



# Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction in Vanuatu

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## VANUATU GENDER CONTEXT:

- women's engagement in decision-making and leadership is very low
- women face discrimination in accessing land, housing, and other productive resources
- 60 % of women in Vanuatu have experienced partner violence.







Vanuatu one of the most disaster prone countries in the world, experiencing cyclones, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts and floods.





CARE— 10 years of resilience and DRR programming in Vanuatu

Programs - strong gender focus aiming for equal representation of women on CDCCCs and women's leadership



**2015**  
Category 5 Tropical  
Cyclone Pam





## DOES GENDER RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A comparative study of  
Category Five Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu



2016  
Research on Gender  
responsive disaster risk  
reduction

# GENERAL FINDINGS

CARE's work had positive impacts on:

- community decision making
- women and men's cooperation
- attitudes to vulnerable community members
- attitudes to disaster management





# GENDER & INCLUSION FINDINGS

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- recognition of equal importance of women & men's roles in DRR
- women more confident
- recognition of importance of women's traditional roles in DRR
- women's increased role in community decision making
- whole of island approach protected most vulnerable





A photograph of a group of women, likely in a community meeting or training session. In the foreground, a woman in a blue shirt is looking intently at someone off-camera to her right. Next to her, another woman wearing glasses and a blue floral shirt is also looking in the same direction. Other women are visible in the background, some looking down and others looking towards the side. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting.

## RESEARCH RECOMMENDATION

Continue to ensure gender equality & inclusiveness is at the heart of DRR programming



## HOW?

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By working with CDCCCS and communities to:

- ensure gender balance on CDCCCs
- support women to take leadership roles in CDCCCs
- train CDCCC members/community leaders on gender & inclusion
- train CDCCC members on roles & responsibilities for gender & social inclusion







## EFFECTS

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Empowering women to take up new leadership roles brings new acceptance and respect of women leaders

Working to ensure both women and men's voices are heard and roles are respected, makes DRR activities more effective.



# VANUATU RECOMMENDATIONS IN PRACTICE

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- Ambae Volcano  
response 2018/19
- TC Harold Response  
2020







## CARE'S AMBAE VOLCANO RESPONSE

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- adapted *Finding Your Voice* leadership training and trained women CDCCC members & others
- Role modelled women's leadership





## CARE'S TC HAROLD RESPONSE

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- prioritising support to most vulnerable HH first
- ensuring equal distribution to all HH
- *Finding Your Voice* Foundational Leadership Training for women shelter focal points (40% of all SFP)
- *Male Reflection and Dialogue Session* for male community leaders
- Role modelling women's leadership



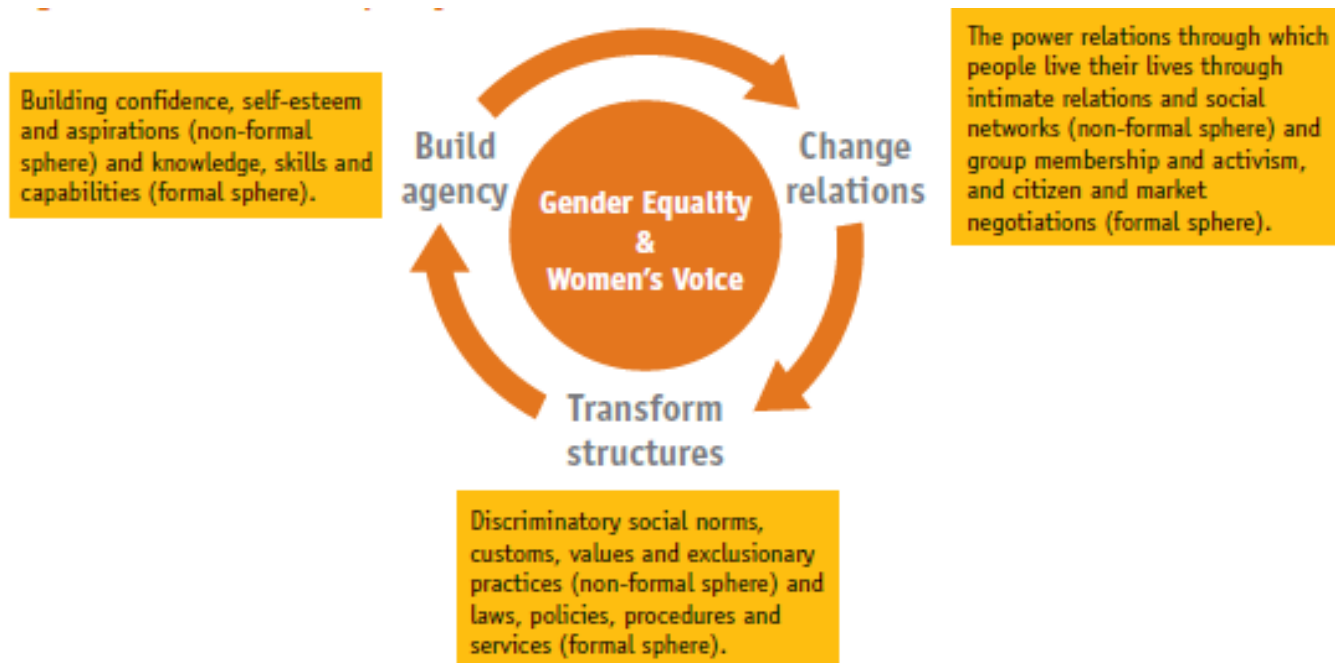
# CARE'S TC HAROLD RESPONSE IMPACT

- community leaders welcome gender equality awareness
- women headed households benefitted equally
- women accepted into non-traditional roles (shelter focal point) & chainsaw training





# CARE's GENDER EQUALITY FRAMEWORK







## CARE VANUATU DRR: AGENCY

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increasing  
women's  
knowledge, skills,  
confidence and  
capacity through

- *Finding your  
Voice training*
- *CDCCC  
governance  
training*



## CARE VANUATU: RELATIONS

increasing men's understanding of power and inequality and how that affects inclusion through:

- *Male Reflection and Dialogue workshops*
- gender equality training in *CDCCC refresher training*.





## CARE VANUATU:

### STRUCTURES law, policy and procedures

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- CARE co-lead for the Gender and Protection Cluster
- identification of gender and protection needs in assessment
- gender inclusive systems at community provincial and national levels
- training of CDCCCs on inclusive governance & emergency response systems







**CARE VANUATU:**

## **STRUCTURES challenging social norms**

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- by supporting women's leadership on CDCCCs
- role modelling women's leadership through appointment of female staff leaders
- with gate keepers through the *Male reflection and dialogue* sessions





Check out the Research report

Thank you