



Members of the Shifting the Power Coalition at the Inception Workshop in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

## Strengthening the collective power and leadership of Pacific women in disaster planning and response

### Project overview:

Humanitarian responses have traditionally been controlled by male-dominated national and international bodies, leaving little space for women in affected communities to lead. As a result, women's rights and needs are rarely prioritised in their response.

The Pacific is experiencing a significant increase in climate-induced humanitarian disasters. In this context, ActionAid Australia is working as part of the 'Shifting the Power Coalition' to support women to lead emergency response and take power back into their own hands – ensuring disaster response addresses diverse women's needs.

The coalition of organisations is working to build upon the existing power and knowledge of women emergency responders. On the frontlines of disaster, women play a vital role in ensuring the food security and protection of families and communities.

### Key project activities and outputs:

Women are being supported to lead humanitarian action and raise their voices through training, network building, and research:

- Over 200 diverse women leaders, 13 Pacific women's civil society organisations are being engaged in six countries, with a combined outreach of over 40,000 women;
- National workshops in the six countries with partners to develop capability and preparedness plans for emergency response that respond to the diverse needs of women and engage with national coordination mechanisms;
- Delivery of a surge capacity training workshop with identified women leaders from six countries.

**“A lot of things can happen to affect our climate. But one thing that we must not forget is that whenever there are negotiations going on in terms of climate change... there has to be spaces where women and young girls and vulnerable groups can participate in all policy dialogues in relation to climate disaster management.” - Anne Pakoa**

### Project duration:

2016 - ongoing

### Supported by:

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Pacific Women

### In partnership with:

ActionAid Vanuatu, femLINKpacific, Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Talitha Project, Transcend Oceania, Vanuatu Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (VDPA), Vanuatu Young Women for Change, Vois Blong Mere,

### Project objective:

- Diverse Pacific women's voices provide leadership in disaster preparedness, response and recovery at local, national and regional levels.

### Impact:

This project is transforming gender relations by supporting women to demonstrate the power and potential of their leadership well beyond the humanitarian crisis.

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