



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2024

## Implementation of the Community Benefit Sharing Project - Phase 2 Begins For Tina Catchment Communities

The Community Benefit Sharing Project – Phase 2 (CBSP-2), an innovative benefit sharing initiative in support of the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP), is starting implementation on the ground.

Building on the success of the Community Benefit Sharing Pilot Project which ran between 2018-2023, CBSP-2 will continue to target the Malango and Bahomea communities downstream of the hydropower facility. Overall, the program will positively impact over 7,000 residents in 80+ communities, benefitting an estimated 5,000 people directly.

The new Project will see a robust benefit sharing scheme established between the Solomon Islands Government, Tina Hydropower Limited (THL), and the Tina River Project area communities. This is the largest and most innovative benefit scheme ever implemented in Solomon Islands and will be delivered under four key components. The CBSP-2 initiatives include additional infrastructure investments in water supply systems, rural

electrification, and a community access road, alongside skill enhancement for individuals within tribal registries with a particular focus on women and youth.

CBSP-2 Project Manager, Francis Kapini says it's an exciting time for the Project and communities with the implementation of this new phase.

"With construction of the Tina River Hydropower now well underway, we are looking to deliver even more benefits to the host communities with CBSP-2," he says. "The first major deliverable is the rural electrification program which will start in the next few weeks, providing power to over 200 households over a 6-month period. This is in addition to the 140+ households who have already benefitted from the rural electrification connections established under CBSP phase 1."

Mr Kapini goes on to say that the second phase will be closely monitored and evaluated to ensure the project meets its objectives and the outcomes are positively impacting target communities. "We will use key indicators, such as the CBSF operational index score, community satisfaction levels with investments, increased access to services for beneficiaries, and the impact of training on local economic development to help determine its success and impact."

CBSP-2 is supported by the World Bank with a US\$5 million IDA grant (SBD \$42,450,000) and will be implemented over a 5-year period by a dedicated team in the Project Office within the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification. The Tina River Hydropower Development Project

remains committed to fostering community engagement and ensuring sustainable development for Tina catchment communities by delivering tangible benefits and enhancing community livelihoods.



The newly established CBSP2 Project Office team (left to right) Lionald Tarairamo, Monica Parsad, Sherinter Maeli, Francis Kapini, Titus Siapu and James Dolarii

# Meet the CBSP-2 Team!



**FRANCIS KAPINI, Project Manager**

Francis Kapini has been the Project Manager for the CBSP team since 2019 and is a familiar face in the communities having worked in the successful pilot for the past 4 years. Prior to working with Tina, Francis has experience working across multi sector projects for the Solomon Islands Government, NGOs, International Donors and private companies. He has a background in Forensic Chemistry but since 2012 has focused his career in the renewable energy sector and community development. Outside work, Francis spends his time mentoring church men and youths and loves reading local history and Christian apologetics.



**JAMES DOLARII, Project Officer**

James Dolarii comes to the CBSP-2 project with 9 years of professional experience in the private and public sectors both in infrastructure and program projects and has previously worked with the Tina team in a project communications capacity. He will support the Project Manager in managing the overall implementation of CBSP-2 and will serve as focal point on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) as well as Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) Compliance. James graduated from the University of the South Pacific in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration and Management, and Master of Business Administration in 2019.



**MONICA PARSAD, Procurement Officer**

Monica Parsad joined the CBSP-2 team with work experience in the field of procurement from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Solomon Islands National University. Originally from the Western Province, Monica graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce Majoring in Public Administration and Tourism Management in 2021 from the University of the South Pacific. She will join the team working as the CBSP-2 Procurement Officer, leading the procurement implementation of CBSP-2 project components.



**TITUS SIAPU, Community Liaison Officer**

Titus joins the CBSP-2 team as a local from the Tina catchment community and with over 12 years' experience with the project in various roles. He was a part of the Tina team back in the pre-feasibility and feasibility stages as well as in implementation roles with project construction partners HEC. With a certificate in Hydrology and a Mechanical Engineering background, Titus will lead the community engagement and stakeholder relations as the Community Liaison Officer working closely with the CBSP-2 communities.



**LIONALD TARAIRAMO, Community Training Officer**

Lionald joined the CBSP-2 team with 6 years experience working in the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration and as well as private consulting in the business and training sector with local NGOs, International Organizations and the National Government of Solomon Islands. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce Majoring in Economics and Official Statistics/Demography from the University of the South Pacific and will lead the community training programs for CBSP-2.



**SHERINTER MAELI, Accountant Officer**

Sherinter joins the team as our Project Accountant. She graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of the South Pacific and has a Diploma in Accounting from Monarch Institute in partnership with Institute of Solomon Islands accountant (ISIA). Sherinter has 6 years of auditing experience with the office of the Auditor General and is looking forward to working with the project communities as a part of the CBSP-2 team.



# Fast Facts About CBSP -2

The new Project will see a robust benefit sharing scheme established between the Solomon Islands Government, Tina Hydropower Limited (THL), and the Tina River Project area communities. This is the largest and most innovative benefit scheme ever implemented in Solomon Islands and will be delivered under four key components:

1. Operationalise the Community Benefit Sharing Fund of which there are two subcomponents: (a) Institutional Support to the CBSF; and (b) Community Sub-projects;
2. Improve Access to Basic Services of which there are three subcomponents: (a) Rural Water Supply; (b) Rural Road Improvements; and (c) Rural Electrification;
3. Enhance Skills of Community Members; and
4. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

## COMPONENT 1 - Operationalise the Community Benefit Sharing Fund (CBSF)

Component 1 focuses on setting up and managing the Community Benefits Sharing Fund (CBSF) related to a hydropower project. This involves building the capacity of the Fund Board and Fund Management Office in areas such as governance, financial management, citizen engagement, and project evaluation and also includes support for the operational costs of the Fund.

The CBSP Pilot laid the groundwork for the CBSF, with key agreements signed in 2018. The Fund was officially established as a trust in May 2023, overseen by an interim Board representing local communities. The governance structure includes a board of trustees, a Fund Management Office, and a community advisory committee. A Fund Operations Manual has been drafted to guide decision-making and project implementation processes for component 1.

## COMPONENT 2 - Improve Access to Basic Services

The objective of this component is to enhance community access to basic services by constructing water supply systems, improving access roads, and connecting households and public facilities to electricity for the project's target communities. It is divided into three sub-components: pre-identified infrastructure for water supply, small road or bridge repairs and improvements, and rural electrification. Infrastructure investments will be determined in consultation with communities at the project's outset. Component 2 will also cover technical preparatory activities such as assessments, surveys, design, and supervision of civil works implementation.

## COMPONENT 3 -Enhance Skills of Community Members

Component 3 of the project aims to empower community members through training and support services, with a focus on enhancing skills, generating income, and fostering participation in economic activities within the CBSP area. The goal is to increase the knowledge, confidence, and skills of CBSP community members to participate in economic development activities. This component consists of three sub-components: Literacy and Numeracy Development, Livelihoods, Work Readiness and Life Skills Training, and Employment Support and Referral Services.

Approximately 800 individual trainees, including adult women, men, and youths from the CBSP area, will benefit from this component. The training will be conducted by MMERE in partnership with external training providers, with oversight from the Training/Jobs Officer and support from World Bank technical staff.

## COMPONENT 4 -Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 4 will focus on supporting project management, administration, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting for the MMERE project. The Project Management Unit (PMU) implementing CBSP- 2 will work alongside the Project Office (PO) of the Tina River Hydropower Development Project to enhance cooperation between the two projects. The PMU has expanded its team to include a Project Manager, Project Officer for monitoring and evaluation and environmental and social standards, Accountant/ Finance Officer, Procurement Officer, Community Liaison Officer, and Training & Jobs Officer. The PO will provide additional support in communications, environmental and social standards, gender, and community engagement and add short-term consultants to the team like a CBS Fund advisor, Infrastructure Engineer, and Water Engineer as needed.

# GAP Community Training Updates



Social media training in Tina catchment communities

## More capacity building training for project communities

More capacity building training for women, youth and men of the Project catchment area was delivered by the Tina River Hydropower Development Project (TRHDP) under the Gender Action Plan (GAP) last week in the form of a social media and marketing training course.

The 3-day event was held at Verabariki and Ngongoti community hall in Bahomea with over 50 participants in attendance, 90% of which were women and girls, many of whom run small community-based businesses.

The social media and marketing training focused on teaching various techniques for small business owners to better present their products and services, handle promotions and how to create engaging customer connections.

Participants were also taught how to take photographs of products, come up with content strategy and how to build a customer base.

They then received hands-on training to help improve their marketing skills by learning how to use the Canva application on their mobile phones to create content for social media platforms such as TikTok, Facebook and Instagram.

Facilitator Mr. James Dolarii said that the training is key to supporting catchment communities with their small business marketing and help build their confidence. "I am pleased to teach them how to use Canva, a simple video and poster design application. It is the rural people who need it most and this training will assist by teaching them alternative ways to sell more produce and make more income."

During the sessions, local women discussed the difficulties they experience as small business owners not being able to widely market the selling of their local produce from rural Guadalcanal. But now with these new skills, they are confident it will help them reach more customers and be able to manage the supply and demand aspect of business more efficiently.

"Most times, I over supplied my produce and waste some. Now

that I have completed this social media marketing training, it has given me valuable knowledge on a more effective way to market," said Nesta Ben one of the participants from Valejomara. "And now I can do promotions through my posters and videos to customers online. This will be so helpful, and I will only need to prepare what people have actually ordered via the phone, so I can do away with over supplying."

Under the Tina River Hydropower Development Project, the Gender Action Plan focuses on delivering livelihood programs for community people within the project communities to help women, girls, youth and men to be able to improve their lives and make positive changes.

"I am pleased that women, men and youth participated in this first of a kind training. Social media marketing is a new topic and different to our usual capacity building training but, we are moving with the times, and it is key to address common challenges faced by the rural communities, one of which is marketing.

"Most of these participants support their family needs by selling their products at the Honiara Central Market, which can be difficult and takes a long time to reach. I believe with this training, participants have learned new knowledge and skills that will enable them to connect (online) with more buyers in Honiara for instance, and by which they can sell their products to," said Helen Dolaiano, Gender Officer for Tina Hydro River Project Office.

The project, which is being implemented by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) has financing and support from multiple stakeholders including 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. It will continue to deliver more GAP programs through 2024 with Agriculture training next on the agenda to help women, youth and men be better equipped to benefit from income generating opportunities.



# Planting seeds for the future-Agriculture Training for Tina communities



Learning about sustainable agricultural practises

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) program has again delivered another successful agriculture training program in Ngongoti, Mbahomea, aimed at enhancing sustainable farming practices and promoting gender equality in agriculture.

The training, held from 8th to 11th April, brought together a total of 31 enthusiastic participants from various Tina River catchment communities such as Mbahomea, Malatotha/Malango, and Belaha. The attendees, comprising 25 women and 6 men, engaged in a four-day intensive program facilitated by Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) technical experts.

The primary objectives of the training were to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to transition from slash-and-burn methods to organic farming, understand soil improvement techniques, master seed drying and saving processes, promote healthier diets through agricultural practices, and ultimately, empower them to generate income through the cultivation of high-quality garden produce.

Over the four training days, participants gained practical hands-on experience by site clearing and plot marking in preparation for digging and planting. They also learnt about nursery management by seed sowing, bed/box preparation, and how to extract different types of seeds. Pest and disease management was also covered as well as soil management and compost making.

Helen Dolaiano, Gender Officer for the Tina River Hydropower Development Project Office, commented that although these women and men are already farmers, it is significant for them to attend such training when opportunity is available.

"There are simple agriculture farming techniques and steps that we often ignore and when one attends this

kind of training, they appreciate what organic farming is and how to better improve techniques such as getting the right measurements in spaces for planting." Ms Dolaiano goes on to say that the training is to not only fostered practical learning skills but to also emphasized the importance of sustainable agricultural practices for healthy living and gender inclusivity in the farming sector.

"By empowering both women and men with these vital skills, the GAP program aims to create a more resilient and equitable agricultural community for rural farmers and families that reside in the Tina River Hydropower Development Project area," she added.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) Program, which commenced in 2019, has positively impacted hundreds of people through training and skill development, predominately investing in the lives of rural women and girls. Under the Tina River Hydropower Development Project, GAP will focus on continuing to deliver livelihood programs for community people within the project communities to help women, girls, youths and men to be able to improve their lives and make positive changes.

The Tina River Hydropower Development Project is being implemented by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) 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. The GAP initiative is a positive example of a SIG investment that is responding to local women's needs and helping stimulate rural economic development.



Planting seeds



# KGA Collaborates with Tina River Hydropower Project to Empower Local Communities

The 15MW renewable energy project continues to provide business opportunities by engaging more local companies such as Honiara based Kastom Gaden Association (KGA), who recently worked alongside the Gender Action Plan (GAP) Program team to train local catchment communities in agricultural practices.

KGA has been at the forefront of supporting rural self-reliance since its establishment in 1995 and is the latest locally based company to benefit from the renewable energy project in the Solomon Islands.

As a leading provider of farming training and support services, Kastom Gaden Association is committed to supporting the self-reliance of rural people through sustainable small-scale agriculture intertwined with Agro-ecology farming practices.

KGA has grown to become a leading provider of farming training and support services across a nation where rural population stands at more than 80%. KGA has a network of rural farmers who are members of the Planting Material Network (PMN) with a current total membership of more than 7,000 registered members throughout the country, with the PMN members being the target beneficiaries.

Because of its impressive background in community-based services, KGA was chosen to partner with the GAP program to providing essential training programs aimed at improving food security, encouraging self-reliance, and promoting sustainable farming practices.

Esther Lodu, the Kastom Gaden Planting Material Coordinator and Trainer, said the local company was pleased to be awarded the training contract and have an opportunity to work with a national priority project. "After being briefed by the GAP team, we put together a custom package for local communities with training sessions covering various topics such as climate smart agriculture farming system." She goes on to add that "the



KGA facilitating community Agricultural training

aim of the training was to help improve food security through encouraging self reliance and sustainable organic food production for the family's nutrition needs first, and then for local markets. Training and assistance in setting up and managing community-based seed and staple food crop planting material production and distribution networks was also covered."

Esther goes on to comment that she hopes the partnership between KGA and the Tina River Hydropower Development Project has significantly contributed towards skill development and economic empowerment for all involved.

"I encourage as many local businesses as possible to work alongside the Tina River project if the opportunity presents itself, in order to keep the benefits local and help improve the lives of our communities." The expected outcome of this training is to see an increase in the varieties of food grown and consumed by trained

communities and an increase of quality vegetable crop production free from chemical fertilisers and pesticides that can help produce a stable and reliable income.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) Program, which commenced in 2019, has positively impacted hundreds of people through training and skill development, predominately investing in the lives of rural women and girls.

The GAP team work closely with the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification under the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) as well as multiple stakeholders who finance and support the Project including 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.



# Electricity and Safety Training Delivered to Communities by the Tina Project Office and Solomon Power

The Tina River Hydropower Development Project Office, in collaboration with Solomon Power, has delivered specialist training on Electricity and Safety aimed at equipping women and men in Tina catchment communities.

Under the Gender Action Plan (GAP) program, the 'train the trainer' program will take place over three (3) days from June 4-6 and will be facilitated by Health and Safety experts from Solomon Power.

First day of training will be held in Belaha and will continue in Mataruka on the second day and, Mbahomea on Thursday.

The primary purpose of this 3-day program is to provide the opportunity for key people to be trained and educated in electricity and safety, and to provide basic skill-building session to improve their communities' well-being.

Each community has been encouraged to send at least two women and two men representatives to participate in this vital training program.



Communities gather to listen to Electrical and Safety Training facilitated by GAP and Solomon Power

'train the trainer' concept is a proven initiate for livelihood training with successful programs being delivered under GAP in the past.

Mrs Helen Dolaiano, Gender Officer for the Tina Project Office says the objectives of the training program are threefold.

"Firstly, it aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of rural women, men, and youth so that they can effectively educate their communities on electricity, safety, and energy usage in households.

Secondly, the training seeks to guarantee that every household is adequately informed about safety regulations and best practices. Lastly, the program intends to provide participants with the necessary tools and strategies to efficiently manage household electricity budgets."

She goes on to add that "through these objectives, the training endeavours to empower individuals to create safer, more sustainable, and economically stable living environments within their communities."

Project Manager for the Tina River Hydropower Development Project, Mr Pradip Verma adds the project remains committed to improving social inclusion through various GAP training initiatives in 2024 and beyond.

"Offering a range of training programs to local communities is crucial for

ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has equal access to learning opportunities.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) program is dedicated to the continuous implementation of activities that foster inclusive environments, where all individuals feel appreciated and respected.

This ongoing initiative aims to cultivate a sense of belonging and empowerment within communities through inclusive project training." The GAP Program, which commenced in 2019, has positively impacted hundreds of people through training and skill development, predominately investing in the lives of rural women and girls.

The GAP team work closely with the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification under the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) as well as multiple stakeholders who finance and support the Project including 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.

This collaborative effort between the Tina River Hydropower Development Project and Solomon Power shows a partnership that is committed to community safety, empowerment and sustainable development.



Women participating in Electricity and safety training



# Tina Hydro welcomes new Project Manager



New Project Manager for the Tina River Hydropower Development Project Office, Mr Pradip Verma

The Tina River Hydropower Development Project has a new Project Manager with the appointment of former Solomon Power CEO, Pradip Verma.

With over 25 years of professional project management experience in large infrastructure projects, Pradip brings a wealth of expertise to the team and is looking forward to leading the transformational project through its construction phase.

The Tina River Hydropower Development Project is the first large utility-scale renewable energy project for the Solomon Islands delivering benefits such as more affordable electricity and improved accessibility to cleaner, more reliable energy sources for communities now and in the future. Mr Verma is no stranger to the Project and looks forward to collaborating with stakeholders.

"It's great to be back in Honiara and I'm honoured to be working on such an important project for this country and the people," he says. "There is a lot to be done and I am glad to have inherited a competent and hardworking Project Office team to work alongside."

As part of a competent Team Pradip has successfully managed numerous significant infrastructure projects, including the Liapootah-Palmerston No 2 and Waddamana-Lindisfarne 220kV transmission lines in Australia, as well as upgrades at various hydro stations.

Notably, his leadership at Solomon Power resulted in the successful delivery of projects such as the Taro and Seghe hybrids, transformer replacements, solar farms, and substation

upgrades.

"My aim is to establish short-term performance targets and long-term strategic objectives while nurturing and training staff across all project components," Pradip says.

"I am focussed on promoting collaboration and continuity within the team, ensuring that each member is aware of their responsibilities and accountabilities, and I want to prioritise capacity building for our staff."

He plans to engage stakeholders, address issues promptly, and encourage a culture of open communication to tackle environmental and social challenges efficiently.

"A part of my leadership role will be to ensure I set an example by visiting the sites and communities regularly and encourage the team to continue to do the same. This way we can ensure we monitor the progress and keep up to date on the action items being worked on by our partners THL, EPC contractor HEC and their sub-contractors."

Mr Verma commenced his role as Project Manager in March 2024 and will be working closely with the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification under the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) as well as multiple stakeholders who finance and support the Project including 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.



# Experienced Financial Expert Takes on Role of CFO at Tina Hydropower Limited

Hyung Joon Jun as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to oversee the financial arrangements for the Tina River Hydropower Development Project construction phase with the pending completion of the access roads and commencement of the hydropower facility.

He takes over from previous CFO, Mr Byung Moo Hwang who now resides as the New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at THL.

With a background in global infrastructure projects and financial advisory services, Mr. Hyung Joon Jun joins the THL leadership team with a wealth of experience and passion for developing global infrastructure businesses.

Mr. Hyung Joon Jun's professional journey includes a tenure at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) where he was involved in advising Korean EPC companies on global infrastructure market opportunities with a focus on large hydropower projects in the APAC region including projects in Indonesia, Australia, and Solomon Islands where he started working with the Tina River Hydropower Development Project in 2021.

"While advising for Tina with PricewaterhouseCoopers, I had such a big commitment to this project, I finally chose to join THL as the CFO so I could make even more of a positive impact," he says.

While working on a biomass power plant in Fiji, the CFO came to realise that in order to have a successful project in a Pacific country, you need to know and understand the local culture first.

"Even though I specialise in numbers, I have a philosophy that numbers should not just stay in numbers. I always try my best to attach a warm heart to numbers, so that my work and efforts can benefit the people I work for, towards a better future," says Mr Hyung Joon Jun.

Motivated by the significance of the Tina River Hydropower Development Project for the country and people, Mr. Hyung Joon Jun says he will make it his mission to drive its success and set a benchmark for global Public-Private Partnership projects.

"My immediate goal as CFO is to stabilise project cash flows and enhance visibility within Solomon Islands and the global infrastructure market."

He goes on to say, "by fostering collaboration with key stakeholders and empowering local talent within THL, we can aim to ensure the project's long-term sustainability and positive impact on the local community."



Mr Hyung Joon Jun, new Chief Financial Officer for Tina Hydropower Limited at the Tina River Project site

Working closely with the EPC contractor, Hyundai Engineering Company (HEC), the Tina River Hydropower Development Project Office and the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE) Mr Hyung Joon Jun is looking ahead and envisions a year of efficiency, effective communication, and timely project delivery.

By aligning efforts towards shared success, he is also focussed on positioning the Tina River Hydropower Development Project as an example of excellence in infrastructure development in Solomon Islands.



# Construction Update











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### ADDRESS

Tina River Hydropower Development Project

### PROJECT OFFICE

C/O Ministry of Mines Energy and Rural Electrification  
Level 2, Anthony Saru Building, Hibiscus Avenue  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
Phone: +677 25133

### MEDIA CONTACTS

Australia and International Enquiries  
Sarina Laurence | +61 432 573 136  
[sarina@tina-hydro.com](mailto:sarina@tina-hydro.com)