



**TINA
RIVER**
HYDRO DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

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MORE BENEFITS PROPOSED FOR TINA'S COMMUNITY BENEFIT SHARING PROGRAM #2



The first instalment of the Tina River Hydropower Development Community Benefit Sharing Program (CBSP) has reached its closing phase and planning for the second iteration, set to deliver even more community benefits, is now underway. Since its inception in 2019, many lives have been positively impacted in the Tina project catchment through community-based programs covering areas such as pre-employment training, vocation training, WASH (water and sanitation) and rural electrification.

Programs delivered under the first CBSP model have positively impacted many rural communities in the Tina catchment and are evident in improved infrastructure, income-generating opportunities, and vibrant communities. The most significant and transformational affects can be best seen through the improvement of physical infrastructure such as power and water supply. Previous to the implementation of the CBSP water supply program, women and children would walk for hours to fetch water on

a daily basis. This has now been reduced to mere minutes as the installed systems deliver a fresh water supply directly to the villages.

CBSP Coordinator Francis Kapini said the closing out process for the first CBSP program marks a significant milestone for the project after 5 years of successful implementation and involved several crucial steps. "During a four-month period which started at the end of May, documents have been reconciled to balance out all eligible payments under the project disbursements allocation." He goes on to say there will be a final audit, scheduled for September, to ensure the proper closure of phase 1.

The team are now busy planning for CBSP "2" and taking on board valuable lessons learnt from the first program. "One important lesson is recognising we have more work to do to ensure the equal distribution of benefits across the larger region comprising of over 60 communities. The project design of CBSP 2 aims to ensure all communities affiliated with the core land site of the Dam, benefit from the program," says Mr Kapini. He goes on to add, "Another lesson noted was in regard to the immediate impacted area in the upper catchment of the dam, which has led to the proposed installation of water supplies in those areas."

Taking on board these insights, the CBSP 2 design will incorporate improvements and modifications based on the lessons learned. Component 1 will continue to focus on testing the fund and building community capacity to manage it and component 2 extends water and power supply to areas previously unreachable. Notably component 3, which focuses on training and job opportunities, has been redesigned to be more relevant and inclusive. It will move from being an exclusive study approach to more hands-on, catering to both schooled and unschooled individuals with a focus on addressing income generation and agriculture in the communities.

The anticipated benefits and outcomes of CBSP 2 are far reached and expected to provide broader community coverage. With the operationalisation of the CBSP Fund as a tangible entity for future community development and more money being invested in the benefit sharing program, CBSP 2 is expected to enable even more comprehensive initiatives. With community involvement and long-term sustainability plans in place, the future looks promising for the continued development and transformation of the local Tina communities.

GENDER WORKSHOP ORGANISED FOR TINA HYDROPOWER PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS



Attendees of the workshop from the Project Office, HEC, THL, ABD and communities.

The Tina River Hydropower Project (TRHDP) Office hosted a one-day Gender Action Plan (GAP) workshop in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue to raise awareness about gender equality and women's empowerment. The workshop aimed to highlight the importance of mainstreaming gender equality for the Project as it progresses with construction activities, while familiarising participants with ADB's approach and GAP implementation and reporting requirements. The event combined stakeholders from Tina Hydropower Limited (THL), Hyundai Engineering Company (HEC) and the TRHDP Office (PO) while some joined online from other projects funded by ADB to learn from the workshop. Experienced facilitators led the discussion including Hannah Jay (International Gender Capacity Development Specialist), Ms Lulu Zuniga-Carmine (International Gender Implementation Specialist), and Helen Dolaiano (TRHDP Gender Specialist).

Gender specialist from the Project Office team, Mrs Dolaiano, said "during the workshop, it was good to note the participants understood that gender equality goes beyond simply achieving parity between men and women; it involves recognizing and addressing the different needs, roles,

and aspirations of individuals based on their gender. They were also introduced to the idea of gender mainstreaming, which involves integrating a gender perspective into all project activities and decision-making processes."

The workshop then focused on the significance of taking action on gender equality within the context of TRHDP. Participants were made aware of the potential benefits of gender mainstreaming, such as improved project outcomes, enhanced social inclusivity, and increased community participation. They were also made aware of the risks associated with failing to consider gender issues, including perpetuating gender disparities and excluding marginalized groups from project benefits.

Mrs Dolaiano shared the ADB's approach to gender mainstreaming, highlighting the Bank's gender policy and guidelines on gender. The 30% target on female employment for the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP) was also being discussed as an example of ADB's corporate gender targets.

"To ensure effective implementation and achievement of TRHDP's gender indicators, participants got familiarised with the GAP targets and activities.

The GAP lays out a clear roadmap for integrating gender considerations into various project components, such as infrastructure development, environmental management, and community engagement. Workshop participants were encouraged to contribute their ideas and suggestions for realizing gender objectives, and to identify potential challenges that could arise in the process," she stated.

The Tina River Hydropower Development Project is being implemented by the Solomon Islands Government with financing and support from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Government of Australia, the Green Climate Fund, Korea EX-IM Economic Development Cooperation Fund, and the World Bank. Throughout the workshop, an inclusive and participatory atmosphere was fostered, allowing participants to share their experiences, insights, and concerns. The exchange of ideas and perspectives was instrumental in facilitating a deeper understanding of the importance of gender equality in TRHDP.

SINU CBSP SPONSORED STUDENTS PROFILE

Morris Ronnie | Certificate IV in Electrical Technology



Morris Ronnie

Tell us about yourself? Your family, where you are from and what your day-to-day life was like before you started studying? What did you do for work?

I am a resident of Pao Village in Central Guadalcanal. I am an unskilled Electrician working with various Electrical groups before earning a scholarship to study here at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

What are you studying? Describe your day and what your course entail?

Currently, I am studying for a Certificate IV in Electrical Technology at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and this is my second and final year. This course is divided into two parts, theory and practical. For theory, we will spend around 12 weeks in school and for the practical part, we will be posted to work on attachment with any firm we are interested to join.

How do you end up becoming a recipient of the CBSP TVET Scholarship?

Before being part of this scholarship, I joined a Pre-Employment Training (PET) organised by the CBSP team. After successfully completing the PET, we were advised to apply for this scholarship, which my application was then accepted.

Describe your reaction when you

heard that you had been selected as a recipient?

My reaction when I first heard the news of me being accepted was priceless. At first, I thought I was just applying because all the other students in the village were also applying. But this opportunity to be sponsored by the project is something I have never dreamt of.

How has this opportunity to be sponsored by the Tina River Hydro Project through CBSP changed you and positively impacted your family, kids and community?

I must say that I am fortunate to be part of this scholarship. For myself, this opportunity has changed my life because I no longer have to spend a huge amount of money to attend tertiary studies. It has been a relief for my family because it has helped us financially. Being part of this scholarship make me feel a little special back in the village, as someone that has benefited directly from the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP).

Since becoming a recipient, how have you benefited from the scholarship other than learning new skills?

I would say the financial benefits of this scholarship did make a lot of difference for me. The money received under this scholarship has helped my family a lot

in many ways.

What are your short and long-term career goals? How will the CBSP Scholarship program help you reach your goals?

As an Electrical student, my short-term goal is to get employment. My long-term goal is to find a similar opportunity for further studies in Electrical Engineering and this scholarship program is driving me in the right direction.

What are your plans after graduating?

It is no doubt that after graduation, I am planning to seek employment at the project companies as a way of giving back to the Tina project.

My aim is to work with the Electrical groups that will be working to connect the hydropower to power the whole of Honiara City and the neighbouring communities in Guadalcanal.

What is your message to the organisations that have supported this program.

This is an opportunity that any student would not want to miss, and I am lucky to be part of it. That said, I want to thank the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP), CBSP and SINU for this wonderful opportunity which has played a crucial role in my education and career.

The CBSP TVET Scholarship program is a pilot project between Tina River Hydropower Project/ CBSP and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). What are your thoughts on more programs like this?

For future project in Solomon Islands, I would like to recommend a similar set-up like the CBSP. It is evident that the Tina River Hydropower Project and CBSP is the way forward for future projects in country because I believe the success of any project this big depends on the fair share of benefits to the communities, landowners or resource owners.

SIEOTEC - THE UNSUNG HEROES MAKING TINA CONSTRUCTION IS SURE UXO FREE



Company workers doing a UXO Survey along Lot 2-1 of the Tina Hydropower Project site.

The commencement of construction activities at the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP) site would not have been possible without local company, Solomon Islands Explosive Ordnance Technicians (SIEOTEC), who have been responsible for the clearance of Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs) from World War 2 (WWII) within the project zone.

SIEOTEC was established in 2012 and its team includes local UXO experts. It is the first local UXO commercial firm which is responsible for ensuring that the Project's construction sites are free from UXO. UXO clearance is a part of the Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan and must be adhered to in order to reduce and mitigate any risks associated with UXO to ensure the safety of construction workers and the surrounding communities.

Mr Sterry Lenny, Manager of SIEOTEC confirmed that their involvement with the Project started as a Subcontractor for OPEC System of Australia, an International UXO expert contractor during the UXO clearance for the access road. The firm also supported GapEOD, a Geophysical Survey Company subcontracted by OPEC for the above work. SIEOTEC then provided local EOD technicians and unskilled labour in the UXO survey and clearance work and assisted OPEC systems, who were the main UXO contractor for Hyundai Engineering Company (HEC).

In 2020 and 2021 Covid -19 impacts led to the withdrawal of some international subcontractors on the Project which also includes OPEC Systems and GapEOD. Having gained a lot of trust and confidence in SIEOTEC capacity, HEC awarded the UXO contract to the firm and have since become the main UXO subcontractor for the Project.

The areas in which SIEOTEC have completed the UXO clearance assignments are at Lot 1, Lot 2, and Lot 3,



including the HEC office site, disposal sites 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as well as the dam access, tank surge, switch yard, and batch plant.

SIEOTEC undertake the UXO work according to the Project's UXO Construction Management Plans and also applies its Standard Operating Procedures which align and complimentary to the Project UXO Management Plans.

The Tina River Hydropower Development Project is being implemented by the Solomon Islands Government with financing and support from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Government of Australia, the Green Climate Fund, Korea EX-IM Economic Development Cooperation Fund, and the World Bank. SIEOTEC is an important local partner helping in the construction stage of the Project. Their business has continued to expand since being awarded the contract and are now well equipped to take on similar roles as the country continues to implement more infrastructure projects.

PROGRESS UPDATE - ACCESS ROAD CONSTRUCTION!

The construction of the Access Roads is jointly funded by the Australian Government and Green Climate Fund at a cost of US \$26.0 million.



The Tina River Hydropower Project wishes all athletes competing in the Sol2023 Pacific Games the best of luck representing Solomon Islands.



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