

Safaato'a replaces old and rusty water line

Upolu Island: **Safa'atoa Village**

Population & beneficiaries: 581 (312 M + 269 F)

Project description: Upgrading of Village Reservoir and replacing old pipelines

Small Grant awarded: **\$14,612.85 USD (\$37,623.20 SAT)**

Imagine turning the faucet at your kitchen sink and find brown water running out. This may happen to you only after a natural disaster but for the 581 people residing in Safaato'a, consistent supply of clean water was a dream. For some 70 plus years, Safaato'a water was running through a copper line that was leaky, rusty and corrupted from time and exposure to the elements. The leakage meant low water pressure, unreliable and inconsistent supply for all of the 581 residents of the village. . According to Mr. Finau Taape, the Village Representative (Sui o le Nu'u) of Safaato'a, *"the currently exposed reservoir was first built in the times of the German. Since then, there has not been any major new development in terms of its upgrading and maintenance with efforts to stop the leakage has been successful but was temporary due to the limited resources available at the time"*.

In response to the AF Call for Proposal, Mr. Finau with the help of a Project Committee, initiated and submitted a project proposal to replace the main pipe line as a permanent solution and to promote better water management in the community. Thus, also proposing a standalone structure to provide cover for the currently exposed reservoir. This will prevent flying debris from contaminating the village's water supply, which was a constant issue that causes low water pressure. Through the approval of this proposal, the village of Safaato'a were awarded with a grant of up to \$37,623.20 SAT and \$20,000.00 SAT as the contribution of Safaato'a village to the project.

While the administration of this fund is being coordinated by the Civil Society Support Programme (C.S.S.P). The implementation of the project was conducted by the wider community of Safaato'a by coming together to provide the labour required. According to Ms. Cecilia Aмосa, *"Safaato'a project is not only practical but also a sensible and realistic approach in improving the water supply to all households in Safaato'a which also contributes to building resilience of their community in times of natural disasters. This project also reflects on the strong and close collaboration between Safaato'a community and government ministries to ensure the long term sustainability of their community project, and to improve the resilience of our people in times of natural disasters"*.

The contribution of this project in terms of being climate change adaptive for the community of Safaato'a as stated by Mr Finau, *"Through this support, the community of Safaato'a is resilient and well prepared in times of natural disasters in the future. We will have an unlimited supply of water as well as clean and safe drinking water. Majority of the village families now have daily access to clean water through the new installed pipelines, that are directly connected to the main reservoir inland of Safaato'a"*. [Mr. Finau Taape, Village Representative, Safaato'a] Replanting and management of the Safaato'a watershed by another government project in recent years is one of Samoa national priorities in pursuit for better natural resources management and sustainability. The assistance from the Adaptation Fund has enabled the village to improve the management of their water resources and supply by replacing old, rusted main pipes from the reservoir to the village as well as building a basic shelter as cover for the existing reservoir to prevent contamination.

"We are very appreciative of the assistance being given to Safaato'a as you have witness today. Thank you UNDP for such opportunity, thank you MNRE for your support through the replanting of trees and a well secured fence around the land where the reservoir is situated, also thank you C.S.S.P for being the avenue these funds are being sourced through". [Mr. Finau Taape, Village Representative, Safaato'a]. Safaato'a is now water efficient in times of natural disasters, by permanently fixing this problem through the assistance of the Adaptation Funds Project and funded by UNDP and implemented by MNRE and CSSP. Also taking into account the commitment of the community to successfully implement this project, it is safe to say that Safaato'a is Climate Change Ready!