



SELLING SEX IN LUGANVILLE

Luganville, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu





Research

- **Research Participants:**
 - 15 female sex workers
 - 1 ex-sex worker
 - 3 male sex workers
 - 3 'middle men'
 - 1 client
 - 1 ex-boyfriend of a sex worker

Sex work in Luganville

“Because life is hard. In order to buy a shell of kava, or food for the house – they can’t afford it. The next option, if they don’t have a job, the next option is you must sell yourself. That’s it. You must make a bit of money out of your body so that you can afford what you want.”

‘John’ (‘middle man’, 34 years)

Key findings

- **Technicalities of the Sex Industry in Luganville:**
 - Entrance into sex work
 - Clients
 - The Sexual transaction
 - 'Middle men'

A sample of dialogue...

Me: But do they [clients] know where they can get condoms?

Jeremy: Yes, but they're not interested in condoms.

Tim: For safety they must use them...

Jeremy: But from what I see – no.

Tim: Vanuatu style – skin-to-skin.

[Laughter]

Me: But do people know about the risks?

Tim: Everyone knows about the risks, but they don't want to use the modern technology which are condoms. They're all grasshoppers or what! [Laughs] But Score, no, they don't want them.

Jeremy: One other things is they are fast – f*** quickly, then leave. They forget.

Findings continued...

- **Sex work and SRHR in Luganville:**
 - Condom use, or non-use
 - STI, HIV/AIDS, treatment seeking behaviour
 - Family Planning, and pregnancy
 - Sexuality
 - Risks and human rights abuses, example of 'Anne' (FSW, 37 years)

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- Sex work, and the Gender, *raet* (rights), *developman* nexus
- Rupture and continuity...
- The question of **RIGHTS**... understanding human rights contextual issue
- Including sex workers in development dialogues...

ANY QUESTIONS?



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