

Vanuatu: Strengthening Urban Resilience Settlements

Country

Vanuatu

ACP-EU Disaster Risk Management Program Component

Mainstream DRR and CCA into national and priority sector policies and investment planning

Amount Approved

€332,000 / \$350,000

Duration

01/2024 – 12/2025

Context and Objectives

Vanuatu is a small island developing state that is exposed to both hydrometeorological and geophysical hazards due to its location in the South Pacific tropical cyclone basin and the Pacific Ring of Fire. In 2023 alone, tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin caused an estimated economic impact in the amount of US\$ 433 million, equivalent to 40 percent of GDP.¹

The objective of this project is to enhance the policy framework for resilience and enhance the government's capacity at national and municipal levels to plan, coordinate, and develop more resilient urban settlements.

Main Activities and Expected Results

Risk-informed Policy, Regulatory, and Planning Support

This activity provides technical support for analytical studies that inform key policies, including the national housing policy and urban strategy. Specifically, this includes development of risk-informed guidelines for new settlement subdivisions and developments, as well as a strategy to upgrade informal settlements in Port Vila.

Expected Result:

- An enhanced a focus on urban resilience is included in the National Land, Urban Planning, and Housing Policy.

Enhancing Resilience of Informal and new Settlement Areas

This activity is focused on improving service provision to low-income informal communities and developing new greenfield expansion areas. This involves developing resilient design approaches for infrastructure in newly upgraded informal settlements and reviewing existing infrastructure standards and guidelines and to provide recommendations to balance cost and disaster resilience.

Expected Results:

- Infrastructure in informal areas area is strengthened against natural hazards with improved lifespan and improved standard of living for inhabitants.
- Financially sustainable models for resilient infrastructure standards are applied in new greenfield settlements.

1 Vanuatu tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_887257.pdf, July 2023.



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Partnerships and Coordination

The World Bank implements this project in close coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as municipal councils. The team will coordinate activities with the EU Delegation in Fiji.

The implementation of this project complements the ongoing work of the [Vanuatu Affordable Resilience Settlement Project](#), the [Vanuatu Disaster Risk Management with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option Operations](#), and the [Vanuatu Second Disaster Risk Management with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option](#).