TORBA 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 Torba Province

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS - TORBA

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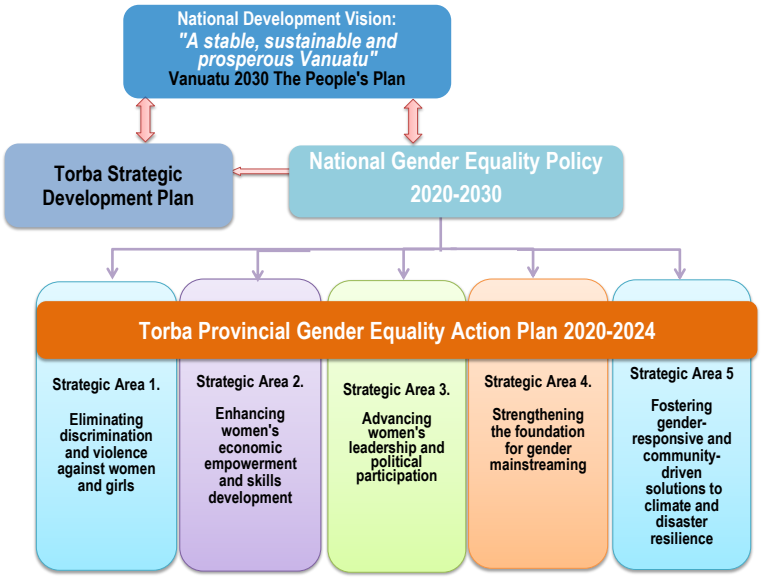
OUR COMMITMENT

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 Torba 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.

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



KEY STATISTICS TORBA

Total Population:
10,161
(51% males; 49% females)

Children <15 years: 42%
(2,141 males; 2,038 females)
Youth 15-29 years: 25%
(1,207 males; 1,253 females)
Older persons >= 60 years: 6%
(145 males; 314 females)

Percentage of women in intimate relationships who experienced physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime: 53% *
(National 60%)

Total Households: 1,980
Households engaged in subsistence agriculture:
99%
(National 88%)
Households engaged in fisheries:
85%
(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 Torba province will work closely with Torba 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 Torba 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*.

TORBA GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2024

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
Strategic Area 1. Eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls			
1.1 Undertake community awareness on: • The Family Protection Act • Violence against women and girls • Sexual and reproductive health for all, but with a targeted focus on men and boys	Ongoing	• Torba Counselling Centre (TCC) • Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) • Male advocates • DWA • Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS) • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) • Churches • World Vision	Training delivered to men, women and adolescent youth in at least 5 communities in Torba province by 2024
1.2 Deliver targeted training on gender equality and violence against women and girls to chiefs, provincial councillors, area administrators and community leaders	Ongoing	• TCC • Male advocates • VPF • Torba Provincial Government • Malvatumauri • DWA	At least 50% of chiefs, church leaders (VCC member churches), provincial councillors and area administrators in Torba trained by 2024
1.3 Establish the Torba Provincial Family Protection Taskforce	By 2021	• Torba Provincial Government • TCC • VPF • DWA • MJCS • Ministry of Health • MoET • Department of Youth and Sports	Torba Provincial Family Protection Taskforce established by 2021 The Taskforce meets on a regular basis and reports to the Provincial Government on its progress in improving coordination and response to violence against women and girls

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
1.4 Advocate to the Ministry of Justice and Community Services to expand the Authorised Persons pilot to remote communities in Torba province	By 2021	• Torba Provincial Government • TCC • VPF • DWA	Formal discussions held with MJCS and an agreement reached on the way forward by 2021
Strategic Area 2. Enhancing women's economic empowerment and skills development			
2.1 Deliver training for women in business: • Financial literacy • Business management • Business registration	Ongoing	• National Bank of Vanuatu • VANWODS • Office of the Registrar of Cooperatives and Business Development Services (ORCBDS) • Vanuatu Skills Partnership	At least 2 communities on each island in Torba province trained by 2024 Increase in number of formal businesses owned by women (registered with ORCBDS) in Torba province by 2024
2.2 Support skills development of women engaged in agriculture and fisheries	Ongoing	• MoET • Vanuatu Skills Partnership • Vanuatu Rural Development training Centres Association • ORCBDS • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) • Department of Fisheries	20% increase in women farmers/fishers participating in skills courses delivered by registered training providers by 2024
2.3 Increase women's participation in labour mobility schemes	Ongoing	• Torba Provincial Government • Department of Labour • DWA	10% increase in proportion of women recruited for the labour mobility schemes in New Zealand and Australia
2.4 Support and strengthen local women's networks to increase access to training and funding opportunities (e.g. Mothers Union, farmers associations, women's clubs)	Ongoing	• Torba Provincial Government • DWA • ORCBDS • DARD • Churches • TCC • Vanuatu Skills Partnership	Increase in local women's networks accessing training and funding for livelihood activities and skills development

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 Torba provincial committees and taskforces	Ongoing	• Torba Provincial Government • Churches • Non-Governmental Organisations • DWA	Increase in number of women in Torba provincial committees and taskforces by 2024
3.2 Deliver human rights, civic education and leadership training for women and girls	Ongoing	• TCC • MoET • Churches • DWA	Training delivered to women and girls in at least 5 communities in Torba province by 2024
Strategic Area 4. Strengthening foundation for gender mainstreaming			
4.1 Mainstream gender into Torba Provincial Government planning and decision-making processes	Ongoing	• Torba Provincial Government • Area Administrators • Department of Local Affairs • DWA	Strategic areas and actions in this Gender Equality Action Plan incorporated into the review of the Torba Strategic Development Plan by 2022 Annual progress report on the implementation of the Torba 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. Enhance the capacity of the Torba Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee to plan for and respond to the specific needs of women, children, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups	Ongoing	• Torba Provincial Government • National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) • Department of Climate Change • Ministry of Justice and Community Services • Vanuatu Red Cross Society • DWA • Department of Youth and Sports	Torba Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Committee trained on gender and protection issues by 2024

Action	Timing	Responsibility	Target
5.2 Increase community access to early warnings and information on environmental, climate change, natural disaster, health and economic risks	By 2024	• NDMO • Department of Climate Change • Department of Environment • Ministry of Health • Department of Water Resources • Department of Local Affairs (DLA) • Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) • Area Administrators	50% of the population, including 50% of women, youth and people with disabilities with access to technologies that convey early warnings by 2024 Community profiles prepared/updated by all Area Administrators in Torba with support from DLA and VNSO by 2024