Benefits of Community Climate Centres (Information Hubs) Established by the VanKIRAP Project in Vanuatu

Introduction

The Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong redy, adapt mo protekt (VanKIRAP) project, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD), has established Community Climate Centres (Information Hubs) across Vanuatu's six provinces. These hubs serve as localized platforms for delivering tailored climate information services (CIS) to last-mile communities, including men, women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities. By working closely with provincial governments, faith-based organizations, civil societies, and communities, the hubs have significantly increased access to and utilization of climate information, fostering resilience and sustainable development. This briefing paper outlines the key benefits of these Community Climate Centres.

Key Benefits of Community Climate Centres

1. Increased Access to Tailored Climate Information

- Benefit: The hubs provide localized, sector-specific, and culturally relevant climate information to communities, ensuring that it meets their unique needs.
- Example: Farmers in rural areas receive seasonal forecasts and drought warnings tailored to their specific crops and planting cycles.
- Impact: This accessibility has empowered communities to make informed decisions, reducing vulnerability to climate risks.

2. Reaching Last-Mile Communities

- Benefit: The hubs bridge the gap between national climate information providers and remote, underserved communities.
- Example: In Tafea Province, the hub uses radio broadcasts and community messengers to deliver cyclone warnings to isolated villages.
- Impact: This ensures that even the most vulnerable populations have access to timely and actionable climate information.

3. Inclusive and Equitable Access

- Benefit: The hubs prioritize inclusivity, ensuring that climate information reaches marginalized groups, including women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities.
- Example: In Penama Province, the hub conducts workshops in local languages and uses visual aids to engage women and persons with disabilities.
- Impact: This inclusive approach has empowered all community members to participate in climate resilience efforts.

4. Strengthened Local Capacity and Ownership

- Benefit: The hubs build local capacity to interpret, use, and disseminate climate information, fostering a sense of ownership and sustainability.
- Example: In Malampa Province, the hub trains community volunteers to act as climate information ambassadors.
- Impact: This capacity building ensures that communities can independently access and apply climate information long after the project ends.

5. Integration of Traditional Knowledge

- Benefit: The hubs integrate traditional ecological knowledge with scientific climate data, enhancing the relevance and accuracy of climate information.
- Example: In Sanma Province, the hub collaborates with local elders to combine traditional weather indicators with modern forecasts.
- Impact: This integration has increased trust and acceptance of climate information among communities.

6. Enhanced Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

- Benefit: The hubs serve as platforms for collaboration between provincial governments, faith-based organizations, civil societies, and communities.
- Example: In Torba Province, the hub works with churches to disseminate climate information during Sunday services.
- Impact: This collaboration ensures a coordinated and holistic approach to climate resilience.

7. Improved Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Benefit: The hubs provide early warning systems and disaster preparedness training, helping communities respond effectively to extreme weather events.
- Example: In Shefa Province, the hub conducts regular cyclone preparedness drills in schools and communities.
- Impact: This has reduced disaster-related losses and saved lives.

8. Support for Livelihoods and Economic Resilience

- Benefit: The hubs provide climate information that supports livelihoods, such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.
- Example: In Tafea Province, fishers use ocean condition forecasts from the hub to plan safe and productive fishing trips.
- Impact: This has improved food security and economic resilience in vulnerable communities.

9. Empowerment of Women and Youth

- Benefit: The hubs actively engage women and youth in climate resilience activities, providing them with skills and knowledge to lead adaptation efforts.
- Example: In Penama Province, the hub runs youth-led climate awareness campaigns in schools.

- Impact: This empowerment has fostered a new generation of climate leaders and innovators.

10. Scalability and Replicability

- Benefit: The hub model is designed to be scalable and replicable across Vanuatu and other Pacific Island countries.
- Example: Lessons and tools from the hubs are being shared with other provinces and countries through regional networks.
- Impact: This scalability ensures that the benefits of the hubs can be extended to more communities in the future.

Conclusion

The Community Climate Centres (Information Hubs) established by the VanKIRAP project have revolutionized access to climate information services in Vanuatu. By delivering tailored, inclusive, and actionable climate information to last-mile communities, the hubs have empowered individuals and communities to build resilience and adapt to climate change. Their focus on local capacity building, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and integration of traditional knowledge has set a new standard for climate information delivery in the Pacific.

The success of these hubs highlights the importance of localized, community-driven approaches to climate resilience and provides a replicable model for other countries facing similar challenges. By continuing to support and expand the hub network, Vanuatu can ensure that all its citizens, regardless of location or background, have the tools they need to thrive in a changing climate.

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