

Fijian Stories from the Heart of Communities

Tapping into Change: How Vuaki Village Gained Access to Safe Water

Vuaki Village, a small community in Yasawa Island has always found it difficult to access clean drinking water. Consisting of over 270 individuals, the community was identified during the scoping of the Water for Women project which was carried out between 2018-2022.

After recognising the need, Habitat Fiji was able to source funding support from the Embassy of Japan to carry out activities to improve the water system.

The project involved the construction of a dam, the installation of a water reticulation system, storage tanks, and sanitation facilities. Following this, members of the Water Committee, including 12 women, received comprehensive training to equip them with the skills needed for the independent operation and maintenance of the water system, ensuring its long-term sustainability

For villagers like Tanieal Qorowale, the water project has brought much-needed relief from years of hardship.



Installation of the water reticulation line

"The struggles we share in the community in regards to access to clean drinking water go back generations. We used to rely on shore springs, which was quite a challenge as we waited during low tide to fetch water, and even then, we could still taste salt in it. But after the project, we now access water directly from the communal taps, thanks to the Embassy of Japan and Habitat for Humanity Fiji", he shares.



Commissioning of the new water system in Vuaki Village with Japan Ambassador to Fiji Mr. Rokuichiro Michi

This project was made possible through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), with a total funding support of FJ\$242,732 (US\$122,221).

This milestone is a step toward a healthier, more resilient future of the village of Vuaki.

Thank you to the
people of Japan



Voices of Vunuku: Understanding the Impact of Community-Led Resilience Efforts



Conducting an impact assessment is essential to ensure that Habitat Fiji's interventions effectively address community needs and achieve their intended outcomes. Evidence gathering is critical for evaluating the relevance, impact, efficiency, sustainability, and ability to build long-term resilience.

Our team spent three days in Vunuku Village in Rewa to assess the impact of interventions carried out between 2019 and 2021, supported by Australian Government and Habitat Australia. This included:

1. Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
2. Build Back Safer (BBS) training
3. Development of the Community Disaster Risk Reduction 5–10-year Master Plan

To ensure the assessment accurately reflects the experiences and needs of the Vunuku community, we employed a variety of participatory methods, including:

- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** with the Vunuku Village Development Committee and the Vunuku Women's Disability Group, who shared their experiences, challenges, and progress in implementing the DRR Master Plan.
- **Household Surveys** to evaluate financial well-being, resilience improvements through safer building practices, and the application of PASSA



- learnings in decision-making regarding housing location, strapping, and accessibility.
- **Interviews** with key individuals driving development in the village, exploring how they applied learnings to contribute to community progress.
- **Community Profiling** to assess changes following our intervention, including increased women's participation, improved housing resilience, and the integration of DRR and PASSA elements into the community development plan.
- **Technical Assessment Survey** to evaluate the application of BBS skills in households across the village.
- **Stakeholder Consultations** with the Rewa Provincial Office to gather insights on the implementation of Master Plan activities over the years.

By combining focus groups, surveys, and individual interviews, we gained a comprehensive understanding of how our interventions impact various segments of the community. This participatory approach ensures that the assessment reflects the perspectives of both leadership and marginalized groups while identifying strengths and areas for improvement for future resilience-building efforts.



Lessons in Kindness and Resilience at Daulomani

By Adi Arieta
25/09/24

The Daulomani Safe Home established in 2020, Daulomani Safe Home is a charitable organization that provides shelter and support to a diverse range of individuals, including men, women, children, single mothers, members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and others (LGBTQI+) community, and street dwellers.

Rooted in humanitarian principles, the Safe Home offers holistic services addressing physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Its goal is to empower residents to heal, grow, and successfully reintegrate into society as responsible and contributing members of their communities. Currently, the community is home to 50 residents, comprising a mix of elderly individuals, single mothers, married couples, youth, and children, reflecting its commitment to inclusivity and support for all.



On September 8, 2024, our team departed from Suva to deliver two weeks of Participatory Approach to Community Climate Resilience (PACCR) training at Daulomani Safe Home. This marked the first PACCR training for our climate readiness project communities and served as the pilot session for trainers. The training focused on preparedness, enabling communities to better cope with natural disasters, reducing the long-term risks associated with climate change. A total of 15 participants attended, including elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, members of the SOGIESC community, single parents, and members of the youth.

When we set foot at Daulomani home, we were overwhelmed with so much love from the people, their heartwarming Bula smile greetings and kindness. I have been to Daulomani Home twice, but it was only for a day. The 2 weeks training gave me the chance to really build up my relationship and bond with each and every one at the Home.

Preparing for the training was particularly challenging due to the overlapping commitments. However, with strong teamwork, the team dedicated time on Saturday, 7th September 2024, to finalize all pending training materials and documentation. Being away from my family for two weeks was difficult, especially leaving my 5-month-old son at home with my husband and extended family. Yet, thanks to the unwavering support from both my family and team, I was able to focus fully on delivering the training effectively.

During the period of the training, the participants were very active and knowledgeable about their surroundings in relation to Shelter, WASH, climatic risks and hazards they face every day. From the 18 activities, delivered the participants provided feedback and suggestions on how they can apply the learnings to their community and how they can prioritize the marginalized group in the future during pre- and post-disaster.

I'm happy that the training has brought many changes to the communities especially with the concept of 'leaving no one behind' now at the back of their mind and developing ideas on making their community resilient to climatic risks.

A big Vinaka Vakalevu to Edwina Biyau, board members and members of Daulomani Safe Home for the great hospitality and for allowing our team to be part of your community during the 2 weeks of training. Hats off to the HFHF trainers in the delivery of the first pilot training in the communities.



VINAKA & THANK YOU 



- *Habitat for Humanity of Greater LA*
- *Williamson-Maury HFH*
- *Sisters HFH*
- *Ulster County HFH*
- *HFH of Lenawee County*
- *Columbia Gorge HFH*
- *Livingston County HFH*
- *Hawaii HFH Association*
- *Ohana Kava Bar*
- *Griffin Area HFH*



For more information, please visit
www.habitatfiji.org.fj OR scan the QR code.
 Ph: (+679) 331 2012
 Email: info@habitatfiji.org.fj
 Address: Lot 1 Foster Road, Walu Bay, Suva, Fiji.



 @habitatforhumanityfiji

 @habitatforhumanityfiji

 @habitatfiji

 @habitatforhumanityfiji