TAFEA GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2024

VISION

A safe, just and secure society where everyone works together to build happy families, strong communities and a resilient Vanuatu

GOAL

To promote respect and equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities among men and women of all ages and abilities in Tafea Province

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS - TAFEA

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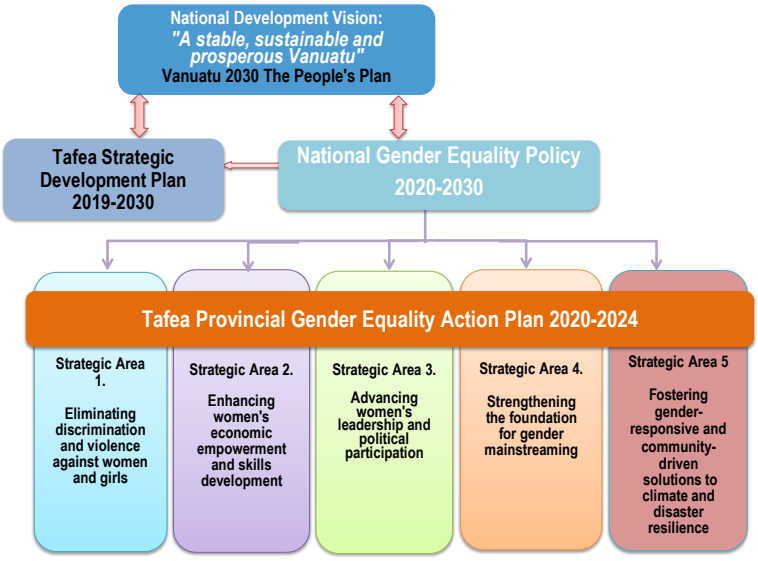
OUR COMMITMENT

The purpose of this Gender Equality Action Plan is to provide a clear plan of action for government, civil society, private sector and development partners to coordinate actions to advance gender equality and the well-being of women and girls in Tafea Province in line with the National Gender Equality Policy (NGEP) 2020-2030.

The NGEP articulates Vanuatu's commitment to the advancement of equality between men and women. The policy is aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), National Sustainable Development Plan: Vanuatu 2030 and other relevant commitments on gender equality and human rights. Accountable and collaborative arrangements at national, provincial and community levels, and across development sectors are key to achieving the policy vision and goal.

Tafea Provincial Gender Equality Action Plan: Strategic Areas & Policy Linkage



KEY STATISTICS TAFEA

Total Population:
37,050
(50% males; 50% females)

Children <15 years: 46%
(8,917 males; 8,153 females)
Youth 15-29 years: 24%
(4,065 males; 4,760 females)
Older persons >= 60 years: 6%
(1,111 males; 1,130 females)

Percentage of women in intimate relationships who experienced physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime: 67% *
(National 60%)

Total Households: 6,867
Households engaged in subsistence agriculture:
100%
(National 88%)
Households engaged in fisheries:
61%
(National 49%)

Source: Vanuatu National Statistics Office (2016) Post-Cyclone Pam Mini Census Report; * Vanuatu Women's Centre and VNSO (2011) Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) officer in Tafea province will work closely with Tafea Provincial Government and other provincial and community stakeholders to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of this Gender Equality Action Plan. The Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS), as the ministry that houses the DWA, the Child Desk and the Disability Desk will provide strategic support to ensure child protection and disability inclusion are also integrated into the implementation of this plan.

The Tafea Provincial Government through the Technical Advisory Committee is responsible for providing periodic updates and an annual progress report to the DWA on the implementation of this plan. The DWA will incorporate this information into its annual report and into the formal review process for the NGEP.

OUR VALUES

- Understanding the *fundamental rights and freedoms of all men and women* in Vanuatu;
- Respecting that the independent nation of Vanuatu is founded on *Melanesian values* and *Christian principles*;
- Recognising that *equality* between women and men starts with *families*, the most fundamental unit of society;
- Understanding that *equal and healthy relationships* between women and men have positive benefits for families, communities, and for nation building;
- Recognising *diversity* among women and girls in Vanuatu and their varied *abilities, aspirations and circumstances*;
- Recognising the significant contributions of the *education and health sectors* to gender equality;
- Recognising the importance of *accountability, transparency and strong collaboration* at *all levels* (national, provincial, municipal, community and family) and *across* all ministries, sectors and industries;
- Endorsing *clear and consistent messaging* to avoid any harm or negative repercussions for women and girls; and
- Acknowledging Vanuatu's international and regional commitments to *gender equality and human rights*.

TAFEA GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2024

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
Strategic Area 1. Eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls			
1.1 Expand community awareness on: • The Family Protection Act • Violence against women and girls • Sexual and reproductive health especially targeting men with a view to increase male advocates in communities	Ongoing	• Tafea Counselling Centre (TCC) • Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) • DWA • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) • Churches • World Vision • CARE International	Training delivered to men, women and adolescent youth in at least 5 communities in Tafea province by 2024
1.2 Deliver targeted training on gender equality and violence against women and girls to chiefs, provincial and municipal councillors, area administrators and community leaders	Ongoing	• TCC • VPF • Tafea Provincial Government • Malvatumauri • DWA	At least 50% of chiefs, church leaders (VCC member churches), provincial councillors and area administrators in Tafea trained by 2024
1.3 Strengthen the Tafea Provincial Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW) Working Group	By 2021	• Tafea Provincial Government • TCC • VPF • DWA • Ministry of Justice and Community Services • Ministry of Health • MoET	Tafea Provincial EVAW Working Group's membership expanded to include disability and private sector representation by 2021 Tafea Provincial EVAW Working Group meets on a regular basis to improve coordination and response to violence against women and girls

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
Strategic Area 2. Enhancing women's economic empowerment and skills development			
2.1 Deliver gender-sensitive training to households in the areas of: • Financial literacy • Financial services • Business management • Business registration	Ongoing	• Vanuatu Skills Partnership • Office of the Registrar of Cooperatives and Business Development Services (ORCBDS) • National Bank of Vanuatu • VANWODS • CARE International	At least 2 communities on each island (Tanna, Aneityum, Futuna, Erromango and Aniwa) in Tafea province trained by 2024 Increase in number of formal businesses owned by women (registered with ORCBDS) in Tafea by 2024
2.2 Increase funding and delivery of skills development programs for women engaged in (or entering) productive industries, including agriculture, biogas, forestry, livestock and fisheries	Ongoing	• MoET • Vanuatu Skills Partnership • ORCBDS • Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB) • Department of Industry • Faith-based organisations • Non-governmental organisations	20% increase in women participating in skills courses in productive industries delivered by registered training providers in Tafea province by 2024
2.3 Conduct applied research on Tafea women's economic empowerment and their contribution to the provincial and national economy, including in key sectors (i.e. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism and handicrafts) and labour mobility schemes, and develop recommendations for post-COVID19 recovery that supports women's empowerment and wellbeing, and Tafea's economic prosperity	By 2021	• Tafea Provincial Government • Department of Labour • Department of Tourism • Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) • DWA • Vanuatu Skills Partnership • Non-governmental organisations	Research completed by 2021 Number of recommendations from the research implemented by 2024

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
Strategic Area 3. Advancing women's leadership and political participation			
3.1 Increase women's participation in decision making processes of provincial and municipal committees and taskforces, and industry bodies	By 2024	• Tafea Provincial Government • Tanna Municipal Council • Department of Local Affairs (DLA) • Churches • DWA • Chamber of Commerce • Business and industry	Increase in number of women in provincial and municipal committees and taskforces in Tafea province by 2024 Increase in number of women in Tafea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Provincial Tourism Council and Tourism Industry Association by 2024
3.2 Deliver community awareness activities on civic education and women's leadership, especially for communities that have never been or are not currently supported by non-governmental organisations	Ongoing	• TCC • DLA • Area Councils • Churches • Vanuatu Skills Partnership • DWA • CARE International • World Vision • ActionAid	At least 2 communities on each island (Tanna, Aneityum, Futuna, Erromango and Aniwa) in Tafea province trained by 2024
Strategic Area 4. Strengthening foundation for gender mainstreaming			
4.1 Mainstream gender into Tafea Provincial Government and Tanna Municipal planning, recruitment and decision-making processes	Ongoing	• Tafea Provincial Government • Tanna Municipal Council • Area Administrators • Public Service Commission • DLA • DWA	Strategic areas and actions in this Gender Equality Action Plan incorporated into the implementation and review of the Tafea Strategic Development Plan by 2024 Number of Provincial and Municipal Councillors trained in policies and procedures of the Public Service Commission, including non-discriminatory and

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
			merit based recruitment by 2024 Annual progress report on the implementation of the Tafea Gender Equality Action Plan submitted to DWA each year
Strategic Area 5. Fostering gender-responsive and community-driven solutions to climate and disaster resilience			
5.1 Strengthen the functional capacity of the Tafea Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee to properly budget and review the provincial disaster plan that are responsive to the specific needs of women, children, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups	Ongoing	• Tafea Provincial Government • National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) • Department of Climate Change • Ministry of Justice and Community Services • Vanuatu Red Cross Society • DWA	Tafea Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee conducts a review of the provincial disaster plan by 2021 A dedicated annual budget allocated to the implementation of the Provincial Disaster Plan by 2022 Tafea Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee trained on gender and protection issues by 2024
5.2 Fund and support women-led initiatives that contribute towards low carbon growth and adaptation strategies in food, water, health and energy security in Tafea province	By 2024	• Department of Climate Change • Department of Energy • NDMO • MALFFB • Department of Water Resources • Ministry of Health • DWA • CARE International • World Vision • ActionAid	At least 2 women-led initiatives on low carbon growth and other adaptation strategies (especially food security) funded and implemented by government and non-government partners by 2024