



TINA RIVER

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 3, 2022

Water has started to flow in Tina CBSP Communities

A women from the CBSP Community holding on to a pipe with running water.



Water source and extension materials.



A water standing pipe in the community

Bore hole drilling for the Community Benefit Sharing Project (CBSP) water systems are now complete. A total of 18 holes have been drilled ready for the system construction which will benefit approximately 40 communities from Bahomea, Malatoa, Mataruka and Belaha. When completed, the systems will allow locals direct access to water supplies from drilled sources for the first time.

Construction on the water systems have commenced at Tina village, Rate Community High School, Horohotu 3 and Aretakiki with the entire program to build 18 systems taking approximately 60 days. There are multiple crews working in various locations at once with contractors FB Quantity Surveyors and JP Plumbing and Construction being the first contractors working up in the communities.

CBSP Coordinator Francis Kapini said the completion of the water systems signifies an important milestone for the project and for the communities who have never had a reliable direct water supply. "A lot of places within the Tina River Hydro catchment areas do not have water supply. The completion of this program is a very big achievement for the project and a huge benefit for communities," Kapini said.

Chief Rex Ata, speaking on behalf of the first completed water systems for the of Marava, Ngongoti, and Valele communities, acknowledged the CBSP program for giving them hope. "We are very excited with the CBSP funding because we can now access water close to our doorstep. Gone are the days of walking distances to fetch water for our consumption," he said.

Eleven water standpipes were also constructed for the communities of Marava, Ngongoti, and Valele. Boniface Talu, a local water expert hired by CBSP to oversee the construction of the water bore holes, said he anticipates seeing all the water systems up and running by the end of this year.

He explained that once the construction of water systems is completed, the water supplies will be handed over to the people of the Project catchment areas. Workshops will be held to train locals on how to operate and maintain the systems. In addition, students who have been sponsored by CBSP to attend SINU and attain plumbing qualifications will also be involved in maintaining the systems.

Fast Facts

CBSP Component 3 – Human Resource Development



300 members of communities in the Project catchment have attended Pre Employment Training (PET) where locals have been trained and equipped to access the employment and other future opportunities through Tina.



11 PET sessions have been held since 2020 through the Community Benefit Sharing Program with facilitators Pasifiki HR.



49 students over 2 intakes have been enrolled in various courses at SINU through the sponsored Community Benefit Sharing Project TVET Program.



In 2021, 30 participants from the Belaha Community completed Agriculture Short Training courses as part of the Community Benefit Sharing Project's (CBSP) Technical and Vocational Education and Training Component.

CBSP Component 3 – Human Resource Development



11 quarterly meetings Gender Steering Committee meetings with over 90 participants have been conducted since 2019.



11 monthly consultations forums have been conducted (Mbahomea, Malatoha, Mbelaha)



5 Training and Awareness sessions with over 250 participants have been held covering Gender issues, Gender based- violence awareness, Financial literacy, Life skills and Health awareness



Skills for Life

Tina River catchment communities have now completed a four-day life-skills training session last month at Mataruka village. A total of 35 women from Malatoha and Belaha in Central Guadalcanal will take part in training which forms a part of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP).

The training focussed on similar skills, delivering a mix of livelihood and entrepreneurial activities that can translate into money making opportunities for rural participants. The courses covered areas such as a basic introduction to sewing, tie-dyeing, coral printing, floral arrangement and an introduction to basic hygiene and baking.

Merrilyn Tuna of the Belaha Women's Association said she is happy for more training for local women. "I really enjoyed the life-skills training and was happy to return to share the knowledge learnt to members of our Association. As a mother that is involved in daily marketing in

my community especially schools, this training is beneficial for us and our families in the long run," Mrs Tuna stated.

Sungina Women's Fellowship representative, Pricilla Salani also shared similar sentiments.

"I hope to return and pass on the knowledge to our women in rural Sungina. The lifeskills training is the first of its kind for the women of Malatoha. As beneficiaries of the Tina Hydro Project, the women in my community are also looking forward to benefit from such a training that will make a difference in their lives," Mrs Salani added.

Rural women and girls play a key role in the development of their society and the Gender Action Plan encourages women and girls in Tina catchment communities to be a part of this change.

The Tina River Hydropower Gender Action Plan (GAP) Program, which has been running since 2019, has positively impacted over a hundred people through training and skill development, investing in

the lives of rural women and girls.

GAP is an ongoing program facilitated through the Project Office of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE).



Two of the many participating women through the "skills for life" training.

Spotlight on HEC Environment and Safeguard Manager, Mr. Ljin Shin



What is your role as E&S Manager and what you and your team do?

As the E & S Team Manager, I am primarily responsible for leading our company's Environment and Social team and liaising with the Project's safeguard departments. As a team, we perform a variety of tasks including assisting consultants to prepare the ESMPs (Environment and Social Management Plans) and ESIA's (Environment and Social Impact Assessment) by providing them with information, reports, designs and data. We also contribute to the development and updating of current ESMPs in collaboration with stakeholders.

Our team also undertakes monitoring to ensure that proposed mitigation measures are implemented according to approved ESMPs, safeguard requirements and good international industry standards. We take the lead on developing and delivering a series of regular inspections to ensure

safeguards policies are adequately implemented at the grassroots level in line with the guidelines and prepare a reports on the safeguard risks with appropriate actions outlined.

Why is it critical for HEC to ensure that the Tina River Hydro Project's construction activities comply with Environmental and Social requirements?

As the EPC contractor for Tina, it is our obligation under the contract to prepare and implement ESMPs for the project. It is also our responsibility to meet the safeguard requirements of the project and demonstrate them through the established reporting mechanisms. During the design stage, we used our best efforts to avoid E&S impact and for the unavoidable impacts, we have to minimize them by complying with E&S requirements.

What are some of the things you look for when you visit communities to do your work?

When I visit communities, I look for their sources of income to better understand their way of life, which leads me to include them in our construction and operation plans. As part of our ESMP procedure, we have a system for disseminating information to the communities. We are frequently required to reach out to nearby communities to inform them of upcoming project work in their area, as well as conduct surveys to gather information for developing plans. As always, we ask for the community's cooperation and assistance in making this Project a

success. However, we occasionally face challenges such as increased demand for power and drinking water, employment, additional community requirements such as free transportation and so forth and we manage these through our Grievance Redress Mechanism process (GRM).

What were some of the difficulties you encountered in your role?

It is crucial to realise that preparing ESMPs necessitates the involvement of numerous experts from various environmental and social science domains. We frequently need to engage these specialists to perform studies, but we often run into problems due to a lack of knowledgeable experts with experience working on MDB projects in the country. And it was nearly impossible to bring them during the COVID era; this has always been tied to delays in ESMPs receiving clearance.

What is one important message you want Solomon Islanders to understand regarding the Tina River Hydro Development Project?

Hydropower is a clean, renewable energy source that can replace the expensive fossil fuel-based energy now in use, thus lowering the cost of electricity. In terms of energy security and economic advantages, TRHDP will be a major accomplishment for the people of the Solomon Islands. We kindly ask the Solomon Islands' populace to help us complete this project successfully.

A Partnership for the future with Tina Core Land Company (TCLC)

Three years on from its establishment, the Government and five tribes that make up the Tina Core Land Company (TCLC) are successfully partnering to oversee the entity that holds the Perpetual title of the Tina Core land. The TCLC was created in addition to the already established Community Benefit Sharing Project (CBSP) as a result of the extensive land negotiations and consultations with the selected tribes of the Project communities during the preparation phase of the Project.

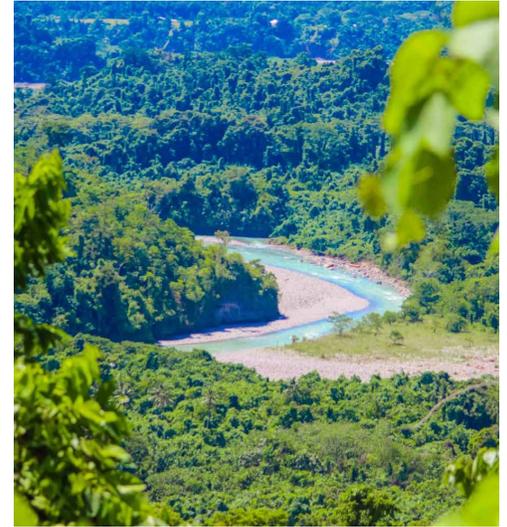
Recognising a different and innovative approach was required to deal with core land owners on Tina, in 2019 the TCLC entity was set up for the benefit of the tribal members. The following year, traditional land owners truly became commercial partners with the Government when the first lease payment was made. This transaction of funds indicated that the agreements reached with the tribes initially during their negotiation with SIG to have their land acquired, were being

fulfilled. Since the signing of the lease agreement, there have been on going payments for the lease by THL to the TCLC which they have been managing in close collaboration with the 5 core land tribes on the use of these payments.

To get the best out of this innovative approach, stringent governance has been applied by a Board composing of 5 SIG representatives and 5 representatives from the Tribes elected by the people. Importantly, the Board ensures the ongoing transactions, which occur from the the lease payment made by Tina Hydro Limited (THL) as the lessee in the Land lease agreement, are well invested for the benefit of the tribes and the project communities.

The ongoing success of the TCLC will play a major role in helping the country fully realise gains and tangible public benefits that can be delivered from this infrastructure project. In the Pacific region, this can only be best attained

by addressing local needs which Tina is doing a great job of showcasing with its Community Benefit Sharing Project (CBSP) and Tina Core Land Company.



Future. Commitment. Building a nation.

Boasting economic and development aspirations.

#tinahydro

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ADDRESS

Tina River Hydropower Development Project
PROJECT OFFICE
c/o Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification
Ground Floor, Unit 1.3, Anthony Saru Building
Hibiscus Avenue, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Phone: +677 25133

MEDIA CONTACTS

Tina River Hydro Project
Solomon Islands, +677 25133

Australia and International Enquiries
Sarina Laurence | +61 432 573 136
sarina@tina-hydro.com