



PROJECT UPDATE

JANUARY - JUNE 2026

PROJECT OVERVIEW

VCCRP is a USD 32.7 million initiative (2022–2028) funded by the Green Climate Fund and co-financed by the Governments of Vanuatu and Australia and Save the Children Australia. The project supports 282 communities across all six provinces of Vanuatu. VCCRP is executed by the Ministry of Climate Change and Save the Children Vanuatu in partnership with six implementing agencies: Department of Climate Change, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Local Authorities, National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu Fisheries Department, and Department of Water Resources.



"For us to reduce climate change, we have to hold our hands together and work together to stop it"

(Margaret, 15)

Photo credit: Conor Ashleigh, Save the Children

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS TO 30 JUNE, 2026



158,069 people reached, including 41,300 direct and 116,769 indirect (50.5% male, 49.5% female).



98% of target communities have functioning Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees.



3,802 farmers trained and 2,495 farmers implementing climate-resilient agriculture practices.



17 vegetable nurseries and 8 school gardens established to improve food security, nutrition and climate awareness.



1,812 fishers with increased understanding of climate-resilient fisheries practices.



12 erosion hotspots developed and over 1,000 vetiver grass planted



29 Area Council Socio-Economic Profiles and 26 Biophysical and Ecological Profiles developed; Climate Change community education materials and an animation produced; and a Technical Brief on CBAPs.

CHANGE IN ACTION

LEARNING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS THROUGH SCHOOL GARDENS

School gardens are becoming living classrooms for climate resilience across Vanuatu. Through VCCRP, students are establishing gardens to learn about climate change by growing climate-resilient crops, exploring sustainable farming practices and understanding how changing weather affects the way food is produced.

Beyond the classroom, the gardens provide nutritious meals for boarding students, with surplus produce supporting the school. They also give children practical skills they can share with their families, helping to improve household nutrition and strengthen community resilience. As 15-year-old Margaret explains, **"The garden is the place where we get food from. It helps us learn more about how we should plant our food, on what month we should plant it, and what month we should harvest it."**

By combining climate education with hands-on learning, school gardens are nurturing healthier children, improving nutrition and inspiring the next generation to care for their environment and build more resilient communities.



Photo credit: Conor Ashleigh, Save the Children

CHANGE IN ACTION CONTINUED



Photo credit: Conor Ashleigh, Save the Children

SEEDS OF RESILIENCE: WOMEN LEADING CLIMATE ADAPTATION

When cyclones sweep across Vanuatu, they leave more than damaged homes behind. They destroy gardens, contaminate crops with saltwater, and threaten the food families rely on to survive. For mothers like Tessa, these increasingly frequent climate shocks bring one pressing question, how will we feed our children?

Today, Tessa is helping answer that question, not only for her own family, but for her entire community. At just 27 years old, she serves as Vice Chairwoman of her community's multiplication plot, a shared garden established through VCCRP. As both an Aid Post Worker and community leader, she is helping families strengthen food security through climate-smart farming.

The multiplication plot is far more than a communal garden. It is a locally led solution where community members learn practical techniques such as crop rotation, mulching, soil improvement and intercropping while multiplying climate-resilient planting materials. By growing diverse crops including sweet potato, taro, cassava, corn and island cabbage, families are increasing harvests, improving soil health and preserving food supplies before disasters strike. Surplus produce is sold to purchase new planting materials, creating a sustainable cycle of resilience. So far, the project has supported the establishment of 68 multiplication plots.

Tessa's leadership has transformed more than food production. **"I used to be a timid woman,"** she says. **"But now, when I call community members to work in the multiplication plot, everyone respects me and comes."** Her story demonstrates how locally led climate adaptation is strengthening food security, empowering women leaders and equipping communities with the knowledge and skills to withstand an increasingly uncertain climate.

VANUATU COMMUNITIES INFORMING GLOBAL LEARNING

Through VCCRP, communities develop Community-Based Adaptation Plans (CBAPs) - locally led plans that combine climate science and local knowledge to identify climate risks, prioritise practical solutions and connect community priorities with government planning and support.

This year, Vanuatu's community-led approach was showcased at the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Conference in the Philippines. Supported through VCCRP, Provincial Coordinators from Torba and Shefa, together with the Department of Climate Change's Loss and Damage/Adaptation Officer, shared how communities are leading climate adaptation through traditional knowledge, inclusive planning, local solutions and practical action.

The conference provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge with climate practitioners from around the world while demonstrating how locally led adaptation is strengthening resilience in one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. In turn, the delegation returned with new ideas and partnerships to further strengthen community resilience across Vanuatu.



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