

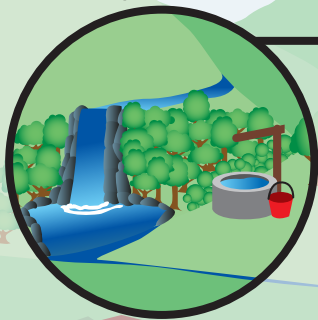
## WE CAN BUILD RESILIENT WATER SYSTEMS

Climate change and natural hazards can threaten our water resources and our water security. Here are some ways to protect our water and build resilience.

### PROTECT WATER SOURCES

- Look after natural water catchments and their ecosystems, 'from ridge to reef'
- Protect rivers and groundwater from polluting land uses and activities
- Use groundwater sparingly, especially during dry periods - pump at a sustainable rate to maintain quality and quantity
- Remember all water sources are important - groundwater, surface water, rainwater - so protect and maintain them all

Address the risk - Ensure that all relevant policy, planning and practice considers and responds to the water-related risks of climate change and disasters



Recognise and support the different roles of women, men, children, elderly and persons with disabilities in water resources management and water use decisions



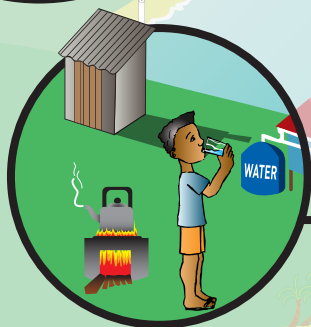
### COLLECT AND USE WATER EFFICIENTLY

- Maximise roof catchment areas, and maintain gutters and rainwater tanks
- Don't waste potable water where non-potable water will suffice, for example for activities such as gardening
- Adopt water-saving technologies such as waterless toilets
- Reduce leakage, for example by fixing damaged pipes and connections (leakage rates of up to 70% are common in the Pacific)



### PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER SOLUTIONS

- Involve all stakeholders in water management decisions, 'from community to cabinet'
- Encourage the use and replication of simple, robust and easily maintained technologies
- Build local capacity for monitoring and maintenance
- Plan now for future needs and pressures, including population growth and climate change



### MAINTAIN SAFE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- Educate children and their caregivers on safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices
- Involve households and schools in keeping drinking water safe through boiling, disinfecting or filtering
- Maintain hand-washing facilities, including supplies of soap, to prevent the spread of disease
- Identify and mitigate threats to water quality with a drinking water safety and security plan

### BE PREPARED

- Be aware of diminishing supplies by regular monitoring of water reserves
- Use weather monitoring and forecasting to plan for water conservation
- Adopt drought management plans that reduce water use when dry times are forecasted
- Develop and maintain contingency water supplies such as community cisterns
- Ensure that disaster preparedness policies and plans address water security and access to safe sanitation