



# NI VANUATU WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES LEADING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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## Project overview:

This project, a collaboration between WITTT Sunshine, ActionAid Vanuatu, and Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy, aims to empower women with disabilities within a Ni-Vanuatu women-led network. Focused on enhancing safety, security, and livelihoods, the initiative will strengthen WITTT Sunshine's capacity to organise and mobilise its 600 members across five islands.

By 2025, the project envisions women with disabilities achieving financial independence through business hubs, leading protection action plans, and driving inclusive disaster preparedness and recovery efforts. The project will enhance leadership capabilities, support the development of business plans, and provide training in protection strategies and emergency response. Through these efforts, women will gain greater influence in community and household decision-making, promoting more inclusive policies and practices.

## Key project activities and outputs:

The primary goal of this project is to empower women with disabilities to lead in claiming their rights and improving their livelihoods through economic hubs by:

- Strengthening their capacity to manage economic hubs across five islands.
- Developing and supporting business plans and facilitating engagement with business actors.
- Recruiting community mobilisers, providing business training, and equipping women with assistive devices.
- Empowering women to define and address their protection needs and access relevant services.
- Training women in protection strategies, establishing protection action plans, and conducting community-based assessments.
- Enhancing skills in inclusive disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, including training in disaster management and implementing emergency plans.

**Project duration:** July 2024 – December 2025

**Supported by:** Pacific Women Lead (PWL) at the Pacific Community (SPC) Grant

**In partnership with:** Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy (VDPA)

**Location:** Vanuatu (Tanna, Erromango, Eton, Malo and Malekula)

## Project objectives:

- Women with disabilities will be successfully managing businesses through collective economic hubs across five islands.
- Women with disabilities will be effectively identifying and addressing their own protection needs and accessing relevant referral services.
- Women with disabilities will have enhanced skills in leading gender-responsive and inclusive disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

## Impact:

- Women with disabilities will achieve financial independence and successfully operate businesses
- Women will effectively manage their protection needs, access relevant services, and use referral mechanisms to ensure their safety and dignity.
- Women will lead gender-responsive and inclusive disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.
- The WITTT Sunshine platform will be strengthened, with women gaining enhanced leadership capabilities and influencing community and household decision-making.
- Women will receive comprehensive training in business management, protection strategies, and disaster management, including access to assistive devices and small business support.
- Women will build relationships with business actors, government, and community leaders to advocate for more inclusive policies and practices.