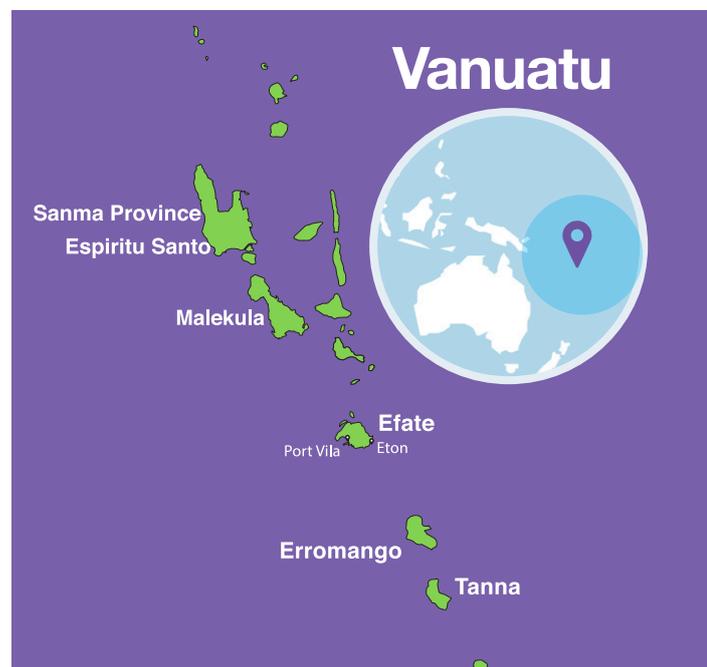




ActionAid Vanuatu & Women I TokTok Tugeta (WITTT)

Mobilising the collective power and leadership of Ni-Vanuatu women in response to climate change and disasters

Background: In a country that faces significant challenges in relation to gender equality and women’s leadership, while being among the most disaster prone globally, supporting women’s organising and collective power in Vanuatu is a critical priority. This has been a core objective for ActionAid Vanuatu since it began in 2015, working in partnership with the Department of Women’s Affairs to support women affected by the crisis. Building on temporary women’s information centres set up in the aftermath of the cyclone, which provided a space for women to access information and mobilise around their protection concerns, ActionAid has supported Ni-Vanuatu women to establish Women I TokTok Tugeta (WITTT). The locally-led and driven women’s forum now brings together over 4000 women from three islands, who meet regularly through women’s collectives to respond to climate change and disasters.



ActionAid Vanuatu plays a facilitating role with WITTT, employing community organisers who support WITTT members to learn about their rights, to strengthen their collective capacity to prepare for and respond to climate change and disasters, and to engage with provincial and national decision makers around their priorities and concerns. Building on a Pacific innovation by a sister organisation in Fiji, WITTT also includes Women Wetem Weta (Women's Weather Watch), which is a women-led communications platform that provides early warning, public health messages and practical information through SMS and mobile radio reaching over one-quarter of the population. Within WITTT, women with disabilities have also established WITTT Sunshine, which focuses on the unique needs and concerns of women with disabilities and supports their collective efforts to ensure inclusive humanitarian response that protects their rights and responds to their needs. Underpinning ActionAid's approach in Vanuatu is a theory of change that sees crisis as a moment of societal upheaval that creates an opening to drive gender transformative change over the longer term, building back better in ways that work for women.

Objectives of Women I TokTok Tugeta



To create a locally led, national women's platform for diverse Ni-Vanuatu women to organise and mobilise in response to climate change and recurrent disasters



To support women to prepare for disasters and lead their communities in preparedness planning and early warning systems



To create a safe space for women to define priorities for their safety with dignity during disasters as well as build awareness of their rights



To create a platform to campaign for an end all forms violence against diverse Ni-Vanuatu Women, which escalates in times of crisis



To build a movement that is inclusive of young women and women with disabilities and supports efforts to build a resilient future for all women

Location

Vanuatu - Erromango, Eton, Tanna and plans to expand to Sanma and Malekula

Our supporters

Current donors

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
The Australian public and private foundations
The ARISE Fund

Other donors

Previously supported by UNFPA

