental to verify 2023 GAA budget allocations for water supply projects, which will include site validation, system designing, and review of specifications.
14. Assist PHO in Negros Occidental in the implementation of 2023 DSWD-funded Cash-for-Work Sanitation.
15. Finalize the results of the topographic and geo-resistivity surveys for CLIN 2 and start with the detailed engineering design.
16. Assist the AWEP Consultants in carrying out the groundwater analysis technical assistance for General Santos City.
17. Assist the PPP Center/ADB Consultants in the preparation of the full feasibility study for Bulk Water Supply for Negros Occidental.
18. Finalize the scope of assistance to LWUA on sanitation pricing.

### OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1. Finalize the organizational capacity assessment tool (OCAT) for watershed management councils.
2. Facilitate formulation of Sarangani Reforestation Development Plan.
3. Continue assistance in establishing payment for ecosystem services in Palawan, Negros Occidental, and Sarangani provinces.

4. Continue training on SALT with infiltration canals, pest management and control, establishment of COMSCA, and other sustainable landscape initiatives with partners such as MUAD Negros, NEDF, Kasilak Foundation, CLAFI, ECLOF, and SFC, among others.
5. Conduct vulnerability assessment of Bago watershed.
6. Continue mentoring community patrollers on Lawin forest protection system to strengthen protection of existing forests.
7. Assist the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental-PEMO to organize and convene TWG for Malogo/Imbang watershed management planning.
8. Assist NEDF in the preparatory activities leading to the implementation of key activities of the SWATH project in Himogaan watershed, covering the cities of Cadiz and Sagay and the municipality of Calatarava, (e.g., preparation of detailed work plan, M&E plan, securing NNNP PAMB endorsement, etc.).
9. Continue assistance to P4WatER in implementing its Year 4 activities.
10. Conduct organizational capacity assessment with the watershed management council of Ilog-Hilabangan watershed using the OCAT.
11. Assist LGUs in seedling production and sourcing of planting materials.
12. Organize Water Monitoring Teams and identify monitoring sites.
13. Continue advocacy on WDM and conduct of water audit by trained WDM /water auditors.
14. Continue technical assistance in the implementation of sustainable livelihood activities.

### **OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE**

#### **MOBILIZING FUNDS TO IMPROVE WSS ACCESS AND SERVICE DELIVERY AND WRM**

1. Assist LGU access to available NG budget allocation in the 2023 GAA for WSS investments (e.g., DPWH, FALGU, NTF-ELCAC, and GEF) and LGU budgets for identified and eligible water supply and sanitation projects, and continue to promote and facilitate access to other funding sources (e.g., NSSMP, Japan GGP, and commercial loans).
2. Help LGUs identify funding sources and assist in the implementation of priority WSS and WRM programs, projects, and activities in their PIWSPs, PDPFPs, CDPs, 2023 AIPs, and budgets.
3. Support NEDA through the Water Convergence Program in guiding the allocation and preparation of implementing guidelines and utilization of NG grants and investment programming and budgeting for 2024.
4. Promote adoption of the OBA-BF scheme with the LGUs to complement their sanitation programs (e.g., ZOD and septage management programs) and the private sector for subsidy allocation; and share the OBA-BF implementing guide, including templates of local ordinances and MOAs, with interested LGUs and MFIs to facilitate replication and budgeting for the program by LGUs in their supplemental and 2024 budgets.

#### **SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWSSMP AND URAF**

1. Provide continued technical support to NEDA and key implementing agencies (NWRB, DILG, and LWUA):
  - Preparation of communication and advocacy plan and technical notes and other inputs related to the DWR and WRC bill, URAF, and other key reform agenda of the PWSSMP;
  - Review and monitoring of the PWSSMP dashboard/key action plans to align with the water sector agenda of the PDP 2023–2028 and other water security-related plans;

- Promotion of water utility governance reforms (e.g., benchmarking and harmonization of key performance indicators, pilot implementation of the CMS, and establishment of MWEs/LEEs); and
  - Technical and secretariat support for the USAID PROGRAM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and high-level meetings (NEDA, DOF, and DBM), and one-on-one consultations with WSS agencies (LWUA, NWRB, DOH, DPWH, DILG) on the Government’s water security agenda and its alignment with the PDP 2023-2028.
2. Prepare for the U.S. Learning Visit in March for key government officials to show U.S. financing strategy and draw lessons for the operationalization of URAF.
  3. Support the localization of the PWSSMP with DILG and NEDA regional offices.
  4. Provide technical secretariat support in the conduct of the WSS Network sessions.

## PROMOTION AND SCALE-UP OF INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS

1. Assist LGUs in the institutionalization of PES for sustainable financing for watershed protection and conservation.
2. Follow up development of the PES Guidelines and Toolkit for Water Use with DENR-RBCO.
3. Conduct consultations with concerned agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders to enhance the WRM Financing Framework paper.

## CROSS-CUTTING

### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Three priority GEWE activities are lined up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: 1) conduct of the Women in Water Conference in March as part of Safe Water’s observance of International Women’s Day; 2) production of at least one knowledge product; and 3) technical assistance and follow-up of the LGU GAD and Water Teams in Palawan to ensure inclusion of water in the 2024 LGU GAD Plans and Budgets for deliberation. Other activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter are detailed as follows:

### INCREASING DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS FOR WOMEN IN WATER SECTOR INSTITUTIONS

1. Develop knowledge products utilizing the multiple gender analyses conducted by water districts and LGUs from Years 2 and 3.
2. Undertake technical assistance to LGU-GAD and Water Teams in Palawan to ensure integration of water sector proposals in the LGUs’ GAD Plans and Budgets for 2024.
3. Enjoin GFPS members to participate in the development, finalization, implementation, and cascading of the P/CIWSPs.
4. Extend follow-up activities or continue support for adoption of dedicated seats for women in decision-making within P/CIWSP councils/ TWGs, WMCs, local water alliances, etc.
5. Continue communication and outreach support in identifying GAD champions, promoting knowledge sharing, and holding campaigns to spotlight women leaders, role models, and advocates of GEWE in water security.
6. Produce new training and/ or communication materials emerging from GEWE analysis made in Year 3.

## TRAINING FOR GEWE ADVANCEMENT THROUGH ROLES IN INSTITUTIONS

7. Undertake strategic planning for Year 4 with the Field Teams and plot a new series of Training of Trainers for the Field Teams in the integration of GEWE in WSS, WRM, and livelihood activities starting with Sarangani.
8. Launch the Women in Water Conference as part of the observance of International Women's Day to amplify GEWE and water security.
9. Consolidate results of internal gender checklists to take stock and draw lessons or best practices.
10. Conduct a session on data organization and analysis focused on gender-related cross-cutting indicators in collaboration with MEL.
11. Continue the approach of targeted, integrated, and mainstreamed training activities on GEWE.

## INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC RESOURCES

1. Ensure linkage between GPB livelihood proposals from LGUs and water districts with the livelihood component of Safe Water.
2. Sustain efforts to ensure gender balance in activity design checklists, partnership agreements, and other instruments.
3. Organize strategic meetings with Field Teams highlighting analysis of CC-5 data in Year 3 to come up with new strategies to ensure that more women can participate in male-dominated activities.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

### BUILDING SHARED UNDERSTANDING

1. Continue structuring communications, branding, and marking with new unique packaging for knowledge products.
2. Continue informing/ updating partners and stakeholders on project activities using different platforms and format.
3. Plan production of success stories and key milestone promotion based on list of longitudinal stories (topics for the quarter include OBA-BF, GAD planning and budgeting, SALT, private sector partnerships)
4. Develop and implement training on responsible and accurate citizen journalism for WSS and WRM based on training needs from sites

### PROVIDING COMMUNICATION SUPPORT TO COMPONENT ACTIVITIES

1. Implement awareness campaigns with focus on water security during International Day of Women and Girls in Science (Feb 11), International Women's Day (March 8), International Day of Forests (March 21), World Water Day (March 22)
2. Continue translating knowledge products into communication products and expand knowledge of component activities through such products, e.g., priority will be given to knowledge products released during the quarter.
3. Continue expanding usability of communication products based on identified themes in the workplan.
4. Implement new photo and video shoots for the sites complemented with basic photography training.

### GENERATING NATIONAL INTEREST FOR WSS AND WRM ISSUES

1. Implement PWSSMP and P/CIWSP advocacy and awareness in relation to topics or KRAs relevant to the international celebrations identified above.
2. Integrate PWSSMP and P/CIWSP advocacy and awareness of KRAs relevant to topics highlighted in project updates during the quarter.



3. Build capacity of Sarangani and Negros Occidental PIWSC members in development of SDG report cards.
4. Produce visual presentations, communication materials, and social media for PWSSMP and P/CIWSP promotion and knowledge sharing.
5. Support PWSSMP and P/CIWSP briefing sessions, meetings, consultations, and other related events.

