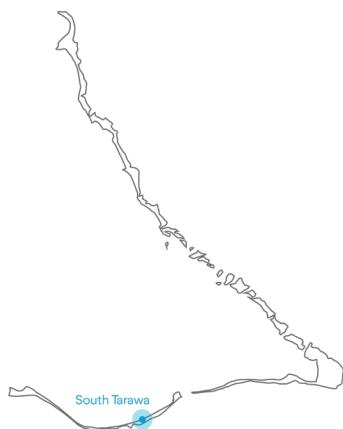




# KIRIBATI

January 2022



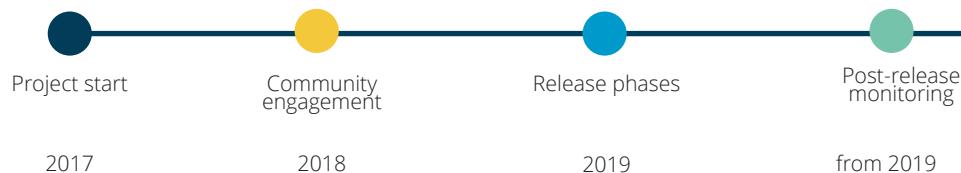
The World Mosquito Program in Kiribati is part of a global, not-for-profit initiative that is working to protect local communities from mosquito-borne diseases, like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

In South Tarawa and Betio, public acceptance of the project (prior to the release of mosquitoes) was 97 per cent.

We released *Wolbachia*-carrying mosquitoes from mid-2018 to mid-2019 and we are now collecting data on the incidence of dengue and chikungunya in the release areas.

Since March 2019, we have worked with the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services to conduct long-term monitoring of the local mosquito population, observing how *Wolbachia* works in unique environments like Kiribati.

The community has been enthusiastically supporting the project in South Tarawa and Betio, with nearly 3150 volunteers helping to release mosquitoes, host bug traps and promote the project.



1  
project site



size of the project  
**1.50 km<sup>2</sup>**



**339,059**  
target population



**33**  
project staff



**PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE**  
measured by survey  
**97%** South Tarawa



**3144**  
volunteers who  
released mosquitoes



**2**  
local partners  
and supporters

## MOSQUITO- BORNE DISEASE BURDEN IN KIRIBATI

Dengue, Zika and chikungunya have a long history in the Pacific, including Kiribati.

The World Mosquito Program has partnered with the Kiribati Government to bring our *Wolbachia* method to local communities.

Funded and supported by the Australian Government, the initiative was rolled out in high-risk communities across South Tarawa, including Betio, between June 2018 and June 2019.



“

The WMP Kiribati team has done a fantastic job preparing this project to try and prevent dengue outbreaks like the one South Tarawa has been suffering through over recent months.

This project is so welcome in our home because we firmly believe it can help make Kiribati communities a healthier place to live.

- Eretii Timeon, Director of Public Health, Kiribati

#### Partners and supporters



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

#### Further information:

Alex Jackson  
Media Relations Manager  
[alex.jackson@worldmosquito.org](mailto:alex.jackson@worldmosquito.org)

“

We are so happy that community members from different ages and backgrounds accepted the opportunity to support our work, even though it seems strange to grow and release mosquitoes, these are very unique mosquitoes that will help make Kiribati a healthier place to live.

- Tebikau Tibwe, Project Coordinator

## About us

The World Mosquito Program (WMP) is a not-for-profit group of companies owned by Monash University that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases. The World Mosquito Program uses naturally occurring bacteria called *Wolbachia* to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit viruses to humans.

Following decades of research and successful field trial results, the World Mosquito Program is currently partnering with communities in 11 countries around the world to implement our ground-breaking

solution. We have staff working in countries across Oceania, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and offices established in Australia, Vietnam, France and Panama.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we are making a difference to millions of lives.

A collaboration between:



Contact us

