

CASE STUDY 4:

SHIFTING THE POWER COALITION

Shifting the Power Coalition is an example of a regional coalition of feminist civil society organisations coming together to champion women’s leadership and presenting an amplified voice on humanitarian response and climate resilience. This case study links to the ‘Programmatic’ level of ACFID’s Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

DFAT’s Pacific Women program

LOCATION:

Pacific region

TIMEFRAME:

2016 - ongoing

PARTNER NGOS:

ActionAid Australia	Talitha Project – Tonga	femLINK Pacific
ActionAid Vanuatu	Transcend Oceania – Fiji	Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) - Samoa
Pacific Disability Forum	Vanuatu Young Women for Change	YWCA - Papua New Guinea
Fiji Disabled People’s Federation	Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association	YWCA - Solomon Islands
Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation – Bougainville	Vois Blong Mere Solomon	

OBJECTIVE:

The Shifting the Power Coalition aims to ensure diverse Pacific women’s voices, agency and decision-making in disaster preparedness, response and recovery as well as humanitarian responses at all levels.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:

PROGRAMMATIC Building climate resilience

POLICY AND ADVOCACY Increasing adaptation assistance


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

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

Under the Shifting the Power Coalition program, ActionAid Australia partnered with a diverse set of women-led Pacific civil society organisations (Enabler 2) already working across the Pacific on disaster resilience and humanitarian response. ActionAid Australia recognised the strong advocacy work of coalition

Photo: Women from Efate, Vanuatu on their chicken farm. Credit: Roselyn Tari, ActionAid Vanuatu.



members all working on similar humanitarian issues, and all working to support vulnerable and marginalised communities with less of a voice in times of disaster response and recovery. ActionAid Australia sought to bring coalition members together for an amplified voice to donors and development partners in the region.



It was certainly about shifting power from those in that privileged position, whether they're men or the elites within countries or able-bodied people, all of those things that tend to drive humanitarian response, those people who get prioritised."

Melissa Bungcaras, Oxfam Australia (formerly ActionAid Australia).

Shifting the Power Coalition had a strong focus on championing women's leadership (Enabler 3 and Enabler 5). ActionAid played a facilitating role to support women's leadership capacity for community-led activities (Enabler 5) for climate change adaptation and preparedness awareness among Pacific women. Shifting the Power Coalition was very focused on building leadership so that people (often women) were appropriately recognised for the knowledge that they held on climate and disaster resilience.

The program itself had a strong appreciation of the importance of the 'what' and the 'how' (Enabler 6), placing particular focus on issues of power, leadership, coordination and networking amongst coalition members. This focus on 'how' then supports the sharing of knowledge and best

practice of how climate change considerations could be integrated across the member's activities.

ActionAid Australia also saw its role as a facilitator and connector between coalition members and donors and took a *holistic perspective* (Enablers 3 and 5) on how to best play this role. For example, ActionAid Australia invited DFAT to Coalition Partnership meetings. During these meetings, Coalition members shared the program's change outcomes to encourage DFAT to engage at a donor policy level, and to inform them about possible ways to strengthen policies and strategies on engaging women and diverse gender identities.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 4:

- Ongoing partnerships and coalitions (Enablers 2 and 3) helps to amplify voices of marginalised groups working on similar issues
- ANGOs might consider their role as facilitator in promoting, connecting and amplifying the voices of local partners (Enabler 5)
- Championing local leadership, particularly of women (including young women) and others whose voices are not regularly heard, can support diverse experiences of climate change to be included in policies and programs (Enabler 5)
- Taking intentional steps to address power imbalances; shifting control and voice away from traditional sources of power to local levels has supported transformational change for women participating in the program (Enabler 6)