

PACIFIC COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS & EXPERIENCES OF RESILIENCE



Institute for Sustainable Futures



This document is prepared for the community members of Naviyago village. Detailed reports of the research is available on the University of Technology, Institute for Sustainable Futures (UTS-ISF) website.

Photos: Research in Naviyago village

What was the research about?

This research explored community perspectives of resilience in the **Naviyago village** of Fiji. The research approach used the UTS-ISF Community Resilience Framework (see right) to help define, assess and measure aspects of resilience that were important to the community.

Why did we select Naviyago village?

ADRA Fiji had recently completed a project called 'Pro-Resilience' in Naviyago village. The research team selected the Naviyago to learn about the outcomes of the recently completed Project. Naviyago provided a Fijian village setting to learn from diverse community members about their experiences of, and responses to, climate and disaster risks.

What did we learn from the community?

We learned that Naviyago village has responded in different ways to climate and disaster risks. For example, **backyard gardening, household composting and collaborative farming practices** are strengthening community resilience and restoring the environment.

ADRA Fiji's project enabled community members to **learn new knowledge on backyard gardening, nutrition and healthy diets**, resulting in changes in community's thoughts and attitudes about food and nutrition. Improved dietary habits are now evident in community, contributing to **healthier lifestyles**.

We also observed that the Turanga ni koro of the village plays a significant role in **encouraging community members in resilience building efforts**.

From our experience with Naviyago village, we learned that understanding community perceptions of resilience takes time. Therefore, NGOs should **invest time in building relationships** and trust within communities. It is also important to **listen to diverse voices** within the community to understand diverse experiences of resilience.

UTS-ISF's Community Resilience Framework



How can the findings be used?

Naviyago community members, decision-makers, and NGOs working in Naviyago can learn from the village's demonstration of community resilience and plan how to strengthen it using existing strengths. Encouraged by the examples of response to climate and disaster risks, community members can explore other ways to respond to risks and think of ways to improve their approaches.

For more information contact:

Anna Gero (anna_gero@uts.edu.au)
Tazrina Chowdhury (tazrinajahan.chowdhury@uts.edu.au)
Christine Lemau (ChristineLemau@adra.org.fj)
Paulini Vakacegu (vakacegu@gmail.com)
Ilimeleki Kaiyanuyanu (IlimelekiKaiyanuyanu@adra.org.fj)