



Empowering Collective Community Water Action in the Pacific

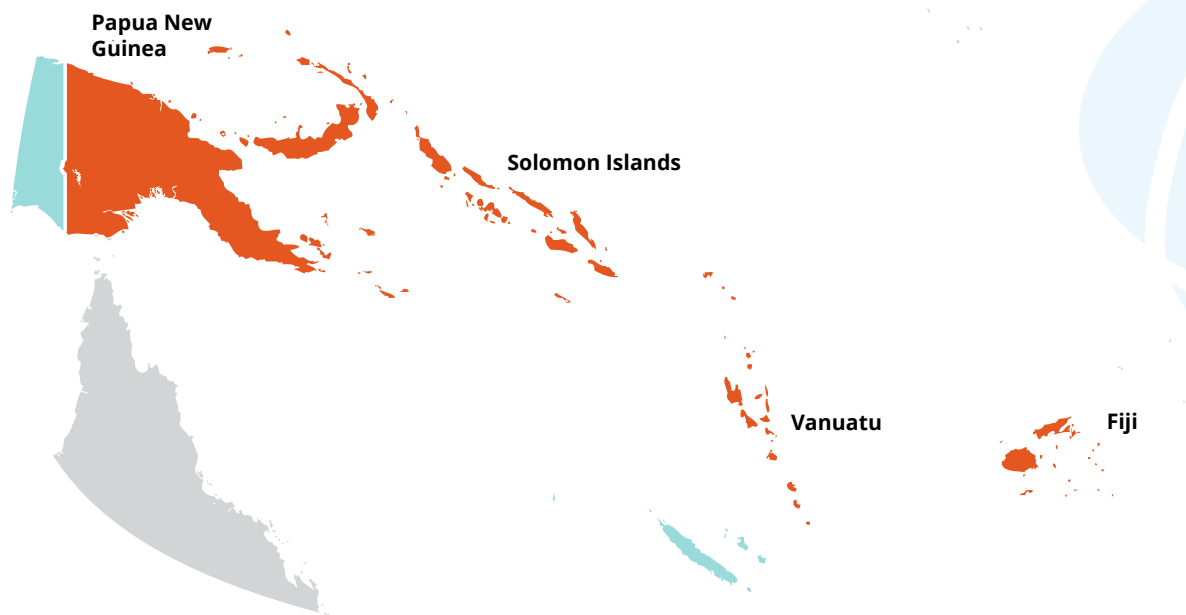
Mobilising non-traditional water resource and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector actors to work alongside their traditional counterparts is inspiring and significantly expanding collective action on water security in Melanesian Pacific communities.

Through their Water for Women research projects spanning the Melanesian Pacific over the past six years, the International WaterCentre at Griffith University (IWC) has been working alongside government, civil society and universities to co-develop more effective and transformative community water management approaches that address harmful social norms and behaviours that perpetuate inequities in water and WASH access, and in doing so, jeopardise resilience and sustainability.

In rural Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, active and sustainable water committees play a crucial role in community-based water management and water security. These countries are currently decentralising WASH services and support systems to varying degrees. However, water committees often lack important support needed to strengthen the climate resilience and sustainability of community water resources and systems, and their engagement in broader water resource management is limited.

To strengthen active and sustainable water committees and promote climate-resilient water management and inclusive WASH practices, IWC's research leverages formal, informal and emergent social networks. This sees faith leaders, market associations, chiefly councils, educational institutions, and familial and agricultural groups dynamically engaging in collective action to better understand, plan for and respond to climate change risks and impacts on inclusive water and WASH in their communities.

Top: Merilyn Vana, Senior Health Inspector with the Environmental Health Department interviews a community elder in Labulabu, in the Western Province of Solomon Islands (IWC / M. Love)



IWC also works closely with governments, civil society, and universities to bridge these formal and informal networks, bringing all key stakeholders together to co-develop and support effective, locally led approaches.

Based on successes from this work, IWC is currently co-designing a new community-based water security planning approach with the Government of Fiji.

Learn more about IWC's Water for Women projects in Melanesian Pacific:

- [Supporting Decentralised Rural Water Supply and Climate Resilience in Pacific Islands](#)
- [Climate-Resilient Inclusive Urban WASH in Melanesian Pacific](#)
- [Pacific Community Water Management Plus – 2 \(PaCWaM+ 2\)](#)
- [PaCWaM Plus Vanuatu - Strengthening Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning in Vanuatu](#)
- [Community-Based Water Management: Progressing Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable WASH in Rural Pacific](#)
- [Planning for Climate-Resilient Urban WASH in Pacific Islands](#)

[Watch this video to see how IWC is empowering collective community water action in Solomon Islands](#)