

EC Partners

National Authorising Office, Prime Minister Office, Vanuatu

Vanuatu National Council of Women

Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centre Association

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: €1 million (100% of the total)
- Duration: 2006- 2010
- Beneficiaries: 7000, out of which 3800 are women

Civil Society

Helping people take their destiny in their hands in remote islands in Vanuatu

Reinforcing community based organisations

"With the Community Hall, water system and solar light, the Non State Actors (NSA) project has improved the way people in the Ekipe Community live."

Dorah ESAU, Women Project Coordinator EKIPE North Efate Vanuatu



Context

Inclusion of population from remote islands, in particular women, is key to the development of Vanuatu. Strengthening civil society enables groups to be better structured and therefore to manage more projects with greater impact at community, provincial or national level in various sectors such as water supply and sanitation, rural market infrastructure, cultural heritage, environment, etc. The project funds community driven micro-projects, mostly implemented in remote places.

Objectives

- Promote participation of community based organisations in the development process with special emphasis on women groups and youth associations.
- Empower women through increasing their participation in community projects.
- Enhance collaboration with and between communities.
- Strengthen civil society to engage in public policy dialogue.

Impact

- 115 projects implemented, 7000 beneficiaries of which 3800 are women.
- The Non-State Actors' sector is better structured through the strengthening of major leading organizations: the Vanuatu National Council of Women, Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centre Association and the Vanuatu Cultural Center.
- 38% of funded projects in water supply and sanitation sectors in Vanuatu are taking place at community level, thereby ensuring the needs are fully met.



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Micro-projects implemented by community based organisations

The project funded several micro-projects implemented by community-based organisations. The size of the project supported is always proportional to capacity of the community to organise itself. Engaging a community in a micro-project constitutes a first step in the development process. The projects covered a broad range of activities. Organisation of a living culture festival opened to tourists and resident visitors in Malekula to promote culture. Organisation of training sessions in various isolated communities (Central Pentecost, Sola, Loh, Tanna) to initiate youth to table tennis. Purchase of low cost computers to assist a community group in Santo.

Some of the micro-projects gave a special attention to the inclusion of women. Funded activities included: sewing courses organised by women groups, building and furnishing of a Women training centre, building of a community hall with strong involvement of women.

In the water sector, twelve projects, including five in the Torres, were aiming at bringing drinkable water to communities. For instance, the community from Erata Village needed access to clean water, since people had no other choice but to use the water coming directly from the river.

This project was created by the leaders of the community who started with a fundraising in 2007, after the heavy rain made the river unsafe to be used. The community has been working on the project for a long time, and will make sure that the project is sustainable.

Thanks to the project, 62 adults, 53 teenagers, and 45 children will have direct access to clean and safe water and will be able to build water seals, flush toilets, and showers.



Community participating in the installation of the water tanks