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## Adaptive Community Transformation (ACT) on Yap

**AID-OFDA-G-17-00053**

**Final Program Results Report: March 15, 2017 – September 30, 2019**



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## List of Acronyms

ACT	Adaptive Community Transformation
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
COM-FSM	College of Micronesia - Federated States of Micronesia
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
CRE	Cooperative Research and Extension
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DCO	Disaster Coordinating Officer
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EWS	Early Warning System
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
HH	Household
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
KII	Key Informant Interviews
mL	Milliliter
OFDA	Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance
SILC	Savings Internal Lending Communities
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

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## Executive Summary

The Adaptive Community Transformation (ACT) on Yap project aimed to increase the capacity of vulnerable communities to prepare for and recover from frequent typhoons and droughts. The project engaged municipal chiefs, village chiefs, and other community leaders as well as individual households to build capacity in four (4) sectors: 1) Risk Management Policy and Practice, 2) Economic Recovery and Market Systems, 3) Agriculture and Food Security, and 4) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). This pilot project, starting in March 2017, was the first for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Project activities took place in 5 municipalities and 6 Outer Island Settlements on Yap Proper. The project was designed to assist 3,600 direct beneficiaries before the end of September 2019. CRS worked in partnership with the College of Micronesia - FSM Cooperative Research and Extension (COM-FSM CRE) to provide technical support in agriculture and food security.

The project reached 3,077 beneficiaries in the Risk Management Policy and Practice Sector through implementing the following activities: Development of Community Disaster Risk Management (DRM)/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Plans; Identification of Disaster Risks and Hazards; Formation of DRM Task Forces; DRM Small Scale Projects; and Development of DRM/CCA Household (HH) Plans. These activities were intended to help communities mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and reduce the impact of these disasters. Eighty-two percent of the community leaders reported in key informant interviews that their ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from typhoons and droughts has improved due to the implementation of project activities. In addition, 93% of the community members in the final evaluation HH survey reported that their risk of being severely affected by typhoons and droughts has been reduced due to the implementation of ACT on Yap project activities.

Under the Economic Recovery sector, the ACT on Yap project reached 1,685 community members through the implementation of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) activities. The project was able to form 27 groups with a total of 468 members. A cumulative total of 72,531 USD has been saved with an average of 355 USD per active member, which far exceeds the global target for average savings (54USD) per SILC group member.

Over the life of the project, 2,418 community members benefited from Agriculture and Food Security activities. The project implemented the following activities to support the adoption of resilient agricultural practices: trainings and technical support and provision of vouchers to purchase supplies like seeds, watering cans, manure, polybags, etc. A total of 403 farmers were trained in Soil Management and 333 farmers received vouchers, which are both in excess of the target of 300 farmers. The project final evaluation reported through the HH surveys that project activities increased the number of food self-sufficiency months from 11.0 to 11.85 months and 89% of the beneficiaries reported that they have adopted resilient agricultural practices.

While the project did not reach its total WASH target of 2,520, it was able to reach 2,183 community members through hygiene promotion activities and was able to exceed the target number of HH respondents (2,907) who knew at least 3 out of the 5 critical hand washing times, and improved the number of HH (443) who had zero fecal coliforms per 100 ml sample of HH drinking water.

## Summary of Accomplishments and Results

This report covers accomplishments for both the period of April 1 – September 30, 2019 and accomplishments for the life of the project. For the period of April 1 – September 30, CRS focused on the following activities: finalizing the Community-led disaster risk management (DRM)/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Plans; continuation of household-level DRM/CCA planning; small scale DRM projects; agriculture trainings, household visits and voucher distribution; and WASH outreach.

By the end of the project, the ACT on Yap project reached a total of 4,079 direct beneficiaries.

### Sector 1: Risk Management Policy and Practice

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Total Sector Level Beneficiaries</b>	2,146	3,600	3,077

The ACT on Yap project reached 3,077 Risk Management Policy and Practice beneficiaries, 85% of the project target. Project activities under this sector included: the development of community DRM/CCA plans; identification of risk and hazards; DRM Task Force formation; joint planning meetings; DRM small-scale projects; and the development of DRM HH plans. The cumulative target was not reached for this sector due to delays in procuring supplies for the completion of small-scale DRM projects.

#### Sub-Sector 1.1 Policy and Planning

Number of Community-Led Disaster Risk Management (CLDRM) curricula developed by the end of the project (CRS )			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Number of Curricula Developed</b>	0	1	1

CRS contracted Pacific Resource for Education and Learning (PREL) to adapt CRS' DRM and CCA curriculum so that they are culturally appropriate for Yap State. A desk review of existing resources from CRS, PREL, Yap State, and other sources was conducted in August 2017. In September 2017, PREL facilitated a stakeholder meeting attended by the Yap State Department of Education, Disaster Coordinating Officer, Public Service Corporation, Environmental Protection Agency, Public Safety, COM-FSM CRE, Radio station, and Historic Preservation Office in order to solicit input regarding the curriculum content and to promote ownership over the curriculum by the participants. In October 2017, PREL staff traveled to Yap to conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) for CRS staff. The ToT included modules on how to facilitate the new curriculum and sessions on adult learning and facilitation techniques tailored for Micronesia. During the ToT, CRS staff with the support of PREL began field testing the curriculum. PREL incorporated feedback from the initial field test into a revised version of the curriculum. The CRS Disaster Risk Reduction Senior Technical Advisor also reviewed the curriculum.

Since October 2017, CRS field tested the new curriculum and after each community workshop, CRS staff revised the curriculum to reflect their learnings from the different communities. CRS is currently updating the DRM/CCA curriculum based on the findings from the final evaluation and the learning identified in this report. The revised curriculum will be used in the second phase of the Act on Yap Project.

### **Development of DRM/CCA Plans**

<b>Number of communities and stakeholders involved in the development of plans, policies, and strategies (OFDA)</b>			
	<b>Reached in Reporting Period</b>	<b>Cumulative Targeted</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
<b>Number of Communities</b>	0	11	11
<b>Number of community members participating in DRM/CCA planning workshops, by sex (CRS)</b>			
<b>Males</b>	0	84	276
<b>Females</b>	0	156	255
<b>Total</b>	0	240	531
<b>Number of hazard risk reduction plans, strategies, policies, disaster preparedness, and contingency plans developed and in place (OFDA)</b>			
<b>Number of DRM/CCA Plans</b>	0	11	11

The Community DRM/CCA plans were drafted and reviewed during the previous reporting period. The DRM/CCA plans were reviewed and edited by the Yap State DCO, municipal and village chiefs, municipal and settlement council, DRM Task Forces and community members. A second round of revisions occurred during the Table Top exercise. The Table Top activities occurred in Makiy, Daboch, Faiyel, Satawal, Gilman, Ablul, and Fanif. The Table Top exercises used a scenario methodology which allowed the Task Force members the opportunity to review the plans, discuss existing roles and responsibilities and identify any gaps.

For the life of the project, a total of 531 community members (276 males, 255 females) attended planning workshops, which was more than double the project target of 240 community members.

### **Identification of Disaster Risks and Hazards**

	<b>Reached in Reporting Period</b>	<b>Cumulative Targeted</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
<b>National and local risk assessment, hazard data and vulnerability information is available with targeted areas (Y/N) (OFDA)</b>			
<b>Communities</b>	11	11	11
<b>Number of community members attending risk assessment workshops (CRS Indicator)</b>			
<b>Males</b>	31	210	307
<b>Females</b>	29	390	301
<b>Total</b>	60	600	608

The community risk assessment workshops were completed in all 11 communities during the previous reporting period. The total number of community members attending risk assessment workshops was 608 community members (307 males and 301 females) exceeding the target of 600 participants. In these workshops, CRS facilitated a series of activities that enabled community members to prioritize hazards, identify resources, and voice concerns about challenges. Community members established a shared timeline of previous hazards, recorded the impacts of those hazards, identified their community resources

and local networks, and documented community coping strategies. Each community voted on the top three hazards to be included in their DRM/CCA plans.

### DRM Task Force Formation

Number of community leaders attending CLDRM/CCA training, by sex (CRS)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Males</b>	0	108	175
<b>Females</b>	0	132	99
<b>Total</b>	0	240	274

The training of Task Force members was completed during the previous reporting period. A total of 274 (175 males, 99 females) taskforce members were trained during the life of the project. During the training, the Task Force members organized themselves into Information Dissemination, Operations, and Planning teams. They identified the key roles and responsibilities of each team and these roles and responsibilities were included in the DRM/CCA community plans.



Figure 1: Gagil Task Force Meeting. Picture taken by Raymond Pong August 28, 2018

Percentage of trained community leaders increasing knowledge on CLDRM/CCA (CRS)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>% of Leaders with Increased Knowledge</b>	0	80%	94%

At the end of the Task Force members training, a short exam was given to participants to gauge their level of knowledge retention. 94% of participants passed the exam with a score of 70% or more. CRS also asked three questions at the end of the exam to solicit feedback on the quality of content and facilitation of the DRM workshops. The feedback was logged in CRS' feedback database and addressed when relevant.

Number of communities establishing Task Forces with documented and disseminated roles and responsibilities (CRS)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Number of Task Forces Established</b>	0	11	11

In the beginning of the project, CRS staff met with the Yap State DCO and the Traditional Councils of Chiefs to establish a basic Disaster Risk Management Task Force structure for the Yap municipalities and Outer Island settlements. The structure is meant to give each community a similar starting point when

developing their Disaster Risk Management Taskforce but the structure could be altered and revised depending on the needs and context of each individual community. The establishment of a basic structure ensures that the different communities will have parallels and similar structures, enabling more efficient coordination between communities and with Yap State. By the end of the last reporting period, all 11 targeted communities had established DRM Task Forces with documented and disseminated roles and responsibilities.

### **Joint Planning Meetings**

Percentage of attendees at joint planning meetings who are from the local community (OFDA)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
% of attendees from the local community	0%	80%	96%

The Act on Yap team facilitated a joint planning meeting to present the following; GIS maps, Early Warning System (EWS); reviewed the DRM process and where the community is currently in the process; reviewed the small-scale DRM proposal template; and reviewed the priority hazards and actions, then asked participants to prioritize one action for their DRM small-scale project.

### **DRM Small-Scale Projects**

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
Number of targeted communities that have completed an externally funded, small scale DRM activity identified in their DRM/CCA development plans (CRS)			
Communities	7	11	7
Number of communities receiving small-scale funding through CRS			
Communities	7	11	7
Number of communities contributing in-kind support to small-scale projects			
Communities	7	11	7

Once the DRM/CCA plans were finalized, communities were eligible to apply for resources for a small-scale disaster risk reduction project prioritized in their plans. The value of the proposal was to be no greater than 7,000USD and the proposal had to include the community's contribution. CRS submitted a request on February 25, 2019 to USAID/OFDA for approval to add eight community DRM projects, that were categorized under the 'construction' criteria for OFDA. These DRM project descriptions are the same as those already listed in the agreement but covered locations that were not specified in the original agreement. USAID/OFDA approved the additional small-scale projects in late May 2019. Due to the slow procurement process in Yap, only 7 projects were able to receive their materials for their small-scale projects before September 30. The



Figure 2; Water Tanks in Gagil. Picture taken by: Josephine Libian November 25, 2019

remaining 3 communities received most of their materials before October 31, 2019 and are continuing to work on their DRM projects. Some items are still outstanding due to the inability to find a vendor who could provide the required materials. The seven small scale projects that have already been completed increased the community's access to water, one community installed septic tanks to improve sanitary conditions in their community, two communities rehabilitated their road to increase their access and mobility and one community wanted to plant trees on the coast line to reduce shoreline erosion. The table below provides the status of each DRM project.

Table 1: Statues of Small-Scale DRM projects

Community	Small Scale Project	Status
Faiyew	Installation of Water Tanks	Completed
Satawlal	Installation of Water Tanks	Completed
Daboch	Installation of Water Tanks	Waiting to receive one water tank from the vendor. The tank arrived on island in early December
East Fanif	Installation of Water Tanks	Completed
Gagil	Installation of Water Tanks	Completed
Gilaman	Well Rehabilitation	Waiting on Culvert Covers. The item has been procured we are now waiting for it to arrive on island.
Maap	Water Extension	Completed
Makiy	Installation of Septic Tank	Completed
Ablul	Road improvement	Completed in late November 2019
Dalipebinaw	Road Improvement	Project activities will start in December 2019
West Fanif	Tree planting	Project activities will start in December 2019

The average cost of each small-scale project was approximately 7,000 USD. Due to the geographic split of Fanif, this community requested if they could implement two DRM small-scale projects. Both of Fanif's projects had a budget of approximately 3,500 USD. All communities provided labor as their in-kind support for the DRM projects. CRS will continue to support and accompany the Daboch, Gilaman, Dalipebinaw, and West Fanif communities to ensure that these four projects are fully completed and to standard.



Figure 3: Mayik Septic Tank Project Photo  
taken by Josephine Libian Sept. 21, 2019

## Sub-Sector 1.2: Building Community Awareness/Mobilization

### Household Plans

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Number of people participating in training, by sex (OFDA)</b>			
<b>Males</b>	184	210	271
<b>Females</b>	159	390	251
<b>Total</b>	343	600	522
<b>Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months (OFDA)</b>			
<b>% of people trained</b>	89%	80%	89%

From April to September, project staff organized 9 household planning workshops reaching 343 community members (194 males, 159 females). The DRM team did not reach the total target due to the inability, despite repeated reminders and follow up, to get community members to attend meetings. The team ensured communities were aware of the meetings by using radio announcements and using Savings Internal Lending Communities (SILC) group members to inform the community members of upcoming meetings. The purpose of these workshops is to improve community members' understanding of hazards and risks that their community faces and to consider how they can best prepare and respond at the household level. The workshops' activities build on the DRM/CCA process and engage participants in considering their unique priorities and concerns before, during, and after a disaster. At the end of the workshop, participants created a plan that was summarized on a magnet that can be posted in their home and each household received an emergency weather radio to further strengthen their preparedness for inclement weather.

<b>Early warning system in targeted community is in place for all major hazards with appropriate outreach to communities (Y/N) (OFDA)</b>			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Number of Early Warning Systems in place</b>	7	11	7

During the focus group discussions at end line, enumerators asked if community early warning systems were in place for the major hazards identified by the community. Seven out of the 11 FGD responded, "yes." During the community-level DRM/CCA process, the 11 targeted communities developed early warning systems that were disseminated to community members who attended the joint planning meetings. In addition, the early warning system posters were printed and given to the communities. Not all communities had received their early warning posters prior to the final evaluation, but they have now all been delivered.

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Percentage of community members who received at least one early warning message from at least one source prior to a disaster occurring (OFDA)</b>			
<b>% of Community Members</b>	0%	90%	0%
<b>Percentage of trained community members who implemented a household and livelihoods preparedness plan during a disaster or simulation (CRS)</b>			
<b>% of people trained</b>	0%	80%	0%

During the life of the project, the target communities did not experience any disasters in their communities. The ACT on Yap project had planned to implement drill exercises in the month of July and August in collaboration with the DCO but during the planning phase, the DCO Director instead advised that the project should first conduct a Table Top Exercise before running the simulations. The purpose of the Table Top Exercise is to ensure all task force members know their roles and responsibilities and understand the plan. As a result, CRS was not able to run the simulation exercises before the end of the project. CRS plans to hold these drills with the ACT on Yap communities in the second phase of the project. This will allow the community and task force members to experience how the plans will be implemented in a real emergency and will be able to make adjustments to the plans based on gaps identified.

CRS was able to activate the Taskforce during the Dengue and Leptospirosis Outbreak in September to support the state wide community clean up activities on September 13 and 14. The Taskforce has been used for subsequent clean-ups in November and December 2019.

Table 2: Summary of DRM Indicator

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Final Evaluation
Percentage of communities whose leaders report that their ability to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from typhoons and droughts has improved according to criteria set at the beginning of the project (CRS)	80%	0%	82%
Percentage of targeted community members who report that their risk of being severely affected by typhoons and droughts has decreased according to criteria set at the beginning of the project (CRS)	80%	0%	93%

In the Key Informant Interviews (KII), 82% of the chiefs reported that due to the project, their ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from typhoons and droughts increased as a result of the disaster preparedness activities organized and facilitated by the project.

Based on the HH survey, respondents reported their risk of being severely affected by typhoons and droughts has decreased due to the project activities. In addition, 90% of the HH survey respondents stated that the development of early warning systems in their municipality/settlement will help reduce damages and loss of life during future disasters.



## Sector 2: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

### Sub-Sector 2.1 Microfinance

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Total Sector Level Beneficiaries</b>	73	1,350	1,685

Interest in CRS's Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) programming continued to be strong in the target areas throughout project implementation. The project goal was to form 15 SILC groups with 225 members. However, the project was able to form 27 total groups over the life of the project. These groups have 494 active members and 26 of these members are in more than one group. Approximately 2,808 household members are benefitting from SILC programming through access to savings, loans, and social funds. Social funds are small amounts of money (typically less than a dollar) contributed at the weekly meetings by each member. The amount and purpose of the social funds are specified in each group's constitution and they are given as grants or loans without interest when group members experience an emergency like a death in the immediate family or an illness.



Figure 4: Gagil SILC Meeting Photo Taken By: Cari Gajdusek, March 2019

During the period of April to September 2019, 11 groups finished their first SILC cycle and share-out which brings the total of groups who finished their first cycle to 25. Only three of these groups did not elect to move into their second SILC cycle. The remaining two groups from the project completed their first cycle in October and December and one has decided to continue with a second cycle while the other group has decided not to continue. In addition, two groups have shared out from their second cycle in late November and early December and have agreed to move into a third cycle and the remaining 19 groups in their second cycle will have their second share-out activities in in December 2019 and January 2020. CRS will continue to work with these groups to ensure a successful share-out process.

Number of people newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due USAID OFDA support			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Male</b>	0	79	103
<b>Female</b>	0	146	186
<b>Total</b>	0	225	289

Even though there are 468 SILC members, only 289 members have completed all nine SILC training modules. Some SILC group members may have missed a training due to scheduling conflicts and inability to attend a training session. The field agents will ensure that SILC members are able to complete the missing modules.

Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities. (OFDA)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
Amount USD	15,506.15 USD	58,509 USD	69,930.66

From April to September 2019, 15,506.15 USD was channeled into the program through sub-sector activities which brings the total amount to 69,930.66 USD. This funding went towards CRS staff salaries, SILC trainings, SILC group formation expenses, and materials for the SILC groups. Group formation expenses include printing of training materials for use by CRS SILC Field Agents who are responsible for facilitating SILC trainings and snacks for participants. The snacks enable the SILC Field Agents to conduct longer trainings without needing to break for meals. This allows the groups to finish their modules in less time and start saving sooner. After each SILC group completes trainings and signs their constitution, they receive a lock box, three padlocks with keys, a ledger book, calculator, ruler, and pens. Each group member also receives an individual notebook to keep records of their personal savings and loans. The SILC Group Secretaries are responsible for keeping the records for the group in their ledger. CRS does not channel any funds into the groups' loan or social funds. This funding comes directly from group members themselves.

Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly (OFDA)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
% of Groups Functioning Properly	100%	90%	100%

First-cycle SILC groups are considered to be functioning properly if they have a constitution and are meeting and saving regularly for three or more months. 100% of first-cycle SILC Groups (27 groups) were considered as functioning properly since, as of the end of September 2019, 25 out of the 27 first cycle SILC groups completed the final share-out activity and the remaining two groups from the first cycle completed their share-out activity in October and December.

Average value of savings per active SILC member (CRS)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
Amount USD	211 USD	54 USD	355 USD

A cumulative total of 72,531 USD has been saved by the 27 SILC groups as of September 30, 2019. This is an average savings of 355 USD per active member. In addition, SILC members were able to take out loans from the SILC savings. These loans have been used to meet household needs like purchasing groceries and paying for school tuition. Finally, members also have access to social funds that were used for funeral expenses, medical expenses, school expenses and to meet household needs. The total Social Fund saved across all groups was 6,679 USD. At group formation SILC groups decide whether social funds need to be repaid or given as grants.

### Sector 3: Agriculture and Food Security

The project supported landless and small-scale farmers to adopt strategies to make their food production more resilient to typhoons and droughts. Beneficiaries were supported to diversify or enhance their livelihood strategies with an integrated package of technical trainings and a voucher to purchase agriculture inputs.

#### Sub-Sector 3.1 Improving Agriculture Food Security

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Total Sector Level Beneficiaries</b>	114	1,800	2,418

From April to September, 114 people have benefitted from program activities, for a total of 2,418 over the life of the project, surpassing the project target of 1,800.

#### Trainings and Technical Support

During this reporting period, farmers continued growing vegetables (including lettuce, Chinese cabbage, bell peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, egg plants, pumpkin, and squash) and traditional crops (including soft taro and sweet potato). Many of these farmers are using the produce to feed their families or giving it away to their neighbors. COM-FSM CRE prepared farmers to market their crops by introducing them to production guides before they started planting. The production guides help farmers understand the profits that they can expect from their harvests. COM-FSM CRE staff also conducted household visits to assess the farmers' land and assist them in identifying which agriculture supplies they needed to grow specific vegetables and traditional crops. COM-FSM CRE also partnered with the Yap Small Business Development Center to hold trainings on marketing vegetable crops. Farmers who attended these sessions have found success selling their produce at large community events such as the Microgames and World Food Day.



Figure 5: Top Dressing Demonstration in Dalipebinaw  
Photo Taken by Jason F. Sulog, July 2018

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Number of people trained in resilient agriculture practices (CRS )</b>			
<b>Males</b>	12	120	158
<b>Females</b>	7	180	245
<b>Total</b>	19	300	403
<b>Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities (OFDA)</b>			
<b>Males</b>	58	918	976
<b>Females</b>	56	882	938
<b>Total</b>	114	1800	1914

From April – September 2019, an additional 19 farmers were trained by COM-FSM CRE. These trainings included individual sessions on soil management and individual demonstrations on climate-adaptive techniques to grow vegetables and traditional crops. These techniques include seed germination, media preparation, transplanting, nutrient management, gardening in containers, and planting in raised beds.

Over the life of the project, 403 farmers were trained on soil management, but farmers also participated in the following trainings: marketing, post-harvest practice, value addition, vegetable techniques, staple crops and composting.



Figure 6: Soft Tara Garden, Fanif Photo Taken by Sebastian Yinnifel. May 2018.

Number of people receiving agriculture cash grants, by tranche (CRS)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Total people receiving vouchers</b>	17	300	333

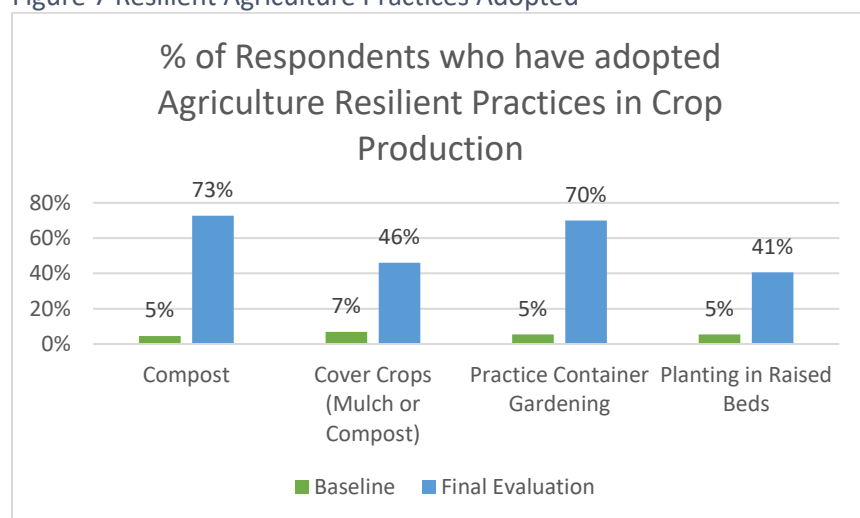
COM-FSM CRE staff assisted the farmers in identifying which agriculture supplies they needed, and the farmers submitted these lists to CRS. In exchange, CRS gave vouchers to the farmers that could be used to purchase supplies like seeds, watering cans, manure, fertilizer, polybags, trellising rope and net from local vendors. From the period of April to September 2019, 29 farmers used the vouchers to get supplies needed to grow vegetables and traditional crops. A total of 333 farmers received and used vouchers since the beginning of the project.

Table 3: Summary of Agriculture Food Security Indicators

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Final Evaluation
Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households	1 months	11	11.85
Percentage of agriculture beneficiaries reporting that they have adopted resilient practices as a result of USAID/OFDA assistance	80%	13%	89%

Based on the HH survey conducted for the final evaluation, respondents reported they had 11.85 months of food self-sufficiency. This is a 0.85 increase compared to baseline. In addition, 89% of the HH survey respondents reported they have adopted resilient practices based on the skills learned through the project activities. Figure 7 provides a summary of agriculture practices adopted compared to baseline

Figure 7 Resilient Agriculture Practices Adopted



#### Sector 4: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Total Sector Level Beneficiaries</b>	1,594	2,520	2,183

During the period of April – September 2019, the ACT on Yap project reached 1,594 individuals, bringing the cumulative number of individuals reached to 2,184 individuals, or 87% of the total target. CRS was able to reach these individuals by facilitating WASH promotion sessions during the DRM HH Planning sessions, disseminating materials at the Taste of Yap community event, and household outreach activities during the Dengue and Leptospirosis Outbreak. Due to the late start of WASH activities, the ACT on Yap project was not able to reach 100% of the target as planned. The implementation of WASH activities started in January 2019 and was delayed due to staff recruitment and retention of the WASH Officer and to ensure the communities had time to focus on DRM/CCA and SILC activities.

#### Sub-Sector 4.1 Hygiene Promotion

Number of People receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double counting)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Total Sector Level Beneficiaries</b>	1,594	2,520	2,183

Since January 2019, 2,183 individuals received WASH messaging from project staff, WASH Task Force Members and Public Health staff from the Department of Health. The informational resources used (posters, brochures, and training curriculum) were developed by the project team and a CRS WASH technical advisor, who travelled to Yap in January 2019 to develop tailored and locally appropriate WASH informational resources that employ behavior change communication (BCC) strategies. The resources were reviewed by the Yap State Environmental Protection Agency and the Yap State DCO.

**Select local leaders, women and youth are trained as hygiene promoters**

Number of hygiene promoters trained by the project, by sex (CRS)			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Males</b>	4	60	86
<b>Females</b>	25	60	71
<b>Total</b>	29	120	157

On August 23, 2019, the WASH Field Officer held a Training for Trainers (TOT) on basic WASH principles for 29 Public Health staff providing community outreach activities during the Dengue and Leptospirosis Outbreak. Training topics included safe water handling and critical handwashing. The project trained a total of 157 hygiene promoters through TOTs, surpassing the target of 120.

Number of community hygiene promotion events held (CRS )			
	Reached in Reporting Period	Cumulative Targeted	Cumulative Reached
<b>Number of events</b>	17	22	29

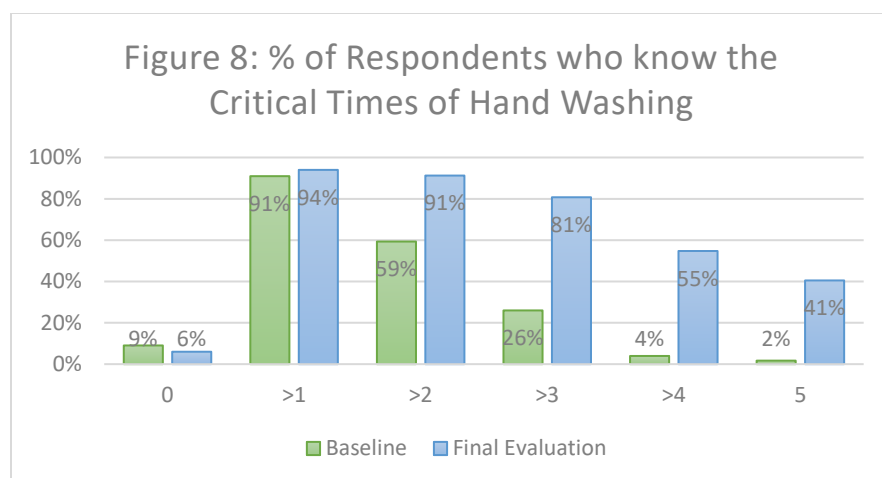
Since April 2019, CRS held 17 community promotion events, bringing the total achievement to 29 events, which amounts to 131% of the initial target. These events include: 12 community workshops in Maap, Gagil, Fanif, Ablul and Dalipebinaw, 3 Public Events (Water World Day, Taste of Yap and Yap Games), one TOT with Department of Health Services (DHS) and one Youth Conference.

**Targeted beneficiary households have increased knowledge and skills on hygiene and sanitation behaviors**

Table 4: Summary of WASH Indicators

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Final Evaluation
Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical times to wash hands	2,520	936	2,907
Number of households with soap and water at a handwashing location	420	546	N/A
Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers	420	498	377
Number of household drinking water supplies with 0 fecal coliforms per 100 mL sample	420	414	443

**Handwashing:** Based on the final evaluation HH survey results, 80% of those interviewed were able to list at least 3 of out of the 5 critical times to wash their hands compared to the baseline evaluation of 26%. In addition, HH survey respondents showed an improvement of knowing all 5 critical hand washing times compared to the baseline. Respondents improved from 2% at baseline to 41% in the final evaluation (Figure 8).



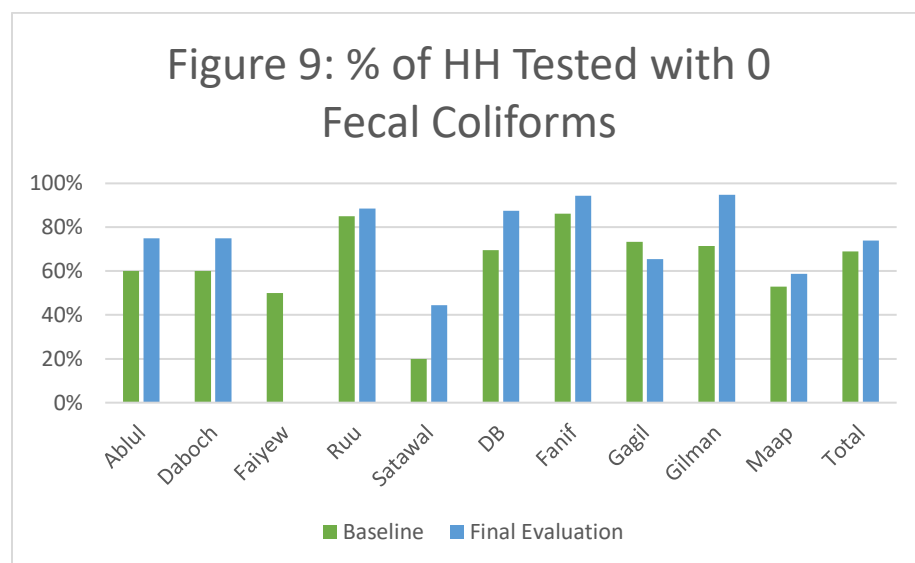
**Handwashing Stations:** Based on the baseline assessment results, CRS had decided to exclude the indicator “Number of households with soap and water at a handwashing location” from the revised IPTT, since the baseline value of 91% was already high and there would have been cost implications to getting a large enough sample size to measure end of project changes. In addition, since over 30% of the drinking water tested were positive for fecal coliforms per 100 ml, hygiene promotion activities were focused on safe water storage and handling as well as cleaning and maintenance of water catchment tanks.

**Water Storage Containers:** During the household survey at baseline and final evaluation, CRS aimed to increase the number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers. At baseline, CRS staff observed that 83% of households stored their drinking water in covered, separate containers for drinking during an ocular inspection compared to 65% during the final evaluation. Most communities targeted under the ACT on Yap project had an increase in the percent of households who store their drinking water in clean containers in Ablul, Ruu, Dalipebinaw, and Gilman, both Satawal and Faiyel stayed the same at 100% but Daboch, Fanif, Gagil and Maap all had a decrease compared to the baseline. CRS staff will investigate potential causes for this decrease in a few communities. One possible explanation is how the enumerators measured the indicator in the baseline versus how it was measured during the end line evaluation.

**Table 5: % of HH Sampled by Community Who Store their Drinking Water Safely in Clean Containers**

Community	Baseline	Final Evaluation
Ablul	87%	88%
Daboch	100%	88%
Faiyew	100%	100%
Ruu	80%	96%
Satawal	100%	100%
Dalipebnaw	91%	100%
Fanif	68%	33%
Gagil	84%	48%
Gilman	64%	100%
Maap	97%	47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>67%</b>

**Fecal Coliforms:** Hygiene promotion activities increased the percentage of households with zero coliform from their sources of water and in water storage containers, from 69% to 74%. CRS was able to see an improvement in all project target communities except for Gagil and Faiyew (see Figure 9). Based on these findings, it is recommended that the ACT on Yap II project continue to implement hygiene promotion activities in Gagil and Faiyew.



## Successes

**General:** CRS has gained a good reputation and strong buy-in from the ACT on Yap communities, traditional leaders, and state and national government, which will make Phase II project implementation activities easier in the future

**Microfinance:** CRS had great success in implementing SILC activities and was able to significantly exceed project targets and had requests to implement SILC activities outside the target communities. For example, a SILC group was spontaneously organized on Fais, one of Yap's Outer Islands. A SILC group member living in Satawal Compound (a target community) who had attended SILC trainings moved to Fais and was interested in starting a group there. She taught the other women what she learned during the CRS SILC Trainings in Satawal Compound and they selected leadership and started savings. After CRS heard

about this group, a staff member visited them to provide coaching, answer questions, and give them a cash box for group use.

**Microfinance:** SILC activities succeeded in all target communities and even expanded into non-target communities (Fais, Rull and Satawal). In addition, some individuals outside of the target community heard about the SILC meetings and requested to join SILC groups in communities outside their own.

**WASH:** In Makiy, one participant who attended a WASH training saw such value in what he learned on hygiene and sanitation that he decided to build two latrines; one for his household and one for his neighbors.

## Challenges

**General:** Recruitment of local staff with technical programming experience was a challenge throughout the project since qualified candidate pool is so small in Yap. In addition, some staff were either terminated for performance related issues or resigned for personal reasons, which caused additional delays to project implementation.

**General:** While community leadership was very supportive of project activities, project staff needed to follow up constantly with community leaders to complete project activities which caused delays in implementation. Working with the village chiefs directly and establishing small groups in the community to implement project activities should reduce the number of delays in the future.

**DRM Activities:** Low community participation continued to be a challenge while rolling out DRM activities. The team tried different strategies to increase community participation. For example, the team had the community members choose the date and time of meetings, communities were informed in advance through the radio and SILC members, but these strategies have not seen an increase in the number of community members attending project meetings. The team is continuing to try new approaches to increase community participation for ACT on Yap II.

**Task Force Members:** Some task force members did not attend the meetings on a regular basis and some were not aware that they were on the task force. Under ACT on Yap II, CRS will work with the chiefs to identify task force members and CRS staff will directly let the task force members know that they have been chosen for this role. The DRM team will also look at potentially reducing the number of task force members for each new community.

**Small Scale DRM Projects:** Due to the small size of Yap, most of the small-scale DRM project materials were purchased off island and the procurement process was slow. The unexpected delays in receiving the needed materials caused delays in completing the small-scale projects. For ACT on Yap II, CRS will start the procurement process for the DRM small-scale projects 12 months before the end of project date. CRS will also realign the DRM training activities so that communities can prioritize their disaster risk reduction activities earlier in the process and apply for grants earlier.

**Small Scale DRM Projects:** Some communities were delayed in submitting their small-scale project proposals. The project staff had to follow up with these communities several times before the proposal was received, which caused further delays in the procurement process. For ACT on Yap II, the project staff will set a deadline to receive proposals to improve the timeliness of community submissions.

**Agriculture:** The communities did not have enough tools to use for their agriculture activities. The project bought 12 sets of tools (pick ax, shovel, wheelbarrow) to be distributed to the communities based on requests but this was not enough. For future projects, CRS should consider purchasing additional tools for the community or a small package of tools for each participating HH.

**Agriculture:** The agriculture component of the project experienced a high number of drop outs. The farmers who participated in training activities dropped out after they realized they were not getting their own tools. Recommendations for future projects would be to ensure farmers are sensitized on the project activities and the project expectations. In addition, it should be made clear at the beginning of the project what kind of package they would be receiving.

**WASH:** Due to the late start (January 2019) in implementing the WASH component of the project, the WASH team was not able to reach their targets, nor did they have enough time to go back to communities to do additional hygiene promotion activities. Under ACT on Yap II, WASH activities will start earlier and will integrate hygiene promotion in both DRM and SILC activities.

## Lessons Learned

- There was tremendous skepticism about SILC at the outset of the project, with concerns that no one would participate because CRS didn't provide capital inputs, or because community members were afraid that if their neighbors knew they had money, they would ask for loans. Instead, SILC turned out to be one of the most popular activities of the program, providing an entry point into the communities and making it easier to implement DRM, WASH and resilient agriculture activities.
- The Yap State government is an eager, willing, and supportive partner for DRR activities. The State DCO devoted substantial amounts of his time to facilitating the project's success, including introducing CRS in communities, conducting joint site visits, facilitating meetings with the governor. This extensive, reliable, and long-running support was facilitated by the provision of regular updates, early notification of events and activities, joint deliberation and decision-making on difficult decisions, and ensuring step by step alignment of ACT activities with DCO objectives.
- Strong coordination and communication with Yap State Officials and village chiefs significantly helped engage households to attend community level activities and engage with CRS in a collaborative manner.
- The remote setting of Yap posed additional challenges to coordinating logistics and procurement of supplies and materials for the small-scale DRM projects. For future projects, it will be key to develop realistic procurement and logistics timelines to avoid implementation delays.
- Never waste a good emergency! ACT was able to enhance the impact of its hygiene and preparedness messages by dovetailing these activities with a CRS privately funded emergency response to the dengue and leptospirosis outbreak at the end of the project. The two efforts proved to be complimentary and reinforcing, and the emergency response activities really helped to drive home the importance of preparedness and the uncertainty and unpredictability of when and how an emergency will arise.
- It was difficult to obtain widespread interest in the agriculture activities, given farm size, other priorities, and the novelty of the approach. But for the families who did participate, the impact was profound. Moving forward, organizing exchange visits, testimonials, and profiles of these

cases of positive deviance could serve to motivate sustained participation by skeptical households.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations may be applied in similar projects in the future:

- Identify early adapters at the beginning of the project in each community to increase overall engagement in project activities. As an example, community members expressed interest in the resilient agriculture activities once they observed the harvest of the farmers who were already participating in project activities.
- Prioritize the DRM/CCA plan activities to allow communities to identify their small-scale DRM project earlier in the project timeline. This will allow for the timely planning and implementation of the small-scale grants and procurement processes.
- Ensure that farmers understand what inputs the project can provide and time expectations of the farmers before rolling out the agriculture and food security activities.
- Ensure that WASH activities are incorporated in all community and household meetings (DRM, SILC and resilient agriculture) to reinforce WASH and hygiene messages.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the monitoring reports and the final evaluation, the ACT on Yap project was able to achieve the project objective to support communities in effectively preparing and responding to natural disasters. The project was able to strengthen the capacities of communities and households to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.

The final evaluation survey found that 82% of the village chiefs reported that their ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from typhoons and droughts increased as a result of the ACT on Yap project activities. In addition, 90% off the HH survey respondents stated that the development of early warning systems in their municipality/settlement will help reduce damages and loss of life during natural disasters. Finally, the project was able to increase food self sufficiency from 11 months at baseline to 11.85 months, demonstrating the success of the resilient agriculture projects promoted by the project.

The ACT on Yap project has been proven to be effective and can be expanded to additional islands within the region. SILC groups can be used as an entry point into new communities to allow CRS to gain community trust and build our reputation to expand project activities to include DRM/CCA, resilient agriculture and WASH. CRS has also earned the community's respect due to CRS' extensive focus on community engagement, and coordination with key stakeholders and village chiefs.

## Attachments

### 1. Final Evaluation