



VANUATU COUNTRY PROGRAMME RESULTS January – June 2022

Total Budget Phase I	EU Contribution	UN Agency Contributions	Duration
USD 2,475,000	USD 2,164,958	USD 310,042	2020 - 2022

Recipient UN organizations: UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, IOM

Other partners: UN Women, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination; Prime Minister’s Office; Ministry of Justice and Community Services; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Training; Department of Women’s Affairs; National Disaster Management Office; Ministry of Youth and Sport; Vanuatu National Statistics Office; Department of Labour and Employment Services; Judiciary – Office of Public Prosecutions; ActionAid, SISTA, Vatu Mauri, ACTIV, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, ISRAAID, Silae Vanua, Vanuatu Internet Governance Forum; Vanuatu Family Health Association; Wan Smol Bag; Vanuatu Council of Churches; National Youth Council; IPPF, World Vision; Nossal Institute/University of Melbourne.

Context

In March 2022, Vanuatu experienced its first community transmission of COVID-19, which led to widespread lockdowns. In June 2022, most restrictions were lifted, and Vanuatu opened its international borders on the 1 July for the first time in over two years. During the 1st semester of 2022, Vanuatu Steering Committee, the CS-NRG meetings, and the Vanuatu EVAWG Technical Coherence Meetings were held as planned, while the 3rd EVAWG technical meeting took place on the 30 June 2022. Numerous consultations were held with national stakeholders, UN agencies, and CSOs in developing the Phase II proposal to create a shared sustainable exit strategy for the Programme.

Spotlight Initiative’s Response

Despite the uncertainty around COVID-19, in the first half of 2022, the Spotlight Initiative has been able to expand and scale up on foundational work done in 2021, continuing to support work on essential services and standard operating procedures (SOPs), including for the Clinical Management of Rape, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, roll-out of Family Life Education for in and out-of-school programmes, masters’ trainings, also supporting the advocacy and GBV prevention work of local grassroots organizations. Spotlight delivered five trainings to over 70 civil society organizations to enhance communications on GBV and strengthen CSOs voices and awareness-raising efforts. The programme continued to work across sectors and stakeholders, to leverage complementary mandates, and technical contributions for effective, comprehensive, and coherent support to EVAWG in the country.

Key Results

- ✓ **Delivering VAWG services during disaster response** (Outcome 2: Institutions and Outcome 4: Services). The GBV Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) roll-out was delayed due to the COVID-19 emergency as the health workers targeted for the roll-out were engaged in the pandemic response. In preparation for the roll-out, scheduled to begin in the last week of July, the Programme supported the government of Vanuatu to harmonize client referral forms for management of GBV, which was presented to the EVAWG taskforce meeting for feedback, and which will be tested as part of a multi-sectoral client referral form through the health system GBV case management. Once endorsed by the Directorate of Women Affairs, MOH, Police and Justice ministries, the use of client referral form will harmonize case management, enable appropriate documentation and follow-up of cases, and improve service quality.
- ✓ Key experts and stakeholders working on disaster preparedness and response to gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) in Vanuatu joined a *Stakeholder-Update* event to mark the conclusion of initial work aimed to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV in evacuation centres. Experts from IOM presented the results of the preparatory work leading up to the drafting of the GBViE SOP Template for Evacuation Centres Guidance Document. This included the initial findings of a desktop review of relevant international, national, and provincial documents to develop best practice guidance for Vanuatu, and the results of the initial consultation phase, which involved 13 Government agencies and 10 NGO/UN/Civil Society representatives, in partnership with NDMO, and National and Sanma & Shefa-based stakeholders.
- ✓ **Strengthening access to justice & health services** (Outcome 2: Institutions, Outcome 4: Services). The development of the Victims Charter under the Office of the Public Prosecutor led to a nationwide consultation process, the final consultations were held in

Penama and Torba. The first phase of the refurbishment of the Victim Support Office was completed. The dedicated office space for the victim support officer, visiting medical practitioners, psychologists, police officers, and social welfare officers attending to SGBV survivors, will be inaugurated in July 2022. The OPP also commenced work on the children's playground to make the Victims' Centre more accessible, while the installation of ICT Equipment will be finalized in July 2022.

- ✓ **Transforming gender inequitable social norms and behaviors through engagement of adolescents and faith-based organizations** (Outcome 3: Prevention). The programme continued to support GBV awareness-raising activities including cultural plays in Penama province, targeting parents, leaders, and youth groups, followed by safe spaces for conversations on violence.
- ✓ Child Protection Officers and Women Centre Counselors were trained in case-management for online protection abuses, to enhance better management and response to online protection concerns. TV and radio messages were aired to raise awareness of how to prevent and respond to online protection. The Child Protection interagency referral pathway was updated to include online protection.
- ✓ Out of School (OOS) Family Life Education (FLE) modules 4, 5, and 6 were shared and validated. 74 facilitators, including some village health workers and community nurses, completed the first set of training for OOS-FLE facilitators and youth advocates in Santo, Shefa and Tafea. To expand the FLE community outreach, the Sanma provincial FLE Committee was established and conveyed to map out ways of rolling FLE to communities. Further training of youth advocates/ facilitators in Malampa, Penama and Torba, is ongoing. The in- and out-of-school FLE roll-out and training are done collaboratively with the SPC, to ensure linkages and a holistic approach, bringing in the Civic Responsibility component addressing abuse and bullying, which are complementary topics.
- ✓ **Strengthening VAWG data capacity** (Outcome 5: Data). The programme continued to strengthen Administrative Data Systems. With the support of SPC, Vanuatu Family Health Association developed a harmonized database. The database will be presented to stakeholders at the EVAW technical meeting, while SPC will continue to provide technical assistance to Vanuatu Women Centre to develop its VAW database, including facilitating linkages and data sharing protocols with the leadership of Directorate of Women's Affairs.
- ✓ **Increasing civil society's capacity to advocate and influence** (Outcome 6: Women's Movement). The Initiative continued to support the production of resources and multimedia content to assist CSOs' advocacy and outreach efforts. A booklet was produced at the request of the Department of Women Affairs, showcasing male advocacy messages on ending GBV.
- ✓ The programme also supported the development of the StanapStrong resource website, a virtual platform collecting all available resources designed to provide information for different users' needs on how to eliminate GBV.
- ✓ The [virtual restaurant for ACTIV Association](#), managed by a group of women victims of GBV was launched in January 2022.
- ✓ Spotlight Initiative supported Ni-Vanuatu women to establish the Woman I TokTok Tugeta (WITTT) network (Women Talking Together Network). The locally led and women-driven forum brings together over 5000 women from the islands of Erromango, Eton, Tanna, Malekula and Malo to discuss how to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and strengthen the resilience of women.
- ✓ Spotlight has been supporting the official conveying and the work of the Vanuatu CSNRG, strengthening and facilitating their engagement at the national and regional levels, raising awareness on GBV and on the intersectoral issues affecting women in the Pacific such as climate crisis.

One Story of Impact:

Vanuatu stands strong against gender-based violence with the launch of the new website Stanap Strong

Spotlight has supported story-based approaches to ending intimate partner and GBV. The project focuses on the "journey to change" to show the path to change and its challenges, based on the stories of those who have embarked on that path. To support and sustain this change, the [Stanap Strong](#) website is a knowledge hub on EVAWG, catalyzing resources, including pamphlets, multimedia, research reports, policies, statistics, and informational guides. The website is designed to respond to various users' needs, including survivors, offenders, communities working on EVAWG, and researchers or organizations applying for grants.

In their own words...

"We are leveraging crises as a moment of societal upheaval that creates an opening to drive gender-transformative change over the longer term, leaving no one behind. "We are building back better in ways that work for diverse women and girls and women with disabilities", said Flora Vano, ActionAid Vanuatu Country Programme Manager, and Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) member.