

European Ambassador in the Pacific Region, Mr. Sujiro Seam, EU Program Manager for the Pacific, Mr. Silvio Lazzari and EU Political Officer for the Pacific, Ms Madeleine Kihlberg visited Samoa from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2023. During their visit, the delegation was able to meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in the context of the EU BS and the projects funded by the EU – water, sanitation and climate change and continued to visiting the 3 identified sites which were solely funded by the European Union on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. Sites included;

### **1. Water Purification system at Solosolo Village.**

The European Union I partnership with the Government of Samoa launched a pilot water filtration system, namely the Ecological Purification System (EPS). The EPS is constructed within the Solosolo Primary School compound and allows accessibility to a population of 1,851, mostly women and children. Children aged fourteen and under make up largest proportion (42%) of Solosolo's population.

The EPS is a climate resilient water purification system and is designed to make safe drinking water by use of natural ecological process without chemicals. The EPS technology takes advantage of a naturally occurring phenomenon, the growth and decomposition of algae. The purification procedure reduces the concentration of contaminants such as suspended particles, parasites, bacteria, algae, viruses and fungi. The EPS uses natural water pressure and is gravity-fed; there is no need for electricity.

Peseta Noumea Simi, the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said, 'The pilot water filtration system is a fitting legacy for the sustainability of community managed water systems through EU support.

Last year, the project saw ten IWSs accessing safe Ultra-Violet treated water through piloted UV kiosks installed in convenient locations. The EPS pilot shall add one more community, the Solosolo village IWS, with access to clean and safe drinking water. Speaking at the launch of the EPS, the Focal Coordinator of water, sanitation and health initiatives at the European Union Delegation for the Pacific, Mr. Luis de Torres, said, 'Water is a precious natural resource, which supports life'.

Safe and sufficient drinking water is essential in our daily life, for drinking and food preparation. The EPS Water purification system will increase the purity and safety of your drinking water. In addition, the water filtration system will also benefit the environment by cutting down pollution, waste generation, and resource use. The European Union is pleased to have collaborated once again with the Samoan Government and SIWSA to enhance the sustainable access to safe drinking water."

The President of the Samoa Independent Water Schemes Association, Sulutumu Taiatu Sasa Milo said, "The EPS concept is well-suited for Independent Water Schemes. The EPS is a simple process with no electricity needed, requires minimal maintenance and the purification system is environmentally friendly. On behalf of the Association I would like to once again thank the European Union for another life-changing and sustainable water treatment initiative for our communities."

The Samoa Independent Water Scheme Association's EU funded project has served and increasing number of people in the country with access to safe drinking water, which complies with Samoa's 2016 National Drinking Water Standards. Altogether, 6,704 people have benefitted from the Association's water treatment initiatives.

The EPS is one of the last initiatives to be completed by the Samoan Independent Water Scheme Association under the project "Support to improve the capacity of communities to better manage water resources."



*Photo 1: Water Purification System @Solosolo*



*Photo 2L EU Delegation with Solosolo Village Water Committee Members*

## **2. Malololelei to Afiamalu Water Supply System (SWA)**

Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the UN in 2015, to work towards sustainable and poverty-free world by 2030. Goal 6 particularly seeks to ensure that people have access to clean water and adequate sanitation services worldwide. Which made water the most fundamental aspects of our lives.

Malololelei to Afiamalu (Vaimauga 3 district) is in the east urban area of Samoa. Over the years, the population of this area has grown as people starts to populate the area from 458 people to 574 people in total (Village Directory-Preliminary Count Census 2021, SBS). Given their geographical location and



elevation, people faced issues such as access to clean water; currently these residence water sources are of bad quality and their water supply is not treated; which requires extensive treatment.

Over the last three years, Samoa Water Authority (SWA) have spent significant effort in planning for upgrading and re-alignment of the Malololelei to Afiamalu water supply system, after several consultations and agreements from this residence to have a water supply system in place.

The project scope includes the construction of distribution mains, sub-mains and rider mains, rising mains, booster pump design, sub-structures and chambers, and control panel shelters and pump station buildings.

The SWA has tendered out the construction of water storage tanks and the network connections to suitable constructors which initially King Construction Ltd was awarded in the set-up and construction of Malololelei and Afiamalu storage tanks while Bluebird Construction Ltd for water network system. The constructions work has commenced in 2020, therefore ~570 plus people will benefit and have access to clean and treated water sources in the near future.

To date, two 250m<sup>3</sup> tanks located at Malololelei and Afiamalu have already been installed except for Afiamalu inlet and outlet connections yet to be completed. All sub-mains completed, six Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV) chambers, one inlet and two outlet connections for Malololelei storage tank, 1 x pump house yet to be completed awaiting booster pumps to be install. Therefore, this has accounted to 70% project progress near completion in which SWA projected that the project will complete by Jan 2024.



*Photo 3: Samoa Water Authority – Water Storage Tank at Malololelei*



*Photo 4: EU Delegation with SWA Managing Director and Sector Representatives*

### 3. Water Resources Division (Vailima)

#### ➤ WRD Vailima Office (WRD)

The Water Resources Division Office, Vailima is a base for field teams. It was officially opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019. The \$720,000 project was designed by OSM Consult, and built by Zheng Construction. It was funded by the European Union flagship Global Climate Change Alliance Programme.

#### ➤ Vailima Nursery (WRD)

The WRD Vailima Plant Nursery serves the purposes of MNRE-WRD to improve services in seedling rearing and supply as well as cater for the increasing number of rehabilitation and watershed management projects within Samoa.





*Photo 5: EU Ambassador and Program Manager for the Pacific with WRD Staff*



*Photo 6: EU Delegation with Sector Representatives @ WRD Office, Vailima*

The site visit program ended with lunch at the Water Resources Division Office at Vailima