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RESEARCH AND INTERVENTION REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN VANUATU

World Vision Vanuatu

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Acknowledgements

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Many thanks to our World Vision Vanuatu colleagues, through the Climate Resilience & Livelihood Portfolio, for their guidance and contributions to this report. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the community members who participated in and supported the Climate Change Adaptation research.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CLRP	Climate Resilient Livelihoods Portfolio
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HBY	Hoas Blong Yumi
NOURISH	Nature-Based Opportunities Underpinning Resilient and Sustainable House holds
UCRP	Urban Climate Resilience Project
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WVV	World Vision Vanuatu

BACKGROUND

Vanuatu is one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world. Stronger cyclones, frequent flooding, prolonged droughts, and sea level rise are already disrupting lives, destroying homes and crops, and undermining community resilience. According to the World Bank, disasters already cost the country an estimated 6 percent of GDP each year, and climate change is expected to further intensify the frequency and severity of these hazards over the course of the century[1]. These challenges are most acute in urban and peri-urban areas, where dense populations, fragile housing, limited services, and degraded ecosystems combine to heighten vulnerability.

The Urban Climate Resilience Project (UCRP) funded by the Government of Australia, and the Nature-Based Opportunities Underpinning Resilient and Sustainable Households (NOURISH) project, funded by the Government of Ireland, took an innovative approach to designing program activities that would help communities adapt to or mitigate the key impacts of climate change on their community.

Given the diverse nature of the urban communities and their climate-related impacts, it was clear that a blanket, one-size-fits-all approach in designing climate adaptation and mitigation strategies would not be effective. Instead, World Vision Vanuatu (WVV) undertook a bottom-up approach that enabled communities to identify the issues most important to them, and from there design a suite of activities, based on those priorities, that communities could choose from.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to summarise the participatory research and design process undertaken with urban and peri-urban communities across Port Vila and Luganville. It documents the steps taken to engage communities in identifying climate change impacts, proposing solutions, and selecting priority adaptation activities.
The report also presents the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) package frameworks developed in response to community findings, and outlines how these were operationalised into simplified training modules during implementation.

Finally, the report presents implementation findings from 2025, drawing on household survey data, field reporting and staff reflections to summarise emerging outcomes, community satisfaction, and key challenges and learnings to inform future programming.

[1] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/country-profiles/15825-WB_Vanuatu%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research objectives and questions below guided the participatory design process and ensured that community perspectives directly informed the selection of relevant and feasible adaptation interventions.

Objectives:

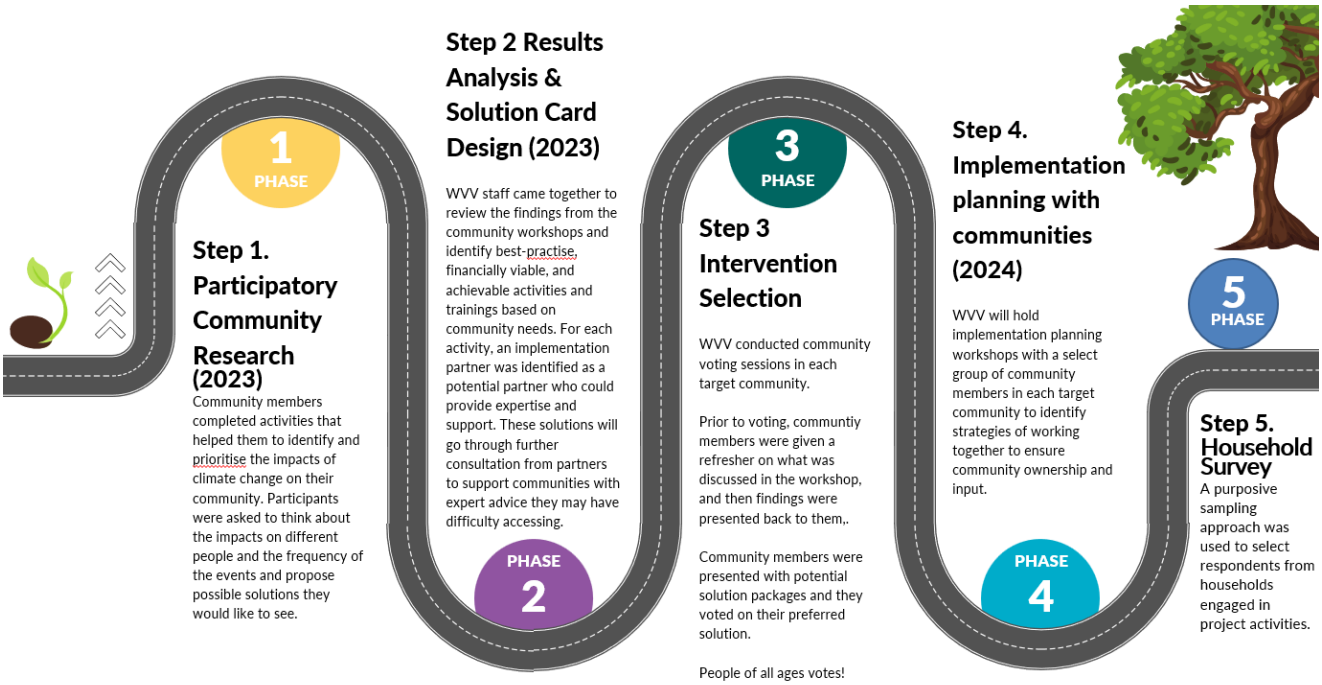
- To identify how urban and peri-urban communities are currently experiencing climate change impacts.
- Translate findings into practical Climate Change Adaptation activity packages for communities.
- To strengthen community awareness and ownership of climate solutions.

Research questions included:

- What climate impacts are most significant in these communities?
- What solutions do communities themselves propose?
- How can WVV support these priorities through viable interventions?
- What are the most effective ways to communicate climate information locally?

ACTION RESEARCH PROCCESS

WVV employed a multi-stage action research approach to engage community members in exploratory discussions, problem identification, and planning for solutions. This approach was designed to move beyond extractive data collection and instead support communities to actively shape adaptation options. The approach that was followed is documented below:



Step 1: Participatory community research

In August 2023, WVV staff facilitated workshops across all UCRP target communities in Port Vila and Santo, as well as NOURISH communities in Port Vila, engaging a total of 276 participants (113 men, 111 women, 21 boys, 28 girls, and 3 men with disabilities). Through interactive activities, community members identified and prioritised the climate change impacts most relevant to their lives. Participants considered who was most affected by these impacts, how frequently events occurred, and began proposing potential solutions they would like to see in their communities. These sessions created a foundation of shared understanding and ensured that diverse perspectives, including those of women, youth, and people with disabilities, were heard.

Image: Community members participating in the participatory climate change research.

Step 2: Results analysis and solution card design

During September and October 2023, findings from the community workshops were consolidated, and proposed solutions were reviewed to identify activities that were best-practice, financially viable, and achievable within the project scope. General observations from the workshops were:

- There was strong consensus across men, women, and youth within each community on the most pressing priorities.
- Priorities varied widely between communities, reflecting the diversity of contexts — including coastal versus inland, and urban versus peri-urban settings.
- Flooding and cyclones emerged as key priorities in most communities, as expected. However, communities also highlighted increasing illness (vector-borne and waterborne diseases) as a major concern.
- A large number of WASH-related issues were identified, including polluted, damaged, and reduced water sources.
- Communities demonstrated an ability to identify complex issues, showing a solid base-level understanding of how climate change is affecting their environment and daily lives.
- As anticipated, many of the proposed solutions were beyond the scope of this project; however, they provide an important starting point for refining feasible interventions.

Annex One provides a detailed list of all issues identified by communities, disaggregated by hazard type. This illustrates both the breadth of challenges and the level of detail participants were able to articulate. Annex Two then summarises the top three priorities identified by each community group (men, women, and youth), providing a clearer picture of which issues communities ranked as most urgent.

Overall, community consultations revealed consistent patterns in climate-related concerns. Flooding was the most frequently identified hazard, prioritised across nearly all communities. Cyclones and drought also ranked highly, reflecting both the fragility of housing and recurring challenges in food production. In coastal sites such as Pango, Seaside, Tokyo, and Anamburu Zone one, communities highlighted sea level rise and reef degradation, pointing to risks for land security, marine resources, and tourism. Inland and peri-urban communities, including Freswota, Ohlen, Showground, and Banban, placed stronger emphasis on soil degradation, water shortages, and crop losses.

Gender and age groups were generally aligned, though women emphasised flooding and WASH-related issues, men highlighted drought and agricultural stress, and youth more often pointed to reef and soil degradation. These findings demonstrate both the convergence of priorities across communities and the nuanced differences shaped by geography, gender, and age, providing a strong foundation for designing inclusive and context-specific adaptation strategies.

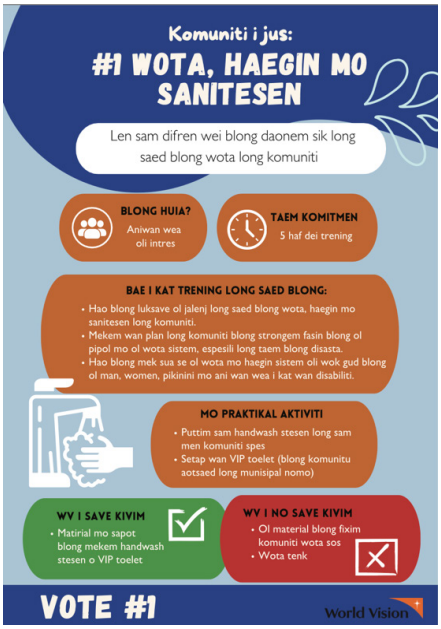
Summary findings were presented back to communities using simple and visually attractive posters, as shown below. These translated the research into clear information in Bislama, highlighting each community's top climate priorities, the issues linked to them, and the solutions proposed. The posters made it easy for everyone to see their voices reflected, validate the findings, and prepare for the next stage of selecting priority adaptation packages.

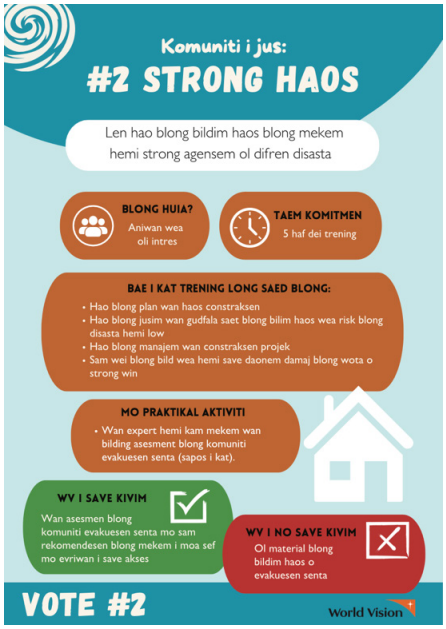
Each potential activity was then developed into a “solution card.” These cards transformed community ideas into clear, accessible options that could be easily shared, compared, and voted on. They ensured that community-driven solutions were aligned with practical implementation pathways, while also providing a tool for further consultation and discussion.

The solution cards presented information in a simple and visual way, using Bislama, icons, and colour coding so that all community members could engage regardless of literacy level. Each card explained who the activity was for, the time commitment required, the key training content, and the practical activities involved. They also outlined what WVV could provide, what would remain the responsibility of the community, and the process for voting.

By combining technical detail with community language and visual design, the cards allowed residents to make informed, democratic choices about which activities they wanted to prioritise. They became the bridge between community-identified problems and feasible, actionable solutions.

The following page shows examples of the solutions cards and the voting instructions visual:





Step 3: Community selection

In December 2023, World Vision Vanuatu facilitated community information and voting sessions. At these sessions, residents were introduced to the different solution cards and provided with details about what each activity involved. To support transparency and ensure broad engagement, a simple flyer in Bislama was developed and shared in advance of the sessions.

The flyer explained what had been done so far with communities, outlined the five available activity options, and described the role of community members in the selection process. It clearly stated that every man, woman, and youth over the age of 15 had the right to cast a vote, and gave step-by-step instructions on how to participate. Contact details were also provided so that community members could ask questions or request further information.

During the sessions, all community members were able to review the solution cards and then cast their vote using stickers. While agricultural and environmental training opportunities were made broadly available, each community selected one to two priority activities to implement. This democratic process, reinforced by the accessible communication materials, ensured that the final interventions reflected the collective priorities of the community.

Image: Community members taking part in the voting process.

Step 4: Package development

WVV developed a detailed outline for five CCA packages. These packages represent practical, community-driven options that directly address the priority hazards and vulnerabilities identified during the research process, as well as the priorities chosen through the community voting process. Each package combines awareness, training, and practical activities to ensure both immediate relevance and long-term impact.

- ***Package 1: Urban Agricultural Resilience Strengthening***

  Why it matters: Communities consistently highlighted drought, flooding, and reduced food security. This package strengthens household and community capacity to produce food under changing conditions.

  What it includes:
  - Climate resilient agricultural training (drought & flood-resistant crops, soil testing, emergency crops).
  - Support for backyard and vertical gardens to improve household nutrition.
  - Techniques to reduce saltwater intrusion on crops near the coast.
  - Awareness on food preservation and quick-yield strategies post-disaster.

- ***Package 2: Strengthening Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)***

  Why it matters: Flooding and damaged water sources were identified across almost all communities. WASH concerns also ranked as a priority for women.

  What it includes:
  - Inclusive climate-resilient WASH training for men, women, youth, and people with disabilities.
  - Community planning to improve hygiene behaviours and WASH infrastructure.
  - Practical activities such as handwashing stations and maintenance of rainwater tanks.
  - Hygiene promotion to reduce vector-borne and waterborne disease during/ after disasters.

- ***Package 3: Haos Blong Yumi* (Climate-Resilient Housing)**

  Why it matters: Cyclones and flooding frequently damaged homes and property. Housing was identified as one of the most visible vulnerabilities in urban and peri-urban communities.

  What it includes:
  - Training on disaster-resilient construction techniques and safe site selection.
  - Household-level project management skills for new builds or renovations.
  - Practical guidance for drainage and structural design to reduce water damage.
  - Community planning to integrate safer housing practices into future developments

- ***Package 4: Re-greening Community blong Yumi***

  Why it matters: Soil degradation, erosion, and flooding were key community concerns. Communities also expressed interest in long-term solutions to restore degraded urban environments.

  What it includes:
  - Urban re-greening training, including community-led landscape restoration.
  - Practical tree and grass replanting to stabilise soil and reduce flooding.
  - Development of community drainage solutions using green infrastructure.
  - Waste management training to reduce disaster risks and improve local ecosystems.

- ***Package 5: Marine health and conservation strengthening***

  Why it matters: Coastal communities prioritised reef degradation, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks, linking these issues directly to food security and livelihoods.

  What it includes:
  - Marine conservation and health awareness training (pollution reduction, invasive species control, fish conservation).
  - Reef and coastal clean-ups to restore marine habitats.
  - Community citizen science activities to monitor reef health.
  - Waste management strategies to reduce marine pollution.

Step 5: Implementation planning with communities

Beginning in January 2024, WVV began holding implementation planning workshops with representatives from each community. These workshops focused on developing strategies for collaboration, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and strengthening ownership of the activities. By embedding communities in the planning process, the project laid the groundwork for strong engagement and continues to build toward sustained impact.

METHODOLOGY

In December 2025, individuals from project-participating households were surveyed to collect primary data on the impact of the CCA interventions. A purposive sampling approach was used to select respondents from households engaged in project activities across the implementation sites. Secondary data from monthly field reports was also reviewed, alongside a focus group discussion (FGD) conducted with project staff.

A total of 48 households participated in the survey. Respondents included 58% (n=28) women and 42% (n=20) men. The majority of respondents were aged 31–65 years (n=38; 79%), with 15–30 years (n=8; 17%) and 65+ years (n=2; 4%) also represented. The survey covered both main implementation locations, Port Vila (n=28; 58%) and Luganville (n=20; 42%), across 10 of the 12 target communities. In total, 10 project staff (7M, 3F) participated in the FGD, with representation from both Efate and Santo based staff.

FINDINGS

This section describes the CCA interventions implemented in target communities and summarises emerging outcomes and early evidence of change.

Implementation approach and delivery model

While five comprehensive CCA package frameworks, which included multiple elements, were developed during the design phase, implementation required a more simplified delivery model. This shift reflected community preferences and priorities at the point of delivery, the practical feasibility of delivering multiple components in dense urban and peri-urban settings, and staff capacity to develop, resource, and deliver full curricula across all package areas within available project time and budget. As a result, the package approach was operationalised into a smaller number of high-demand training modules that could be delivered consistently and support immediate uptake at household level.

Key delivery approaches included:

- **Backyard Gardening** (5-day training): Training centred on establishing a demonstration garden during the sessions, using low-cost and locally available materials. Core topics included soil improvement (mulching and understanding local soil conditions), composting, preparation of organic fertiliser and organic pesticides, and horizontal gardening techniques. The demonstration plot served as a practical model, with the intent that participating households would replicate the gardening methods in their own yards. Workshop-based sessions complemented practical training, supporting consistent knowledge transfer through multiple learning formats.

- **Haos Blong Yumi** (3-day training): Training focused on strengthening household capacity to plan and implement safer housing improvements in a disaster-prone context. Core topics included disaster risk awareness for cyclones, earthquakes and flooding; safe housing design and site considerations; step-by-step construction planning; basic budgeting and saving strategies; and practical guidance on selecting and working with builders. Participants were supported to develop a simple household project plan outlining practical actions and next steps.
- **WASH** (3-day training): WASH activities were delivered as a focused module on climate-resilient hygiene and sanitation practices, including practical actions to reduce waterborne and vector-borne disease risks during and after climate events.
- **Coastal protection (bespoke community collaboration):** In the coastal urban community of Pango, a tailored activity was implemented to address coastal erosion risks, including the planting of coastal protection trees (*Heritiera littoralis*).

Interventions implemented in target communities

The following table outlines the interventions that were selected by communities and implemented during 2025:

Location	Community selected CCA intervention/s	Project
Port Vila – Efate		
Ohlen 75	Backyard gardening	UCRP
Freshwota	Backyard gardening	UCRP
Seaside	Backyard gardening	UCRP
Pango	Coastal erosion	UCRP
Manples (two locations)	Backyard gardening Hoas Blong Yumi	NOURISH
Namburu Zone one	Backyard gardening Hoas Blong Yumi	NOURISH
Freshwota	Backyard gardening Hoas Blong Yumi	NOURISH
Tokyo	Backyard gardening WASH	NOURISH
Luganville – Santo		
Showground	Backyard gardening	UCRP
Pepsi	Backyard gardening Strong Haos *(*delivered in partnership with Red Cross)*	UCRP
Banban	WASH	UCRP
Radio Station	WASH Strong Haos	UCRP

In total, 12 communities received interventions. This mapping shows that backyard gardening was the most widely implemented CCA activity across both Port Vila and Luganville, reflecting strong community demand for practical household resilience and food security support. NOURISH communities in Port Vila tended to receive layered interventions (e.g. gardening combined with Haos Blong Yumi or WASH), while UCRP delivery in Port Vila was more targeted, including coastal erosion in the community of Pango. In Luganville, implementation placed greater emphasis on WASH and housing strengthening, with Strong Haos[2] delivered in partnership with the Red Cross in selected communities.

[2] A training programme similar to WVV's *Haos Blong Yumi* in content and objectives.

Alignment with community priorities

Overall, evidence indicates that the CCA interventions were highly relevant to community-identified needs and that implementation has supported both learning and action. Survey findings show very strong perceptions of project usefulness, with 92% of respondents (n=44) reporting that the CCA activities helped their community "a lot", and the remaining 8% (n=4) reporting the activities helped "a little." No respondents reported that activities were not useful. This strongly suggests that the community-led selection approach and package design process successfully translated locally identified priorities into relevant interventions.

Climate and weather changes experienced by households

Households reported clear perceived changes in weather conditions over the last one to two years. The most frequently observed change was hotter days (94%; n=45), followed by longer dry periods / drought conditions (52%; n=25). Respondents also reported heavy rain and flooding (23%; n=11) and higher sea level / higher tides (23%; n=11) in relevant communities. A smaller proportion identified stronger cyclones (8%; n=4), likely reflecting the irregular timing of cyclone events compared to day-to-day climate stressors.

Overall, these findings reinforce the project's original design logic: communities are experiencing multiple, overlapping hazards that differ by geography and settlement type, requiring flexible and context-specific adaptation options rather than a single standardised intervention approach.

Households reported multiple climate-related impacts on crops and backyard gardens over the past two years, as shown in Figure 1:

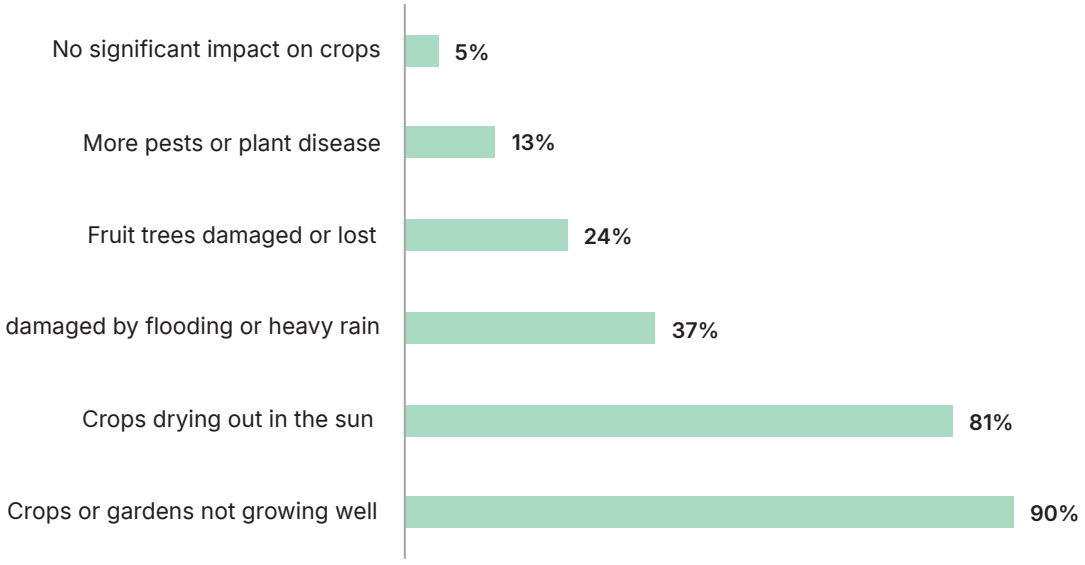


Figure 1. Impact of climate or weather on crops and/or backyard gardens in the past 2 years (n=48).
Note: Multiple responses were allowed, resulting in the total not being 100%.

Survey findings show that the most common impacts were crops or gardens not growing well (90%; n=43) and crops drying out in the sun (81%; n=39), indicating heat and drought-related stress on household food production. Flood-related impacts were also reported, with 29% (n=14) noting crop damage from heavy rain or flooding. Smaller proportions reported fruit trees being damaged or lost (19%; n=9), and increased pests or plant disease (10%; n=5). Overall, the findings reinforce household food production as a central resilience priority and support the continued relevance of garden-based adaptation activities.

Strengthened awareness and understanding of climate change

Findings indicate that climate change awareness is widespread among the households engaged in the project. Almost all respondents (47 out of 48) reported having heard the term "climate change" prior to participation. Importantly, the project appears to have strengthened climate literacy among participating households. As shown in Figure 2, following participation in project activities, over half of respondents reported that they now understand climate change "very well" (52%; n=25), while a further 27% (n=13) reported understanding it "somewhat." However, 21% (n=10) still reported limited understanding, reinforcing the need for continued accessible, locally relevant climate communication.

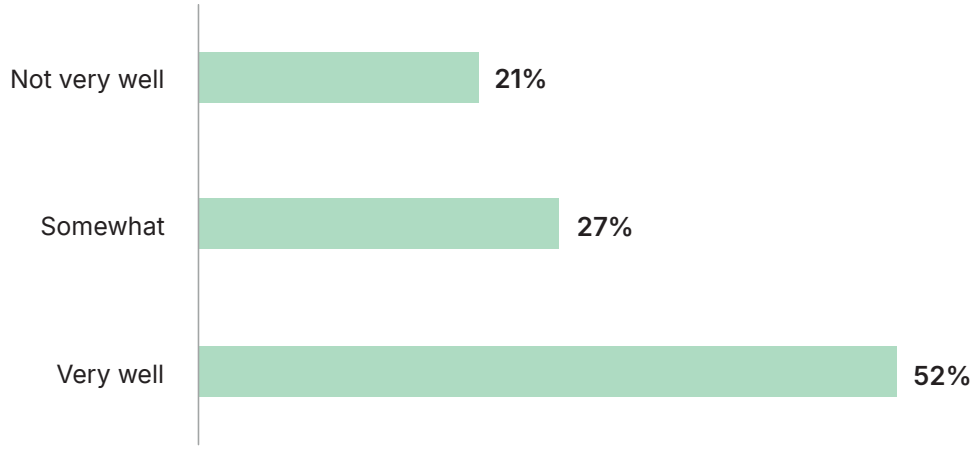


Figure 2. Self-reported understanding of climate change following project activities.

These survey findings are supported by monthly project reporting, which highlights that participatory learning methods such as theatre, videos, group discussions and hands-on learning were effective in helping people connect climate concepts to lived experience. This approach was particularly successful in engaging young people, with activity reports noting that youth often request continued climate education and learning opportunities.

Early uptake of resilience practices

Survey results indicate strong early uptake of resilience practices, both among participants directly trained in specific interventions and at wider community level. Among respondents who participated in Backyard Gardening training, 81% (n=21) reported applying backyard gardening practices, demonstrating strong translation of training into household-level action. Respondents were asked how their backyard or vertical garden has increased food availability for their household with the following being reported:

- 71% (n=21) reporting production increased a lot
- 15% (n=21) increased a little
- 14% (n=21) too early to tell/no change

Images: Backyard gardening establishment and harvest at Freshwota school.

Backyard gardening was the strongest area of early uptake, with most trained participants reporting that they had applied practices at household or community level. Survey findings indicate that gardening activities are already contributing to improved household food availability and nutrition, aligning with the intended pathway of change. This is consistent with findings from the FGD with

project staff who reported strong community interest in practical gardening methods due to their immediate and visible household benefits, particularly in the context of heat, drought and rising living costs. Demonstration gardens established during training provided a practical model for replication, and staff observed that hands-on learning supported participant confidence to apply techniques independently.

In total, 26 respondents had attended 'Haos Blong Yumi' or 'Strong Haos' training and were asked about their level of confidence post training in relation to preparing their house for cyclones and flooding. The following was self reported by participants:

- 81% (n=26) feel much more confident
- 15% (n=26) a little more confident
- 4% (n=26) no change

Image: Haos Blong Yumi training at Anamburu, Port Vila.

Image: Haos Blong Yumi training at Manples Community, Port Vila.

These results suggest the housing module strengthened perceived household preparedness for climate-related hazards. Implementation reporting aligns with this finding, noting that structured workshop sessions complemented practical discussion and helped participants translate risk awareness into concrete household planning. During the FGDs, project staff reflected on the fact that participants particularly valued the step-by-step focus on preparedness actions, construction planning, and decision-making for safer housing, supporting incremental resilience improvements at household level.

In total, 9 respondents had participated in hygiene/WASH training and were asked which behaviours they had changed at home since the training. The following was self-reported by participants:

- 100% (n=9) washed hands more often with soap and water
- 67% (n=9) cleaned toilet and bathing areas more regularl
- 44% (n=9) improved drainage and wastewater management around the house

These responses indicate strong early uptake of practical hygiene actions, supporting reduced waterborne and vector-borne disease risks at household level. Project staff also noted that behaviour-change training alone is not sufficient to address the underlying WASH challenges in many high-density urban settlements, and that communities require additional follow-up and infrastructure support (e.g. improved toilets and drainage systems) to materially strengthen WASH conditions and reduce health risks. Coastal protection uptake was lower overall,

as this activity was implemented in one target community. In the coastal community of Pango, eight (8) coastal protection trees (*Heritiera littoralis*) were planted as a nature-based measure to help reduce coastal erosion. By stabilising the shoreline and reducing sediment runoff into the lagoon, this intervention also contributes indirectly to protecting nearshore marine ecosystems and reef health. Implementation reporting indicates that the activity generated positive community dialogue on coastal erosion risks and practical mitigation measures.

Image: Pango school students preparing to plant trees

More broadly, when all respondents were asked which CCA activities they had tried in their home or community, uptake extended beyond the intervention each participant was trained in: 75% (n=48) reported trying backyard gardening activities, while 46% (n=48) applied Haos Blong Yumi learnings, 29% (n=48) applied WASH/ hygiene practices, and 10% (n=48) reported tree planting/greening activities. This pattern suggests positive spillover effects, whereby CCA knowledge and practices are shared beyond formal training participants, supporting cross-learning and wider diffusion of resilience behaviours within communities. This cross-pollination of learning is a positive indicator of community ownership and the effectiveness of demonstration-based approaches in supporting household adoption.

Qualitative reporting further supports this change pathway. Activity reports and staff reflections indicate that communities were not only participating in sessions, but also identifying and discussing practical actions to reduce local climate and environmental risks, including reducing rubbish burning (particularly plastics) and exploring renewable energy options. Community leaders also played an important reinforcing role, encouraging participants to apply new learning and share practices within their households and communities.

Community satisfaction and priorities for future support

Overall perceptions of the project were positive. As noted above, almost all surveyed households reported that the CCA activities had been well supported their community. Survey data also provides insight into what households most want to see continued or expanded in future programming as shown in Figure 3 below:

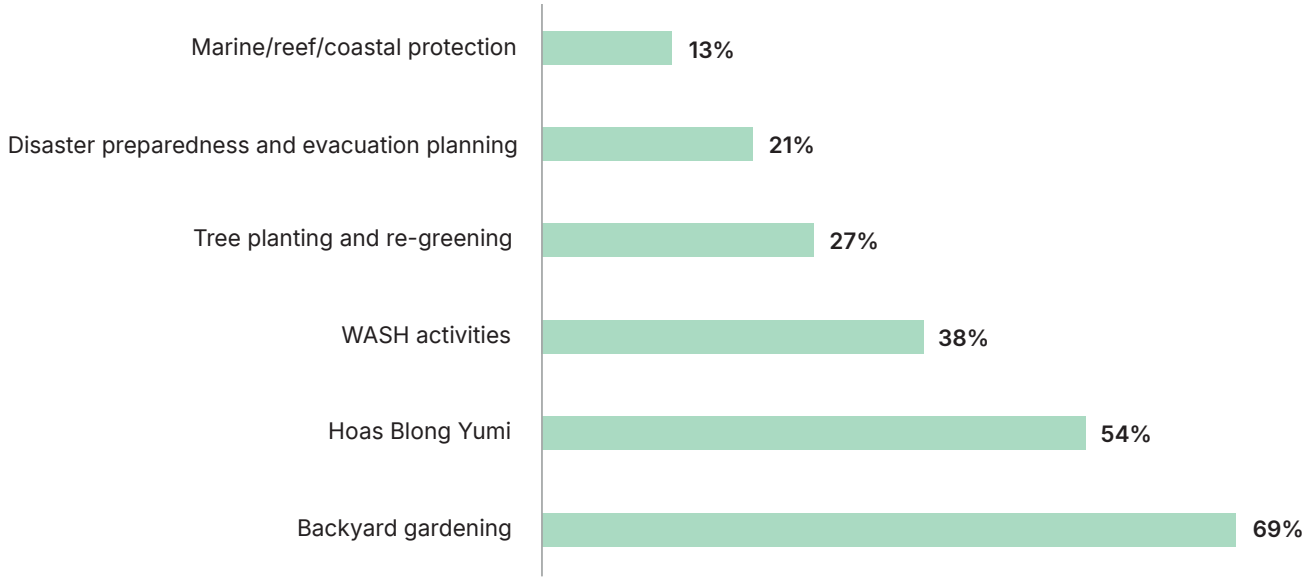


Figure 3. Types of activities communities would like to see in the future (n=48).

Note: Multiple responses were allowed, resulting in the total not being 100%.

The most commonly prioritised area was backyard or vertical gardening (69%; n=33), followed by Haos Blong Yumi (54%; n=26), and hygiene and WASH support (38%; n=18). Respondents also identified demand for tree planting/greening (27%; n=13) and disaster preparedness and evacuation planning (21%; n=10). Interest in marine/reef/coastal protection (13%; n=6) was also noted, reflecting the relevance of coastal resilience measures in some target communities. These findings reinforce the value of maintaining a package approach that enables communities to select from multiple relevant resilience options depending on their context.

Open-ended survey feedback reinforced strong satisfaction with the activities and a consistent request for continuation and expansion of training across communities. Respondents emphasised the importance of making training more accessible by holding sessions within communities and improving venue selection. Many also called for stronger youth inclusion, additional practical support to enable uptake (e.g. water tanks linked to WASH training and materials to protect gardens from animals), and expanded sessions on household budgeting and disaster preparedness. These suggestions provide practical guidance for strengthening delivery quality and scaling the interventions in future phases.

CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

The following are the key challenges and learnings observed by project staff and community members to date with the CCA interventions:

- **Limited space in urban and peri-urban settlements** constrained household uptake of backyard gardening. In high-density areas with competing land use, delivery was adapted through small-space options, including school-based demonstration gardens and vertical gardening.
- **Mobilising participants in urban and peri-urban communities was challenging**, as many residents have work and household commitments that limit availability. Ongoing attendance across multi-day trainings was also difficult to maintain, which affected continuity of learning and reduced the effectiveness of practical sessions.
- **Youth engagement is challenging to sustain over time**, particularly in urban environments where competing commitments and high mobility are common. Successful participation required sustained effort beyond one-off sessions, including ongoing outreach, mentoring and encouragement to build trust and maintain engagement so youth could benefit from the CCA interventions.
- **Demand remains high for deeper learning cycles and follow-up support**, with participants requesting additional time for discussion and repeat sessions to strengthen understanding and enable sustained behaviour change at household and community level.
- Implementation experience suggests that training alone may not be sufficient to enable sustained practice change in all contexts. **Future programming should consider how targeted enabling inputs ("hardware") can complement training,** such as basic gardening materials or small-scale WASH infrastructure to reduce barriers to uptake and strengthen longer-term impact, particularly in high-density urban settlements.
- **Continued follow-up and monitoring will be important to understand whether early uptake is sustained over time.** As implementation is still in its early stages, many households may require ongoing encouragement and practical support to maintain behaviours, address challenges, and strengthen longer-term impact.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the community-led design process resulted in CCA interventions that were well aligned with local priorities and highly valued by participating households. Early evidence suggests strengthened climate understanding and practical uptake of resilience behaviours, particularly in household food production, safer housing preparedness and improved hygiene practices, alongside positive spillover of learning within communities.

However, as implementation remains at an early stage, continued follow-up and monitoring will be important to assess whether behaviour change is sustained over time and to provide additional support where needed. To maximise longer-term impact and scale, future delivery should strengthen post-training follow up and continue to address key urban constraints such as limited space, variable attendance, and the resourcing required to support ongoing adoption.

ANNEXES

Annex one: Summary of impacts identified by communities

Impact	Community priority
Flooding in general	Pango, Seaside, Freswota, Ohlen, Showground, Tokyo , Manples
Increase in disease – dengue & malaria	Pango, Seaside, Freswota, Pepsi, Banban, Manples
Increase in disease such as diarrhea, scabies, flu	Seaside, Freswota, Pepsi, Banban, Manples
Gardens, fruit trees, crops destroyed, reduced access to food.	Pango, Freswota, Ohlen, Showgrounds, Banban
Destroys backyard gardens	Tokyo
Homes flooded, damage to property	Pango, Seaside, Freswota, Ohlen, Pespi, Banban, Tokyo, Manples
Soil erosion	Pango
Difficulty cooking, firewood wet	Freswota 4, Banban, Manples
Water is dirty	Freswota 4
Places to keep animals/ livestock damaged	Freswota 4, Banban
Animals die	Showground, Banban
Water is filling up bush toilets and spreading germs around community	Radio S, Pepsi
Contaminated underwater well	Pepsi, Manples
Damaged the roads, making it hard for children to go to school	Pepsi, banban
Unsafe for children, risk of drowning, unsafe objects hidden	Showground, Manples
Extra work for women to cleanup	Banban
Extra rain brings in rubbish into community and homes	Tokyo

Drought	
Water tanks empty, shortage of water, need to travel a long way/ spend money to access water	Freshwota 4, Showground Banban, Manples
Hard to grow crops, shortage of food, ground is dr	Freshwota 4, Ohlen, Radio S, Showground, Banban, Tokyo, Manples
Risk of fire	Freshwota 4, Showground, banban
Dust, increase incidence of flu, breathing issues	Freshwota 4
Not enough water to give to animals/ livestock, animal die	Radio S, Showgrounds, Banban, Manples
Problem with community water pressure	Radio S
Increase in illnesses such as skin disease	Showground, Banban
Loss of green space	Showground
Spending more money on transport, too hot to walk	Banban
Water contaminated	Tokyo

Cyclone	
Houses damaged – houses typically temporary and easily destroyed/ damaged	Seaside, Freshwota 4, Ohlen, Showgrounds, banban, Tokyo, Manples, Anamburu
Results in flooding and stagnant water in rubbish that leads to increase in malaria & dengue	Seaside, Ohlen, Pepsi , Showgrounds
Increase of dirty water, resulting in health issues such as diarrhea, red eye, skin disease	Pepsi, Showgrounds
Water is filling up bush toilets and spreading germs around community	Pepsi
Damages water source – water contamination	Showground, Banban
People needed to evacuate their homes	Tokyo
Increase in theft	Freshwota 4
Affect gardens, fruit trees, Root crops, resulting in food shortages	Freshwota 4, Ohlen, Pepsi, Showgrounds, Banban
Loss of large trees, timber, firewood	Pepsi, Showgrounds
Damage to land/ infrastructure for livestock	Showgrounds

Sea Level Rise	
Damage to mangroves and trees	Pango, Radio Station
Damage to shoreline, beaches, roads,	Pango, Radio Station
Loss of land for homes on the shoreline, Increased vulnerability to storm surges	Pango, Tokyo, Anamburu
Salt water is covering up the spring water	Radio S
Damages crops growing nearby	Radio S

Coral Bleaching / impact to costal area	
Destruction of marine life habitat	Pang, Seaside, Radio S, Banban, Tokyo, Anamburu Zone one
Reduced access to fish and other species, reduced food	Pango, Seaside, Radio S, Banban, Tokyo, Anamburu
Polluted water (lagoon) leading to increase in scabies and 50vt sore	Seaside
Water polluted with rubbish	Seaside, Tokyo, Anamburu
Affecting tourism – people who would come to dive the reefs	Radio S

Soil Erosion / land slide	
High density of people in one space, most of the tree cuts down, increased rainfall results in more soil run-off which damages roads and runs into lagoon	Seaside
Roads are damaged / hard to use, less transport	Radio Station, Showgrounds
Results in more flooding	Showground
Impacts on water source	Showground
Damages houses, gardens and trees, affects the foundations of buildings	Showground, Manples

Other changes to ground/ growing conditions	
Crops are not growing well – greens are not growing well especially. Crops aren't growing as big as they used to. People starting to use chemicals to help plant growth/ prevent disease	Pepsi

Annex two: Summary of priorities as selected by communities

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Pango			
Youth	Sea Level Rise	Reef degradation	Flooding
Women	Flooding	Sea Level Rise	Reef degradation
Men	Flooding	Sea Level Rise	Reef degradation
Seaside			
Youth	Cyclone	Reef degradation	Soil degradation
Women & men	Flooding	Reef degradation	Cyclone
Freshwota 4			
Youth	Flooding	Cyclone	Drought
Women	Flooding	Cyclone	Drought
Men	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed
Ohlen 75			
Youth	Cyclone	Flooding	Drought
75 Women	Drought	Flooding	Cyclone
75 Men	Flooding	Drought	Soil degradation
Radio Station			
Youth	Soil degradation	Sea Level Rise	Reef degradation
Women	Sea Level Rise	Reef degradation	Soil degradation
Men	Reef degradation	Sea Level Rise	Drought
Pepsi			
Youth	Changes to growing conditions	Cyclone	
Women	Cyclone	Flooding	
Men	Flooding	Cyclone	Changes to growing conditions
Showground			
Youth	Cyclone	Soil degradation	Drought
Women	Soil degradation	Flooding	Cyclone
Men	Cyclone	Soil degradation	Drought
Banban Bountiful			
Youth	Flooding	Drought	Cyclone
Women	Drought	Flooding	Reef degradation
Men	Drought	Reef degradation	Flooding
Tokyo			
Youth	Cyclone	Flood	Drought
Women	Cyclone	Flood	Sea level rise
Men	Sea level rise	Reef degradation	Cyclone
Manples			
Youth	Cyclone	Drought	Flood
Women	Flood	Cyclone	Drought
Men	Flood	Cyclone	Changes to growing conditions
Anamburu			
Men	Reef degradation	Sea level rise	Cyclones

ANNEX Three: IMPACT Stories

UCRP Project Shefa Area Program

In Pango Village, a coastal peninsula on Efate exposed to strong southeast winds, the impacts of climate change are no longer distant or abstract. Stronger winds, salt spray, and coastal erosion increasingly affect homes, schools, and livelihoods. For Mr. Allen Sope, a 45-year-old community leader and Area Administrator for the Pango Area Council, climate resilience is not just a policy concept—it is a daily reality for his community.

Through his leadership role and long-standing partnership with World Vision, Mr. Sope has actively supported climate resilience initiatives, including a community-led tree planting activity aimed at strengthening Pango's coastline and protecting vulnerable areas. His involvement has been instrumental in ensuring children and youth's participation, particularly through activities at Pango Centre School, where environmental stewardship is nurtured from an early age.

"Tree planting should become part of the community and not be treated as just an activity," Mr. Sope shared. For him, planting trees is a long-term investment in the safety, wellbeing, and future of Pango's children.

The tree planting initiative is part of World Vision's climate change adaptation work, supporting communities in taking practical action to reduce climate risks. In Pango, trees serve as natural windbreaks—slowing strong winds, trapping salt spray, and reducing damage to homes and infrastructure. Over time, these natural barriers help stabilize the coastline and protect community spaces, including schools and family homes.

Mr. Sope has seen firsthand how climate change affects Pango Village, particularly during periods of strong winds and changing weather patterns. He believes community-led solutions, supported by trusted partners, are essential for building resilience. By involving children in tree planting, the initiative also strengthens awareness and ownership among the next generation, helping them understand the importance of caring for their environment.

"What I appreciate most about this program is how it involves children and the wider community," he said. "It teaches young people to take responsibility for protecting the environment through hands-on action."

Beyond environmental protection, the activity has strengthened community unity and leadership. Children, youth, and adults worked side by side, reinforcing a shared responsibility to respond to climate change together. Mr. Sope's leadership has helped embed climate action into everyday community life, ensuring it is not seen as a one-off project, but as an ongoing commitment.

Reflecting on the partnership, Mr. Sope expressed his appreciation:
"A big thank you to World Vision for the partnership in implementing activities that help our community. We look forward to working together on more activities in the future." Mr. Allen Sope's story highlights the power of local leadership in driving climate change adaptation at the grassroots level. It demonstrates how community-led initiatives, supported by strong partnerships, can protect vulnerable coastal communities while empowering children to become active stewards of their environment. In Pango, each tree planted is a step toward stronger climate resilience and a safer future for generations to come.

(Allan Sope, (Area Administrator) with Students from pango school participated in coastal Area tree (Looking glass tree) planting).

UCRP Northern Area Program.

A Person with Disability Leading Change for a Healthier Community

William Valele is a respected church leader, Deacon of the Church of Christ under the HOPE Ministry, and a person living with a disability who is leading positive change in his community. Originally from Tutuba Island and now living with his in-laws in Banban community, William regularly travels between the two locations—both of which face ongoing challenges with water access and sanitation, particularly as populations continue to grow.

For many years, families in Banban and Tutuba relied on basic pit latrines or bush toilets. These unsafe sanitation practices posed serious health risks, especially for children. Poor sanitation exposed children to diarrhea, unsafe and undignified toilet environments, and repeated illness—often affecting their school attendance, growth, and overall wellbeing. While parents wanted better toilets for their children, limited technical knowledge and resources made improvements difficult.

Through World Vision Vanuatu's Urban Climate Resilient Project, funded by ANCP[3], William joined a four-day Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) Latrine training delivered under the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) program, implemented in partnership with the SANMA Rural Health Team and community leaders. The training focused on building climate-resilient, safe, and durable toilets that protect families from disease and environmental risks.

William actively participated throughout the training, showing strong interest and commitment. He was particularly encouraged to learn that a properly constructed VIP latrine can last 5–10 years, safely manage waste, and include essential child-friendly features such as handwashing facilities, proper ventilation, and soakaway pits.

Following the training, William was entrusted with the toilet seat riser mould for safekeeping—an important sign of trust and recognition from the community. His role was to support and guide households interested in building their own VIP latrines. Soon after, a cousin from Tutuba Island approached him for help. William confidently shared a full list of required materials and later travelled to the island to personally support the construction of the VIP latrine, applying everything he had learned.

The new VIP latrine has already made a meaningful difference for the household. Children now have access to a cleaner, safer toilet, reducing their exposure to disease and creating a healthier home environment. Parents feel reassured knowing their children can use the toilet safely, while the handwashing station reinforces good hygiene habits from an early age, helping prevent illness and supporting children in staying healthy and in school.

William continues to share his knowledge widely. Community members regularly visit him to discuss materials and construction steps, and several households are now preparing to build their own VIP latrines. Through his leadership, he is helping change mindsets—showing that improved sanitation is achievable, affordable, and essential for protecting children's health.

As a person living with a disability, William's leadership also challenges stigma and demonstrates that everyone has a valuable role to play in community development. His actions are inspiring others to take responsibility for sanitation, climate resilience, and the wellbeing of their children.

"Toilet hemi no complete sipos ino gat wan ples blong wasem han."
A toilet is not complete without a place to wash hands.
"Yumi evriwan mas jenjem mo mekem ol toilet i kam gud moa."
We must all change and improve our toilets.
"Mi lanem se VIP toilet hemi olsem ia nao."
I have learned how a proper VIP toilet should be built.

[3] Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Through the CCA program, World Vision Vanuatu is supporting community leaders like William Valele to improve sanitation, strengthen climate resilience, and—most importantly—protect children's health, dignity, and future across Banban community and Tutuba Island.

(After the WASH training William, he has become a champion in supporting community to construct safe VIP for community HH.

NOURISH Project

Growing Healthy Futures Through Backyard Gardening

Lorana Esau is a 23-year-old youth leader from Manples Kawariki community, originally from Pentecost and Tongoa Islands. She lives in a household of seven with her grandparents and parents and is currently studying at a technical school. Known in her community as a motivated and active young woman, Lorana is eager to learn new skills that can strengthen her family's wellbeing and contribute to positive change, particularly for children and young people.

Lorana participated in the **Backyard Gardening Training** under the **NOURISH Project** and was also actively involved in the Vertical gardening Project, which engages youth in practical backyard gardening to improve food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. She found the training especially relevant to daily life, noting that backyard gardening provides an important option for young people who are not in school or formal employment to support themselves and their families.

After completing the training, Lorana took the initiative to establish her own backyard garden at home, putting into practice what she had learned about soil improvement, shading, watering, and garden management. Although balancing technical school and household responsibilities made it difficult for her to maintain the garden daily, she involved her parents by teaching them how to care for the vegetables while she was at school. This shared approach helped ensure the garden continued to thrive during the hottest part of the season.

The first harvest made an immediate difference for her household. Fresh vegetables were available for daily meals, improving the quality and diversity of food consumed by the family, including children in the home. Lorana shared that through backyard gardening, *"kakai healthy oltaem mo stap healthy,"* highlighting how access to home-grown food supports better nutrition and healthier lives.

With vegetables readily available at home, the family no longer needed to spend money at the market as often. Lorana explained that this meant they could *"no wastem mani blong pem kakae oltaem long market,"* allowing the household to save money and better meet other family needs, including school-related costs and basic necessities for children. She also noted that backyard gardening helps families *"savem taem, mani mo energy blong yumi,"* reducing the daily burden of travelling to buy food.

Through managing her own garden, Lorana experienced firsthand the impacts of climate change, particularly heat and dry conditions. This became a valuable learning opportunity, as she applied new techniques such as improving soil using chicken manure, increasing shade, and adjusting watering practices. These lessons have strengthened her confidence and ability to adapt, skills she plans to carry forward as she re-establishes and expands her garden to both feed her family and generate small income.

As part of the Electric Aid project, youth from Kawariki and Kokoriko communities were supported to build sample garden plots that could be replicated at home. Lorana was one of the most active participants and has since shared her knowledge with her parents and others in the community. Her efforts have contributed to improved access to island foods and vegetables at the household and community level, benefiting families and children by increasing food availability close to home.

Reflecting on the wider impact, Lorana observes that backyard gardening is helping families move toward healthier diets, with the training encouraging community members

to eat meals that include **three different food groups**. For Lorana, this means stronger families, healthier children, and a community better equipped to care for itself through sustainable, locally driven solutions.

Lorana ready to plant Kassava

Lorana preparing Kassava cuttings

Building a Better Life, One Garden at a Time

Melka Numbu is a 58-year-old woman with a big heart and a busy household. Originally from Pentecost Island, she now lives in the Freshwater 3 area of Port Vila. Her home holds four people: herself, her daughter, and her two grandchildren (14-year-old boy, 6-year-old girl). Melka has five children in total—three boys and two girls—but sadly, one of her daughters has passed away. Her sons are now grown, and while they do not have children yet, Melka's surviving daughter has given her the two grandchildren she now helps to raise.

She is smart and talkative, and whenever something concerns her, she asks questions until she gets the answers she needs. She also loves learning new things, resulting in her entry to joining World Vision's Nourish activities in 2024.

She mentions how life was hard before Nourish. Melka struggled with her income, worried about food for her family, and felt she lacked the skills and knowledge to make things better. Money would come and go, and she could never seem to stick with one goal long enough to finish it. But things began to change when she began involvement with NOURISH activities.

Melka joined the IS4T savings group and attended Household Budgeting training. For the first time, she learned how to manage and calculate her income and expenses properly. She received a money binder, a simple ledger. Since then, and every single day she writes down what she earns and what she spends. This breakdown helps her see her daily profit clearly. It helps her spend wisely and cut out things she does not really need.

She also attended backyard gardening training, and this is where her love for learning really took off. Melka had done gardening for a long time, but the training showed her how to upgrade her backyard in new ways. She learned about different pesticides and how to make liquid fertilizer. She received a seasonal calendar that tells her which vegetables and leafy greens to plant at different times of the year. This knowledge was a game changer.

For Melka, these activities work together beautifully. When she grows food in her backyard, she spends less money at the market meaning she has something left to save in her IS4T group. And because she is saving, she is finally achieving goals she once only dreamed of. The savings group has also connected her with other widow mothers in her community, giving her a support network of women who understand her journey.

The gardening training came with practical support too. Melka received help to build a sample plot in her community, which she could then replicate in her own yard. Now, her family eats healthy food straight from their garden.

They harvest their own vegetables and crops, putting fresh, nutritious meals on the table every day.

Melka now lives by two simple sayings she has taken to heart: “Spend Less, Save More” and “Kakae healthy Oltaem” —Eat Healthy Always.

She acknowledges that Backyard gardening and household budgeting, in particular, have reduced how much her family spends at the market. Instead of buying, they grow. Instead of consuming it, they save. And because they save, they can reach bigger goals together.

Melka’s story is not finished yet. With her new skills, her growing savings, and her determination to keep learning, she is building a stronger future for her daughter and her two grandchildren—one small step at a time.

Melka plants vegetables next to her nursery

Melka in her backyard.