

Pacific Partnerships for Gender Equality

Strengthening women's economic justice in Vanuatu.

In Vanuatu, three quarters of the population live in rural areas and on remote islands. Women and girls are most disadvantaged by poverty as cultural norms and high rates of violence limit their opportunity to attend school, earn an income or share in community decision-making.

Women's economic independence can also be a protective factor against violence. By supporting this project, you will help thousands of vulnerable women and girls, including those with disabilities, to break the cycle of poverty and live free from violence and abuse.

Project start date: 1 July 2022
Project end date: 30 June 2027
Funding needed by: 30 June 2023

Supporting women.
Defeating poverty.



Your support will help almost 2,000 people by:

- building women's confidence, knowledge and skills to improve their livelihoods and increase their income
- changing family dynamics to enable women to make financial decisions; and
- supporting women to step into leadership positions and participate meaningfully in decision-making at all levels, with the support of the men in their communities.

CARE has more than 30 years' experience working in the Pacific region. We work with local organisations that are women-led and focus on women's rights because they are best-placed to lead change in their communities.

Every donation you make to this project will be combined with funding from the Australian Government to reach more people. We have committed to contribute \$1 for every \$5 we receive from the Australian Government. Your donation will allow us to extend our programs.





CASE STUDY

Life-changing training

When 34-year-old Meline Napai moved with her husband and family to Enkateley, Tanna, she was not sure what she could do to earn money to support her family.

The opportunity to participate in CARE workshops changed all that and even led to her leading the Enkateley Women's Economic Livelihood (WEL) group.

“The CARE workshops on Foundational Leadership, Good Governance, Family Financial Management, and Good Relationships Free from Violence have helped build my confidence and made it possible for me to support my family. The workshops have taught me to be creative and look for opportunities to improve my livelihood activities, and I've also been able to lead and support other members in the WEL group,” Meline says.

In April 2021, the trainer for CARE's planned sewing and fabric painting workshop was unable to travel due to a three-day lockdown preventing inter-island travel. With 30 WEL group members already waiting, Meline stepped in to conduct a one-day training. Other participants learnt a lot during the short training and were left feeling inspired by Meline's skills and confidence.

In May 2021, the same group of women attended the rescheduled workshop, where they learnt multiple styles for fabric and hand printing, patterns for clothes and tourist baskets. The group was able to practise their skills throughout the week. At the end, there was a dramatic improvement, with 96–100 per cent feeling confident in their craft, compared to 21–22 per cent at the beginning.

And the progress did not stop there. Following their training, three WEL groups planned sessions in their own communities to teach other women in their communities how to sew. One enthusiastic Lawenata participant even taught her husband. Using patterns from the training and with his wife's guidance, he sewed his own shirt and dresses for his daughters, in a wonderful example of the shift in the way communities view the roles of males and females in their community.

By supporting women like Meline and the others in these workshops, you are giving them the opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty and a more prosperous future.

Thank you for making this incredible difference.