

**Vanuatu Law and Justice Partnership (VLJP)
also known as *Stretem Rod Blong Jastis***

Management Response

Independent Review of the Save the Children Vanuatu

Yumi Evriwan i Protektem Pikinini Tool and Community Pilots

Evaluation

In 2013 Save the Children Vanuatu (SCV) and the Australian Aid Program funded Stretem Rod Blong Jastis/Vanuatu Law and Justice Partnership (SRBJ) agreed to an evaluation of the Yumi Evriwan I Protektem Pikinini (YEPP) community engagement tool and community engagement pilots which SRBJ had been funding since July 2012.

The overall purpose of the YEPP tool evaluation was to:

- 1 Evaluate whether the YEPP tool is an appropriate tool for Vanuatu for:
 - a. Collecting data on child protection knowledge, attitude and practices;
 - b. Advancing education about child protection; and
 - c. Strategizing community responses to child protection.
- 2 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the YEPP tool including ongoing adaptation.
- 3 Suggest improvements to the YEPP tool that will feed into the broader Child Protection Program design and strengthen the tool for future use.

The lessons learned from the independent evaluation should be used to inform any future community based child protection programming in Vanuatu.

Key strengths noted by the evaluation

Key strengths noted in the review:

- 1 The talent, experience and insight of the local SCV staff who were able to provide very nuanced facilitation of sensitive and complex topics was identified consistently and unanimously by all stakeholders.
- 2 General positive feedback by communities about YEPP training sessions indicating an appetite for support in this area.
- 3 The YEPP tool sessions did provide opportunities for information sharing and awareness raising. As well, several responses about the purpose of the YEPP tool illustrated the fact that a substantial number of the community members who participated in the review were able to talk about child protection in fairly consistently knowledgeable, complex and insightful ways. In a significant number of communities, people also cited the rights of children in a positive and supportive way in their responses
- 4 Simple, accessible tools in Bislama and/or local language were seen as helpful
- 5 The skill of a number of local YEPP facilitators was noted.

The Save the Children Vanuatu YEPP tool and community engagement pilots were essentially intended to pilot an approach for participatory community planning around child protection issues; support the use of community based protection systems within communities; gather simple and transparent child focused baseline data; strengthen child protection practice at community level and contribute to area, provincial and national planning and policy development.

The program was built on previous mapping conducted by a UNICEF contracted technical adviser, Michael Copeland and was intended to integrate with the Government of Vanuatu, UNICEF funded community pilots. SRBJ provided funding for the entire SCV Child Protection Program to the value of VUV 55,000,000 between 2012 and the end of 2013 being the period under review.

The evaluation made several recommendations for strengthening SCV's approach to community engagement in the arena of child protection. The evaluation, in particular, questioned the appropriateness of the tool's fundamental approach to child protection; the relevance and appropriateness of using a train the trainers approach in this context; and the lack of effectiveness of the tool and pilots to deliver on its original objectives.

Recommendations and SRBJ response

1	Review recommendations	SRBJ response
2	SCV should not continue to use the YEPP tool in its current form	Agreed (all YEPP associated work has been ceased with agreement of SCV)
3	SCV should engage in an assessment of its broader child protection toolkit and seek a new way forward	Agreed
4	SCV's approach to community engagement should be redesigned	Agreed

Lessons identified with implications for future programmatic direction.

The lessons derived from the independent review of the SCV YEPP community engagement work were intended by the reviewer primarily for use by SCV, SRBJ and the Australian Aid Program but also as appropriate by national stakeholders.

The two overarching findings were:

- 1 The YEPP tool design and the choice of implementation approach had substantial limitations that were compounded by issues around management and consultation.
- 2 The YEPP tool is not an appropriate tool for collecting data on child protection, knowledge, attitudes and practice in Vanuatu.

SRBJ will consider the following lessons in the support of any future design of community based child protection programming:

- 1 Ensuring continued consideration and focus on agreed objectives and explanation for deviation from those where appropriate.
- 2 Having and understanding a theory of change that underpins the focus of the intervention.
- 3 Having clarity with respect to the role that the organisation plays in driving, supporting or guiding change especially with respect to ensuring that there is no reinforcement of inappropriate norms.
- 4 Thoroughly considering the applicability of a tool for child protection (particularly where developed for other subject areas).
- 5 Ensuring thorough consideration of ethical issues in engaging with communities in the child protection arena.
- 6 Ensuring strong quality control for messaging and approach in the area of child protection.
- 7 Ensuring that in developing a simple tool the issues do not become oversimplified.
- 8 Ensuring that all tools are culturally and ethically appropriate and meet Save the Children's international standards and general best practice.
- 9 Strengthening the planning for and implementation of monitoring and evaluation for the piloting work to ensure that it is able to inform programming.