



Water tanks on Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands. ©SOPAC

## Keeping Your Water Supply Safe - Republic of Marshall Islands

The Republic of Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Agency (RMI EPA) is empowering communities to ensure the safety of their drinking water by making them aware of possible contamination risks to their water supply and providing possible solutions.

According to Abraham Hicking, Chief Water Quality Monitoring, RMI EPA, identifying and managing the risks of water supply contamination can be relatively simple through the use of sanitary surveys or the drinking water safety planning approach.

"Keeping your water supply safe, for example your rainwater harvesting system, requires simple steps such as cleaning roofs and guttering, periodic cleaning of inside of tanks and having screen covers on inlet pipes," Mr Hicking explained.

The RMI EPA translated sanitary survey forms into Marshallese and conducted training for community facilitators to assist them take the message 'keeping your water supply safe' to communities.

Community-based training was held from March 10-12, 2010, on Majuro and included representatives from the Ministry of Health, Majuro Water and Sewerage Company, Economic Planning Policy and Statistics Office, the NGO Women United Together in Marshall Islands, Marshall Islands Conservation Society, Majuro Local Government, Internal Affairs and several high schools.

The training was facilitated by SOPAC and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in partnership with the RMI EPA. The Australian and New Zealand governments (through their Drinking Water Safety Planning and Water Quality Management programmes) and the European Union (through their EDF9 B-envelope project) provided funding.



Trainees test ground water. ©SOPAC

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