

# Vanuatu



## Bringing Hope and Healing to Women

**Project: 102430**  
**Tax & Non Tax Deductible**



### Overview

The Bible Society of the South Pacific, in partnership with World Day of Prayer, is taking a holistic approach to advocating and empowering women who are victims of domestic violence in Vanuatu. This project continues the work begun in 2021 with the World Day of Prayer celebrations on the theme: "Building on a Strong Foundation."

### The Need

Approximately 42% of women in Vanuatu have experienced some form of violence. Domestic violence and child abuse are embedded in gender and power relations, underpinned by the low status of women and children in Vanuatu.

What happens within the family is seen as a 'private family matter'. This means that community members will not intervene to protect a woman from an abusive husband. Community Chiefs counsel women to preserve the sanctity of the family unit, to maintain family and village harmony. Most churches don't proactively denounce violence against women.

It is often very difficult for women to leave a violent relationship. Married women cannot accumulate personal wealth and men have stronger rights than women to their shared children.

# 145,000

women call Vanuatu home

# 42%

of women in Vanuatu have experienced some form of gender-based violence

# 60,000

people could be impacted by this project

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. – Matthew 7:24, NIV*

## Goals

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To reach women in Vanuatu who have experienced some form of gender-based violence, this project focuses on three main activities: 1) trauma healing programs to meet the needs of women who suffer from gender-based violence; 2) violence prevention activities including human rights and legal workshops; and 3) helping women acquire reading and writing skills through literacy programs.

In 2025, Trauma Healing workshops are planned in the following provinces and islands: Torba, Sanma, West Ambae, Penama, Malo Island, Paama and Epi islands.

The ultimate goal of this project is to bring healing, understanding, hope and care to the women of Vanuatu who have experienced gender-based violence, through Bible Society's Trauma Healing program. This initiative further seeks to enhance advocacy efforts with churches and other agencies to bring an end to violence against women.

## Impact

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This project aims to impact a total of 60,000 people from Vanuatu, especially women and girls.

As a result of this project, other programs conducted by faith-based organisations in Vanuatu which are raising awareness of gender-based violence will be supported. Additionally, enhancing legal literacy will empower and educate women, particularly young women, about their rights within society.

## Testimony

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*"At the Domestic Abuse session in Mele Village, one of the male participants from Malekula who attended the session shared that when NGO's Women's organisations come to share about Women's rights they usually offend the men but he decided that because it is a Bible Society program, he will attend the session. He shared that he was blessed that he attended the session because it is using God's word and so he has extended the invitation to his village, 'Please come to my home island and run this training.'" — Staff Member, Bible Society of the South Pacific*

## Prayer Points

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- Pray for the people of Port Vila and surrounding communities as they recover from the devastation caused by the 7.3 magnitude earthquake in January. Pray for comfort, strength and resilience as families rebuild their lives and homes.
- Give thanks for the progress of the Domestic Violence workshops so far and its impact on the communities. Pray that the workshops happening in 2025 will be effective in bringing much needed healing and transformation among families and households in Vanuatu.
- Pray for more support from faith-based organisations and agencies who are familiar with the work in this area.