

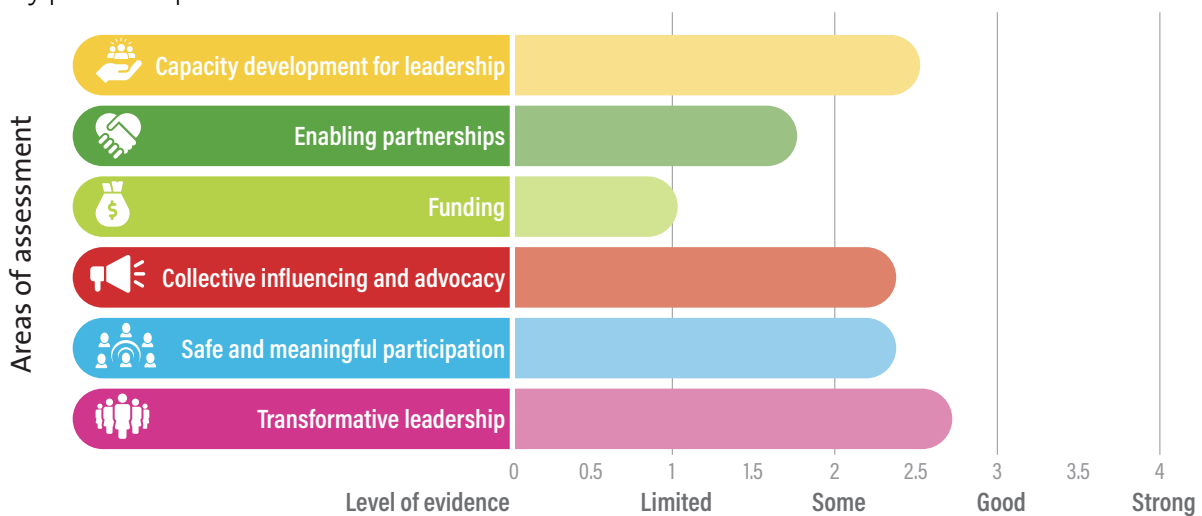
OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN DISASTER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN VANUATU



Women's meaningful participation and leadership in disaster and climate resilience in Vanuatu is evident but there is considerable opportunity to bolster support to women and women's organisations.

Summary of findings

The below graphic highlights the key findings for each area the research explored. Overall, the findings demonstrate that women's leadership and participation in disaster and climate resilience is improving in certain spaces in Vanuatu. However, there is considerable opportunity to bolster support to women and women's organisations – including through increased funding, improved capacity support, and higher quality partnerships.



SETTING THE SCENE

Our research found:



The importance of women's roles in Vanuatu has **stronger recognition** than ever before.



But the impact is not reflected across all decision and policymaking forums and is **often limited** to gender-focused activities and community-level activities.



Women's influence **must reach beyond** these spaces to shape other aspects of disaster and climate prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

We're trying to support them [women] to make decisions, to lead, and to really leverage their skills about preparedness and climate change issues. (research participant)

We have a lot of lessons from Vanuatu that can influence change, but unless these lessons are echoed at higher levels, transformative change will never happen.

(Shirley Laban,

Vanuatu Climate Action Network Coordinator)

	 Enablers and barriers	 Good practice, opportunities and enablers
 Capacity for leadership development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs outside of project activities or for organisational strengthening are not covered consistently • Opportunities are not targeted for women specifically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring funding covers non project-related costs • Providing specific leadership training, technical support, as well as funding these activities
 Enabling partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships are not long-term and strategic, including providing sustained support • When gender equality is not the focus, women's organisations' representatives feel their views and priorities are often neglected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When gender equality is one of the partnerships' objectives, leveraging them feels more equal and strategic • Committing to working in partnership during the design phase of programmes and having major input into decisions
 Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's organisations have limited access to targeted, predictable and multi-year funding • Disaster and climate resilience building institutions do not provide adequate funding to support women's leadership activities within their own organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring multi-year funding • Ensuring funding covers priority areas for the women's organisation • Ensuring funding is available to cover costs such as overheads and capacity support
 Collective influence and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of advocacy influencing are restricted to certain forums • Examples of advocacy influencing are ad hoc rather than sustained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevating the voice of women through research – documenting evidence of women's involvement and its impact • Using the Gender Equality Policy as a key advocacy tool to create accountability and action
 Safe and meaningful participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical barriers and safety in relation to attending meetings and speaking freely at them continue to reduce women's participation • Unequal gender dynamics reduce women's participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of diverse women, including women with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, elderly women etc. • Addressing physical barriers including cultural norms
 Transformative leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male-dominated forums do not adequately support or enable a safe space for women. • Women are not invited to forums and are therefore not adequately represented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering women's empowerment training & management training • Establishing targets/quotas for women's leadership in committees/ forums at all levels, and DRR/Resilience agencies • Creating specific spaces for women to lead their own discussions

Women and women's organisation's urgently need bolstered and ongoing to participate and lead in disaster and climate resilience building spaces.

Find out ways you can support here <https://wrd.unwomen.org/>

1 OXFAM, Oxfam's community-based adaptation to climate change case study: Creating a resilience framework to help Vanuatu prepare for climate change and an uncertain future, https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-12-CC-case-study_vanuatu_FA.pdf