

CASE STUDY 2:

WOMEN'S WEATHER WATCH (WOMEN WETEM WETA, WWW) VANUATU

Women's Weather Watch is an example of local women's leadership for effective community resilience building. This case study links to the 'Operational' level of ACFID's Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

The Australian Aid Program under the ANCP Gender Action Platform

LOCATION:

Vanuatu

TIMEFRAME:

2015 - ongoing

PARTNER NGOS:

ActionAid
Australia

ActionAid
Vanuatu

Women I Tok Tok
Tugeta (WITTT)

OBJECTIVE:

The WWW Vanuatu Program aims to support the development of communications mechanisms to amplify women's voices to call for greater action by the government and the humanitarian sector to support women's leadership in disasters.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:

OPERATIONAL

Organisational climate risk

DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

- 1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options
- 2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange
- 3: Ongoing and holistic approach
- 4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations
- 5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge
- 6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

Photo: A gathering of Women I Tok Tok togeta in Tanna Vanuatu. Credit: Roselyn Tari, ActionAid Vanuatu.

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

To implement the program, ActionAid Australia and ActionAid Vanuatu leveraged their existing strong engagement (Enablers 2 and 3) with women's networks in Vanuatu and worked through these networks instead of developing a new committee. The existence of sustained relationships with local networks helped ActionAid to understand the local disaster preparedness perception from a gender lens. This facilitated ActionAid to implement the program in partnership with WITTT to reach thousands of women and their communities in Vanuatu and connect them with national meteorological office.



It is a nice model because it is very grassroots-led and it allows weather information from Met office to get through to the community.”

Jason Brown, AHP.

The model of the program allowed the WITTT members to study weather patterns, receive weather updates from the Meteorological department and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and disseminate the information within their communities in local language. Working with government stakeholders at national level (Enabler 3) illustrates how the project worked at multiple scales to affect sustainable change. Through the program, women of the networks became the local knowledge brokers and developed leadership capabilities (Enabler 5).

This project also demonstrates valuing both the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration (Enabler 6). Women's existing local knowledge of weather and climate was complemented with new external knowledge from the Meteorological services. Climate change science and projections were also integrated into women's scientific knowledge toolkit and shared with their local communities, which demonstrates an effective process of knowledge exchange.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 2:

- Leveraging existing relationships, networks and governance structures can help reach out wider community (Enabler 2)
- Working with multiple stakeholders (e.g. national government) can support the uptake of new policy and practice for ongoing, sustainable change (Enabler 3)
- Efforts to promote the localisation agenda can include building capacity and skills of local knowledge brokers (Enabler 5)
- Processes that value multiple sources of knowledge (e.g. women's existing knowledge of weather and climate, external scientific climate science) encourages local ownership of project activities and more sustainable outcomes (Enabler 6)