

TREATY VILLAGE RESILIENCE PROGRAM

South Fly District, Western Province, Papua New Guinea



Final Report

For the Strongim Pipol Strongim Nesen (SPSN) Program

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1 Introduction

The Treaty Village Resilience Project tested an innovative approach to building resilience and providing support for community development in remote and disadvantaged communities on the Papua New Guinea–Australian border.

The South Fly District was selected as the trial site because of its strategic importance to Australia under the Torres Strait Treaty and the close family ties between the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Treaty Villages and the Torres Strait and Cape York region in North Queensland.

The 'change to resilience' framework developed by the project is based on the successful Land and Sea Ranger programs in action across northern Australia over the last decade. The experience and lessons learnt from the Australian Ranger programs has informed both the theory and the practical implementation of the Treaty Village Resilience Project.

The Resilience Project was contracted by URS (Strongim Pipol Strongim Nesen) on 20 October 2014 and was launch in Daru on 19 November 2014 by the Western Provincial Administrator, Mr Gul Gorgom.

The project aimed to pilot the delivery of:

- enhanced village level governance and leadership;
- expanded community level skills, capacity and access to learning;
- improved food and water security;
- stronger capacity for localised disaster risk management, response and recovery;
- enhanced livelihoods and livelihood skills; and
- increased women's participation in building community resilience and decision-making.

The Resilience Project successfully implemented a novel approach to community development that focused on integrating:

- Traditional governance approaches and priority setting into community development to help sustain project outcomes through existing cultural frameworks
- Short-term practical improvements with longer-term systemic changes to deliver sustained benefits
- New in situ local skills and appropriate technologies into the development agenda



2 Governance

The project faced the same governance and project delivery challenges that are well-recognised throughout PNG. Despite the mining wealth of Western Province, the Human Development Index is well below most other PNG Provinces, with the Middle and South Fly Districts being the most poorly developed and under-serviced. The South Fly District has a Human Development Index of 0.26, equivalent to the Democratic Republic of Congo and one of the lowest globally. The district struggles with the very basic of service delivery, with extremely limited infrastructure and poor law and order. Official accountability is poor and resources are rarely delivered where they intended. As a result, there is limited trust by the citizens in the South Fly District, Western Provincial and PNG governments.

The Resilience Project was piloted in five villages of the coastal region of the South Fly District, which has a history of receiving 'promises' from government and foreign donors with very limited delivery. A 'cargo cult culture' exists which has resulted in declining community resilience and capacity to respond to the increasing challenges of natural disasters, breakdown of law and order and failing services and infrastructure.

The communities do not have confidence that the National, Provincial or District Governments will actively address lack of access to economic opportunities and limited access to basic services such as health, education, clean water, disaster response and safe transport (there are no roads) in the South Fly District in the short- or medium-term. With little to offer in terms of 'natural assets' to the national agenda, the 'investment attractiveness' to the government of the South Fly District is low. The geographic location on the borderlands between Australia and PNG provides both benefits and challenges for the communities.

Unfortunately, the disadvantage experienced in the coastal region of the South Fly District is often a driver for cross border activity, placing direct pressure on Australia's limited resources in the Torres Strait region. For community development interventions to deliver sustained

improvements in access to basic services, there needs to be more than simple improvements in the planning process and governance. The enablers of leadership, in situ skills and capacity, law and order, and availability of funds must also be in place. For the South Fly Treaty Villages these enablers were mostly absent, meaning that stimulating demand for services and infrastructure without a realistic pathway to achieving any improvement just created frustration without advancement.

Lessons learnt from the northern Australian Ranger programs show that sustained improvements in community development and well-being requires:

- Improving access to better basic services with specific attention on strengthening local governance capacities through bottom-up planning
- Achieving a critical mass of in situ skills that enable a community to function as a cohesive unit and engage with the modern economy
- Developing a community expectation for improved leadership and accountability
- Addressing gender inequalities and the safety of women and children

The 'Community Ranger' approach to developing resilience focuses on strengthening traditional governance arrangements through a 'bottom-up' process at a village and clan level. These existing traditional structures support Ward and local level government (LLG) planning and governance frameworks but place a 'self-help' obligation on the community.

Traditional communities have the capacity to organise and address these issues through building their internal operational capacity and strengthening their partnerships with the existing government and bureaucratic structures. The Resilience Project aimed to address disadvantage and poor service delivery issues at the community level, through sustained and comprehensive engagement with community, clan elders and LLG and District authorities.

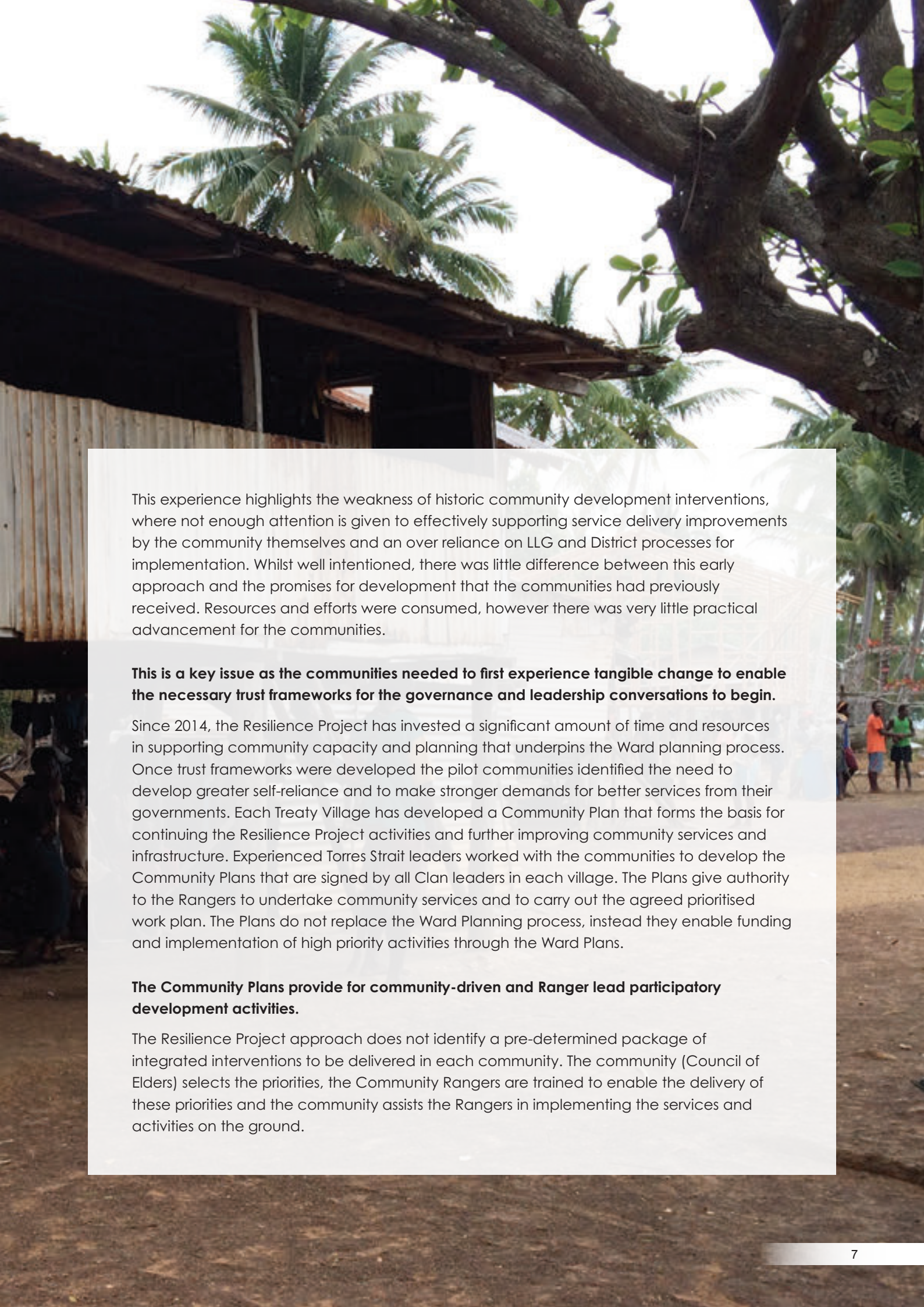


The Treaty Village Association

The RRRC has been engaging with the Treaty Villages since 2009, and this experience has resulted in an adjustment to engagement practices. In 2012, the RRRC partnered with the elected Ward members from the 13 Treaty Village to establish and register the Treaty Village Association (TVA), complete with planning, finance and fraud management committees. The TVA petitioned the Western Province and National Government for funds to deliver a development and sustainability project in the Treaty Villages. The successful bid resulted in the Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O'Neill travelling to Daru to ceremoniously deliver a PNG Treasury cheque for K19 million to the Provincial Government, providing K3 million for the Daru high school and K16 million for the Treaty Villages. The member for Leichhardt, the Hon. Warren Entsch and the candidate for the South Fly District, the Hon. Aide Ganasi were also in attendance. Within a week of the funds being drawn, K9 million was re-appropriated resulting in the Provincial Administrator being charged and jailed for corruption.

In 2013, Local Level Government elections resulted in many of the Ward members being replaced. The founding members of the TVA would not relinquish their positions resulting in the structure becoming ineffective and outside the District governance structure. A considerable quantum of resources had been expended on this process with little gain and limited sustainability.

To deliver future sustainability in governance, the Resilience Project adopted a 'Council of Elder' approach that brought the clan leaders in each village into the community planning and priority-setting processes. The intent has been to protect community development and progress from the vagaries of political change that impacts Ward and LLG planning processes.



This experience highlights the weakness of historic community development interventions, where not enough attention is given to effectively supporting service delivery improvements by the community themselves and an over reliance on LLG and District processes for implementation. Whilst well intentioned, there was little difference between this early approach and the promises for development that the communities had previously received. Resources and efforts were consumed, however there was very little practical advancement for the communities.

This is a key issue as the communities needed to first experience tangible change to enable the necessary trust frameworks for the governance and leadership conversations to begin.

Since 2014, the Resilience Project has invested a significant amount of time and resources in supporting community capacity and planning that underpins the Ward planning process. Once trust frameworks were developed the pilot communities identified the need to develop greater self-reliance and to make stronger demands for better services from their governments. Each Treaty Village has developed a Community Plan that forms the basis for continuing the Resilience Project activities and further improving community services and infrastructure. Experienced Torres Strait leaders worked with the communities to develop the Community Plans that are signed by all Clan leaders in each village. The Plans give authority to the Rangers to undertake community services and to carry out the agreed prioritised work plan. The Plans do not replace the Ward Planning process, instead they enable funding and implementation of high priority activities through the Ward Plans.

The Community Plans provide for community-driven and Ranger lead participatory development activities.

The Resilience Project approach does not identify a pre-determined package of integrated interventions to be delivered in each community. The community (Council of Elders) selects the priorities, the Community Rangers are trained to enable the delivery of these priorities and the community assists the Rangers in implementing the services and activities on the ground.



3 Project Implementation

The main project approach to facilitating long-term systemic changes is through building the capacity for bottom-up service delivery and stimulating demand for better planning, governance and leadership. This approach, in turn influences the way in which available development resources are allocated at the District and LLG levels.

The in situ training of 52 Community Rangers is a substantial undertaking, and has included specialised skills in boat handling, plumbing, first aid and disaster response, as well as leadership and mentoring. The Community Rangers are now able to not only deliver community services and infrastructure but provide planning and leadership for their Treaty Village communities to continue to improve water and food security, health and sanitation, and future livelihood opportunities. The demonstrated benefits for communities of the ranger program and respect for the Rangers has provided future leaders and a platform for sustainable community development in the long-term.

3.1 Baseline studies

The Resilience Project has drawn on a number of social baseline studies in the Treaty Villages undertaken through Australian Government research programs managed by the RRRC. An initial baseline social survey was conducted in 1995 and elements were repeated in 2010 under the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility (Long 2010). Economic and livelihood surveys were also conducted by CSIRO under the National Environmental Research Program (Busilacchi et al. 2014, Butler et al. 2014). The research partners that form the membership of RRRC provided significant in-kind resources and data to underpin the Resilience Project. In addition, the RRRC through the management of the current National Environmental Science Program has commissioned a repeat of the 2000 Torres Strait water quality baseline study (Haynes and Kwan 2002) to assess the influence of plumes from the Fly River on the marine biota of the region.

3.2 Physical environment – water and sanitation infrastructure

Through the Torres Strait climate models developed by CSIRO under the National Environmental Research Program (Suppiah et al. 2010; managed by the RRRC) early warning of a pending El Nino event allowed the Resilience Project to bring forward implementation of the water and sanitation component to prepare for the upcoming drought. However, the ferocity of the drought and the impact on food security was beyond expectations and has overwhelmed the agenda.

Initial baseline audits of water infrastructure were conducted in each of the pilot villages in 2014 and identified key deficits, maintenance and capacity issues. Community Rangers completed basic training in plumbing and are competent in most aspects of installing and maintaining water harvest systems, including tank installation, roof repair, guttering, and downpipe plumbing. Since the audits, the Rangers trained under the Resilience Project have delivered greater than 1.25 million litres of water holding capacity to the five pilot villages and a further 90,000L in an adjacent Treaty Village (Katatai) not included in the pilot. In addition, eight new wells have been dug, each with a life span of 80-100 years (subject to sea level rise and damage from natural disasters) and infrastructure has been enhanced in three natural springs. Manual water-lift pumps have been fitted by Community Rangers to five wells to date.

Communities where the leadership responded to the early warnings and focused priorities on water security and preparation (e.g. Mabaduan and Buzi and to a lesser extent Sui), have successfully harvested the intermittent pre-monsoonal storms and had sufficient domestic supply during the El Nino period, but insufficient water for food gardens. Other communities whose leadership did not prioritise water infrastructure, such as Sigabaduru, faced an extreme drinking water crisis. This obvious disparity in the successful management of water infrastructure has resulted in community members and Rangers becoming very aware of the impact of poor decision-making by leaders.

Smaller communities (e.g. Sui and Buzi/Berr) with fewer Community Rangers have been more successful in harnessing the skills and capacities of other community members, which has resulted in greater pro-rata infrastructure and service delivery. Again, community members and Community Rangers identified the difference in outcomes from the two approaches.

New Resilience Project infrastructure in Mabaduan school – two new rain tanks with associated water harvesting system and one latrine – has had additional benefits for student attendance and teacher availability. Noting that students no longer leave early to source drinking water, and teachers from outside the village who don't have access to clan water facilities no longer leave early to source ground water. Trails of innovative roofing fabrics at Mabaduan school have the dual benefit of rain water capture and weather-proofing classrooms.

3.3 Community health

The Resilience Project recognised that good community health is a pre-requisite to participation in economic, political, and social development. It was therefore important that community health be integrated into project activities. This is of particular importance with regards to women's health and the very high rates of communicable diseases, including multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, HIV/Aids, leprosy, cholera, filarial elephantiasis, gastro-based diseases and malnutrition. Some of the communicable diseases are selectively impacting women and children.

The working relationship established between the Daru Hospital and the Resilience Project has been mutually beneficial, with two Daru Hospital nurses delivering extensive women's health and general health training to the female Rangers. In response, the female Rangers support health officers in the Treaty Villages to deliver emergency first aid.

The Resilience Project successfully trained all 52 Community Rangers in First aid/First respondent competency training (standard HLTAID003) with the addition of relevant elements of Remote Area First Aid (standard HLTFA302C).

Elements of skills competency included:

- Principles of First Aid
- Examining a casualty
- The chain of survival
- Emergency action plan
- Managing the unconscious casualty
- Airway management
- Rescue breathing and chest compressions (adult, child and infant)
- First aid hygiene
- Assessment of an emergency situation
- DRSABC (Danger, Response, Send for Help [in this context a community health worker], Airways, Breathing, CPR – but no D for Defibrillation)
- Managing shock
- CPR techniques on adults, children and babies
- Basic physiology and anatomy
- First aid procedures for bleeding, burns and fractures
- Managing medical emergencies such as snake/spider bites, poisons and choking
- Managing medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma and seizures
- Infection control procedures
- Managing exposure to extreme temperatures





- First aid for eye & soft tissue injuries
- Assessing and moving the injured or ill
- Managing the unconscious casualty
- Controlling bleeding
- Managing other life threatening situations, including assisting delivering mothers for childbirth until/if they can be attended by a community health worker
- Identifying (seeking medical assistance) for postpartum complications from child birth
- Preparing for isolated travel or work, accounting for expected contingencies
- How to develop a response plan appropriate to your circumstances, location and the casualty's condition
- Options for transporting casualty, considering environmental conditions, transport availability and casualty's condition
- Cultural awareness issues
- Monitoring casualty's condition and undertake ongoing first aid procedures as required
- Providing emergency survival elements at a remote incident site (shelter, water) in accordance with environmental conditions

Skills elements that were excluded (as deemed inappropriate given the context of a Treaty Village):

- Using an Automated External Defibrillator (technology not available)
- Establish communication links to medical services, including RFDS (limited communications apart from a mobile phone in some locations only)
- Administering medication under direct instruction from an authorised health worker

This comprehensive training has provided all 52 Community Rangers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to assist with routine medical care and respond to emergency situations. The Community Rangers responded to over 120 emergencies between October 2015 and June 2016, and have individually reported on each emergency.

The Community Rangers have developed communication products and delivered community health training to 6 villages (> 4,700 people) in English, Kawai and Agob languages. In partnership with Queensland Health, the Community Rangers have conducted three specialised TB awareness training events in Sigabaduru, Mabaduan and Buzi/Berr to >500 community members, and specific TB home nursing training has been provided for women's groups in Mabaduan, Sigabaduru and Buzi/Berr.

The Resilience Project also attracted further activities in the community health area by supplying support service to Queensland Health Staff who delivered TB awareness training and specific TB home nursing information in the pilot villages. This work was directed through the female Community Rangers who provided access and language translation to women's clan groups. This is extremely important as females between the ages of 20-40 make up the majority of new multi-drug resistant TB cases in the South Fly District due to their role in home nursing TB patients. In addition, the Community Rangers were contracted by DFAT to refurbish the existing Mabaduan Hospital, which was completed in February 2016 with ongoing maintenance still occurring. The refurbished facility enables outreach health service from Daru Hospital to be delivered prior to the completion of any new hospital facilities in the area.

3.4 Women empowerment & equitable participation

While there remain significant barriers to women's active and equal participation in decision-making in the Treaty Villages, the Resilience Project allocated 12 Community Ranger positions specifically for women. The project also engaged two chaperones to enable the women to attend the training sessions and two local female medical staff to assist with training and mentoring. Low levels of literacy, obligations to the family and cultural issues were placed as initial barrier to female inclusion. However, after much negotiation female candidates from the pilot villages were selected by clan elders and

inducted into the training program. Female candidates participated in the same training as the men, including boat handling, first aid, construction, communications, small motor maintenance and plumbing. They also undertook additional training in women's health. Their inclusion in the Resilience Project has brought considerable benefit to the communities. For example, the female Community Rangers assisted during the water crisis by attending water collection points and training local women in water purification and disease management. This in turn significantly reduced the reliance on the Torres Strait medical facilities during the drought period. The female Rangers also play a significant support role for the health workers in each of the communities. Their success and the appreciation by community members has resulted in the female Community Rangers having a greater participation in village meetings.

The female Community Rangers have developed an anti-family violence narrative based on the reality that if a women is beaten then she is unable to look after the children or undertake village work. Therefore beating your wife is an act against the whole village and pulls the village down. The male Community Rangers have adopted this narrative and represent a serious gender, enabling group. The male Community Rangers are held to the highest standards as community mentors. If a Community Ranger commits family violence or other unsavoury conduct, he loses his job as a Ranger, which will bring shame to his Clan and reduce his family's income. Male Rangers are also called upon to ensure that the female Community Rangers are safe at all times when visiting other villages or Daru.

The fact that Community Rangers are speaking out about gender equity and family violence within their communities is proving to be an important factor in influencing the broader communities' attitudes towards these issues. The Resilience Project is providing strong female role models and remains the only real source of information to counter cultural norms that promote male dominance in household and community domains. The Resilience Project has progressed female empowerment in the Treaty Village area by creating awareness of, and supporting the role women play in their communities, and ensuring that women are represented and meaningfully involved in community structures and decision-making.

A census of the five pilot Treaty Villages identified three community members in Mabaduan, Sigabaduru and Sui with disabilities that present mobility issues. In response, the project modified the water pump facilities to be suitable for people on crutches and to have no-slip ramps for future wheelchair access and use, if required.

3.5 Disaster risk reduction

The Torres Strait and South Fly District are recognised internationally as a hot spot for climate change and increased natural disasters. There has been significant sea level rise (highest astronomical tide increase estimated at 52 cm since 1920's), and more frequent extreme rainfall events – drought and flooding. These natural disasters are predicted to increase in intensity over the next 50 years (Suppiah et al. 2010). Natural disaster impacts combined with communicable disease outbreaks (e.g. cholera, multi-drug resistant TB) are a significant driver of cross border instability.

Disaster risk reduction plans and response training were a significant component of the Resilience Project. The four safety vessels and equipment such as shovels and chainsaws make up part of the village disaster response facility. Early warning and prior preparation are the key to building community resilience to the impacts of natural disasters. Baseline studies conducted in the Torres Strait on traditional coping mechanisms were utilised along with focused planning and broader community training.

Draft Disaster Preparedness Plans have been developed as part of the Community Plans for each of the pilot villages, and Community Rangers have been trained to implement the Plans. While the Treaty Villages will respond collectively to any disaster, coordination with District, Provincial and National Disaster Response frameworks continues to be limited.





4 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Resilience Project established a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) approach that provided both quantitative and qualitative metrics. The initial baseline infrastructure surveys provided the evidence for practical progress by the Resilience Project, and Community Ranger progress was mapped against the work plans in each Community Plan. This evaluation approach allowed for a comparative analysis of the effectiveness of different leadership approaches in tangible outcomes for the community. An observational analysis was made between pilot villages and others that have not received intervention from the Resilience Project and non-pilot villages do not have functional water capture and storage facilities, and there is limited community capacity to repair or maintain these facilities.

As part of the administrative training for the Community Rangers and as a measure of progress, the Rangers were required to report on all their activities. This reporting has been comprehensive and includes:

- Detailed reports on each first aid/medical emergency they attend
- Detailed reports and photographs of the crowd of people attending the community training session that they conduct. This also provides a 'head count' of community members receiving training from the Rangers
- Detail reports of infrastructure work (installing tanks, digging wells) achieved independently of project mentors with supporting photographs for verification
- Written report on issues and impediments and suggestions improvements in the future

These reports were collated and included in the general project reporting. The responsibility of reporting and evaluating performance is embedded as part of the overall leadership training. Accuracy and integrity in reporting is an essential element for each of the villages. The Community Rangers also verbally report to the Council of Elders in each pilot village on their achievements against the work plan. Where the village leadership is weak, achievements against the work plan is poor, and this outcome is transparent.

The RRRC utilised the Australian Government M&E system and holds appropriate data in a number of formats. RRRC also holds relevant data from other Australian Government programs relevant to the South Fly District. In terms of information sharing, review and learning activities, the Community Rangers regularly meet with mentors/trainers and analyse progress and challenges.

5 Communications

The Resilience Project followed a structured communication protocol with Treaty Villages, the District Administration and associated agencies. Regular briefings were given to update the District Administrator, District Treasurer, Police, Customs, Border Development Authority and Daru Hospital (where possible).

The sharing of information helped the Resilience Project overcome considerable scepticism about the project approach and objectives. Many community members believed that the intent of the project was to prevent the harvesting of dugong and fisheries resources by Treaty Villages, or some other policing exercise. These misconceptions were addressed and the work of the Community Rangers now receives community support and regular coverage in the local and national newspapers. The District Administrator saves these articles about the activities of the Community Rangers on his wall, which are regularly updated by his staff.

Collaboration with other institutions and potential partners is principally through the annual Traditional Inhabitants meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee of the PNG and Australian Torres Strait Treaty. Updates are presented to the attending PNG and Australian Government agencies. Given the rapid progress of the Resilience Project, the information supplied has been well received and opportunities to integrate with other Australian Aid funded projects have been identified.

6 Innovation

The entire Resilience Project methodology reflects classic 'participatory action research', with an emphasis on community participation and action. This approach utilises collective inquiry and experimentation grounded in experience and social history. In addition, there is scope to facilitate other types of research and innovation in the delivery of the project. It is clear that innovation opportunities exist for: more functional water capture and storage, sanitation, alternative energy supply, food production and storage, fish attractant structures and low input aquaculture. These areas are being explored by RRRC research partners, including the availability of appropriate technology for the project and may be implemented in phase 2.

The trialling of innovative water capture and storage products, and sanitation systems is well-advanced in the pilot villages. The introduction of roofing fabrics and water storage bladders, along with the trialling of new adapted composted toilets/urinary diversion toilets, if successful, will revolutionise water systems in remote rural communities that are difficult to access and could be implemented more widely.

7 Value for Money

An analysis of project expenditure highlights the substantial investment in the initial ranger training and platform for implementation. The high initial expenditure on trainers subsequently moved to implementation costs, and are detailed as follows:

- Personnel costs (52 rangers + 2 female chaperones + 8 Australian Mentors/trainers + 2 PNG Mentor/trainers + PNG support staff + science support) as a percentage of total expenditure were 42.7%
- Operational costs (fuel, WASH materials, travel, supplies, safety equipment, vessels, freight etc.) as a percentage of total expenditure were 51.4%
- Administration costs as a percentage of total expenditure were 5.9%

Given the high costs of staffing in-country, it's not unreasonable that personnel costs constituted a large proportion of the expenditure. There are 52 Community Ranger, 2 female chaperones, 10 trainers/mentors and experts (8 expat, 2 female nationals), 4 cooks/kitchen staff, 2 guards and 2 administration staff, as well as consultants for the financial audits.

Overall the cost of delivering the project accounted for 94.1% of the total expenditure with very constrained expenditure on administration (recognising that most was expended on independent financial auditing).

Program delivery included: direct project staff costs (local and expat staff); project staff travel costs; communications; vessels and equipment; PNG import tax; direct PNG government charges and fuel.

With the 20% reduction in funding for the implementation phase of the project, all efforts were made to further reduce administration costs and maintain on-ground delivery. However, work on implementing the livelihood component of the project was significantly reduced, particularly delivery of skills training associated with agricultural crop improvements and fisheries post-harvest handling.

The high expenditure on materials for repair, maintenance and new infrastructure, raises the question of PNG government investment. Through an MOU, the Resilience Project was able to leverage nine new water tanks and two birthing beds from the PNG Border Development Agency. In addition, the District Administration offered K1 million of the remaining K7 million that the Prime Minister delivered in 2012. If these funds are ever released, they will be utilised in the purchase of cement and materials for water capture and storage infrastructure in the non-pilot villages to build their resilience to drought.





8 Impact and Sustainability

In summary, the most significant improvements in community well-being and resilience include:

- Significant increased water capture and storage capacity (1.25 million L in pilot villages; 90,000 L in non-pilot villages) and long-term increased access to water supply (8 water wells and new infrastructure in 3 natural springs)
- Establishing a critical mass of 52 trained Community Rangers with capacity to deliver services into the Treaty Village communities. These are the leaders of the future and with leadership and governance training present a pathway to strengthen the social and economic fabric of the Treaty Village area
- Four draft Community Plans and work programs, which reflect the agreed priorities of all clan groups in the Treaty Villages and are less vulnerable to political changes
- A culture of safety and maintenance has been introduced into the pilot villages
- Experiences highlighting the value of good leadership and governance for tangible outcomes.
- Reduced family violence and improved gender equity that are openly supported by both male and female Community Rangers, resulting in a greater empowerment for women and opportunities to participate in decision-making and service delivery at the village level
- Increased capacity for women in Treaty Villages to focus on health and hygiene due to more accessible water supplies
- Improvements in community health understanding and reduction in water-borne diseases
- Increased disaster/emergency response capacity in pilot villages and assistance to marine disasters (eight rescues at sea performed to date)
- Establishment of a safe and reliable platform of service delivery enabling future 'fee for service' businesses to be developed (e.g. for Treaty Awareness visits, biosecurity, research and health services)
- Modified water pump stations in three pilot villages to accommodate community members with disabilities
- Livelihood training for Community Rangers who are competent in preparation and costing of service tenders. There is also an audit of village skills and equipment to identify opportunities for the villages to compete against external tenderers for the delivery of service contracts with the District Administration or donor agencies
- Improved 'work readiness' of Community Rangers through skills training and qualifications acquired, to enable access to employment opportunities in PNG or internationally
- Improved student attendance at Mabaduan school and teacher availability due to new on-site water and sanitation facilities

Sustainability

The Treaty Village Community Rangers have been trained through the Treaty Village Resilience Program and are a skilled and capable labour force, resident within the five pilot Treaty Villages. The Community Rangers have improved 'work readiness' and livelihood capacity, and can pursue external tender opportunities in the region. In addition, a skills and equipment audit in the five pilot villages has established the capacity within each village to draw on the full suite of community skills to competitively tender for external projects, and extend the benefit of the Resilience Project throughout each village.

A proposal to extend the Resilience Project concept into other Treaty Villages and train additional Community Rangers as well as draw on qualified rangers to act as mentors and trainers is currently in review. This 5-year proposal would continue to operate from the training site on Poha Island adjacent to Mabaduan village and deliver future skills and knowledge training for more Community Rangers. This additional community capacity provides the platform for the long-term sustainability of the project and the Treaty Villages in the South Fly District.

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