

# STORIES OF IMPACT AND RESILIENCE

FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

*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 a physical impairment, so I am accustomed to using a wheelchair, but when it broke I couldn't replace it, so I have very little mobility. I live with my younger sister, she takes care of me, and assists me in every way.

## BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

Before the pandemic life was good. I had a kava stall. I could afford food in the supermarket and the local market prices were fair enough. Relatives and friends from our church used to visit me, they brought me food and non-food items which sustained my living. I was happy with my life.

## DURING THE PANDEMIC

During the pandemic life became harder than expected. Relatives and friends no longer visited, food prices increased, my access to earning money from the kava stall was cut off. My sister made sure to manage wisely with what we had in the kitchen to sustain our daily living. We have a vegetable garden so we could grow and eat our own food.

## MARY W, VANUATU



I received some help from friends and family who gave me food when they could. When I had money, I paid tithes to the church and shared some rice with my family.

## AFTER THE PANDEMIC

My life is similar to what it was before the pandemic. I still don't have a wheelchair that I can use.

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