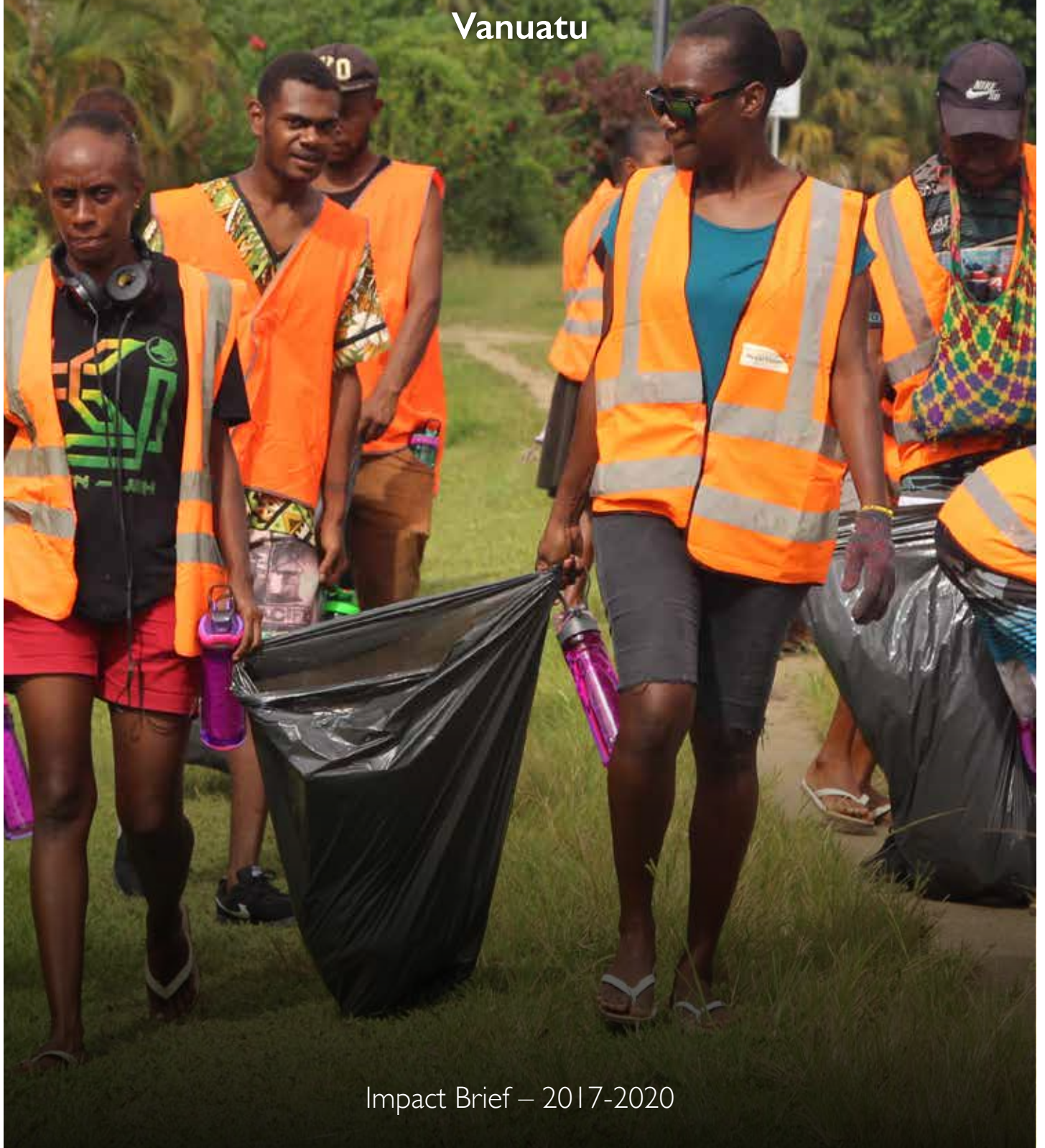


# Waste Not Want Not (WNWN) Project

Vanuatu





## About this report

This report summarises the end-of-project evaluation of World Vision Vanuatu's Waste Not Want Not (WNWN) project – a four-year project (July 2017 to June 2021), funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Consultancy groups QuantComms and Lokol Eyes joined to conduct the independent study, ensuring full access and participation of local communities in the process. The report was reviewed by Sofia Lardies, World Vision Vanuatu, and by Katie Chalk and Darin Roberts, World Vision Australia.

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**Cover image:** In urban and peri-urban areas of Vanuatu, the gap in waste collection and management represents substantial risk for health and hygiene of people living there. The Waste Not Want Not project built micro-enterprise out of rubbish and recycling, as a way to incentivise better waste management practices.

## Context

**Port Vila and Luganville urban areas make up 26.1% of Vanuatu's total population (2015), with an annual urban growth rate of 3.42% (2010-15 estimate)<sup>1</sup>. Rapid urbanisation has outpaced urban planning and development in these areas, resulting in a lack of infrastructure and services (including sanitation and waste management services) to accommodate the growing population.**

There is little waste collection for Port Vila and Luganville peri-urban settlements, which are home to around 40,000 people. As settlements expand, access to land and space has become increasingly limited. These high-density communities face high rates of unemployment, an increasing reliance on imported food sources, and limited access to basic services such as running water or waste removal. World Vision's baseline study in these areas (2018) found low levels of handwashing knowledge and practice, and very low levels of awareness around communicable and non-communicable diseases. With Vanuatu consistently topping the World Risk Index in terms of natural disaster risk, the health of urban communities in a disaster is of major concern.<sup>2</sup> There is a need to improve the wellbeing of urban populations living in Port Vila and Luganville through a process of empowering people to improve their own situations, through cooperative action on livelihoods, health and environment.

## Project overview

Responding to these issues, World Vision Vanuatu's Waste Not Want Not (WNWN) project aimed to build healthier, cleaner and more economically resilient living conditions in eight urban settlements in Shefa and Sanma provinces, by:

- Delivering business training to community members through the project's Resilient and Inclusive Social Enterprises (RISE) model.
- Supporting participants to develop waste management focused social enterprises.
- Conducting community training in savings, waste management, nutrition, health and hygiene.
- Launching outreach campaigns highlighting the importance of nutrition, health and hygiene.
- Establishing savings groups to improve financial management and create sustainable funding sources to support new enterprises.

The project emphasised participation and results for urban youth, especially young women, who face barriers to equal workforce participation.

**WNWN GOAL: Urban and peri-urban communities in Port Vila and Luganville experience increased economic resilience and health, through improved waste management practices and business opportunities.**

**Outcome 1:** Eight urban communities have increased, sustained economic resilience.

**Outcome 2:** Eight urban communities value the importance of, and practise, good waste management and healthy lifestyles.

**Outcome 3:** *Original:* Stakeholders and partners collaborate to strengthen capacity for waste management in Vanuatu. *Redesigned:* Five youth groups are equipped with skills and knowledge to address community issues and live healthy lifestyles.

**Note:** Outcome 3 was redesigned due to the closure of a project partner (see Box: Adapting to recycling changes on page 7). As it was only introduced in the final year of the project, with a view to continuing the youth groups in a second phase from 2022 onwards, the redesigned outcome could not be assessed this year. Nor was the original Outcome 3 assessed given it was not fully achieved and the dissolution of the key project partner would have made a comprehensive assessment difficult.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.indexmundi.com/vanuatu/demographics\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/vanuatu/demographics_profile.html)

<sup>2</sup> [WeltRisikoBericht](#) - WeltRisikoIndex

## About the evaluation

Conducted in May and June 2021, the independent evaluation used the following qualitative and quantitative methods:

**1. Desk based study** of project documentation and materials provided by World Vision Vanuatu.

**2. Field research:**

- A **Household Survey** with two parts: Part A targeted households in project communities, and Part B targeted respondents who participated in specific project activities.
- **Key Informant Interviews** (KIIs) with project participants, stakeholders (community leaders), World Vision staff and project partners.
- **Focus Group Discussions** (FGDs) with project participants.
- **Observation** of project inputs and community practices in project sites (communities) – a checklist was designed.
- **Consultation** with project staff and stakeholders including verification and validation processes to inform analysis and recommendations.

### Scope of consultation

Data for the evaluation was collected from the following project participants (direct beneficiaries):

- 101 RISE training participants
- 16 RISE business groups
- 180 waste management, health & hygiene participants
- 28 rubbish picking participants
- 7 Project partners
- 8 World Vision Vanuatu project staff
- 1 S4T Savings Group<sup>3</sup>
- 228 households (indirect beneficiaries)

The evaluation scope included assessments of Outcomes 1 and 2 and their respective approaches, as shown in the figure below.

### Outcome 1



**Savings for Transformation S4T**



**RISE Model**

### Outcome 2



**Waste Management**



**Health and Nutrition**

<sup>3</sup> The S4T approach in general was assessed in 2020, the data of which was re-analysed for this evaluation. The only new data required for S4T was a FGD with the Rainbow Theatre group to investigate the project's targeted disability inclusion approach.

## What is Savings for Transformation?

**Savings for Transformation (S4T)** is a key component of World Vision Vanuatu's Livelihoods and Resilience Portfolio, working on barriers of access to savings and loans that hold the urban poor back from planning their own development.

S4T aims to improve wellbeing, resilience and economic empowerment, particularly for women and for 'unbanked' households. S4T groups enable families to accumulate savings over time and access loans more easily, both of which lead to increased investment into livelihoods activities, more regular household cash flow, consumption of more and better food, improved shelter, meeting education and other expenses for children and more.

A communal social fund is available through the group for members to draw on if they face financial shocks, such as the loss or illness of a family member. S4T groups emphasise inclusion of women, especially in rural communities, and provide a critical engine for economic opportunity, social solidarity and safety nets for many families in vulnerable situations through pooled funds.

## What is RISE?

**Resilient and Inclusive Social Enterprises (RISE)** is an innovative business training program designed by World Vision specifically for the Pacific and Timor-Leste region.

It is targeted at the family or household level, and graduates community-scale social enterprises by using a series of tailored training 'streams'. Each stream supports business owners in the development and growth of their business models, while also achieving greater social or community impact, improved gender norms, as well as disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

The RISE model provides financial training, resources and mentoring to empower participants with skills and confidence to generate business ideas. The WNVN project delivered four main RISE elements: RISE model business training, support to community business groups, mentoring, and small business grants.

## Findings by impact

**Table 1: Percentage change in project's outcome indicators from baseline to endline.**

	Indicator	Baseline 2018 Total %	Endline 2021 Total %
<b>Goal</b>	% of parents able to provide for their children	85.5%	88.9%
<b>Outcome 1</b>	% of parents who have a means to save	82.3%	91.2%
<b>Outcome 2</b>	% of households that have high food diversity consumption (5+ groups) over 24 hours	39.5%	56.1%
	% of parents or caregivers with appropriate handwashing behaviour	42.2%	67.2%
	% of people who report practising "good" waste management	27.7%	20.6%

As shown in Table 1, the project demonstrated improvement in three of the four outcome indicators, including:

- A significant increase (8.9 percentage points) in parents having a means to save
- A significant increase (16.6 percentage points) in households with high food diversity
- A significant increase (25 percentage points) in parents/caregivers with appropriate handwashing behaviour.

All of these increases can be connected to project activities such as S4T, nutrition and hygiene training; however, it is likely that other interventions (i.e. COVID-19 related), also contributed to the improved handwashing behaviour. The only indicator showing a decline over the course of the project was the proportion of people practising 'good' waste management (a reduction of 7.1 percentage points).

Other positive outcomes generated by the project included:

- **Improved status of women** – increased control over household finances has had a positive impact on women’s empowerment.
- **Household management** – community members observed better management of homes, largely attributable to S4T and RISE.
- **Increased cooperation and cohesion in the community** – community members and project partners reported reduced conflict and tension when people come together in savings and business groups to work towards a common vision.

## Component review

### Savings for Transformation

**S4T groups were preferred over other forms of saving, with good shareouts, savings and loan flexibility.** Overall, respondents expressed a strong preference for using a savings group over a bank; reasons given included easy access to money and a belief that it is more safe and secure. They also reported a range of personal benefits of membership (see Figure 1). While some savings groups had modest shareout amounts, more than half (64%) of the respondents reported they received in excess of 20,000 vatu (approx. USD \$175) in shareouts, with approximately 14% receiving over 50,000 vatu (approx. USD 400), and around 62% saving more than 10,000 vatu (USD \$80). With not all respondents willing to divulge the amounts they had saved, it was difficult to determine the exact average savings per member, but a median estimate suggests an average of between 20,000 and 30,000 vatu (approx. USD \$175-260).

**“The savings scheme was really good because it is in the community. I’ve been able to improve my business and home because of it.”**

– Male, Luganville

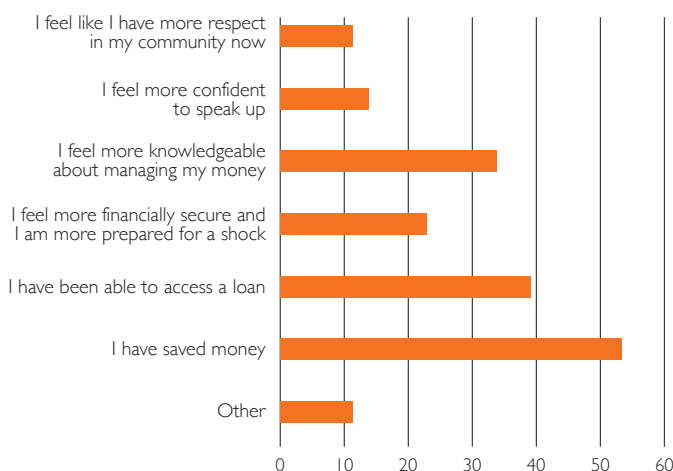
### RISE training

**RISE appears to be effective at both building economic resilience and generating business ideas and plans.** When asked how the RISE training helped participants to deal with the impact of COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold, almost all participants responded that it either ‘helped somewhat’ or ‘helped a lot’ due to having savings to get through, or being better able to manage finances. Respondents who participated in the RISE training also mostly agreed that it was effective in generating business ideas and plans, and over 85% of respondents had a new business idea as a result of their participation. For example, three youth in Port Vila revealed in an FGD that the training had really helped them develop their ideas for a kava business.

**“We have learnt to do market research about our products/services to ensure it will be profitable.”**

– Male (youth), Port Vila

Figure 1: Benefits of savings group membership reported by respondents.



Women take part in business planning as part of their involvement in RISE.

## Waste management

**The project did not meet its goal to improve waste management.** Of the 228 survey respondents, only 16 had attended waste management related training. All 16 reported that the training had helped them with waste disposal (11 saying it helped them with sorting waste into different categories, and ten getting involved in community clean ups). However, given that the majority of respondents had not taken part in the waste management training, it is not possible to link survey results with project initiatives. Overall, the data noted a decline in positive waste practices and little environmental change outside the home. According to the survey, the wife in the household continues to do most of the work around waste management (41.3% compared to husband 22.1%), including making most waste management decisions (51.3% compared to husband 29.9%). When asked about any changes noticed in waste management practices since the start of the project, 96.9% of respondents claimed that they had a cleaner house in general but otherwise little change was evident.

**“In the community more people are separating waste, reusing items and disposing of rubbish in the right way – they aren’t burning rubbish anymore.”**

– Male (youth), Port Vila.

### Adapting to recycling changes

A focus for RISE business groups was a profitable recycling project, in partnership with local company, Azure Pure Water, and its ‘Pem Bak Plastik’ initiative. Project reports from the first two years highlighted significant progress, including recovery of 202,004 plastic bottles, which generated total rebates of 871,249 vatu (approx. USD \$7,633) to the community cooperatives taking part. Cooperative members received up to 150,000 vatu per month (approx. USD \$1,314), compared to 15,000 vatu (USD \$131) before ‘Pem Bak Plastik’. However, in December 2019, Azure Pure Water was forced to close its doors due to financial difficulties, and ceased to operate in Vanuatu. Due to this development, the original explicit focus on waste management businesses was no longer feasible and the project logic was reviewed. This resulted in Outcome 3 being redesigned with a focus on youth participation in the project.



Caroline, pictured, completed RISE training and used her new knowledge to reinvigorate her father’s hobby of beekeeping into a profitable enterprise.

## Health and nutrition

**Over the last three years, dietary diversity has increased in the target communities.** In the baseline study, only 39.5% of households met the minimum dietary diversity criteria (five of 12 food groups in the last 24 hours). By the end of the project, this had risen to 56.1%, together with an overall increase in awareness of healthy eating habits. This improvement can be largely attributed to the project’s nutrition training, as well as the reinvigoration of the Ademap Kala Campaign (see box on page 8). Of the 228 survey respondents, 64.9% had attended the project’s nutrition training and 83.8% rated the take-home nutrition kit as very helpful.

The project also encouraged community members to create backyard gardens. This reliable, accessible source of fresh food was intended to address access barriers to nutrition within urban communities, and became particularly important when the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced public marketplaces to close. Interviews revealed mixed results, with some people enthusiastic and others facing challenges that meant they gave up.

**“I am living on land that isn’t mine. This is a challenge for me because I can’t grow a garden on someone else’s land.”**

– Female, Port Vila

**“We did backyard gardening last year – we planted the seedlings but they didn’t grow, possibly due to the heat of the sun... our ground is cracked and dry due to water shortages.”**

– Female, Port Vila



Community members take part in cooking school using healthy, nutritious food as a basis for new recipes.

**Measuring campaign results through better diets**

The link between the project interventions and improved dietary diversity is solid. In particular, the project’s reinvigoration of the Ademap Kala Campaign built on a previous public health initiative that encouraged ni-Vanuatu families to eat healthier meals through the simple message of adding colour to meals. New behavioural “nudges” were created (such as messaging on plates, cups and tablemats), encouraging people to eat healthy and diverse foods on a daily basis. Of the 228 respondents in the survey, 96.9% remembered the Ademap Kala campaign, and most (73.7%) associated the campaign with World Vision.

**COVID reflections**

**Community members reported that S4T and RISE business support provided a buffer during disasters.**

Within six months of Vanuatu declaring a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold, many households and businesses were feeling the financial strain (44.1% of the S4T survey respondents reported a fall in income). Community members who participated in S4T and RISE business training said they had developed resilient coping strategies to deal with the impact of the disasters. Some of the strategies mentioned included: using their own savings, reducing lifestyle spending, borrowing from friends/relatives/financial institutions, and using business grants to help manage the financial stresses.

**“The project has helped us to better prioritise and manage our time. We are more focused on our businesses. We want to continue working with World Vision. There are many other communities that want to work with World Vision but they don’t have the opportunity to.”**

– Male (youth), Port Vila

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– Male (youth), Port Vila

**The project adjusted in order to remain relevant.**

A number of effective participatory and ethical strategies were utilised by World Vision and partners to ensure the project addressed actual needs, as well as adapting to changes that occurred over the project timeframe. For example, the redesign of Outcome 3 was necessary due to the sudden change in circumstances, but was also designed to address the project’s limited capacity to effectively engage with youth. While this evaluation did not assess Outcome 3, the act of reviewing project logic to adapt to the current context demonstrates World Vision Vanuatu’s agility and commitment to benefiting the community.

**Results for women**

The S4T approach clearly has strong benefits for community saving, particularly for women who comprise the majority of S4T group members. In saving their personal income and/or that of their household, women are afforded more financial management responsibility (such as increased influence over household expenditure and budgeting), all contributing to greater empowerment and an improved sense of wellbeing. Women who attended the project’s nutrition training have also contributed to the improved health of their households through increased dietary diversity and greater awareness of healthy eating habits.

**“Women are able to pay for school fees where they couldn’t before.”**

– Female, Luganville

**“The savings [scheme] at the household level has really helped. I know how to divide my money, remove expenses, and identify profit.”**

– Female, Luganville



**“Youth engaged well in the training – it built their confidence.”**

– Male, Port Vila

**Results for youth**

Young people connected well with local agencies on the waste management training and Pem Bak Plastik initiatives, and it is unfortunate that the scheme could not continue. Other income opportunities were found, for example, composting and safe rubbish picking, which then led to selling organic compost and being paid for event clean-up services. World Vision Vanuatu also engaged youth in waste management and hygiene activities during major events and festivals in Port Vila, some of which resulted in ongoing employment opportunities. Youth involvement with the S4T model was limited (due mainly to a lack of regular income), but the RISE business training was a major achievement for many young people.

**Results for people with disability**

Initially, people with disabilities were not well represented in the project. This improved with the establishment of two disability-specific savings groups using customised S4T training packages – one in Pepsi community, Luganville, and one with the Rainbow Theatre Group in Port Vila. The Pepsi Savings Group was a self-organised initiative, enabled by the strong disability leadership in that community, while the Rainbow Theatre Savings Group was formed through World Vision Vanuatu in 2020. Customised materials were designed to target specific impairments so that people with diverse disabilities could meaningfully participate in the savings group. Both groups reported positive outcomes for their members with benefits that included greater financial management and savings within households and support for individual businesses. Thanks to savings, members have been able to maintain small businesses at home, such as canteens.

**“It has helped the unemployed and people with disabilities. Members are faithful to come to meetings and save their money.”**

– Female, Luganville

**Recommendations**

**For working with youth:**

- Consider a staged approach for youth economic resilience building, engaging youth firstly using the RISE model to develop financial literacy and business mindset/skills, and then integrating with the S4T model.
- Work with ward secretaries, youth ward representatives and established youth groups (where they exist) to better mobilise youth (and communities in general) and engage with marginalised or at-risk youth.

**For working with people with disability:**

- Further tailor S4T materials for people with disabilities in communities where there are existing disability groups.
- Address disability inclusion in general in project communities through training, raising awareness, breaking down barriers, and supporting community members with strategies for improved communication and inclusion.
- Increase organisational capacity in disability inclusion over the medium-term (3-5 years), working alongside disability-focused agencies, organisations and community groups, to ensure all projects aim to mainstream disability inclusion in the long-term (5-10 years).

**For S4T/RISE business training:**

- Consider developing a progression plan or graduation approach within the S4T model for members of savings groups that demonstrate readiness to utilise commercial banking and other financial services.
- When introducing the S4T model into communities or forming savings groups, profile prospective members and/or the community to understand employment status and sources of income.
- Partner with private sector partners to provide mentoring to community businesses where relevant, and local business incubators to provide coaching to community businesses as part of the RISE model.\*

\* This recommendation is already being progressed through the WNNW Phase 2 from July 2021 with V-Lab.

**For Waste Management:**

- Continue to implement waste management initiatives in urban communities. Strengthening partnerships with relevant government actors and businesses is essential.\*

\* This recommendation is already being progressed through the WNNW Phase 2 from July 2021 with V-Lab, a charitable business incubator created to support social entrepreneurship in Vanuatu.



Young people prepare to coordinate rubbish collection and recycling at Fest'Napuan, Port Vila's largest annual music festival.

**When you commit to humanity  
amazing things can happen!**

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