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USAID Safe Water QUARTERLY REPORT

Second Quarter (Year 3: Jan – Mar 2022)

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

PREFACE

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

This report describes the accomplishments of the Safe Water project from January to March 2022, the 2nd Quarter of its third year of implementation. It also provides a summary of the planned activities for the 3rd quarter ending June 2022.

COVER STORY

PLEDGE FOR A WATER-SECURE FUTURE

SOLIDIFYING SUPPORT FOR PROVINCIAL WATER SECURITY PLANNING

Last March 10, 2022, local chief executives together with representatives from non-government organizations, the private sector and academe came together at the 1st Sarangani Provincial Water Summit organized with the support of Safe Water.

The water summit called attention to the challenges faced by the Province. The baseline report prepared by Safe Water on the water supply and sanitation situation in Sarangani showed that two of 10 Sarangans have no access to safe and clean drinking water and one of 10 lacks access to basic sanitation services. This situation is exacerbated by Sarangani's dwindling water resources. After addressing these challenges, the Sarangani Provincial Integrated Water Security Council Technical Working Group (PIWSC-TWG) presented solutions that were identified in its Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) to Summit attendees.

The highlight of the water summit was the signing of the "Pledge to Act for a Water Secure Future" where stakeholders signified their commitment to support the formulation and implementation of Sarangani's PIWSP.

As stated by Hon. Dr. Elmer T. De Peralta, Sarangani Vice-Governor during his welcome message, *"With this partnership, we look forward to improving our water supply and sanitation services to the unserved and underserved households in Sarangani. After a series of consultative meetings facilitated and funded by USAID being our primary active partner, we already have our Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan. We look forward to the productive partnership and complementation of initiatives for water security in the province with everyone's commitment today."*



Empowering stakeholders through data. (Top) USAID Safe Water Chief of Party Alma Porciuncula presented an infographic summing up the water supply and sanitation situation of the province. (Bottom) During the summit's knowledge forum, PIWSC members discussed strategies in the PIWSP to address the gap between the water supply and demand in the province.

Committing to water security.

Sarangani stakeholders, together with Safe Water Chief of Party Alma Porciuncula, signed the “Pledge to Act for a Water Secure Future” signifying their support to the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) during the 1st Sarangani Provincial Water Summit.



“I, being the head of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, already commit to fully support whatever relevant measures and legislative authority to support this,” he added.

The *draft* PIWSP was prepared by the Provincial Integrated Water Security Council and its Technical Working Group, with the assistance of Safe Water, through a series of workshops following the 10-step planning process developed by Safe Water. The process is outlined in the Provincial Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework and Planning Guide. From May 2021 to February 2022, the PIWSC-TWG gathered and analyzed data on the state of water supply, sanitation, and water resources in Sarangani; identified threats to both water supply and sanitation services and water resources; recommended strategies to address these threats; and proposed a budget allocation for the water security plan.

Sarangani is expected to finalize the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan and present it to the local chief executives for adoption by June 2022. Similarly, Negros Occidental will be holding its water summit in April. With the lead taken by these two provinces, the aim is to expand the water security planning process to the rest of the country in partnership with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), as a platform for localizing the implementation of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the accomplishments of the Safe Water Project for the 2nd Quarter (January to March 2022) of its 3rd Year of implementation. It also provides a summary of the planned activities for the 3rd Quarter of Year 3 (April to June 2022).

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF YEAR 3 2ND QUARTER KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIVITIES
<p>Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water and sanitation services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project development assistance to water service providers (WSPs), such as improvement or expansion of water systems, surface water bulk supply development, water treatment plant improvement, water quality assessment and pressure management; • Capacity building for WSPs on water system design, Program of Work (POW) preparation, operations and maintenance, strategic business planning, water safety planning, and water quality monitoring; • Capacity building for LWUA on septage treatment plant bid preparation and evaluation, Financial Stress Test, Business Planning, and Water Utility Assessment; • Continued assistance to the provincial governments of Negros Occidental and Sarangani in the preparation of their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans; • Assistance to the municipalities of Alabel and Malapatan on the implementation of the Central Management System (CMS) for water utilities; • Drafting of the CMS Implementation Guide; • Review of damages caused by Typhoon Odette, in preparation for possible CLIN-2 implementation; and • Implementation of joint work plan with Water.org to expand assistance to partner microfinance institutions for scaling WASH loans to households.
<p>Objective 2: Improved sustainable management of water resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued assistance in the formulation of watershed management plans and watershed conservation and rehabilitation plans across all project sites, including formation of planning teams and Technical Working Groups (TWGs), drafting MOAs; holding orientation and action planning workshops as well as stakeholder consultations; • Capacity building for watershed management councils (WMCs) through trainings on management planning, and watershed characterization; • Completion of 40 (out of 60) additional hydrologic studies for the remaining watersheds in Safe Water sites; • Executed new partnership agreements with Seaoil Foundation, Association of Negros Producers and ECLOF Philippines;

OBJECTIVE	KEY ACTIVITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued negotiations for partnerships with private sector companies (e.g., Globe Telecom, Pilipinas Shell, PhilCAFE and Forest Foundation) to support WRM and sustainable livelihoods; Implementation of WRM and sustainable livelihoods activities such as ube and organic farming in Palawan, establishment of community green farms and nurseries in Negros Occidental; and coffee farming in Sarangani; Training of the TWG of Puerto Princesa City for establishing payment for ecosystem services on data analysis using cost-based valuation and cost-revenue analysis; and Roll out of water demand management (WDM) Training of Trainers (TOT) in Sarangani.
Objective 3: Improved water sector governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilization of financing for WSS services by helping LGUs access National Government budget allocation for WSS investments under the 2021 and 2022 General Appropriations Act; Support for the implementation of the PWSSMP and the operationalization of the Unified Resource Allocation Framework (URAF); Technical support to the secretariat of the NEDA-led WSS Network; Roll out of OBA-BF in new areas in the project sites after the successful pilot implementation in Alabel and Sagay; Technical assistance to NWRB in the development and implementation of a national water demand management (WDM) policy; Ongoing development of knowledge products such as: CMS Implementation Guide, Updated Ring-Fencing Guide, WDM Trainer's Guide, WRM Financing Strategy Framework, OBA-BF pilot documentation and additional hydrologic studies.
Cross-cutting Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led Gender and Development (GAD) Planning and Budgeting (GPB) Training for water districts in Negros Occidental; Continued advocacy activities for gender equality and women's development (GEWE) through social media campaigns in observance of International Women's Day with the theme, #BreakTheBias; Communication of project activities to partners and stakeholders and promotion of key project milestones (i.e., activities in line with World Water Day, Safe Water Partnerships and Provincial Integrated Water Security Planning) through weekly highlights, monthly newsletter, press releases videos and other collaterals; Carry out activities in NEDA's Communication Plan for the PWSSMP (i.e., creation of PPT library, drafting messaging and inputs for the Provincial Water Summit briefing kits); Roll out of Safe Water Online M&E system; and Monitoring visits to the five (5) winners of the first Philippine Water Challenge.

Contributions to project targets this quarter are shown in Table 2 (the cumulative achievement on targets is shown in Table 10).

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE QUARTER

INDICATOR		TARGET IN YEAR 3	CONTRIBUTION FROM ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services			
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.1: Number of people gaining access to basic or safely managed drinking water services as a result of U.S. Government (USG) assistance	30,000	4,305 people , of which 3,968 gaining access to basic drinking water services as a result of Safe Water technical assistance (design preparation, construction supervision and operations & maintenance) to Glan Municipality (Sarangani) in constructing Level 2 water supply system; and 337 gaining access to safe drinking water services through loans accessed by households from various Micro Financing Institutions (MFIs) under Safe Water's partnership with Water.org. The WASH loans are used by households to pay for water connection fees.
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.2: Number of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic or safely managed drinking water service as a result of USG assistance	100,000	60 people gaining access to improved safely managed drinking water services through loans accessed by households from various MFIs. These WASH loans are used by households for improvements of their existing water supply systems.

INDICATOR		TARGET IN YEAR 3	CONTRIBUTION FROM ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.3: Number of people gaining access to limited or basic or safely managed sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	40,000	3,512 people of which, 1,962 gaining access to basic sanitation facilities through loans accessed by households from various MFIs; and 1,550 gaining access to limited sanitation services using the toilet bowls provided by the Municipal LGU of EB Magalona (Negros Occidental)
F-Indicator	Outcome 1.4: Number of people receiving improved sanitation services quality from an existing "limited" or "basic" services as a result of USG assistance	60,000	2,120 people gaining access to improved basic sanitation facilities through loans accessed by households from various MFIs. The WASH loans are used by households to improve their existing basic sanitation facilities or to shift from limited to basic sanitation facilities.
Custom	IR 1.1: Number of WSPs with increased operational, technical, and financial management capacity through Safe Water activities	5	Four WSPs: Dumaran Water Supply System (DWSS) and Brooke's Point Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association, Inc. (BPRWSAI) in Palawan installed pressure gauges; and Glan and Maasim Water Districts in Sarangani conducted residual chlorine testing, pressure monitoring, and gender and development planning and budgeting.
Custom	IR 1.2: Number of coordination mechanisms institutionalized at the local, watershed, and regional levels through Safe Water activities	4	Two coordination mechanisms: creation/ institutionalization of management councils for Buayan Malungon River Basin (BMRB) and Siguel watersheds.
F-Indicator	IR 1.3: Value of new funding mobilized to the water and sanitation sectors (in US\$)	██████████	██████████, which is comprised of: (i) ██████████ loans from MFIs availed of by households to access piped water supply and sanitation in Safe Water sites; (ii) ██████████ grant assistance from the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental supplemental budget and ██████████ LGU counterpart for toilet facilities in EB Magalona; (iii) ██████████ for the improvement of water treatment plant (WTP) in San Carlos City (Negros Occidental); (iv) ██████████ for water supply rehabilitation and expansion project in Aborlan, Palawan; and (v) LGU Malapatan acquisition of flow meters ██████████
Objective 2: Improved Sustainable Management of Water Resources			
F-Indicator	Outcome 2.1: Amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced or avoided (Metric Tons)	225,000	3,006 MT of CO2 GHG emission prevented in Lake Manguao, (Palawan) through formulation of the Lake Manguao Management Plan, creation of Watershed Management Council (WMC), including TWG; and patrolling activities using the LAWIN forest protection system.
F-Indicator	Outcome 2.2: Number of people benefiting from adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance	125,000	5,130 people comprised of: 4,439 people from 18 POs that accessed program/assistance from the Municipal LGU of Narra (Palawan); 155 people having additional household income from the monthly allowance allocated by the Victorias City (Negros Occidental) to forest patrollers; 245 people in Malungon (Sarangani) protected from flooding with the establishment of a bamboo dike along the riverbank; and 291 people from IP groups in Maasim (Sarangani) producing higher yields and better quality coffee beans through adoption of proper farming techniques.
F-Indicator	Outcome 2.3: Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or non-monetary)	35,000	4,485 people gaining monetary/non-monetary benefits from various livelihood activities supported by Safe Water's partnerships with various institutions and stakeholders: 4,439 people from 18 POs that

INDICATOR		TARGET IN YEAR 3	CONTRIBUTION FROM ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER
	associated with USG sustainable landscapes activities		accessed program/assistance from the Municipal LGU of Narra (Palawan); 155 people having additional household incomes from monthly allowance allocated to forest patrolling; 291 people from IP groups in Maasim (Sarangani) producing higher yields and better quality of coffee beans through adoption of proper farming techniques.
Custom	IR 2.1: Number of hectares under improved watershed management through Safe Water activities	90,000	Safe Water accounted for 26,540 hectares under improved watershed management broken down as follows: 18,447 hectares in Narra Watershed (Palawan) and 8,093 hectares in Bago Watershed (Negros Occidental). The achievement is attributed to the following activities with Safe Water technical assistance: (i) watershed management plans approved; (ii) watershed management councils established and (iii) POs undertaking WRM and livelihood activities.
Custom	IR 2.2: Number of LGU, WSPs, and watershed stakeholders with improved capacity to plan, manage and monitor water and forest resources sustainably, using data and innovative technologies	17	Five (5) institutions: Taytay Municipal government and Taytay CENRO completing the formulation of the Lake Manguao Municipal Conservation Area and Ecotourism Zone (LMMCAEZ) General Management Plan (GMP); Victorias City LGU (Negros Occidental) implementing the LAWIN forest patrolling system; and two (2) POs from Palawan, Dumanguena Manaile River Irrigators Association, Inc. (DUMRIA) and Narra Organic Farmers Association, developing their own demonstration farms through the learnings acquired from organic / ube farming training provided by the project.
F-Indicator	IR 2.3: Amount of in US\$ equivalent) for sustainable landscapes, as supported by USG assistance	██████████	. (CLAFI) assisting various POs with livelihood activities
Custom	IR 2.4 Number of people who apply improved conservation law enforcement practices as a result of USG assistance	400	31 patrollers conducting forest patrolling activities in Malogo and Sicaba watersheds (Victorias City, Negros Occidental) using the LAWIN forest patrolling system.
Objective 3: Strengthened Water Sector Governance			
Custom	Outcome 3.1: Number of policies or plans developed, enhanced, or implemented to promote water security	10	Seven (7) Executive Orders (EOs) / Ordinances issued: (i) EO for the PES TWG for Irawan and Montible Watersheds in Palawan; (ii) EO for PES-TWG in the Municipality of Quezon Palawan; (iii) Municipal Ordinance No. 450-2022 "Revised Tourism Code of Taytay Palawan; (iv) Municipal Ordinance establishing the Conservation and Sustainable Tourism Fee (CSTF); (v) Resolution creating Bantay Bukid Brigade (BBG) in Mt. Kanlaon Nat Park; (vi) EO creating Negros Occidental Provincial Integrated Water Security Council (PIWSC) which also mandates Provincial GAD Focal Point System membership in the council level and the LGU GAD Focal Point System membership in the watershed level; and (vii) EO creating the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Council (MENRC) and TWG in the Municipality of Maitum (Sarangani)
F-Indicator	Outcome 3.2: Number of water and sanitation sector institutions strengthened to manage water	10	Five (5) institutions strengthened: Bago and Kabankalan LGUs (Negros Occidental) with TWG organized and leading in the development of and

	resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as a result of USG assistance		implementation of PES; Victorias City LGU implementing the LAWIN forest patrolling system; and Glan and Maasim Water Districts (Sarangani) doing Residual Chlorine Testing and Pressure Monitoring using the learnings acquired from the training conducted by Safe Water.
Custom	IR 3.2: Number of mechanisms developed and/or enhanced for exchanging knowledge on water security	4	Two (2) mechanisms established: 1 st Provincial Water Summit in Sarangani and the posting of Safe Water Fact Sheets and activities in the official Facebook and Twitter accounts of the DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS).
Cross-cutting			
Custom	CC1: Number of tools, technologies, or measures implemented (WRM and WSS)	9	Four (4) tools: installation of flow meters by Malapatan Waterworks to account and monitor the system's non-revenue water (NRW); chlorination applied to the distribution system of Maasim WD in Sarangani; and, application of Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) and Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) implemented by Glan and Maasim Water Districts to develop their final GAD plans and budget
Custom	CC2: Number of partnerships developed and/or institutionalized (WRM and WSS)	2	Three (3) partnerships forged between Safe Water and (i) ECLOF Philippines Microfinance, Inc.; (ii) Association of Negros Producers; and (iii) Seaoil Foundation Inc. (SFI).
Custom	CC4: Number of persons trained with USG assistance for advancing gender equality or female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations	400	313 persons representing various institutions and stakeholder groups were trained on various modules aimed at promoting gender equality or empowerment of women in advancing various WSS / WRM improvement initiatives.
Custom	CC5: Proportion of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, employment).	50%	Women accounted for roughly 55% of the people (2,687 out of 4,885) enjoying monetary and non-monetary benefits from various livelihood activities developed or supported by partnerships between Safe Water and various institutions during the quarter.

Note: Table only reflects Safe Water indicators that have achievements for the quarter

Major activities planned for the 3rd Quarter of Year 3 Work Plan are:

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

1. Continue proactive execution of Catch-up Plan on water quality assurance and pressure measurements in coordination with the water utilities, and document and monitor implementation of recommended improvements.
2. Continue to address technical assistance needs of WSPs in the project sites (e.g., improvement of water treatment facilities of a number of LGUs in Palawan).
3. Continue assisting the provincial government of Negros Occidental in the acquisition of water rights on Malogo River; and conduct full feasibility study for bulk water supply, and data gathering from possible WD/LGU off-takers.
4. Continue capacity building for WSPs, focusing on operations and maintenance, water safety planning, ring-fencing and non-revenue water reduction.
5. Continue providing guidance and support to the field teams on the establishment of CMS by providing capacity building training to LGU staff who will handle the Municipal Water Enterprise (MWE).

6. Continue providing assistance to the Provinces of Sarangani and Negros Occidental in the formulation of their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans.
7. Carry out capacity-building for Water.org and its partner MFIs; continue working with them on household water connections and toilet facilities; and roll out the updated WASH Manual and Training modules of Water.org to its partner MFIs to increase demand generation for WASH loans.
8. Continue assisting LWUA in tendering the design-build contract of the proposed septage treatment plants of the first batch of WDs covered by the Manila Bay Mandamus (Plaridel, Norzagaray, San Miguel, Dinalupihan and Cabuyao WDs).

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1. Facilitate the formulation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) of Western Sarangani Watersheds, Siguel watershed and help update the BMRB master plan.
2. Hold joint operations planning with Seaoil Foundation, Inc. to translate results of the inception planning into outputs, targets, and activities and identify needed resources.
3. Conduct trainings on SALT (Salt-Sloping Agricultural Land Technology), pest management and control, establishment of Community Mobilized Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA), proposal preparation and other sustainable landscape initiatives with partners.
4. Work with General Santos City Environment and Natural Resources Officer in reviewing and potentially amending the draft ordinance on Payment for Ecosystem Services.
5. Mobilize TWGs of Year 3 target watersheds in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani to gather data related to watershed characterization.
6. Continue assistance to the seven municipalities in Sarangani and General Santos City in the completion, finalization and approval of Local Watershed Conservation and Restoration Plans (LWCRPs). Conduct situational analysis workshop on land and forest cover change in Glan and Malapatan.
7. Monitor work plan implementation by private sector and CSO partners and continue work plan implementation, including activities like financial literacy training for POs, and other watershed conservation and restoration activities.
8. Facilitate LAWIN training in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani.
9. Facilitate PES data gathering for valuation of ecosystem goods and services (EGS) and cost revenue analysis for BMRB, Bago and Irawan Watersheds.
10. Review and finalize the 60 hydrologic studies being prepared by GFI.
11. Finalize task order negotiation with Manila Observatory for expanded climate risk assessment in target watersheds within Safe Water covered provinces.
12. Facilitate roll-out of WDM training in Safe Water sites and promote WDM among institutional and commercial users.
13. Initiate organization of the Local Water Alliance in General Santos City during the Water Convergence Forum on April 22, 2022.

OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHENED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

1. Continue monitoring LGU utilization of other NG budget allocation (FALGU, NTF-ELCAC and GEF) for identified and eligible water supply projects, and promoting other funding sources (NSSMP, PSF, GCF and GGP and commercial loans).

2. Coordinate with LGUs in the project sites to support/facilitate planning, programming and budgeting of WSS and WRM programs; projects and activities in their PIWSPs, AIPs and budgets for 2023; and access to potential funding sources.
3. Facilitate scale-up of the Output-based Aid-Blended Finance (OBA-BF) scheme with interested LGUs and the private sector; and assist in preparation of proposals for supplemental budget and prepare implementing guidelines for its replication.
4. Provide support in monitoring the PWSSMP dashboard/key action plans; roll-out of the communications and advocacy plan; and conduct of WSS Network sessions, among others.
5. Complete knowledge products in the pipeline such as hydrologic studies, OBA-BF-related reports, the WRM financing framework and Water.org WASH modules.
6. Continue discussions with academic institutions (Palawan State University, University of St. La Salle – Bacolod and Mindanao State University – GenSan) and other organizations to formalize knowledge exchange initiatives in Safe Water sites.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

1. Conduct learning sessions with network of GAD Monitors in Palawan, building on the training designs of Sarangani and Negros Occidental's GAD Planning and Budgeting training-workshops.
2. Conduct follow up on GAD Planning and Budgeting Training for the Association of Negros Occidental Water District members.
3. Support formation of a local water alliance in Sarangani, integrating women representation within the clusters of the alliance.
4. Develop learning design for human resource management (HRM) strategies on GEWE for capacity-building through literature review while building on existing USAID tools and knowledge products.
5. Connect Gender Focal Point System (GFPS) and GAD Monitors with community-based organizations.

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 such as Provincial Integrated Water Security Planning, Hydrology Studies and Water Demand Management roll-out.
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 tied to the messaging of #SafeWaterSavesLives and USAID's 60th anniversary, as well as other international or national celebrations.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

1. Assess the ongoing rollout of the Safe Water's web-based M&E system and identify needed enhancements.
2. Assist the Provincial Water Security Councils and TWGs in finalizing the results framework of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans of Negros Occidental and Sarangani.
3. Gather baseline data covering the remaining 27 cities and municipalities for Years 3 to 5.

I. INTRODUCTION

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

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

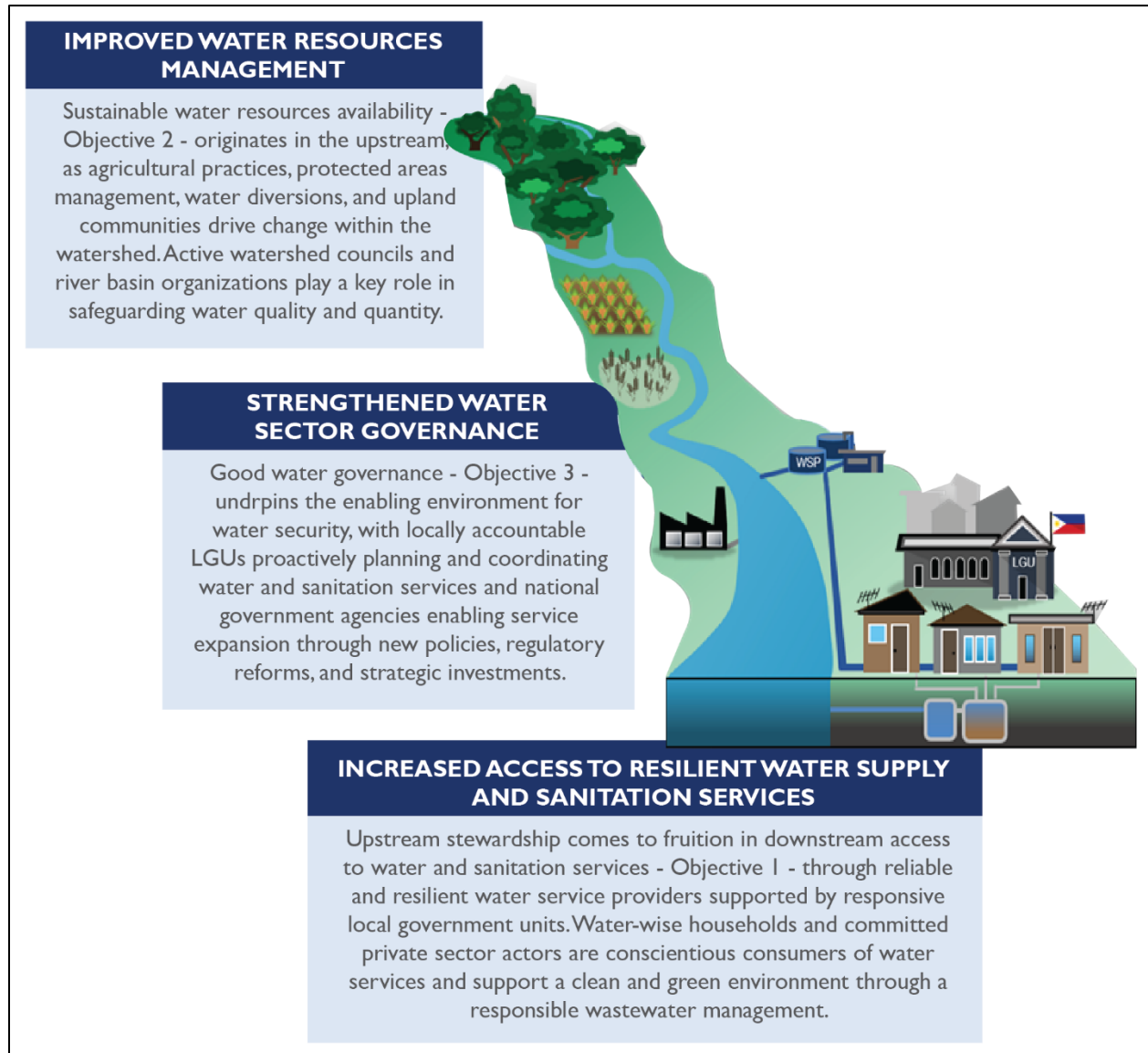
The deteriorating condition of the country's forests and watersheds has exacerbated drought and flood conditions, which now occur with greater frequency, and there is increased competition among agriculture, energy and other sectors for ever-scarcer surface water resources. In response, cities, municipalities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

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

I.1 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

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

FIGURE I. SAFE WATER INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE WATER SECURITY FRAMEWORK



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

the enactment of policies, regulatory reforms and strategic investments at the national and local government levels.

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

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

I.2 TARGET SITES

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

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

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

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

Table covers all cities and municipalities in Safe Water provinces

FIGURE 2. SAFE WATER PROJECT SITES

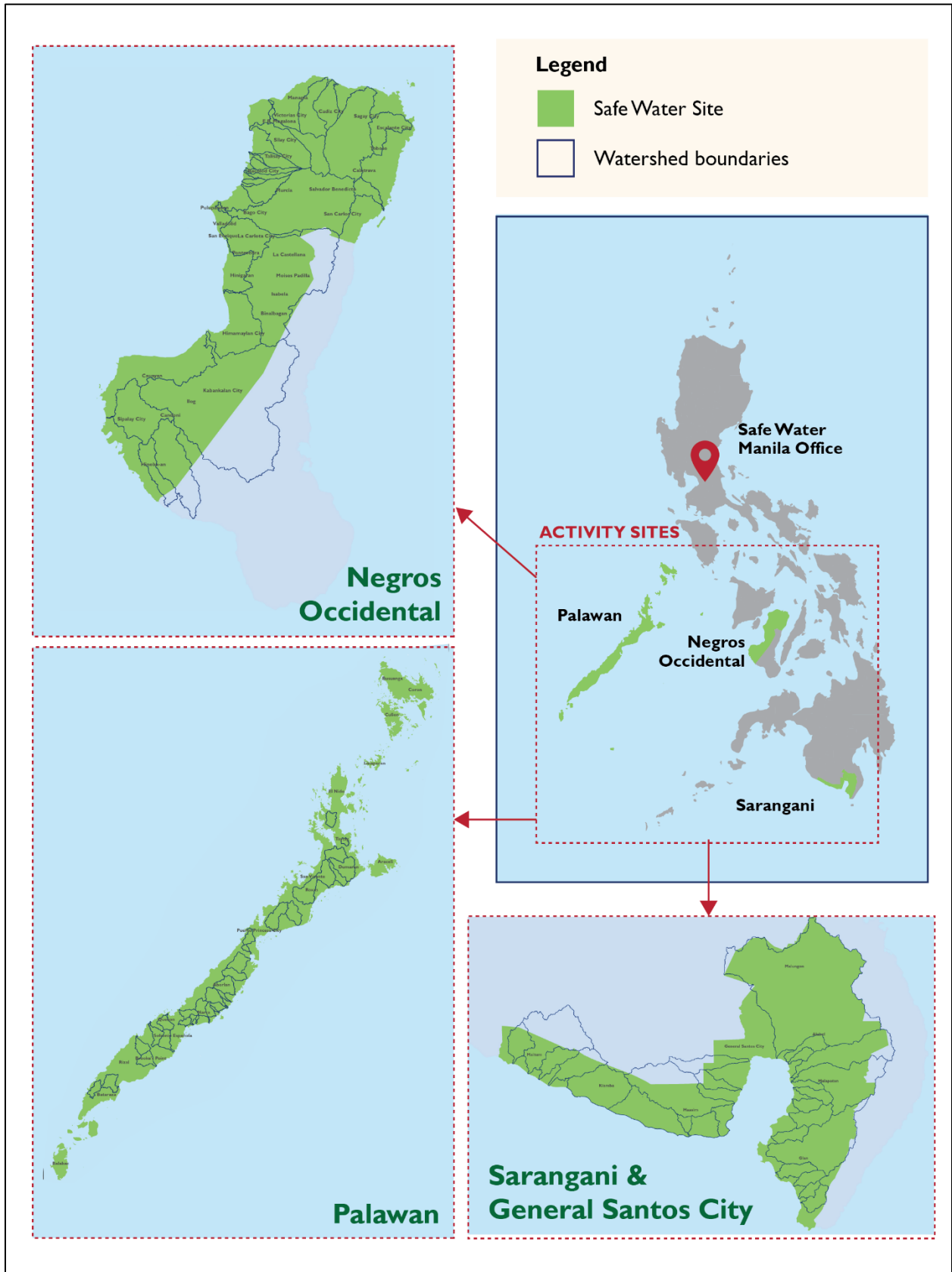


TABLE 4. SAFE WATER TARGET WATERSHEDS FOR YEARS 1, 2 AND 3

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

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

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

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS ANALYSIS BY OBJECTIVE

This section presents the key activities and accomplishments of the Safe Water Project in the 2nd Quarter of Year 3 (January 1 to March 31, 2022).

2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE I: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

A. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO WSPS

Safe Water is carrying out technical assistance to LGUs and WSPs on project development covering pre-/feasibility studies and assessments, technical advice, program of works (POW) and access to financing and procurement support. We outline technical assistance provided within each target site in the sections below.

PALAWAN

Quezon Water System Improvement and Expansion. Safe Water is assisting the LGU of Quezon on improvement and expansion of water service in the municipality. On February 7, Safe Water made an online presentation to the waterworks office on the results of the hydraulic analysis for the proposed water system in Barangay Malatgao, which covered the pipe layout and sizes provided by the waterworks office. Among the findings are high pressure brought about by the high location of the water treatment facility, and the inappropriate location of the storage tank. Corrective measures were discussed and recommended to the waterworks office. The expansion of the water system will be funded through a PHP [REDACTED] loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The project will increase service area coverage—benefitting two barangays with a target of 2,000 household connections by 2023.

Aborlan Water System Water System Expansion. Safe Water is assisting the Aborlan Water System Management Operations Unit (AWSMOU) through review of its POW and analyze its water distribution based on water demand projections per targeted barangay for the expansion of its Level III water system. The project will target five barangays or 2,000 household connections by 2023 and will cost [REDACTED]

Narra Water System Water System Developments. Safe Water is working with the Municipal Economic Enterprise Development Office (MEEDO) and Narra Water Supply System (NWSS) to: (1) review its POW for the Mariwara deep well development, worth [REDACTED], which can serve 500 connections; and (2) recommend standard materials for the rehabilitation of an existing well in Sitio Bethlehem, Mariwara, that can serve 300 households.

The Field Team is also assisting NWSS to prepare as-built drawings and accomplish requirements for the application of water rights from the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Dumaran Water System Water Source Development. Safe Water is assisting Dumaran Water Supply System (DWSS) in the review of its POW and in the proper allocation of [REDACTED] for the development of an additional well water source in Barangay Santa Teresita. The LGU target is 300 household connections by 2023.

Brooke’s Point Rural Waterworks Expansion and Improvements. Safe Water is assisting Brooke’s Point Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association, Inc. (BPRWSAI) in the preparation of a POW for the expansion of services in one barangay with a target of 200 household connections by 2023, and as-built drawings to be used for its NWRB registration.

The Team also provided BPRWSAI with short- and long-term solutions to make its equipment resilient to hazards and to address persistent high turbidity experienced during heavy rains and the corresponding impact at source and at the water treatment plant (WTP). This includes protection of exposed pipes located at the base of sloping land and vulnerable to falling rocks.

El Nido Water System Expansion. In El Nido, Safe Water is assisting the waterworks expansion through preparation and review of POW for the development of additional well source and reservoir for Barangays Corong-Corong and Villa Libertad. El Nido has allocated [REDACTED] for the project; the target connection is 2,155 households by 2023.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Malogo Surface Water Bulk Supply Development. Safe Water is assisting the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental (PGNO) in the development of Malogo River as bulk water source for the downstream LGUs of Victorias, Manapla, E.B. Magalona, Silay and Talisay.¹ The Team has completed the preliminary study for the bulk water scheme, including identification of a river tapping point at an elevation of 100 meters and dependable flow of about 130 MLD which is large enough to supply the long-term needs of existing water rights holders and the five LGUs.² The initial estimate of capital requirement for the bulk water supply development is [REDACTED]; operations and maintenance (O&M) cost is [REDACTED] annually. Our estimate of a corresponding bulk tariff is [REDACTED] per cubic meter (sans financing cost, return on investment, and contingency). Safe Water will carry out additional data collection from the off-takers, existing tariffs and production costs for further analysis against the bulk tariff. We summarize our analysis work with PGNO in Figure 3, the next page.

The PGNO has begun the acquisition of water rights with a request to NWRB to validate water availability—an initial step for the application process. NWRB can use the Safe Water Hydrologic Study for Malogo River to confirm this. Once confirmed, PGNO can proceed with applying for water rights. If not, adjustments to the water demand calculations will be made which can be part of the full feasibility study currently being worked out by the Province and the PPP Center with the assistance of Safe Water.

Murcia Surface Water Bulk Supply Development. On February 15, Safe Water made an online presentation to the Board of Directors of Murcia WD on the financial analysis of the proposed bulk water supply. The technical portion of the preliminary study presents three schemes using available river sources in Bago watershed to come up with a total bulk supply of 20 MLD. However, the water source(s) scheme could not be finalized as Murcia WD has yet to secure water rights. Current water rights in Bago are twice the dependable flow of water sources. Hence Murcia WD may have to negotiate reallocation with existing rights holders.

For the least expensive scheme (nearest river tapping point), the existing bulk water tariff being charged by Murcia WD to BACIWA can remain at [REDACTED] per cubic meter. For the most expensive scheme

¹ LWUA, considered Malogo River for bulk water supply to the same LGUs including Bacolod City (which is just 7 kilometers south of Talisay) some years ago.

² The preliminary estimate of water demand of the five LGUs is 65 MLD.

FIGURE 3. USAID SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF SURFACE WATER BULK SUPPLY

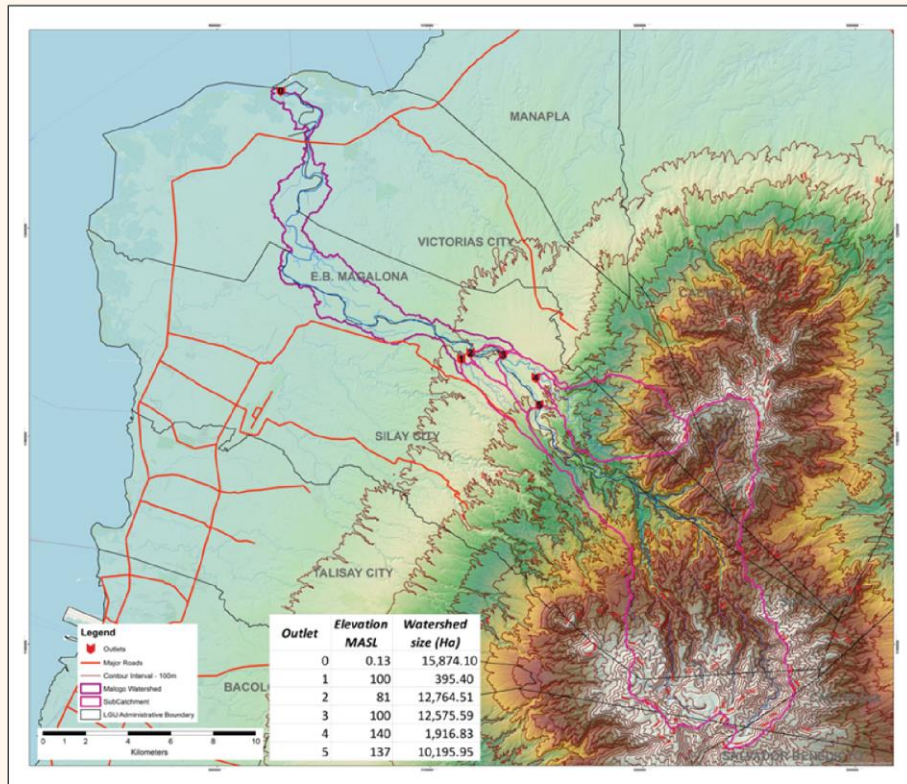
USAID Supports Development of Surface Water Bulk Supply

Water Demand: USAID, through its Safe Water Project, estimated about 64 MLD (million liters per day) water supply requirements for communities that can be served by bulk water supply from the Malago river.

WSP	Water Demand (m ³ /day)				Supply Required*	Storage Required (m ³)
	2020	2030	2040	2050		
Talisay	7,398	11,655	17,562	25,418	19,870	4,000
Silay	6,937	10,949	16,526	23,955	18,752	3,800
EB Magalona	1,802	3,063	4,944	7,614	6,262	1,300
Victorias	8,530	11,465	14,967	19,030	12,633	2,500
Manapla	2,085	3,412	5,321	7,944	6,381	1,300
Total	26,752	40,544	59,319	83,961	63,897	12,900

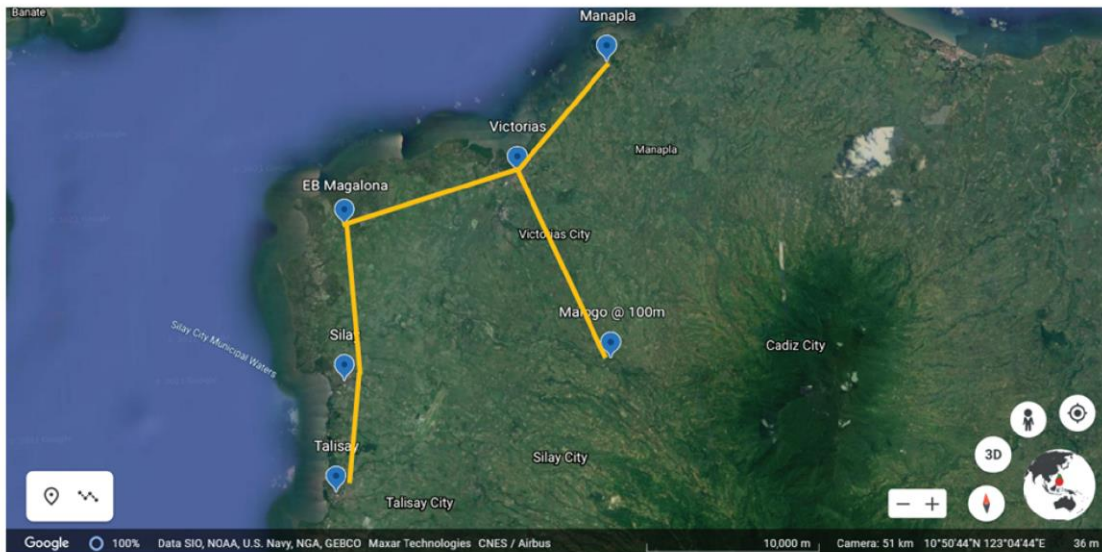
*Difference assuming 75% of existing sources will be retained

Potential Intake Sites: The initial assessment identified six potential intake sites along the Malago River. The project recommends Point 3 at elevation 100 meters with a dependable flow of 130 MLD which is adequate to supply the estimated demand of the five municipalities.



Intake Sites	Elev. (mamsl)	Area (km ²)	Q ₈₀ (m ³ /s)	Q ₈₀ (m ³ /d)	Q ₈₀ (MLD)
Pt. 0	0	158.741	1.903	164,376	164
Pt. 1	100	3.954	0.047	4,094	4
Pt. 2	81	127.6451	1.530	132,176	132
Pt. 3	100	125.7559	1.507	130,220	130
Pt. 4	140	19.1683	0.230	19,849	20
Pt. 5	137	101.9595	1.222	105,579	106

Transmission Mains: The transmission mains will have a total of about 52 kilometers of gravity-fed pipelines that will emanate from Point 3 of Malogo River northward to Victorias City and to the northeast to Manapla and from Victorias City to the west to E.B. Magalona, then southward to Silay City and Talisay City.



Pipe No.	From	To	Size (mm)	Length (m)
1	Malogo	Victorias	800	14,730
2	Victorias	Manapla	350	11,600
3	Victorias	E.B. Magalona	800	9,920
4	E.B. Magalona	Silay	700	9,060
5	Silay	Talisay	600	6,770

Preliminary Cost Estimate: USAID Safe Water estimates the cost of developing the surface water bulk supply project at about PHP 1.6B. Operation and maintenance costs amount to about PHP 130M annually that covers power, salaries, chemicals and maintenance.

(tapping point where two rivers combine), the bulk tariff needs to be adjusted to [REDACTED] per cubic meter. Murcia WD has not decided yet to pursue the project. As an alternative, Safe Water may recommend to the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental to take on this project, in addition to the Malogo Bulk Supply.

Improvement of San Carlos Water Treatment Plant. Safe Water finalized the recommendations to improve the existing water treatment plant of San Carlos City Waterworks following the site validation in December 2021. San Carlos City has allocated [REDACTED] to implement the recommendations and is preparing the bid terms of reference.

SARANGANI

Modification of Production Facility of Alabel Level III Water System. On March 18, the Safe Water Field Team assessed the production facility of the Alabel Level III Water System and provided technical advice to modify its production lines and to install strainers on the water system's discharge lines to improve water system efficiency. Following Safe Water recommendations, the head of the Alabel Level III Water System agreed to:

- Modify the production well discharge line to ensure accurate reading of the flow meter;
- Replace the defective production flowmeter, oil filled pressure and check valve to provide accurate reading of actual production; and
- Relocate the hypo-chlorinator away from the distribution lines to delay rusting of pipes and other appurtenances.

Improvement of Operational Capacity of Maasim Water District. The Safe Water Field Team is assisting Maasim WD improve its operational capacity. During the quarter, the Team prepared a schematic diagram of the WD's water system to inform decisions on proposed improvements, rehabilitation or expansion. The Team is also helping the WD work with the Municipal Government of Maasim for the official turn-over of a water system in Barangay Kablacan to Maasim WD. These efforts will increase the production capacity of the WD.

As a result of the Safe Water Training on Residual Chlorine and Pressure Monitoring last February, the WD realized that disinfection of their water tanks does not equate to chlorination and implemented chlorination of their system. During the Field Team's visit to the WD on March 15, the Team recommended adjustments in the chlorine dosage, as the residual chlorine failed to meet standard requirements upon testing. Accordingly, Maasim WD increased the dosage of chlorine in its system. In the next quarter, the Field Team will continue to monitor the residual chlorine of Maasim WD to monitor whether the increase in dosage meets the required residual chlorine.

Maasim WD has also sought Safe Water assistance in its proposed water system expansion project. Specifically, the WD requested that Safe Water conduct a technical review of its POW and geo-resistivity results, and validate the exact location of the proposed well.

Water Quality Orientation for Ladol Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association Inc. The Safe Water Field Team oriented officials of Ladol Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association Inc. (LARWASAI) on water quality of water supply to its members and concessionaires, highlighting the importance of chlorination, methods to be applied, and the use of hypo-chlorinator for convenience of dosing. LARWASAI is one of the Level III water service providers in Alabel and the only WSP registered with LWUA. LARWASAI acknowledged the measures recommended by Safe Water and recognized that

these will improve its operational capacity and ensure water quality. The recommendations made by Safe Water include:

- Daily chlorination to ensure water is safe for drinking;
- Procurement and installation of a hypo-chlorinator in the suggested location to ensure 24-hour chlorination;
- Use of proper fittings instead of ordinary tire interior rubber in pipe connections to prevent contamination in the system;
- Protection of discharge pipe (uPVC) with paint to preserve its structural integrity;
- Replacement of the submersible pump galvanized riser pipe to avoid operational damage; and
- Sheltering power supply with a panel board and considering relocation away from the pumping facility in the near future to ensure safety during repair works.

B. WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT

PALAWAN

The Palawan Field Team visited mainland water service providers in eight municipalities (Aborlan, Narra, Quezon, Brooke's Point, San Vicente, El Nido, Araceli and Dumaran) to train them on chlorination of water supply systems, demonstrate water quality testing, and to mentor waterworks personnel on chlorine residual monitoring and pressure management.

The Field Team also continued to provide technical advice on service quality improvement. For Dumaran Water Supply System (DWSS), Safe Water recommended measures such as: installation of pressure gauges to monitor water pressure; periodic water quality testing; and water treatment through chlorination. In addition, the Field Team mentored waterworks personnel on water service improvement through actual demonstration of pressure monitoring, water flow testing, static water level monitoring, water quality monitoring on microbiological, and water treatment through chlorination.

Safe Water technical assistance to DWSS is expected to result in improved water services, particularly increased water pressure and increased water availability. With proper monitoring of water pressure in the system, trained waterworks personnel can now control water flow within the system to balance water supply distribution and reach far-flung communities especially those in elevated areas. Additionally, the monitoring of discharge capacity of wells helped waterworks personnel manage the supply of water and lengthen water service hours.

In Brooke's Point Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association, Inc. (BPRWSAI), Safe Water recommended: (a) installation of pressure gauges, (b) replacement of 90-degree elbow with 45-degree elbow to maximize water discharge capacity, (c) construction of valve boxes, (d) recording of volume of water pumped against water billed to monitor NRW (water losses), (e) replacement of leaky valves, and (f) water testing.

The trained personnel of BPRWSAI are now monitoring and recording water pressure at distribution lines, as well as the monthly NRW per production well to equally distribute water supply to all parts of the system and reach the farthest consumers. Once above-mentioned recommendations are implemented, Safe Water expects water pressure to improve.

The positive effect of Safe Water mentoring on water pressure monitoring and NRW reduction was evident from BPRWSAI management's decision to follow the Team's recommendation to purchase and install pressure gauges, 45-degree elbows, and new valves and materials for valve boxes.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The Negros Occidental Field Team carried out Water Quality Assurance tests for WSPs in eight LGUs: WDs of Murcia, Talisay, Manapla, Kabankalan and Sipalay, and the LGU-run water systems of Hinigaran, Calatrava and San Carlos. Results revealed that although all five WDs have assigned personnel conducting chlorination on a daily basis, only Sipalay City WD was found compliant with PNSDW's standard range of 0.3-1.5 ppm of residual chlorine in the system. Findings for the three LGU-run water systems range from intermittent chlorination activities to no chlorination due to defective chlorinator feed pump. In Hinigaran, chlorination is no longer practiced because all installed chlorinator pumps were already defective coupled with a shortage of hypochlorite stock.

After the on-site testing, the Team furnished each WSP with a copy of the WQA results for chlorine residual and pressure monitoring and gave detailed recommendations given current practices. The Team will monitor actions on the recommendations in the following quarter. It will also conduct water quality assessments in other water service providers.

SARANGANI-GENERAL SANTOS CITY

The Safe Water Field Team in Sarangani-General Santos City conducted two batches of trainings on Residual Chlorine and Pressure Monitoring. Safe Water trained 23 people from Sarangani's water districts and LGU-run water systems, and technical personnel from the municipalities of Alabel, Kiamba, and Malungon in the first batch; and 21 staff members from selected RWSAs and technical personnel from the City Government of General Santos in the second batch. The participants were taught the following:

- Fundamentals of rural water system development;
- Importance of as-built drawings;
- Location of chlorine residual testing and pressure monitoring points;
- Hypo chlorinator assembly; and
- Chlorine residual testing and pressure measurement.



Training water service providers on water supply system design. (Top) Water source of Mainit water system managed by LGU Brooke's Point Water System Office. Technical staff of Brooke's Point Water System Office are among those who participated in the USAID training on water supply system design. (Bottom) Engr. Ronie A. Cabasal (2nd from left), head of the LGU Brooke's Point Water System Office (BPWSO), together with BPWSO staff, during USAID Safe Water assessment of Mainit Water Treatment Plant and water source in Brooke's Point, Palawan, in March 2022. Technical staff from BPWSO attended the three-day USAID training on water supply system design.



Introducing EPANET. Participants to the USAID training on water supply system learn the basic use of EPANET software



The Team emphasized the importance of undertaking continuous 24-hour chlorination without interruption to ensure water quality and safety of the concessionaires.

Participants from WSPs, especially LGU-run water utilities, admitted to lapses in chlorination and pressure monitoring. During the training, they assured that the information and additional technical knowledge on chlorination and pressure monitoring will be applied to the water system. Both water utilities and RWSAs committed to prepare its as-built drawings. The drawings will serve as basis for locating the chlorine residual testing and pressure monitoring points. Safe Water will continue to coach and mentor the water utilities and RWSAs to meet the standard residual chlorine level.

In the site visits of the Safe Water Field Team in some RWSAs in General Santos City, it was discovered that these RWSAs do not regularly practice chlorination and are unaware whether their water systems have an installed chlorinator. In the next quarter, the Safe Water Field Team will continue to visit other RWSAs in General Santos City and assess their water safety practices.

C. BUILDING CAPACITY OF WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS

PALAWAN

Training on Water Supply System Design, POW Preparation, and Project Proposal Development. Safe Water organized a face-to-face training workshop on water system design, technical standards, and project proposal development on March 21-23 in Puerto Princesa City. Resource persons from Safe Water, Puerto Princesa City Water District, and Department of the Interior and Local Government-Palawan Provincial Office trained technical managers and engineers involved in preparing and reviewing project proposals submitted for funding from local or national government programs.

The Team taught 42 technical staff from 10 WSPs in nine municipalities of Palawan about the systematic and structured process of water supply system design from water source assessment to data analysis and program of works preparation. Enhancing the knowledge and

skills of municipal water utilities in the science-based design of water supply systems can ensure efficiency of investments and good quality of infrastructure.

Training Needs Assessment of Calamianes Group of Islands’ Municipalities. The Safe Water Team organized online meetings with officials from Busuanga and Coron in charge of the municipal LGU-run waterworks to ascertain technical assistance needs, particularly on the O&M aspects of waterworks, followed by site visits by Safe Water’s WSS Advisor, Rene Capiz, from March 29-April 1. An offshoot of these meetings was the design and scheduling of an operation and maintenance and well drilling training on April 20-22 for waterworks personnel in the four municipalities: Busuanga, Coron, Culion and Linapacan. The key informants identified these two topics as their priority.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Monitoring of DPWH-Funded Water Supply Projects. Safe Water is monitoring DPWH-funded water supply projects in Negros Occidental and will conduct O&M training for water system operators to ensure sustainability of these water systems. Four of six DPWH District Engineering Offices (DEOs) in Negros Occidental have fund allocation from the 2022 GAA intended for improving access to water supply of various barangays in four LGUs. The DEOs in Talisay, Kabankalan and Bago have furnished copies of the POWs for water supply construction projects worth [REDACTED]. Safe Water is currently reviewing the POWs. Details on project coverage and cost is presented in Table 5:

TABLE 5. DPWH 2022 GAA FOR WATER SUPPLY IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

DPWH DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE (DEO)	OFFICE LOCATION OF DEO	2022 GAA WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION (IN MILLION PHP)	PROJECT LOCATION LGUS	# OF BRGYS	WATER SYSTEM TYPE
1 st DEO	Talisay City	[REDACTED]	EB Magalona & Murcia	Eight (8)	Level II & III
2 nd DEO	Binalbagan City	[REDACTED]	No data	No data	No data
3 rd DEO	Kabankalan City	[REDACTED]	Sipalay City	One (1)	Level II
4 th DEO	Bago City	[REDACTED]	La Carlota City	Three (3)	Level II
	Total	[REDACTED]			

Source: DPWH DEO response letters & attached SOW

SARANGANI AND GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Strategic Business Planning. Safe Water assisted four water utilities in Sarangani on Strategic Business Planning: Alabel Water System, Glan Water District, Maasim Water District and Savesegrow Multi-Purpose Cooperative Level III water system. Last quarter, Glan WD and Alabel Municipality completed their business plans.

The Safe Water Field Team continued to mentor Maasim WD and Savesegrow MPC on the completion of their business plans. In the process, Maasim WD realized that 50% of their income goes to electrical expenses and considered Safe Water’s recommendation to convert some electric-powered water sources to solar power to free up funds and use savings for personnel. The Field Team is also assisting Maasim WD in the program of work preparation for their water supply expansion program to inform the capital investment of their business plan.

Community water monitoring.

During the field practicum, community workers were oriented on the step by step process of proper water sampling prior to actual laboratory testing using a readily available field test kit and rapid testing kit for Total Dissolved Solid and other rapid water parameters.



Training for Community Health Workers. Safe Water trained 55 community health workers, sanitary inspectors and technical personnel of Malapatan and Malungon on water quality monitoring (WQM) and risk assessment. The training addressed the concept of WQM, the role of LGUs in the provision of safe and accessible water service, the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water and water service provision regulations, health risk assessments, chlorination and residual chlorination monitoring, and the funding windows for water and sanitation investments. The community health workers applied the lessons in a field practicum supervised by Safe Water and the Municipal Sanitary Inspector. With knowledge gained from the training, community health workers and sanitary inspectors will carry out regular water quality testing and monitoring using standard equipment and methods to prevent occurrence of water-borne diseases.

Learnings from Training on Water System Design. During Year 2, Safe Water trained engineers from the Province of Sarangani and Municipalities of Alabel, Glan, Malapatan and Malungon on water system design. Trained engineers from the Provincial Engineering Office applied their learnings in the preparation of technical designs for 25 water system projects funded under the Local Government Support Fund-Barangay Development Program (National Task Force-End Local Communist Armed Conflict (LGSF-BDP-NTF ELCAC)). In the next quarter, the Safe Water Field Team will visit the municipal engineering office of Alabel, Maasim, Malapatan and Kiamba to determine the status of their water system projects.

Learnings from Trainings on Construction Supervision and Operations and Maintenance. In Year 2, Safe Water trained the municipal engineering office of Glan on construction supervision. The training positioned Glan personnel to supervise the water supply projects funded from the National Government grant program, particularly well drilling.

During the February 15 municipal consultation on the draft PIWSP in Glan, key officials and technical personnel shared that the Pangyan Level II Water System has been completed by DPWH and was ready for turn-over to the municipality. This water system is designed with 58 tap stands and the capacity to serve around 290 households. The Team provided O&M training to the municipality to ensure sustainability. In the next quarter, the Safe Water Field Team will conduct site visits and key informant interviews to identify technical assistance needs of the community in managing the system.

CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL WATER UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION (LWUA)

Training for LWUA on Septage Treatment Plant Bid Evaluation. Safe Water conducted an online training workshop for LWUA on Evaluating Technical Bids for Septage Treatment Plants on February 24 and March 2. The training covered the following:

- Feasibility and viability of the treatment process proposed in the bid;
- Completeness of equipment, components and auxiliaries;
- Sizing and capacities of tanks and equipment;
- Operational requirements, including power and chemical dosing;
- Sludge handling and effluent disposal or possible reuse;
- Treatment objectives and compliance with existing environmental limits;
- Ideal warranty period;
- List of items to be checked at commissioning/before acceptance; and
- Considerations for future expansion.

Participants evaluated sample technical proposals using a toolkit prepared by the trainer. Evaluations considered different domestically available technologies on septage treatment including co-treatment options with sewage. Safe Water also assisted LWUA in improving the provisions of bid Terms of Reference (TOR) including minimum performance standards and specifications. Bidding of the first project was originally scheduled to take place before the election ban period but is now delayed due to changes in LWUA management.

Safe Water plans to develop the first bid TOR into a model that can be used for other projects in the pipeline.

Training on Financial Stress Test. Safe Water conducted an in-person training on the Financial Stress Test (FST) model on March 16. The training was aimed at familiarizing selected financial and advisory staff on the use of the financial model in evaluating the condition of water districts during or after events that interrupt business, such as the pandemic, typhoons and other disasters with lingering adverse effects.

The use of the FST model will help LWUA determine the capacity of WDs to repay LWUA loans; identify WDs that will unlikely recover; and support packages that can help WDs recover and continue their services, e.g., credit line for working capital or Efficiency Improvement Programs. The FST model will also position LWUA to assess its ability to service wholesale loans and its operating expenses.

Technical Bid Evaluation of Septage Management Projects. LWUA participants learned about technical bid evaluation of septage management projects



LWUA workshop series begins.

Local Water Utilities Administration personnel who participated in the first workshop series and USAID Safe Water's Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist Ariel Lopus (in blue, center) and Knowledge Management and Training Advisor Carla Grino (in pink, center) take a group photo following the session on financial stress test.



At the national government level, the use of the model will help determine if the pandemic will affect medium- to long-term service coverage, and aid in the design of quick response and recovery programs.

Training on Strategic Business Planning. Safe Water conducted an in-person Business Planning Training on March 23-24 for select LWUA technical, financial and advisory staff. The objectives of the training workshop were to:

- Improve LWUA's capability in reviewing and evaluating plans that will be submitted by the WDs;
- Guide/refresh participants in assessing the present state of the WDs;
- Show how WDs develop goals, targets, strategies and activities to address gaps and meet or exceed investment requirements;
- Capacitate LWUA as economic regulator of WDs and possible administrator of URAF grants; and
- Enhance the capacity of possible trainers from LWUA in conducting Business Planning trainings.

Safe Water highlighted the importance of business planning by water districts for LWUA to have context or basis for the evaluation of WD requests for loans or tariff adjustments. Business plans will also provide overview of the proposed performance improvement programs and prioritization of service expansion investments.

As regulator, LWUA can use the business plans to track the performance of WDs based on the utility improvement glide path. LWUA (and the WDs) will also be able to determine justified tariffs (or the tariff that does not absorb inefficiencies of the WD) using KPIs. The business plans will make apparent borrowing capacity constraints due to debt overhangs; this can be used to justify a policy, if not legislative reform to retire bad debts and to give WDs enough fiscal space to improve/expand service. LWUA can also use the business plans to determine needed TA and financing programs (e.g., short gestating EIP programs that will prepare the WDs for expansion programs that may require viability gap funds). The business plans are also the better basis for segmenting the market for commercial and concessional financing more than the creditworthiness classification currently used by LWUA that is based on static information.



Building LWUA capacity. LWUA personnel participate in the first of the workshop series in terms of financial stress test. The first session is facilitated by USAID Safe Water Project’s Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist Ariel Lapus.

Training on Water Utility Assessment Tools.

Safe Water held an in-person training on Water Utility Assessment Tools on March 30. The training introduced LWUA staff to two complementary water utility assessment tools: 1) Safe Water’s Water Utility Assessment Tool; and 2) World Bank’s Utility of the Future (UOF) Tool.

The Safe Water Utility Assessment Tool is an Excel-based tool that provides an initial diagnosis of water utility. The information worksheet contains sections on water sources, water quality and treatment, storage facilities, pipe networks, pumping facilities, service connections, sanitation services, organization and staffing, strategic plans, and financial information. These sections have a list of questions and guide and indicate sources of information.

The toolkit also contains an analysis portion based on the information gathered like service coverage, production volume, water quality problems, adequacy of storage, presence or absence of as-built drawings, pressure levels, hours of service, consumption levels, non-revenue water, staffing ratio, collection efficiency, and operating cost coverage ratio, among others. The orientation on the Safe Water Utility Assessment Tool complements the training on business planning as information from the assessment can help generate data for business planning.

The UOF Program Tool is also an Excel-based tool for: (1) assessing and defining the utility’s current and desired level of service (in terms of service reliability, safety, inclusiveness, transparency and response level); and (2) performance and maturity (in terms of organization and strategy, human resources and financial management and technical and commercial operations). The Tool is useful for:

- Diagnostic Assessments, analyzing where the utility stands today and its desired level of maturity in the future;
- Action Planning – providing both a 100-day action plan and a five-year strategic plan; and
- Implementation – guiding the utilities’ implementation of the 100-day action plan and five-year strategic plan.

The UOF is defined as a future-focused utility, which provides reliable, safe, inclusive, transparent, and responsive water supply and sanitation services through best-fit practices that allow it to operate in an efficient, resilient, and sustainable manner.

D. PREPARATION OF PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED WATER SECURITY PLANS/ PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED WATER SECURITY PLANNING

SARANGANI

During the quarter, the Sarangani Provincial Integrated Water Security Council Technical Working Group (PIWSC TWG), composed of municipal and provincial government officials, prepared an initial draft of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) containing a situational analysis, objectives, strategies, and key activities. The PIWSP is the first province-wide water security plan in Mindanao and will serve as the roadmap in the preparation of coherent policies, plans and investment programs for water supply and sanitation services and watershed conservation and rehabilitation.

Safe Water organized the water security assessment workshop where the PIWSC TWG developed a problem tree with root causes resulting in core problems in water supply and sanitation (WSS) and water resource management (WRM). The TWG traced the core problems influencing the overall effect on water security conditions, and identified impacts on WSS and WRM. The PIWSC TWG developed strategies that will address the identified problems, as well as targets and resource requirements. The initial draft PIWSP was presented during the week-long municipal consultations where it generated support and additional inputs from the seven municipalities of the province. The PIWSC TWG targets to complete the PIWSP process by June 2022.

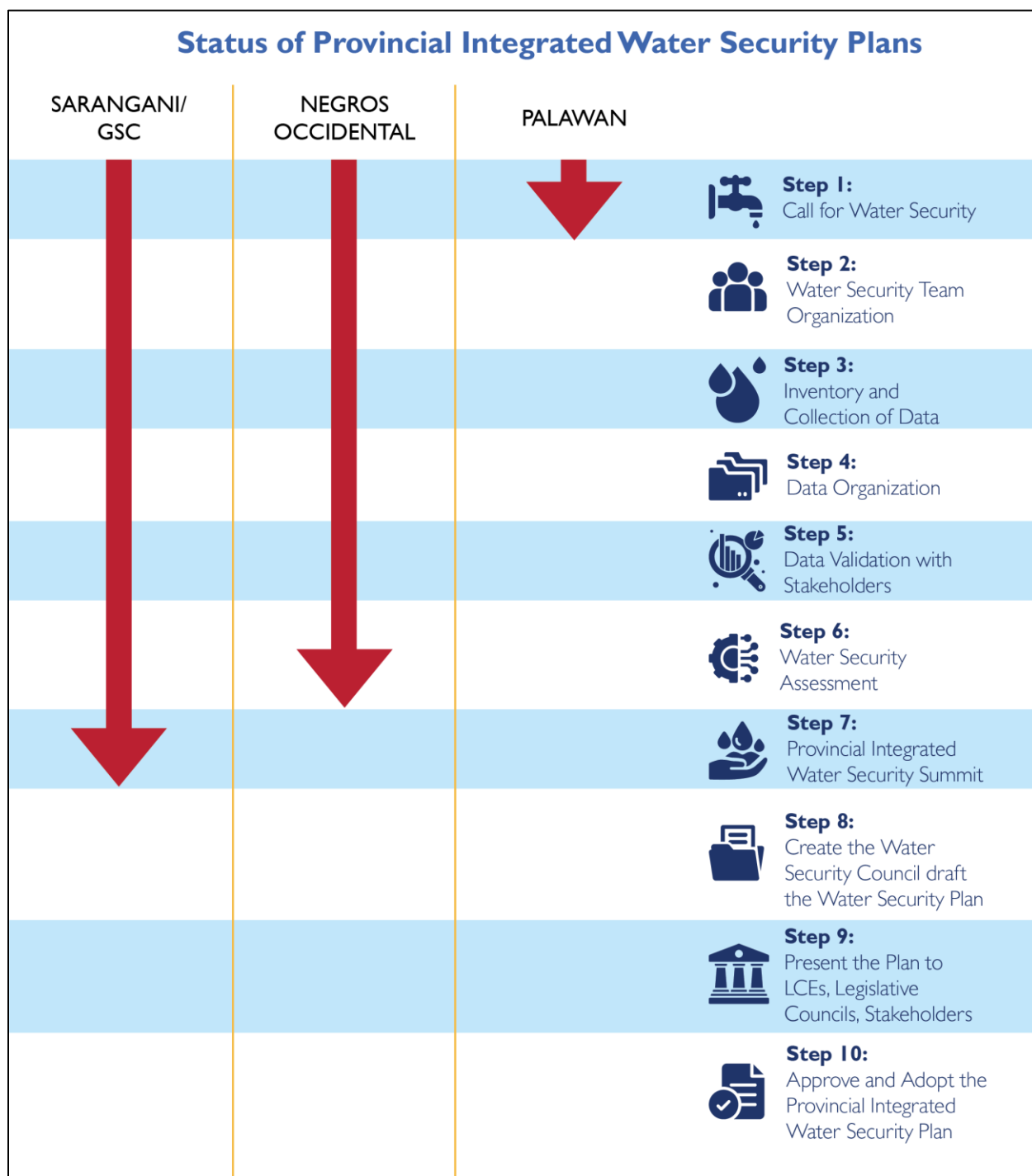
On March 10, the Province of Sarangani in partnership with Safe Water Project, held its 1st Provincial Water Summit where the current and future water sector situationer, highlights of the hydrologic studies of the province's 26 watersheds, and salient components of the PIWSP were discussed with key stakeholders.



Funding Strategies on Water Security.

The Provincial Integrated Water Security Council (PIWSC) members during the multi-stakeholder workshop participated in the crafting of a results framework and identifying the resource allocation setup of the Provincial Water Security Plan.

FIGURE 4. STATUS OF PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED WATER SECURITY PLANS



Notes: Sarangani – highlights of the draft Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan was presented by the Sarangani Provincial Government; Negros Occidental – the Negros Occidental Provincial Government will hold its Water Summit in April 2022.

During the water summit, the goal to have a water secure future characterized by resilient water supply and sanitation services (WSS), dependable water flow and good water quality by 2030 was supported by stakeholders, including the targets of zero open defecation, universal access to WSS services, and restoration of about 19,954 hectares of forest lost by 2030.

In his welcome message, Vice-Governor Dr. Elmer T. De Peralta said, “With this partnership, we look forward to improving our water supply and sanitation services for the unserved and underserved households in Sarangani. After a series of consultative meetings facilitated, assisted, and funded by USAID being our primary active partner, we already have our Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan. We look forward to the productive partnership and complementation of initiatives for water security in the province with everyone’s commitment today”. As head of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Vice Governor Del Peralta committed to fully support the priority measures and needed legislative action to implement the plan. More details on the Summit may be found in the report’s Cover Story.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The Negros Occidental Provincial Integrated Water Security Team, with Safe Water assistance, held a data organization and water security assessment workshop in February, and resource allocation and results framework workshop in March. Through the workshop, participants identified threats and associated problems, strategies and interventions, and initial targets and indicators for monitoring of progress during implementation. In the last two weeks of the quarter, the Team focused on the preparation of the Provincial Water Summit held on April 7.

The status of the water security plans is summarized in Figure 4, in the earlier page.

E. PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ALABEL CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Municipality of Alabel in Sarangani has an LGU-run level III water system and several community-based water service providers (WSPs) which make their water service highly fragmented. These community-based WSPs are not professionally-run, have no economies of scale and are unable to cover full costs from tariffs. In October 2020, Safe Water introduced the Central Management System (CMS) concept to the Mayor and subsequently in early 2021, he created a CMS Team tasked to lead in the adoption of the CMS and establishment of a MWE. As part of its assistance to Alabel on the CMS pilot implementation, Safe Water assessed the municipal septage treatment and water treatment facilities, and provided recommendations to improve their conditions; supported consultative meetings with community-based water systems; and helped draft the municipal MWE Ordinance.

The Alabel CMS Team envisions the MWE to initially cover the existing water systems of the LGU-run water system and barangay-run water systems that depend on the LGU for financial support.

On March 8-9, Safe Water held an in-person workshop on the formulation of an ordinance for the establishment of an MWE. Members of the Sangguniang Bayan, technical staff and select community-based level III water system providers attended the workshop. During the workshop, Safe Water presented an MWE ordinance template and reviewed each provision with participants. The discussion included roles and responsibilities of the MWE and its relationship with the barangay water systems, ownership of the facilities, standardization and uniform application of water rates based on the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) methodology.

FIGURE 5. INTRODUCING THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Introducing the Central Management System

What Are We Addressing: In many municipalities and cities in the Philippines, there is a proliferation of small and mostly unregulated utilities contributing to a fragmented water sector.



Low economies of scale



Unavailable institutional capacity development



Unregulated distribution and quality of water

Establishing a Municipal or City Water Enterprise: USAID, through Safe Water, is addressing the fragmented water sector by proposing an establishment of a City or Municipal Water Enterprise (C/MWE) as part of the adoption of the Central Management System.



Strengthen LGUs in direct provision of water and sanitation services



Improve water utility governance and efficiency

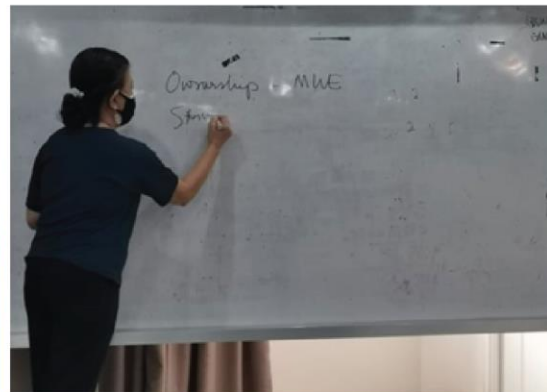


Improve coverage and quality of water and sanitation services

Piloting the Central Management System: Safe Water is working with the Alabel LGU in establishing its MWE to improve water supply and sanitation governance and services. This is also in response to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of attaining universal access to safe and potable drinking water and that of sanitation by year 2030.



USAID's Safe Water Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist Ariel Lapus leads the discussion with stakeholders on finalizing the SB resolution in establishing a municipal water enterprise.



USAID's Safe Water Chief of Party underlines the value of ownership with the creation of a municipal water enterprise in the municipality of Alabel.

As a ring-fenced local enterprise that will be accountable for service provision, the Safe Water Team emphasized that once the MWE is operational, these water systems will be guided by common key performance indicators (KPIs) on service coverage and quality of service.

MALAPATAN CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Municipality of Malapatan has also signified its intention to establish a MWE for its water supply and sanitation services. Malapatan has a municipal-run water system with an organized Municipal Water Board headed by the Vice Mayor. On March 21-22, the Safe Water Field Team held a similar workshop on formulation of an Ordinance on the establishment of MWE, with the Malapatan Water Board and select Barangay Water Supply Association (BAWASA) representatives. The BAWASA of Lun Masla expressed interest to turn-over its 30-year old water system to the MWE to ensure water services standards; the BAWASA recognized their limitations in complying with standards. The municipal officials present committed to draft a municipal ordinance using the CMS template provided by Safe Water.

To improve its LGU-run water system, the Municipality of Malapatan has adopted the recommendations of Safe Water, particularly on reducing non-revenue water. Malapatan has purchased two flow meters to be installed in its water sources; once funding is available, the municipality will purchase four additional flow meters to cover all water sources.

A summary about the Central Management System is provided in Figure 5, in the earlier page.

PREPARATION OF THE CMS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

As a complement to the CMS Manual prepared under the USAID WASH-FIN Project, Safe Water is drafting a CMS Implementation Guide for LGUs that directly provide water and sanitation services to their constituents. The CMS Implementation Guide will outline the process for establishing a Municipal Water Enterprise and a utility reform glide path. It will also address reporting requirements; technical standards and sound engineering practices; financial systems and management, and tariff-setting. The CMS Implementation Guide will be finalized in the next quarter.

F. PREPARATIONS FOR POSSIBLE CLIN-2 ACTIVATION

Safe Water gathered data on damages to water supply facilities in Palawan, Negros Occidental, Siargao, Surigao del Norte, and Dinagat Islands brought by Typhoon Odette. These were tabulated and ranked according to extent of damage. Safe Water prepared a scope of work for a Climate Resiliency Specialist who will co-lead CLIN-2 when activated.

Palawan was selected as the area for CLIN-2 assistance. The Field Team visited the municipalities affected by Typhoon Odette and collected post-Typhoon damage assessment and needs analysis reports. The Team met with other stakeholders, such as A Single Drop for Safe Water (ASDSafe Water), to discuss their priority areas for water supply system recovery in Palawan and Puerto Princesa City to avoid duplication of efforts.

The Team also met with Kalayaan LGU officials to collect damage assessment reports and to discuss current condition of its water system in Pag-asa Island. It also requested and received reports and

documents from various Municipal Engineering Offices and LGU-run waterworks and the Water Infrastructure Office of the Provincial Government (aka Palawan Water).

Review of secondary information and field interviews with key informants indicated that the areas that need to be prioritized for water service recovery—both in terms of the extent of the damages and capacity of water utilities to recover—are southern Roxas and Araceli. WSPs in northern and central barangays of Puerto Princesa City and the Municipalities of Dumaran and Narra and Pag-asa Island in Kalayaan are also still requiring assistance on restoration of water systems. In the latter part of the quarter, the team gathered updates on water supply restoration efforts in the affected areas.

G. COLLABORATION WITH WATER.ORG

As part of the Safe Water and Water.org joint work plan to expand assistance in other areas covered by their partner microfinance institutions and to continually build their capacity to scale WASH loans, the Team is currently updating Water.org’s WASH Manual and Trainer’s Guide. Safe Water has updated the design of septic tanks per DOH standards and all cost estimates and the training manual is being developed into e-Learning modules for use in demand generation activities of partner MFIs and water service providers.

H. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Safe Water’s Resilient Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist acted as Resource Speaker in General Santos City Water District’s “Webinar on Groundwater, Key for Sustainable Development Goals” as part of General Santos City’s World Water Day celebration on March 22. The presentation addressed the hydrologic cycle, water availability in General Santos City, groundwater extraction, the need to diversify water sources including shifts to surface water sources, and groundwater protection, which included sanitation programs. The webinar was attended by students and faculty members of various colleges and universities in General Santos City.

We are pleased to provide an overview of the type and location of support provided under Objective I in Figures 6, 7 and 8, the next pages.

FIGURE 6. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES IN PALAWAN

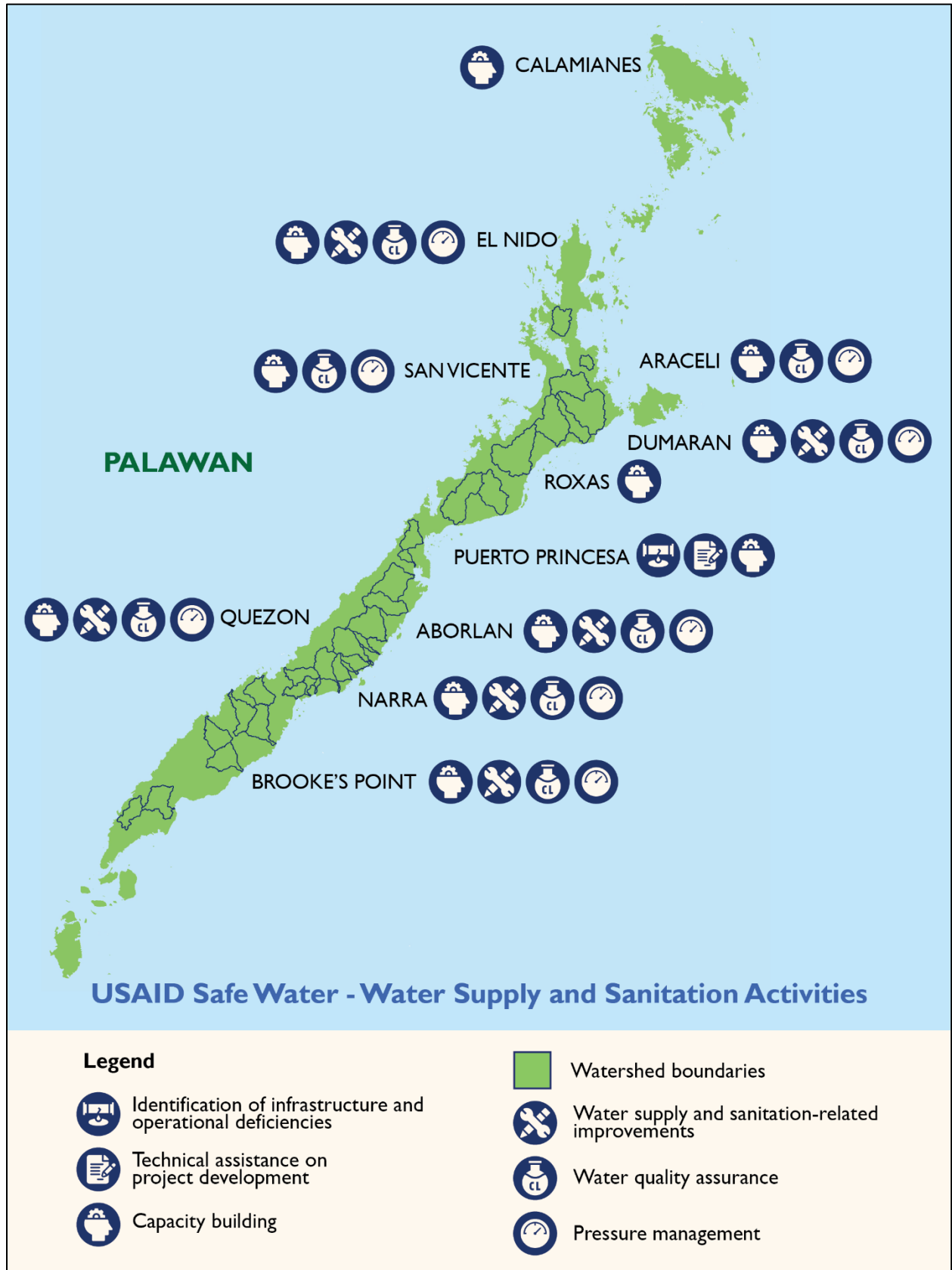


FIGURE 7. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

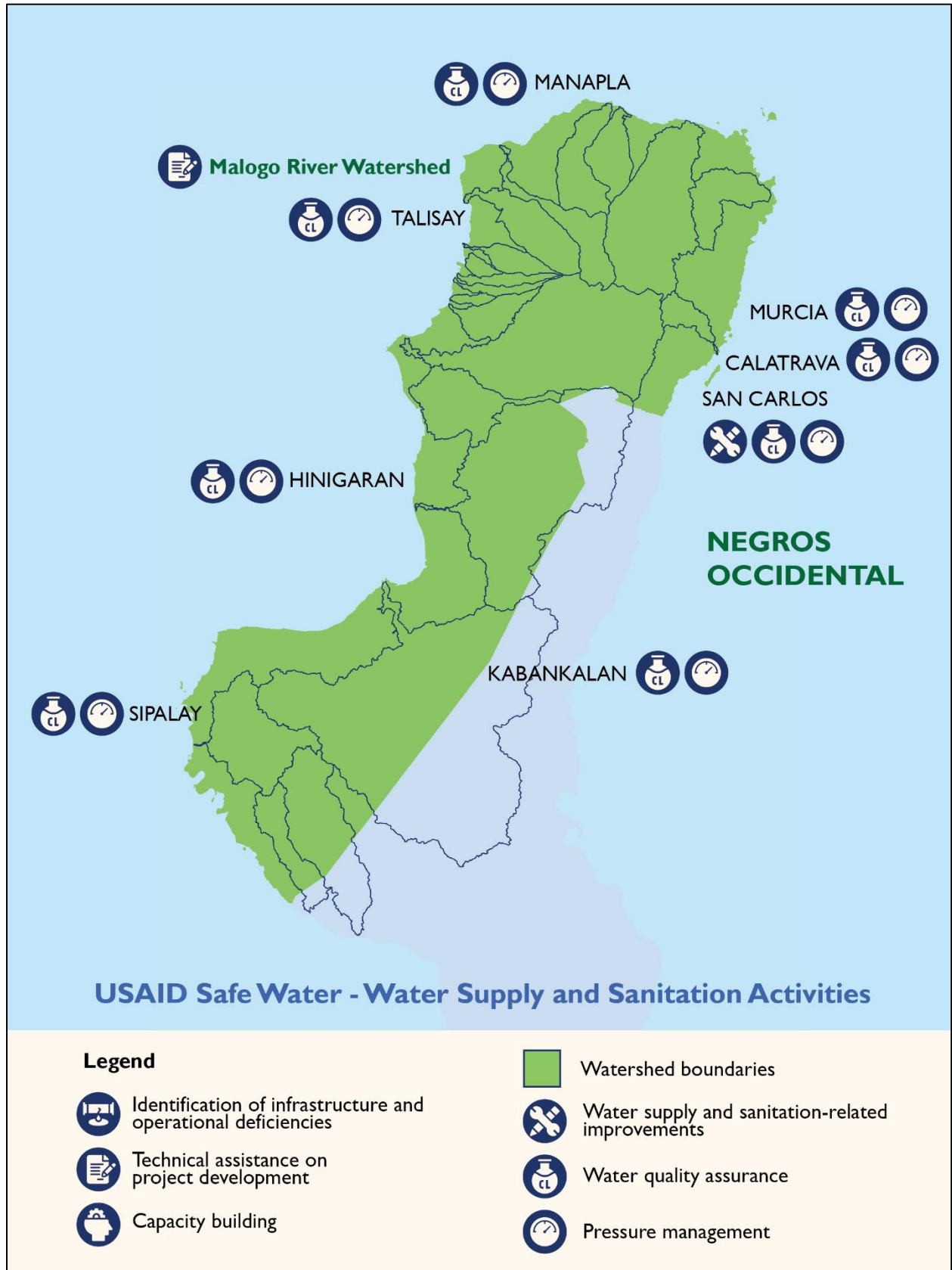
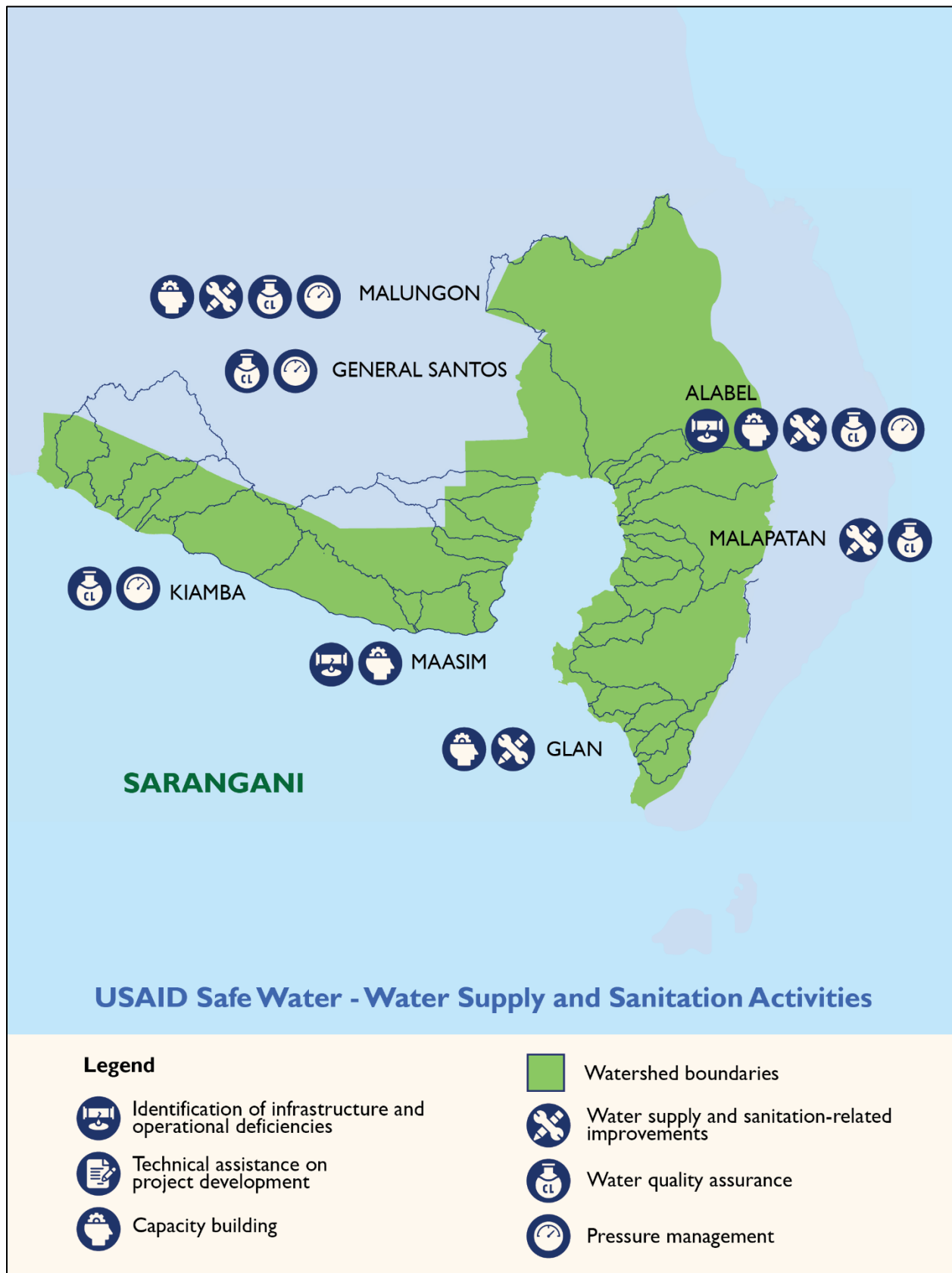


FIGURE 8. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION ACTIVITIES IN SARANGANI AND GSC



OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

A. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FORMULATION

PALAWAN

Integrated watershed management plan formulation has expanded to other watersheds identified by the LGUs as critical water sources. Safe Water assisted the Municipal Government of Taytay in Palawan with the completion of the Lake Manguao Municipal Conservation Area and Ecotourism Zone (LMMCAEZ) General Management Plan (GMP). The Safe Water field team facilitated a three-day write shop attended by key members of the LMMCAEZ Technical Working Group (TWG) which resulted in the completion of the draft management plan, now for review and approval of Taytay LGU.

Safe Water assisted the Palawan Flora, Fauna Watershed Reserve (PFFWR) Management Committee (MC) and its TWG organize a two-day management planning workshop on March 23-24, 2022 to identify conservation and restoration goals and strategies for the watershed reserve's forests, biodiversity, and water resources. Thirty participants from 13 member agencies, including representatives from barangay local government and Indigenous Peoples, drafted objectives and strategic actions, and planned uses for the reserve's management zones. The reserve's management plan outlined the necessary strategies and actions to protect and rehabilitate the watershed and to minimize, if not prevent, impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on water resources.

The Safe Water Field Team also held orientation and action planning workshops on municipal watershed management plan formulation in Quezon, Aborlan and Roxas, Palawan. With representatives from LGU departments (Municipal Economic Enterprise Development Office, Municipal Environment Office, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer), the Field Team discussed the concept,



Crafting strategic actions for a resilient watershed reserve. (Top) Forester Bryan Lim Kutat of DENR CENRO Puerto Princesa, and Forester Jeovanne Sacedon of Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) Environment and Water Resources Division, validate land uses and resources within the Palawan Flora, Fauna and Watershed Reserve using Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. (Bottom) Forester Jeovanne Sacedon, Chief of Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) Environment and Water Resources Division, facilitates a workshop to locate and identify the current land uses and threats in Barangay Irawan, one of the four barangays that are part of the Palawan Flora, Fauna and Watershed Reserve.



Increasing awareness about watershed management planning. USAID, through its Safe Water Project, gathers the Maitum Municipal and Environment and Natural Resources Council – Technical Working Group to orient them about the watershed conservation and restoration plan formulation process, tasking and work scheduling.

principles and importance of watershed management planning as well as the processes and steps in formulating LGU Watershed Conservation and Restoration Plans. The concerned LGUs are now organizing and drafting Executive Orders for the creation of a management council and TWG. The interim TWGs have started data collection while Safe Water is preparing the necessary thematic maps.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

In Negros Occidental, Safe Water together with LGU representatives from Cadiz City and Calatrava initiated identification and profiling of springs in Barangays Celestino Villacin of Cadiz City and Minapasok of LGU Calatrava. The exercise was part of the watershed profiling and characterization work needed for LWCRP formulation. The identified springs, local water sources for domestic and agricultural uses within the Himogaan watershed, will be prioritized for protection and rehabilitation. The Safe Water GIS Team also mapped forest cover change in Victorias City and identified threatened areas in the city's watersheds. The threat map was used during the LAWIN Forest and Biodiversity Protection System training held on March 29-31.

SARANGANI

The Safe Water Field Team is assisting General Santos City and the seven municipalities of Sarangani formulate their respective LGU Watershed Conservation and Restoration Plans (LWCRP). The LWCRP covers all watersheds within each municipality and will be used to mainstream watershed conservation activities in the LGUs' annual investment plan.

During the quarter, Safe Water:

- Facilitated four workshops in General Santos City, leading to the formulation of the City LWCRP's problem and objective trees and identification of major activities per objective;
- Briefed members of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Council (ENRC) of Maitum

- on the LWCRP formulation process, including data and map requirements;
- Facilitated the data consolidation and situational analysis workshop in Kiamba on February 4;
- Assisted Glan and Malapatan TWGs in summarizing data collected and finalizing thematic maps for the situational analysis workshop scheduled next quarter; and
- Worked with the planning teams of Alabel, Malungon and Maasim in finalizing their draft LWCRP before presentation to the respective Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Councils.

In addition to LWCRP formulation, Safe Water is also working with DENR-CENRO Kiamba in formulating the integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) of western Sarangani watersheds, which include Siguel and Kalaong watersheds. During the March 23 meeting, DENR-CENRO Kiamba included Safe Water in the IWMP Planning Team. DENR-CENRO Kiamba targets completion of the IWMP for western Sarangani watersheds by October 2022.

B. CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental has decided to create a Provincial Integrated Water Security Council (PIWSC) instead of organizing numerous watershed management councils. Following this decision, the Safe Water Field Team helped draft an Executive Order creating the PIWSC and the City/Municipal Water Security TWG; Executive Order No. 22-12 was signed by the Governor on March 31, 2022. Under this Executive Order, the PIWSC shall provide oversight in the implementation of the Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan (PIWSP) while the City/Municipal Water Security TWG shall coordinate the annual allocation of funds to support preparation and implementation of the LGU's water security plan, which integrates the LWCRP.

SARANGANI

Safe Water worked with DENR XII to finalize Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) for the Buayan-Malungon River Basin and Siguel Watershed Management Councils. The draft MOAs were presented to the local government units of Sarangani and South Cotabato, including member national line agencies; the MOAs were signed on March 29. WMCs of BRMB and Siguel Watershed passed the following resolutions³:

1. A Resolution Designating Governor of Sarangani and NEDA I2 Regional Director as Co-Chairs of WMC of BMRB and Siguel;
2. A Resolution Organizing the BMRB and Siguel WMCs Working Committees, Technical Working Group (TWG) and Council Secretariat;
3. A Resolution Identifying Alsons Power Group and Conrado Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation Inc as private sector and CSO member of the Siguel WMC – TWG;
4. A Resolution Directing the BMRB and Siguel WMC- TWG to Formulate the Manual of Operations; and
5. A Resolution Directing the Technical Working Group to Formulate the IWMP of Siguel Watershed.

³ Resolutions were passed on March 29, 2022

C. CONDUCT OF HYDROLOGIC STUDIES FOR ADDITIONAL WATERSHEDS

The Geoscience Foundation, Inc. (GFI), has drafted 40 (out of the additional 60) hydrologic reports for target watersheds in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani. These watersheds are located in Figures 9, 10, and 11. Significantly, these hydrologic studies provide data on the total potential available surface water, and groundwater recharge volume at baseline period under the 2020 and 2050 climate change scenarios (RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5). The reports also identify the locations of high recharge zones within each watershed that should be deliberately protected and preserved to optimize groundwater recharge during rainfall. Safe Water has reviewed the 40 reports and forwarded comments to GFI. Finalization of all hydrologic reports are projected to be completed in the next quarter.

Results of the Sarangani studies were presented during the Provincial Water Summit held this quarter and will be incorporated in the preparation of Sarangani's Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan.

Safe Water and GFI also completed the Training of Trainers on Computational Hydrology and Water Resource Management last November-December 2021. More than 50 participants representing various agencies and universities (NWRB, DENR, Palawan State University, Western Philippines University, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod, Mindanao State University-GSC) were trained and capacitated in conducting a hydrologic study. Participants who completed the modules for the two-week training program will be presenting the findings of the hydrologic study for their assigned watersheds in a culminating activity held on April 11. They will be tapped as resource persons to scale up the conduct of hydrologic studies in other watersheds outside Safe Water provinces, and to capacitate local government staff of other provinces in conducting hydrologic studies.



Locating strategic sites for forest protection. Members of the Technical Working Group of Palawan Flora, Fauna and Watershed Reserve (PFFWR) identify sites for forest restoration and rehabilitation and forest protection and conservation within the watershed reserve. Results of hydrologic studies pinpoint locations of high-recharge areas which could be potential forest protection and rehabilitation sites.

FIGURE 9. HYDROLOGIC STUDIES COMPLETED IN PALAWAN AS OF Y3Q2

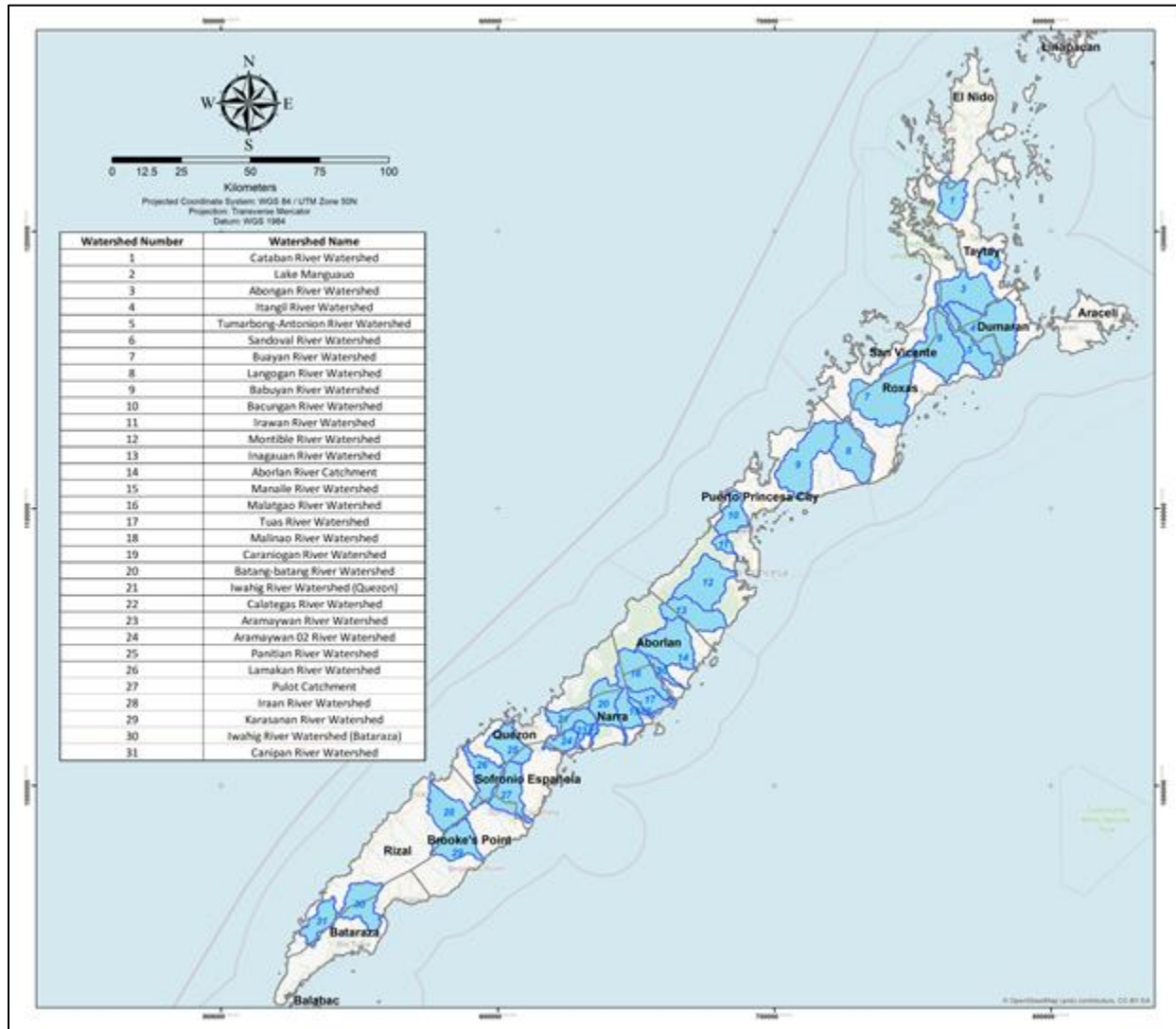


FIGURE 10. HYDROLOGIC STUDIES COMPLETED IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AS OF Y3Q2

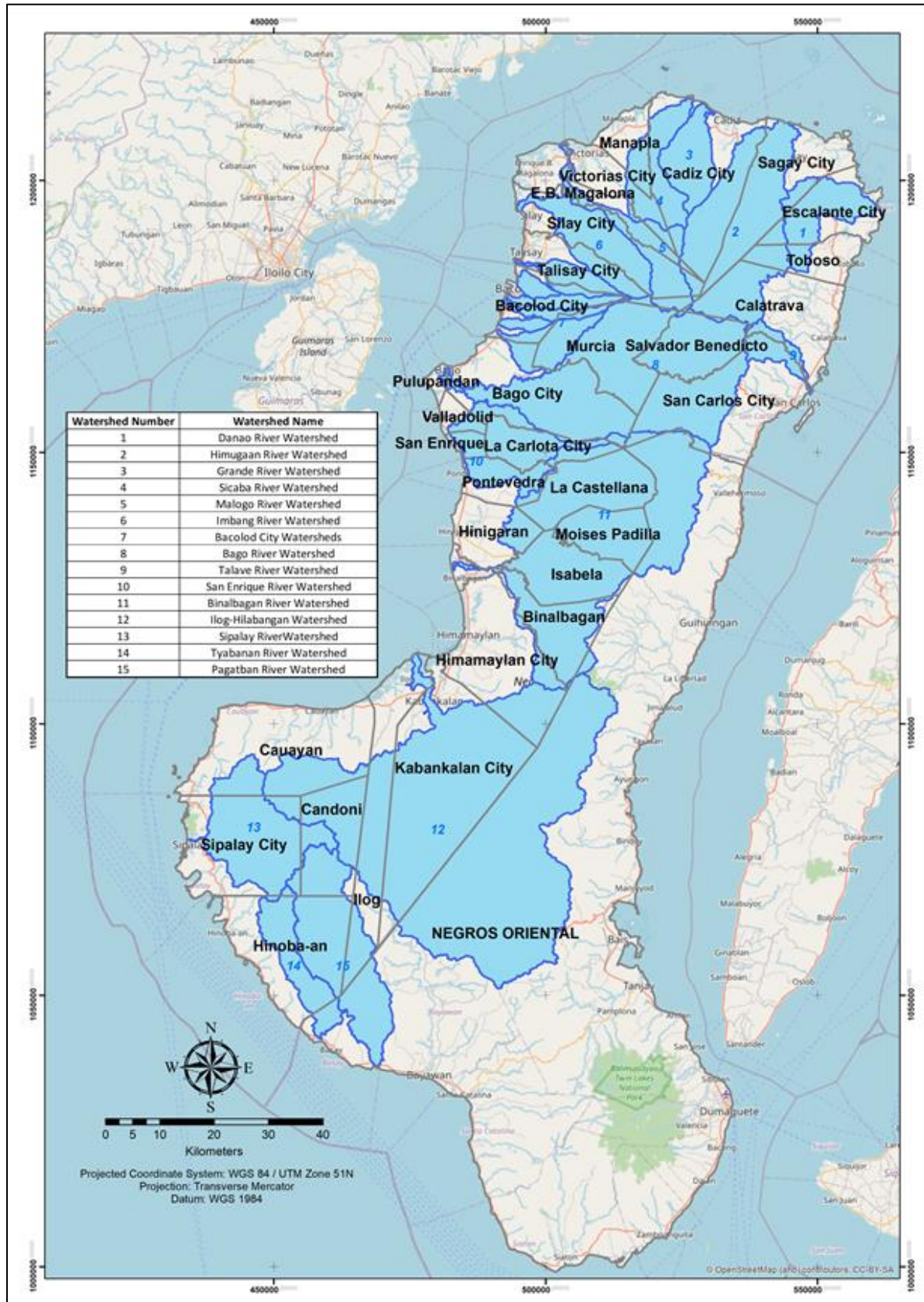
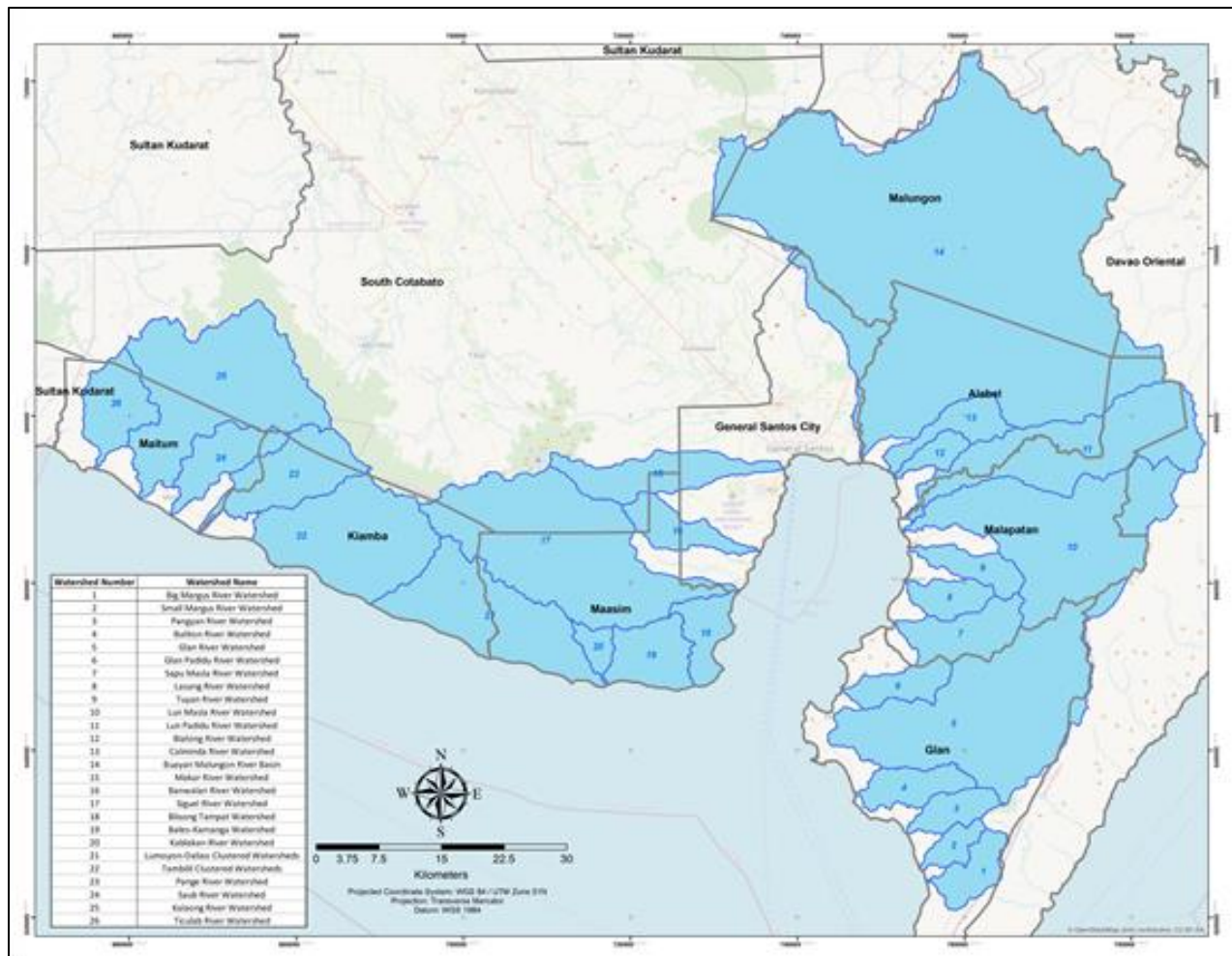


FIGURE 11. HYDROLOGIC STUDIES COMPLETED IN SARANGANI AND GENERAL SANTOS CITY AS OF Y3Q2



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

Safe Water prepared the scope of work (SOW) for the second task order of Manila Observatory (MO) to expand the preliminary climate risk analysis (prepared during the first task order) and include vulnerability analysis focusing on risk priorities identified during the blended webinars held last year. The SOW includes mentoring WSPs in formulating climate change adaptation options and designing their water system/infrastructure; and mentoring Safe Water’s partner LGUs in informing other plans such as the Comprehensive and Forest Land Use Plan, Local Climate Change Action Plan and Emergency Response Plans, among others. The draft SOW was sent to MO for review and comments.

E. SCALING PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES)

On February 4, the City Government of Puerto Princesa issued Executive Order No. 04-2022 which created the PES Technical Working Group (TWG). Safe Water trained members of the PES TWG on Cost Based Valuation (CBV) and Cost and Revenue Analysis (CRA) as tools for analyzing PES data and making policy recommendations. CBV provides the basis for ecosystem service valuation by determining the total cost of protecting, rehabilitating and managing the watersheds. CRA focuses on financial assessment of enterprises linked to ecosystem services, including their capacity to pay for the use of the ecosystem service.

On March 1, Safe Water held an orientation on PES and ring-fencing for seven members of the PES TWG of Quezon, led by PES TWG Chairperson and MEEDO Head Atty. Ryan Pacabis and Co-Chairperson and MPDC Crisostomo Enon, Jr. Safe Water discussed the processes and steps of PES implementation, presented the ring-fencing toolkit and reviewed waterworks data that LGUs must use to complete the workbook template. Safe Water will schedule follow-up discussions and presentations to start ring-fencing of the waterworks account. In parallel, the LGU is drafting an Executive Order for the implementation of PES in Quezon, Palawan.

In Negros Occidental, Safe Water held an orientation with Kabankalan City's PES-TWG on February 22. An overview of the PES concept was discussed to level off TWG members' understanding of the types of environmental services, and their roles and responsibilities. The data required for the succeeding workshop was also discussed and templates were provided for the initial data gathering.

A summary on how Safe Water is approaching the scaling up of PES is provided in Figure 12.



Institutionalizing Payment for Ecosystem Services. USAID, through its Safe Water Project, discussed the concepts and best practices on Payment for Ecosystem Services to obtain the local government's buy-in in developing and institutionalizing its own PES system for watershed conservation and protection.

FIGURE 12. ADOPTION OF PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION





Water security through organic farming.

The Tugon sa Gutom Program of the Seaoil Foundation Inc. aims to encourage each beneficiary family to create their own backyard garden in their home and to improve the food security status of that family.

F. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Safe Water signed MOUs with three partners this quarter. The MOU with Seaoil Foundation Inc. was signed on January 19; as outlined in the MOU, the parties will jointly develop and approve implementation plans and protocols to introduce water access and water resource management in Seaoil’s Tugon sa Gutom Program. An inception planning with Seaoil Foundation Inc. and the Alabel Municipal Agriculturist was held on February 10 where each introduced their individual program objectives and scope. Safe Water and Seaoil identified initial activities that promote sustainable agriculture practices such as training and application of soil and conservation measures, organic farming and agro-forestry practices for Seaoil-assisted family farms. To augment income and sustain farming activities, Safe Water will provide market and financing links for family farms with surplus vegetable production.

The Association of Negros Producers (ANP) also signed an MOU with Safe Water last March 21. Both parties agreed to cooperate in providing support for environment-friendly livelihood activities in upstream communities as a strategy to protect water resources in Himogaan, Ilog-Hilabangan and Binalbagan Watersheds. ANP committed to allocate funds from their [REDACTED] grant from the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental–Peace and Order Council for the initial activities under the agreement: the establishment of a nursery and propagation site for indigenous materials, and for capacity building activities of people’s organizations within Himogaan watershed.

On March 29, ECLOF Philippines signed an MOU with Safe Water to support livelihoods and enterprises among watershed communities and build their capacity to protect and manage water resources. Under the MOU, ECLOF Philippines will provide funds from its PHP [REDACTED] [REDACTED] loan portfolio to eligible POs, cooperatives, farmers’ associations and individuals in the Safe Water target municipalities and communities, provided they pass ECLOF’s loan criteria, review and approval process.

UPDATES ON CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Implementation of livelihood and WRM activities with partners continue to progress in field sites.

PALAWAN

In Palawan, Safe Water and Sunlight Foods Corp. (SFC) trained 46 farmers (22 men and 24 women) from 15 local associations on sustainable ube farm practices from February 28 to March 3. Trainees learned on-site ube farming via demonstration of land preparation, propagation, maintenance, harvest, and storage. They visited and learned from three model ube farms managed by Indigenous Peoples and local community organizations previously assisted by USAID in Sofronio Española, Brooke's Point, and Bataraza municipalities in southern Palawan. The training also integrated gender roles in farming to #BreakTheBias against women as part of the National Women's Month celebration in March. At the end of the training, Safe Water provided demo farm tools to the participating organizations. Currently, the Dumangueña Manaile River Irrigators Association, Inc. (DUMRIA), one of the people's organizations trained in Narra, already started applying their learnings by building their own ube demonstration farm.

Safe Water, together with the Municipal Government of Narra and ECLOF Philippines, trained 123 women and 36 men from 19 farmers' associations and women-led Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs), including six teachers from the Department of Education, on organic farming practices. The three-day training included lectures and hands-on demonstration of site preparation, cultivation, compost mixing, plotting and planting, and organic farm and crop management and maintenance. The training was capped by action planning on the establishment of vegetable demonstration farms. After three batches of training, the Municipal Government of Narra will award livelihood starter packs of vegetable seeds and farm tools to the participants' organizations.



Applying lessons learned on ube cultivation. (Top-middle photos) Engr. Crispin Muyrong Jr., Vice President for Operations of Sunlight Foods Corp., led the training on Ube production in including demonstration of land preparation and Ube propagation at a demo farm site. (Bottom) Mr. Runging Francisco the President of Dumangueña Farmers Association (DUMFA), and Mr. Timoteo Guiban, President of Bulalacao Community-Based Wildlife Protection Association, during Ube harvest demonstration in Barangay Bulalacao, Bataraza, Palawan

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

On March 22, representatives from USAID, NEDA and Coca-Cola Foundation visited the Partnership for Water and Economic Resilience (P4WatER) Project in Bgy. Ilijan, Bago City to mark the first anniversary of the partnership and celebrate World Water Day. The P4Water is explained in Figure 13, the next page. The partners monitored progress on the livelihood and natural springs rehabilitation activities. Highlights of P4WatER accomplishments in its first year of implementation are:

- Organization of 13 Environment Development Savings and Investment Associations (EDSIAs), community-based savings associations that generated ██████████ to date. Members can draw loans from these savings for their household needs and then receive their share of pooled savings plus interest at the end of each six-month cycle.
- Completion of characterization for the 12 natural springs in the area to obtain information on location, land status/ownership, elevation, land cover, slope, hazard, groundwater discharge and flow rate, including the community that benefits from the spring. This vital baseline information will be used for monitoring and evaluation of the project impact in the succeeding years of implementation.
- Establishment of community green farms and nurseries. Through the nurseries, P4WatER raised 60,000 seedlings of endemic tree species that are ready for planting along the natural springs.

The Safe Water Field Team worked with MUAD Negros to mobilize POs in restoring their nurseries and community green farms damaged by typhoon Odette in December 2021.

The Field Team also worked with DENR–CENRO in training 31 community-based forest patrollers of Victorias City on the LAWIN Forest and Biodiversity Protection system on March 29-31. The training, mainly funded by the LGU of Victorias City, was held in Gawahon Eco-Park, an LGU-managed ecotourism resort within the Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP). One-day patrolling of two groups covered almost five kilometers in Barangay 11, where threats to forests were initially identified. The training concluded with the Safe Water Team, together with the DENR CENRO Cadiz City LAWIN Data Manager, providing guidance in updating the existing patrol plan and recommending changes in succeeding patrol routes based on data from forest cover changes.

Empowering community forest protection. Victorias City Community-based patrollers reviewing the recorded observations during the Lawin patrol training



FIGURE 13. PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE WITH MUAD, COCA-COLA, AND USAID



Protecting riverbanks. Partner communities in Malungon are maintaining the bamboo dike (established with assistance from Mahintana Foundation) near the riverbanks in Barangay Lower Mainit



SARANGANI

In Sarangani, female coffee farmers from Motoladal Farmers Association and Holik Farmers Association trained by GreenTropics Coffee Enterprise are applying their learnings on proper planting of coffee seedlings, pruning of coffee trees and selected harvesting of coffee cherries. The trainings are sharing lessons with other farmers in their community.

Partner communities in Malungon are maintaining the bamboo dike (established with assistance from Mahintana Foundation) near the riverbanks in Barangay Lower Mainit. Barangay Kagawad Rodolfo Espinosa of Lower Mainit observed that stream flow slows down at the section with the bamboo dike during heavy rainfall and banks are not overflowing or eroded. On the other hand, for sections without bamboo dikes, the bank collapses due to raging stream flow. [REDACTED] a landowner in Sitio Ocampo also shared that “These bamboo dikes can really stabilize river banks and there is no scouring of river especially when soil is restored and plants are grown.” The barangay also supports the establishment of bamboo dikes and has provided funds to purchase additional bamboo poles. Kasilak, another Safe Water partner in Sarangani, is replicating the installation of bamboo dikes in Barangay Ampon, also in Malungon.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Safe Water is also exploring potential partnerships with the following organizations:

- Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI) on implementation of sustainable livelihood and provision of solar power in off-the-grid barangays;
- Globe Telecoms Inc. on the use of its digital technology to develop a decision support system for watershed monitoring, provision of mobile phones to LAWIN patrollers, and inclusion of WSPs in its mobile payments;
- PhilCAFE, a USDA-supported project, on possible complementation on capacity building for small coffee farmers in Sarangani;
- Forest Foundation Philippines, Inc. (FFP) on developing watershed conservation and protection projects for FFP funding; and the
- University of St. LaSalle - Bacolod as a knowledge hub and training provider on WSS and WRM trainings developed by Safe Water, and as implementer of community extension projects on watershed rehabilitation and protection.

G. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT (WDM)

NATIONAL LEVEL WDM INITIATIVES

Safe Water and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) have signed an agreement on WDM capacity building. Within the context of the NWRB mandate, Safe Water will focus its technical assistance on: desk review of WDM initiatives by other countries as reference by NWRB in scoping WDM policy areas, training of NWRB personnel on WDM policy and programs, and preparation of a WDM policy issuance focused on domestic water supply (details of the WDM initiative with NWRB are discussed under Objective 3).

WDM ROLL-OUT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Safe Water completed preparations for the case documentation of WDM initiatives by Ayala Mall Capitol Central in Bacolod. Safe Water and a team of WDM experts from Maynilad will undertake the water audit in the next quarter. The output of the case documentation will be used to enhance the WDM training modules and to promote WDM in the business sector.

We are pleased to provide an overview of the type and location of support provided under Objective 2 in Figures 14, 15, and 16 below.



Rolling out WDM locally. Sixteen participants, representing the General Santos City local government and water district, as well as Mahintana Foundation, engaged in the local roll out. (Right) Participants are applying their skills on water audit in several toilet fixtures, including the flush toilet.

FIGURE 14. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN PALAWAN



FIGURE 15. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

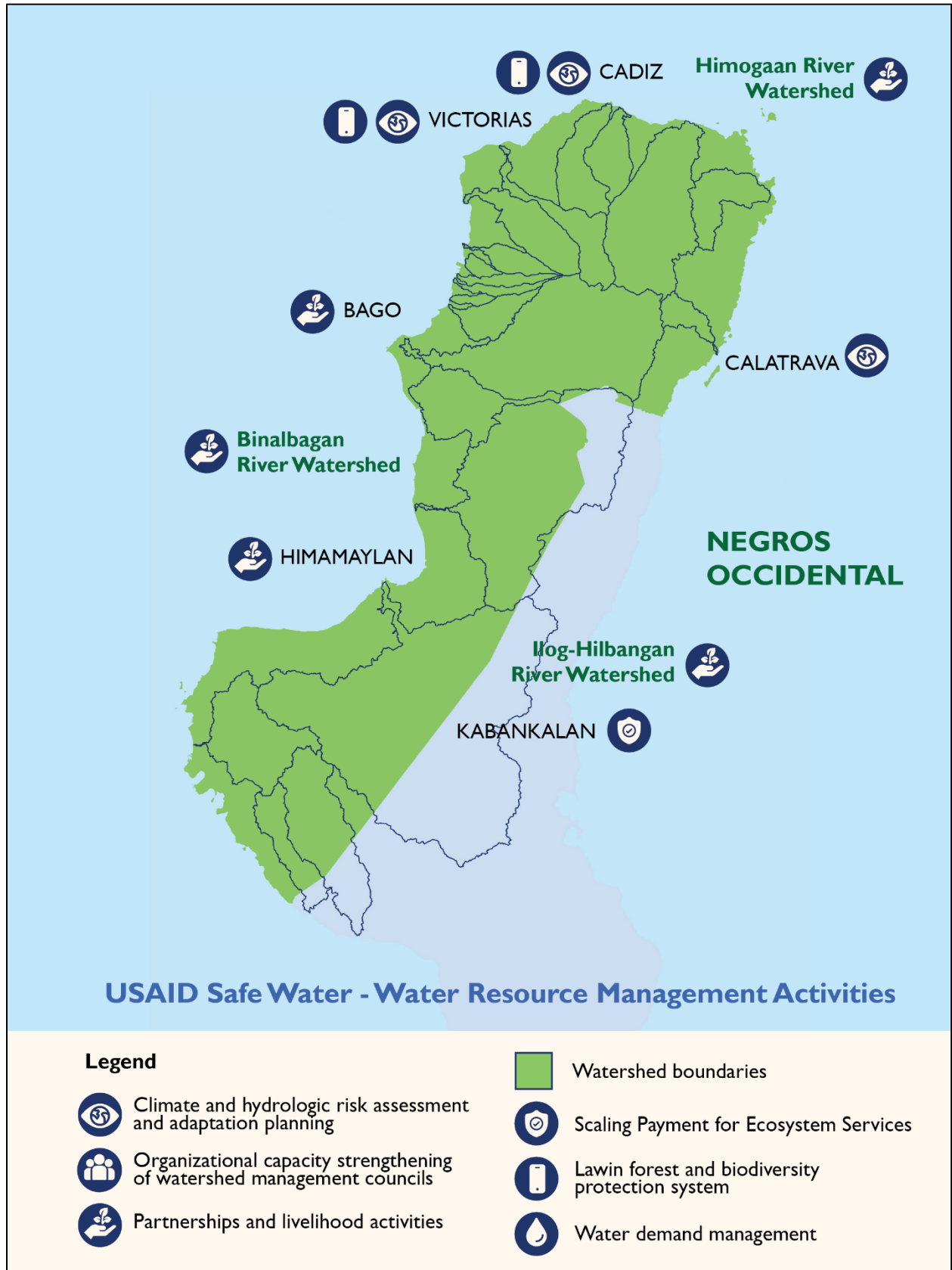


FIGURE 16. WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SARANGANI AND GSC



OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED 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

The Safe Water Team assisted in the mobilization of National Government budget allocation for WSS investments provided under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2022 and 2021 for the following:

- a) LWUA budget allocation to be provided as grants for septage management projects in the areas covered by the Supreme Court Mandamus for the clean-up of Manila Bay;
- b) DPWH Basic Infrastructure Program (BIP) for public Level 2 and 3 water supply systems in Palawan and Negros Occidental; and
- c) Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) through the FALGU, NTF-ELCAC and GEF for various local projects including water supply.

Safe Water reviewed the bid terms of reference for septage management projects and trained the LWUA team on the evaluation of bids. LWUA is poised to bid 10 projects, listed below, with a total value of [REDACTED]

To be funded with 2021 budget allocation	To be funded with 2022 budget allocation
1. Plaridel WD, Bulacan	1. Bustos WD, Bulacan
2. Norzagaray WD, Bulacan	2. Calumpit WD, Bulacan
3. San Miguel WD, Bulacan	3. Mariveles WD, Bataan
4. Dinalupihan WD, Bataan	4. San Pablo City WD, Laguna
5. Cabuyao WD, Laguna	5. Siniloan WD, Laguna

The Team is also closely coordinating with the DPWH District Offices in Palawan and Negros Occidental for the review of the POW and technical designs of the water supply projects in selected barangays to facilitate procurement activities. About [REDACTED] worth of grant assistance is expected to be mobilized under this program. The Negros Occidental Field Team is currently reviewing the POWs for the construction of 11 water supply projects in four LGUs amounting to [REDACTED].

Safe Water shared the FALGU and NTF-ELCAC guidelines with the LGUs and provided technical assistance and trainings to help identify eligible water supply projects and meet the documentation requirements to access grant funding from these sources. Through the training of LGU engineers of Alabel, Glan, Malapatan and Malungon in Sarangani on the preparation of water system technical designs, Safe Water is helping the LGUs mobilize funding for 25 water supply projects under LGSF- NTF-ELCAC amounting to [REDACTED]. The team is also monitoring the issuance of the local budget circular on the GEF guidelines to be issued by the DBM which is expected to be released after the May 2022 elections. The GEF aims to address issues related to marginalization, unequal development, high poverty incidence and fiscal disparities and capacities of LGUs in the implementation of the Supreme Court's Mandanas ruling.

Safe Water continued to provide technical assistance and trainings on project development, planning and programming to help LGUs identify WSS projects for inclusion in the PIWSP and their Annual Investment Plans (AIPs) and annual budgets. The LGU programming and budgeting process for 2023 starts in June and will end with budget adoption in October. The Team also assessed water supply facilities of WDs and LGUs to identify potential areas of expansion and system improvement and the corresponding investment requirements. Safe Water also reviewed designs and POWs to ensure efficiency and quality of the investments for the following projects:

- a) Quezon Water Supply System - review of design of its water system expansion project to be funded by a [REDACTED] loan from DBP;
- b) Aborlan Water Supply System - review of POW and demand and supply analysis for the Level III Water System Expansion Project to utilize the allocated budget of [REDACTED];
- c) Narra Water Supply System - review of POW for investment on deep well development and improvement of the existing well worth [REDACTED];
- d) Dumarán Water Supply System - review of POW for the [REDACTED] budget allocation for the development of additional groundwater source;
- e) El Nido Water Supply System - review of POW for development of groundwater source and reservoir to be financed by a [REDACTED] LGU 2022 budget allocation;
- f) Brooke's Point Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association, Inc. - assistance on POW preparation for the expansion of its WS services estimated at [REDACTED];
- g) San Carlos Waterworks - assessment of the existing water treatment plant and procurement assistance utilizing the budget allocation of [REDACTED];
- h) Waterworks Systems of Hinigaran, San Carlos, and Calatrava - water quality assessment and pressure monitoring activities and recommendation for procurement of chlorination equipment amounting to [REDACTED];
- i) Murcia WD - financial analysis for a surface water bulk supply investment estimated at around [REDACTED]; and
- j) Glan WD - assistance in business plan preparation and training of technical personnel in O&M; the WD invested in new flow meters costing about [REDACTED] that facilitated 55 new household connections.

The Team is also helping the WDs and LGUs explore other financing sources for eligible projects such as special funds like the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program and People's Survival Fund, multilateral and bilateral sources like the Green Climate Fund and Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects), and commercial financing.

FACILITATION OF LWUA-DBP CO-FINANCING ARRANGEMENT

Safe Water's facilitation of the LWUA-DBP co-financing arrangement to utilize the latter's [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) loan program for WSS projects was set back by the transfer of LWUA Administrator Guiling Mamondiong to another government agency. Earlier, Administrator Mamondiong reconfirmed LWUA's intent to co-finance WD projects with DBP. Before he was transferred, LWUA already reviewed and provided inputs to the draft LWUA-DBP MOA prepared by DBP, including recommendations to incorporate provisions related to URAF and sanitation projects in the scope of collaboration of the two entities. LWUA also agreed to share copies of program of works or ready projects for sole or co-financing

with DBP. Safe Water was prepared to assist WDs with pipeline projects to access this financing facility. Pending the appointment of a new administrator, LWUA and DBP held in abeyance the finalization of the MOA and sharing of pipeline projects.

MOBILIZING WASH LOANS FROM MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS

This activity cuts across Objective 1 and 3 of Safe Water. Safe Water and Water.org formally convened the WASH Technical Working Group comprised of members from the key MFI partners⁴ in January to confirm their joint work plan to enhance demand generation for WASH loans in the project sites and other MFI areas of operations. In addition to the training mentioned under Objective 1, the following activities are currently being undertaken to support WASH demand generation:

- a) Enhancement of the MFI WASH monitoring and reporting system;
- b) Acceleration of the Integrate Program⁵ to introduce MFI services to LGUs, including:
 - ASA Foundation and LGU of Alabel (ASA is already an accredited partner of the LGU); and
 - NWTF and Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, San Carlos City, and Cauayan City, which are actively engaged in the promotion of WASH lending for WSS activities.
- c) Roll-out and institutionalization of the OBA-BF scheme for sanitation;
- d) Facilitating access to MFI financing for small water utilities; and
- e) Promotion of WDM, especially prototypes of household-level rainwater harvesting facilities.

WASH loans generated for WSS services during the quarter amounted to [REDACTED] through collaboration with Water.org and five partner MFIs.

COMPLEMENTATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' INITIATIVES

Safe Water continued to coordinate with other Development Partners and monitored developments for activities related to water security planning and WSS programs:

Development Partner	Coordination Areas
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating of the municipal WASH planning guidelines and toolkit with DILG to be informed by Safe Water's Provincial Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework. • Coordination with DILG and UNICEF in the capacity building of Regional Hubs to enable them to support provincial water security planning. • Cooperation with UNICEF for the institutionalization of the provincial water security planning guidelines through a DILG memorandum circular to LGUs.
World Bank	Conduct of the Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) in support of the implementation of PWSSMP and operationalization of URAF, and execution of the Supreme Court Mandamus for the Manila Bay clean-up. Safe Water met with the WB Team to share relevant information to complement efforts, and ensure coherence of approaches and policy implementation measures with the PWSSMP. WB's ASA is a run up to the proposed program loan to support the policy reforms in the WSS sector.
ADB	Preparation of the Local Government Financing Study that reviews the WSS sector's financing strategy outlined in URAF; Safe Water is backstopping NEDA to ensure alignment of the study's recommendations on the rationalization of national government (NG) grants, prioritization of projects to receive NG support and NG-LGU cost sharing schemes. The Department of Budget and Management

⁴ The key MFI partners include: ASA Philippines Foundation Inc., Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc., Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc., Community Economic Ventures, Inc., and Life Bank, Inc.

⁵Water.org initiated the INTEGRATE Program to systematically link LGUs and MFIs to integrate the latter's WASH financing in plans and programs for WSS service expansion or improvement.

commissioned the study, thus, the study's validation of the soundness of URAF policy will help with getting DBM buy-in for the Water Convergence Program.

B. SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION MASTER PLAN (PWSSMP) AND THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE UNIFIED RESOURCE ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK (URAF)

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

The Team continued to monitor developments on the consolidated DWR and WRC bill by the House Committees on Government Reorganization, Appropriations and Public Works. However, the bill was not discussed during the January 18, 2022 session of House, the last for the current 18th Congress. The Team will assist NEDA's renewed effort to advocate for the DWR & WRC in the next Congress, which resumes on May 23, 2022.

SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE URAF AND WATER CONVERGENCE PROGRAM

The completion of the ad referendum process for approval of the NEDA Board Resolution adopting the URAF⁶ for WSS Services remains pending due to the following comments from the DOF:

- a) INFRACOM does not have authority to act on budget allocations beyond being a coordinating and advisory body;
- b) NEDA does not have the mandate to effectively act as the implementing agency for URAF-WSS;
- c) Oversight functions of the URAF-WSS may be subsumed under Section 49 of PD 198/ LWUA and MWSS charter under RA 6234;
- d) Pursuant to the Administrative Code, DBM already has the mandate for the efficient and sound utilization of government funds and revenues to address development objectives; and
- e) A resolution does not solve the main problem of a fragmented and uncoordinated regulatory framework for the WSS sector; the solution should be in the form of a legislation or an EO.

Safe Water prepared a technical note on DOF's comments in January to inform NEDA's response to DOF. NEDA has yet to officially respond to DOF's comments. The NEDA Board Resolution is crucial as it will serve as an explicit and formal document mandating URAF operationalization. Only upon approval of the NEDA Board Resolution will NEDA be able to issue the Implementing Guidelines.⁷

Safe Water's approach at facilitating WSS financing options with partners is summed up in Figure 17.

⁶ The latest draft NB resolution incorporates the implementation of the Mandanas ruling and EO 138 provisions and comments and recommendations of the NEDA Board's Infrastructure Committee (Infracom) members.

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

FIGURE 17. FINANCING TOWARDS UNIVERSAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Financing Towards Universal Water Supply and Sanitation

What Are We Addressing: The Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) estimates a total investment requirement of P1.07 trillion to achieve universal access to safe water supply and sanitation (WSS) by 2030. Fulfilling the huge investment requirement has been a major challenge to meet the sector’s targets with average public investments at only Php6-7 billion annually.



How to Address the Gap: The Unified Resource Allocation Framework (URAF) is adopted as a three-pronged reform strategy involving institutional strengthening and utility governance improvement, enhanced utility regulation, and rationalized financing policy that leverages grants to mobilize market-based sources for WSS investments.



National Government Agency (NGA) Funding: This includes Viability Gap Funding (VGF), Efficiency Improvement Program (EIP), Technical Assistance (TA) grants, Output-based Aid (OBA), and credit enhancements.



Blended Financing: This refers to government support blended with market-based financing.



Market-based Financing: This refers to equity financing and commercial lending.

How USAID is Promoting Financing Options: USAID, through its Safe Water Project, is working both at the national and local levels to help LGUs and water service providers (WSPs) mobilize financing from different sources for WSS investments.



National Government Grants

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
 Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)
 Local Government Support Fund (LGSF)
 e.g. Financial Assistance to LGUs (FALGU),
 National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC)
 Growth Equity Fund (GEF)
 Special Funds
 e.g. National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP)
 People's Survival Fund (PSF)



Local Budgets

Regular and supplemental budgets



Commercial Financing

Government Financial Institutions,
 Commercial Banks and
 Microfinance Institutions



Innovative Financing

Output-based Aid and Blended Financing, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Other Economic Instruments



Private Sector & Civil Society Organization (CSO) Financing

Private investments and sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, CSO programs, PPP or JVs



Other Sources

Multilateral & Bilateral Funds (Green Climate Fund or GCF, Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects or GCP)

COORDINATION WITH NEDA AND KEY IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Safe Water continued to assist NEDA in engaging key implementing agencies to work on their respective key reform action plans in support of the PWSSMP. The Team provided inputs on the PWSSMP Work Plan and Dashboard in February. The dashboard is a tool for NEDA to complement activities of key implementing agencies and Development Partners related to the key reform agenda and monitor their implementation and contribution to the accomplishment of the SDG targets for universal WSS access.

Safe Water met with USAID and NWRB in February to affirm the Project's technical assistance in the development and implementation of a national water demand management (WDM) policy. NWRB

confirmed the following Safe Water assistance through the signing of a conforme letter dated February 24, 2022:

- a) Desk review of water demand policies and experiences on policy implementation in other countries to inform NWRB's capacity building requirements and scope of the terms of reference (TOR) for the development of the water demand policy;
- b) Conduct of WDM trainings for NWRB staff;
- c) Preparation of a laddered TOR for developing a comprehensive water demand policy, which may be used to plan for the preparation of studies or activities, including matching assistance from development partners;
- d) Identification of WDM measures that can be demonstrated in Safe Water sites and preparation of learning notes therefrom; and
- e) Preparation of a WDM policy issuance focused on domestic water supply.

The technical assistance and capacity development activities will be implemented from 2022-2023. Safe Water has prepared a draft work plan for discussion with NWRB.

NWRB requested to further review the draft MOU with LGUs for joint cooperation in planning, implementing and enforcing an integrated and cohesive land use and water resources management, to ensure harmonization of the proposed cooperation with their regulatory functions. The drafting of the MOU was prompted by the request of LGU of Malungon in Sarangani in July 2021 for Safe Water's assistance in the review of a draft local ordinance on regulating the use of water sources in its jurisdiction. Safe Water drafted the MOU in July and revised it in September 2021 to incorporate NWRB's comments. The proposed collaboration focuses on three areas: a) sharing of data and information for policy and planning, and integration of water availability and demand in the CLUP; b) coordination on issuance of local clearances/permits and water permits; and c) cooperation and support for monitoring and enforcement of water permits.

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

PROMOTION OF PPP

Safe Water actively facilitated partnership between the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and the PPP Center (PPPC) in developing a pipeline of PPP projects for province. The Team reviewed the MOA ⁸ on the cooperation between the two parties and assisted in the preliminary feasibility assessment (or business case) for the possible access of the Provincial Government to the Project Development and Monitoring Facility (PDMF). Access to the PDMF would enable the Provincial Government to finance engagement of consultants to support the preparation of a full feasibility study, shepherd approval and procurement processes up to contract award, and prepare of the contract management guide.

⁸ The MOA was signed during the NOC Water Summit on April 7, 2022.

ROLL-OUT OF OUTPUT-BASED AID AND BLENDED FINANCE SCHEME FOR HOUSEHOLD SANITATION

Using the proof of concept from the pilot implementation of the OBA-BF in Alabel and Sagay

City with MFI partners (ASA Philippines Foundation and Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation), Safe Water actively promoted the roll-out of the OBA-BF scheme and identified potential LGU funding sources, such as supplemental budgets and regular budget allocations, for its implementation. The LGUs of Cauayan, EB Magalona, La Castellana, Victorias and Malungon have expressed interest to adopt the scheme to support their sanitation programs. Safe Water is currently preparing the implementing guidelines for the adoption/ institutionalization at the LGU level and to guide budget allocation.

The Team also responded to the call of the Asian Water Forum 2022 for presentations on innovative water security solutions by submitting an abstract on the OBA-BF for household sanitation pilots.

PES REPLICATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Details of Safe Water’s current activities related to scaling and improving existing PES programs in the following watersheds and LGUs are reported in Objective 2:

For replication/ scale up	For improvement of PES systems
a) Bago Watershed in Negros Occidental	a) Environmental Protection Fee in Bago City, Negros Occidental
b) Ilog-Hilabangan Watershed in Kabankalan	b) Water Levy in Municipality of Quezon, Palawan
c) Buayan Malungon River Basin in Sarangani Province	
d) Irawan and Montible Watersheds in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan	



Payment for Ecosystem Services for Montible. Irawan and Montible-Lapu Lapu river catchments in Puerto Princesa City provide a bundle of ecosystem services to people and biodiversity

Water summit knowledge forum.
 During the summit's knowledge forum, PIWSC members discussed strategies in the PIWSP to address the gap between the water supply and demand in the province. Safe Water promotes knowledge exchange platforms in our activities.



WRM FINANCING FRAMEWORK

The Team is refining the initial draft of the WRM Financing Framework. The framework aims to guide investment programming and resource allocation for the PIWSP and other local plans by informing the following:

- a) Assessment of financing requirements for WRM;
- b) Identification of options and modalities for sustainable financing of watershed conservation and protection initiatives, including the use of grants and engagement of private sector investments; and
- c) Engagement of stakeholders (LGUs, water service providers, private sector, civil society organizations, and communities) to establish and/or strengthen enabling mechanisms and financial alliances to mobilize sustainable financing for WRM.

D. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT WSS NETWORK

Safe Water provided technical assistance and secretariat support to NEDA during the virtual WSS Network Session held on January 27, 2022. During the session, participants reviewed and discussed convergence of priority initiatives contributing to the implementation of the PWSSMP. Development Partners and key implementing agencies presented their ongoing and pipeline programs and projects and confirmed partnerships and complementation of initiatives, particularly in the areas of water sector governance improvement, water utility reform, financing, data availability and management, water security, advocacy and localization of PWSSMP and targets, and monitoring and reporting. Discussions during the session informed updates to the PWSSMP dashboard, inputs to the ongoing assessment of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, and preparation of the development agenda for the next plan period.

E. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

The Safe Water Team is currently finalizing several knowledge products in the pipeline:

- Implementing Guide to the Central Management System (CMS);
- Updated Ring-Fencing Guide for LGU-run Water Utilities;

- Hydrologic Studies for 60 watersheds in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani;
- Water Demand Management (WDM) Trainer’s Guide and Documentation of Best Practices;
- OBA-BF Pilot Documentation Report;
- Framework for Watershed Management Financing; and
- Water.Org WASH Training Modules.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Team also continues to explore possible knowledge exchange mechanisms. Discussions with potential partner academic institutions in Safe Water sites, such as Palawan State University in Palawan and the University of St. La Salle – Bacolod in Negros Occidental, are on-going. Safe Water is facilitating discussion on knowledge exchange initiatives such as the development of a pool of trainers and/or resource persons, formation of a network of peer reviewers for Safe Water’s knowledge products, and establishment of a mechanism to share and store WSS and WRM knowledge products developed by Safe Water.

The Team has also shared Safe Water knowledge products with the DENR- Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS). The Safe Water OBA-BF and Hydrology Fact Sheets and activities for World Water Day have been shared and featured in DENR-FASPS Facebook and Twitter accounts. The Team has also shared the Safe Water PIIWSF and Planning Guide for uploading in their e-Library.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Safe Water implemented the four Gender Action Plan (GAP) strategies outlined below in order to build on the enabling conditions for achieving an increase in women’s decision making opportunities in the water sector and women’s proportion of engagement in economic activities.



Championing GAD in Mindanao. General Manager Glenda Hizoler (left) and General Manager Dalmacio Pelones (right) show their newly-completed GAD Plan and Budget and the certificates signifying their completion of the four-session GAD Planning and Budgeting training they’ve completed. Both general managers were recognized during the 1st Sarangani Provincial Water Summit.



Tackling gender biases, envisioning a gender-equal world. During the workshops, the 30 participants representing the 15 water districts shared about gender biases they've observed in the water sector validating it with actual experiences and stories within their organizations and clientele. They also presented visions of a gender-equal world addressing the major gender biases in the water sector through posters they've created with other water districts.

A. GAP STRATEGY 1: LGU GENDER FOCAL POINT SYSTEM MAXIMIZED IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

Provide technical assistance and trainings on Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) to strengthen women's representation in WSS and WRM development. In collaboration with the Provincial Gender and Development Focal Point System (PGFPS) of Negros Occidental, Safe Water designed a two-day training on GAD Planning and Budgeting for the WDs of the province. Fifteen of the 17 members of the Association of Negros Occidental's Water Districts (ANOWD) were represented by 30 training participants.

The training enabled participants to: 1) discuss basic GAD concepts and gender-related issues in the water sector including manifestations of gender bias and ways to address these; 2) undertake gender analysis using the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) and Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) as tools; and 3) draft an initial GAD Plan and Budget for 2023 by applying the results of the GMEF.

In the initial workshops, the water districts identified different gender-related issues focusing on their policies and clients. For each of these issues, the Team facilitated brainstorming of strategies and programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) that address the issues. Safe Water will assist the water districts' efforts to complete the GAD plans next quarter, specifically in the follow-up session of the GPB training-workshop in Negros Occidental. A summary of the initial outputs from the water districts is presented in Table 6, the next page.

TABLE 6. GENDER ISSUES AND CORRESPONDING PPAS OUTLINED IN THE GPBS

GENDER ISSUES	CORRESPONDING PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES
Policy-related issues	
Absence of gender-related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft gender mainstreaming policies or board resolutions • Brief Board and top management thereon
GAD perspectives are not integrated in the vision, mission and goals (VMG) of the organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review strategic goals • Conduct planning session to update the organizations' VMGs
Low awareness of gender issues, GAD mandate and gender mainstreaming in government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize GAD-related seminars/workshops for GFPS members (e.g., gender-sensitivity, gender mainstreaming, GAD Planning and Budgeting, use of HGDDG, government mandates and relevant gender-related laws, etc.) • Create GFPS as a first step for at least two Water Districts
Client-focused Issues	
Limited awareness on GAD among concessionaires	Conduct GAD orientation and disseminate information among concessionaires
Lack of awareness of government programs to address violence against women (VAW)	Conduct orientation on VAW and participate in campaigns to respond to the issue

For the next joint training with the PGFPS and members of ANOWD, sessions will focus on completing the GAD Plan and Budget for each water district for submission to the Local Water Utilities Authority (LWUA) in October. The Negros Occidental Team suggested that follow up training be undertaken back-to-back with the training of trainers intended for the field team members and that a representative from LWUA be invited to the training. The possible engagement of PGFPS's partner universities in the review of GAD Plans and Budgets prior to submission to LWUA will be taken up in forthcoming meetings. The Negros Occidental Team will invite the PGFPS Action Officer to participate in the partnership and gender learning hub at the Provincial Water Summit scheduled on April 7.

Safe Water is strengthening women's leadership and economic participation in the water sector through its Gender Action Plan. The Gender Action Plan strategies are summed up in Figure 18, the next page.

Implementing the Gender Focal Point System in WSS/ WRM Institutions: Himamaylan and Escalante Water Districts, two of the 15 Water Districts that attended the GAD Planning and Budgeting Training for Water Districts in the Province of Negros Occidental, have yet to organize their GAD Focal Point System (GFPS). Himamaylan Water District underwent transition when they entered a joint venture with Prime Water, resulting in the disbandment of their GAD focal persons. Escalante Water District, on the other hand, has yet to convene its GFPS. Side caucuses on the formation of the GFPS were held with both water districts and additional materials were provided to them. Safe Water encouraged them to establish their GFPS in time for the follow-up GAD training in May.

FIGURE 18. STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION IN THE WATER SECTOR

Strengthening Women's Leadership and Economic Participation in the Water Sector

What Are We Addressing: USAID recognizes the challenges faced by women in the water sector including their limited leadership in water sector institutions and the lack of economic opportunities in water resource management.



Women water workers face biases on perceptions of competency **constraining career growth and leadership**



Upland rural women, stereotyped as caregivers, often have **poor access to finance, technology, and training opportunities**



Women get rare opportunities to provide decision-making inputs in **male-dominated watershed management councils**



Women are significantly **underrepresented** in local governance bodies leading to low participation in water security decisions

Addressing Gender Challenges: USAID, through Safe Water, developed a Gender Action Plan which includes four strategies that require the collaborative work with local governments, private sector entities, peoples' organizations, and non-profits.



Strategy 1: Maximize women's leadership in the water sector by reactivating and strengthening Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System among water districts and watershed management councils



Strategy 2: Increase women's professional and economic leadership opportunities for women in the water sector



Strategy 3: Shift social perceptions and valuation of women's input into community and industry decisions



Strategy 4: Improve local partners' understanding of gender equity in the water sector

Maximize linkage with the Provincial GAD Focal Point System in Negros Occidental (PGFPS-Negros Occidental): The GAD Planning and Budgeting Training of the Water Districts is the first of a series of collaborative activities with the PGFPS. The Safe Water Team plans to tap their network of GAD focal persons in state universities and LGUs to provide technical assistance to water districts and the Provincial Integrated Water Security Council and its technical working groups. The technical assistance from PGFPS and their members may come in the form of peer review of GAD Plans and Budgets of water districts by university-based gender focal persons; conduct of local GAD activities or campaigns; and orientation and capacity-building of GFPS members of water districts.

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

Strengthen women’s leadership and their networks, with inclusion of the underserved and unserved: Safe Water continues to implement measures to strengthen diversity, especially among women in WSS and WRM decision-making positions, and expand livelihood opportunities through its partnership with NGOs, MFIs, POs, and other community-based groups led or actively supported by women and indigenous peoples. The newest addition among the partnerships in this area involves Globe Telecommunications. Having implemented gender parity measures within the company, Globe will be tapped to support the design of human resources development and management strategies to strengthen women’s leadership in WSS/WRM. Initial discussions between Globe and Safe Water commenced in January and will continue in future quarters.

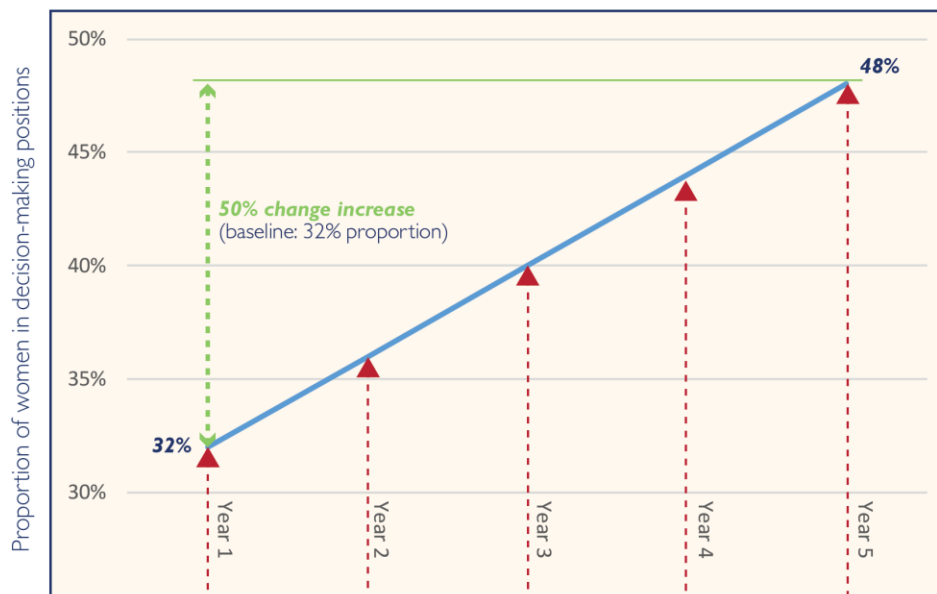
Safe Water is implementing a combination of interventions that promote enabling conditions supportive of sustaining women’s leadership in WSS and WRM sectors. This is summed up in Figure 19.



Provincial Government, Water Districts in Negros Occidental develop GAD plans. Fifteen out of 17 water districts participated in the 2-day Gender and Development (GAD) Budgeting and Planning Training-Workshop for Water Districts in Negros Occidental. This is the first of the series of training-workshops that will be organized by USAID, through Safe Water to help develop the GAD plans which will underline the mandated 5% budget for gender mainstreaming activities.

FIGURE 19. STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE SECTOR

Strengthening Women's Leadership in the sector: USAID is implementing a combination of interventions that promote enabling conditions supportive of sustaining women's leadership in the WSS and WRM sectors, such as:



Intervention	Output	Intervention	Output	Intervention	Output
Conducted assessment to determine baseline data on women in decision-making positions in WSS and WRM	Informed the targeting and strategies outlined in the SW Workplan and Gender Action Plan	Expand GPB capacity development to other WSPs and WMCs	Increased outputs as indicated in Year 2	Document successes and lessons learned of the different strategies	Best practices and lessons learned for guidance in expanding strategies to other sites or sectors
		Advocate policies on women's representation in the sector	Mandatory women's representation in councils, TWGs, etc.		
Assisted water districts to establish GAD Focal Point Systems	Opened decision-making positions for women GAD Focal Point System members	Roll out best practices on human resources management for women's recruitment and career progression	Institutionalized enabling conditions for women's representation and leadership in the sector		
Built capacity of GAD Planning, Budgeting (GPB) and Reporting	Leveraged new funding on GAD related to WSS and WRM	Create parallel GAD Focal Point Systems for private sector	Opened decision-making positions for women leadership in the private sector on WSS and WRM		
	Funded WSS and WRM activities addressing gender issues and challenges				

#BreakTheBias, an International Women’s Day Campaign. Over a 100 personnel from water service providers, local government units, academe, NGOs, peoples’ organizations, and the private sector shared their stories and photos to support the international social media campaign, #BreakTheBias.



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

Advocacy Activities: Foremost among Safe Water’s advocacy activities this quarter was the observance of International Women’s Day with the theme, #BreakTheBias. The Team participated in the month-long social media campaign with photos and stories on efforts to break the bias in the water sector; more than 100 representatives from Safe Water’s partner LGUs, NGOs, peoples’ organizations, and water service providers took part in the campaign. These efforts included the revitalization of the GFPS in partner LGUs and WSPs and support for women’s representation in the board and management of water utilities and in watershed management councils. In addition, Safe Water’s #BreakTheBias campaign focused a water security planning process that builds on women’s participation and addresses gender gaps. Lastly, Safe Water highlighted the role of women in the protection of watersheds and promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

Communication materials: This quarter the Safe Water Team produced two fact sheets on “Strengthening Women’s Leadership and Economic Participation in the Water Sector.” The fact sheets call attention to gender equality and women empowerment challenges in the water sector namely, limited leadership for women in water sector institutions and lack of economic opportunities in water resource management. Specific challenges include:

- Women water workers face biases on perceptions of competency—constraining career growth and leadership opportunities;
- Upland rural women, stereotyped as caregivers, often have poor access to finance, technology, and training opportunities;
- Women rarely have opportunities to provide decision-making inputs in male-dominated watershed management councils; and
- Women are significantly underrepresented in local governance bodies, leading to low participation in water security decisions.



All-women panel for Water Resource Management knowledge exchange. An all-woman panel (Alifah Lestari, Former Deputy Chief of Party, USAID IUWASH PLUS; Nilu P. Basnyat, Chief of Party, USAID Karnali Water Activity; Alma Porciuncula, Chief of Party, USAID Philippines Safe Water; and, Joanne Dulce, USAID Philippines) presents a variety of approaches for integrating water resource management with water service delivery, and how these have succeeded in making the value of water resources visible and tangible.

To address these challenges, Safe Water carried out the following activities:

- Provided technical assistance to water districts in the formation of their GFPS and development of their GAD Plan and Budget;
- Targeted women in financing and livelihood opportunities and capacity-building on sustainable enterprises to help protect watersheds;
- Launched campaigns that highlight women’s leadership and value in the water sector through events, social media, trainings, and orientation sessions; and
- Ensured the participation of women and indigenous peoples in water security planning activities.

The Safe Water Team will continue to pursue the following priorities:

- Mobilize GFPS in remaining water service providers and watershed management councils to build links and partnerships among GAD champions in the local government;
- Roll out best practices on human resources management focusing on women’s recruitment and career progression for WSPs, highlighting private sector experience;
- Mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment in project component activities, especially capacity development among partners; and
- Document successes and produce communication materials, campaigns, and knowledge products in partnership with other stakeholders.

Use celebrations to highlight the participation of women and other social groups: Field Teams capitalized on International Women’s Day to spotlight accomplishments of the project to-date. At the Sarangani Provincial Water Summit held on March 10, 2022, the Glan and Maasim Water Districts were recognized for their initiatives to strengthen their GFPS and develop their respective GAD Plans.

In Palawan, a mangrove planting and gender learning session was held in the municipality of Quezon. The event served as a venue to revisit the roles of men and women in coastal resource management and the intersection of gender, forests, and coastal livelihoods. The event drew 125 participants from the Cherish Fisherfolk Association, the municipal LGU, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), and ECLOF Philippines Microfinance, Inc.

In Negros Occidental, the GAD Planning and Budgeting Training organized jointly with the PGFPS for the members of ANOWD was a fitting celebration of new partnerships among gender advocates and water service providers.

At the international level, an all-woman panel from USAID’s water projects in Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines, including Safe Water COP Alma Porciuncula, presented a variety of approaches for integrating water resource management with water service delivery, and success in making the value of water resources visible and tangible during a USAID webinar held on March 29.

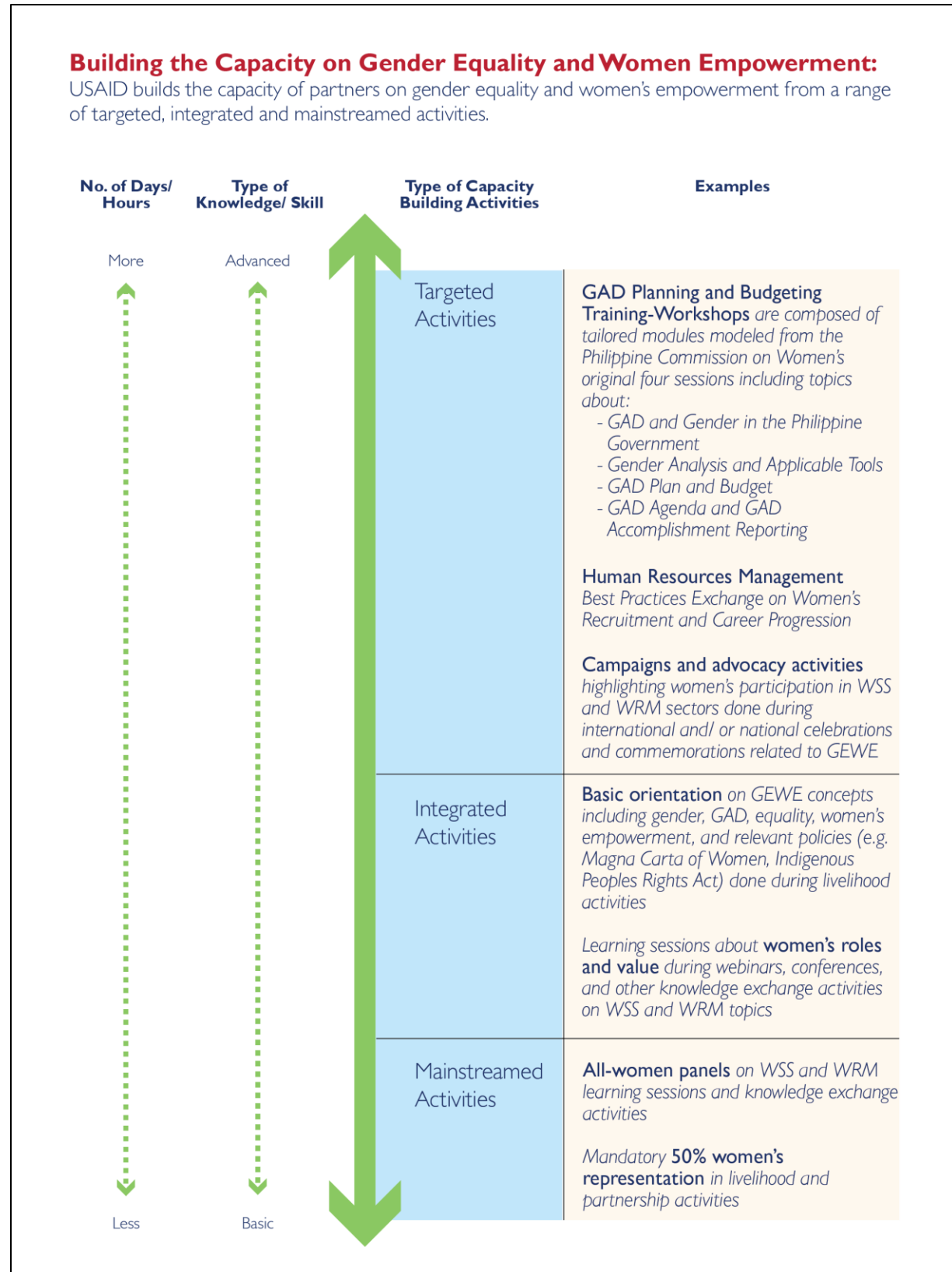
Safe Water is building the capacity of our partners on GEWE using a range of targeted, integrated, and mainstreamed activities. This is summed up in Figure 20, the next page.

Developing GAD champions: The General Managers and GFPS members representing 15 water districts under the ANOWD umbrella are potential GAD champions supportive of Safe Water’s gender equality and women empowerment goals. After completing the GAD Planning and Budgeting training, they will have the opportunity to hone their skills in gender mainstreaming and leverage the GAD Budget. Furthermore, linking ANOWD with the PGFPS enables the former to access PGFPS’ network of local GAD resource persons.



Women’s Role in Coastal Resource Management. The workshop celebrated and acknowledged the different roles women and men have in coastal resource management while also highlighting the interconnection of gender, forests, and coastal livelihoods.

FIGURE 20. BUILDING THE CAPACITY ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT





Integrating gender sensitivity in organic farming trainings. Trainees listen to basic gender and development topics and participate in interactive activities on gender roles as part of the Training on Organic Vegetable Farming and Demo Farm Establishment in Narra, Palawan Province.

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

Strategic planning by the Safe Water Gender Team: To integrate strategies for gender equality and women empowerment in its Gender Action Plan, the Safe Water Gender Team held a planning session this quarter where the Team agreed on strategic directions for each of the Field Sites as well as targets under the cross-cutting indicators (CC3-5) for Year 3.

For CC3 (percentage change of women in decision-making positions in WSPs or sector institutions), the Team will not only focus on board of directors and management of WSPs and WMCs but will also include formation of GFPS within these institutions.

For CC4 (number of persons trained with USG assistance for advancing gender equality or female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations), the Team agreed on internal targets and stakeholders per Field Site. For Palawan, the Field Team targets to work with the network of Barangay GAD Monitors in the province with the Provincial GAD Focal Person as lead of the initiative. In Negros Occidental and Sarangani, NGO partners and POs involved in sustainable livelihoods will help deliver trainings. In addition, the Negros Occidental Field Team will have joint activities with the PGFPS.

The contribution of gender initiatives to other indicators are presented in Table 7.

Facilitate women's access to employment and enterprise development opportunities: In March of this quarter, the Palawan Field Team held a series of hands-on training on organic farming and integrated gender orientation with POs based in the municipality of Narra for 159 participants.

In total, Safe Water reached 314 participants for the 2nd quarter of Year 3, with Palawan's combined mangrove planting and gender orientation as well as



Applying lessons learned on organic vegetable farming. Farmers apply Anaerobic Bokashi to the plot bed prior to planting of bell pepper and marigold (flower as natural pesticide) as part of actual demonstrations during the Training on Organic Vegetable Farming and Demo Farm Establishment in Julie’s Pan Farm, Barangay Taritien, Narra, Palawan.

the series of organic farming trainings held in March. In addition, the GAD Planning and Budgeting Training in Negros Occidental in partnership with the PGFPS and ANOWD involved 30 representatives from the water districts.

TABLE 7. CONTRIBUTION OF GEWE INITIATIVES TO OTHER INDICATORS

INDICATORS	GENDER-RELATED INITIATIVES
IR 1.1: Number of WSPs with increased operational, technical, and financial management capacity through Safe Water activities	Development of GAD Plans and Budget (GPB)
IR 1.2: Number of coordination mechanisms institutionalized at the local, watershed, and regional levels through Safe Water activities	Formation of GFPS among water districts and women representation in WMCs
IR 1.3: Value of new funding mobilized to the water and sanitation sectors	Monitoring of GAD Budget included in the GPB
IR 2.3: Amount of investment mobilized for sustainable landscapes	
IR 3.2: Number of mechanisms developed and/or enhanced for exchanging knowledge on water security	Capacity development activities on GAD with WSS partners
CCI: Number of tools, technologies, or measures implemented (WRM and WSS)	Use of GAD tools, technologies, or measures
CC2: Number of partnerships developed and/or institutionalized (WRM and WSS)	Formation of GAD partnerships

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

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

A. COMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH PLAN STRATEGY I: BUILDING SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Safe Water communicates the importance of WRM and WSS among key stakeholder groups and external audiences. This included project activity updates, success stories, and key event promotions, as outlined below.

UPDATES ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Team used several communication platforms to disseminate updates on Safe Water implementation. These included: weekly highlights, social media posts (e.g. photos, videos, recordings, press releases) and monthly newsletters, summarized in Table 8.

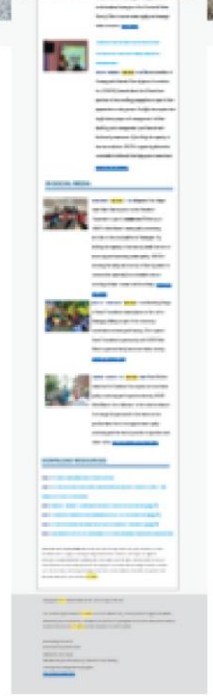
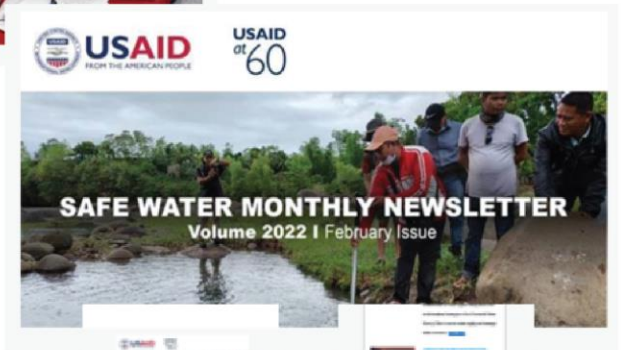
TABLE 8. COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS USAGE

COMMUNICATION PRODUCT	AUDIENCE	FREQUENCY	NUMBER
Safe Water Newsletter	Safe Water partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries, trainees, etc.	Monthly	3
Highlights	USAID and DAI stakeholders	1-3/month	17
Social Media (based on newsletter contents)	USAID Spotlight	2/ month	6
	News articles	4-5/month	14
	Social media posts	3-7/month	13
	Videos/ footages, and recordings	2-7/month	10
	Press releases	1-3/month	6
	Total		69

Monthly Newsletters. In USAID spotlights, Safe Water featured briefers and fact sheets and announcements on: USAID’s assistance responding to Typhoon Odette (December 2021); USAID annual report on water security; women water champions (January 2022); USAID WASH fact sheet; and new WorkwithUSAID.org website (February 2022). It also contained news articles and social media posts published by partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. More than 50% of the content of newsletters come from citizen journalism empowering our partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries to play an active role in disseminating news and information about Safe Water.



Monthly Newsletters. Safe Water shared project updates with stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries through USAID Spotlight, news articles, social media posts, and other resources.



Putting a face to our stories.

Ms. Virgie Villanueva, active farmer member of Pamalpalen Irrigators Association in Narra, Palawan, shows a newly harvested 3-kg Ube for seedling propagation demonstration.



The Team prepared news articles on the following:

1. Greentropics introduces Mutu Asam Brew coffee beans, a product of USAID’s assistance;
2. USAID, Partners Install 100 Toilets to Promote Household Sanitation, Environmental Protection;
3. Five Local Innovations Win Awards in 2021 Philippine Water Challenge;
4. Palawan’s Office of Provincial Agriculture awards USAID-assisted People’s Organization;
5. MUAD, a USAID partner, expands watershed protection project in Bago City and Malogo;
6. USAID continues assistance to Sarangani Province develop its Water Security Plan;
7. Camarines Sur entry wins inaugural Philippine Water Challenge;
8. USAID, Maynilad and PBSP’s Water Alliance prepare new set of government and private sector trainers on Water Demand Management;
9. Capitol fosters community partnership for environmental conservation;
10. From wastewater to fertilizer: DLSU’s faculty-student team-up recognized for sustainable, pioneering research;
11. Sarangani stakeholders identify threats to water security;
12. Philippine Water Challenge winners offer solutions to Odette-hit areas;
13. USAID, Seaoil Foundation ink partnership on organic farming to improve water security; and
14. Sunlight brings best practices on ube production to support water resource management.

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

1. Dumangueña Manaile River Irrigators Association, Inc. (DUMRIA) organic vegetable farming;
2. USAID year-end visit in Sarangani;
3. Women ecotourism attendants welcoming the USAID team in Suyac Island during their visit to conclude the pilot program of OBA-BF;
4. USAID training hosted by the Conrado Ladislawa Alcantara Foundation (CLAFI) in cooperation with Siguel Hydro Power Corporation and Local Government of Maasim;
5. Greentropics CEO Fred Fredeluces;
6. Philippine Water Challenge (PhIWC) awarding ceremony;

7. Water demand management (WDM) training;
8. Orlando Francisco, an organic farmer;
9. Gee, an organic farmer;
10. Edgar Francisco, an organic farmer;
11. Malapatan Vice Mayor Jean Delos Santos ;
12. Monching Derige of Seoil Foundation; and
13. Peter Alfeche, a newly-trained water quality monitoring officer.

Weekly Highlights. The Team submitted weekly highlight featuring major activities and events for the quarter:

1. USAID continues assistance to Sarangani Province develop its 1st water security plan;
2. USAID, Seoil Foundation ink partnership on organic farming to improve water security;
3. USAID, Sarangani Government sets up mechanism to measure results and allocate resources to water security plan;
4. USAID facilitates creation of Puerto Princesa City, Quezon working groups to implement Payments for Ecosystem Services;
5. USAID trains community health workers assess and monitor water quality;
6. USAID, Maitum initiate planning sessions to conserve and restore four watersheds;
7. USAID introduces Payments for Ecosystem Services data analysis tools for Puerto Princesa City stakeholders;
8. USAID trains LWUA on technical bid evaluation of septage management projects;
9. USAID connects newly-trained Narra and Puerto Princesa farmers to ube market;
10. Sarangani Province, USAID mark 1st Provincial Water Summit to secure water resources;
11. Women spotlighted in water security events, campaigns during International Women’s Day;
12. USAID assists Alabel LGU in crafting a local ordinance to establish a municipal water enterprise;
13. USAID partners with LWUA in workshop series to build capacity of personnel in financial stress test, business planning, and water utility assessment;
14. USAID rolls out water demand management in General Santos City;
15. USAID trains more than 150 women and men of Narra on organic vegetable growing and organic farm establishment;
16. USAID trains water service providers on water supply system design on World Water Day; and
17. USAID, Coca-cola executives visit watershed protection project, lauds annual gains despite Typhoon Odette.

Videos. Videos, footages, and recordings produced and/ or shared by USAID Safe Water in its monthly newsletters during the quarter include:

1. [Footage of DUMRIA Demonstration and Training Sites for Vegetable Farming;](#)
2. [Philippine Water Challenge Awarding Ceremony;](#)
3. [5-week Climate Resilient Farmers Field School \(FFS\) on Coffee Production;](#)
4. [Philippine Water Challenge 2021 Entries;](#)
5. [Protecting the Philippines' Natural Resources and Ensuring Clean, Safe Water for Local Communities;](#)
6. [U.S. Assistance for Typhoon Odette Tops Php1 Billion with New Major Announcement;](#)
7. [USAID Assistance to DUMRIA Linking to Agri-product Market;](#)
8. [PTV’s Rise and Shine Pilipinas TV interview of PhilWC 2021 winner;](#)

9. [Global Waters Year in Review 2021](#); and
10. [USAID Celebrates Black History Month](#).

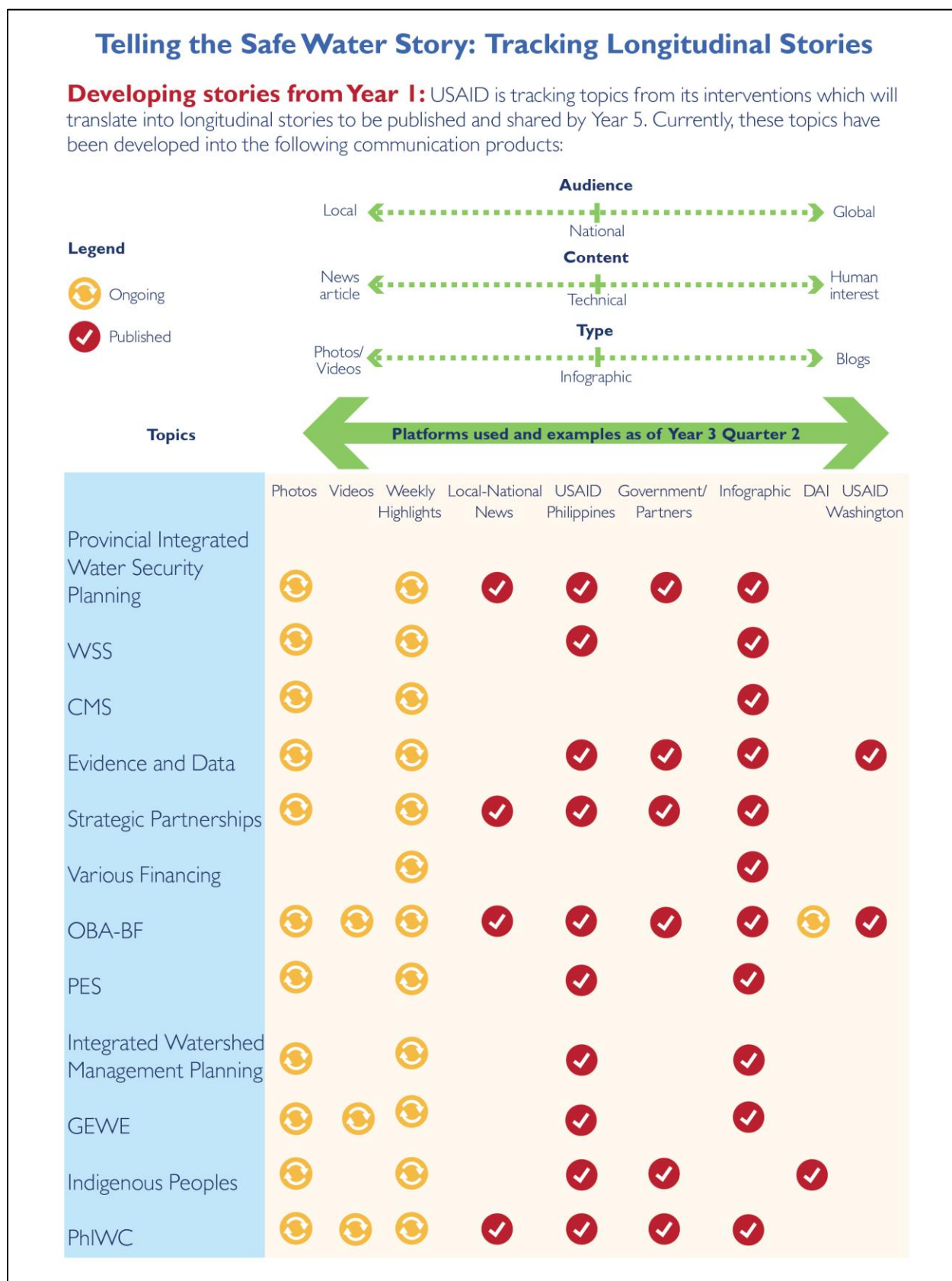
SUCCESS STORIES AND PROMOTION OF KEY EVENTS

During the quarter, Safe Water communications and outreach work focused on events such as: Philippine Water Challenge, World Water Forum, Sarangani Provincial Water Summit, Women’s Month and partnerships. Press releases were published and featured in official websites and accounts of various media entities, LGUs and NGOs, providing greater visibility for the project:

- USAID continues assistance to Sarangani Province develop its Water Security Plan
[Sarangani PIO](#) | [Sarangani FB](#)
- Camarines Sur entry wins inaugural Philippine Water Challenge
[Philippine Star](#) | [Nation Builder PH](#) | [PhilStar FB](#)
- Capitol fosters community partnership for environmental conservation
[Sunstar](#) | [Negros Occidental FB](#)
- From wastewater to fertilizer: DLSU’s faculty-student team-up recognized for sustainable, pioneering research
[Business Mirror](#) | [Animo Magazine](#)
- DENR, USAID to boost partnership on environmental protection and climate change mitigation
[DENR](#) | [DENR News Alerts](#) | [BusinessMirror](#) | [Tribune](#) | [Remate](#) | [MaharlikaTV](#) | [Ikot](#)
- USAID celebrates water and economic resilience partnerships
[USAID](#) | [USAID FB page](#) | [Manila Bulletin](#) | [SunStar](#) | [Malaya](#) | [UnderOneCeiling](#) | [SunStar FB page](#)

Safe Water is tracking topics from its interventions which will translate into longitudinal stories to be published and shared annually up until Year 5. A summary of the topics is provided in Figure 21.

FIGURE 21. TELLING THE SAFE WATER STORY: TRACKING LONGITUDINAL STORIES



Philippine Water Challenge (PhIWC). Post-event updates of PhIWC winners following the awarding ceremony last year include:

- Next steps/ further developments of PhIWC solutions;
- PhIWC winners' assistance provided to Typhoon Odette victims using PhIWC solutions; and
- Women empowerment angle published by DAI Global's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) newsletter for January 2022 circulated to development experts across the globe.

World Water Forum Senegal 2022. The Team produced various collaterals used by USAID Washington as advocacy materials during the World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal which coincided with the World Water Day celebration. These collaterals include:

- Video – The Team's major video output during the quarter is the OBA-BF pilot experience in Alabel, Sarangani which was uploaded in [USAID Water's YouTube account](#) and [Global Waters Communication and Knowledge Management portal](#). The video testimonial describes the OBA-BF team members and beneficiaries' experiences in piloting the new, innovative financing scheme for household sanitation; and
- Infographics – Three repurposed infographics (one-pager formats) describing the OBA-BF scheme from different angles for each site (i.e. environmental protection, public health); and one new infographic (two-pager) describing the challenges, current activities and their progress, testimonials, and next steps in harnessing hydrologic analyses for evidence-based watershed management.

Sarangani Provincial Water Summit. The Team produced various collaterals to attract the support of local decision-makers, partners, and stakeholders attending the 1st Provincial Water Summit of Sarangani. These collaterals included recharge maps of major and critical watersheds and the following visual presentations:

- Sarangani Baseline Data and the Provincial Integrated Water Security Framework and Planning Process, which include infographics and visuals on water supply and sanitation situationer, profile of water service providers, available water per capita per year, reduction in river flows and groundwater recharge, water supply and demand balance, deforestation investment requirements, and the PIWSP process; and
- Proposed Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan highlights, which include the problems, strategies, targets, and resource requirements.

Women's Month. The Team focused its communications and outreach efforts to implement campaigns and activities and produce the collaterals such as:

- #BreakTheBias campaign - Over 100 personnel from WSPs, LGUs, academe, NGOs, POs, and the private sector shared their stories and photos to support the international social media campaign for International Women's Day, #BreakTheBias. The IWD #BreakTheBias pose with arms crossed show people's commitment to calling out bias, smashing stereotypes, breaking inequality, and rejecting discrimination.

GESI Newsletter-January 2022



In This Month's Issue

- GESI at DAI in 2021
- Uganda IAM's Red Card to Gender Based Violence Campaign
- South Sudan RASS DCOP raises awareness of Gender Based Violence
- Tayar Nepal supports persons with disabilities to cope with disasters
- Philippines Safe Water sanitation funding program empowers women
- Colombia RGA advances women's inclusion

Safe Water sanitation funding program empowers women

Unequal power between women and men means that women and girls often have limited participation or influence over the decision-making processes in the household. As such, women are often precluded from the decision-making that would influence where and how safely managed sanitation services are provided. With women and girls disproportionately bearing the responsibility for obtaining domestic water, at the expense of other productive activities, and the ones that need the most convenience and privacy in using toilets, their decisions related to sanitation are of critical importance.

Despite this, women rarely are afforded the opportunity to provide input on strategic resource/service decision-making such as installation/rehabilitation of toilets. Water supply and sanitation (WSS) facilities are too often planned and designed by men. Unfortunately, plans and decisions made without the input



Cristela Bacruya is a member of the Suyac Island Ecotourist Association and an OBA-BF beneficiary in Sagay City, Negros Occidental. Cristela shares, "this project is indeed of great help to us by protecting the island's ecotourism and ensuring continuity of our livelihood. Through this sanitation project, we can continuously maintain the cleanliness of the seas and protect our coastal communities."

Global GESI best practice exchange. The DAI GESI newsletter provides a platform for exchanging best practices on gender equality and social inclusion implemented by different sustainable development projects of DAI across the globe.

- #BreakTheBias videos – Four videos capturing biases, stereotypes, inequalities, and discrimination against women in the water sector in relation to water service providers, livelihoods, watershed protection, and governance. The videos will be used as advocacy material for component activities where GEWE is integrated.
- Medium blog article – The blog entitled, “[Virgie’s Hope for Better Sanitation](#)” shares the story of Virgie Montero and her experience with USAID’s innovative financing pilot on household sanitation.

Partnerships. The Team produced various collaterals used as advocacy materials during the USAID-Coca-Cola visit in Bago City which coincided with the World Water Day celebration. These collaterals include:

- Infographics
 - repurposed one infographic (two-pager) on harnessing hydrologic analyses for evidence-based watershed management
 - one new infographic (two-pager) to describe challenges, the P4WatER project, current activities and their progress, achievements, and lessons learned in the partnership of MUAD, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc., and USAID

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

By providing communication support to component activities, the Safe Water communications and outreach efforts helped to facilitate buy-in to and expanded knowledge of technical approaches and tools used during World Water Day, International Women’s Day, Women’s Month, and in several project activities.



Commitments and stories exchange between partners and farmers. (Top; L-R) USAID Mission Director Ryan Washburn, Bago City Mayor Nicholas Yulo, MUAD Negros President Danilo Malunes, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. President Ma. Cecilia Alcantara, Public Affairs Director Cashmer Dirampaten representing Coca-Cola Philippines President Antonio del Rosario, USAID Environment Office Chief John Edgar, and NEDA Undersecretary Roderick Planta show their tree seedlings in preparation of the ceremonial tree planting marking the commitment of USAID and partners in their continuous support to the upland farmers’ work on watershed protection. (Bottom) Guests join the MUAD local farmers during the conclusion of the World Water Day celebration.



USAID, Coke visit MUAD during World Water Day. The project site visit done by USAID and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. coincide with the World Water Day celebration with the theme, “Groundwater, making the invisible visible.” The P4Water project strengthens the role of upland farming communities in protecting upland ecosystems to sustain water resources and climate change resilience of low-lying areas and the networks of rivers and watersheds.

WORLD WATER DAY

The Team supported USAID’s international and national celebrations of World Water Day. At the international level, the Team helped the USAID mission publish the Medium blog article entitled, “Virgie’s Hope for Better Sanitation” on Virgie’s experience with USAID’s innovative financing pilot on OBA-BF for household sanitation. The blog spoke to the value of groundwater protection for community health and highlighted women’s role in household decision-making on sanitation which is relevant to the observances of International Women’s Day and Women’s Month. USAID Safe Water Chief of Party Alma Porciuncula also joined an all-woman panel to present a variety of approaches for integrating water resource management with water service delivery, and how these have succeeded in making the value of water resources visible and tangible.

At the local level, Safe Water organized simultaneous activities to promote World Water Day and its theme, “Groundwater: Making the invisible, visible”:

- **Negros Occidental:** USAID and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. project monitoring visit for P4Water with MUAD farmers – this included a breakfast meeting with the Negros Occidental governor, tree planting ceremony, and exchanges with Bago City Mayor and MUAD farmers. The USAID delegation was led by USAID Mission Director Ryan Washburn and Office of Environment Chief John Edgar.
- **General Santos City:** The Team partnered with the General Santos City LGU in its advocacy activities on groundwater through the production of T-shirts emphasizing the message of the importance of groundwater being an invisible finite resource but with visible impact to everyone.
- **Palawan:** The Team partnered with the Puerto Princesa City Water District and DILG in organizing a training for local WSPs on water system design, technical standards and project proposal development.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY AND WOMEN’S MONTH

The Team’s communications and outreach activities for the observance International Women’s Day and Women’s Month included:

- #BreakTheBias photos and videos used for advocacy materials in GEWE-integrated activities;
- Inputs from challenges and interventions used to develop an infographic (two-pager and standee) entitled, “Strengthening Women’s Leadership and Economic Participation in the Water Sector” which will be made available next quarter; and
- Submission to the DAI GESI newsletter on Safe Water activities held during Women’s Day focusing on the international campaign, coastal resource management, and GPB training and workshops.

TRANSLATION OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS TO COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

As discussed in the last quarterly report, the Team began documenting implementation of Safe Water activities to capture best practices and processes. Best practices and processes translated into communications products this quarter are presented in Table 9 below.

TABLE 9. COMMUNICATION MATERIALS BASED ON SAFE WATER ACTIVITIES

SAFE WATER ACTIVITIES	COMMUNICATION MATERIALS
OBA-BF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testimonials from OBA-BF participants and implementers from Alabel, Sarangani – featured as video in USAID Water YouTube account and Global Waters’ Communication and Knowledge Management portal and a blog in the Global Waters’ Communication and Knowledge Management portal and USAID Medium • Repurposed OBA-BF videos produced last year and used as advocacy materials during discussions with LGUs • Photos included in repurposed fact sheets used as advocacy materials during discussions with LGUs • Piloting experiences highlighted in the Medium blog, PowerPoint presentations, and advocacy materials used in discussions with LGUs, partners, and stakeholders • Three one-page infographics now uploaded and available in Global Waters’ Communication and Knowledge Management portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making sanitary toilets affordable for every Filipino family ○ Preventing water-borne diseases among poor households ○ Protecting a marine reserve through household sanitation • Photo submitted to the Water for the World Photo Contest: “Sharing a laugh” is now part of the 40 photos across the globe submitted for the contest; also part of the three photos submitted by Safe Water and comprise the only entries from the Philippines
PIIWSF/PIWSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographics in visual presentations for the Sarangani Water Summit to be used as a template for the Negros Occidental Water Summit • Two-pager infographic format will be used in the Negros Occidental Water Summit • LGU fact sheets containing PIWSP situationers (i.e. water supply and sanitation, water supply and demand balance, deforestation in watersheds, targets and resource requirements) for use in the Negros Occidental Water Summit
Philippine Water Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event photos and updates on PhIWC winners for TV show interviews and social media content and other communication materials to be developed next quarter
WDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos and photos gathered from WDM trainings will be used as inputs for the WDM Training Modules and e-Learning package (storyboard for step-by-step instructions which will be finalized next quarter)
Hydrological Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-pager infographic format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ used during the World Water Forum in Senegal and the Sarangani Water Summit, now available in the Global Waters Communication and Knowledge Management portal

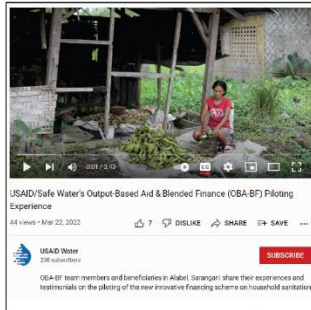
SAFE WATER ACTIVITIES	COMMUNICATION MATERIALS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ used for repurposing a standee to be used for the Negros Occidental Water Summit ● Activity documentation translated as a brief success story submitted for the IPS report of USAID ● Photos and testimonials integrated in the infographic (two-pager) and PowerPoint presentations used as advocacy materials during discussions with partners and stakeholders
Livelihood and Partnerships (e.g. coffee farming, organic farming, capacity-building for savings and credit group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Testimonials shared in social media highlights integrated in monthly newsletters ● Videos integrated in monthly newsletters ● Photos integrated to the infographic (one-pager) on P4WaTER used during the USAID-Coke visit ● Testimonials, activity documentation, and photos to be used as inputs to the partnerships standee for the Negros Occidental Water Summit ● Photo submitted to the Water for the World Photo Contest: "Picking coffee beans" is now part of the 40 photos across the globe submitted for the contest; also part of the three photos submitted by Safe Water and comprise the only entries from the Philippines
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Photo submitted to the Water for the World Photo Contest: "Community learning in the Philippines" is now part of the 40 photos across the globe submitted for the contest; also part of the three photos submitted by Safe Water and comprise the only entries from the Philippines ● Interactive email invitations with links to other Safe Water communication materials and knowledge products to maximize information dissemination

These materials will be used to supplement the development of more formal knowledge products. Screenshots of these materials are presented in Figure 22, the next page.

FIGURE 22. PACKING KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS INTO COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Packaging Knowledge Products into Communication Materials

OBA-BF: Includes blog article (USAID Medium and Global Waters), video (USAID Medium and Global Waters), three one-page infographics (Global Waters and DENR), and a photo (Water for the World)



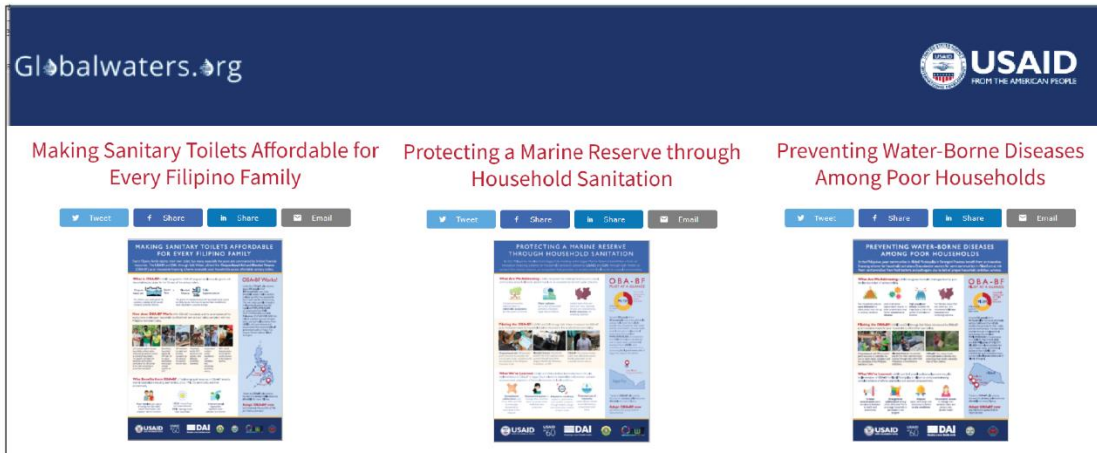
USAID Water YouTube



USAID Medium

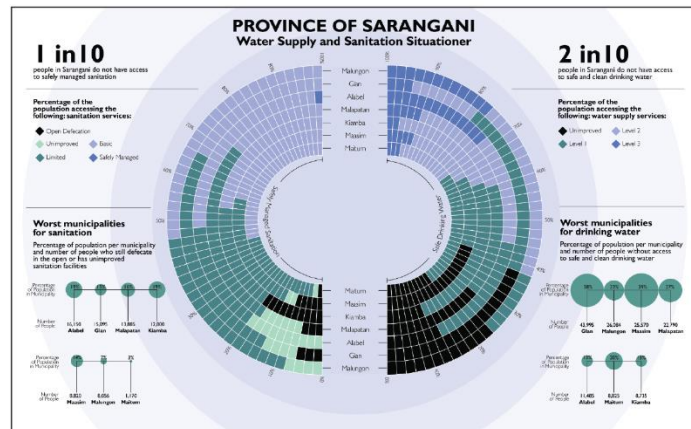


USAID Flickr/ Water for the World



Global Waters

PIIWSF/ PIWSP: Includes visual presentations, infographic and fact sheets used in the Sarangani Water Summit and will be used as basis for the Negros Occidental Water Summit



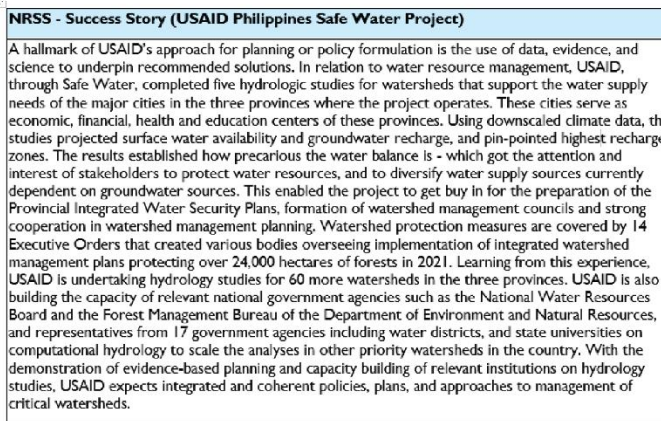
WDM: Includes videos and photos being gathered from WDM trainings



Hydrologic Studies: Includes two-page infographic (integrating photos and testimonials; Global Waters and DENR) and success story (IPS report)

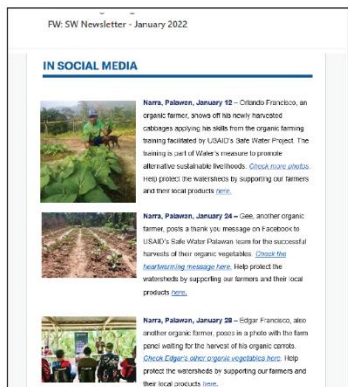


Global Waters

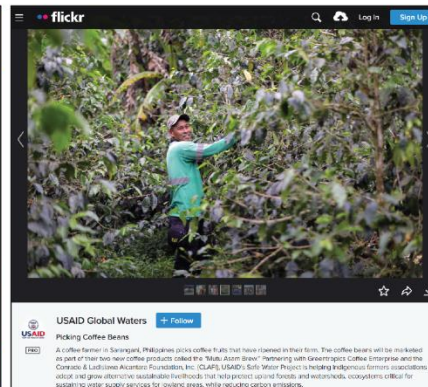


USAID IPS Report

Livelihood and Partnerships: Includes social media testimonials in monthly newsletters, infographic (integrating photos), and photo (Water for the World)



Monthly Newsletter: Social Media



USAID Flickr/ Water for the World

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

By generating national interest for WSS and WRM issues, the Team supported broad-based engagement of stakeholder to improve WSS and WRM at the national level. This quarter, the Team supported the PWSSMP advocacy through:

- One of the 14 news articles shared in its monthly newsletters;
- Three of the 17 weekly highlights submitted to USAID;
- One of the six press releases published; and
- Communication products used in the Sarangani Provincial Water Summit and inputs to be developed into communication products to be used for the Negros Occidental Provincial Water Summit (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, infographics, fact sheets, etc.).

Safe Water started carrying out the PWSSMP Communications Plan agreed on with NEDA last quarter by:

- Creating a library of PowerPoint presentations on the PWSSMP;
- Preparing a package of communication products to be used for social media materials for the next quarter (e.g. social media cards, pictograms, infographic, videos); and
- Drafting messaging and inputs for the Provincial Water Summit briefing kits which could serve as a template for cascading the PWSSMP in other provinces not covered by the project.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

A. LAUNCH OF SAFE WATER ONLINE M&E SYSTEM

In February, the Team rolled-out the Safe Water Online M&E System to facilitate reporting of the project updates and track performance against annual and LOP targets, in real-time. Through the online M&E system, the Team can easily access a wide range of data and information to inform prioritization of activities or adaptation to constraints. The key modules of the system include registries of: (i) approved annual work plan; (ii) updates on planned activities and outputs under each project component; (iii) outputs or outcomes achieved against performance indicator targets; and (iv) dashboards and report templates, and (v) library of M&E-related documents.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Safe Water Activity Online Monitoring & Evaluation System
Change Password | Logout

Kent

- Home
- Dashboards
- Upload Information
- PIWSP
- Library
- ADMINISTRATION**
- User Management
- Reference Information

Reports

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

[BROWSE REPORTS](#)

What We Do

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

General

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

[READ FACT SHEET](#)

Negros Occidental

Achieving a water-secure future for Negros Occidental

[READ FACT SHEET](#)

Palawan

Achieving a water-secure future for Palawan

[READ FACT SHEET](#)

Sarangani/ GSC

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

[READ FACT SHEET](#)

Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboards

Water Supply & Sanitation

Water Resource Management

Water Sector Governance

Provincial Integrated Water Security Plan

Cross-cutting: MEL, COG & KM

Weekly Highlights

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

December 9, Negros Occidental

[BROWSE HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Last updated: January 7, 2022

[UPLOAD INFORMATION](#) |
 [PIWSP](#) |
 [LIBRARY](#) |
 [USER MANAGEMENT](#) |
 [REFERENCE INFORMATION](#) |
 [FEEDBACK](#) |
 [USAID.GOV](#) |
 [REPORT PROBLEMS](#)

Homepage of the Safe Water Online M&E system.

B. PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

In the second quarter of Year 3 Work Plan, Safe Water activities contributed to 20 project indicators. The achievements build on collaboration between Safe Water and partner LGUs, WSPs, the private sector, and other stakeholders in realizing project activities across the targeted sites. The achievements are summarized in Table 10.

TABLE 10. YEAR 3 2ND QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AGAINST YEAR 3 TARGETS

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of the end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual		
						As of Q1 (Figure / Value)	Q2 Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
Outcomes by Objective								
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services								
O 1.1: Number of people gaining access to basic or safely managed drinking water services as a result of U.S. Government (USG) assistance	F		270,000	48,046	30,000	814	4,305	14.35%
	<i>Basic</i>	1,539,312	51,570		16,000	0	3,968	24.80%
	<i>Safely Managed</i>	1,260,760	218,430	48,046	14,000	814	337	2.41%
	<p>Three thousand nine hundred sixty-eight (3,968 individuals in 992 households) gained access to basic drinking water services from the Level 2 water supply system of Barangay Pangyan in the Municipality of Glan. The Glan Municipal Engineering Office (MEO) implemented the water supply project using detailed engineering design models introduced by Safe Water and the application of skills learned from various capacity development activities carried out by Safe Water such as: (i) construction supervision that ensured project implementation in accordance with prescribed specifications, standards, and timeline; and (ii) operations and maintenance (O&M) to promote sustainability of benefits that people gain from the service.</p> <p>337 people gained access to safely managed drinking water services by connecting to Level 3 water supply systems operating in Safe Water sites through loans from Water.org's partner MFIs amounting to [REDACTED].</p> <p>This brings the total of people with access to basic drinking water services (HL.8.1-1) to 3,968 (7.69% of LOP target) and 49,197 (22.52% of LOP target) for people with access to safely managed drinking water services (HL8.1-2). Safe Water expects to achieve its Y3 (30,000) and cumulative (50,000) targets for outcome 1.1 considering the activities lined up to expand WASH loans and the continuing technical assistance to WSPs in the development and implementation of water supply projects.</p>							
O 1.2: Number of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic or safely managed drinking water service as a result of USG assistance	F	0	800,000	1,211	100,000	209	60	0.06%
	<p>Sixty (60) people were able to upgrade service quality from the water supply systems they currently access through loans from Water.org's partner MFIs valued at [REDACTED]. This brings the total of people having improved service quality (HL 8.1-3) to 1,480 which constitutes 0.18% of the LOP target.</p> <p>Safe Water is working on a catch-up plan to meet its Y3 (100,000) and cumulative (150,000) targets under outcome 1.2 (improved service quality), through improvement of water quality and pressure management.</p>							
O 1.3: Number of people gaining access to limited or basic or safely managed sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	F		210,000	85,674	40,000	11,404	3,512	8.78%
	<i>Basic</i>	2,556,952	104,890	85,674	20,050	11,404	1,962	9.79%
	<i>Limited</i>	1,821,283	105,110		19,950	0	1,550	7.77%
	<i>Safely Managed</i>	1,375	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
	<p>One thousand nine hundred sixty-two (1,962) people accessed loans amounting to [REDACTED] from Water.org's partner MFIs to install basic sanitation services.</p> <p>1,550 individuals gained access to limited sanitation services from toilet bowls provided by the municipal government of EB Magalona (Negros Occidental) to 310 households funded through the supplemental budget</p>							

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of the end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual		
						As of Q1 (Figure / Value)	Q2	
							Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
		volume of rainfall.						
Objective 3: Strengthened water sector governance								
○ 3.1: Number of policies or plans developed, enhanced, or implemented to promote water security	C		50	13	10	1	7	70%
<p>Safe Water assisted LGUs in the issuance of seven (7) Executive Orders (EO) as follows:</p> <p>Palawan (4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) EO No. 04-2022 "Creating the PES TWG for Irawan and Montible Watersheds"; (ii) EO No.002-2022 "Creation of PES-TWG in the Municipality of Quezon, Palawan"; (iii) Municipal Ordinance No. 450-2022 on "Revised Tourism Code of Taytay, Palawan of 2022"; and (iv) Municipal Ordinance No. 451-2022 "An Ordinance Establishing the Conservation and Sustainable Tourism Fee (CSTF) System, Other Tourism Fees, Revenue Sharing System, CSTF Trust Fund, Creation of Conservation and Sustainable Tourism Trust Fund and Its Management Board, Implementation of the Taytay Tourist Passport (Pasaporte) and Online CSTF Payment Platform, and Imposing Penalties for Violation Thereof in The Municipality of Taytay, Palawan" <p>Negros (2):</p> <p>Resolution creating Bantay Bukid Brigade (BBG) in Mt. Kanlaon Nat Park (MKNP); and EO creating Negros Occidental Provincial Integrated Water Security Council (PIWSC) which also mandates Provincial GAD Focal Point System membership in the council level and the LGU GAD Focal Point System membership in the watershed level</p> <p>Sarangani (1):</p> <p>EO No. MMXXI-040 Series of 2021 "Creating the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Council (MENRC) and Technical Working Group (TWG) in the Municipality of Maitum, Sarangani Province.</p> <p>To-date, 21 policies/plans have been developed or implemented across project areas, equivalent to 42% of LOP target. Safe Water is likely to achieve or even exceed both annual (10) and cumulative (20) Y3 targets through its continuing assistance to the development and implementation of various plans (e.g., IWMPs, WMPs, LWCRPs) and policies (e.g., EOs creating various LGU-TWGs supporting Safe Water activities, ordinances for the implementation of PES).</p>								
○ 3.2: Number of water and sanitation sector institutions strengthened to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as a result of USG assistance	F	0	50	28	10	0	5	50%
<p>Safe Water technical assistance and trainings facilitated the strengthening of five institutions:</p> <p>Negros Occidental (3): organization of Bago and Kabankalan TWGs to lead in the development and implementation of the PES; and Victorias City adopting/ implementing the LAWIN system</p> <p>Sarangani (2): Glan and Maasim Water Districts undergoing Residual Chlorine Testing and Pressure Monitoring</p> <p>More institutions will be accounted under this indicator from continuing assistance to LGUs and other institutions on: formulation and implementation of IWMPs / WMPs and LWCRPs; conduct of hydrologic studies; strengthening forest patrolling through the LAWIN system; community-based water quality monitoring; and formulation of business plans of WSPs, among others.</p>								
Intermediate Results by Objective								
Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services								
IR 1.1: Number of WSPs with increased operational, technical, and financial management capacity through Safe Water activities	C	188	30	13	5	8	4	80%
<p>Four WSPs demonstrated improvement in the operation/management of their services following the recommendations given by Safe Water. These WSPs are: Dumaran Water Supply System (DWSS) and Brooke's Point Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association, Inc. (BPRWSAI) in Palawan that both installed pressure gauges; and Glan and Maasim Water Districts in Sarangani conducting residual chlorine testing, pressure monitoring, and gender and development planning and budgeting.</p> <p>Safe Water's TA for this indicator in the next two quarters includes: development of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) reduction program in Aborlan and Narra (Palawan); strategic business planning for WSPs in Palawan (EI</p>								

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of the end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual		
						As of Q1 (Figure / Value)	Q2	
							Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
Nido, Quezon and San Vicente) and Sarangani (Alabel, Savesegrow); O&M planning; construction supervision trainings for LGUs and WSPs; and Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting (15 WDs in Negros Occidental, and LGU GADFPS in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan)								
IR 1.2: Number of coordination mechanisms institutionalized at the local, watershed, and regional levels through Safe Water activities	C		48	10	4	1	2	50%
Safe Water assisted with the creation/institutionalization of management councils for BMRB and Siguel watersheds. This brings Safe Water achievement for this indicator to 13 coordination mechanisms or 27.1% of LOP target.								
IR 1.3: Value of new funding mobilized to the water and sanitation sectors as a result of USC assistance (million US\$)	[REDACTED]							
Safe Water mobilized [REDACTED] in new funding, broken down as follows: Public: - [REDACTED] Aborlan Water Supply System -rehabilitation and expansion project - Provincial Government of Negros Occidental supplemental budget worth [REDACTED] for the provision of Supplemental Budget for 2021 for toilet superstructures with EB Magalona (Negros Occidental) as recipient; - [REDACTED] counterpart of ML:GU EB Magalona from 2022 budget for septic tanks; - TA to San Carlos City LGU to utilize [REDACTED] for the improvement of its water treatment plant (WTP); and - LGU Malapatan acquisition of flow meters worth [REDACTED] Private: - [REDACTED] loans accessed by some HHs from Water.org in support of expansion and improvement of access to WSS services in Safe Water sites;								
This brings the total funds mobilized at [REDACTED]. Safe Water expects to achieve both annual [REDACTED] Y3 targets through the following activities: 1. Technical assistance to LWUA to facilitate implementation of septage management projects using its 2021 and 2022 budget allocation 2. Implementation of work plan with Water.org to increase demand generation for WASH loans; and 3. Facilitation of the utilization of National Government budget allocation for LGU WSS investments including GEF, FALGU and ELCAC.								
IR 1.4: Number of feasibility studies, programs of work, and detailed designs developed that enable water supply and sanitation service expansion or improvement as a result of USG assistance	C		50	4	10	3	0	0%
No report for this quarter but on-going assistance to LGUs and WDs for the conduct of FS and development of DEDs and POWs are expected to be completed during the 3 rd and 4 th quarter of the Year 3 Work Plan. Safe Water expects to achieve both annual (10) and cumulative (14) Y3 targets through the following TA: 1. Design preparation: Malatgao Water Supply Project 2. Development of POWs: Upper Kabankalan 3. Chlorine Residual Testing in Negros Occidental (5) and Sarangani (4)								
Objective 2: Improved sustainable management of water resources								
IR 2.1: Number of hectares under improved watershed management through Safe Water activities	C	2,136	330,000	24,178	90,000	0	26,540	29.49%
Safe Water accounted additional 26,540 hectares that are considered under improved watershed management broken down as follows: 18,447 hectares in Narra Watershed (Palawan) and 8,093 hectares in Bago Watershed (Negros Occidental). This achievement is attributed to meeting the three of the seven criteria (milestones) for								

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of the end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual		
						As of Q1 (Figure / Value)	Q2	
							Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
IR 2.2: Number of LGU, WSPs, and watershed stakeholders with improved capacity to plan, manage and monitor water and forest resources sustainably, using data and innovative technologies	C		50	8	17	0	5	29.41%
IR 2.3: Amount of investment mobilized (in US\$ equivalent) for sustainable landscapes, as supported by USG assistance								
IR 2.4 Number of people who apply improved conservation law enforcement practices as a result of USG assistance	C		2,000	170	400	0	31	7.75%
Objective 3: Strengthened water sector governance								
IR 3.1: Number of major reform initiatives supported	C		10					
IR 3.2: Number of mechanisms developed	C		15	4	4	0	2	50%

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of the end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual		
						As of Q1 (Figure / Value)	Q2	
							Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
and/or enhanced for exchanging knowledge on water security								
<p>Two (2) mechanisms were tapped as platforms for knowledge exchange on water security among different institutions or stakeholders, namely;</p> <p>(i) 1st Sarangani Water Summit facilitated by Safe Water that provided local leaders greater understanding of the condition as well as challenges affecting the WSS services, deteriorating state of water resources and long-term solutions to achieve a water-secure future for the province; and</p> <p>(ii) DENR- Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) featuring Safe Water knowledge products such as its OBA-BF and Hydrology Fact Sheets and activities such as those held for World Water Day activities in its Facebook and Twitter accounts to enable various institutions and individuals from the public and private sectors to gain greater awareness on WSS and WRM initiatives to promote water security. The Team is also coordinating with DENR-FASPS for the uploading of other Safe Water knowledge products such as the PIWSF and Planning Guide in their e-Library.</p> <p>This brings the total of knowledge exchange mechanisms to six (6), equivalent to 40% of the LOP target.</p>								
Cross-cutting								
Number of tools, technologies, or measures implemented (WRM and WSS)	C		30	18	11	1	2	22.22%
<p>Four (4) WSPs in Sarangani adopted tools recommended by Safe Water as part of their service improvement program. These are:</p> <p>(i) installation of flow meters of Malapatan waterworks to account and monitor the system's (NRW) from water sources; and</p> <p>(ii) chlorination applied to the distribution system of Maasim WD.</p> <p>(iii) application of Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDD) and Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) implemented by Glan and Maasim Water Districts to develop their final GAD plans and budget</p> <p>This brings the total of tools, technologies, or measures implemented to 23 (or 77% of the LOP target).</p>								
Number of partnerships developed and/or institutionalized (WRM and WSS)	C		23	15	2	0	3	150%
<p>Safe Water exceeded the Y3 annual target this quarter with three (3) partnerships forged with the following institutions:</p> <p>(i) ECLOF Philippines Microfinance, Inc.;</p> <p>(ii) Association of Negros Producers; and</p> <p>(iii) Seaoil Foundation Inc. (SFI).</p> <p>A total of 18 partnerships have been forged in support of WSS and WRM improvement initiatives, equivalent to 78.2% of the LOP target.</p>								
Percentage change of women in decision-making positions in WSPs or sector institutions	C	32%	50%				0	
<p>This indicator does not have annual targets but Safe Water is building on enabling conditions to ensure that the LOP target is reached. This includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting (GPB) Training (GPB) for WSPs and WMCs (Y3 Q3-Q4); Training of Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP) Gender and Development Monitors (Y3 Q3); - and Gender-Responsive Human Resources and Management Strategies Training for WSPs (Y3 Q3-Q4). 								
Number of persons trained with USG assistance for advancing gender equality or female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations	C		1,000	163	400	0	313	78.25%
<p>Safe Water trained 313 individuals from various WSS / WRM service institutions and groups on various modules aimed at promoting gender equality or empowerment of women in advancing various WSS / WRM improvement efforts, broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 114 persons from the municipality of Quezon (Palawan) who attended mangrove tree planting activity and gender lecture and workshop; - 169 participants in the organic farming training in Narra (Palawan); and - 30 representatives from 15 WDs in Negros Occidental who attended training on workshop for GAD planning and budgeting <p>This brings the number of persons trained by Safe Water on advancing gender equality / women empowerment to 376 or 47.6% of the LOP target.</p>								

Indicators by Objective	Type (F/C)	Baseline	LOP Target	Achieved as of the end of Y2	Y3 Target (Annual)	Y3 Actual		
						As of Q1 (Figure / Value)	Q2	
							Figure / Value	% Against Annual Target
Proportion of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, employment).	C	40%	50%	67%	50%	0%	55%	
<p>Women accounted for roughly 55% of the people (2,687 out of 4,885) enjoying monetary and non-monetary benefits from various livelihood activities developed or supported by partnerships between Safe Water and various institutions during the quarter.</p>								

PHILIPPINE WATER CHALLENGE

Safe Water and its partner, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation signed an agreement with the Top 5 Philippine Water Challenge (PhIWC) winners on the utilization of their respective prize money to improve their solutions:⁹

1. *Low Cost Digitization and Automation Solution in Management of Water Distribution System (Libmanan Water District)*. Libmanan Water District developed a low-cost, locally coded and assembled wireless data logger for water district meter areas to increase operation and maintenance efficiency of water service providers. The solution allows for real-time monitoring (including SMS alerts) and recording of water flow, pressure, and volume at site through its built-in SD card module with real time clock (RTC).

Among the planned activities and improvements are:

- improvement of software components such as development of communication and sensor modules, and graphic user interface with manual of operation
- setting up a simple electronic laboratory with oscilloscope, signal generator, spectrum analyzer, soldering station, and 3D printer to support further development of the solution, including its repair and maintenance

2. *TUFFAd Tough on Toxins! Utilization of a module, customizable, and reusable zeolite water filter for low resource settings (ADAM Tech)*. TUFFAd is a threaded inline attachment added to hand pump stations to remove heavy metals and toxins from the groundwater. It is a modular water filter that uses highly abundant natural zeolites that filter harmful species through an absorption process coupled with ion-exchange capabilities resulting in better filtration efficiencies, a less costly alternative for low income communities.

Among the planned activities and improvements are:

- water sampling and analysis, and survey of residents to ensure solution meets prescribed standards for water quality needed by the community
- simulation and modelling studies for the filter container design to determine best filter arrangement and geometry for generic household applications that is usable in most water outlet media such as faucets

3. *Slum upgrading through affordable supply of clean water and holistic approach to empower and improve lives of urban disadvantaged (E&V Water and Life, and Tubig Pag-asa Inc.)*. This holistic water solution contributes to improved access to clean drinking water among urban poor communities and seeks involvement of multiple stakeholders in all aspects including site assessment, and operation and maintenance of the water system. It currently has 32,000 household beneficiaries from its operations in Cavite, Cebu and Leyte.

⁹ Prize money received by the PhIWC Winners are as follows: Libmanan Water District [REDACTED]; Adam Tech and E&V/TPA [REDACTED] each and Ozone Dynamic Ventures and DLSU-Araneta [REDACTED] each. Implementation of improvements will be from January to August 2022.

E&V/TPA has begun improvements to its solution such as:

- Installation of equipment such as generator sets and water tanks in its Cebu branch to optimize reliability of service
- Development of a standard Operations Manual with emergency management plan describing the step-by-step processes, for implementation in all Water and Life branches

4. *Portable Unihoused Water Purification and Sterilization Apparatus (Ozone Dynamic Ventures)*. The apparatus is a unique treatment and sterilization process providing safe, potable and oxygen-rich water. The technology combines: (1) electronic flocculation killing biofilm which enhances filtration efficiency; (2) ion exchange filtration removing manganese, iron and heavy metals; (3) microfiltration removing suspended solids, turbidity; and (4) revitalization reducing water molecular structure for better body cell hydration.

Improvements made by Ozone Dynamic Ventures during the quarter are:

- Upgrading and installation of different features (as validated during the monitoring visit) to improve output, efficiency and ease of operation
- Replacement of pump, and installation of electronic flocculator and water revitalizer

The water revitalizer reduces water into smaller particles to easily penetrate the body's cells and provide better cell hydration and oxygenation. The revitalizer will not require replacement within the economic life of the equipment

5. *Project NexCities – Water and Energy Nutrient Nexus in cities of the future: Wastewater to Fertilizer (De La Salle Araneta University)*. Project NexCities is a waste treatment technology that treats septic wastewater and recovers nutrients as phosphate-based fertilizer that can be used by local farmers. It uses a pilot scale batch-process reactor with a capacity to process 1,500L of septage per month or about 4,500g of struvite fertilizer.



Water and life, post-competition. (Top) Prior to availing the piped water supply from Water and Life, Febe Galvez and her family of 5 purchase their water through a water vendor who delivers water to their home. The piped water connection thru Water and Life helped in reducing their water consumption costs to only ██████ per week. (Bottom) Safe Water COR Joanne Dulce and COP Alma Porciuncula inspect clustered meters in E&V/TPA community in Noveleta, Cavite.



Applying the innovations to support typhoon victims. Distribution of water filters in Barangay Calubang, March 24, 2022. Standing on the left are representatives from Waves4Water and PDRF; standing on the right is Archie Tragico, Safe Water Community Facilitator, Negros Occidental

Among the proposed activities and improvements to the solution are:

- collection of wastewater and production of recovered phosphate fertilizer
- further studies on wastewater collection, septic wastewater treatment
- improvement in the production process in the recovery of nutrients to produce phosphate-based fertilizer

MONITORING VISIT TO WATER CHALLENGE WINNERS

Safe Water conducted a monitoring visit to the two winners during the quarter: 1) Ozone Dynamic Ventures in Cainta, Rizal on March 14; and 2) E&V/TPA in Cavite on March 28 to check on the improvements made to these solutions (as discussed in previous section).

Prior to the E&V/TPA entry, Barangay San Rafael 3, a coastal barangay in Noveleta, Cavite had no access to potable water. E&V/TPA developed the barangay’s water infrastructure network, organized the community members to manage their water subscription, clustered water meters, and implemented an affordable weekly payment system.

DEPLOYMENT OF PHLWC SOLUTION FOR TYPHOON ODETTA RESPONSE

Water filters developed by Waves4Water, a participant in the PhIWC, were deployed to Bgy. Calubang in Ilog, Negros Occidental. Access to Safe Water in this barangay was affected due to the damage in the water system during Typhoon Odette. The Lutheran World Relief, a consortium member of Safe Water provided the funding for the water filters and cash transfers through Safe Water partner PDRF. The W4W filters can provide water to 100 persons a day and can be used to filter water at source. The bucket system is cost-efficient and eliminates the need to ship bottled water during disaster.

2.2 ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

Constraints due to surge in COVID-19 Cases. The country experienced the biggest surge in COVID-19 cases in January due to the Omicron variant. The situation however improved in February and March allowing the Safe Water Field Teams to hold in person meetings and workshops, as well as travel to the various sites starting February.

Delays due to Typhoon Odette. Typhoon Odette (December 16-17) continued to affect the severely hit Safe Water sites in Negros Occidental (Kabankalan and Sipalay) and Palawan (Puerto Princesa City, Roxas, Dumarán, Araceli, Taytay, San Vicente and El Nido). The typhoon's aftermath caused further delays particularly in the construction of the [REDACTED] Land Bank-funded project of Kabankalan WD. Kabankalan City experienced severe flooding and several of the WD's water sources were submerged including office equipment and records. Kabankalan WD has yet to bid out the construction project. Safe Water committed to provide a Construction Supervisor for this project.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Election Ban. Some key activities in the field are on hold because of the election ban already in effect. Management planning for instance, in Roxas, Palawan has been moved by the LGU to June, or after the election.

Typhoon Odette Aftermath. The effect of typhoon Odette is still being felt in some sites since communities and partners prioritized the repair and restoration of damaged nurseries and farms before initiating new activities.

Conflict with LGU schedules. Conflict in schedules of LGU partners, due to other priorities of partners resulted to delays/postponement of activities to the next quarter. The coming local election has also increased the community level activities of local officials which require the presence of municipal department heads.

IATF Restrictions due to COVID-19. Levelling of expectations with new partners has stalled during periods of restricted mobility mandated by IATF. Discussions were accelerated after Safe Water met in person with the leadership from new partners such as ECLOF, Ayala Mall Capitol Central and Seoil Foundation with the easing of IATF Alert Levels.

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

Delays in the Review and Approval of Proposed Policies. The recent change in the LWUA leadership again delayed the proposed implementation of the co-financing arrangement with DBP. Safe Water will conduct another consultation with the next LWUA leadership in the next quarter. Previous agreements will be documented for discussion. The Team will continue to provide technical assistance to LWUA in improving governance and access of WDs to NG grants and commercial financing under the URAF through TA and capacity development at the local level.

The failure of the 18th Congress to deliberate and pass the resolution on the DWR and WRC bill will entail a new round of advocacy and hearings with concerned Congressional Committees in the next Congress. Safe Water will continue to backstop NEDA in engaging the support of key implementing

agencies, Development Partners and other stakeholders in advocating the need for policy and institutional reforms in the sector.

DOF's reservation on the URAF policy pushed back the operationalization of the URAF. Safe Water will continue to provide technical assistance to NEDA in addressing these issues. In the meantime, the URAF is being promoted by the Team in mobilizing resources for WSS investments of WDs and LGUs.

NWRB's commitment for joint cooperation with LGUs in planning, implementing and enforcing integrated land use and water resources management needs to be strengthened. Safe Water, with NEDA, will continue to push for the implementation of this cooperation as part of NWRB's key reform action agenda through sharing of successful policy and regulatory practices.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

OBJECTIVE I: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

1. Continue proactive execution of Catch-up Plan on Water Quality Assurance and pressure management in coordination with the water utilities. Document and monitor implementation of recommended improvements.
2. Investigate, assess and finalize recommendations for the improvement of water treatment facilities of a number of LGUs in Palawan to be carried out by the Safe Water Treatment Process Specialist.
3. Carry out Operations and Maintenance training workshops for water service providers in Palawan's Calamianes Group of islands (composed of Busuanga, Coron, Culion and Linapacan Municipalities) as initial assistance. Follow up with identification of other technical and capacity building activities to improve water supply services.
4. Carry out in-depth technical assistance needs for Puerto Princesa City Water District, especially in identifying solutions to ensure climate resilience of Montible Water Treatment Plant.
5. Continue assisting the provincial government of Negros Occidental in securing water rights from NWRB for the Malogo River intake for the surface bulk water supply project; carry out additional data gathering to compare indicative of take price with the existing production costs and water rates of beneficiary water districts; also continue facilitating the partnership with the PPP Center for the conduct of full feasibility study for the project.
6. Continue capacity building for WSPs, focusing on water safety planning, ring-fencing and non-revenue water reduction.
7. Monitor the non-revenue water (NRW) of San Vicente water utility to see if there are improvements following the NRW Reduction training.
8. Continue guidance and support to the field teams on the establishment of Central Management System in the pilot areas by providing capacity building training to LGU staff who will handle the Municipal Water Enterprise.
9. Complete the final draft of the CMS Implementation Guide and distribute it for peer review by partner agencies.
10. Continue assisting the Provinces of Sarangani and Negros Occidental in formulating their respective Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans, specifically in completing needed information, writing, and finalizing the plans.
11. Plan and carry out capacity building training for Water.org and its partner MFIs; continue working with them on household water connections and toilet facilities; and jointly plan and carry out assistance to automate the billing and collection systems of selected water utilities under the PGP.
12. Continue assisting LWUA in tendering the design-build contract of the proposed septage treatment plants of the first batch of WDs covered by the Manila Bay Mandamus (Plaridel, Norzagaray, San Miguel, Dinalupihan and Cabuyao WDs).
13. Assist LGUs and WDs of Cadiz, Bago and Victorias in the preparation of septage management program feasibility studies and the possibility of clustering these areas with other LGUs and WDs.
14. Carry out budgetary estimates and prepare proposal for CLIN-2 using the Typhoon Odette damage reports that the Safe Water field office in Palawan gathered from the affected water utilities in Palawan.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD AND OTHER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Facilitate the formulation of IWMP of Western Sarangani Watersheds, Siguel watershed and updating of the BMRB master plan.
2. Hold Joint Operations Planning with Seaoil Foundation, Inc to translate results of the inception planning into outputs, targets, and activities and identify needed resources
3. Conduct trainings on SALT (Salt-Sloping Agricultural Land Technology), pest management and control, establishment of Community Mobilized Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA), proposal preparation and other sustainable landscape initiatives with partners
4. Work with GSC ENRO in revisiting the draft ordinance on Payment for Ecosystem Services
5. Mobilize TWGs of Year 3 target watersheds in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani to gather data for watershed characterization.
6. Continue assistance to the seven municipalities in Sarangani and General Santos City in the completion, finalization and approval of LWCRPs. Conduct situational analysis workshop in Glan and Malapatan.
7. Monitor work plan implementation by partners and continue work plan implementation such as the conduct financial literacy training for POs, and other watershed conservation and restoration activities.
8. Facilitate LAWIN training in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani.
9. Facilitate PES data gathering for valuation of EGS and cost revenue analysis for BMRB, Bago and Irawan Watersheds.

HYDROLOGIC STUDIES, CLIMATE AND HYDROLOGIC RISK ASSESSMENT

1. Review and finalize the 60 hydrologic studies being prepared by GFI.
2. Continue negotiation with Manila Observatory to finalize task order for expanded climate risk assessment in target watersheds within Safe Water covered provinces.

PARTNERSHIPS ON WRM AND WDM CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Continue discussion with potential partners, including Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Forest Foundation, Globe and PhilCAFE for collaboration on WRM activities.
2. Negotiate new proposal for funding by Coca-Cola in Ilog and Himogaan watershed in collaboration with Alter Trade Foundation, Inc.
3. Facilitate rollout of WDM training in Safe Water sites and promote WDM among institutional and commercial users.
4. Improve WDM modules by developing WDM best-practice cases via the following:
 - Conduct water audit and document WDM practices of Ayala Mall Capitol Central this April. The activity will also serve as hands-on practice of selected WDM ToT participants from Negros Occidental;
 - Negotiate with Palawan-based Daluyon Resort and Puerto Princesa Pension on their WDM initiatives;
 - Develop WDM instructional video as input to the eLearning package.

5. Initiate the organization of the Local Water Alliance in General Santos City during the Water Convergence Forum on April 22, 2022.

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE

MOBILIZING FUNDS TO IMPROVE WSS ACCESS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

1. Continue monitoring LGU utilization of other NG budget allocation (e.g., FALGU, NTF-ELCAC and GEF) for identified and eligible water supply projects, and continue promoting other funding sources (e.g., NSSMP, PSF, GCF and GGP and commercial loans).
2. Coordinate with project site LGUs in planning, programming and budgeting of WSS and WRM programs, projects and activities in their PIWSPs, AIPs and budgets for 2023, and facilitate access to potential funding sources.
3. Facilitate scale up of the OBA-BF scheme with interested LGUs and the private sector; assist in preparation of proposals for supplemental budget to implement OBA-BF scheme; conduct consultations on the treatment of the OBA in the LGU budget process; and prepare implementing guidelines, including templates of local ordinances and MOUs with MFIs for its replication.

SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWSSMP AND URAF

1. Provide continued technical support to NEDA on the following:
 - Preparation of technical note and other inputs for advocating for the DWR & WRC;
 - Preparation of policy notes/ analyses on the NWMC and water security related initiatives as needed;
 - Preparation of draft URAF Grants Implementing Guidelines;
 - Inputs to the preparation of the National Water Security Roadmap.
2. Provide support in monitoring the PWSSMP dashboard/key action plans; roll out of the communications and advocacy plan; conduct of WSS Network sessions, among others.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

1. Complete knowledge products in the pipeline such as hydrologic studies, OBA-BF-related reports, WRM financing framework and Water.org WASH modules.
2. Continue discussions with academic institutions to formalize knowledge exchange initiatives in Safe Water sites.
3. Initiate discussion with NEDA on their plans for a WSS portal, as contained in the PWSSMP.

CROSS-CUTTING

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

1. GAP Strategy 1: Maximize LGU Gender Focal Point System in WSS and WRM Interventions
 - Support Himamaylan and Escalante Water Districts in the production of their GFPS Weekly Highlights
 - Continue GAD Planning and Budgeting Training follow-up session for ANOWD members

- Coordinate with PGFPS on women's representation in the Provincial Integrated Water Security Council and LGU Technical Working Groups for Negros Occidental
 - Support formation of a local water alliance in Sarangani integrating women representation
 - Undertake learning session with network of GAD Monitors in Palawan
2. GAP Strategy 2: Increase Professional and/ or Leadership Opportunities for Women
 - Continue talks with Globe to identify appropriate HRM strategies for capacity-building with WSPs
 - Develop learning design for HRM strategies on GEWE for capacity-building through literature review while building on existing USAID tools and knowledge products
 3. GAP Strategy 3: Shifting Social Perceptions and Valuation of Women's Input
 - Feature general managers, new GFPS and other champions of project-led GEWE efforts
 - Integrate GEWE in all communication materials and knowledge products
 4. GAP Strategy 4: Improve Safe Water Staff and Local Partners' Understanding of Gender Equity
 - Design ToT in time for the 2nd GPB Training with ANOWD members
 - Connect GFPS and GAD Monitors with community-based organizations

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

I. C&O Plan Strategy 1: Building Shared Understanding

- Inform and update partners and stakeholders on project activities through:
 - Weekly Highlights
 - Weekly Social Media Submissions
 - Monthly Newsletter
 - Quarterly Blog
- Share success stories and promote key milestones such as the:
 - Philippine Water Challenge
 - PWSSMP
 - Provincial Integrated Water Security Plans
 - OBA-BF
 - Hydrology Studies and TOT
 - Ongoing partnerships
- Report results to USAID through the next quarterly report

2. C&O Plan Strategy 2: Providing Communication Support to Component Activities

- Implement awareness campaigns tied to the messaging of #SafeWaterSavesLives, USAID's 60th anniversary and international campaigns of observances and celebrations
- Translate knowledge products into communication products, specifically for the following:
 - WRM Financing Framework
 - Innovative Financing Schemes such as the PES and OBA-BF
 - Philippine Water Challenge
 - PWSSMP
 - Provincial Integrated and Inclusive Water Security Framework

- Hydrology Studies, TOT and Recharge maps
- WSS Technical Assistance (e.g. Bulk Water Supply, Septage Management, CMS)
- Ongoing partnerships
- Women leadership in the Water Sector
- Expand usability of communication products

3. C&O Plan Strategy 3: Generating National Interest for WSS and WRM Issues

- Organize in-person and/ or virtual events to tie awareness campaigns with international and national celebrations
- Implement PWSSMP communications plan

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

This section provides an overview of the project’s financial performance, human resource management, operational and management activities.

4.1 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

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

COVID-19

The Team continued to monitor the quarantine levels enforced in project sites. From 14,233 active cases in December 2021 and the easing of travel restrictions during the holiday break, the quarter saw the effect of Omicron with another upsurge in confirmed cases to 190,818 by end of January 2022, with a positivity rate of 5.4%. The National Capital Region was most affected which was put into Alert Level 3. This spiraled to the rest of the country by February with our project sites put into Alert Level 3. By end March, all of our sites were down to Alert Level 1. The table below presents the status of the quarantine levels in the project sites during the quarter.

SWA Field Sites	2020												2021												2022		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Metro Manila	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1		
Palawan Province	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	
Puerto Princesa City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	
Negros Occidental Province	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	
Bacolod City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	
Sarangani Province	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	
General Santos City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	

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

Project site offices complied and adjusted to their respective LGU advisories and protocols. However, project team members were not spared from Omicron, as five staff from the Puerto Princesa and Gensan site offices tested positive during the quarter.

In the first month of the quarter, four staff members, one from Puerto Princesa three from the Gensan office tested positive for COVID. All four staff went on home quarantine immediately after being tested positive. By February, two more staff from Puerto Princesa, tested positive for COVID-19 but fortunately were not severe cases and needed only to undergo home quarantine.¹⁰

¹⁰ One staff tested positive twice – the first time was when he was based in General Santos and the second was when he transferred to Puerto Princesa.

The Team continued to track the vaccination status of project staff. As of March 31, 2022, 98% are fully vaccinated. One staff, still has elected not to be vaccinated.

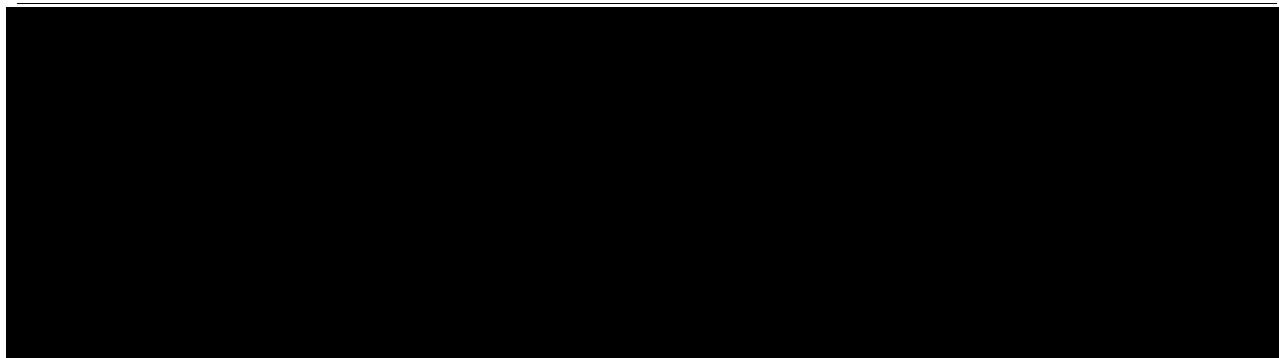
The project offices continued to implement different work arrangements designed to suit the unique situation of the project offices' locations. For the Manila office, full capacity 3 times a week (Mondays to Wednesdays) was implemented instead of 50% capacity. The site offices set their own arrangement on a monthly basis as cleared by project management, based on the prevailing pandemic situation and quarantine restrictions being imposed in their respective areas.

STAFFING

The project completed its staff complement with 3 WSS Managers, 2 WRM Officers and the Deputy Chief of Party joining the team during the quarter. The newly hired WSS Managers and WRM Officers attended an in person orientation and training in Manila as part of their onboarding process.

The project completed the hiring of four STTAs - two Baseline Data Gathering Consultants that will be deployed in Palawan and Negros Occidental, a Graphics Designer, and a Photographer/Audio Visual Professional. STTA engagements of the MIS Specialist and the Finance Administrator of the Palawan Office after the LTTA Finance Administrator reported back from maternity leave also ended during the quarter. The project also renewed the contract for the Gender Advisor.

TABLE II. SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF BY LOCATION AS OF MARCH 31, 2022



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

- [REDACTED] provided overall technical oversight in project implementation
- [REDACTED] provided technical management oversight and support. Responded to USAID requests for contractual and financial information, supported recruitment and on-boarding of key staff, led monthly and quarterly reviews with the project leadership team. Served as HO point person for the OBA-BF pilot, working with the project team to develop and deliver presentations on the pilot
- [REDACTED] provided support in the recruitment and on-boarding of project staff including preparation of TORs and relevant documents for USAID approval

- [REDACTED] - Provided guidance in the development of contracts for procurement documents, and contracts of implementing partners. Provide guidance in ensuring compliance with USAID contractual requirements
- [REDACTED] – Provided technical support to staff on the Technical and Administrative Management Information System (TAMIS). TAMIS serves as a workflow and reporting tool that integrates activity management, project administration, impact and performance monitoring, and streamlines subcontract management along with other tasks.
- [REDACTED] – Technical Writer, provided communications support to project deliverables, reports and communication pieces.
- [REDACTED] – Provided design support of Safe Water’s web-based M&E system. Worked with Team to draft the System Deployment Plan, which outlined strategies and actions to ensure efficient use of the system by both Safe Water staff and partner LGUs
- [REDACTED] – Technical Writing Advisor and Trainer, supported the repackaging and editing of technical reports such as the CMS Implementation Guide.

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

TABLE 12. BREAKDOWN OF MAJOR PROCUREMENTS DURING 2ND QUARTER (JANUARY-MARCH 2022)

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL (US\$)	DATE OF PURCHASE ORDER
Training on Water Supply System Design, POW Preparation, and Project Proposal Development		
Training on Organic Vegetable Farming and Demo Farm Establishment in Narra.		

The Procurement team conducted a refresher on the procurement process for the technical and operations staff of the project site offices. The orientation provided an avenue to deep dive into the procurement process and the source selection methods, thresholds, processing lead time, and payment processing. A modification on the payment process was also implemented. Procurement capacity building activities through its weekly discussions on the different components of DAI procurement systems and procedures took a back seat for the quarter and will resume next quarter.

All offices started the process of securing a Tax Clearance from the Bureau of Internal Revenue as part of Head Office requirement. Liaising with the Resident Agent was also done. This process will continue until the next quarter.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

1. Implement the monthly update field costs pipeline in Finance Sharepoint beginning March 31, 2022
2. Hire STTA to assist in finance records archiving
3. Review systems and processes to update the service level agreement in Operations, Finance and Procurement to ensure efficient and timely delivery of goods and services and contribute to effective implementation of activities
4. Continue to recruit short-term consultants needed by the project. This includes the following:
 - a. Training Module Writer for replacement candidate

- b. WRM Capacity Assessment Advisor
 - c. Technical Advisor for Hydrologic Studies and Water Summits
 - d. Climate Resiliency Specialist
5. Request approval for the new engagement of the Treatment Process Specialist and the revision in Scope of Work of the PES and Financial Specialist
 6. Update the COVID-19 Project Continuity Plan, which includes return to work guidelines, to strengthen the policies and procedures in place, and ensure compliance with DOH, DOLE, IATF guidelines.
 7. Update the Project Security Plan to reflect changes in personnel and any changes in the security situation