



VANUATU BUSINESS  
**RESILIENCE COUNCIL**

# Business Resilience.

Glen Craig  
Chairperson

## What is the VBRC?

- A standing committee of the chamber of commerce
- All Business licences holders are members
- Result of an initiative of Pacific Business Resilience Network
- The Current Executive Committee is composed of eight active executive members
- Funded with donor support. Volunteers on Executive.
- Our Mission is to great more resilient Vanuatu Businesses.

## Our Mandate

Providing a clear entry point for the private sector to engage in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

- Mobilizing and connecting partners.
- Supporting the creation and strengthening of private sector-led networks for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
- Connecting private sector networks at the sub-national, national and regional levels,
- Integrating the private sector in resilience programs and national disaster management structures.
- Matching private sector capacities and resources to humanitarian needs through local networks.
- Producing tools and delivering programs to build the resilience of businesses and their communities.
- Developing and disseminating good practice on private sector engagement.
- **Facilitating policy engagement. Lobby Government.**

## **A Resilient Tourism Business**

- Building a resilient tourism business involves understanding the risks and developing a practical plan for how your business can prepare for and continue to operate after an incident or crisis.
- Contact the VBRC for our Business Continuity Planning Guides
- Entering Cyclone season and we can expect 2-3 this season according to forecasters

**[www.vbrc.vu](http://www.vbrc.vu)**



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## Box 5 – Disaster Risks

This is about identifying the natural and human-made hazards (disasters) that can affect your business, and planning for ways in which your business can be prepared and recover quickly. You can also list other organisations or people that you can use to help you prepare and recover.

**Climate Change!** Climate change is not a future threat; it is a key driver of disasters warning that others. Tropical Cyclone Pam in March 2015 caused catastrophic impacts, with estimated total damage and loss around \$USD 680 million, or 64% of GDP. This was followed by a slow onset El Niño event in 2015-2016 which caused severe drought conditions across the country. Vanuatu and the rest of the world are currently responding to the global pandemic of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The resulting travel and border restrictions have been compounded by severe Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020.

Disaster comes in many forms. Some are more devastating than others, and some give more warning than others. Tropical Cyclone Pam in March 2015 caused catastrophic impacts, with estimated total damage and loss around \$USD 680 million, or 64% of GDP. This was followed by a slow onset El Niño event in 2015-2016 which caused severe drought conditions across the country. Vanuatu and the rest of the world are currently responding to the global pandemic of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The resulting travel and border restrictions have been compounded by severe Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020.

Any type of disaster can have a serious effect on your business. But there are things you can do to limit the damage when the disaster happens and to get up running again. Disaster planning can help protect your family and business assets so they are less vulnerable and exposed to relevant damage. Work together with other businesses, schools, neighbours, community and relevant government authorities to assess your risks, plan to reduce them, and prepare to respond.

Having 'business continuity' isn't just about being ready for the 20 or 30 year major disaster event such as earthquakes or cyclones (e.g. TC Pam). But also, being ready for emergencies or other disruptions that can occur at any time like fire or power failure.

© Government of Vanuatu (2019) Post Disaster Needs Assessment - Tropical Cyclone Pam, March 2015. Available at: <https://www.gtrr.org/vb/infoctr/>

## Box 7 – Community

This is about how your family and community affect the running of your business, both positively and negatively. Describe the relationships you have with your family and community through your business activity, and how you will balance these relationships and obligations with your business needs.

**Climate Change!** Promote respect for and the role of traditional family, community and kinship relationships both in terms of your business operations, but also to cope with climate change. Traditional coping strategies offer in-depth localised responses for effective climate change adaptation.

Remember, it is not about putting your family or community in a negative light in relation to your business. It is about working within your culture, networks and relationships to solve issues and increase benefits.

How do your family and community help or hinder your business? What are the specific obligations of your business to events such as marriages, deaths, fundraisings, cultural ceremonies? How could you manage them differently to help grow your business while maintaining relationships?

**Community Box Glossary**

**Obligations:** an action that someone is required to take to reflect family, community and cultural values and responsibilities.

**Culture / Kastom:** the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of local indigenous groups or society.

**Kinship:** the system of relationships which is bound by blood, culture or mutual interests.

**Ceremony:** a traditional ceremony is an event that has strong spiritual, religious or cultural meaning for people, and has been continued from the past.

Figure 2 – Business R



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**Thank you**