

# **Annex 8: Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan**

07 September 2022

This Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan have been prepared for The Pacific Community (SPC), to inform the project design of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Funding Proposal titled: *Enhancing Adaptation and Community Resilience by Improving Water Security* in Vanuatu. This project will deliver adaptation action for Vanuatu's water infrastructure and community users and will ensure gender mainstreaming in the paradigmatic shift being proposed.

**Project Manager:** Dr. Grant BALLARD-TREMEER

**Authors:** Ms. Debasmita BORAL ROLLAND

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## COVID-19 in Vanuatu

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During the development of this report, the global community continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, which is wreaking havoc on the lives of millions of people, both with regard to health and wellbeing, and socioeconomic indicators. COVID-19 is also having distinctive gendered impacts around the world.<sup>1</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic and major natural disasters hit the Vanuatu economy severely in 2020. Due to the authorities' decisive measures, Vanuatu primarily avoided domestic transmission of COVID-19, but the border closure, according to the International Monetary Fund, brought tourism (a key economic sector) to a virtual stop.

At the time of writing Annex 8 (March 2022), Vanuatu's health authorities announced community transmission of COVID-19, with restrictions on mobility and economy imposed on the main island of Efate (and its surrounding islands). A curfew running from 06:00 to 18:00 has severely constrained women's economic activity and incomes, notably female food sellers or *vatu mamas*.<sup>2</sup>

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed entrenched inequalities and stark disparities in power, clearly illustrating how a global crisis like this impacts people differently depending on where they live, their gender, their age and their socioeconomic status. The consequences of this crisis for gender equality are devastating, as has been anecdotally observed in Vanuatu during the stakeholder consultation processes for the project preparation phase. Worldwide, there has been increasing cases of gender-based violence, and a reversal of advances in sexual and reproductive health and rights. This is particularly concerning in the case of Vanuatu - which, along with the broader Pacific region, is endemic for heightened gender-based violence and violence against women.

The project has attempted to cover these nuances throughout this assessment, paying particular attention to how gender, WASH and climate change interact and identifying actionable interventions such as increasing women's representation in community-based water management groups and providing inclusive (and accessible) training on climate-resilient water management. Through the project's paradigm shift pathway, vulnerable (often remote) communities in Vanuatu (and marginalized groups such as women and girls within them) are expected to be able to benefit from overall increase in climate resilience and improved water safety and security.

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<sup>1</sup> These links provide an overview of gendered impacts of COVID-19 globally:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)01651-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01651-2/fulltext)

[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332080/WHO-2019-nCoV-Advocacy\\_brief-Gender-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332080/WHO-2019-nCoV-Advocacy_brief-Gender-2020.1-eng.pdf)

<https://www.who.int/news/item/03-05-2021-expanding-reach-addressing-gender-barriers-in-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-covid-19>

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/covid-19-and-gender-equality-counteracting-the-regressive-effects>

<sup>2</sup> Latest figures on COVID-19 for Vanuatu are available on: <https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/vu>

# Definitions

To ensure a baseline understanding of climate issues, and the development of the analysis based on impact and exposure on women, men, girls and boys, the following definitions, adapted from the USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific (Adapt Asia-Pacific)<sup>3</sup>, are provided as reference for this Annex-8:

Term	Definition
<b>Gender</b>	A culturally-defined set of economic, social, and political roles, responsibilities, rights, entitlements obligations, associated with being female and male, as well as the power relations between and among women and men, boys and girls. The definition and expectations of what it means to be a woman or girl and a man or boy, and sanctions for not adhering to those expectations, vary across cultures and over time, and often intersect with other factors such as race, class, age and sexual orientation. Transgender individuals, whether they identify as men or women, are subject to the same set of expectations and sanctions. (OHA/PEPFAR, modified from the Interagency Gender Working Group - IGWG)
<b>Gender Equity</b>	The process of being fair to women and men, boys and girls. To ensure fairness, measures must be taken to compensate for cumulative economic, social, and political disadvantages that prevent women and men, boys and girls from operating on a level playing field. (IGWG training resources)
<b>Gender Equality</b>	The state or condition that affords women and men equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities, and resources. Genuine equality means more than parity in numbers or laws on the books; it means expanded freedoms and improved overall quality of life for all people. (IGWG training resources)
<b>Gender-blind</b>	are project designs and activities that ignore gender factors including roles and relations and can lead to reinforcement of gender-based discrimination and existing inequities. (USAID)
<b>Gender-balance</b>	requires that men and women be equally represented - either in equal numbers or in proportion to their presence - in particular settings. (USAID)
<b>Gender Mainstreaming</b>	Process of incorporating a gender perspective into organizational policies, strategies, and administrative functions, as well as into the institutional culture of an organization. This process at the organizational level ideally results in meaningful gender integration as outlined below. (adapted from IGWG training resources)
<b>Gender and Socioeconomic Analysis</b>	is the process of collecting information about gender, age and other social differences and analyzing the impacts of changing circumstances (i.e., climate change) on specific groups of people. This type of analysis provides the basis for identifying key gender considerations and designing a 'socially inclusive approach' that responds to the unique circumstances and needs of all project beneficiaries. (USAID)

<sup>3</sup> Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy of this project can be found here: [https://www.nab.vu/sites/default/files/documents/Annex%208%20-%20Gender%20\\_social%20inclusion%20%20Strategy.pdf](https://www.nab.vu/sites/default/files/documents/Annex%208%20-%20Gender%20_social%20inclusion%20%20Strategy.pdf)

<b>Gender-based Violence</b>	<p>In the broadest terms, “gender-based violence” is violence that is directed at individuals based on their biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to culturally- defined expectations of what it means to be a woman and man, girl and boy. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; threats; coercion; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; and economic deprivation, whether occurring in public or private. GBV is rooted in economic, social, and political inequalities between men and women. GBV can occur throughout the lifecycle, from infancy through childhood and adolescence, the reproductive years and into old age (Moreno 2005), and can affect women and girls, and men and boys, including transgender individuals. Specific types of GBV include (but are not limited to) female infanticide; early and forced marriage, “honor” killings, and female genital cutting/mutilation; child sexual abuse and exploitation; trafficking in persons; sexual coercion, harassment and abuse; neglect; domestic violence; economic deprivation, and elder abuse.</p> <p>(adapted from USG Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Gender-based Violence)</p>
<b>Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment</b>	<p>SEAH is the term used to refer to sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment. Although sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment can happen anywhere in society, when used as an umbrella term within the development and humanitarian sector, the term refers to SEAH perpetrated by those working in, or with, development and humanitarian organisations and within Peacekeeping Missions. (adapted from the Safeguarding Support Hub)</p>

# 1. Introduction to the GCF - Annex 8

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## 1.1 Objective of the study

This Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan (GA-GAP) is a supporting document for the design of the proposed GCF project: *Enhancing adaptation and community resilience by improving water security* in Vanuatu. It is the Annex 8 of the Funding Proposal, which is being proposed as a full-scale project by the Accredited Entity (AE) - The Pacific Community (SPC) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and has been developed in close coordination with Vanuatu's Department of Water Resources (DoWR) and WASH sector partners.

SPC is currently implementing the FP169: *Climate change adaptation solutions for Local Authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia*<sup>4</sup> and has a track record in implementing gender-responsive adaptation solutions, within its broader portfolio of designing and implementing projects - as well as leading regional research - on cross-cutting issues such as climate change, disaster risk management, food security and human rights. The organization recognizes that:

- Climate adaptation and mitigation pathways are not gender-neutral<sup>5</sup>;
- Gendered needs and vulnerabilities of marginal groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, need to be mainstreamed into adaptation design, resilience capacity-building and mitigation services;<sup>6</sup> and
- Gender-transformative impact can be driven through robust financial means, gender budgets and dedicated resources towards mainstreaming gender action in climate change and deforestation.<sup>7</sup>

Without gender and socioeconomic analysis, and a thorough Environmental and Social Management Plan (Annex 6 of the Funding Proposal), the benefits of increased support and access to climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, in tandem with awareness-raising and capacity-building, may accrue to better-off households or more mainstream groups that are able to capitalise on new opportunities and respond better to changes implemented through the project.

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<sup>4</sup> More information on this project is available here: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp169>

<sup>5</sup> Current literature on climate change, and its effects and emergent risks, are predominantly produced in scientific circles. Yet, there is increasing evidence that adopting social science methods, and situating resilience and adaptation practice within a broader science-policy interface and right-based perspectives, can gear projects towards environmental and socioeconomic co-benefits. Particularly, this could better prepare communities to avoid resource strife and respond to the complexity of social arrangements, reducing far-reaching impacts of climate risks. See Butterfield, R. (2018) 'Bringing rights into resilience: revealing complexities of climate risks and social conflict' in Disasters. Journal Article.

<sup>6</sup> Poor or missing gender analysis, or the lack of gender-responsive action, may lead to planners or personnel depending on women to assume a central role in their coping strategies, which may not be the practical reality for many vulnerable communities. Further, this also glosses over the existing burdens on women among such groups. See Nelson, V., Meadows, K., Cannon, T., Morton, J., & Martin, A. (2002) 'Uncertain predictions, invisible impacts and the need to mainstream gender in climate change adaptations' in Gender and Development. Journal Article.

<sup>7</sup> OECD (2014). *Making climate finance work for women*. See: [oecd.org/environment/making-climate-finance-work-for-women](https://oecd.org/environment/making-climate-finance-work-for-women).



A ‘gender lens’<sup>8</sup> is both necessary and relevant for the project to maximise its outcomes for the CR-WASH sub-sector, and ensuring resilience of water infrastructure against natural and climate-induced hazards, disasters and weather variations that cannot be avoided. This gender-responsive approach is also crucial for establishing institutional structures and broad-based political momentum and socioeconomic frameworks to mobilise medium- and long-term adaptation action in the country and derive socioeconomic and gender benefits from increased water security in the communities. Particularly, this project will aim to increase institutional representation and meaningful participation of women in community-based management of water sources, system improvements and new WASH infrastructure. Improved gender parity will help deliver the adaptation pathway chosen by the project, as well as sustain results to ensure that communities are able to transition to a water-secure and climate-resilient future.

The overall objective, therefore, of the gender assessment will be to provide a tool to promote gender mainstreaming in Vanuatu through the project paradigm - particularly, by identifying relevant entry points that the project can benefit from given its focus on water security and the climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (CR-WASH) sub-sector. Using gender as a lens will also help identify the social relationships between women and men, and other marginalized groups in Vanuatu.

Access to WASH is fundamental to development but it can be mobilized as critical climate adaptation strategy for poor and vulnerable communities, as well as marginalized groups within those communities, including women and girls.<sup>9</sup> The levels of global climate finance directed to the WASH sector are currently limited (according to WaterAid), which reflects that improved WASH is yet to be recognized as a key climate adaptation strategy, and for gender equality.

The focus of this study, therefore, is to present an assessment of the different roles, rights, needs and opportunities of women and men, boys and girls in the project context, and mobilise project resources to tackle gender barriers, and contribute towards improved gender equality in Vanuatu. In doing so, the assessment will seek to operationalise gender mainstreaming activities through the project’s results framework by formulating a Gender Action Plan - Section 8, based on the project’s Logical Framework (Section E of the Funding Proposal).

This will ensure that the proposed design<sup>10</sup> to deliver improved water security and increased climate resilience at community level in Vanuatu can have climate, environmental and social co-benefits in Vanuatu, with identified indicators, timeline and means of verification. The logical framework of the project has three Outcomes, two of which are focused on water infrastructure management and planning in tandem with a Outcome dedicated to institutional strengthening.

**The outcome and outputs are detailed below:**

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<sup>8</sup> It is important to note that gender is socially constructed, and gender relations are contextually specific and often change in response to altering circumstances. MOSER, C. O.N. (1993): Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training. New York: Routledge.

<sup>9</sup> Winqvist, E. (ed.) (2020). Feminist Policies for Climate Justice. Stockholm: Concord. Available at: <https://concord.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/fem-rapport-2020-final.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Please refer to Section E for the Logical Framework in the Funding Proposal (FP). The Gender Action Plan (GAP) (Section 8) provides impact and outcome statement for each Outcome in relation to gender mainstreaming entry points and proposed actions for the project, to be evaluated against a set of indicators and targets as well as delineation of timeline, responsible parties and costing.

The paradigm shift potential of the results framework is captured in the Theory of Change, available in the FP as Section B.2.a.

<b>Outcome 1:</b>	<b>Communities are empowered to plan and manage climate-resilient water resources</b>
<b>Output 1.1:</b>	New and existing DWSSPs incorporate incremental improvements to mainstream adaptation solutions
<b>Output 1.2:</b>	Awareness, capacities and skills of communities and area administrators on climate-resilient water management improved
<b>Output 1.3:</b>	Vulnerable communities are supported to develop and implement their DWSSPs (600 by the end of the project cycle)
<b>Outcome 2:</b>	<b>Communities have enhanced climate-resilient rural water infrastructure</b>
<b>Output 2.1:</b>	270 vulnerable communities supported to construct, operate, and maintain climate-resilient water infrastructure
<b>Outcome 3:</b>	<b>Provincial and national institutions are strengthened to address climate risks associated with water</b>
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b>	National- and provincial-level staff and WASH sector partners trained on climate-resilient water management
<b>Outcome 3.2:</b>	Knowledge management through data sharing mechanism established for climate-resilient water management
<b>Outcome 3.3:</b>	Monitoring, learning and evaluation framework established for improved learning for climate-resilient water management

Through these Outcomes and outputs, the proposed project will mainstream gender by:

- Analysing and enhancing the baseline of gender and social inclusion in the National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water (NIP); Capital Assistance Program (CAP) and more broadly, by equitably targeting beneficiaries through the Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSPs);
- Establishing gender-transformative approaches for the design, delivery and maintenance plans of water infrastructure, whether existing or newly built or in the pipeline;
- Promoting gender parity, to the extent possible, through the technical and maintenance capacity-building outputs, alongside the institutional development targeted for increased water security in Vanuatu; and,
- Mainstreaming gender analyses and praxis for GCF investments in the CR-WASH subsector, both as a best practice in Vanuatu and for similar contexts in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

## 1.2 Gender barriers in Vanuatu: a summary

A kaleidoscope of overlapping cultural, socioeconomic and political roles form gender norms, relations, uneven power dynamics and vulnerabilities in Vanuatu. For these reasons, the climate crisis affects women and girls in unique and disproportionate ways. The archipelago nation is spread out over 80 islands and has repeatedly been featured as one of the most at-risk and exposed country to climate change, notably in the 2019 World Risk Index.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Ruhr Universität Bochum (2019). World Risk Report (focus on water supply). Available at: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019\\_Online\\_english.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WorldRiskReport-2019_Online_english.pdf)

Vanuatu is also classified as a Small Islands Developing States or SIDS<sup>12</sup>, which are a distinct group of developing island countries facing specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. As with other nations with SIDS status, repeated exposure to climate events and natural disaster phenomena presents a major obstacle to the sustained eradication of poverty and promoting shared prosperity in Vanuatu and undermines progress on gender equality indicators. This is compounded by SIDS characteristics such as: remoteness and deprivation from the benefits of scale, low income and assets, small domestic markets and heavy dependence on a few external markets and international support, high volatility of economic growth, fragile natural environments, and socioeconomic as well as gendered vulnerabilities.<sup>13</sup>

Additionally, until December 2020, Vanuatu was a Least Developed Country (LDCs).<sup>14</sup> During its graduation from the LDC list, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development recognized consistent strides made by the country to improve its social and economic development indicators but also that the exposure to environmental and economic vulnerabilities remain high, particularly in the face of climate change and other external shocks.<sup>15</sup>

**In terms of gender characteristics, Vanuatu can be identified as a traditionally male-dominated and largely patriarchal society, with skewed sex ratio (105 males:100 females) in the islands. Overarching gender barriers include:**

### **Limited participation of women in policy and decision-making spheres**

Women have limited participation in decision-making spheres, with low representation in Parliament, as well as within devolved institutions of power. The national government's Beijing +25 review report, for example, highlights that no women were elected to parliament in the last two elections.<sup>16</sup> Further, in 5 out of 6 provincial councils, no women have been elected, with a sole female councillor elected in the sixth. Socio-anthropological research in Kurumambe and Purau villages in Tongoa, for example, highlighted how women must navigate strict rules governing their presence and speech in the *nakamal* (chief's meeting place) - effectively excluding them from holding titles or wielding decision-making power even at localised levels of governance.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> SIDS were recognized as having special status both for their environment and development at the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Updated list of SIDS can be found on: <https://www.un.org/ohrrls/content/list-sids>.

<sup>13</sup> UN-OHRLS - Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (2015). Small Island Developing States in Numbers: Climate Change Edition 2015. Report. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION\\_2015.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION_2015.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> See UNCTAD's LDC list here: <https://unctad.org/news/vanuatu-graduates-least-developed-country-status>

<sup>15</sup> See UNDESA's LDC profile for Vanuatu: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/LDC\\_Profile\\_Vanuatu.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/LDC_Profile_Vanuatu.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Department of Women's Affairs (2020). Beijing +25 - National Review Report. Available at: [https://www.asiapacificgender.org/sites/default/files/documents/Vanuatu%20\(English\).pdf](https://www.asiapacificgender.org/sites/default/files/documents/Vanuatu%20(English).pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Granderson, A. (2017) "The role of traditional knowledge in building adaptive capacity for climate change in Vanuatu" in Weather, Climate and Society.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317071599\\_The\\_Role\\_of\\_Traditional\\_Knowledge\\_in\\_Building\\_Adaptive\\_Capacity\\_for\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Perspectives\\_from\\_Vanuatu](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317071599_The_Role_of_Traditional_Knowledge_in_Building_Adaptive_Capacity_for_Climate_Change_Perspectives_from_Vanuatu)

## **Inequity in economic lives as well as gendered capacity and input gaps among men and women**

Vanuatu is an agricultural society in which 75% of the total population lives in rural areas and depends largely on subsistence agriculture and fishing for daily subsistence and livelihoods, according to the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (2016). The 2016 mini-census found that 88% of household engage in some form of vegetable crop production, 57% in cash crop production, 69% in livestock production and 49% in fishing. A *Country Gender Assessment* led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) found that women and men participate in almost equal numbers in the agricultural sectors, but inequality manifests in the crops that are grown (often: men may grow cash crops) and in the technology employed (often: men have better access to agricultural inputs, owing to cash income from more lucrative crops).<sup>18</sup> Additionally, traditional and faith-based norms continue to operate and undermine gender equality in the essential inputs for productive and remunerative agricultural livelihoods, such as by: excluding women from matrimonial property, inheritance, and land rights).

### **Disproportionate share of unpaid care work continues to be undertaken by women**

As in many other societies, the World Bank's *Gender and Investment Climate Reform Assessment* for Vanuatu finds: economically active women suffer from a double workday - combining responsibilities for home and family with their economic activities<sup>19</sup>. Although parity in enrolment rates has been achieved at primary and junior secondary school level, women remain less likely than men to have a completed secondary school education and to go on to tertiary education. This hints towards a gendered gap in educational achievements and skills, which translates into women being limited into low-skilled, low-paying jobs that are often found primarily in the informal sector.

In rural contexts, women face barriers in finding productive and remunerative work, and may be contributing to subsistence agriculture as well as various unpaid work in the household, thereby exhibiting high levels of time poverty.<sup>20</sup> Through stakeholder consultations for this project, it was revealed that women are primarily agents of domestic water provision, along with teenagers and young adults, which is corroborated by existing research by UNICEF and academics.<sup>21</sup>

### **High incidence of gender-based violence in Vanuatu**

Vanuatu has one of the highest prevalence rates of violence against women and girls globally. Research conducted by the Vanuatu Women's Centre (in 2011) established that ~60% of women with an intimate partner had experienced physical violence, ~68% experienced emotional violence, and ~69% coercive behavioural control by men.<sup>22</sup> According to the World Bank's 2012

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<sup>18</sup> FAO (2020). Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Vanuatu. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7427en/ca7427en.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> AusAID & IFC (2010). Gender and Investment Climate Reform Assessment - Vanuatu. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/25925/111536-WP-IFC-GenderICReformAssessments-Vanuatu.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>20</sup> Time poverty is the burden of competing claims on an individual's time that reduce their ability to make unconstrained choices in how they allocate their time leading to increased work intensity and to trade-offs among various tasks. (A. Kes and H. Swaminathan. 2005. Gender and Time Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. In C. Blackden and Q. Wodon, eds. Gender, Time Use, and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Washington, DC: World Bank.)

<sup>21</sup> J. Willetts et al. 2010. Addressing Two Critical MDGs together: Gender in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives. Pacific Economic Bulletin. 25 (1).

<sup>22</sup> World Vision (2018). Evaluation Report: Reducing GbV Project (Vanuatu Counselling Approach). Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Counselling%20Evaluation%202018%20.pdf>

*World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development*, between 60 - 70% of women in Vanuatu (alongside Kiribati and Solomon Islands) experience some form of domestic violence.<sup>23</sup>

Male family members and boyfriends perpetrate most of the violence and it occurs in all provinces and islands, across age groups, education levels, socio-economic groups and religions. It is higher in rural (63%) than in urban (50%) areas. Social values held by both women and men reinforce the acceptability of violence towards women and girls and ~60% of women agree with at least one “reason” for men to beat their wives. In Vanuatu, gender-based violence, and particularly intimate-partner violence, is used as punishment and discipline and is accepted and condoned as ‘normal’ behaviour in many communities. This impacts both women and children.

Stakeholder consultations conducted during the project highlighted the need for introducing security and safety Outcomes for system improvements and new WASH infrastructure planned through the project - particularly demarcation of women and men’s toilets, locks and doors, as well as lighting to ensure safe passage and accessibility. Therefore, working to mainstream gender interests and ensuring dignity for women and girls (also around menstrual hygiene management) through planned project activities will overall increase community well-being, ensure social co-benefits and the success of the project adaptation pathway.

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<sup>23</sup> See: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/11/25/raising-awareness-of-violence-against-women-in-the-pacific>

## 2. Methodology note for Annex 8

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### 2.1 Primary data and information collected through key informant interviews and focused working groups

Due to pandemic-related obstacles, this gender assessment has been prepared using primary information and data collected by national stakeholder engagement experts between June - September 2021. An **Inception Workshop**, convened on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, commenced these consultations and engagement processes.<sup>24</sup> Following the Inception Workshop, one to one/face to face consultations were held with key stakeholders actively working or involved in the national water governance processes, humanitarian responses for water and utilities as well as the overall improvement of WASH service delivery in Vanuatu.

Using semi-structured interviewing methodology, ranging from one to two persons at a time and in accordance to COVID-19 guidelines laid down by the Government of Vanuatu, interviews were conducted with the **Department of Water Resources (DoWR)** and other key ministries; civil society organizations (CSOs); and, UN entities active in Vanuatu, particularly UNICEF (an important WASH sector partner for this project). The stakeholders ranged from employees of the DoWR to provincial government leaders and community members, who play a key role in ensuring water security in Vanuatu. Participants and stakeholders were identified using a combination of purposive and snowball sampling during the field missions led by the DoWR, and consulted according to their levels of knowledge, exposure and access on climate change, water infrastructure, and gender as well as socioeconomic issues to prioritise and vet information and data received.

The **Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA)** was among the key stakeholders consulted as a part of this process. A key finding from this consultation was that gender has been increasingly incorporated in WASH processes over the years. However, mainstreaming remains a need across all WASH stakeholders that requires ongoing improvement. WASH design interventions and processes within government sectors and NGOs need to be more responsive to the needs of children, the elderly and LGBTQIA+. Given the reach of the proposed project down to community-level interventions, it was determined consultation at the provincial level was also necessary to inform the project preparation stage. Accordingly, with guidance from DoWR, the provinces of Penama, Sanma and Torba<sup>25</sup> were selected. The consultations identified ongoing relevant water

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<sup>24</sup> The workshop was conducted by SPC and involved the participation of key players including the Vanuatu Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) - Ministry of Climate Change, the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-hazards Department, Department of Strategic Planning, Policy & Aid Coordination. WASH sector partners included United Nation's Children Fund, Asian Development Bank, International Organization on Migration and the New Zealand High Commission.

<sup>25</sup> The Torba Province consists of the Torres and Banks group of islands in the north of Vanuatu. The Torres group is located in the extreme north of Vanuatu and comprises of 5 islands: Hiu, Metoma, Tegua, Loh and Toga. The Banks group include Mota Lava, Mota, Merik, Ureparapara, Vanua Lava and Gaua islands. The provincial centre or headquarters is located on the island of Vanua Lava. Penama encompasses the three islands of Pentecost, Ambae



security work that are being implemented by government and NGOs in the provinces, that provide a basis for future development opportunities in the sector. Participants also identified the key gender groups at the community level and articulated their different needs that should be incorporated into the design of new water security/WASH projects and programmes so that interventions are responsive to the needs and special circumstances of all beneficiaries.

The funding proposal package, including this Annex 8, was subsequently presented at a **Validation Workshop**, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. This ensured that national-level and provincial stakeholders were engaged, and their consensus was sought for, the gender mainstreaming goals identified by the project.

## 2.2 Secondary data and information collected through literature review

To collect secondary information and literature, the gender expert conducted an in-depth desktop review in tandem with the primary and formative remote research through national experts in the islands. The literature review focused on gender mainstreaming, water security and resilience as a broader topic, drawing from key players in the water industry such as the Global Water Partnership - GWP, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery - GFDRR, United Nations Development Programme - UNDP, United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF and the World Bank, as well as donor agencies active in the Pacific region, such as Australian Aid (AusAID), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Existing gender assessment and gender action plan for prior GCF investment in Vanuatu (FP035<sup>26</sup>), were also reviewed to understand the scope of gender-climate resilience work through prior GCF investment in the islands. Lessons learnt and best practices were reviewed from recently closed and ongoing projects such as: UNDP (V-CAP project) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP (VAN-KIRAP project). These studies and reports were supplemented by research from think tanks and research groups such as the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). Entries in peer-reviewed anthropology, geography- and climate-focused journals such as *Anthropology Today*, *Gender and Development*, *Disasters* (among others) were also reviewed to ensure that the assessment is able to capture latest studies and research in Vanuatu on the broader domains of climate resilience, WASH and gender.

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and Maewo with the provincial headquarters located on Ambae, while Sanma covers the islands of Espiritu Santo and Malo where the provincial headquarter is located in the northern town of Luganville on Santo.

<sup>26</sup> The FP035: Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning in Vanuatu is a project being implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to build technical capacity to harness and manage climate data and develop practical CIS tools in the country. See <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp035> for more.

## 2.3 Concurrent triangulation of primary inputs and secondary data and information collection

The study employs a **concurrent triangulation methodology**, and deliberately sidesteps sequential research processes. In *sequential designs*, either the qualitative or quantitative data are collected in an initial stage, followed by the collection of the other data types during a succeeding, second stage.<sup>27</sup> In contrast, *concurrent designs* are characterized by the collection of both types of data during the same stage (which was the case for the development of this assessment).<sup>28</sup>

Within these two categories, there can be three specific designs based on: (a) the level of emphasis given to the qualitative and quantitative data (equal or unequal), (b) the process used to analyze and integrate the data, and (c) whether or not the theoretical basis underlying the study methodology is to bring about social change or advocacy.<sup>29</sup>

This approach has been deemed suited to this gender assessment, given that it will operationalize GCF and co-financing investments towards improved gender outcomes (such as: increased participation of women in rural water governance bodies, gender-transformative WASH infrastructure design and reinforced policy framework), through the paradigm of increased climate resilience and water security in Vanuatu.

Additionally, the stakeholder consultations undertaken in the islands, was formative in nature and rapid in mandate, necessitating a prompt methodology to establish an inventory of information and a gender baseline that can be operationalized to cover the complex aspects of CR-WASH in Vanuatu. Therefore, the concurrent approach is suited because of: the flexibility to use secondary quantitative and qualitative findings for the comprehension of the studied phenomenon in the primary research (mainly the stakeholder consultations), and the accuracy it can provide to samples of intermediate or small size (the stakeholders consulted during the fieldwork conducted by the national experts).

This also ensures that the assessment and action plan are able to propose measures that are relevant for the delivery of outputs identified in the results framework, particularly the identified gender-responsive co-benefit in Section E of the Funding Proposal: improved gender parity in the representation of women in Rural Water Committees (a minimum of 40%). Additionally, the project will be targeting a 50:50 ratio of beneficiaries at the community level in the 600 new DWSSPs, as well as among the chosen DWSSPs (270) that receive infrastructure support. The project will also upgrade the requirements for DWSSPs, mandating the inclusion of gender factors in the broader prioritization framework, as well as upgrading the methodology of the DWSSP.

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<sup>27</sup> Creswell JW, Plano Clark VL, Gutmann ML, Hanson WE. Advances in mixed methods research designs. In: Tashakkori A, Teddlie C, editors. Handbook of mixed methods in social and behavioral research.

<sup>28</sup> Creswell JW, Plano Clark VL, Gutmann ML, Hanson WE. - Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.



### 3. Policy environment for gender-transformative CR-WASH in Vanuatu

This section takes stock of the policy environment and legal frameworks available for gender-responsive climate change adaptation in the Vanuatu (including international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women or CEDAW, national laws and policies, strategy documents on gender and climate change). It is important to note that one of the five strategic areas of the Government of Vanuatu's National Gender Equality Policy is *fostering gender-responsive and community-driven solutions to climate and disaster resilience*, which this project will contribute to by delivering gender-responsive, climate-resilient WASH infrastructure in rural and remote contexts of Vanuatu.

Identification of legal tools and enabling policies, particularly at the baseline, is crucial in ensuring that gender inequality can be addressed through government-owned and formal procedures. These tangible processes can also help drive ownership of the project, and its social impacts. Additionally, the inclusion of local and national gender partners develops capacity and technical knowledge towards future gender efforts while establishing ownership of the project and the change narrative being implemented.

Details	Year	Information
CEDAW	1995	Vanuatu ratified the CEDAW in 1995, and has received concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Vanuatu in 2016. <sup>30</sup> CEDAW has recognized Vanuatu's progressive reforms in Family Protection Act, the initiation of a new National Gender Equality Policy, Gender Equity in Education Policy, while reiterating the need for establishing effective remedies in both the formal and traditional justice systems. Awareness raising for women's rights, particularly through civil society organizations, is also key.
National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP)	2016 - 2030	The NSDP 2016-2030, prepared by the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, includes three main focus areas or 'pillars' that focus on 1) the environment; 2) the economy; and 3) society. The NSDP notes that Vanuatu aspires to "...an inclusive society which upholds human dignity and where the rights of all Ni-Vanuatu, including women, youth, the elderly and vulnerable groups are supported, protected and promoted in our legislation and institutions." The pillar on society includes commitments to 1) implement gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes; 2) prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups;

<sup>30</sup> United Nations CEDAW (2016). Concluding Observations - shared on 09 March 2016. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/064/87/PDF/N1606487.pdf?OpenElement>

		and 3) ensure all people, including people with disabilities, have access to governmental services (Government of Vanuatu, 2016).
National Gender Equality Policy (NGEP)	2020 - 2030	The NGEP 2020 - 2030, prepared by the Department of Women's Affairs of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services directs the government to implement gender mainstreaming nation-wide through all governmental departments. The NGEP prioritizes five strategic areas: 1) eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls; 2) enhancing women's empowerment and skills development; 3) advancing women's leadership and political participation; 4) strengthening the foundation for gender mainstreaming; and, 5) fostering gender-responsive and community-driven solutions to climate and disaster resilience.
6 Gender Action Plans at provincial level	2020 - 2024	The purpose of this Gender Equality Action Plan is to provide a clear plan of action for government, civil society, private sector and development partners to coordinate actions to advance gender equality and the well-being of women and girls in all 6 Provinces in line with the National Gender Equality Policy (NGEP) 2020-2030.
WASH policies		<p>The Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016 and the Water Supply (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2016, the Vanuatu National Drinking Water Quality Standards 2016, and the Vanuatu National Water Policy 2017-2030 all require community water supplies to have a Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP), an internationally-recognised approach for achieving safe drinking water. Both the current Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2008-2018 and the draft Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2018-2030 (NWS) include strategic directions and targets for introducing DWSSP i.e. the Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning process to rural community water supply schemes (i.e. departments, private, communities, schools, health facilities and households). The National Environmental Health Policy and Strategy 2012-2016 (NEHPS) also sets DWSSP targets.</p> <p>Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning (DWSSP) is a process of community engagement in identifying and discussing threats to safe and secure drinking water, and making plans to manage these threats. The resulting community DWSSP guides day-to-day water supply operation and maintenance, as well as improvements.</p> <p>Once the necessary community development training has been provided, the registration can be completed (Section 20F of the Water Resources (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016). The Act also requires at least 40% of the members of a RWC must be women - which has been added as a co-benefit to the project's Logical Framework (Section E - Funding Proposal).</p>


## 4. Socioeconomic and gender baseline in Vanuatu

### 4.1 Methodology for the baseline

The contents of this assessment are derived from a combination of primary research (through national- and local-level stakeholder consultations) and secondary research (literature review, policy analysis and collation of secondary data). Site-specific, localised data has not been collected as the project will select sites during the implementation phase through the National Implementation Plan (NIP) process and mobilise those funds through the Capital Assistance Programme (CAP). In lieu, this GA-GAP uses available national aggregate statistics and composite indices. These data points have been chosen to nuance the primary and secondary research on climate resilience and the WASH baseline in the country. Drawn from primarily VNSO, and different UN entities, these speak to the issues identified by the GCF in its *Mainstreaming Gender* toolkit<sup>31</sup> as crucial socioeconomic indicators that can impact upon the performance of the project and therefore, are being mapped and mainstreamed in the project design stage.

### 4.2 National aggregate statistics with SDG indicators

The national-level data points are divided into four categories (poverty and hardship, education, labour and health), and presented alongside their corresponding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). These indicators cover: **SDG 1**; **SDG 3**; **SDG 4** and **SDG 8**.

SDG 1	CHOSEN INDICATORS	VALUES
	• % of population below international poverty line	• 13.2% (2010)
	• % of population below national poverty line	• 12.7% (2010)
	• % of population below lower middle income poverty line	• 39.4% (2010)
	• % of population in severe multidimensional poverty <sup>32</sup>	• n/a
	• % of population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty	• n/a
	• % of male-headed households (HHs)	• 76% (2009)
	• % of female-headed households	• 24% (2009)

<sup>31</sup> GCF (2017). Mainstreaming Gender in GCF projects. Publication Guide. Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/mainstreaming-gender-green-climate-fund-projects>

<sup>32</sup> Multidimensional poverty: In the post-2015 SDG and Agenda 2030 Framework, SDG 1 targets poverty elimination - in all forms and dimensions. This mandate requires tools to enumerate (quantitatively) and assess (qualitatively) poverty levels in different countries. The Multidimensional Poverty Index, calculated by UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), is an important tool as it complements the international poverty line statistics by showing the nature and extent of overlapping deprivations for each person. Currently, due to a paucity of data, the MPI is not calculated for Vanuatu.

Vanuatu's relatively high per-capita incomes combine with reasonably widespread land access for subsistence agriculture and informal, community-based social safety nets to keep the incidence of extreme poverty low. However, these high per-capita incomes overshadow the fact that Vanuatu (along with the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Marshall Islands) has higher than 10% extreme poverty (the regional average for the Pacific is around 3%). Vanuatu (along with the FSM, Kiribati and Marshall Islands) collectively hosts over 90% of people in poverty in the southern Pacific. Poverty is generally viewed as hardship culturally in this region.

- National and International Poverty Line:<sup>33</sup> National poverty lines are defined according to each country's specific economic and social circumstances, and the International Poverty Line is pegged at US\$ 1.90 or 210 VATU. Since Vanuatu is a lower middle-income country, it is also important to measure poverty using the Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line (US\$ 3.20 or 354 VATU) - 39.4% of the population is below this line, according to the latest available statistics. With recent TCs Pam and Harold (strongest and second-strongest to ever affect Vanuatu), many households dropped back into hardship, reversing earlier gains.
- Multidimensional poverty: Currently, due to a paucity of data, the MPI is not calculated for Vanuatu. Like peer Melanesian economies, with large proportions of the population living semi-subsistence lifestyles in rural areas, consumption poverty is difficult to measure, however vulnerabilities are widespread - which are exacerbated by multivariable risks, including compounding climate hazards.<sup>34</sup>
- Gender-disaggregation of households: <sup>35</sup> In Vanuatu, due to the presence of multigenerational households, it is difficult to assess how household heads are designated and such roles adhered to. However, gender-disaggregation of private households, is available from a monograph published by the VNSO on the 2009 National Population and Housing Census - revealing that MHHs are the norm (76% compared to 24% of FHHs). The overriding factor influencing WASH in Vanuatu is rural versus urban location, according to the VNSO monograph. However, analysing the data by the sex of the household - lone MHHs have slightly better access to improved sanitation facilities compared to FHHs. FHHs also tend to have shared toilet facilities, possibly reflecting a lower standard of housing for women in particular cases and areas.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>World Bank (2019). Poverty and Equity Brief (Vanuatu), available at: [https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7-AA2972D68AFE/Archives-2019/Global\\_POVEQ\\_VUT.pdf](https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7-AA2972D68AFE/Archives-2019/Global_POVEQ_VUT.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> Feeny, S. & McDonald, L. (2014). Vulnerability to Multidimensional Poverty: Findings from Households in Melanesia. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00220388.2015.1075974>

<sup>35</sup> Micro data analyses, with consideration for macro, population and demographic factors, reveals the importance of introducing heterogeneity in household poverty figures as well as contextualizing how FHHs and MHHs function, conditional upon location, age, number of members, marital status, economic access, and other indicators. It is an imperfect metric but is currently one of the only viable option for exploring how gender impacts on household characteristics. See more: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.HOU.FEMA.ZS?locations=Z4-VU>

<sup>36</sup> VNSO (2009). National Population and Housing Census. Gender Monograph: Women and Men in Vanuatu. See: [https://mjcs.gov.vu/images/research\\_database/2009\\_Vanuatu\\_Census\\_Gender\\_Monograph.pdf](https://mjcs.gov.vu/images/research_database/2009_Vanuatu_Census_Gender_Monograph.pdf)

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SDG 3	CHOSEN INDICATORS	VALUES
	• % exposure to gender-based violence (lifetime probability)	• 60% (2011)
	• # adolescent fertility rate, (modeled estimate, births per 1000 women)	• 48 births (2019)
	• # maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	• 72 deaths (2019)
	• # infant mortality rate (modeled estimate, per 1000 live births)	• 22 deaths (2019)
	• # children under five mortality (modeled estimate, per 1000 births)	• 26 deaths (2019)

Despite producing insignificant greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, SIDS populations (including the ni-Vanuatu peoples) are on the frontline of climate change impacts, including having a high burden of climate-sensitive diseases. Furthermore, the government highlights the threats climate change poses to human health in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which also recognizes the vulnerability of the country to climate change and the need to improve access to basic health services.<sup>37</sup> The importance of SDG 3 is underwritten by the scope of this project: investment in climate resilience and water security of communities can have diffuse and direct impacts on health outcomes of the population (particularly, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic).

- Maternal mortality ratio (MMR), infant mortality rate (IMR) and under-five mortality rate:<sup>38</sup> MMR, IMR and under-five mortality statistics are collected through the census to demonstrate the access and efficacy of health services and family planning in Vanuatu. Child mortality, for example, has fallen in Vanuatu, but remains high compared to other Pacific countries. Poor water security and WASH infrastructure is one of the leading contributors to enteric and other infectious disease burdens, which remains high in Vanuatu.
- Additionally, Vanuatu - like peer economies and SIDS, is vulnerable to tropical disease outbreaks. Climate change could affect the seasonality of such outbreaks, as well as the transmission of vector-borne diseases, underwriting the importance of robust WASH in the country.<sup>39</sup> For example, the seasonality and prevalence of dengue transmission may change in future climate change scenarios, and is modelled for different RCPs in Figure 1:

<sup>37</sup> [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-unfccc-cch-country-profile-vanuatu.pdf?sfvrsn=451e1b3b\\_2&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-unfccc-cch-country-profile-vanuatu.pdf?sfvrsn=451e1b3b_2&download=true)

<sup>38</sup> The World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies MMR or complications during pregnancy and childbirth as a leading cause of death and disability among women of reproductive age in developing countries. This was an MDG and is now an SDG 3 indicator. Similarly, the IMR under-five mortality rates take stock of preventable child deaths at birth and below the age of 5.

<https://data.unicef.org/country/vut>

<sup>39</sup> [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-unfccc-cch-country-profile-vanuatu.pdf?sfvrsn=451e1b3b\\_2&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-unfccc-cch-country-profile-vanuatu.pdf?sfvrsn=451e1b3b_2&download=true)

Monthly mean vectorial capacity (VC) in Vanuatu for dengue fever. Modelled estimates for 2015 (baseline) are presented together with 2035 and 2085 estimates under low emissions (RCP2.6) and high emissions (RCP8.5) scenarios

— 2015, baseline  
— 2035, low emissions scenario RCP2.6  
— 2035, high emissions scenario RCP8.5  
— 2085, low emissions scenario RCP2.6  
— 2085, high emissions scenario RCP8.5

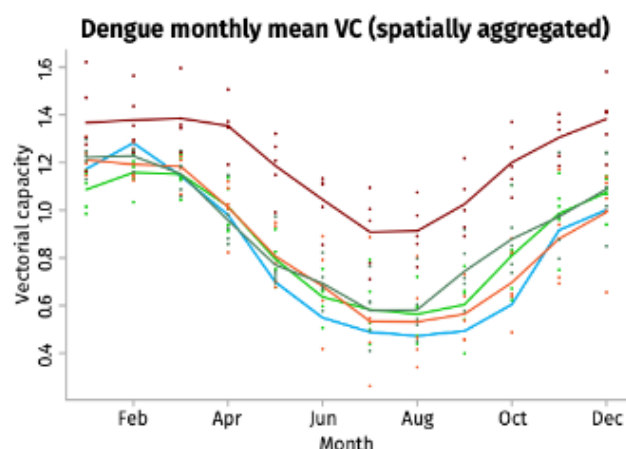



Figure 1: Dengue projections based on different RCPs in Vanuatu (WHO, 2020)

SDG 4	CHOSEN INDICATORS	VALUES
	• % literacy rate, adult female	• 86.7% (2018)
	• % literacy rate, adult male	• 88.3% (2018)
	• % literacy rate, youth female	• 96.5% (2014)
	• % literacy rate, youth male	• 95.0% (2014)
	• # children out of school, primary, female	• 1503 (2015)
	• # children out of school, male	• 1797 (2015)
	• % progression to secondary, female	• 45.6% (2000)
	• % progression to secondary, male	• 44.2% (2000)

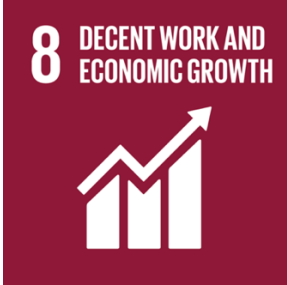
The education system of Vanuatu is atypical in that it represents an amalgamation of two disparate systems, the British and the French, that co-existed within the country prior to independence. Additionally, the church is an important education authority for primary and secondary schools. Government expenditure on education (as a percentage of total government expenditure) is 12.6% and the sector is the largest government service deliverer and employer.

Overall, there is no statistically significant difference between the performance of boys and girls, from available data. However, the Vanuatu Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan 2020 - 2030 identifies the importance of developing the capacities to identify further gender inequalities and address them through the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET). Particularly, a module on GbV has been developed by the Vanuatu Education Sector Program (VESP) in collaboration with the MoET as an awareness-raising exercise and for broader use in the education sector.

- WASH performance in Vanuatu's schools (per the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Project indicators) has been found to be limited. A baseline study of Penama province's 78 schools found that 63% had access to basic water, 26% had basic sanitation, and 27% with basic hygiene facilities.
- A Wash in Schools (WinS) program funded by the Australian Government (Western Pacific Sanitation Marketing and Innovation Program) in the broader region found that maximising girl children attendance can be achieved through the creation of 'girls' space' with



dedicated bathrooms and reliable water supply.<sup>40</sup> Dignity kits are important to access in schools - with sensitization training for WASH in the national curriculum as well as for teachers' training syllabus. In Port Vila, through the said project, this is being encouraged through School Improvement Officers (SIO), who are now monitoring WASH as one of the fifteen school quality indicators.

SDG 8	CHOSEN INDICATORS	VALUES
	• % labor force participation rate, female	• 43% (2019)
	• # labor force, total	• 129,602 (2020)
	• % vulnerable employment, female	• 70.6% (2019)
	• % vulnerable employment, male	• 65.6% (2019)
	• % wage and salaried workers, female	• 29.7% (2019)
	• % wage and salaried workers, male	• 33.8% (2019)
	• % employment in agriculture, female	• 56.7% (2019)
	• % employment in agriculture, male	• 56.7% (2019)
	• % of time, unpaid care work, female	• n/a
	• % of time, unpaid care work, male	• n/a

Vanuatu's economy is still primarily based on subsistence or small-scale agriculture, which provides a living for more than 70% of the population.<sup>41</sup> Since the early 2000s, tourism, land sales and high commodity prices for copra and coffee, and donor funding have driven the economy.<sup>42</sup> Major impediments to the economy include: undiversified economic base, constraints from poor transport infrastructure and a small domestic market.

- Although the gender differences are minor, it is telling that, according to World Bank statistics, about 70.6% of the active female labour force and 65.6% of the active male labour force are engaged in vulnerable employment. Roughly 20% of the workforce in Vanuatu is engaged in formal sector employment, and the formal economy only offers some hundreds of jobs each year. Consequently, the social protection system in Vanuatu is limited to formal sector employees - a miniscule minority of workers in the country.
- Given trends of low growth and limited employment opportunities, migration (including temporary migration for seasonal work in New Zealand and Australia) and remittances have been a critical driver of increased living standards in Vanuatu (and other Pacific Island Countries). However, although out-migration has significantly increased household incomes, such processes are affected by external shocks (such as climate change). Due to COVID-19, seasonal worker schemes have been affected in Australia and New Zealand, and the broader Pacific region, causing broad-based and significant reductions in employment and earnings.<sup>43</sup> About 8.1% of the ni-Vanuatu workforce rely on such programmes

<sup>40</sup> See: <https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/2186/file>

<sup>41</sup> See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms\\_366547.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_366547.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> See: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/430961606712129708/pdf/Pacific-Labor-Mobility-Migration-and-Remittances-in-Times-of-COVID-19-Interim-Report.pdf>

(Australia's Seasonal Worker Program - SWP and the Pacific Labour Scheme - PLS; New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme - RSE), which indicates the precariousness of employment opportunities in the country. Both schemes actively promote the inclusion of women workers.

### 4.3 Composite indices (HDI, GDI, GII, GGI)

Designing a climate resilience-based WASH service delivery system requires situating the project's results framework on a thorough and context-driven baseline, which this feasibility study collates through various data sources. A collation exercise of scores and rankings from composite indices, especially due to paucity of updated, decentralized, nationally available data, has been included in this assessment to reflect Vanuatu's overall performance on different indicators. These indices have differing methodologies, and are being employed as indicative (and *not* conclusive) measures of current levels of development, gender equality, poverty, and labour force participation.<sup>44</sup>

This baseline, at the outset, uses scores of three different UNDP composite indices: Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII) and Gender Development Index (GDI) as points of departure. The latter two are currently unavailable for Vanuatu, but has been included to display the paucity of data characteristic of Pacific island contexts. Secondly, the baseline collates scores from the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI), where Vanuatu was recently included.

INDEX (SCALE, ORGANIZATION)	RANK / SCORE
Human Development Index, out of 189 countries (UNDP)	141
Gender Inequality Index, out of 162 countries (UNDP)	n/a
Gender Development Index clustered with group (UNDP)	n/a
Global Gender Gap Index out of 153 countries (WEF)	126

Vanuatu's HDI value is 0.609 - which puts the country in the medium human development category - positioning it at 141 out of 189 countries and territories in the 2018 index.<sup>45</sup> This can primarily be linked to the SID-specific challenges that the World Bank identifies for the Vanuatuan economy:

<sup>44</sup> As Booyesen's research shows, composite indices present both challenges and advantages. For example, numerous fallacies have been identified in the methodologies employed in composite indexing. These indices are mainly quantitative, and present empirical and aggregate measures of complex development phenomena, making values apparently objective, at the cost of subjective nuances. Yet, these also remain invaluable as useful supplements to income-based development indicators, understanding relative degrees of development, simplifying complex measurement constructs as well as providing access to non-technical audiences. See more in Booyesen, F. (2002). "An Overview and Evaluation of Composite Indices of Development" in *Social Indicators Research*, (Vol. 59 No. 2). Journal Article.

<sup>45</sup> UNDP (2019). 'Briefing note for countries on the 2019 Human Development Report: Vanuatu' in the Human Development Report 2019. Research brief. Accessed online: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/VUT.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/VUT.pdf)



small size, remoteness from major markets and internal dispersion.<sup>46</sup> The country's geographical location, undiversified economic structure, and high import dependence makes it vulnerable to external shocks, especially climate change-induced disasters and natural hazards.<sup>47</sup> Such shocks greatly impact hard-earned development gains and threaten food, water and energy security - this project will address particularly water security issues.

Currently, the GII and GDI remain unavailable for Vanuatu due to the paucity of relevant and quality data.<sup>48</sup> The 2020 GGGI (WEF) includes four new countries, including Vanuatu for the first time. It is ranked 126 out of 153 countries and territories, on an aggregate score that combines performance in Economic Participation, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment.<sup>49</sup> Female representation in political spheres in Vanuatu displays a vast gender gap, there has never been a female head of state in the past 50 years, and there is currently no women in parliament or in ministerial positions, as evinced by the findings of the Beijing +25 report. Women's hardship trends, despite scant data, can be inferred from their dependence on lower skilled and remunerative activities such as subsistence agriculture as well as natural resource-based livelihoods.<sup>50</sup> On trend with the Pacific region, Vanuatu experiences a high incidence of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence.<sup>51</sup>

These indices are important to consider in the context of WASH and climate change, as they signal potential hurdles towards inclusive application of proposed alternatives towards resilience and water security in the country. However, this project attempts to mitigate these expected hurdles by locating the change paradigm on extensive stakeholder consultations presented in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 7), Gender Action Plan (Section 8 of this Annex) as well as an Environment and Social Impact Assessment and Management Plan (Annex 6).

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<sup>46</sup> World Bank (2017). Systematic Country Diagnostic: Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Vanuatu (PIC8 - 8 Pacific Island Countries). Multi-country report. Accessed online: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/313021467995103008/pdf/102803-REPLACEMENT-SecM2016-0025.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> World Bank (2017). Systematic Country Diagnostic: PIC8. Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> UNDP (2019). 'Briefing note for countries on the 2019 Human Development Report: Vanuatu' in the Human Development Report 2019. Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> WEF (2020). The Global Gender Gap Report. Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> World Bank (2017). Systematic Country Diagnostic: PIC8. Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> The World Bank reports that based on the best-available data, women in the PIC8 suffer from either partner or non-partner violence at higher extents than any other part of the world. See API-GBV website for more.

## 5. Gender at the Green Climate Fund & the Pacific Community

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The analytical prerogatives of this Gender Assessment and Action Plan are informed by both GCF's and SPC's respective gender and protection as well as social and environmental responsibility policies.

The **GCF** adopted a revised version of its 2014 Gender Policy and Action Plan on June 2018 in Korea. The revised Policy addresses pertinent issues on gender and climate change: the expansion of gender mainstreaming beyond the preserve of 'women's issues'; and the identification of synergies with the in-house Indigenous People (IP) Policy as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Gender Action Plan (GAP), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Overall, the Policy and Action Plan reinforce the responsiveness of GCF to the multiple, heterogeneous, culturally diverse context of gender inequality to better address and account for the links between gender issues and climate change - a perspective that has been mainstreamed in the development of this full funding proposal for CR-WASH in Vanuatu.

The **SPC** adopted a set of general policies towards social and environmental responsibility in August 2020. The key objectives of this policy are to promote and drive continuous improvement of SPC's social and environmental performance, to embed a people-centred approach across its programmes, projects and activities, as well as to align with international recognized best practices for development.

The policy provisions for considerations of gender equality and social inclusion in SPC's mandate by coordination between key divisions within SPC that are responsible for mainstreaming human rights, gender, cultural heritage and socio-environmental issues. Through the adoption of this policy, the SPC will minimise social, cultural and environmental impact; contribute towards the economic empowerment of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalised groups in all their diversities; promote local participation and ownership of development; and, contribute to the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence. These goals have informed the development of this full funding proposal for CR-WASH in Vanuatu.

The **GCF and SPC** are currently collaborating on shoring up gender-transformative adaptation solutions in the Pacific, through support at devolved levels: in the recently approved FP169<sup>52</sup>, SPC developed a robust gender assessment<sup>53</sup> and gender action plan<sup>54</sup> to inform the disbursement of sub-grants to local authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia.

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<sup>52</sup> See: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp169>

<sup>53</sup> See: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/fp169-gender-assessment.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> See: [greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/fp169-gender-action-plan.pdf](https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/fp169-gender-action-plan.pdf)

## 6. Gender mainstreaming for CR-WASH in Vanuatu

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### 6.1 Problem statement: WASH baseline in Vanuatu

Combined coverage of basic water and sanitation is lower in the Pacific than any other region of the world, with progress in the region described by the Joint Monitoring Programme (of UNICEF and WHO) as having stagnated between 2000 and 2015.<sup>55</sup> In Vanuatu, it is estimated that 44% of people have access to safely managed drinking water, 34% to basic sanitation, and 25% have a basic handwashing facility at home.<sup>56</sup> Climate change impacts such as sea-level rise, changing rainfall patterns and increasingly frequent extreme weather events makes Vanuatu particularly vulnerable to inadequate potable water, and insufficient water and infrastructure for hygiene and sanitation.<sup>57</sup>

Within Vanuatu, the report finds, the province of Sanma is reported to have the greatest burden of WASH-related diseases per 1,000 persons in the country.<sup>58</sup> Surveys completed by World Vision Vanuatu also show that WASH statistics in Sanma are significantly lower than national averages: 30% lower for access to clean water, and 21% lower for improved sanitation facilities.<sup>59</sup> Torba is the most geographically remote province in the country, with the highest number of islands - and despite having similar levels of cash and subsistence expenditure to all other provinces, Torba has a significantly lower monthly income. In both of these provinces and indeed throughout the nation, people with disabilities and women face many inequities in accessing safely managed WASH facilities, services and practices. These were reiterated in the stakeholder consultations conducted by national consultants during the project preparation stage.

In Vanuatu, the report further finds, there still is a stigma or 'tabu' around 'sikmun' or menstruation, which is believed to often lead to the isolation of menstruating women due to social and physical barriers, and to prevent girls from attending school. Preliminary research undertaken by World Vision Vanuatu and Care International in 2018 suggests that women and girls in Vanuatu access information on menstruation from parents, teachers, grandmothers, aunties, school and clinics. However, the report noted that mothers and family members did not

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<sup>55</sup> World Vision (2020). Water, Women and Disability Study. Available at: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/development-guide/vanuatu/water-women-and-disability-study-report>

This is a recent study conducted by World Vision Australia in collaboration with the VNSO, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association and Vanuatu Society for People with Disability. This study will be very relevant in the implementation stage for the delivery of Outcome 2.

<sup>56</sup> United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) & World Health Organization (WHO). (2019) Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities.

<sup>57</sup> World Vision (2020). Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> System, V. H. I. (2015) The burden of WASH-related diseases on health in Vanuatu.

<sup>59</sup> World Vision Vanuatu (2016). National Impact Assessment.

always have the confidence or information to discuss menstruation, and that consistent and specific information regarding menstrual hygiene management is lacking.<sup>60</sup>

In Vanuatu, current infrastructure is limited in serving gendered needs: women and girls often require increased water during lactation, pregnancy and for the management of menstrual hygiene, which is often not provisioned for. Additionally, the elderly (for whom women are the primary caregivers) have increased need for water due to physiological requirements. WASH infrastructure, current and new, also requires system improvements that increase safety for women: in terms of lighting, improved locks and doors as well as gated/protected areas, to ensure instances of gender-based violence are reduced. To ensure service delivery a climate-resilient, but also gender-transformative, for effective WASH, water security and accessibility in Vanuatu, therefore, will require the mainstreaming of these factors.

## 6.2 Rationale: gender and climate-resilient WASH

The UN Sustainable Development Goals have three dedicated goals for Gender Equality (SDG 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), and Climate Action (SDG 13). Integrated water management and improved WASH praxis connects these goals - although issues relating to gender-responsive climate adaptation and water governance are yet to be mainstreamed in programming and funding cycles of governments, donors and other stakeholders. Despite the centrality of WASH to climate resilience and adaptation, the links are not widely recognized - nor extensively explored - in policy, technical studies and programme development. Global climate finance flows are yet to mainstream CR-WASH extensively, particularly the nexus of gender inequality and its interlinkages with water insecurity and high levels of climate risk exposure. Water and sanitation sectors are systems of interconnected functions and continue to be seen as central to development aid (as opposed to being mainstreamed through climate aid).

The proposed GCF project deviates from this gender-blind approach and will lay the groundwork for gender-responsive and climate-resilient WASH service delivery (with greater water security for both female and male beneficiaries) in Vanuatu. Access to WASH, the project recognizes, is fundamental to development but it can be mobilised as a critical climate adaptation strategy for poor and vulnerable communities (as well as marginalized groups within those communities), including women and girls in Vanuatu. Therefore, this project will deliver on gender mainstreaming targets through the design and delivery of climate-resilient WASH infrastructure (Outcome 2), alongside improved technical capacity and water governance (Outcomes 1 and 3)

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<sup>60</sup> The preliminary research, done by World Vision Vanuatu, also suggested that women from urban areas used a variety of options to manage menstrual bleeding including sanitary pads, double cloth, tampons, washable calico pads and in some cases silicone cups (although these have not been available for purchase in country until recently). Whereas women and girls in rural areas relied more on cloth and in some cases used natural materials like dry banana leaves. However, in both settings, products such as sanitary pads were not reported to be widely used due to lack of income, accessibility and availability. In some cases, there were reports that women would stay in an isolation hut for the duration of menstruation and used leaves. Additionally, it was noted that some women were not allowed to handle food or use shared plates and cups during menstruation as it is considered 'unhygienic' and sexual activities were postponed due to kastom (traditional) beliefs. The report is available at: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/development-guide/vanuatu/water-women-and-disability-study-report>.

as well as the mobilization of government-owned programming (such as the DWSSP process) at the national, provincial and devolved levels.

Gender-transformative CR-WASH will aim to bridge the gap of practical, gendered WASH needs (of women and girls) as well as strategic gender interests (increased representation in water and climate-related decision-making bodies).

## 6.3 Barrier analysis: gender, water insecurity and climate-induced risks

**Different gender groups, particularly women and girls, have gendered water needs, which remain underserved by existing WASH infrastructure and are impacted by humanitarian emergencies:**

**This is an infrastructure barrier, which combines with limited technical capacity.** The absence of safe and secure water supplies, and decent sanitation facilities has disproportionate negative effects on the lives of marginalized and vulnerable groups. For women and girls, apart from daily water needs, specific hygiene needs (during menstruation, pregnancy, lactation, childbirth and child rearing), specific care roles (such as care work for the elderly and children) as well as age and different abilities (disability) increase daily water and sanitation requirements.<sup>61</sup> In underserved areas, such needs may not be mainstreamed, due to lack of safe and secure water supplies and infrastructure, discriminatory social norms as well as cultural taboos.<sup>62</sup> Exact estimates of water needs of various groups cannot be determined given the paucity of data, however, that gendered needs are not addressed, remains the status quo in Vanuatu - where investments in climate-resilient WASH infrastructure is currently limited.

Lack of hygienic conditions, a primary determinant of which is access to safe and potable water, also negatively impacts women's, girl's and newborn's lives and wellbeing by increasing their exposure to water- and vector-borne diseases. Diarrheal disease - which is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old, is directly linked to unsafe water and sanitation. According to WHO data, diarrheal diseases in Vanuatu reached 3.83% of total deaths in 2018.<sup>63</sup>

Being underserved by WASH infrastructure, whether it is due to lack of access and/or because of poor design, can also increase vulnerability to gender-based violence. WaterAid has observed that women and girls, often, adjust for insufficient WASH infrastructure by using available services primarily during evening hours or at night.<sup>64</sup> This increases their exposure risk to gender-based violence, particularly sexual assault and attacks, due to limited lighting and remoteness of these locations. Boys and men may also encounter violence in accessing water and sanitation, with local norms around masculinity inhibiting their ability to avoid or report on experiences of violence.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Winqvist, E. (ed.) Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> See: <https://www.unicef.org/wash/menstrual-hygiene>

<sup>63</sup> See: [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473-3099\(19\)30401-3.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laninf/PIIS1473-3099(19)30401-3.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> Winqvist, E. (ed.) Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0956247814564528>

During humanitarian emergencies - which remains a cyclical and pervasive issue in Vanuatu due to repeated exposure to natural- and climate-induced hazards - accessibility is further reduced and exposure to WASH risks are exacerbated. As observed in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Pam - which caused widespread destruction across the eastern and south-eastern islands of the country - damage to water and sanitation assets were extensive.<sup>66</sup> This had immediate effects by producing spikes in WASH-related diseases, and by reducing services (and utilities) available to different population groups, and further to vulnerable groups within them, in Vanuatu. Women and girls are also exposed to post-disaster spikes in gender-based violence, while lacking access to essential services, and experiencing hindrances posed by emergency shelter design (with limited WASH services), and inadequate coordination on gender-specific issues by responders.

**Women continue to be underrepresented in water security and climate adaptation-related decision-making bodies, despite registering better performance when represented:**

**This is a political barrier, which combines with limited policy capacity.** Women in Vanuatu are underrepresented in decision-making and policy-formulating bodies, as evinced through figures of low (often no) representation in Parliament, as well as at the provincial, municipal and area council levels. According to the VNSO, women only represented 21% of senior officials, legislators and managers.<sup>67</sup> As stated previously, socio-anthropological research in Kurumambe and Purau villages in Tongoa, for example, highlighted how women must navigate strict rules governing their presence and speech in the *nakamal* (chief's meeting place) - effectively excluding them from holding titles or wielding decision-making power even at localised levels of governance.<sup>68</sup>

Consequently, women continue to be underrepresented in water user committees (WUCs), or community-based management bodies. This is despite women's leading role in household management of WASH needs, particularly through domestic water provision, which is importantly determined by access, affordability and reliability of water resources.

A national census of water points in Vanuatu was conducted between 2014 - 2016, which revealed around 8,000 water points in six provinces.<sup>69</sup> Most of these were not governed by communities - and among the 1,175 community-owned water systems, the majority (69% - 810) did not have a

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<sup>66</sup> According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for Tropical Cyclone Pam, conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), damage to water and sanitation assets in the health sector have been estimated at approximately VT 113 million (Chapter 3.2.2). Damage to water and sanitation assets in the education sector have been estimated at VT 270 million (Chapter 3.2.3). See: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_397678.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_397678.pdf)

<sup>67</sup> Bowman, Chakriya; Cutura, Jozefina; Ellis, Amanda; Manuel, Clare. (2009). Women in Vanuatu : Analyzing Challenges to Economic Participation. Directions in Development ; private sector development. World Bank. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2624>

<sup>68</sup> Granderson, A. (2017) "The role of traditional knowledge in building adaptive capacity for climate change in Vanuatu" in Weather, Climate and Society. Available at:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317071599\\_The\\_Role\\_of\\_Traditional\\_Knowledge\\_in\\_Building\\_Adaptive\\_Capacity\\_for\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Perspectives\\_from\\_Vanuatu](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317071599_The_Role_of_Traditional_Knowledge_in_Building_Adaptive_Capacity_for_Climate_Change_Perspectives_from_Vanuatu)

<sup>69</sup> Pilot data collection first took place in shefa province in 2014 and, based on the pilot findings, modifications were made in the questionnaire. Further data collection was done by dGMWr staff in Torba and sanma province, nGO staff in Tafea and Malampa and by students in penama province. all enumerators were trained by the dGMWr and UniceF with theoretical instruction on the tools and the definitions, followed by a practical data collection exercise in shefa province. The training was concluded with a review of the data collected during the field exercise, which provided a feedback loop. a verification of all collected data took place by displaying the data on a geographical map with habitations.

Mommen, B., Humphries-Waa, K., Gwavuya, S. (2017). "Does women's participation in water committees affect management and water system performance in rural Vanuatu?" in Waterlines, v. 2017.

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committee in place, while the remaining (31% - 365) did. For these community-owned water systems with a committee, data was collected to understand community composition and the positions occupied by women.

For the 365 community water points with a WUC, there was an average of six members per committee and a total of 2,237 members across the six provinces. Of these WUC members, 16% (365) were female. Just over half of the WUCs (51% - 186) reported having at least one key post held by a woman. Of these, approximately half the posts were as secretary (53%), 40% as treasurer, and only 7% as chair.

Despite overall low representation of women in WUCs, trends of improved water management were noted when women were better represented: WUCs with women in key posts met more regularly, where meetings were defined as meeting more than once per year. Regular user fee collection takes place more often when there is a female treasurer (73%), compared with a female chair (54%) and secretary (52%). Of the 186 WUCs with women in key positions, 43% of the systems were in good condition, 35% in fair condition, and about 22% in poor condition or not working at all. Similarly, of the 179 with only men in key posts, 35% were in good condition, 29% in fair condition, and 36% in poor condition or not working at all. Further analysis shows that WUCs with no women in key posts were also significantly more likely to function poorly or not at all compared to those that included women: 36% compared to 22%.

**Insufficient, non-resilient WASH infrastructure continue to be compromised by climate risks, increasing time poverty among certain gender groups:**

This is an infrastructure barrier, which is being compounded by climate impacts. WASH baseline in Vanuatu, as explored in Annex 2 - Feasibility Study - remains riddled with the lack of water safety (quality) and security (quantity), including: limited year-round service for most water points, inadequate output to cover daily water requirements. During the dry season and in drought conditions, including those associated with El Nino, some communities are forced to declare 'water emergencies.' Communities are also experiencing growing tensions over water access rights, necessitating the need to address climate threats as well as institutional (and infrastructure barriers).

In Vanuatu, women and girls (and often boys as well) usually bear the responsibility for collecting water, which is time-consuming and arduous. Lack of access to water supply systems has a significant impact on time spent transporting water, which can take up to five hours per day, according to UNICEF data.<sup>70</sup> This is reiterated in the government's 2004 report on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which describes the key role played by ni-Vanuatu women in the rural subsistence economy:

"Women play a critical role . . . devoting most of their working lives balancing their time between meeting family as well as community needs and cultural obligations. Women's work includes an array of work from . . . caring for children, old people, people with disabilities and the infirm to domestic tasks such as fetching of water and firewood, cleaning the house, washing clothes, cooking food and gardening. Women are involved in food production including animal husbandry and production of handicrafts such as mats, baskets for the home as well as weaving of mats, baskets and grass skirts for sale as well as for cultural purposes."

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<sup>70</sup> UNICEF Pacific (2015) Gender equity and social inclusion in the wash sector in Vanuatu.

This inequitable gender-based allocation of unpaid domestic and care work, representing ‘a double workday’ for women who enter the workforce (whether formally or informally), often leaves women with little or no discretionary time. This is known as time poverty<sup>71</sup>: a predicament in which an individual is working long hours without choice because that individual’s house is poor or would be at risk of falling into poverty if the individual reduced their working hours below a certain time-poverty line.

Time poverty has important repercussions for women's economic opportunities and health, and can actually limit them from accessing and benefiting from project interventions, trainings and adaptation strategies for increased climate resilience and improved water security.

**Water insecurity indirectly and directly combines to exacerbate gender inequality in other sectors (such as limited land rights) and limit adoption of adaptation and resilience strategies:**

This is an institutional barrier. Climate change represents the most complex challenge of our time - it is a threat multiplier<sup>72</sup> that has direct and indirect effects on existing sociocultural, economic, and political phenomena. This includes levels of gender equality and women and girls human rights, and how power, roles and responsibilities are organized among men, women, boys and girls within the household and in the economy.

Due to the impacts of climate change, agriculturists globally face decline in land productivity, greater land degradation, limited access to water, increase in pests, deforestation, destruction of crops and so on. A major issue among this, related to the project paradigm is water availability, which is impacting food production.<sup>73</sup> It is predicted that across the Pacific, island countries will face increasingly severe water shortages due to reduced precipitation. This anticipated intensification of water shortage will likely lead to land use change, possibly requiring farmers to move their crops away from drier areas and change to drought-resistant varieties and new propagation techniques.<sup>74</sup>

As a result of gendered norms and patriarchal structures, women may be disadvantaged and lack both the technical capacity as well as opportunity to adopt adaptation strategies. Women are often allocated less fertile land than their male counterparts, and further often face additional burdens of trouble accessing water, or using and implementing energy-saving solutions, or accessing extension and/or financial services. In Vanuatu, land laws do not explicitly discriminate against women, but 97% of the land in the country is held under customary tenure which generally means that women have very limited rights to control and manage land. Rigid social norms in rural areas, however, reinforce the decision-making power of men in Vanuatu, including regarding natural resources, land and other productive resources. Women’s rights over land are increasingly threatened because the rights they do have—to use the land—cannot be registered. Further, women’s participation in decision making on land use is limited to informal discussions

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<sup>71</sup> Time poverty can also be as the lack of enough time for rest and leisure after accounting for the time that has to be spent working, whether in the labor market, doing domestic work, or performing other activities such as fetching water and wood. See: Bardasi, E., Wodon, Q. (2010) “Working long hours and having no choice: time poverty in Guinea” in *Feminist Economics*.

<sup>72</sup> Risk to stability in contexts vulnerable to climate change involves multiple drivers, many of which are pre-existing social, economic and political stresses with which climate and environmental change may interact and amplify. This is why climate change is often articulated as a threat multiplier.

<sup>73</sup> Mael, S.H. (2013) *Climate Change and Agriculture in Vanuatu: A study of crops*. FAO. Port Vila.

<sup>74</sup> Mael, S.H. (2013) *Ibid*.



within the household and in community gatherings.<sup>75</sup> Men control formal community decision making, and community chiefs are the final decision makers on the use of productive and natural resources.<sup>76</sup>

The National Council of Chiefs, or *Malvatumauri*, must be consulted by the Parliament on any matters related to land. Since women cannot be high chiefs, they are not part of the *Malvatumauri* and do not have a say on decisions related to tenure of customary land.<sup>77</sup>

Limited (and often lack of) land rights, despite being key stakeholders in land management and their responsibility for family food security, ensures that women have limited opportunities to expand their income, and their usufruct rights are directed towards (primarily) subsistence agriculture (as opposed to cash crops). These factors combine to directly and indirectly determine levels of food, energy and (importantly) water security, while impacting both readiness for and accessibility to climate resilience. Overall, land and water rights - in the context of mounting climatic and environmental change - function in tandem, and determine how vulnerable groups, and marginalized sections within them, are able to access opportunities as well as adopt adaptation strategies.

## 6.4 Co-benefit of the project: increased representation of women in climate-resilient water governance

The project has identified the following co-benefit as a part of its Section E - Logical Framework in the Funding Proposal.

Project/programme co-benefit indicators						
Co-benefit #	Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions/ Notes
				Mid-term	Final	
Co-benefit 1	Improved gender parity in representation of women in Rural Water Committees (RWCs)  -disaggregated by women in executive level positions	Registration of RWCs with members (indicating a minimum of 40% of women)	Women are not well-represented across water governance or devolved utility authorities across Vanuatu - exact figures are currently unavailable.	40% of RWCs registered, with 40% of women in each.	Remaining 60% of RWCs registered, with 40% of women in each.	40% RWCs registered by mid-term and 100% expected by project conclusion.  There is political will in involving women in different sub-national contexts and in water governance institutions. Women may not be, however, able to participate meaningfully

<sup>75</sup> FAO. (2020). Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Vanuatu. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7427en/ca7427en.pdf>

<sup>76</sup> FAO. 2020. Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

						participate due to sociocultural barriers, and demands on their time due to unpaid care work within the household.
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This co-benefit will act on the finding<sup>78</sup> that women are underrepresented in water user committees in Vanuatu, and establish Rural Water Committees (RWCs) through the DWSSP processes that provision for a minimum of 40% representation.<sup>79</sup> This is also a legal pre-requisite for the registration of RWCs in Vanuatu, under the Water Resources (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016. This will be measured as an independent indicator, and will be delivered in tandem with (primarily) Outcome 1, which will establish 600 new DWSSPs in Vanuatu, alongside providing policy and climate training.

Further, the project will also ensure that infrastructure delivery (through Outcome 2), and trainings (as well as policy strengthening) provided through Outcome 1 and 3, incorporate findings from the gender consultations.<sup>80</sup> Participants, at the community-level stakeholder consultations, identified key gender groups and articulated their different needs. These gender groups and their specific gender needs were summarized well by a breakout group (which reflected other stakeholder groups in the Sanma and Tafea provinces) in Penama province below:

Gender Group	Needs
<b>Elderly (60+)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Easy access/tap stands to be in close proximity</li> <li>▪ Taps fitted at a lower level for accessibility</li> <li>▪ Ball taps for ease of use</li> <li>▪ Solar lighting in the tap use area</li> </ul>
<b>Disability/Disabled</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Easy access</li> <li>▪ Ramp for wheelchair/hand rail</li> <li>▪ Solar lighting in the tap use area</li> </ul>
<b>Women (menstruating/lactating)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Separate shower facilities with dignity facilities</li> <li>▪ Safe house for menstrual hygiene</li> <li>▪ Separate individual tank with RWCs for menstrual hygiene / child-related water use</li> <li>▪ Solar lighting for security / privacy</li> </ul>
<b>LGBTQI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Separate shower facilities</li> </ul>

<sup>78</sup> Mommen, B., Humphries-Waa, K., Gwavuya, S. (2017). "Does women's participation in water committees affect management and water system performance in rural Vanuatu?" in Waterlines, v. 2017.

<sup>79</sup> The Rural Water Committee usually takes overall responsibility for developing their supply-specific DWSSP. However, technical and facilitation support will be needed to develop a DWSSP. A community DWSSP team needs to be established, usually comprising members of the Rural Water Committee, women's, men's, youth and church group representation, local plumbers and carpenters, and the head person. This brings together a variety of perspectives from the people who know the water supply and how it is used. Further detail can be found here: Vanuatu's National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Plan, available at - [https://mol.gov.vu/images/News-Photo/water/DoWR\\_File/Management\\_Plans/Vanuatu-NIP-Guide-annual-CAP-210818.pdf](https://mol.gov.vu/images/News-Photo/water/DoWR_File/Management_Plans/Vanuatu-NIP-Guide-annual-CAP-210818.pdf)

<sup>80</sup> During implementation, these designs will be further defined and specified through further consultations and workshops at the community level. These will be dispensed through the process of developing 600 DWSSPs through Outcome 1.

	▪ Solar lighting for security / privacy
<b>6-18 years (school students)</b>	▪ Separate water storage for: bathroom use and kitchen use (to reduce collection burdens)
<b>0-5 years</b>	▪ Safety valves to be fixed before taps are installed
<b>NB.</b> There is an urgent need to install gender-responsive signs to specifically assigned facilities at the community level. Alongside, working groups indicated the need for the inclusion of well-lit, demarcated WASH areas, with the provision of secure doors and locks - to ensure such facilities can be used by women safely.	

The proposed solution recognizes that bridging practical gender needs (e.g. access to water) with strategic gender interests (e.g. changes in power and roles) is critical to achieving transformational changes in gender equality in Vanuatu, where underrepresentation of diverse gender groups limits the efficacy of existing infrastructure and the potential of new investments. Through the planned trainings (where 50:50 gender balanced beneficiary distribution is targeted), alongside this co-benefit to ensure increased, meaningful participation of women in RWCs, the project will also be able to explore five WASH- and climate change-relevant elements of empowerment: participation, decision-making, information, capacity building and leadership.

The risk to this approach is that traditional gender roles in Vanuatu often prevent women from participating in such decision-making bodies.<sup>81</sup> Some communities are supportive of women's participation, whereas others refuse to let female members participate because of concerns over the erosion of community structures and traditional understandings about women's roles. Through the trainings envisioned under Outcome 1, the AE will also ensure there is sufficient advocacy and sensitization preceding the increased participation of women in RWCs. <sup>82</sup> The Gender and Protection Cluster of Vanuatu <sup>83</sup> as well as the Gender Officer hired during project implementation will demonstrate the expertise and capacity to address this issue of representation. They will be active as facilitating agents during the DWSSP development process, and provide sensitization and advocacy support during the trainings to ensure that women's participation in RWCs are meaningful.

## 6.5 Overall impact of the project: decreased time poverty for women and youth

Clean water is an essential resource for which there is no substitute. Each family needs a certain amount of water each day to survive, and the lack of access to improved water supply places a disproportionate burden on women and girls who tend to be the primary collectors of water for the family in many countries. The impact is felt the most by the poor who are more likely to lack access to improved water supply. Where there is no adequate water supply close by, people—mostly women and girls—have to travel, sometimes long distances, to fetch water.

This assessment has discussed that in Vanuatu, women and girls - as well as youth - are often responsible for domestic water provision. This has been corroborated by qualitative studies, as well as UNICEF experience. Further, during the stakeholder consultations held during the preparation stage - breakout groups confirmed this phenomenon.

<sup>81</sup> Bowman, Chakriya; et al. Women in Vanuatu - Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> See: <https://ndmo.gov.vu/resources/clusters/91-gender-protection>

Recent research by ADB<sup>84</sup> has shown that: access to clean water supply closer to home could, therefore, have a significant impact on women's time poverty, especially for poor women and girls who otherwise tend to have the least access to clean water. Overwhelmingly, the evidence confirms time savings for women and girls when there is improved access to water supply. Time savings can have several spillover effects: significant and important impacts on girls' attendance at school, for example, although overall data on participation on market work is limited.

The quote below comes from a qualitative study looking at the relationship between access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, and gender equality in the Pacific, specifically Vanuatu.<sup>85</sup> This quote from a woman beneficiary of a water supply project in Vanuatu illustrates the choices that women make to manage time reallocation efficiently. The necessity of collecting water, and time poverty, can force women to make trade-offs in how they use their time, so that time saved gets reallocated to previously neglected household and care work rather than market work:

“Before there was so much difficulty to fetch water so I used to shut my baby in the sleeping house so I could take the clothes down to wash and carry back the water. It used to be such hard and heavy work. When I came back the baby would be crying. Now there is less walking and work to get the water. I have more time at home to care properly for my children. I'm now teaching good hygiene practices and I am a good mother. Before I used to go to the hospital with my children all the time. But now they are healthy.”

The Vanuatu study found that, in general, reduced labor in collecting water as a result of improved supply was highly valued especially by women, and also by men. Thus, the overall project paradigm - to deliver climate-resilient WASH infrastructure to enhance community resilience - will have a direct gender-transformative impact: it has the potential to reduce the time poverty that women and girls (primarily) face, by increasing access to water sources and improving overall water security.

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<sup>84</sup> Asian Development Bank - ADB. (2015). Balancing the Burden - Desk Review of Women's Time Poverty and Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/publications/balancing-burden-womens-time-poverty-and-infrastructure>

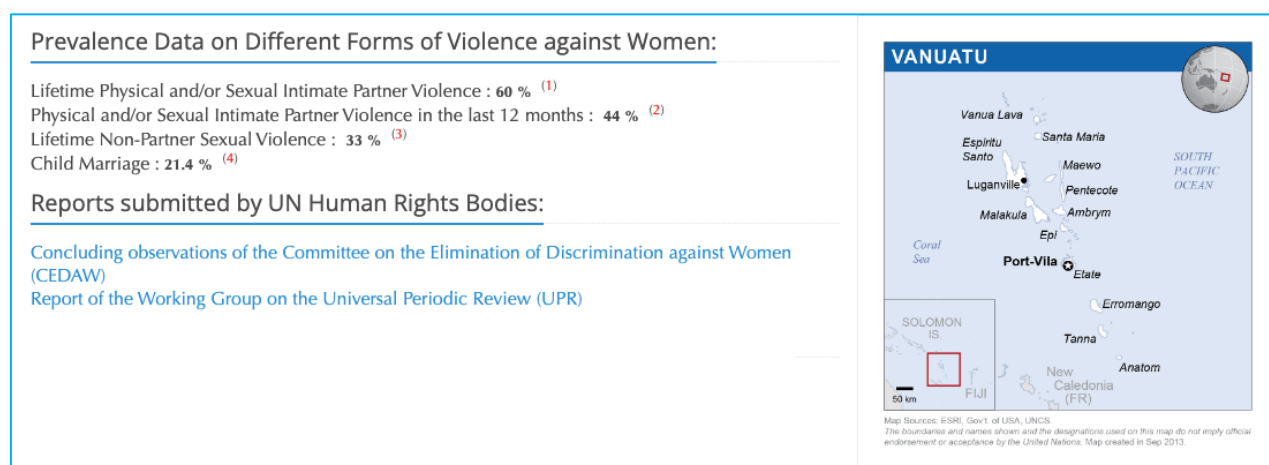
<sup>85</sup> J. Willetts et al. (201). Addressing Two Critical MDGs together: Gender in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives. Pacific Economic Bulletin. 25 (1).

## 7. Grievance Redress Mechanism, in the case of SEAH and GbV

In 1993, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104) defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

More recently, as both theoretical and practical work on GbV evolved and became enshrined in numerous conventions and declarations, article 3 of the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) offered the following definition: “gender-based violence against women shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.” A critical issue identified in this assessment is Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)<sup>86</sup> - as part of the overall incidence of gender-based violence (GbV) - that is prevalent in Vanuatu.

Indeed, GbV statistics in Vanuatu are telling: Vanuatu has one of the highest prevalence rates of violence against women and girls globally. Research conducted by the Vanuatu Women’s Centre (in 2011) established that ~60% of women with an intimate partner had experienced physical violence, ~68% experienced emotional violence, and ~69% coercive behavioural control by men.<sup>87</sup> According to the World Bank’s 2012 *World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development*, between 60 - 70% of women in Vanuatu (alongside Kiribati and Solomon Islands) experience some form of domestic violence.<sup>88</sup> See Figure 2 below:



<sup>86</sup> Definition based on: [https://safeguardingsupporthub.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/RSH\\_BiteSize\\_Understanding%20SEAH%20and%20GBV\\_final.pdf](https://safeguardingsupporthub.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/RSH_BiteSize_Understanding%20SEAH%20and%20GBV_final.pdf)

<sup>87</sup> World Vision (2018). Evaluation Report: Reducing GbV Project (Vanuatu Counselling Approach). Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Counselling%20Evaluation%202018%20.pdf>

<sup>88</sup> See: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/11/25/raising-awareness-of-violence-against-women-in-the-pacific>

Therefore, SPC has designed a grievance redressal mechanism to ensure these issues are taken into consideration during project implementation. A grievance is a concern or complaint raised by beneficiaries of affected communities and stakeholders related to the perceived or actual impacts of the project activities. The objectives of setting up an appropriate grievance redress mechanism (GRM) are to:

- provide stakeholders with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances and concerns in an anonymous manner;
- structure and manage the handling of comments, responses, and grievances in a timely manner; and,
- ensure that comments, responses, and grievances are handled in a fair and transparent manner and in line with local and national policies.

The GRM can serve as an effective tool for early identification, assessment and resolution of grievances and therefore for strengthening accountability to beneficiaries. The GRM is an important feedback mechanism that can improve project impact and respond to concerns and grievances of project-affected parties (e.g. related to the environmental and social performance of the project) in a timely manner. With restrictions on movement, it is important that, where possible, staff managing grievances can access systems remotely to enable GCFM processes to be conducted effectively. The SEP will keep the local communities and other stakeholders informed about the project's activities, to specifically address gender-based violence (GbV) and other cross-cutting issues.

All grievances will be closely monitored by the Accredited Entity to assess the number and type of grievances and evaluate any trends over time. This will be conducted by the relevant responsible parties as highlighted under SPC's policies for accountability<sup>89</sup>. All monitoring and reporting will be carried out conforming to confidentiality and consent from aggrieved parties or survivors. This applied to all reporting obligations to the GCF as imposed through the Accreditation Master Agreement and Funded Activity Agreement.

## 7.1 GCF Grievance Redress Mechanism

Paragraph 69 of the Governing Instrument of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) requires the Board to establish an Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) that will report to the Board. The Board established the IRM through the adoption of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the IRM which sets out various matters, including the role and functions, governance and administrative arrangements of the IRM. In accordance with its TOR, the IRM is mandated to carry out the following functions:

- (a) Review requests for reconsideration of a project or programme that has been denied funding by the Board and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Board;
- (b) Address grievances or complaints by a person, group of persons or community who/which have been or may be adversely impacted by a GCF funded project or programme through problem solving and/or compliance review, as appropriate;

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<sup>89</sup> <https://www.spc.int/accountability>

(c) Initiate proceedings on its own to investigate grievances of a person, group of persons or community who/which have been or may be adversely impacted by a GCF funded project or programme;

(d) Monitor whether decisions taken by the Board based on recommendations made by the IRM, or agreements reached in connection with grievances or complaints through problem solving, have been implemented, and report on that monitoring to the Board;

(e) Recommend to the Board the reconsideration of existing policies, procedures, guidelines and systems of the GCF based on lessons learned or good international practices;

(f) Share best practices and give general guidance that can be helpful for the GCF's readiness activities and accreditation process and for supporting the strengthening of the capacities of accountability/redress mechanisms of the DAEs; and

(g) Provide education and outreach to GCF staff, relevant stakeholders and the public.

A request may be submitted to the IRM, by sending it to the mailing address or email address of the IRM as published on its website (<https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>). A request may be submitted in any of the six official languages of the United Nations (UN), provided that where a request is in a language other than English, it must be accompanied by an English translation. The English version will prevail in the event of a conflict.

## 7.2 Grievance related to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and/or harassment

In all situations involving complaints related to gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment (SEAH), violence against children (VAC) and human trafficking (HT), the relevant grievance redress mechanism (8.3.3-3) will take on a “survivor-centred approach”. This will apply to all grievance address mechanisms controlled by SPC or the PMU. In line with this approach, the following principles will be systemically applied through all steps and actions:

- The rights, needs, and wishes of the survivor (or victim) is the foremost priority of everyone involved with the project.
- The survivor has a right to:
  - be treated with dignity and respect instead of being exposed to victim-blaming attitudes.
  - choose the course of action in dealing with the violence instead of feeling powerless.
  - privacy and confidentiality instead of exposure.
  - non-discrimination instead of discrimination based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, HIV status or any other characteristic.
  - receive comprehensive information to help her or him make their own decision instead of being told what to do.
- The safety of the survivor shall always be ensured. Potential risks to the survivor will be identified and action take to ensure the survivor's safety and to prevent further harm including ensuring that the alleged perpetrator does not have contact with the survivor.



If the survivor is an employee of the Project, reasonable adjustments may be made to the survivor's work schedule and work environment to ensure their safety.

- All actions should reflect the choices of the survivor.
- All information related to the case must be kept confidential and identities protected. Only those who have a role in the response to an allegation should receive case-level information, and then only for a clearly stated purpose and with the survivor's consent. This applies to any documentation or reports related to the case. Identities will not be revealed unless explicit written consent is provided by the survivor.
- The survivor must provide informed consent to progress with each stage of the complaints process. Survivors may withdraw their consent at any time during the process.
- In the case that a case of SEAH or GBV is submitted. SPC as the Accredited Entity will carry out the duty of care to the survivor in line with its policies. This includes where relevant, support for the provision of medical services (including psychosocial support), legal counsel, community driven protection measures, and reintegration of the survivor. This will be conducted in a timely manner to ensure maximum safety and support is provided to the survivor.

## 7.3 SPC's Grievance Redress Mechanism

SPC has a Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) in place to ensure that complaints are being promptly reviewed and addressed by the responsible units.<sup>90</sup> This process aims to address complaints from affected stakeholders, including communities, about the social and/or environmental performance of the project, and to take measures to redress the situation, where necessary. For the process to be efficient, project stakeholders have to be properly informed that SPC has such a mechanism established, and how they can access to it to settle their grievance.

The SPC GRM is operated through a web-hosted page on SPC site for the expression of concerns or complaints, which can be posted by email with the information in using the complaints' template.<sup>91</sup> Concerns expressed shall be received by the legal team who will reach out internally, primarily to the division in charge of the project or to relevant division. Grievances will be sorted out through a conflict resolution process. In case this process is not functional, other process will be used, such as a compliance system, the overall objective being to address and redress project stakeholders' grievances in a simple and efficient manner.

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<sup>90</sup> <https://www.spc.int/accountability>

<sup>91</sup> (Please see Annex IV of SPC's GRM see SPC website: <https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/Application%20SPC%20Social%20and%20Environmental%20Responsibility%20Grievance%20Mechanism.pdf>).



## 7.4 Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism

Through a project-level GRM, SPC will receive concerns or grievances from an affected community about the environmental and social plans or performance of the project. In that direction, communities and stakeholders will be sensitized about the existing grievance process and form. Both national level and provincial level government agencies will be responsible for supporting the communities with the information they need to properly submit a grievance letter. The national level and provincial level government agencies are taking part into the grievance and redress mechanism through documenting grievances and coordinating with SPC the process to settle the grievances. There are several processes to submit project related grievances:

1. Bring up the complaint during the meetings of the PWRAC or community awareness meetings. The complaint then must be directed to the project GCF focal point who will then forward to the SPC legal team.
2. Contact by email the Project Management Unit.
3. Contact by email the key project institution (DoWR), which will then forward to SPC.
4. Email SPC through the online process: <https://www.spc.int/accountability>.  
Email address [complaint@spc.org](mailto:complaint@spc.org)

The Project Management Unit will receive and register grievances and will contact SPC legal team. He/she will provide an initial response within two business days to the person who submitted the grievance to acknowledge the grievance and explain that the grievance will be logged onto the SPC GRM. As a first timeframe, a response will be provided to the complainant within a two-month period, with indication of appropriate process to address the grievance. This duration should be sufficient to screen the complaint, outline how the grievance will be processed, screen for eligibility as well as assign organizational responsibility for proposing a response. This process will possibly involve engaging with other project stakeholders to resolve the issue.

SPC GRM is responsible to inform the complainant that he/she has the right to pursue other options to resolve the complaint if unsatisfied after the SPC GRM process, noting that the GRM may respond to questions from the complainant, but does not constitute an advisor or attorney for the complainant. All grievances will be recorded, and these records will be kept at a secure place for up to three years after the life of the project.

## 7.5 Community-level Grievance Redress Mechanism

At the community level in Vanuatu, concerns or grievances can be addressed through the traditional governance structures and processes managed by the chiefly systems of individual islands. The community-level GRM will mainly address issues related to utility access, conflicts among villagers, complaints from marginalized gender or vulnerable groups, issues related to water access points and gender-based violence. This level of the GRM will ensure that communities are able to resolve issues and conflicts with consensus, as a first level, and then escalate to the project-level GRM only if deemed appropriate. This will also ensure that, within the indigenous communities being targeted, the project benefits from active, traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution and decision-making structures.

The nakamal or Village Council is made up of chiefs and community leaders of a particular village. This authority is convened by the paramount chief or a designated customary leader and it deliberates and resolves matters at the specific village level which could include family matters, disputes/disagreements as well as land disputes.

The Ward Council of Chiefs sits above the Nakamal or Village Council and comprises chiefs and customary leaders from a number of different villages who all fall within a designated Ward Council. The Ward Council deals mostly with land ownership disputes.

Matters unresolved at the Ward Council are elevated to the Area Council of Chiefs or even higher to the Island Council of Chiefs if they are not resolved by the council below. In the event an individual or a group of individuals are aggrieved, their grievance can be raised for redress at the Nakamal or Village Council. If matters are not able to be resolved at this level, the paramount chief or head of the council may decide as follows:

1. elevate the grievance for redress at the Ward Council or with the Chief; or,
2. register the grievance directly with the representatives of the provincial authority for redress through the provincial institutional arrangements.

Matters raised with the representatives of the provincial authority are usually done through Area Administrators or Area Secretaries. These provincial officers then have the option to raise the issues for redress as follow;

- table the grievance for redress at the Provincial Area Council level through the Area-Technical Advisory Committee (Area-TAC);
- table the grievance for redress directly through the Provincial Technical Advisory Commission (PTAC); and,
- raise the grievance directly with the relevant national government representative present at the provincial level.

If and when the grievance is raised through the provincial institutional arrangements, the matter can then be elevated to the national government level for redress by the relevant government agency or ministry.

## 8. Key recommendations

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Despite protracted gender issues, as identified in the gender assessment above, Vanuatu has made important gains in ensuring gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. This is registered in the Government's communications on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action covering 2014 - 2019.<sup>92</sup>

Additionally, the DoWA reviewed national policies (such as draft climate change/disaster risk reduction policies, the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 - 2030) to find that programme directives are progressively reflecting gender issues. This also includes a 2017 Council of Ministers' Paper (decision 94/2017) advocating for robust gender-responsive planning and budgeting in five key ministries (Agriculture, Climate Change, Education, Internal Affairs, Lands) in the country - which is currently underway, being led by the DoWA<sup>93</sup>.

Micro-studies focused on community research has also registered a positive trend of increased climate change and gender awareness.<sup>94</sup> Among the Nakanamanga-speaking peoples of Tongoa Island - indigenous concerns about self-reliance and livelihoods, cultural continuity and climate impacts, transition towards cash economy are oriented towards preservation of identity and autonomy rather than continuation of patrilineal customary laws. This includes safeguarding and reviving of traditional knowledge, while allowing for greater collective governance by including marginalized groups such as women and youth.

Gender equality, therefore, has gained progressive priority in the Government of Vanuatu's. This has also been the case with GCF's, SPC's, and other Pacific-focused agencies' portfolios - where gender is mainstreamed in an effort towards implementing a holistic social development mandate with inclusive engagement. With that policy background, this project partakes in the international conversation on gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation efforts. If implemented effectively, this project has the potential to become a best practice gender mainstreaming guide for future interventions on climate-resilient WASH in Vanuatu, in the Pacific islands regionally as well as in SIDS and LDC/ex-LDC contexts globally.

Given mounting evidence that dynamic, long-term planning for climate change impacts and external shocks yield better results when inclusive, gender-responsive and stakeholder-friendly, this CR-WASH project has taken proactive steps to mainstream gender, where possible, in the project preparation stage. Key recommendations of the Gender Assessment are as follows (the Gender Action Plan in Section 8 reifies these into the project's Logical Framework - available as Section E in the Funding Proposal):

*See next page.*

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<sup>92</sup> Department of Women's Affairs (2020). Beijing +25 - *ibid*.

<sup>93</sup> KII conducted with Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA).

<sup>94</sup> Granderson, A. (2017) - *ibid*.

- Ensure system improvements or installation of new infrastructure includes and reflects the needs of women, particularly in terms of safety and security (lights, secure locks, etc.);
- Include women and other marginalized groups in regular meetings, interactions and maintenance protocols of new and improved WASH infrastructure;
- Ensure mandatory representation of 40% women in Rural Water Committees for the registered DWSSPs;
- Conduct awareness-raising, gender advocacy and sensitization workshops among institution strengthening processes as and when required;
- Involve national-level (and where possible, province-level or local) gender officers and mechanisms to ensure gender mainstreaming is pursued through government-owned processes;
- Consult the Department of Women's Affairs as well as the Gender and Protection Cluster on cross-cutting issues of gender, WASH and water security;
- Consult CSOs, with a track record of promoting gender interests and gender mainstreaming, when relevant, in the process of delivering system improvements and new infrastructure; and,
- Document and record success stories, best practices and lessons learnt to ensure there is feedback loop from gender-transformative activities, as well as to ensure a community of practice around gender and climate-resilient WASH is established.

## 9. Gender Action Plan

OUTCOME 1: Communities are empowered to plan and manage climate-resilient water resources								
IMPACT STATEMENT	<p>Through Outcome 1, the project will address barriers of capacity and policy access at community levels in Vanuatu - particularly, the limited financial and technical capacity that restricts communities from scaling up existing technology as well as shift towards new technology and system improvements. This will result in Improved water governance and climate-resilient water management at community level, with all 600 DWSSPs registered.</p> <p>By project conclusion, Vanuatu will have 600 new DWSSPs which will focus on delivering climate-resilient WASH infrastructure to the communities, and improving water access and security through improved methodologies of needs assessment, prioritization and delivery.</p>							
GENDER IMPACT STATEMENT	<p>By ensuring improved water security, enhanced climate resilience and increased women's representation in water governance through the proposed intervention (Section E of the Funding Proposal presents the blueprint) - the project will reduce vulnerability and exposure to climate change, reduce water insecurity and climate-related WASH issues, and overall aid in reducing women's drudgery within the household as providers and managers of domestic water utilities, particularly in rural and remote settings.</p>							
OUTPUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1.1:</b> New and existing DWSSPs incorporate incremental improvements to mainstream adaptation solutions</li> <li>• <b>Output 1.2:</b> Awareness, capacities and skills of communities and area administrators on climate-resilient water management improved</li> <li>• <b>Output 1.3:</b> Vulnerable communities are supported to develop and implement their DWSSPs (600 by the end of the project cycle)</li> </ul>							
ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	GENDER ENTRY POINT	GENDER-RESPONSIVE INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGET	M&E TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION	GENDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BUDGET
1.1.1 Implement DWSSPs that incorporate incremental improvements to mainstream adaptation solutions and update	1.1.1.1: Review uptake and delivery of updated methodologies, making incremental improvements annually	<p>The DWSSP methodology has been updated recently with significant overhaul towards climate and gender</p> <p>It is expected that the methodology will be further updated - with annual improvements.</p>	Number of review reports of current DWSSP process.	0	5	<p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>SPC DoWR</p> <p>Annual review and stocktake of DWSSP process per implementation year, tabulating new and updated DWSSPs in specific</p>	<p>USD 1,200 (10% of A2 international consultant to update the DWSSP methodology to mainstream gender issues more strongly)</p> <p>USD 3,250 (10% of the national</p>

existing DWSSPs	1.1.1.2: Integrate updated methodology into DWSSP processes triggered during the project	Gender needs assessments (and templates for how to assess gender barriers, alongside socioeconomic baseline) will also be added to the DWSSP, where appropriate. In the new DWSSPs developed with communities, the updated methodology will be used to ensure climate risks are mainstreamed.	Number of DWSSP methodologies updated with project findings	0	5	Annual	communities achieved per year	project engineers time in training will provide support for integration of the new DWSSP methodology that has been enhanced to be more gender transformative)
	1.1.1.3: Update existing DWSSPs, when appropriate	For 100 existing DWSSPs - workshops and technical assistance will be provided to ensure these plans are retrofitted to better reflect climate risks, gender and adaptation solutions.	Number of DWSSPs updated with gender considerations.	0	100			
1.2.2 Organize knowledge sharing events	1.2.2.1: Organize community level knowledge sharing events to ensure widespread dissemination among communities	For Activity 1.2.2, interactive culturally appropriate training material and learning notes will be developed. This could be done in partnership with UNICEF which already has tried and tested community-led efforts in Vanuatu.  Similar to Activity 1.2.1,	Number of community knowledge sharing events	0	10	Annual	SPC DoWR  Annual event report including participant lists aggregated annually.	USD 27,477 (ESS and GES Officer time A1) USD 29,070 (10% of A3 knowledge sharing events have a gender focus)

		It will be important to include gender modules / sensitization modules (where relevant) to ensure that groundwork for increased women's participation is accepted and driven forward by communities. Further, the Gender and Protection Cluster will help in ensuring GbV issues are discussed in a culturally-sensitive manner in these trainings, as well as the need to introduce adequate safety measures, such as locks and lights, for the WASH infrastructure delivered.						
1.3.1 Identify vulnerable communities through the NIP process to prioritize delivery of DWSSPs	1.3.1.1: Recruit and train DWSSP facilitators	Through this output, the project will deliver DWSSPs to 600 communities, through the NIP process. Activity 1.3.1 will involve PWRAC identifying vulnerable communities who request DWSSPs through the NIP process.	Number of DWSSP facilitators trained on the new DWSSP processes gender considerations	0	12	Annual	SPC DoWR  Training reports and participant lists. Annual review and stocktake of DWSSP process, tabulating new and updated DWSSPs in specific communities achieved per year	USD 84,545 (A1 ESS and GESI officer)  USD 6,000 (A2 local consultant for ESS and GESI)
	1.3.1.3: Development of 600 DWSSPs informed by best-available	For the new DWSSP facilitators - and existing staff - training will be provided on the DWSSP methodology.	Number of DWSSPs with new gender mainstreamed DWSSPs	0	600			



	climate science, local information and traditional knowledge	This will focus on climate risks and how these can be adapted to through the DWSSPs. Rural Water Committees (RWCs) will be established through the DWSSPs - with a mandatory quota of 40% women. Climate vulnerability assessments and community engagement are undertaken to ensure 600 DWSSPs developed during the project cycle are informed by the observed climate impacts.						
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### OUTCOME 2: Communities have enhanced climate-resilient rural water infrastructure

<b>IMPACT STATEMENT</b>	Through Outcome 2, the current total of DWSSPs delivered (277, according to latest DoWR data) will be scaled up by almost 100% (270 more - 220 new identified through Outcome 1 and 50 existing) by dispensing investments through the government-owned DWSSP and NIP processes. Communities will, therefore, receive climate-resilient system improvements along with training to maintain new WASH infrastructure.
<b>GENDER IMPACT STATEMENT</b>	Improved climate-resilient WASH infrastructure delivered to 270 communities through the DWSSP process is expected to have gender-transformative impact: DWSSPs will conduct gender assessments as part of the risk and need identification process which will directly address gendered needs; trainings imparted to community members will include 50:50 male and female participation to ensure both gender groups can operate and maintain infrastructure effectively and equitably; overall spill over effect of improved water supply and WASH infrastructure will address water insecurity among communities - and vulnerable sub-groups within them.
<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Output 2.1: 270 vulnerable communities supported to construct, operate and maintain climate-resilient water infrastructure</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	GENDER MAINSTREAMING ENTRY POINT	GENDER-RESPONSIVE INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGET	M&E TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION	GENDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
2.1.1 Improve CAP request prioritization, with gender and ESIA screening for chosen sites	2.1.1.1: update multi-criteria risk screening to prioritize CAP requests to identify sites for infrastructure planning including gender components	These activities will establish climate-resilient drinking water infrastructure and build capacity among vulnerable communities to maintain and operate these, thus ensuring a paradigm shift from build-neglect-rebuild approach.	Updated multi-criteria risk screening tool.	0	1	Year 1	SPC  DoWR  Reports on communities supported and infrastructure delivered [merged with deliverable for 3.1]	USD 238,841 (B1 ESS and GESI costs)
	2.1.1.2: Conduct gender, environment and social safeguards screening and impact assessments in chosen sites	Activity 2.1.1 will focus on improving the CAP risk matrix to ensure that vulnerable, remote communities are prioritized through the project. Consultation processes will inform the design of the infrastructure delivered, with particular attention to gender groups, persons with disability and needs of elderly as well. This can include (this is not an exhaustive list but a suggestive list of action to address needs, when identified through the CAP risk matrix): - Improved security features such as adequate lighting,	Number of gender and ESS impacts conducted	0	270	Annually	Consolidated, training report on operation and maintenance capacity in communities	

		secure locks, dignity areas with curtains/covers - Ramps, different tap heights and other inclusive design features for persons with disability						
2.1.2 Upgrade CR WASH infrastructure with adequate O&M training	2.1.2.1: Construct and upgrade infrastructure for climate resilient water sources, distribution and storage, made more accessible and safer for use by both genders.	Activity 2.1.2 will deliver CR-WASH infrastructure to communities with selected DWSSPs. These infrastructures will ensure gender needs are met thanks to robust consultation processes that will happen before the disbursement of funds, using updated DWSSP methodology (Output 1.1).	Number of Focus groups and key informant interviews identify positive change in accessibility and safety consideration of water access points at each CAP site	0	270	Annually	SPC DoWR  Focus group and key informant interview reports  Training reports and participant lists aggregated annually.	USD 466,860 (10% of costs in B6 focused on gender aspects)
	2.1.2.2: Train RWCs on operation and maintenance for the CR-WASH infrastructure inclusive of gender considerations	RWCs and other stakeholders in the rural water governance architecture will receive training to ensure gender-transformative change is generated through a government-owned and community-facing process. Gender equity will be ensured in training to ensure equal opportunity of skills development and	Number of community level plumbers and management trainings, provided with a 50% female and 50% male participations <sup>95</sup>	0	270	Annually		

<sup>95</sup> Number of trainings will be based on the number of CAP requests.

		capacity building (plumbers training and management training) is provided instilling a paradigm shift towards upskilling women at community level.						
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### OUTCOME 3: Provincial and national institutions are strengthened to address climate risks associated with water security

#### IMPACT STATEMENT

Through Outcome 3, institutional capacities and processes toward climate-resilient water security for rural communities, particularly at the national and provincial level will be enhanced. In the long-term activities and sub-activities under this Outcome will result in greater technology deployment, dissemination and innovation transfer benefiting the whole rural population.

#### GENDER IMPACT STATEMENT

Institutional and regulatory barriers in Vanuatu will be addressed - particularly, the limited financial and technical capacity that restricts the DoWR and provincial institutions from scaling up existing technology as well as shift towards new, climate-resilient technology. This will ensure both women and men benefit from improved water security and safety, but also that national and provincial staff are sensitized to gender barriers, while MEL and KM outputs document important gender experience on the field for improving project delivery, and scale-up planning.

#### OUTPUTS

- **Output 3.1:** National- and provincial-level staff and WASH sector partners trained on climate-resilient water management
- **Output 3.2:** Knowledge management through data sharing mechanism established for climate-resilient water management
- **Output 3.3:** Monitoring, learning and evaluation framework established for improved learning for climate-resilient water management

ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	GENDER MAINSTREAMING ENTRY POINT	GENDER-RESPONSIVE INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGET	M&E TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION	GENDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
<b>3.1.1</b> Deliver enhanced administrative and technical capacity training for water management	3.1.1.1: Train PWRAC and DoWR staff on updated DWSSP methodology including on gender mainstreaming consideration and	This activity will focus on enhancing the capacities of national and provincial level staff on climate-resilient water management and water governance. Activity 3.1.1. will attempt to	Number of PWRAC and DoWR training sessions conducted with a 50% female and 50% male participation	0	35	Annually	SPC DoWR  Training reports on PWRAC & DoWR trainings	USD 8,940 (10% of training in C1 will have a focus on gender mainstreaming)

	importance of accessibility and gender consideration to reduce time poverty and safety/security when locating and installing infrastructure.	expand the skill set available to the DoWR through external technical support. This will also include training on gender mainstreaming, which will be linked to the efforts made by the DoWA and the Gender and Protection Cluster.  Alongside the DoWR, the: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity; Ministry of Climate Change; Ministry of Education and Training, and the Ministry of Health will benefit from these trainings.					aggregated annually.	
<b>3.1.2</b> Update engineering and conduct workshops for WASH sector partners	3.1.2.1: Update engineering standards to reflect gender concerns and deploy in provinces for new infrastructure	Activity 3.1.2 will provide the necessary impetus to engage coordination between different WASH sector partners, as well as ensuring engineering standards are updated, approved with consensus to minimize or remove risk to women and girls, are analysed through a robust safeguarding	Number of update engineering standards	0	1	Year 1	SPC DoWR  Annual written report on progress of updated engineering standards and how they have been rolled out presented at mid-term. Workshop reports on	USD 38,045 (C3 ESS officer)

		process and then, deployed.					WASH sector partner events.	
	3.1.2.2: Workshops with WASH sector partners (incl. MoH, Med., and CSOs) on updated DWSSP, methodology with specific focus presented on gender considerations	Workshops with WASH sector partners will use gender modules developed for previous activities to ensure resilience approaches provide fair consideration to gendered needs, needs of persons with disabilities, needs of different age groups.	Number of workshops conducted with 50% male and 50% female participation.	0	5	Annual		
3.2.1 Improve knowledge management processes	3.2.1.1: Review existing knowledge management systems and identify gaps to strengthen mainstreaming	This activity will ensure that a gap analysis is undertaken that accounts for gender gaps and ensures that current KM systems are updated, and Gender mainstreaming issues are accounted for in the system	Gap analysis report completed	0	1	Year 1	SPC  DoWR  Finalised reports and documentation.	This will be incorporated into M&E activities as described and budgeted under Annex 11.
	3.2.1.2: Establish knowledge management protocol through consultative process that accounts for gender considerations to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in operations and	Further to this, the activity will specifically update KM protocols so that gender mainstreaming issues are factored into all knowledge products in an accessible and easy manner.	Updated protocol completed and operational	0	1	Year 2		

	standards are maintained.							
3.2.2 Operationalize data sharing platform	3.2.2.1: Integrate data collected through DWSSPs into government knowledge management platforms, such as DoWR data portal	The new DWSSP methodology will factor into to DWSSPs gender considerations. The activity will ensure that DoWR platforms and systems account for gender indicators	Number of updated DoWR KM and data platforms	0	1	Year 1	SPC  DoWR  Finalised reports and documentation.	
	3.2.1.2: Engage relevant stakeholders to support effective utilization of data for decision-making by WASH sector partners	Gender data and findings (collated from the project activities) will be shared on an annual basis	Number of gender focused report, on lived experiences, stories from the projects, qualitative improvements will be produced to document the gender-transformative impact of the project, best practices and lessons-learned for later phases and further interventions.	0	5	Annually		
3.3.1 Collate existing MEL practices within water governance structures in Vanuatu, and establish a	3.3.1.1: Stocktake existing MEL processes, and collate lessons learnt, case studies, and best practices available	This activity will take stock of existing MEL practices within government-owned process, and upgrade this system by introducing robust protocol using a consultative process, as well as through SPC's	Number of stocktake reports generated	0	1	Year 1	SPC DoWR Consolidated annual report on MEL system established incorporating gender indicators and	



robust MEL protocol		existing processes through the PEARL policy and <i>rebbilib</i> . The DoWA will be potentially consulted to ensure gender MEL processes are mainstreamed into water governance and climate resilience MEL. See Section E.7 - Funding Proposal for details.					reported to the EE's	
							<b>Total</b>	<b>USD 869,158</b>

## TABULATION OF BENEFICIARIES

Outcome	Targeted Communities	Indirect / direct beneficiaries
1	600	68,520 direct beneficiaries (including 34,260 women), which is 22.5% of the total population of Vanuatu.
2	270 (including 220 already targeted by Outcome 1, and 50 additional ones)	30,834 direct beneficiaries, with 50% of women (including 25,124 from Outcome 1 and 5,710 additional ones); which is 8% of the total population in Vanuatu.
3	2,000	Indirect beneficiaries: the entire rural population in Vanuatu (around 228,400 individuals, which is 75% of the total population, including around 114,200 women)

## Annex A: Implementing roles and responsibilities for gender mainstreaming

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**Gender Officer in the Project Management Unit:** An international Gender Officer will be hired on a part-time basis to increase the capacity of the PMU and provide technical assistance to deliver the planned activities of the Gender Action Plan. They will take the lead in supporting the DWSSP and CAP design processes (including ESS related topics), supporting training of extension agents and service providers and RWC proponents on Gender (including ESS) integration into DWSSPs in alignment with the project GAAP. They will support the development of gender and WASH training modules and protocols (including ESS) through Outcome 1 and 3, and ensure rapid gender assessments precede the system improvements and new infrastructure delivered through Outcome 2. For the latter, local gender experts may be hired on a need-by-need basis. They will also support the MEL Officer in conducting relevant monitoring and evaluation of project implementation against the ESMP and GAAP. The Gender Officer will review and assess all project activity implementation against the GAP and incorporate findings into relevant reports as obligated under the project Funded Activity Agreement. In the case that any issues are identified, the Gender Officer will draft technical recommendations to address these issues in implementation. These will be reviewed by the EE and where needed supported by technical assistance through supervision costs. If technical enhancements are required to address gender related issues through implementation, these will be incorporated into the AWPBs for approval by the NPSC.

**Department of Water Resources:** The DoWR will be the co-Executing Entity of the project. The Department will oversee the registration of DWSSPs - and ensure that 40% representation of women is ensured in that process. Since the DoWR owns the DWSSP process, it will take the lead role in delivering the co-benefit identified for the project.

**Department of Women's Affairs:** The DoWA, of the Vanuatu Ministry of Justice and Community Services, will play a facilitating role, as required, particularly in the awareness-raising, advocacy and trainings to ensure meaningful participation of women in community-based water management bodies as well as to ensure community well-being and acceptance of such planned activities of the project.

**Gender and Protection Cluster:** The formation of the Gender & Protection Cluster in Vanuatu on 13 March 2014 coincided with the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Lusi hitting Vanuatu. The response was the first time that gender and protection considered as part of post-disaster assessment and response phases. In the light of the experience gained during that emergency, and the frequency and severe impact of natural disasters in Vanuatu, it was decided that the work of the cluster should be ongoing. Thus, as part of the NDMO's coordination structure, the Gender & Protection Cluster contributes to improving preparedness for responding to natural disasters in a gender-and protection-sensitive manner, and ensuring that timely, effective and coordinated assistance is provided to persons affected by natural disasters in Vanuatu during emergency operations. The Gender & Protection Cluster comprises of representatives of National Ministries, UN Agencies, International and National NGO's, National Women's Organization, the International Federation of the Red Cross, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, and other Organizations with a focus on protection. The DoWA is the designated Lead Agency of the Vanuatu Gender & Protection Cluster.

SPC: SPC is the Accredited Entity and will be the Executing Entity in the implementation phase. It will have overall responsibility to ensure the project co-benefit (increased participation of women in Rural Water Committees) is delivered during the lifespan of the project.

UNICEF: UNICEF is the lead among the different WASH sector partners that the project will consult during implementation. Due to its significant work on gender and WASH in the Pacific, the organization will provide crucial technical assistance as well as facilitation of gender-responsive actions of the project.

## Annex B: Gender questionnaire for field missions

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### *Introduction and background*

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has enlisted E Co. under the project preparation framework agreement to support the Pacific Community (SPC) to assist with the development of the full Funding Proposal (FP) package for the project titled: *Enhancing Adaptation and Community Resilience by Improving Water Security*. The GCF result areas impacts are: increased resilience of - (i) most vulnerable people and communities; (ii) health and well-being, food and water security; and, (iii) infrastructure and built environment.

Your help is sought to inform the Gender Assessment and Action Plan of this project, and insights into Vanuatu's water sector and climate change adaptation actions. The delivery of the FP is expected by the end of this year, post which iterative interaction is expected from the GCF to finalise the project for the GCF approval process. The project is envisioned through three Outcomes (this framework is subject to updates during the preparation phase, and will be communicated to relevant stakeholders):

- Outcome 1: Evidence-based planning and decision-making for climate-resilient water management at the community level
  - Output 1.1: DWSSPs methodology improved to better address climate vulnerabilities and incorporate adaptation solutions
  - Output 1.2: Awareness, capacities, and skills of communities & area councils on climate-resilient water management increased
  - Output 1.3: Vulnerable communities have developed their DWSSPs
  - Output 1.4: Vulnerable communities have implemented no and low costs activities identified in their DWSSPs
- Outcome 2: Climate-resilient rural water infrastructure
  - Output 2.1: Climate change considerations incorporated into engineering standards and trainings
  - Output 2.2: Vulnerable communities supported to establish, operate and maintain climate-resilient drinking water infrastructure
- Outcome 3: Institutional strengthening at provincial and national level to better address climate risks associated with water security
  - Output 3.1: Improved DWSSPs prioritization process and CAP risk-ranking process at provincial level based on climate vulnerability indicators
  - Output 3.2: Increased capacities of PWRAC, DoWR staff, and WASH sector partners on integrated climate-resilient water management
  - Output 3.3: Robust knowledge management and data sharing mechanisms in place for climate-resilient water management
  - Output 3.4: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning integrated in the National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Water to ensure continued climate resilience

We need your valuable insight to gauge how the project can be designed to be of relevance at the community and national levels; how to better improve the project's effectiveness; and create pathway for potential sustainability. Therefore, suggestions for improvements or other comments will be sought and may be incorporated into future work undertaken by this project, as well. If you have any additional comments or questions, please contact Debasmita ([debasmita@ecoltdgroup.com](mailto:debasmita@ecoltdgroup.com)).

### *Questions*

#### 1. Can you provide us an overview of gender mainstreaming for WASH at the policy level?

- a) Has gender analysis been regularly undertaken to inform national policy responses to gender issues in the WASH sector at the national and provincial level?
- b) Has an institutional audit been done to identify gaps in lead ministry capacity and practice (DoWR and other relevant institutions), in responding to gender issues?

- b.i) When was the latest audit?
- b.ii) How was the Department of Women's Affairs involved?
- b.iii) In your opinion, what can be done more to address gender through these national institutions?
- c) Do the lead water and sanitation sector ministries and its appointed agencies allocate resources for gender mainstreaming activities?
- d) Are specific gender objectives articulated well within national water and sanitation policies and strategies?
- e) What other gender and protection policies can be relevant for this project?

## 2. How familiar are you with this SPC- and DoWR-led GCF project?

- a) This project is focused on delivering climate-resilient WASH infrastructure as well as introduce changes to the NIP processes. What are relevant gender issues that should be considered for this project?
- b) The project is going to focus on northern and northwestern island groups - Torba, Sanma and Penama. What are your views on the selection of these specific sites?
- c) How can the Department of Women's Affairs contribute to shaping the activities of the project under the project results framework? What are the synergies and what capacity can be demonstrated by the Department of Women's Affairs to potentially partner on this project?

## 3. Overall gender baseline and gender-based violence in Vanuatu

- a) For similar projects, is there equal participation of men and women at all stages: initiation, design, site location, implementation, price setting, O&M and management?
- b.i) What are the main gender issues of Vanuatu? (income inequality, access to decision-making institutions, high levels of gender-based violence?)
- b.ii) Can you highlight and share documentation of ongoing and past interventions that have mainstreamed gender and/or chosen a gender-transformative project design?
- c.i) In terms of gender-based violence, can you elaborate more on what happens during and in the immediate aftermath of a disaster?
- c.ii) Can you provide studies / analyses conducted by your department of GbV levels in the post-disaster context?
- c.iii) What are current and recently closed projects on GbV that have been successful, and in what areas of Vanuatu?

## 4. Gender-specific issues for WASH?

- a) Is menstrual hygiene mainstreamed in WASH projects and interventions?
- b) Can you provide examples of best practices / successful projects targeting menstrual hygiene in Vanuatu?
- c) What can be interlinkages between climate impacted water infrastructure and menstrual hygiene? Are girls regularly limited from attending schools, for example, if toilets are not quickly reconstructed after cyclone damage?

### 5. Additional questions during provincial field missions

(please note interviewee name, with consent, location, date, time and their gender).

- a) Are sector meetings at community level organized to overcome cultural barriers to women's participation, (cultural norms, seating arrangements, language and meeting times)?
- b) Do operational agencies provide information for decision making on policies, strategies, plans and investments, in a format that is user-friendly and accessible to women, marginalized groups and the organizations that represent them?
- c) Do policy makers and regulatory bodies make use of feedback mechanisms for complaints and challenges faced by citizens from their providers, including those on lower levels of service, such as for those relying on standpipes and kiosks?
- d) Do service providers demonstrate commitment to the citizen voice by utilizing tools like citizens' charters, ICT, satisfaction surveys, toll free lines and effective complaint desks? Do you have access to grievance mechanisms?
- e) Can you give examples of projects / groups that have, in your knowledge, intervened successfully and improved water infrastructure? How best can this be replicated in your commune?

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