

Community Management of Independent Water Schemes (IWSA)

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Background

- **IWSA** - formed in 2007 following a meeting of representatives from 22 independent water schemes in 2006
- The majority are relatively old, many first constructed by the Public Works Department over 50 years ago
- Handed over to communities to manage and maintain

Objective of IWSA

Mission statement:

“To support the development of the Independent Water Schemes in Samoa through partnerships between the Association, Independent Schemes, and government and non government stakeholders”

IWSA Institutional Set Up

- Open to all independent water schemes
- Member schemes pay annual subscription fees
- An Executive Committee is elected at the AGM with post holders retained for 2 years
- The Executive Committee meets every month
- The full Association meets every 3 or 4 months

IWSA Members – 2007 Survey

- 22 independent schemes provide water to 17% (32,000) of the population in Samoa.
- Range from village systems for a few hundred to District wide schemes serving multiple villages of 3,000 to 6,000.
- All gravity-fed schemes depending on springs and rivers.
- Most schemes require upgrading or repairs to improve quality of supply.
- Managed by Water Committees who collect fees from the community

ACTIVITIES OF IWSA

- Dialogue with Government on policy issues and support to upgrade schemes
- Partnership with the EU-financed Water Sector Support Programme to provide training and technical support to members (with co-financing from the schemes)
- Promoting improved governance, planning, financial systems, communication and maintenance.
- Partnership with Government on water safety monitoring and watershed management



Future Plans

- Establishment of a permanent IWSA office
- Dialogue with SWA to develop supportive relationship
- Recognition of the role of independent schemes in water supply policy
- Development of management standards for members
- Partnership with Government & donors to finance upgrade / rehabilitation of schemes
- Joint procurement for members of materials/equipment & technical support



Thanks to our Sponsors

- European Union
- Water Sector Support Programme
- Ministry of Women and Community Development
- Ministry of Finance

Thanks to our partners:

- Ministry of Health
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- SUNGO