

**UNFCCC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP
ON ADAPTATION: REDUCING
VULNERABILITY AND
MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE
CHANGE ADAPTATION IN VANUATU**

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VANUATU'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Most vulnerable disaster-prone country
- 83 islands dispersed in Y shape, 65 inhabited
- 118 languages, very diverse with different mindsets
- Urban areas governed by Westminster System
- Rural areas governed by Wantok/Kastom Economy by matrilineal or patrilineal descent societies
- Matrilineal society, women have a voice, space & property rights as opposed to patrilineal descent society

VANUATU'S PATRILINEAL DESCENT SOCIETY

- Patrilineal society, women have **NO** voice, space & property rights. Women's reproductive & productive labour are used to enhance the status of men

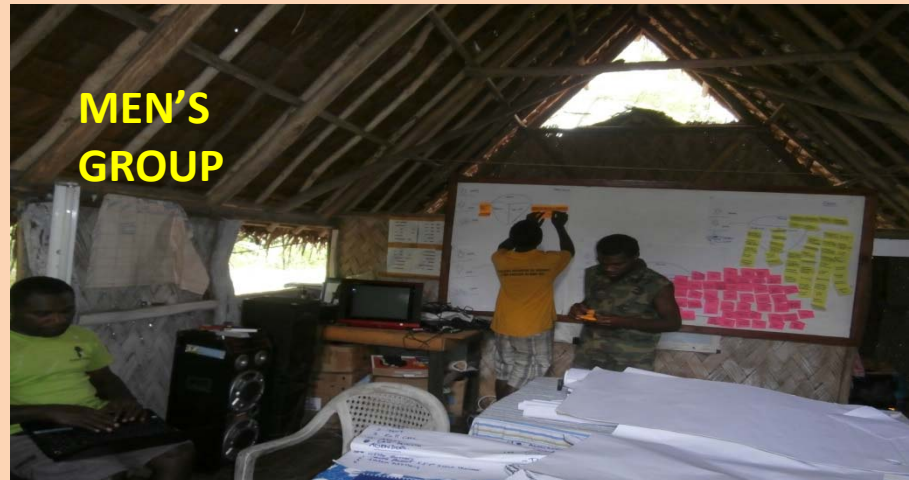


FLOATING COCONUT TOOL KIT

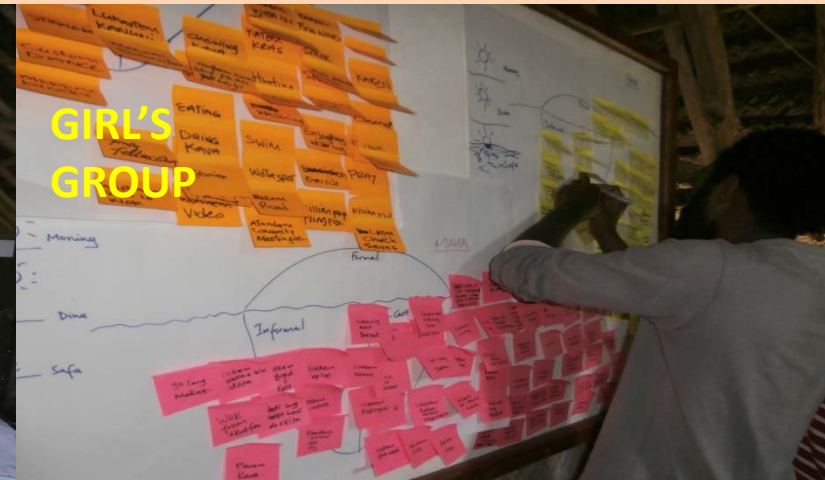


- Tool kit is developed by the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) for Melanesian Economies
- One quarter of the floating coconut portrays the formal economy
- Three quarters of the submerged coconut signifies the informal economy
- The Tool Kit was used with communities of Imaio, Isaka, Galilee, lapour and lanuak communities in 2014 in the Whitesands area of Neprainetata on the island of Tanna
- Coloured sticky notes were distributed to groups of men, women, female youths and male youths to identify the work they did early in the morning, mid-day and in the evenings/nights and place them against the different timeframes on their floating coconut
- A representative was chosen by the groups to present their findings back to the audience

GENDER-SENSITIVE BOTTOM-UP PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES



MEN'S GROUP



GIRL'S GROUP



PRESENTING FOR BOY'S GROUP



WOMEN'S GROUP

WHICH GROUP HAS MORE JOBS?



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ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

- Targeting and reaching women from resource-poor groups
- Through effective bottom-up participation, men became more gender-sensitized on women's roles and responsibilities
- Women's unpaid jobs were clearly highlighted enabling and encouraging a debate & questioning of women's importance to the society. Men recognized the importance of women's human rights as they make up 50% of Vanuatu's population and should have a voice & space in climate change adaptation and mitigation plans
- Men's status in these communities could never be enhanced without the participation of their women folk who create gardens, cook and put food on the table, care for children, the sick and elderly, undertake domestic tasks and collect fuel and water for the family's maintenance
- Women requested stalls at the volcano entrance to sell handicrafts, cooked food, fruits & vegetables to incoming visitors
- Women reallocate time from domestic chores to productive roles, creating and selling handicrafts and cooked island food, fruits & vegetables.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS...

- As women are now income earners, they are perceived in a new light and more highly valued by their men folk
- Women become active economic providers, earning money to improve their livelihoods to invest in their children's education and access health services. This reduces women's time poverty & strengthen women's adaptive capacity
- Enabling conditions in the local context and ensuring gender-responsive climate change adaptation practices by securing livelihood options for both women and men. A call for more **MALE-CHAMPIONS** to support women's gender equality
- Covertly, women are already effective advisers to their men folk/chiefs/leaders, to lead and govern
- To also be heard and seen was imposed for 50% of women to sit in the food security knowledge hubs/committees therefore encouraging gender equality and women's participation in decision-making
- The Tool kit exercise should be replicated in other matrilineal & patrilineal societies in Vanuatu to create gender-sensitive awareness and gender-responsive climate change adaptation and mitigation plans