Nawasa’s Community Water Storage Project

The main challenges

- Schools were faced with school closures as a result of stoppage in supply throughout the state for varying reasons.
- There were inadequate storage facilities at schools; as none of the schools have water tanks to assist NAWASA to provide them with a supply of water in the event of system down time or natural disasters.
- Schools with inadequate water storage facilities were all identified as hurricane shelters.
- The Community relied on the School for support with their water system when there were community events.

Implementing actors and responsibilities

- To install emergency water storage to schools in Grenada
- To increase water storage capacity to schools in Grenada

What actions were taken and should be highlighted?

- 18 - 1000-gallon water storage tanks were installed at 17 schools on the tri island state of Grenada.
What were the results of those actions?

- Increased capacity to reduce risks to all hazards at 17 schools on the island
- Ensure water availability and its sustainable use improved at 17 schools on the island

Major achievements

- Improvement of piping systems within the School
- Over 18,000 gallons of stored water available to 17 schools on the tri island state of Grenada.
- Four schools had their water supply network repaired.
- Beneficiaries: 5728 plus students representing 17 public schools on the island; Male: 3170, Female: 2558

Overall, what is unique, interesting, or notable about this major achievement/case study?

- This project is unique and notable because it fits within NAWASA’s strategic direction of sustainability and our ability to withstand seasonal challenges both in the rainy and dry season, for which storage is always a major challenge to Nawasa achieving those objects and it was one of the areas that we have significant deficiencies.
- This project allowed us to address the critical challenge of storage at the school level bearing in mind that those same schools are used as shelters in post disaster situation. We were therefore providing resilience in the aftermath of natural disaster.
- This intervention allowed schools to remain open during periods of drought and also in cases when there were interruptions both in the dry and rainy season, students were able to continue their process of education. This intervention also allowed schools that are hurricane shelters to remain open and provide the needs of the community based on the emergency situation.
- In addition, this project was advanced by the National Disaster Management Agency NADMa but implemented by another government agency – NAWASA which was very positive.
- It also highlighted a hazard like drought which in some cases are not usually addressed but the sustainability component is very strong because the results that have emerged from this project can expand the beneficiaries beyond the initial project intervention.
- The assets generated from this project are being used by NAWASA in communities that are problematic to supply in the dry season and will become problematic in the aftermath of a natural disaster, there are dense pockets in high elevation. Tanks will be deployed in pre determined locations, filled by water trucks and persons in and around are able to address daily needs using buckets.

What are the next steps:

- NAWASA maintains responsibility of the water tanks for the next three years.
- NAWASA will be looking closely into the storage capacity of other government schools based on their population and will be working to ensure that adequate storage facilities are provided.