Discussion

- Community resilience (Informal settlement)-bottom up approach
- Honiara/Informal settlement vulnerabilities
- Common Behavioral characteristics as barriers
- Building resilience through child-centered climate change adaptation & disaster risk reduction
RURAL SOLOMON ISLANDS
Informal Settlements
HONIARA CITY

“Honiara is a child of war-a city by accident”

73 years little has changed. The main roads of Honiara in 2015 follow the same tracks of 1943.
So Honiara is a city linked by roads never meant to be anything more than a way of getting troops to a front, ammunition to the troops and the wounded to an aid station. Now, it carries more cars- cars arriving at an alarming rate causing traffic jam.
But now, drawn by; Education, work and outside world more and more people flow into Honiara. People speaking same language/region “WANTOKS”-cluster together into pocket of squatters.

According to Honiara vulnerability assessment report, there are 35 such informal settlements with about 22,000 inhabitants. Characterized by;

- Rough and poor vehicle access
- No footpath
- Limited or non-existent of power, sanitation and water
- Lack garbage collection
- Houses made of stilt materials, mixture of semi-permanent buildings and rugged huts
- Lack secure land title.
- Worst still, newer houses build on slope, river banks coast
Lack a proper planning

National Referral Hospital: 

Sea wall to prevent erosion
Central Market: ‘Garden House’
The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has formally determined that Solomon Islands, as a least developed nation, will be among the most vulnerable to climate change.

“I have seen changes occurring right at our doorstep without any hint or knowing that it is the threat of climate change. We silently watch our shoreline disappearing ... a decade ago I could still remember the shoreline was about 8 to 10 meters away.” George Hency
Honiara is exposed to heavy rain and high temperature. Weather data shows that an overwhelming 65 percent of the rain falls during the wet period from November to April.

Honiara vulnerability assessment report, 2014 found that nearly half the population (44%) is sensitive to flooding, and would be considerably severe for the high numbers of people living close to the Mataniko River.

The only city main road is susceptible to coastal erosion, sea level rise, storm surge and flooding.

Prosperity is adding to the vulnerability. Up to 40 percent of the population in Honiara will have difficulty adapting due to lack of basic necessities and services. One in four people in Honiara lack basic water supplies, one in three has no electricity, one of every 2 people has no toilet, and one in three has no waste disposal collection.
Koa Hill Settlement
Approx: 1200 people (2009 Census)

Central Honiara, A km from the Heart of Honiara

At risk of flood and erosion - houses are built close to river bank and along steep valley
Make shift raft for crossing at Mataniko River to Koa Hill

Destruction of Koa Hill- 2014 flood
• ¾ of all people living there share a water standpipe,
• 10-20 people share a toilet which flows into an open drain. Bathing and kitchen grey water is discharged directly into open drainage and waste from pig pens also discharge directly into open drains.
• ¾ of the people use kerosene lamps for light,
• less than 5 percent of houses have solar power while the remainder are connected to the power grid.
• 60 % of the people there dump their waste in the river or streams, one in four persons burns it, the remainder either bury waste or leave it around their homes.
Community-level engagement in adaptive initiatives is significant as it increases community coping ability. Adaptation/coping with disaster and change in environment for centuries.

- **Information and education**
  There is a need for more awareness to community on climate change and disaster risks. NAPA 2008 highlights the need for education, awareness and information sharing for community is vital to make informed decision about adaptation. Encourage the use of tradition/local knowledge.

- **Community Organization and preparation**
  Strengthening of traditional ties and existing groups in the community. E.g. Introduction of saving clubs for women- Rokotani keni, World vision & Live and Learn
The Honiara Waste Characterization Audit Report 2011, highlights that people’s attitude continue to be a challenge “It is a challenge in the past, present and for the future which will dramatically impact the socio-economic and environmental aspects of Solomon Islands.”
Common character barriers in Solomon Islands’ society that harm our ability to effect behavioral change and therefore harm our ability to develop strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster preparation.

- RESOURCES ARE EXPLOITABLE
- CARELESS ATTITUDE “SHORT TERMISM” - cutting of trees for quick money.
- SUBSISTENCE LIVING HAS BEEN THE MAIN-STAY OF THE ECONOMY
CHANGING BEHAVIOR – The best place to start is with the children
Our focus is working with children in school, teaching adaptation and mitigation through disaster preparation

**AIM**: Provides the opportunity for youth, children and communities to strengthen their resilience to the impacts of climate change through participation.
Capacity Building
Participation-Community, provincial gov`t, National Gov`t, NGOs
Disaster education and readiness for children must be prioritized throughout the Solomon Islands. It is not right to leave small, underserved communities and more so children unprepared for drought, floods, storms and other disasters.
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