



ISLAND DISPATCH

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A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC

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by Gloria D. Steele, Mission Director, USAID/Philippines and Pacific Islands

When U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Indonesia recently, he warned that “climate change ranks among the world's most serious problems,” calling upon nations to respond to what he considers as “the greatest challenge of our generation.”

As Mission Director of USAID Philippines and the Pacific Islands, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of climate change. From super typhoons, extended droughts, flashfloods, and other extreme weather events, these countries are often at the receiving end of climate change’s most powerful punches.

On March 25, I visited Suva, Fiji to express the U.S. Government’s continuing commitment in the Pacific Islands region and, more importantly, to help communities strengthen their resilience to disasters and climate change impacts.

We at USAID know that the most effective solutions to climate change—or any development issue—are those designed by the people who are affected. Hence, our new project, the Pacific-American Climate Fund, will involve partnerships with non-government organizations (NGOs) in the twelve Pacific countries.

This \$24-million grant facility will support NGO projects on climate change adaptation in the areas of natural resource and water management, livelihood development, and income diversification.

I believe that a “one-size-fits all” approach will not effectively support communities in their efforts to address climate change. Through this project, we expect to receive many innovative ideas—each providing a unique solution to the issue.

Another example of the importance of engaging local communities is our Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP). USAID/C-CAP is helping coastal communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change by supporting small-scale infrastructure, increasing awareness of how it affects the community, and using this knowledge in participatory mapping and land-use planning.

During my visit to the villages of Vunisinu and Nalase in Rewa Province, Fiji, I had the opportunity to interact with members of the community.



Examining the proposed plan of the USAID C-CAP team to rehabilitate the drainage system that will help prevent flooding in the villages of Vunisinu and Nalase in Rewa Province, Fiji.

Photo: USAID/Pacific Islands

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They shared with me the struggles they've encountered due to climate change. I will never forget the story of one manioc (taro) farmer. He has been a farmer all of his life. It's his only livelihood and he supports his wife and three children. "One day there was heavy rain. It overflowed from the drains into my farm and I lost most of my harvest in that crop," he lamented. "Now how am I to feed my family?"

We are working vigorously to address the challenges that families of this

"Pacific Century"—aptly named by President Obama—face every day. As such we will improve the drainage management system in Fiji, which will reduce the potential for floods to damage the community's manioc, vegetable, and coconut crops.

But our work doesn't stop there. USAID also assists the government and civil society of Papua New Guinea (PNG) expand HIV prevention, care and treatment models; strengthens women, peace and security in PNG; supports elections in Fiji; and provides disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction

in Federal States of Micronesia and Republic of Marshall Islands.

By building resiliency to climate change, we aim to preserve lives and livelihoods, which ultimately enables families to live happier, healthier lives and have the freedom to explore opportunities for a brighter future.

USAID Launches Projects to Support Climate Change Initiatives

Earlier this year USAID launched three projects—the Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), Coasts Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP), and Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response (PREPARE)—to help communities in the Pacific Island countries adapt to the effects of climate change and strengthen organizations to ensure the sustainability of their efforts.

All twelve countries under USAID Pacific Islands will receive this support. They include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji,

Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The grants were launched at festive events that were attended by top U.S. Government officials, including USAID Mission Director for Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele, and the countries' respective U.S. Ambassadors, local government and community leaders.

View the pictures on the following pages to tour these exciting launches.



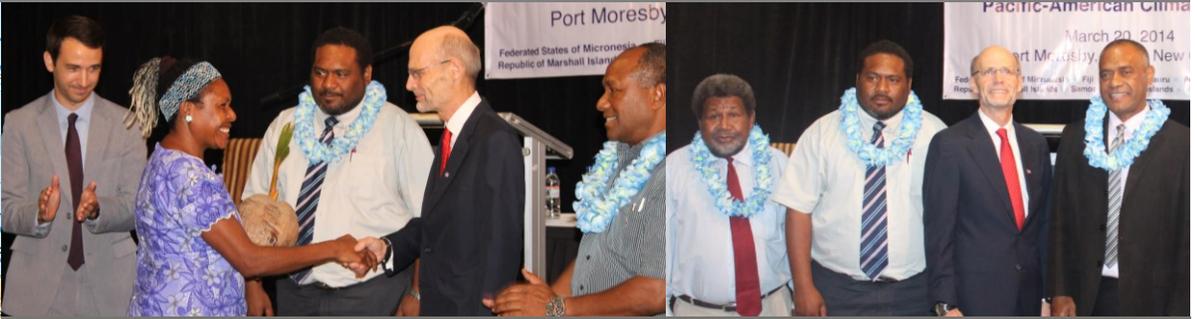


PACAM Fiji Above: The Oceania Theatre Dance ensemble performs an opening number. Below, Left: Pacific regional officials and diplomatic corps members meet with climate change adaptation stakeholders. Left to right: Eddie Stice, Peace Corps Fiji Country Director; Ambassador Gerson Jackson (in background) of the Federated States of Micronesia; Nikenike Vurobaravu, Chargé d'Affaires of the Vanuatu High Commission; and Lutelu Faavae, High Commissioner of Tuvalu. Below, Right: USAID Mission Director for Philippines and Pacific Islands, Gloria D. Steele and U.S. Ambassador Frankie A. Reed stand among other event VIPs at the PACAM launch in Fiji.



C-CAP Fiji USAID Mission Director for Philippines and Pacific Islands, Gloria D. Steele, visits the villages of Vunisinu and Nalase in Rewa Province to see the implementation of USAID's Coastal Community Adaptation Project.





PACAM—Papua New Guinea (Left) Ambassador Walter E. North receives a token of appreciation in the form of a young coconut symbolizing growth and sustainability from Maxine Arua, Executive Director of the Center for Locally Managed Areas. Joseph Foltz, Acting Director of the USAID Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change; Varigini Badira, Executive Director of the Office of Climate Change; and Chalapan Kaluwin of the University of Papua New Guinea stand behind them. (Right) U.S. Ambassador North is joined by H.E. William Haomae, High Commissioner for Solomon Islands; Varigini Badira, Executive Director of the Office of Climate Change of Papua New Guinea; and Vilitati Martatini, First Assistant Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires of the Fiji High Commission.



President



PACAM/PREPARE—Marshall Islands

Top: U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Norman Barth addresses the crowd at the PACAM/PREPARE event in Majuro. **Left:** President Christopher Loek (center) of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, USAID's General Development Officer Muhammad Khan (left) and U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Norman Barth (right) stand together.



USAID Announces Support for Fiji 2014 Elections

USAID recently announced the approval of \$500,000 to support Fiji's transition to become a more democratic and inclusive political system. The assistance will support free, honest and credible elections scheduled this year. USAID will specifically focus on voter education. This is the first election for

Fiji since 2006 and among others feature close to 50% of the electorate as first time voters. This activity supports the U.S. Government's commitment to the restoration of democracy in Fiji.

Fiji's new constitution, which was declared September 2013, mandated that the national elections to select Fiji's Members of Parliament must take place no later than September 2014.

Preparations, including the drafting of election regulations and procedures, are underway with the assistance of the donor community.

Support for free and fair elections and for broadening political representation has long been an important part of USAID's efforts to promote good governance in its country Missions.

Empowering Women in Bougainville

A new peace building program will strengthen the capacity of women's civil society organizations in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB), Papua New Guinea to address major social issues, including gender based violence, that have resulted from a decade-long conflict.

The two-year Women's Peace Building Initiatives program, implemented in partnership with Counterpart International, will help achieve sustainable peace, security and development in the region by empowering women as effective change agents. The program will work with local civil society organizations to raise awareness so that the public understands gender-based violence and the rights of women. In addition, it will provide treatment and counseling support to victims of sexual and domestic violence.

The program was announced last March at the first ever Papua New Guinea Women's Forum at Port Moresby. Nearly 300 people attended, including women serving in leadership roles in the community, women's rights advocates, female business owners, public servants, and men with strong interest in advancing the cause.

"The U.S. Government is pleased to partner with local organizations to support the empowerment of women, strengthen their role in peacebuilding and increase awareness of gender-based violence," said Gloria Steele, Mission Director for USAID Philippines and Pacific Islands. "USAID experience has shown that women are effective peace advocates, community leaders and champions of civil and human rights, and that women who face violence from partners are less likely to earn a living and less able to care for their children."

Women's groups worked with government, international, and private sector representatives to advance a bold agenda of empowering women by expanding health, education, and economic opportunities.



Right: USAID/Philippines and Pacific Islands Mission Director Gloria D. Steele speaks about the important role that women play in society during the "Women's Leadership at Work Presentation" hosted by the U.S. Embassy Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The official launch took place in May in Buka, Bougainville and was led by U.S. Ambassador Walter North. USAID/WPBI's grant facility will support qualifying civil society organizations in Trauma Counseling and Mental Health Services and Support, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment, and ARB National Action Plan Awareness and Implementation.

"Women play a significant role in keeping the peace in our societies. The U.S. Government is pleased to work with local government, civil society organizations, and other development partners to unlock the potential of women to serve as agents of change and inspire lasting development in their communities," said U.S. Ambassador Walter North.

Through the WPBI, USAID will work with civil society organizations to raise awareness about gender-based violence and the rights of women. The project will support all three regions of ARB.

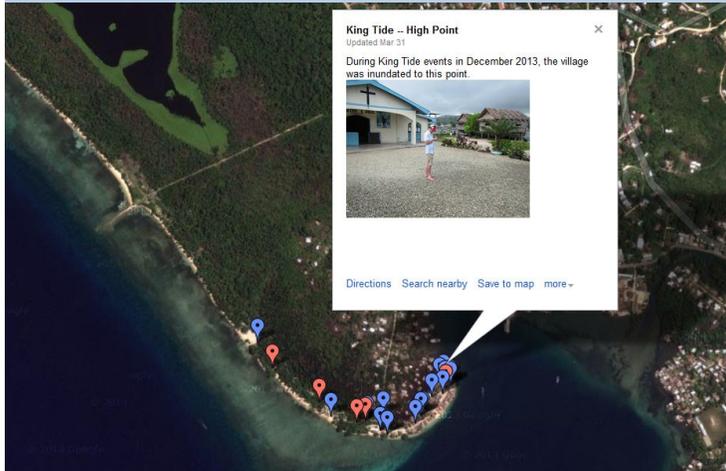
Women were among the most affected during the civil war in the Bougainville region. The increased risk of rape, torture and abuse restricted their movements and

ability to express their views. Lack of access to healthcare increased maternal and infant mortality rates; but it was the women who effectively supported the peace movement that contributed to the end of the conflict. Women-led civil society groups continue to play a key role in the region's recovery process today.



U.S. Ambassador Walter North joins PNG's women leaders during the 'PNG Women's Forum' on March 6-7, 2014. The forum aimed to advance gender justice and opportunity in Papua New Guinea.

CLIMATE RISK MAPS READY FOR TWENTY PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITIES



The red pin on this GoogleMap of Lilisiana marks the high tide point from December 2013 king tides; this extreme sea level event nearly submerged the Lilisiana peninsula underwater.

Foreground photo by C-CAP.

The village of Pari Taota—located just outside Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea—is one of the many communities in the Pacific Islands that is besieged by climate change effects. “Rainy season brings calamity to our community,” explains Councilor Nou Mataio Nou-Taboro. “People cannot access basic services due to flooding. Peoples’ lives are in danger and so is the village’s growth and prosperity.”

Similar scenarios are occurring throughout the Pacific Islands. William Toli left his home of Lilisiana in the Solomon Islands as a young man to attend school in the country’s capital city, Honiaria. At the time, the community was full of grass and coconut trees that extended from the beach 50 yards inland. Local children were always playing in the grass. He also recalls that king tides typically only occurred in December and the water only reached the church fence. Upon his return, he was alarmed by the vastly different coastline. It is now all sand and monthly high tides nearly enter the church. “I don’t like the new normal,” he says.

USAID, through its Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP), is helping 20 communities assess climate change risks and vulnerabilities to critical infrastructure of social, economic and cultural importance. Images of community infrastructure, such as rainwater collection tanks, and climate change risks, like low-lying areas which are prone to flooding, were incorporated into the Google Maps of 20 C-CAP partner communities. These maps provide a basis for future land-use plans and will be used by communities when they prioritize infrastructure for adaptation.



C-CAP Project Manager Joey Manfredo (far left) and C-CAP Community Liaison Officer Isoa Korovulavula (far right) pictured with Lilisiana's C-CAP Committee during the February 2014 visit. *Photo by C-CAP.*

Councilor Nou-Taboro of Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, is thrilled to have Google Maps technology in his community. “Mapping our infrastructure as a village was an important educational exercise for us all,” he says.

C-CAP carried out risk assessments and developed methods to determine how climate change affects infrastructure. The data was then gathered and registered in the Google Maps platform. This information provides the basis for longer term disaster risk preparedness and land use planning.

USAID supports Pacific Island nations to reduce long-term impacts associated with climate change so that people like Councilor Nou-Taboro and William Toli can achieve sustainable climate-resilient development in their communities.



William Toli, a resident of Lilisiana, stands at the high water mark from tides. As a child, king tides occurred only once a year in December. Today, they occur monthly and extend all the way to the small stone wall pictured in the background. *Photo by C-CAP.*

IMPROVING TUVALU'S LIVELIHOOD



Anosa, a local Kavatoetoe spear-fisherman, dives near a patch of bleached coral off the coast of Fualifeke Island. Photo by C-CAP.

C-CAP Expedition to Te Namu Lagoon Shows Evidence of Coral Bleaching, Algal Blooms and their Impacts on Tuvalu's Most Important Source of Livelihoods— Coastal Fisheries.

Throughout its history, fisherfolk—like a young man named Anosa from the community of Kavatoetoe—have been the lifeblood of Tuvalu. Tuvaluans consume an average of one pound of fish each day; but, the impact of climate change—such as increased sea surface temperature, ocean acidification and human waste run off—leaves an uncertain future for those who depend on coastal fisheries in Tuvalu's Te Namu Lagoon.

In 2011, an invasive brown seaweed was introduced into the lagoon at a time when its waters were hospitable for its growth. This type of seaweed thrives in warm shallow waters with high nitrate content. Population increases in Funafuti have produced more human and livestock waste in Te Namu lagoon. This creates a nutrient-rich cocktail, perfect for the brown seaweed, when it flows into the warming waters off the west coast of Funafuti.

Sea surface temperature around Tuvalu has risen gradually since the 1950s and is projected to continue rising.

The invasive seaweed, referred to locally as 'algal blooms', have taken firm root in Tuvalu and have spread across the water surface 100 meters into the lagoon. Sometime the blooms rise from the sea floor to heights of two meters. More than an eyesore, it is impacting the economy, marine ecosystem, and human health. Food poisoning is on the rise, due to consumption of fish and shellfish, which likely stems from reef fish feeding on algal blooms.

In response, the Funafuti Fale Kaupule (town council) has banned livestock from roaming near the lagoon side of Funafuti, and Tuvalu's Department of Fisheries has restricted fishing in Te Namu Lagoon, the primary fishing grounds for Anosa and families in Kavatoetoe.

The water on the outskirts of the lagoon is troubled too. Anosa reports that even here—an hour-long motor boat ride from Funafuti—he has noted a significant decline in fisheries.

Through a C-CAP activity in February, the people of Kavatoetoe identified the worsening effects of climate change and its connection with issues affecting their

livelihoods, including brown algal blooms and freshwater scarcity. They are developing adaptation projects to address these issues. As importantly, they are learning about the differences between the impacts caused by global climate change and those that are induced by their local community, such as polluted runoff, mangrove deforestation and overfishing.

A more knowledgeable Kavatoetoe is now positioned to break habits that exacerbate their environment and to anticipate and adapt to what they can't control.



Anosa, a member of C-CAP partner community Kavatoetoe leads his boat to shore before going spearfishing.

Supporting HIV/AIDS Patients in Papua New Guinea

Last March, Mission Director for Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele visited Ela Beach Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Center and House of Hope in Port Moresby to see the progress of USAID health projects related to HIV/AIDS and other specialized services for at risk populations.

The Strengthening of HIV/AIDS Services Project is a five-year project funded by USAID and is being implemented in National Capital District and Madang provinces. FHI 360 is overseeing the project in collaboration with other organizations, including Four Square Church, Salvation Army, Family Sexual Violence Action Committee, Madang Provincial Health Office, Modilon General Hospital and People Living With Higher Aims.

The clinics provide HIV patients with counseling, testing and medical services, and it supports gender-based violence survivors. They are staffed by nurses and doctors, and specialized services are provided to most at-risk populations, including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender people.

Although the Ela Beach VCT Center existed prior to USAID's involvement, the project invigorated its services by employing and training counsellors and setting up referral systems. FHI 360 geared outreach activities towards those who are most at risk. FHI 360 provided supplies, such as condoms and brochures, and established a new clinic in one of the most populated locations of Port Moresby.

Counselors were trained to provide HIV therapy and testing, and to assess the symptoms of sexually transmitted



Gloria D. Steele, Mission Director, USAID/Philippines and Pacific Islands (center) visited Ela Beach VCT Center and House of Hope in Port Moresby to check on USAID projects related to HIV/AIDS and other services for at-risk populations. The event culminated in the handing over of keys to a USAID-donated vehicle to Salvation Army and Four Square Church. She is surrounded by leading USAID and partner staff.

infections and indications of gender based violence. Counselors also learned how to record client data in a log book. This information is now used to create reports. In addition, the clinic recruited and trained peer educators to provide outreach services.

During her visit, Gloria Steele met Major Curtiss Hartley, Project Director of Salvation Army and Shiv Nair, Chief of Party of FHI 360. She visited the VCT center and House of Hope to get an on-the-ground view the services provided.

Her visit culminated in the handing over of keys to a vehicle that was donated by USAID to Salvation Army and Four Square Church.

USAID/GIZ Support Climate Change in the Solomon Islands

USAID and Germany's aid agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) recently entered into a partnership to support the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme in the Solomon Islands. The new USAID/GIZ activity will lead to the implementation of a province-wide, integrated approach to climate change adaptation that will enhance livelihoods of people in the community.

The province is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and is becoming a focal area for disaster risk partners. It was identified by the Solomon Islands Government as the first province to pilot this new adaptation measure.

"This partnership is one of several new U.S. Government development initiatives that exemplify our increased engagement in the Pacific Islands region. It also highlights our partnership with other donors to promote efficient use of development resources," said Mission Director for Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele. Dr. Wulf Killmann, GIZ's Program Director for CHICHAP, said "the experiences gained by coordinating amongst agencies and development partners will be used to replicate the concept in other provinces of the Solomon Islands and other Pacific Island countries."



Mission Director for the Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria D. Steele, and GIZ Program Director and Senior Advisor Dr. Wulf Kilan, sign the USAID-GIZ grant agreement to support the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Program in the Solomon Islands.

Eliminating Elephantiasis in New Ireland Province

USAID, through its implementing partner FHI 360, is addressing tropical diseases endemic in Papua New Guinea.

After training local health center supervisors and village volunteers, USAID launched the local distribution of drugs to eliminate elephantiasis in the Province of New Ireland in Kavieng.

The provincial government has committed K250,000 (US\$93,250) per year over the next four years and the drugs were donated by two multinational pharmaceutical companies, GlaxoSmithKline and Eisai.

In Papua New Guinea, one of the factors hindering development is the high burden of communicable diseases. Neglected tropical disease infections are prevalent, particularly in remote populations. One of the most predominant diseases is Lymphatic Filariasis, or elephantiasis, which is endemic in at least 61 out of 89 districts in Papua New Guinea, with approximately 5.2 million people at risk.

As part of End Neglected Tropical Diseases in Asia Project (END in Asia), FHI 360 collaborated with the National Department of Health and the World Health Organization to pilot Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program in New Ireland Province. The program trained local health center supervisors to oversee the drug administration campaign. FHI 360 also trained more than 600 village volunteers to distribute drugs, manage side effects, and report results.

The project's target is to reach 126,000 people, or 80% of the province's at risk population. If this can be achieved, elephantiasis will be eliminated from the province in five to six years.



Third from left: U.S. Health Attaché to PNG, Dr. Carlos Williams, and representatives from FHI 360 and the New Ireland Provincial Government are welcomed with a cultural presentation.

U.S. Health Attaché to PNG, Dr. Carlos Williams said “Neglected tropical diseases affect more than one billion people worldwide, with over two billion people at risk, especially among those living in poverty in remote rural areas or urban slums. Children are disproportionately affected and can live with the consequences their whole lives, including severe physical pain, irreversible disability, gross disfigurement, mental impairment, and in some cases death.”

With the success of this pilot project, it will be expanded to cover as many of the endemic areas as possible with comprehensive, and well-managed control and elimination efforts.

Notes from the field

by Lee Forsythe
General Development Officer

On my recent trip to Bougainville Autonomous Region of Papua New Guinea, I witnessed USAID as an agency of hope. Bougainville Island has an interesting history and a wealth of natural resources. It was settled 50,000 years ago by African travelers. The UN made it an Australian colony in 1920. During World War II, several Japanese air and naval bases were established, before it fell to allied forces in 1945. John F. Kennedy piloted his PT-109 boat just 50 miles to the south.

By 1980, Bougainville hosted the world's largest pit mine, which polluted rivers and returned no profits to the local people. This led to a ten year revolt and the death of one of every six Bougainvilleans. Combatants and their families were traumatized. Violence leaked into the homes of families and domestic abuse became a common and accepted practice.

(Continued on page 10)



Lee Forsythe, General Development Officer of USAID Philippines/Pacific Islands (back) stands with Bougainvilleans. Ms Josephine Kauona of the Tunanaiya Learning Centre is a leader in the movement to provide counseling to traumatized combatants and their families.

Notes from the field (continued)

by Lee Forsythe
General Development Officer

Today, Bougainville has reopened an international airstrip to improve access to the region. Its resources include minerals, hydropower, ocean and rainforest ecosystems with unspoiled scuba diving and surfing hotspots. Women-owned small businesses, micro-loans, and ecotourism all present favorable growth potential for the island; but the problem of violence remains.

Local leaders are guiding the population out of despair into a more hopeful future. During my visit I checked in on our Women's Peace and Security Program, which is being implemented by Counterpart International. Though still in its early phase, I was thrilled to see the potential and progress being made.

I met with women-led organizations that address domestic violence. They have done much of the groundwork for the cause and are positioned to expand their efforts. They included Helen Hakena of the Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, in Buka; Sister Lorraine Garasu of the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre, in Chabai; Josephine Harepa of Arawa Women's Centre Lodge, in Arawa; and Josephine Kauona of Tunanaiya Learning Centre, in Toboroi.

Ms. Hakena told stories of her maneuvers to protect human rights in the complex environment of Bougainville. In one, a woman came running to the center from the port, asking for a place to hide from



Lee Forsythe, General Development Officer of USAID Philippines/Pacific Islands is welcomed to the Tunanaiya Learning Center with a traditional celebration. Ms Josephine Kauona (left) is the leader of the organization and the movement to bring peace and prosperity back to the region.

her pursuing husband. She was told to hide in the office, and to keep quiet. Soon, her husband arrived, asking for his wife. Ms. Hakena pointed him onward, saying that the wife had asked how to find the police station; maybe he could find her there. When he departed, she called the police station exclaiming, "There is a man coming that is looking for his wife. Arrest him!"

At the Tunanaiya Learning Center we received a traditional welcome, including dancing, blessings and taro root. Ms. Kauona shared with me the unmet trauma counseling needs of those in the affected areas. She takes a unique approach by coupling her counseling with job skills training to further advance the livelihoods of her community. She studied and settled in New Zealand, but

chose to return to Bougainville after the conflict to serve her community.

Ms. Kauona's story left a mark on me and inspires others to follow her footsteps. I look forward to celebrating the successes of our shared efforts—to seeing Bougainville become the peaceful and prosperous island that we envision it can be.

Lee Forsythe is General Development Officer in the Office of Economic Development and Governance, in USAID Philippines/Pacific Islands. He has more than 25 years of experience with relief transition, and development projects in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He has also worked in areas of governance, natural resource management, disaster response and mitigation, infrastructure, basic education, and persons with disabilities.



This channel separates the Buka and Bougainville Islands.

NEW FACES WORKING WITH USAID/PACIFIC ISLANDS



Maurice Knight
Regional Pacific Islands Office
Director

Maurice Knight is the Regional Pacific Islands Office Director and oversees the Pacific Islands portfolio for Environment, Health, Climate

Change, and Civil Society and Governance programs. He works closely with the U.S. Embassy Country Teams in the Pacific Islands and coordinates with other Pacific region U.S. Government agencies.

Mr. Knight is the primary USAID representative to regional developments, non-governmental and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, traditional donors, and emerging partners in the Pacific region.

Previously, Mr. Knight served as Chief of Party and Senior Advisor for several projects funded by international development organizations. He was Chief of Party for USAID's Coral Triangle Support Partnership supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, and led several other initiatives involving coast resource management, HIV/AIDS, clean water, pre-and post-natal health care, and other health issues.

He holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning, a B.A. in Anthropology, a minor in coastal geology with graduate level work in development economics.



Randy Vinluan
Project Management Specialist

Randy Vinluan is the Project Management Specialist (Sustainable Landscapes) in the Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. He has

worked in projects surrounding biodiversity, emission, deforestation, and environmental law issues. Randy is transitioning into the role of Agreement Officer's Representative for the Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably-Managed, Health Forests

(MARSH) project in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Prior to joining USAID, Randy consulted for several geospatial technology projects funded by international development organizations.

He has taught courses at the College of Engineering of the University of the Philippines Diliman and his work has appeared in journals and conferences. He also worked as a space technology applications expert at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in geodetic engineering and Master's Degrees in remote sensing and environmental science from the University of the Philippines Diliman, where he is also a PhD candidate.



Milton Amayun,
Senior Public Health Advisor

Milton Amayun, M.D. is USAID Philippines' new Senior Public Health Advisor and manages health activities in Papua New Guinea.

Milton, a public health physician, attended UP Diliman for his undergraduate degree and UP College of Medicine in Manila. He obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard, with a major in International Health Policy and Management.

As the Senior Global Health Advisor for World Vision International and Vice-president for Programs at International Aid, he designed and managed health and HIV/AIDS projects in 60 countries. He has lived and worked in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Most recently he led a team for USAID/Benin that managed Family Planning and Reproductive Health projects. Milton received the 2010 Most Distinguished Alumnus in Global Health Service Award from his alma mater, the UP College of Medicine and was the Centennial Awardee for Global Public Health from the UP Alumni Association in 2013.

PACIFIC ISLANDS OVERVIEW

Pacific Island nations are among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of global climate change, as well as being some of the least able to respond. USAID assistance covers 12 Pacific Island nations: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The region is home to more than 9 million people, major fisheries, coral reefs, and important tropical forests, and is vital to U.S. Security and regional interests. The islands are culturally diverse, with more than 1,000 languages spoken and national populations ranging from less than 10,000 to more than six million. The region's varied topography includes mountainous islands and low-lying coral atolls, some of which are only 15 feet above sea level.

USAID's Pacific Islands Office works with Pacific Island nations to address acute environmental issues and the potential negative effects resulting from global climate change. The office also manages a disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction program in the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, assists Papua New Guinea in building its capacity for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment, and is engaged in both Papua New Guinea and Fiji with support to elections and democratic processes. In addition, USAID works to promote women, peace and security in Papua New Guinea.

USAID works closely with Pacific Island governments, regional organizations, and bilateral and multilateral partners to ensure that its assistance yields the highest impact by incorporating lessons learned and best practices from around the world.



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