



Climate Resilient Islands Programme

Case Study: from resilience vision to actions: Tu'anekevale

The Climate Resilient Islands approach rests on interlinked activities where communities identify their resilience vision and picture as part of their Community Resilience Profile and then make plans for resilience activity pathways related to that vision. This case study is part of a series that identifies threads of interconnection throughout the process in each community, as part of documenting the value of the process and sharing stories with other partners. Each case study shows how the community resilience vision and picture guides learning from the resilience profile to identify the most important resilience actions.

Community context

The community of Tu'anekevale, Tonga, grows root crops, fruit and vegetables for food and income. Vanilla, kava and mulberry are grown for income. Community members also practise fishing for income and food. Community members make mats, carvings and tapa cloth for sale. The community is worried about the loss of traditional knowledge and diversity of crops/income. Currently they rely on monocultural plantations and food sources outside the community.

Community Resilience Picture and Vision

The community's vision for a resilient community is to be well-prepared for disasters, a 24-hour community water supply, abundant food, secure market for handicrafts, fencing for allotments, work for youth, children able to get to school by bus, and a healthy, clean and active community.

The community's resilience picture shows a resilient Tu'anekevale community as a coconut tree. The tree stands for the community, the roots are the Village Council Committee, who handle the sustainability of the community. The leaves are the committees, they bring the energy for the community. The coconut fruit is the children and youth. All of the parts must work together to remain strong.



Most important resilient indicators:

Two of the community's most important resilience indicators are:

- Preparation for disasters
- Youth trained on resilient agricultural practices

The pathway of enhancing food security through resilient agriculture that encompasses more resilient crops, traditional plants and a diversity of food sources will address these indicators.

In their absorb, adapt, transform framework the community identified that there are strong committees, available government agencies, land and equipment and a continuation of traditional knowledge with elders to enable this pathway.

Resilience strategy: resilient agriculture/food security

The initial step in the planning involved identifying local leaders, community organizations,

agricultural experts, and seedling suppliers to ensure that all relevant parties are involved in the process. Discussions focused on the selection of traditional plants and food varieties well-suited to the local environment, as well as sourcing high-quality seedlings to support the community's agricultural activities.

The relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry) are engaged to raise awareness about the importance of food security and the benefits of growing home vegetable gardens. Community members, particularly those who are most vulnerable or food-insecure, are encouraged to participate and share their needs and preferences regarding the types of plants they would like to grow. This participatory approach ensures that the project aligns with local needs and priorities.

Following community engagement, training sessions are conducted to equip participants with the necessary skills to successfully grow their home vegetable gardens. These training sessions cover essential topics such as sustainable farming practices, soil health, water management, and pest control, with a focus on indigenous knowledge and nature-based solutions. Practical demonstrations and hands-on support ensure that participants feel confident and capable of applying their new knowledge, including handing-over of home gardening equipment.

Outcomes

Enhanced community resilience through nature-based livelihood and food security. These two resilience pathways and their activities are expected to enhance resilience in the community in these ways:

- Food Security: By growing vegetable gardens at home, the community can strengthen its food security through sustainable harvesting and seed-saving methods within the community. The use of traditional plants/foods that are adapted to local conditions will reduce reliance on external food sources.
- Economic Opportunities: Growing homegrown food could generate economic opportunities with the creation of excess produce that they can sell.
- Biodiversity Preservation: Reintroducing native species aids in supporting local ecosystems and preserving biodiversity. Often native species are linked to traditions and help cultural preservation also.
- Community Empowerment: Involving community members, of both genders and age differences in activities promotes skill development and enhances social cohesion, a key

factor in resilience mentioned in the explanation of the community's resilience picture. The community is given more self-sufficiency through this pathway.

- **Climate Adaptation:** Establishing homegrown vegetable gardens in the community and using traditional farming practices enhances food security, helping the community adapt to impacts of climate change that affect food production.

Inclusion

In the resilience picture, the community of Tu'anequivale chose to illustrate the way their community is structured and how interrelated the system is.

The pathway action that was implemented in Tu'anequivale was an expression of the close interconnections of the people and town officer, the committees, and intergenerational relationships within the community. Even though certain people were selected as beneficiaries, more people benefited from the training. This implementation eliminated marginalization and emphasized inclusion in the community, bringing in women, their spouses, elderlies, and youth. It empowered intergeneration exchange of knowledge and for both genders to participate during the implementation and in future activities.

The community of Tu'anequivale feared that their youth may not value the importance of growing home vegetable gardens, hence the focus on youth in the pathway implementation.

Traditional knowledge is a key element in the community's resilience profile that the food security pathway both uses and strengthens. The pathway actively incorporates and revives traditional agricultural practices and cultivation of the seedlings supplied to them, from our successful engagement with the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry). These traditional farming techniques, which include knowledge about resilient crops, sustainable harvesting methods, and effective land and water management practices, seed saving, are central to the community's food security efforts, but they are also key cultural practices that the community values and wants to preserve.

