



280 FLAT PACKED WATER TANKS DELIVER SAFE DRINKING WATER TO THE REMOTE MARSHALL ISLANDS

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MARSHALL ISLANDS) CASE STUDY

“KLIPTANK OFFERED THE BEST SOLUTION FOR OUR NEEDS, WITH TANKS THAT WERE EASILY TRANSPORTABLE, SIMPLE TO INSTALL AND MOST IMPORTANTLY DURABLE.”

Safe drinking water is a precious and scarce resource in the stunning Marshall Islands, where climate change projections were painting a grim picture for the 41,000 residents.

Identifying the probability of more frequent and extreme droughts on the 24 atolls and islands, nestled halfway between Australia and Hawaii, the United Nations stepped in to take adaptive actions to climate change.

In 2021 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the Addressing Climate Vulnerability in the Water Sector (ACWA) project, investing over \$24 million into the project and marking their largest contribution in the Northern Pacific Region funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Government of RMI.

A Technical Design Survey was undertaken in 115 communities across 24 neighbouring atolls and islands in the Marshall Islands and a seven-year project to install over 200 rainwater storage tanks began, led by Project Manager Koji Kumamaru.

With drought a common occurrence in the islands, the rainwater harvesting tanks would capture precious water during the rainy season, providing a year-round supply to address both baseline and climate-induced drought in 115 Marshallese communities.

Koji said the extensive project would also include the rehabilitation of groundwater wells on the islands in order to augment water availability for secondary use and also supporting the strengthening of water governance through the development of the National Drought Contingency Plan, SOP, Water Safety Plan and community-based Water Committees.

“This is a very exciting project which has the strong leadership and full support of the Marshall Islands Government, traditional leaders and therefore the local communities. Water tanks that are reliable and provide safe drinking water are hugely valuable to these remote communities, who are showing their full support for the project.”

The rainwater harvesting required tanks that could be easily transported to the Marshall Islands on ships and then transferred to smaller vessels that could dock on the shore.

The tanks also needed to be simple for unskilled workers to unpack, install and maintain. Finally, they needed to have a life expectancy of at least 25 years in the harsh outdoor conditions of the islands - especially crucial when shipping to remote locations with limited infrastructure.

In 2022, KlipTank won the tender to supply up to 280 flatpack modular water storage tanks to the Marshall Islands under the ACWA project and are proud to support the United Nations in this important project.

Koji said KlipTank stood out as they offered a solution that was easy to install and maintain and would stand up to the harsh elements in the islands.

Over three years, KlipTank will deliver over 200 flatpack modular water storage tanks, varying in size from 34,000 to 56,000 litres.

"KlipTank offered the best solution for our needs, with tanks that were easily transportable, simple to install and most importantly durable. They also offered a range of sizes to suit each location."

The KlipTank team, equipped with in-house engineering excellence in CAD design, metal

fabrication, and plastic fabrication, can adapt tanks to suit diverse needs.

This partnership enables KlipTank to play a key role in providing safe drinking water to 2,606 households and 160 community facilities across the islands.

By December 2023, 112 tanks had been delivered to Majuro, 20 had been installed in Kwajalein and Namu atolls, and production for the second order of 86 tanks was about to start at their Tauranga factory. Final production of the last shipment was set to begin in 2024.

KlipTank has sent a staff member to the Marshall Islands, who trained project staff and Government technicians on how to install the tanks. These staff are in turn teaching community volunteer workers how to install the tanks in their villages.

"The KlipTank team in New Zealand has been great to work with, creating a detailed easy-to-use handbook on the installation of the tanks and Duheine is always available to answer any questions via email or zoom."

"This is an ongoing partnership with KlipTank and the project team. It was important to us to partner with a company that offered quality products, appropriate training and ongoing support for our people on the ground. We have found that in KlipTank."



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