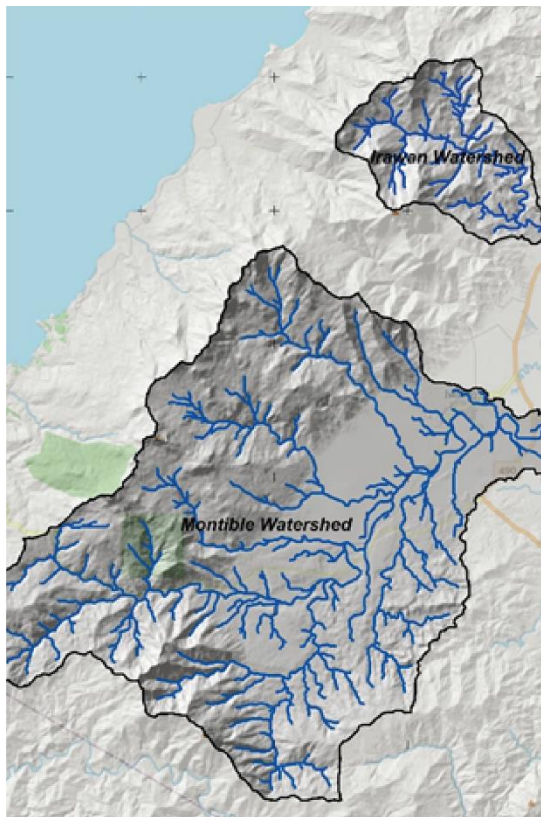


## #OurWaterWorkers

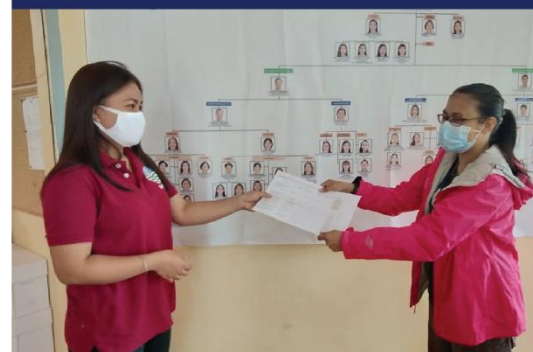


## Hotspot Identification

## Site Orientation



## Baseline Study



PPCWD/ DAI/ USAID

# USAID SAFE WATER QUARTERLY REPORT

Third Quarter (Year I: April – June 2020)

This publication was produced by the USAID Safe Water Project under Contract No. 72049220D00002 and prepared by DAI Global LLC at the request of the United States Agency for International Development. This document is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author or authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

# USAID SAFE WATER QUARTERLY REPORT

Third Quarter (Year I: April – June 2020)

Program Title:	Safe Water Project
Sponsoring USAID Office:	USAID/Philippines
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## **PREFACE**

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

This report describes the accomplishments of the project from April to June 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter) and provides a summary of the planned activities for the final quarter of the project's first year, ending September 2020.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BACIWA	Bacolod City Water District
BCWD	Butuan City Water District
BMRB	Buayan-Malungon River Basin
BWSA	Barangay Water and Sanitation Associations
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CMS	Central Management System
CMT	Crisis Management Team
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
ECQ	Enhanced Community Quarantine
EMMP	Environment Management and Monitoring Plan
FAS	Financial and Accounting System
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GFI	Geoscience Foundation, Inc.
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSCWD	General Santos City Water District
HO	Home Office
IMT	Incident Management Team
ISOS	International SOS
LGU	Local Government Unit
LTTA	Long-Term Technical Assistance
LWUA	Local Water Utilities Administration
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MO	Manila Observatory
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NWRB	National Water Resources Board
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PAWD	Philippine Association of Water Districts
PBSP	Philippine Business for Social Progress
PCP	Project Continuity Plan
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PLDT	Philippine Long Distance Telephone

PPC	Puerto Princesa City
PPCWD	Puerto Princesa City Water District
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PW	Protect Wildlife
PWSSMP	Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan
SURGE	Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFP	Security Focal Points
SOA	Schedule of Authorities
SOW	Scope of Work
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
SW/A	Safe Water/ Safe Water Activity
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
TOR	Terms of Reference
UFF	Unified Financing Framework
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHFIN	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Finance Project
WC	Watershed Council
WD	Water District
WHO-JMP	World Health Organization -
WRM	Water Resource Management
WSP	Water Service Providers
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the accomplishments of the Safe Water Project (SW) for the 3rd Quarter (April to June 2020) and provides a summary of the planned activities for the 4th quarter (July to September). The project implementation commenced on December 2, 2019 after USAID executed the contract with DAI Global LLC (DAI), the prime contractor, on November 21, 2019.

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 spanning December 2019 to December 2024. The primary purpose of SW is to improve the 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. The project operates through offices in Manila and in three target sites, namely: Puerto Princesa City and Palawan Province, Bacolod City and Negros Occidental Province, and General Santos City and Sarangani Province.

The 3rd quarter project activities were still significantly affected by the continuing community quarantine related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Enhanced Community Quarantine continued through April and May and in June the SW Team was on General Community Quarantine. As a result, throughout the quarter, travel and in person meetings were restricted; the Team relied heavily on virtual meetings and remote exchanges of information. It was only in June, when there was some easing of travel restrictions. That said, notwithstanding the constraints posed by COVID-19, the Team’s tactical adjustments to implement activities that can be done with secondary data and desk analysis, significant accomplishments were still achieved, as shown in Table I.

The Team has been in frequent communication with the project COR with weekly updates on the activities of the project, challenges encountered, resolutions thereto or acknowledging them for tactical adjustments in the immediate work plan. The Team has also conducted periodic coordination meetings with the SURGE project to avoid duplication and promote complementarity of efforts in common sites. The two projects also agreed to jointly publish a weekly WASH newsletter that reports highlights of the respective project activities, other USAID WASH news and lists of relevant materials and webinars for WASH stakeholders.

The SW Team (the Team) accomplished the activities summarized in Table I, mostly building blocks to the planned outputs.

**TABLE I: SUMMARY OF YEAR I 3RD QUARTER KEY ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVE**

Objective	Key Activities
Objective I: Increase access to resilient water and sanitation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gathered data for the identification of hotspots in the targeted areas</li> <li>Gathered data for the preliminary assessment of the Water Districts in the Cities of Puerto Princesa, Bacolod and General Santos</li> <li>Coordinated with DILG-Salintubig Program to check the status of the Salintubig assistance to 5 municipalities in project sites</li> <li>Revised guidelines for setting up a Central Management System (CMS) for disparate community-based water service providers in LGUs</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) for potential tailoring and adoption by the project</li> <li>Commenced enhancement of the Strategic Business Planning Model and training modules for water service providers</li> </ul>
Objective 2: improve sustainable management of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated watershed data and maps</li> <li>Reviewed / assessed mechanisms on payment for ecosystem services</li> <li>Identified preliminary alternative livelihood support activities in Sarangani Province</li> <li>Continued development of Water Demand Management Framework and Work Plan (WDM)</li> </ul>
Objective 3: improve water sector governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed the action plan and key reform areas of the PWSSMP and identified priority activities to be jointly undertaken with the key national government partners</li> <li>Monitored status of 2020-2022 budget allocation for WSS investments and Unified Financing Framework (UFF) initiatives included in the PWSSMP investment program</li> <li>Discussed and confirmed joint activities with NEDA, LWUA, DILG and DOH to institute their respective priority actions in the implementation of the PWSSMP and the UFF</li> </ul>
Cross-cutting Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed availability of financing windows and schemes for WSS projects from government financial institutions (DBP, MDFO and LBP) and their interest for potential collaboration for the UFF</li> <li>Signed partnership agreement with Philippine Business for Social Progress' Water Alliance Group (with membership from private companies)</li> </ul>
Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) data sets to the SW's MEL Plan</li> <li>Launched communications and outreach products, such as project info sheets, power point presentations and a WASH newsletter, jointly published with SURGE</li> <li>Finalized the project's Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Plan; USAID gave its final approval on July 8, 2020</li> <li>Developed baseline data gathering plan and commenced actual gathering of baseline data</li> <li>Prepared and launched the SW COVID-19 Continuity Plan</li> <li>Continued staff recruitment and offices' set up</li> </ul>

In addition to continued work on 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Activities, the major activities planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter are completion of the baseline assessment, progress on the WSP diagnostics and identification of TA packages, commencement of the hydrologic studies, completion of the Water Demand Management Framework and Work Plan, the preparation of the Year 2 Work Plan and the Annual Report.

# I. INTRODUCTION

The Safe Water (SW) is the flagship USAID project on water and sanitation sector development in the Philippines. It is an [REDACTED] initiative over a five-year implementation period from December 2019 to 2024. USAID designed the project to help the Philippine Government to sustain its gains in sector development, address sector gaps, build from gains of the effective initiatives in previous water and sanitation related projects, and improve resource management for sustainability of supply—in terms of both quantity and quality.

SW is responding 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 and 16.5 million has no access to even basic household sanitation services.
2. *Water Resource Management.* The Philippines has 18 major river basins, 142 critical watersheds and about 24 percent of 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
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 of 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. Financing requirements to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of universal coverage by 2030 is in the magnitude of PhP1.3 trillion, 25 times more than historical public investments.

## I.1 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

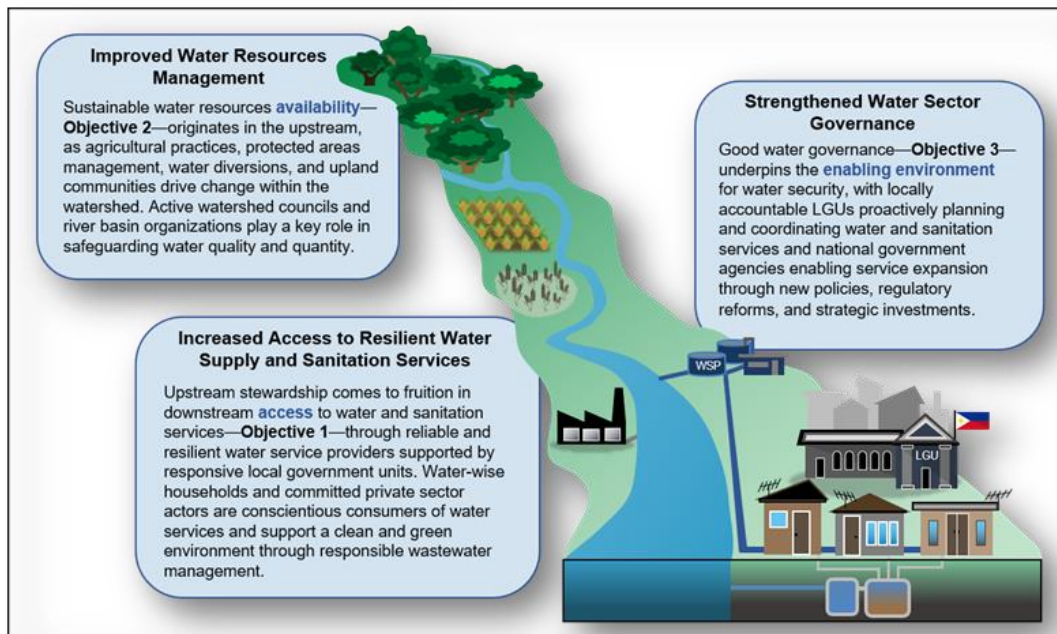
The primary purpose of SW is to improve the water security of water-stressed communities in the Philippines. Water security is characterized by: i) increased access of underserved or unserved communities to safe water supply and sanitation

SAFE WATER / USAID

The USAID Safe Water Program Info Sheets summarize the challenges in the access to safe water supply and sanitation services, water resource management, and the enabling environment in the Philippines.

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

FIGURE 1: SAFE WATER INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE WATER SECURITY FRAMEWORK



SW is working in three geographic sites to implement Objectives 1 and 2 activities. 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, which covers eight key reform areas including institutional strengthening and regulatory reforms, and the new financing policy for the sector embodied in the Unified Financing Framework.

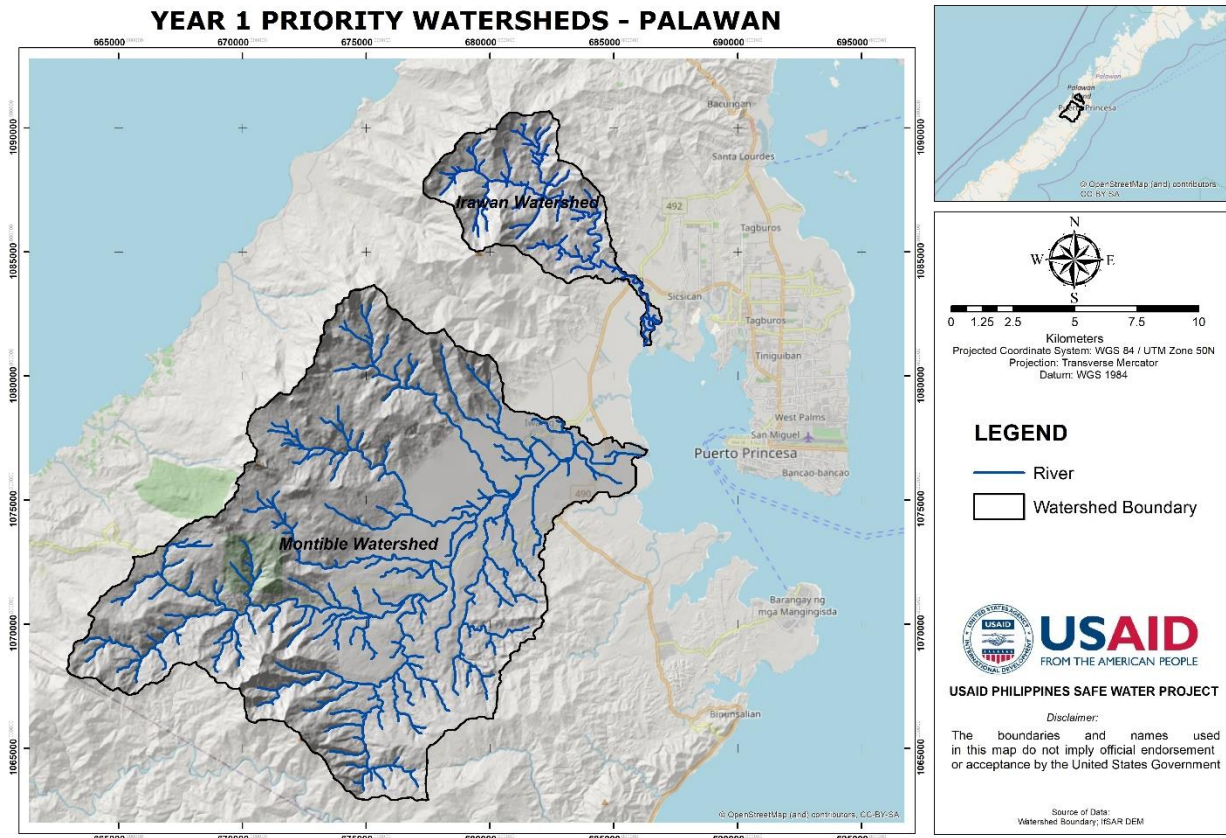
## I.2 TARGET SITES

SW field activities focus on the following cities and provinces (Figure 2): Puerto Princesa City and Palawan Province, Bacolod City and Negros Occidental Province, General Santos City and Sarangani Province. Based on consultations with stakeholders the first year of the project is focusing on addressing the issues for water supply services in the three major cities and in the following sub-watersheds:



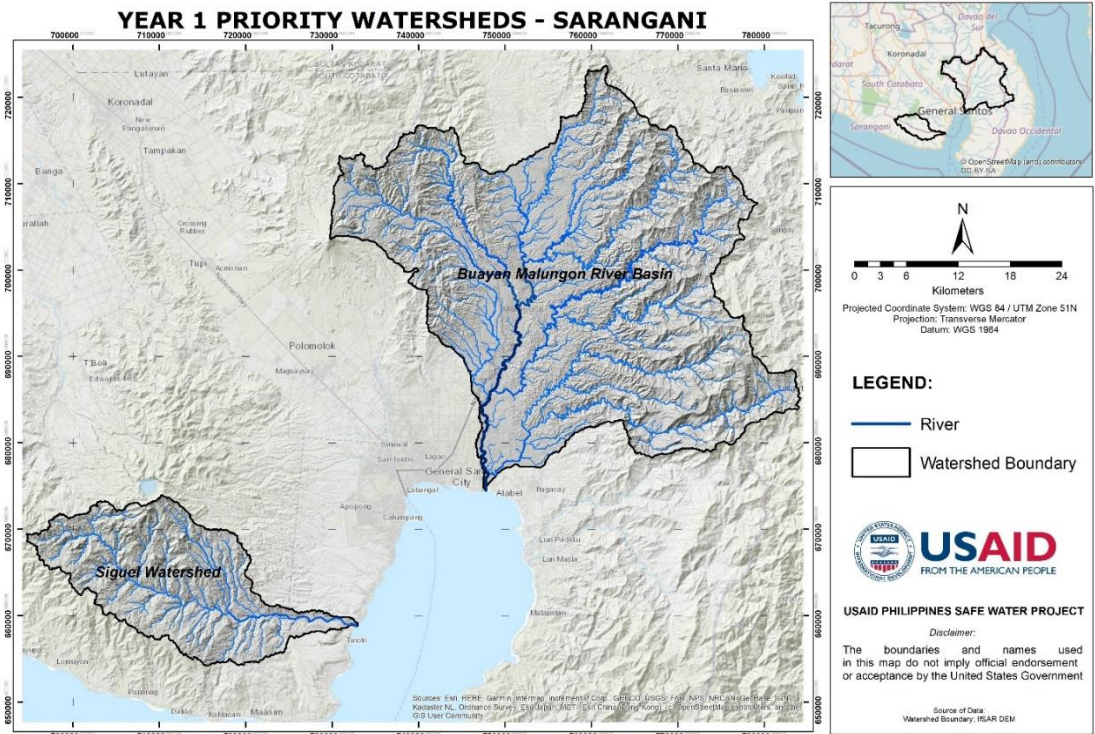
- I. Puerto Princesa City and Palawan Province: Irawan watershed, presently the main source of raw water for Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD), and the Montible watershed in order to diversify the raw water sources and address the increasing water shortage in PPC and neighboring municipalities (Figure 2).

**FIGURE 2: YEAR 1 PRIORITY WATERSHEDS IN PALAWAN**

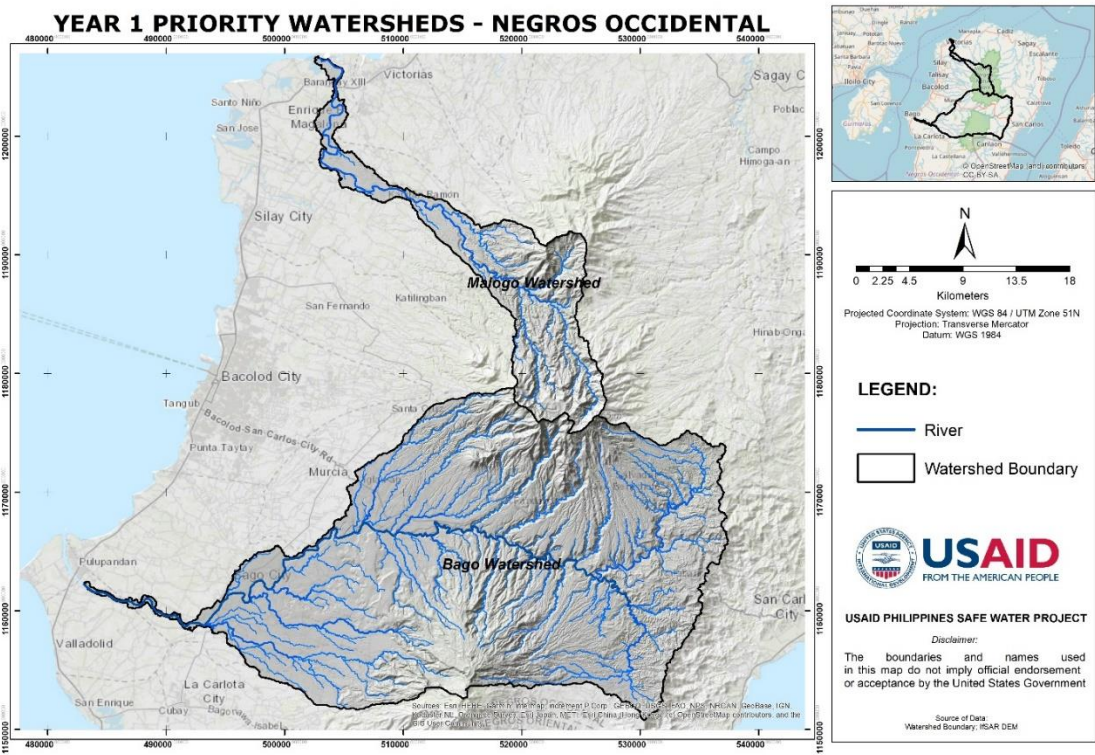


2. General Santos City and Sarangani Province: The Buayan – Malungon River Basin (BMRB) encompasses seven watersheds that originate in three provinces (Sarangani, Davao Occidental and South Cotabato), connect in Sarangani Province, and discharge into Sarangani Bay along the Eastern edge of General Santos City. The BMRB— upstream of General Santos City—will also serve as the WRM demonstration site of the project (Figure 3).
3. Bacolod City and Negros Occidental Province: Mt. Managaksak along Mount Mandalagan Mountain Range, the headwaters of the Upper Caliban River. This river has been the supply source of the Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA). To diversify the sources of raw water and address the water shortage in the province, the project may also look into the three major watershed forest reserves in the province, namely: Bago River Watershed; Ilog-Hilabangan Watershed; and Kabankalan Watershed with total areas of 61,926 hectares, 10,211 hectares, and 432 hectares, respectively (Figure 4).

**FIGURE 3: YEAR 1 PRIORITY WATERSHEDS IN SARANGANI**



**FIGURE 4: YEAR 1 PRIORITY WATERSHEDS IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**



To address these challenges, the SW field offices are implementing the project activities related to the expansion and improvement of water supply and sanitation services. This is being undertaken through capacity building, governance reforms, and facilitating access to financing. The Team is also working to improve water resource management through strengthening of watershed management councils, assisting LGUs prepare water security plans informed by data and science, and improving water demand management. In particular, the Team will use economic tools and water use efficiency measures, including demand management among users.

The Manila office is leading national level technical assistance for enabling policies, institutional strengthening and regulatory reforms. The Manila office also maintains the national advisors and specialists who lead the development of strategic work plans, provide technical directions to the field staff and manage partnerships at the national level.



## 2. RESULT BY RESULT ANALYSIS

### 2.1 ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Notwithstanding the interest and commitments gained from project partners and stakeholders through the co-design workshops held in the previous quarter, the pace of realizing some targets planned for 3RD QUARTER, slowed due to the onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic and the limitations on on-site activities with the partner LGUs and other WSS service institutions.

The key targets that are so far affected by the pandemic include (i) under objective 1: gathering of data for the assessment of WSS hotspots in the project areas, assistance on the formulation of integrated local WSS plans, financial planning of the WSPs, linking households to MFIs to financing WSS household investment, others; (ii) under objective 2: conduct of hydrologic study, awareness building on GBC, crafting of water demand plan, others; (iii) under objective 3: support to the operationalization of the UFF, assistance to NEDA in finalizing the priority action plan for the implementation of the Master Plan, others; and (iv) baseline assessment and launch of the communications and outreach plan objectives.

It is uncertain when the quarantine will be lifted. Government will likely continue restrictions in movement and gatherings, and people will still be distracted from day to day coping with the pandemic. The Team has started re-engagement of NEDA, but progress is slow. NEDA is still pre-occupied with the COVID-19 recovery plan. Furthermore, the government has been realigning the national budget to prioritize social amelioration and health related activities as part of its COVID-19 that would reduce attention of the LGUs and other institutions in attending to the WSS sectors.

That said the Team has taken measures to maximize use of field teams to conduct in person meetings with stakeholders with limited access to internet, use virtual platforms for stakeholder engagement where possible and mine secondary data sources. Field activities are anticipated to progress faster in the next quarter with the deployment of more staff.

### 2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVE I

This section presents the key activities and accomplishments of the SW Project in Year I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Building on the learning and agreements obtained from the Year I Co-Design Workshops held in Q2, the Team has been conducting virtual meetings with LGUs and other WSS partners to further refine background data and understanding and to identify areas of convergence with SW objectives. The major activities and accomplishments are described below.

#### Objective I: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services

Outcome I.1: Number (additional) of people gaining access to basic or safely managed drinking water services as a result of USG assistance.

Outcome I.2: Number (additional) of people receiving improved service quality from an existing basic or safely managed drinking water service as a result of USG assistance.

Outcome I.3: Number (additional) of people gaining access to limited, basic or safely managed sanitation services as a result of USG assistance; and

Outcome I.4: Number (additional) of people receiving improved sanitation service quality from an existing “limited” or “basic” service as a result of USG assistance.

---



## (I) IDENTIFICATION OF HOTSPOTS

The Team has started collecting data to identify hotspots in the project areas, which are characterized by low coverage and/or poor quality of drinking water and sanitation services in the three focus provinces. The activity seeks to update the 2015 roster of hotspots concerning the targeted cities and municipalities. The activity aims to obtain a thorough understanding of the factors or drivers that hamper the delivery of a standard quality of water services as well as in expanding services. The updated list will be relevant for the SW Project as a reference in assisting the LGUs, WSPs and other institutions to develop capacity and implement plans and investments that are responsive to alleviating the conditions in the identified hotspots. The identification of hotspots will be completed by September 2020.

## (II) PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE WATER DISTRICTS

The Team is gathering vital information about the present conditions as well as plans of the Water Districts (WDs) in the three target cities namely; Puerto Princesa (Palawan), Bacolod (Negros Occidental), and General Santos (Sarangani). The information will use to align project assistance to the specific conditions and needs of the WDs across the project sites. The preliminary findings are:

### PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT

While the city's economy is fast-growing, the provision of level 3 water supply system (safely managed) remains a challenge due to inadequate water sources that constrain the WD from expanding coverage. At present the WS system is only catering to 55% of the city's population.

While the construction of Montible Dam is ongoing, the Puerto Princesa City Water District (PPCWD) found a way to temporarily divert the water from the Montible source to its existing treatment plant in Irawan to cope with the extended dry spell (Irawan's yield is still only 20% of its usual capacity). The capacity of the new source, however, is designed to last for five to seven years only. Hence, planning for additional source should begin immediately ensuring adequate supply.

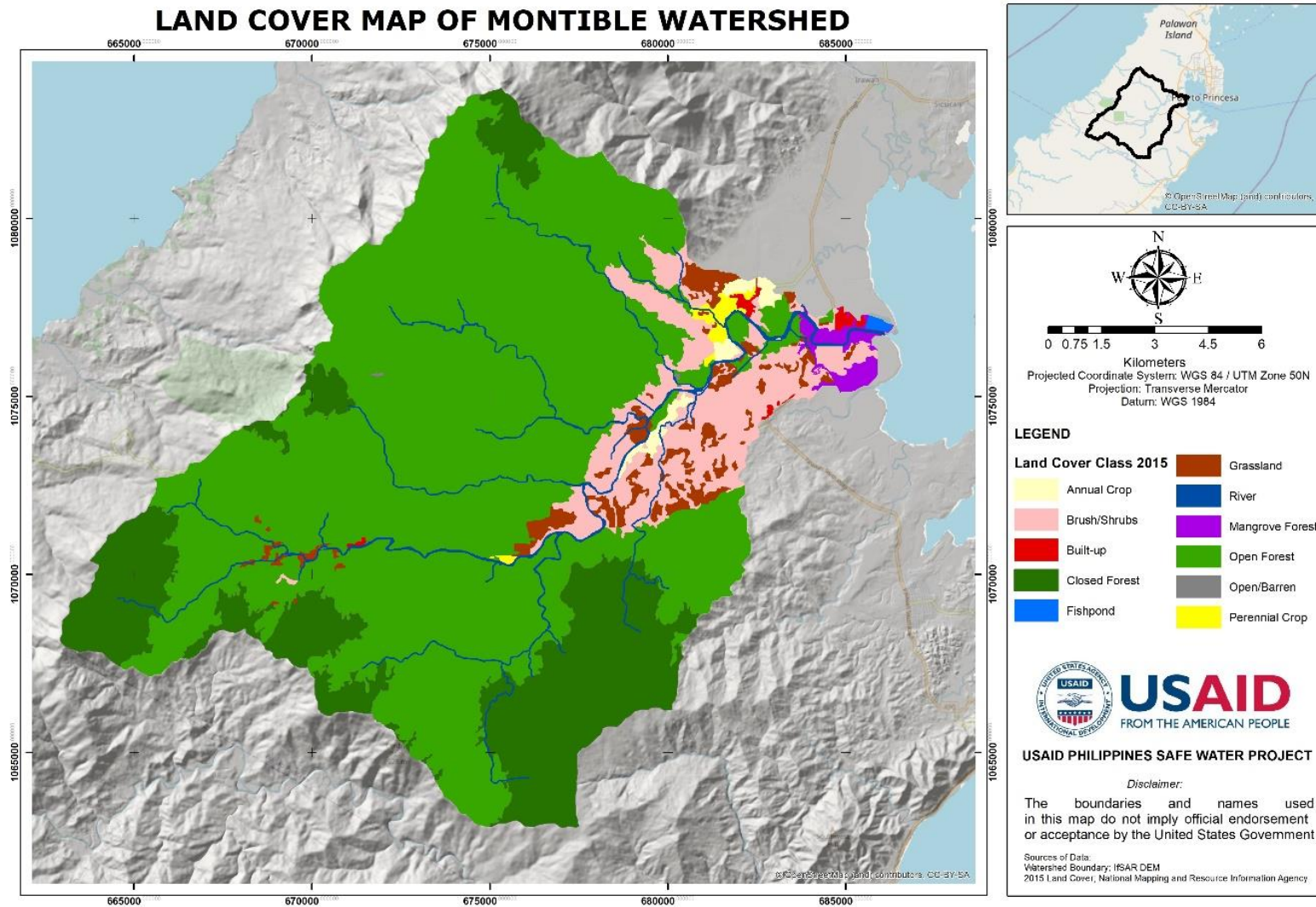
As a take-off point towards developing additional source(s) of water, the Team will assist the Provincial Government of Palawan and the City Government of Puerto Princesa to explore additional source of water by identifying high recharge areas from the Montible Watershed (Figure 4). This is one of the results expected from the Hydrologic Study<sup>1</sup>. The location and stretch of the Montible River is exhibited in the map below (in blue line).

Moreover, the ongoing plans and projects of the WD do not provide improvement in the distribution system that will be necessary to transmit the volume and pressure from the additional water source. This provides an opportunity for SW to support the WD in the design of a distribution system that is District Metering Areas (DMA)-ready for future non-revenue water (NRW) monitoring and reduction program.

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<sup>1</sup> To be conducted by engaging the Geosciences Foundation, Inc. (GFI) with inputs from Manila Observatory (MO) on downscaled climate data and updated land cover maps.

FIGURE 5: LAND COVER MAP OF MONTIBLE





PPCWD  
Puerto Princesa City Water District in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

### **BACOLOD CITY WATER DISTRICT**

The Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA) serves barely 38% of the city’s population. Considerable service interruptions take place in some areas that limit water availability from less than one hour to four (4) hours daily. As a solution to expand the reach and quality of service, the WD will sign a 25-year Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with the Primewater—a private firm that will contract with the management of the waterworks system and sanitation services. The key components of the agreement involve replacement / rehabilitation of ageing facilities and reduction of the current NRW from 35% to 20% within the first ten years. These will ensure provision of 24-hour continuous water service to all customers as well as expand service areas. Because of the pending JVA, BACIWA is not prepared to finalize the scope of TA with the SW Project. The possible area of collaboration will likely be in their watershed management program.

### **GENERAL SANTOS CITY WATER DISTRICT**

The General Santos City Water District (GSCWD) serves only 30% of the city’s population. Presently, it is dependent solely on groundwater sources. There is no current assessment of the capacity of the groundwater sources to serve increasing demand or possible expansion of service that the GSCWD may pursue. The Hydrologic Study that will be undertaken by SW will be relevant for the City Government and GSCWD in planning for the expansion of water services. The City Government and the GSCWD are looking into surface water as an additional source to expand service coverage. GSCWD is considering Malungon Rive as a source.

On sanitation GSCWD is poised to conduct a public bidding for the construction of its septage management project. SURGE is helping them in this regard. The project is funded by a loan of the District from DBP.





GSCWD

General Santos City Water District in General Santos City. (Inset) GSCWD operations.

### (III) CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS)

The Team has worked with USAID’s WASHFIN Project to finalize the CMS Guidelines and will adopt these for the governance and institutional set up of LGU-run utilities. The CMS is aimed at strengthening the oversight function of the LGUs over various community-based WSS service providers. The CMS guides the LGUs to enforce service standards and adopt the NWRB model or methodology for tariff setting. The Team is currently preparing a plan to pilot the CMS and seeking willing municipality partners from among the field sites. Implementation of the CMS will require behavior change from current practice – buy-in is thus critical. The Team anticipates that when in-person interaction is possible again, it will be easier to reach influencers and decision-makers.

### (IV) ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (OCAT)

The Team is adopting the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT)<sup>2</sup> to assess the capacity of WSPs on various aspects of the utility’s operation and management, including human resource development, management leadership, information technology, financial management, fund sourcing, board leadership, marketing and communication, etc. The findings from the application of the OCAT will inform the Team’s technical assistance priorities for the WSPs. The Team is in the process of

<sup>2</sup> OCAT is a structured tool for a facilitated self-assessment of an organization's capacity followed by action planning for capacity improvements. The self-assessment approach increases ownership of the action plan. It helps the organization reflect on its processes and functions, and score itself against benchmarks. Based on the discussions and the scoring, the organization shapes and sets priorities for actions it can take to strengthen its capacity.

modifying the OCAT to be more applicable to the SW project, taking into account its implementation approaches and objectives and to key performance indicators used by national economic regulatory agencies, LWUA and NWRB, and what will be proposed in the national benchmarking system<sup>3</sup>. The modified OCAT will be used to gather qualitative baseline data on the state of O&M of the WSPs. The same shall be used to assess improvement in the WSPs operating and management systems and practices as a result of the project's technical assistance.

## (V) ENHANCEMENT OF TOOLKIT AND TRAINING MODULES FOR STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLANNING

The Team has started enhancing the toolkit and the training modules for WSPs strategic business planning. The updated version will incorporate a Financial Stress Test to assess the business viability of the water utilities on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and other risks

## (VI) POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, the Team developed population and water demand projections for the project sites using the growth assumptions contained in the PWSSMP. These projections are part of the Project's WSP diagnostics and will contribute to the Project's support to the WSPs in formulating strategic business plans.

## 2.3 ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVE 2

Objective 1: Increased access to resilient water supply and sanitation services

Outcome 2.1: Amount of GHG emissions reduced or avoided (in metric tons equivalent) related to sustainable landscapes as a result of USG assistance

Outcome 2.2: Number of people benefiting from adoption and implementation of measures to improve water resources management as a result of USG assistance

Outcome 2.3: Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or non-monetary) associated with USG sustainable landscapes activities

Outcome 2.4: Changes in runoff-ratio in targeted catchments

Outcome 2.5: Changes in water quality as measured by water turbidity

Outcome 2.6: Changes in the volume of groundwater recharge / infiltration

## (I) UPDATING OF WATERSHED DATA AND MAPS

Using high resolution digital elevation maps (DEM), the Team delineated the boundaries of the 5 priority watersheds. It also secured land cover maps for CY 2010 & 2015 using land satellite images and identified flood prone areas. Furthermore, it established barangay/municipal boundaries and estimated the population of each using PSA data. The population data provides a key basis for computing the water demand. The Team delineated the sub-watersheds/ catchments, which may be prioritized later for site assistance and development during the stakeholders' consultations. In addition, the Team continued its assessment of the watershed management plans to identify major institutional concerns/ challenges in each watershed.

<sup>3</sup> The technical assistance to set up the national benchmarking system is being proposed to World Bank.

The Watershed Management Councils will be one of the entry points for Safe Water. Preliminary listing of stakeholders and their existing programs/ projects was done based on the review of management plans and telephone interviews. Field teams also continued gathering copies of the Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) Plans as part of the baseline data gathering activity.

The MO and GFI sub-contracts are still being processed for climate data downscaling, updating of land cover maps and hydrologic studies. Results of these studies are necessary to estimate surface water runoff, ground water recharge and identifying location of ground water recharge areas.

## (II) ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN WRM

As initial step in engaging stakeholders in WRM, the Team conducted orientation meetings to introduce the Safe Water project and its year I work plan. The Team conducted virtual meetings with the provincial LGUs of Sarangani and Negros Occidental; the LGUs of Bacolod City, General Santos City, and Puerto Princesa City; the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development; DENR and MINDA. During these meetings, priority activities of the WRM component based on the year I work plan were discussed, including the roles of LGUs, DENR, and other actors. Partner LGUs also identified priority technical assistance needed, such as the formulation of the Irawan watershed management plan in Puerto Princesa City.

## (III) BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT WRM AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Following the completion of co-design workshops in mid-March, the Team conducted a scoping of potential partners from the private sector, corporate foundations and NGOs. It used the following basic criteria to identify prospective partners:

- Alignment/complementation with the objectives of SW
- Presence in Safe Water sites or willingness to operate in SW sites
- Ability to leverage resources such as funding, market, technology or existing watershed and livelihood initiatives
- Not active in extractive industries such as mining; and no negative reputation with respect to violation of human rights and environmental laws

The Team conducted online exploratory meetings with shortlisted prospective partners, to discuss shared agenda for water resource management. Of the organizations approached, the Team got indications of interest from the 10 listed in the box.

- SW signed three MOUs, namely with, PBSP/Water Alliance, Mahintana and FSSI.
- SW is currently in discussion with PLDT SMART on a proposal for watershed protection, conservation and livelihood. The proposal is aligned with PLDT SMART's carbon offset initiative and sustainability agenda. A separate concept note on the Philippine Water Challenge is being discussed which PLDT SMART contacts plan to bring to Maynilad for sponsorship.
- CCFPI has invited SW to submit a proposal on watershed conservation in Bacolod City, the only SW site where Coca-Cola's bottling operation is located. SW has drafted the proposal, but is awaiting the results of the hydrological study to determine high recharge area and identify metrics for water replenishment - a key performance indicator for their Water Stewardship program.

- Discussions are ongoing with the rest of the shortlisted organizations. Partnership agreements are expected to be finalized and signed by September 2020.

#### (IV) DEVELOPMENT OF WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Team organized a Task Group to develop a WDM Framework that:

- rationalizes measures to both incentivize and instill culture of WDM across a range of stakeholders: the public sector, private business, civil society, media, schools and communities;
- builds on existing and prior initiatives: including a) BE SECURE knowledge products such as toolkits, training materials, research outputs, models and recommendations while discovering new WDM models and technologies; and b) WDM practices that are SW target users; and
- provides evidence to build a strong case in promoting WDM to target groups, particularly the business sector.
- The Team validated its desk review with a series of online meetings with BE SECURE personnel and Maynilad Water Academy on the WDM modules and activities done under BE SECURE and Water Alliance, respectively. The Team reviewed WDM materials from BE SECURE to identify TA materials and WDM interventions for specific sectors. The Team likewise assessed the market research conducted by BE SECURE on efficient water fixtures and result of their discussions with DTI. With the view to partnering with companies as showcase for WDM best practices, SW reached out to Coca-Cola Bottling Group.

#### *Initial Short List of Prospective Partners*

1. PLDT-SMART Group
2. Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. (CCFPI)
3. Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc. (FSSI)
4. Mahintana Foundation, Inc.\*
5. Conrado-Ladislawa Foundation, Inc. (CLAFI)\*\*
6. Kasilak Foundation\*\*\*
7. Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP)
8. Non-Timber Forest Exchange-Philippines (NTFP)
9. RD Foundation
10. Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI)

\* CSR arm of Dole Philippines

\*\*CSR arm of Sarangani Energy Corp.

\*\*\*CSR arm of Dole Stanfilco

## 2.4 ACHIEVEMENTS BY OBJECTIVE 3

### Objective 3: Strengthened Water Sector Governance

Outcome 3.1: Number of policies or plans developed, enhanced, or implemented to promote water security and WSS service provision

Outcome 3.2: Number of water and sanitation sector institutions strengthened to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as an Outcome 2.3: Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or non-monetary) associated with USG sustainable landscapes activities

## (I) MOBILIZING FINANCING FOR RESILIENT WSS SERVICES

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, the Team continued to scan potential sources of WSS financing. Government budget allocation for 2020 for WSS investments and UFF initiatives of LWUA, DILG and DOH has been

realigned for COVID response measures, except for Salintubig grants, and are no longer available.<sup>4</sup> Budget proposals of the three agencies for 2021-2022 have included WSS investments but still subject to approval. NEDA is looking for alternative sources of funds for WSS outside LWUA, DILG and DOH budget allocation for the implementation of the PWSSMP. Safe Water prepared an inventory of available financing facilities for WSS projects from government financial institutions (DBP, MDFO and LBP). The Team met with key officials and staff of the GFIs to confirm the availability of financing windows and schemes for WSS projects and discuss their lending terms and conditions. The GFIs have expressed interest in working with Safe Water to facilitate financing of shovel-ready projects in the SW sites and potential collaboration for the UFF.

The Team also explored potential collaboration with development partners for WSS projects. It coordinated with ADB on the tourism projects in Coron and El Nido where potential areas of collaboration may include sewerage and institutional capacity building for improved governance and sustainability. The Team met with World Bank to discuss potential convergence areas for its pipeline WSS program with the government. WB may consider the three SW sites as pilot sites for their proposed program loan, called Program for Results (P4R) Financing. As one of the run-up activities to the program loan, WB is providing TA to DILG for the restructuring of the Salintubig Program and setting up of a utility benchmarking system. Both ADB and World Bank investment projects are targeted to be implemented in 2022.

Safe Water discussed collaboration with Water.org to link households to microfinance institutions (MFIs) for financing of household sanitation facilities and water supply connection charges. Water.org has identified a roster of MFIs in the project sites to be tapped. Safe Water and Water.Org also coordinated on establishing common KPIs and the use of the OCAT in assessing WSPs and to identify their capacity building needs. The signing of the MOU with Water.org has been put on hold pending confirmation of funding from its donors which has been delayed by the pandemic.

## (II) SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PWSSMP AND UFF

The PWSSMP broadly maps the long term strategies of the sector, outlined in eight key reform areas: service delivery, institutional strengthening, particularly the legislation of an apex body for the sector, economic and resource regulatory reform, managing finite water resources, building climate resiliency, enabling access to greater financing, managing data and information, and driving research and development. Initial support for PWSSMP implementation was provided to NEDA by WASHFIN. With the completion of WASHFIN activities in the Philippines by end of August 2020, the Team discussed and agreed with NEDA and WASHFIN the PWSSMP and UFF Policy support activities to be carried over to Safe Water. These include:

- Completing UFF grants protocol or the implementing guidelines on the allocation of grants and leveraging of commercial financing;
- Application of the viability gap financing model in appraising the grant component of capital investments for service expansion;

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<sup>4</sup> National Budget Circular 580 issued on April 22, 2020 required the reallocation of 35% of programmed appropriations for 2020 and at least 10% of released allotments for the government's COVID response measures.



- Piloting of the CMS for community-based service providers under the municipal government (as described earlier); and,
- If DOH prioritizes the project sites, the implementation of blended finance for household sanitation services, using an output-based aid mechanism. The latter will mix government grants for the poorest households and MFI financing for the household cost share for constructing improved household sanitation facilities.

The PWSSMP was approved by the NEDA Infrastructure Committee by ad referendum on April 24, 2020. The approval will serve as imprimatur to key agencies (NEDA, DILG, DOF and LWUA) to undertake their respective actions on the eight Key Reform Areas (KRAs) of the PWSSMP. Safe Water reviewed the action plan and KRAs of the PWSSMP and identified priority activities to be jointly undertaken with the key national partners. Meetings with LWUA and DOH were conducted to confirm joint activities to institute their respective KRAs in the implementation of the PWSSMP and the UFF.

Letters to LWUA were sent on June 17 and 29 to re-introduce Safe Water and propose TA on the following areas: a) UFF implementation through the application of the VGF model; b) training of WDs in strategic business planning; c) implementation of the PWSSMP including the promotion and institutionalization of WSS sector reforms; and d) dissemination of replicable and scalable models for strengthening water management. The Team is awaiting confirmation of LWUA of the proposed joint activities and designation of their focal team for the project.

LWUA, DOH and DILG raised the need for a policy instrument in the form of a NEDA Board Resolution confirming the UFF as the definitive financing policy for WSS to socialize the plan to concerned government agencies and key stakeholders. The policy has been approved in principle by the NEDA Infra Com. The NEDA Board Resolution will allow the operationalization of the UFF to gain traction and support among the key implementing agencies. NEDA has committed to include the resolution in the agenda of the NEDA Infra Com meeting in July for endorsement to the NEDA Board.

## 3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### 3.1 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (GEWE)

#### INTEGRATING GEWE IN THE MEL PLAN

The Team integrated the gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) data sets to the project's MEL plan and the USAID Performance Indicator Reference (PIR) sheets which specifically outlines the precise definition, unit of measure, disaggregation, data source, method of collection, reporting frequency and individual responsible. Project data are disaggregated by sex to determine the relative participation of women and men, and benefits that women and men derive from project interventions. During this quarter, SW also finalized its Gender Action Plan (GAP) which outlines the project's gender strategy framework, action plan, integration to the MEL plan, and the implementation plan. In this comprehensive document, the project lays down the alignment of the GAP outcomes with the MEL Plan indicators and its contribution to the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative. The MEL cross-cutting (CC) indicators relevant to the Gender Action Plan include CC-3, CC-4 and CC-5.

**TABLE 2: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS**

Gender Action Plan Outcomes	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan Indicators	Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative
1a-b	CC-5: Proportion of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, employment)	W-GDP Pillar 2: Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs
2a-c	CC-3: Percentage change of women in decision-making positions in WSPs supported by Safe Water	N/A
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Number of women in decision-making bodies created/ supported by the project</li> <li>b. Number of women and men in leadership positions for service provision and resource management organizations</li> </ul>	N/A
4	CC-4: Number of persons trained with USG assistance for advancing gender equality of female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations	N/A

To build the evidence base and to inform more gender-sensitive activity design and implementation in partnership with LGUs, WSPs and water councils, the project will employ a gender assessment in the next quarter. This gender assessment integrated in the overall SW baseline study will employ a desk review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions using the tools developed during the quarter.

#### GENDER ACTION PLAN INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION

During the quarter, the Team focused on the GAP's strategy 4 which is to improve project staff and local partners' understanding of gender equity in WSS and WRM services. Of the three illustrative activities outlined in the GAP, the project started two of these activities during the Quarter.

The USAID SW project integrated a gender checklist into the SW activity design template, an internal project document required before any activity or event is organized. The gender checklist provides the proponents (SW technical staff) whether the activity is considered gender-blind, gender-sensitive, gender-responsive or gender-transformative. Staff are required to propose activities or events that are at least gender responsive.

It also conducted an online mandatory gender training course through the UN Women Training Centre for the SW Team. The course, I Know Gender (IKG) 1-2-3, aims to develop and/or strengthen awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment as a first step towards behavioral change and the integration of a gender perspective into everyday work. It introduces the concepts, international framework, and methods for working toward gender equality and women's empowerment. Twenty-three of the 35 members (65%) of the technical and operations team have completed approximately 2.5 hours for the three core modules with a course certificate on IKG 1-2-3. All Team members, including those being processed for recruitment should complete the training by September 2020.

IKG 1-2-3 contains three core modules providing a discussion of:

- Gender concepts to get started;
- International frameworks for gender equality; and
- Promoting gender equality throughout the system. This module includes an introduction to the UN gender architecture and strategies to address the challenges to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Optional thematic modules can be accessed after the user completes the core modules. Some of these were developed in collaboration with partner agencies as identified below:
  - Women's economic empowerment (UN Women)
  - Women's leadership and decision-making (UN Women)
  - Violence against women and girls (UN Women)
  - Gender equality in the world of work (ILO)
  - Gender equality and education (UNESCO)
  - Sexual and reproductive health and rights (UNFPA)
  - Gender equality in emergencies (WFP)
  - Women, peace and security (UN Women)
  - Sexual and gender diversity and human rights (OHCHR and UNAIDS)
  - Trade and Gender Equality

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## 3.2 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The project's communications and outreach activities centered on building a shared understanding of the USAID Safe Water projects' goal, objectives and activities.

The project structured activity communications, branding and marking by ensuring that SW messages and communication are aligned with USAID branding and marking guidelines. This included the production of requisite materials and templates in order to introduce SW as a USAID activity and its objectives and approaches to partners and stakeholders. These materials have been widely disseminated to national and local partners from the government, private sector and civil society organizations. These materials include:

- Fact sheets about the project and the three sites
- PowerPoint presentation about the project
- Vertical banners to be used for events



- Templates (e.g. PPT, report, meeting notes, trip report, activity design, etc.)
- Business stationery (e.g. presentation folder, letterheads, business cards, ID cards)

It also expanded the knowledge exchange platform through a “WASH Newsletter.” This Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Newsletter is a joint initiative of USAID’s SW and SURGE projects bringing together the top news, webinars and resources collated from the most trusted, relevant, and updated sources to the national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, private sector partners in the water sector. Two issues of the newsletter were sent during the quarter highlighting some of the latest frequently asked questions (FAQs) in the water sector related to COVID-19, listed relevant webinars, and USAID’s biweekly newsletter “Water Currents.”



DAI/ USAID

The first issue of the WASH Newsletter

	6/10/2020 WASH Newsletter Issue 2	54 Total views	4 min Avg time spent	50% Avg completion	22 glanced 19 quick read 13 deep read
	6/2/2020 WASH Newsletter Issue 3	49 Total views	2 min Avg time spent	39% Avg completion	27 glanced 14 quick read 08 deep read

The two WASH Newsletter issues reached a total of 103 unique viewers with 39-50% average completion. USAID SW will revise the layout of the WASH Newsletter in succeeding issues to increase the number of unique viewers and the average completion. It will also analyze the contents of Newsletter Issues with higher “deep read” viewers in order to analyze what contents are deemed most useful to readers. This information will be used to adapt the messaging in further issues.

It also supported the international campaign #OurWaterWorkers on both the DAI and USAID Philippines Facebook pages. On the 25th of June, organizations from across the global water community joined forces to thank water workers for their extraordinary contributions during the COVID-19 crisis. The social media campaign used the hashtag #OurWaterWorkers and shared pictures and stories about the contributions of water workers across the globe in the face of the pandemic. USAID SW featured photos from the Bacolod City Water District and the Puerto Princesa City Water District.

### 3.3 MONITORING EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) PLAN

The Team revised the MEL Plan to amend the Theory of Change and Results Framework based on comments from USAID as well as establish linkages to the Country Development Cooperative Strategy

(CDCS), Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS), Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR), and the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (WGDP). After the Team’s submission of the revised MEL Plan on June 26, 2020, and several iterative discussions, USAID approved the Plan on July 8, 2020. The Plan guides the on-going baseline data gathering and will be the main agenda of the Project’s training on the MEL that will specify roles, actors, instruments, frequency of reporting.



We join the international community in celebrating **#OurWaterWorkers** all around the world. Philippine water service providers, with assistance from USAID Philippines, are continuing life-saving services by ensuring access to clean water, often at the cost of their workers own safety and comfort.



PPCWD/ BCWD/ USAID

Screenshot of the #OurWaterWorkers campaign

## 4. PROJECT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

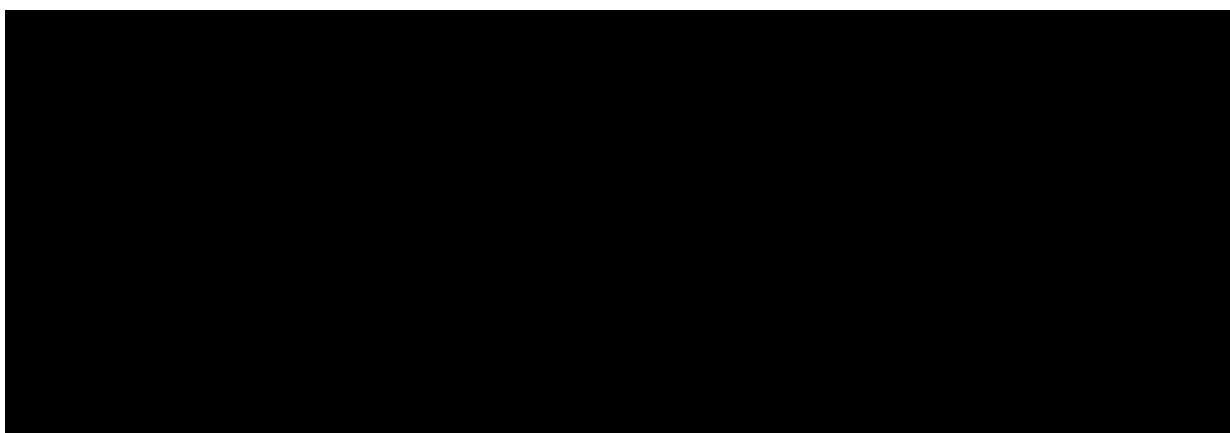
The Project hired an additional twenty (20) professionals during the quarter, bringing the total onboard staff to thirty-four (34). These includes the Water Security Advisor, Knowledge Management and Training Advisor, Site Technical Managers for Bacolod, Palawan and General Santos site office, WRM Officer for Bacolod site office, WSS Officer for General Santos site office, MEL and GIS Associates and Community Facilitators for three project sites, Livelihood and Partnership Coordinator for General Santos site and six (6) operations support (HR Officer, Finance Administrators for Bacolod and Palawan site office, Procurement and Logistics Associate for Bacolod, Palawan and General Santos site office).

A summary of Safe Water staff by type (administrative or technical) and location is presented on Table 7 below.

**TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF BY LOCATION, AS OF JUNE 30, 2020**

Categories	Total	Staff Type		Location			
		Technical	Support	Manila	Palawan	Negros Occidental	GenSan
No. of staff on board	34	23	11	16	5	6	7
No. of staff resigned within the quarter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of staff for USAID approval							
No. of staff for recruitment	10	6	4	1	4	3	2
Total Long-Term Technical Assistance Staff	44	29	15	17	9	9	9

The Team continued to engage the following home office staff to provide support for effective and efficient project implementation, that allows the project to achieve decent accomplishments during the period despite the challenges and limitations brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic.





The Team established a temporary project site office at Puerto Princesa City, by renting a furnished room next to the Protect Wildlife Office. This serve as the temporary base of operation of the project in Palawan. Safe Water will move in to the more spacious office of the Protect Wildlife when their operations in Palawan end in September. It also signed the lease contract for an office space in Bacolod City that will serve as base of operation in Negros Occidental. The office is located at VSB Commercial Building, Lacson Street, Bacolod City. Improvement and furnishing of the office is expected to be completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. Procurement of office furniture and equipment is on-going. The office is expected to be fully operational before the end of July.

Major procurements during the quarter included laptop, printers and appurtenances, office furniture, and office fit out in Bacolod City.



## 5. COLLABORATION, LEARNING AND ADAPTING

### 5.1 COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

The Team reached out to all major public and private sector partners, especially in the three provinces, through official letters as follows:

- April 2020 – letters of introduction of SW to provincial, municipal and city LGUs and request for appointment of a focal person/ government counterpart in the SW sites in Palawan/ PPC, Negros Occidental/ Bacolod City, and Sarangani/ GSC.
- May 2020 – letters of introduction of the USAID SW project to private sector partners and request for meetings and discussions of possible partnerships.
- June 2020 – letters following-up earlier discussions with public and private sector partners as well as requests for conducting the SW baseline study in the SW sites.

### 5.2 STAFF TRAINING

**TABLE 4: LEARNING ACTIVITIES DURING YEAR I 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER**

ACTIVITIES	DATES CONDUCTED	REMARKS
UN Women Training Centre: I Know Gender (IKG) 1-2-3 Course	Year I 3rd Quarter	Conducted by the UN Women Training Centre, this was an on-demand introductory course on gender equality and women's empowerment that were completed by 23 out of 35 members of the SW technical and operations team.
DAI: SharePoint training for SW members	May 6 and June 8, 2020	Conducted by the Communications and Outreach Specialist, this was a training about how to use the basic features of SharePoint that was completed by all of the SW team. This will be an on-demand training available for newly on-boarded staff members.
DAI: Microsoft Teams training for SW members	May 14, 2020	Conducted by DAI Home Office, this was a training about how to use Microsoft Teams as an immediate measure for digital project collaboration. This is an on-demand training available in DAI's Microsoft Stream.
DAI: Knowledge Management tools on Microsoft Orientation for SW members	June 14, 2020	Conducted by the Communications and Outreach Specialist, this was an orientation about the basic features of Microsoft Outlook, OneNote, OneDrive and MS Forms and how these can be utilized for Knowledge Management.

The Team will undergo follow-up orientation activities on gender and communications with USAID Philippines in the next quarter. These orientation activities will focus on these central topics in the context of USAID including branding and marking guidelines and their overarching GEWE strategy.



## 6. ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Based on progress in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, the project has identified the following activities to be accomplished during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of Year I:

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

- Conduct the second phase of field data collection, key informant interviews and focused group discussion to inform diagnosis of WSPs and to identify the priority capacity building assistance.
- Develop a common data reporting template for all WSPs for baseline and diagnostic purposes.
- Assist in conducting the Hydrological Studies for the priority watersheds, gather and analyze existing groundwater well data to supplement the Hydrological Studies, and analyze results that will guide the WSPs on future source development.
- Build on the activities completed by USAID SURGE on the common areas (Puerto Princesa City, General Santos City and Alabel) and formulate Safe Water complementary assistance.
- Decide with WSPs and partners the appropriate technical assistance, based on the diagnostics of PPCWD, BACIWA and GSCWD, the needs and priorities of other water service providers and watershed management committees, and draft TOR/SOW of additional resources for the required tasks.
- Finalize the Business Planning Toolkit and training materials for WSPs that incorporate Financial Stress Test to account for the effects of COVID 19 and other risks and introduce the toolkit to implementing partners.
- Start development of CMS training materials and work out with provincial and municipal partners the identification of pilot areas for the implementation of the CMS.

### **OBJECTIVE 2: INCREASED ACCESS TO RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES**

- Continue updating of watershed data and maps as basis in assessing watershed condition and in formulating priority actions; expected to be completed by September 2020
- Conduct orientation meeting among the Field WRM Officers to discuss WRM implementation framework.
- Supervise MO & GFI in conducting hydrologic studies in priority watersheds;
- Finalize the organizational assessment tool and conduct guided self-assessment of the organizational capacity of watershed management councils;
- Conduct FGDs with LGUs, DENR, WSPs and other stakeholders to jointly assess condition of priority watersheds and identify key management actions and priority catchments for SW assistance;
- Finalize the concept proposals for submission to PLDT-SMART, Coca Cola and FFP;
- Prepare action plan and initiate the process with the PFFWR-TWG for the formulation of the Irawan watershed management plan;
- Conduct KII on the PES implementation in Bago city, Bacolod city, Brooks point, Palawan and in Mt. Matutum Natural Park;
- Map out alternative, sustainable livelihood opportunities in SW sites;

- Relative to the development of Water Demand Management Plan:
  - SW and PBSP/Water Alliance (which includes Maynilad Water Academy) work planning in August to cover WDM training and GBC
  - Review of the Coca-Cola and San Miguel Corporations' WDM measures.
  - WDM framework and life of project work plan
  - Design and plan focused group discussions with the Philippine Green Building Council

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

- Provide technical support to NEDA in convening the UFF TWG to get support for the NEDA resolution on the UFF and discuss the draft operational guidelines.
- Provide assistance to NEDA in finalizing the implementing guidelines for the UFF grant allocation and conduct a UFF Roadshow to inform key stakeholders of the program and mobilize support for it
- Assist DILG, LWUA and DOH in instituting their respective KRAs in the implementation of the PWSSMP and the UFF
- Provide technical secretariat support to NEDA to continue the regular forum with WASH development partners and other stakeholders to direct and rationalize assistance and coordinate on-going and proposed projects for synergy
- Prepare the plan for the piloting of the CMS based on guidelines prepared under WASH-FIN for LGU water service providers
- Provide technical backstopping to NEDA in advocating or responding to Congress' request for information or analysis on the pending bill to establish the Department of Water Resources and the Water Regulatory Commission

### **CROSS-CUTTING**

1. The Team will prepare the Interim Baseline Assessment Report to describe the base conditions/situations of the WSS and WRM sectors. The final baseline assessment will be finalized once the hydrologic studies have been carried out. The assessment will determine the baseline value and conditions for each indicator. It will also provide an objective basis for adjusting SW's targets.
2. The Team will prepare the Year 2 Work Plan due on August 15, 2020 and the Year 1 Annual Report.
3. On the project management and operation:
  - Complete procurement, delivery and installation of office equipment to the Manila office and the 3 site offices, including good tele conferencing facilities to allow the project conduct of virtual meeting with staff and partners, given the travel limitations due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
  - Complete procurement process of project vehicle for the Manila office
  - Coordinate with Home Office for the conduct of Procurement training to all staff, and various financial modules for all finance and operations personnel
  - In coordination with Home Office, finalize the Field Operations Manual, conduct comprehensive orientation to all staff on policies and procedures, including training on travel, procurement, and human resources.
  - Finalize Project Security Plan, conduct security and emergency training for all staff

- Roll out the MEL plan to all staff through the conduct of orientation workshop
- In coordination with the USAID COR, conduct Gender Sensitivity, and Branding and Marking training for all staff

#### 4. On Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE)

The Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) activities to be conducted in the next quarter include the GEWE assessment and the integration of GAP action plan strategies to project and partners’ work planning.

GEWE Assessment activities will be conducted 4th Quarter as part of the overall SW baseline study. Although the GAP provides for an initial analysis of GEWE issues in the WSS and WRM sectors, SW will validate these findings through quantitative and qualitative data to inform the baseline data and the three cross-cutting output indicators (i.e. CC-3, CC-4 and CC-5). This will also inform the tailoring of GEWE training of national level partners and partners at the three priority sites. Anticipated areas of inquiry include:

- GEWE technical capacity, commitment, and accountability of partner institutions;
- Scoping of women leaders in the WSS and/ WRM sectors (past, current, and potential);
- Scoping of organizations and institutions in field sites with a complementary GEWE agenda;
- GEWE support systems, barriers, constraints to women’s leadership in the WSS and WRM sectors; and,
- Validation of GAP initial findings, GEWE baseline data and initial targets based on desk reviews, and institutional survey findings.

In addition to the GEWE assessment informing the project’s Year 2 Workplan, SW will advocate the integration of GAP action plan strategies to the work planning of private sector partners such as PBSP and others. These activities could include:

- Strengthening and highlighting women’s roles in WSS and WRM in community water forums and other similar community activities
- Development of a sub-platform or sub-network for women leaders in WSS and WRM in the planned local water alliances for knowledge exchange, coaching and conversations to women and girl colleagues, students, etc.
- Dissemination of materials development of women’s stories and of other social groups to challenge stereotypical biases on women’s input on community and industry decisions in the WSS and WRM sectors

#### 5. Communications and Outreach

For communications and outreach, the project is planning to slowly transition from remote work to a blended approach in the launch of project activities and events. This will be able to address the challenges and issues of the current quarter to accomplish the two objectives in the communications and outreach plan: providing communication support and generating national interest for WSS and WRM issues.

In the next quarter, SW will begin arranging of events utilizing the blended approach (face-to-face with remote virtual sessions) for the project launch, signing of MOUs with LGUs and the signing of

partnership agreements. With resumption of major activities next quarter, the project expects to at least accomplish half of its targeted communications products for Year I, including:

- At least 1 of 2 story pitches to radio and TV, including but not limited to:
- At least 5 of 10 social media content per month
- At least 1 of 2 photo stories per month to USAID/Philippines
- At least 1 of 2 case stories to USAID/Philippines

The project will also begin producing communications products based on the final technical documents to be completed in the next quarter including: the water demand management strategic framework, the baseline assessment interim report findings, and the business planning toolkit. It will also continue to find opportunities for reinforcing its messages and campaigns in target sites that will be conducted or led by partners and other stakeholders in the next quarter.

## 6. Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan

The Team will conduct a training on the implementation of the MEL plan for both the Manila and site offices staff on the scope of the MEL, procedures and tools for capturing both progress and results of implementation by objective, sources of data / information that will stand as evidence of the project's progress and outcomes, actors especially the roles of the MEL associates of the site offices, frequency of capturing updates, reporting and pause and reflect sessions.