

Case Study: Empowering Youth to Drive Climate Action - Vanuatu Red Cross Youth

CONTEXT

Vanuatu is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, consisting of a Y-shaped chain of four main islands and 80 smaller islands, and rapidly urbanizing. Vanuatu's three urban centres, Lenakel, Port Vila and Luganville are home to over a fifth of the country's total population. Due to their exposure, Vanuatu's cities classified as some of the world's most exposed to natural hazard. These range from tropical cyclones, storm surges and communicable diseases, and are compounded by rapidly growing informal settlements in high risk areas deemed unsuitable for urban developments, and climate change (Trundle and McEvoy, 2015; World Bank Group, 2021).

PROJECT SUMMARY

To reduce urban risks and strengthen resilience, Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) supports youth launched the Urban Hub Small Grants Y-ADAPT program to foster climate resilience in at risk communities in three cities.

The project aimed to **1) increase awareness and understanding for climate change and its impacts, especially among vulnerable communities, 2) empower communities with mitigation and adaptation skills, and co-create plans for climate action.** To strengthen community resilience, build capacity, knowledge and skills, VRCS applied the Y-Adapt training and toolkit supported by the IFRC Asia Pacific Urban Hub. According to Jessica Binihi, "many in Vanuatu think climate change will result in rising sea levels, but it's so much more than that. VRCS Youth are here to educate communities and engage urban communities in lasting climate action and disaster risk reduction (DRR)".



Key Achievements: At the start of the project, VRCS Youth organized a Y-ADAPT Training of Trainers. Following VRCS Youth implemented Y-ADAPT trainings in 3 urban communities, Sanma, Tafea, Shefa, engaging a total of 162 people in urban communities with Y-ADAPT training and community climate actions.

- Guided by community needs, VRCS engaged in a range of climate and DRR solutions to address risks of urban coastal erosion and floods: including tree planting in high-risk coastal areas, drain clearing and waste management.
- VRCS Youth established strong relations with the Department of Climate Change, resulting in the co-creation of 'Community Climate Boards' to raise awareness of climate change impacts and safety measures, as well as signed an MoU for future work.

Lessons Learned: Community must be at the center. Work with both the municipality and communities for impact across scales, Remain flexible and open to innovation.

Urban water management
drain clearing

Y-Adapt Toolkit
training with Youth



Community clean-up
campaigns



Tree planting

