

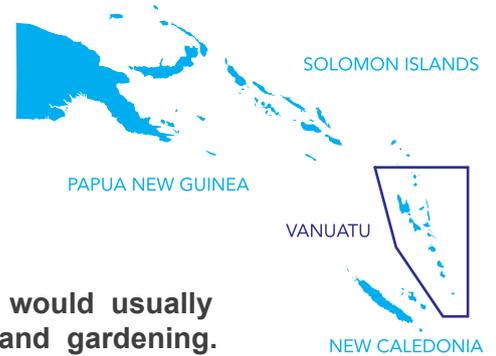


# Improving Water Supply in Vanuatu

## Women in Key Roles

### Gender Context in Vanuatu

Despite Government commitments to equality and the advancement of women and girls, progress towards gender equality in Vanuatu has been slow. Men dominate in leadership and political positions, evident by the fact that no women have been elected to parliament for over a decade. Women are generally not permitted to take part in decision-making processes, especially in regards to resources. Women also have limited control over their sexual and reproductive health.



The traditional role of women is in the domestic setting and any income would usually be generated through food preparation and cooking, child care, cleaning and gardening. Females play a key role in fetching water, collecting up to 2/3 of the water, however they are under-represented in water user committees: of the 2,237 committee members only 16% are female.

Gender-based violence is also a serious and widespread issue with research indicating that 60% of women experience physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime. Masculinity is linked to power, decision-making and control over female behavior and there is resistance to change the status-quo from men in leadership positions.

### The Power of Data

 Data creates evidence that can be powerful for the advancement of gender equality.

 Male decision-makers are more likely to be influenced by evidence.

 Data was utilised in gender training with staff from the Department of Geology Mines and Water Resources.



Only 16% of Water User Committee members are women.

Data shows when women are in key roles water systems perform better.

### What's Next?

 Scale up and monitor women's participation in Water User Committee key roles.

 Identify and share stories of female role models.

 Recruit more female programme staff.

 Advocate for the new Water Policy to include a strong gender focus with targets for women's participation.

### Key Messages

 Women in key roles improves the functioning of water committees and water systems.

 Evidence of improved functioning is critical to advocate for increased involvement of women in water management.

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## Women in Key Roles



### WASH Challenges



Only 35% of households, 25% in rural areas, have piped water into their home.



Collecting water is a time burden for the majority of households.



Water contamination is common, however only 26% of households practice a form of water treatment.

### Gender Challenges



Women's role in society is tied to domestic duties. Females collect 2/3 of household water.



Women have limited access to resources and decision-making power.



Men dominate leadership positions and politics.



## Women in key roles increases water systems efficiency



### Action



Improved water management and water system delivery through the establishment of Water User Committees.



Supported the Water Management Act, making it mandatory to have gender balance in Water User Committees.



Introduced mobile phone technology for data collection and monitoring of progress towards water and gender targets.



Built capacity of staff from Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources on gender equality and women's participation.



Ensured policy and strategic progress reports to include an analysis of female participation.



Analysed data to determine whether female participation improved functioning of Water User Committees and systems.

### Results



Women in key roles increase the efficiency of committees and the functionality of water systems.



Water systems functioned better.



Committee meeting were held regularly.



Greater revenue was collected.

