Women’s Economic Empowerment through Sanitation Entrepreneurship in Melanesia

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Live & Learn
Vanuatu
Live & Learn’s Approach to Gender and Social Inclusion

Year 1: Women’s Voice and Agency
Year 2: Women’s Decision-Making and Leadership
Year 3: Community Gender-based Violence Prevention and WASH
Year 4: Women’s Economic Empowerment in Sanitation Entrepreneurship

• At all points Gender and Social Inclusion refers to the mainstreaming of the needs, not only of women, but all other people marginalised from decision making process around WASH including people with disabilities, the elderly, youth, children, pregnant women, single women & SOGIE who all have special WASH needs.
Status of Women

• Women do 2/3 of the world’s work
• For 1/3 of the world’s pay
• Women Own 10% of the world’s wealth
• 1 % of the world’s land

(UNDP, Cairo, 1994 International Conference on Population and Development)
Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) Theory

• Individual level- access to knowledge, skills, training
• Environmental- access to productive assets, finance, childcare, secure & safe employment,
• Greater balance in unpaid labour between men and women (GE)
• Structural level-inheritance law, finance law, labour, migration leading to exploitation

But, women’s economic participation does not guarantee WEE
There is nothing about economic growth that guarantees WEE
Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) through WASH in our context

• Global trends are not necessarily the full picture in the Pacific
• We have done our own Structural / Environmental Analysis of the barriers to and enablers of women’s economic empowerment and engagement in sanitation entrepreneurship in our communities...
In all our project communities women are engaged in Entrepreneurship

• As leaders in CBSE; women and men with and without disabilities; and from marginalised ethnic communities

• As sales managers, finance managers, Centre Managers, Secretaries, Construction Officers, Hygiene promoters

• Other businesses including soap making, small canteens, catering, pad making (MHM)

• Through the CBSEs, the saving club members are able to purchase roofing for water harvesting, water tanks and solar panels
WEE in our WASH Projects-Challenge of competing priorities

- Tomasi Niucavu, Hygiene Promotion Officer, L&L Fiji
WEE in our projects...need for savings clubs

• Joan Kwalea, Centre Manager, Namoliki CBSE
Male Advocates for women’s inclusion

• Greg Hulanga, Sanitation Business Advisor, L&L Solomon Islands
Financial & Business training and access to microfinance…

• Alice Langitong, Chairlady, Tuburah CBSE Vanuatu
WEE and Engagement with Sanitation Entrepreneurship in our Melanesian Communities requires:

- Individual
- Environmental
- Structural
WEE and Engagement with Sanitation Entrepreneurship in our Melanesian Communities requires:

**Structural:**

- Strengthened Government and CSO Stakeholders coordination and facilitation business development
- Decreased red tape and simplified business registration
- Simplification of banking processes to increase access to finance
WEE and Engagement with Sanitation Entrepreneurship in our Melanesian Communities requires:

**Environmental:**

- The provision training to women and men together in the community
- Male leadership to advocate for women’s inclusion
- The transformation of gender roles to ensure greater equality in the burden of household labour for working women
- Savings clubs to provide access to savings and finance
- Strengthened community CSO networks for information sharing and support
- Livelihoods project to generate ideas for businesses & peer learning from what works elsewhere
WEE and Engagement with Sanitation Entrepreneurship in our Melanesian Communities requires:

**Individual:**

- access to gender and socially inclusive collaboration, communication, decision making, leadership, governance training
- access to financial literacy and business management skills training and development in potential livelihoods
‘When women participate in the Economy, everyone benefits’

Hillary Clinton