

# STORIES OF IMPACT AND RESILIENCE

FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

LOUIS M, VANUATU

*Sharing lived experiences gives planners and policy makers valuable insights into the needs of those impacted by their decisions.*

I am a woman with disability, I have physical impairment and I use wheelchair. I live with my family.

## BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

In 2017 my leg was amputated. I owned a kava bar and every evening I prepared food and kava for the customers. In 2020 Tropical Cyclone Harold destroyed my kava bar and I lost my business.

## DURING THE PANDEMIC

My family and I were fine. My son works for the national government. He financially supported me. I needed someone to assist me and my son came to stay and took good care of me when others couldn't.

I felt that I contributed to society during the pandemic by making sure that people know about handwashing, and by caring for my grandchildren when their mother was having a baby.



## AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Since the pandemic life has become harder than before. I used to buy my drinking water from the nearby grocery shops for only 130vt now they charge me 190vt for a bottle of drinking water. In the local market, vegetable prices have been increasing and gas prices have also increased.

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