

Digital Stories of Stigma – Vanuatu - Marie-Elina

Series title slide text: Stories of Impact and Resilience from People with Disability

Explanatory slide 1 text: Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions.

Explanatory slide 2 text: We asked people with disability to tell a story about a time they experienced stigma and how they coped.

Video title text: Experiences of Stigma. Marie-Elina's story – Vanuatu

Start: We see a photograph of a Vanuatuan woman, she is smiling broadly at the camera. She is wearing a red and green dress and is inside a home with plenty of light.

She says: My name is Marie-Elina. I am a mother, and I am 42 years old. I have a disability; I can't hear properly.

We see a photograph of Marie-Elina and a man, they face the camera but are pointing away from themselves to the view over a town and to the sea.

Marie-Elina says: I live with my husband and our seven children.

We see a photograph of the top half of a brightly painted building and the hands of children at play, then we see children sitting on a mat with a plate of food about to be shared.

Marie-Elina says: I work as a teacher at a local pre-school. I teach small children to help them learn.

We see a photo of Marie-Elina at the front of a classroom and then one of adults in the classroom and then to a pure white frangipani flower.

She says: In 2018 I held a meeting with the children's parents and members from the community in my classroom. I was explaining the current government policy around education standards when the parents begun abusing me. They refused to listen to me because of my impairment.

We see the initial photo of Marie-Elina and the video of pink bougainvillea in the rain.

Marie-Elina continues: Their negative words made me feel so bad I started to cry, but I just thanked them for what they said to me. At the time I didn't retaliate. I have faced a lot of similar challenges but overcoming them has made me strong.

We see a photo of the base of a tree then a plate of barbecued meat and salads and then a "handwashing day" poster with children's handprints on it in various colours and a photo of children sitting together.

Marie-Elina says: As a woman teacher with a disability, I am proud of my achievements. Now there is a resort nearby that has promised to develop my preschool for free. Thanks to the awareness raising and advocacy of people with disability, parents and community members have come to understand and respect the rights of people with disability more.

We see the initial photo of Marie-Elina smiling again.

She says: They have also started respecting me for who I am as a teacher with disability. Nowadays these kinds of attitudes are happening less.

Disclaimer slide text: This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government

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End slide text and logos:

Text: Find more stories of impact and resilience, beside this is a QR code that links to <https://mispgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/nossal-institute-for-global-health/research/research-groups/stories-of-impact-and-resilience>

Also in text: This video has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Produced by VDPA and the Nossal Institute, University of Melbourne, through the CBM-Nossal Partnership.

Logos:

Australian Aid – navy blue writing and a red kangaroo,

VDPA, red writing in a yellow circle with green leaf decorations outside

CBM, global disability inclusion red writing, and inclusion advisory group black writing with a yellow circle, red and yellow dots in a cross shape

The University of Melbourne, blue square with white writing and figure of Nike the goddess of victory with the latin words postera crescam laude