The World Bank in Vanuatu

The World Bank is supporting the Government of Vanuatu in delivering safer, more reliable and more climate resilient transport, increasing community strength and resilience with post-disaster reconstruction while strengthening schools and other public facilities against disasters. The World Bank is also working to improve the resilience, services and basic infrastructure of informal settlements around Port Vila.

Transport

Work is underway to improve the climate resilience of Vanuatu’s transport infrastructure and contribute to faster, safer and more reliable transport. The Vanuatu Climate Resilient Transport Project is working on critical upgrades to 65 kilometres of road and bridge infrastructure in South Santo on Espiritu Santo Island, improving access to markets and essential services. The project will also work to improve planning and better prioritize road maintenance based on climate and disaster risks of the future.

Resilience & Recovery

The Vanuatu Infrastructure Reconstruction and Improvement Project is improving the disaster and climate resilience of public sector assets in provinces impacted by Tropical Cyclone Pam (2015), including schools, public buildings and roads. The project is also supporting the development of the National Disaster Recovery Framework to better address disaster risk informed and resilient development for Vanuatu.

The World Bank is supporting Vanuatu to better prepare and respond to emergencies while managing its financial resources through two Catastrophic Drawdown Operations. These operations are also aimed at improving health, disaster, and debt management in Vanuatu. The support began in 2020 with a first tranche of assistance, delivered as emergency funding for the country’s response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Tropical Cyclone Harold.

This assistance also supports the country’s Disaster Recovery and Resilience Act and Physical Planning Act to improve Vanuatu’s risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery from future disasters, which often disproportionally impact vulnerable ni-Vanuatu communities.

Safer, More Affordable Settlements

Informal settlements around Port Vila will see improvements in resilience and services through a US$25m Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project. The VARS project will support safer, more affordable urban developments in and around Port Vila, which is home to around 40 percent of Vanuatu’s population. The project will establish a new urban expansion area to serve as a model to reduce climate and disaster risk in hazardous areas, offer affordable options for urban development, and support better access to roads, employment, and services.
Current Projects

As of the 1 July 2022 there are 5 active projects.

- Rural Electrification Project Stage II
- Vanuatu Climate Resilient Transport Project
- Vanuatu Infrastructure Improvement Project
- Vanuatu Disaster Risk Management Policy Grant
- Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project

* based on FY23 (1 July 2022) data.
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$208 Million

- Resilience
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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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