Impact of COVID-19, climate change and disaster risk on the SDGs Progress

Session 3a: SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation)

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Key issues and messages

- COVID-19 pandemics has underscored the importance of adequate WASH services and facilities in schools, health care facilities & households
- It demonstrated the criticality of the WASH facilities for handwashing, as one of the most cost-effective and relevant strategy to contain infections diseases.
- Effects of climate change being felt in Solomon Islands include,
  - Increased demand for water due to reduced rainfall with prolonged periods of drought.
  - Increasingly heavy rainfall and flooding damaging water sources and sanitation facilities, carry runoff and waste into water sources, and contaminating the water supply systems in urban and rural communities
  - Water scarcity through climate change is resulting in increased costs leading to inequitable access
  - Deprivation of households of opportunities to collect adequate safe water for proper handwashing and hygiene, limiting children’s ability to grow healthy and strong
Overview - current situation
Areas for action: SDGs specific activities

- Strengthening institutional frameworks and the enabling environment for water, sanitation and hygiene in the country
- To prioritise the development of guidelines, policies, and strategies for WASH services
- Strengthen evidence generation for the development and implementation of costed national roadmap with appropriate financing to address the status of WASH services
- Provision of functional, resilient, inclusive WASH facilities and services in schools/health care centres & households.
- Mobilising and engaging communities and schools to demand for WASH services
- Increasing capacity of national & provincial governments and other WASH stakeholders to prepare for and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change
Priorities and Next steps: Regional cooperation

- Ensure strong leadership and coordination at all levels to build and sustain governance for WASH across sectors especially water, health, nutrition, education, gender and the environment.

- Establish and track WASH budget lines that consistently increase annually to reach a minimum of 0.5% GDP.

- Focus on the poorest, most marginalized and unserved to progressively eliminate inequalities in access and use and implement national and local strategies with an emphasis on equity and sustainability.

- Mobilise support and resources at the highest political level to prioritise WASH in national development plans.

- Strengthen monitoring & planning for SDG 6 targets implementation.
Thank you.