



VANUATU CLIMATE CHANGE AND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST
ADAPTATION PRACTICE PROFILE



STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES TO CC IMPACTS

Pacific Community Climate Change Risk Reduction Project Working with Churches [VCC]



Isaka and Port Resolution, Tanna workshops (Photos by VCC 203)



PROJECT BRIEF |

The project will support up to 9 highly vulnerable communities in Vanuatu, to better understand climate change and adaptation options, implement adaptation activities, and enhance capacities to access resources from government and other service providers. .

PROJECT DURATION |

2 years and 6 months

LOCATION(S) COVERED |

Tanna – Port Resolution, Isaka, Sulphur Bay and Lapangtawa
Tonga – Purao
Malekula – Litzlitz and Uripiv
Ambrym = Mpru and Port Vato

FUNDING |

AusAID through the Act for Peace (AfP). The Humanitarian Aid Assistant of the National Council of Churches of Australia.

PARTNERS/COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS |

VCC, Live and Learn and other VCAN members

OBJECTIVES & GOALS |

(Goal) Strengthen the resilience of communities to impacts of climate change.

Objective 1: Increase capacity of local partners to provide support to communities in their adaptation efforts.

Objective 2: Enhance community capacity to assess climate vulnerability, access resources, and implement community based climate resilient activities

Objective 3: Improve community linkages with government to enable a stronger community voice in government planning and decisions about CCA.

Objective 4: Develop a body of evidence on CCA integration into CBDRM from project learning.

STRATEGIES & PROCESSES/METHODS |

This project will employ strategies to build capacities of communities, civil society and government to use available skills and knowledge, access external scientific information and resources to adapt to climate change; empower communities to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and demand participation in government decision making on CCA; implement appropriate adaptation strategies that reduce vulnerability; promote climate-resilient livelihoods; and adopt disaster risk reduction strategies to reduce the impact of hazards.

RESULTS |

- The Vanuatu Christian Council has increased their capacity to effectively support communities to adapt to climate change
- Up to 9 communities in Vanuatu have implemented climate resilience activities
- Up to 5,856 people (est. direct beneficiaries) in target sites in Vanuatu have increased their awareness and knowledge about climate change risks, and impacts. Access to resources has also been increased.
- Increased participation of vulnerable community members (people with special needs, women, youth) in community CCA action
- This project demonstrates a successful model for community based CCA programming in the Pacific
- Through a strong evidence basis this project makes a contribution to regional and national climate change policy

PLAN & SUSTAINABILITY |

Strategies for increasing prospects for sustainability will include:

- strengthening partner capacities; empowering communities through access to knowledge and resources for CCA;
- supporting communities to implement their own initiatives through the CAP's; and
- strengthening community-government links contributing to local 'buy-in', and generating a sense of real local 'ownership'.

A strong capacity building emphasis with a focus on learning and doing together will encourage ongoing sustainability of project outputs. The Project will "learn and do together" in order to build on local structures, knowledge and



processes and to encourage local ownership of the Project.

BEST PRACTICES |

- PCCCR works closely with Churches, and other civil society, local government councils and other partners, on the matter of CCA community awareness.
- Increasing churches & local government capacity on Climate change adaptation and project proposal writing and project management could become some best practices that are within the program.
- AIR Approach, being one of the best approaches that the project is training the community on.
- Recognition & use of Traditional coping mechanism as a useful tool in adaptation processes.
- Learning & building from past experience is also a positive practices.

LESSONS LEARNED |

Strong institutional arrangements and support is critical in the management and implementation of CCA Projects, as is clarity over roles and responsibilities, level of collaboration and co-operation between and among stakeholders.

Behavioural change takes a long time and requires an integrated process: Changing individual and community behavior is a high priority in the region. 'Structural' adaptation projects need to also include public awareness raising, targeted information, and capacity development aspects if behavior change is to be achieved.

Strong Local Participation: Strong local participation, with involvement of government and non-government stakeholders, is critical to ensure effectiveness, appropriateness and sustainability of project interventions.

Scientific and traditional knowledge should inform community CCA action: Adaptive activities should be based on scientific knowledge to ensure small scale community projects do not increase vulnerability (ie, mal-adaption). Traditional knowledge and methods of coping with extreme events and climate variability are key elements in the adaptive capacity of communities across the Pacific. This knowledge should inform adaptation planning.

Alignment to national policies and processes: Community based action should align with government policies and plans.

Links between climate change and disaster risk reduction: CCA and DRR are closely linked, but have been implemented in isolation. There are opportunities to tap into the considerable experience in DRR in the region to strengthen community based action around risk management. The greatest likelihood of effective CCA and DRR integration will be at the community level.

Harmonisation of development partner efforts is crucial: As implementation of CCA action increases across the Pacific, better coordination and partnerships are required. Closer cooperation between NGO's implementing community based adaptive action is urgently needed



For more information

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