



VANUATU COUNTRY PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) is a regional initiative of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that recognises the pivotal role of leadership in development. PLP builds, applies and shares knowledge on developmental leadership (i.e. individuals, organisations and other stakeholders working together on inclusive policy and institutional change for the public good).

PLP's work is structured around the following results streams:

- *Results Stream 1:* Building a body of knowledge on developmental leadership in the Pacific;
- *Results Stream 2:* Supporting collective action by Pacific Island leaders;
- *Results Stream 3:* Enabling and achieving policy and institutional change;
- *Results Stream 4:* Delivering high quality and influential communication to inform policy and practice.

PLP commenced in 2008 and is in Phase 3. Guided by an Advisory Panel of influential Pacific Islanders, PLP works at the regional level, including with regional organisations; and nationally and sub-nationally in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

HOW WE WORK

PLP works with influential individuals and organisations as they work to pursue an identified policy reform or behaviour change. We recognise that exercising developmental leadership can be complex and unpredictable, and provide flexible support tailored to the specific needs of each partner. This includes: funding, mentoring, capacity development, research, monitoring and evaluation, training (including on adaptive leadership), networking and information sharing.

Developmental change and reform coalitions

PLP views coalitions as a strong mechanism for overcoming the deeply entrenched and complex problems that define most development challenges. Coalitions are groupings of individuals and/or organisations working together on a common development problem. Coalition members bring different capabilities, resources, and social and political capital to the coalition, contributing to the achievement of shared objectives.

PLP also facilitates and supports collective action by bringing stakeholders together to share information and resources, and linking groups of people working together (i.e. coalitions) to other reform initiatives occurring nationally, regionally and internationally.

OUR WORK

PLP works through robust relationships with government and non-government stakeholders in Vanuatu. We support our stakeholders to develop and implement their own leadership initiatives, and facilitate participation in broader, cross-sectoral coalitions for development change. PLP identifies opportunities to support developmental leadership in Vanuatu across these priority areas:

- Women's leadership
- Community leadership
- Future developmental leadership

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Women in Shared Decision-Making (WISDM) coalition

PLP supports the Women in Shared Decision-Making (WISDM) coalition, led by the Vanuatu Department for Women's Affairs (DWA), to increase women's representation in political leadership and decision making. The WISDM coalition played a key role in securing amendments to the Decentralisation and Municipalities Act (2013) to include reserved seats for women in municipal councils. Since the amendments, eleven women have been elected to councils in Port Vila and Luganville and a woman has been installed as Deputy Mayor of Luganville. The WISDM coalition supports elected women municipal councilors through training and an annual Municipal Councils' Women's Exchange Program. The training provides skills in adaptive leadership and an understanding of the legislative drafting process and Municipalities Act. The exchange program complements the training by providing women councilors with a safe space for sharing ideas and building networks and skills for effective leadership.

The WISDM coalition is also determined to increase women's political participation at other levels of government. In March 2017, WISDM and DWA provided training to women candidates contesting the provincial government elections in two provinces. A record eleven women candidates stood for election across Vanuatu, although only one was elected. WISDM and DWA will continue to promote women's engagement in provincial development and lobby Members of Parliament to support reserved seats for women at provincial and national levels.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Vanuatu National Youth Council

PLP is working to empower youth leaders in Vanuatu to advocate for youth development through support to the Vanuatu National Youth Council. The Council is implementing a campaign in the provinces to raise awareness of the National Youth Policy and proposed National Youth Bill in partnership with the Ministry of Youth. It has also captured the views of young people on the National Youth Bill and issues of employment, education, skills development and youth activities through workshops and video interviews. The outcomes of these consultations were shared with stakeholders at an event in Port Vila in July 2017. Elements of the consultations have also been incorporated into the Ministry of Youth's national planning strategy. The Ministry of Youth and National Youth Council will now work on drafting the National Youth Bill with the State Law Office with the aim of ensuring that youth in the provinces and municipalities are considered in government budget planning.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Transparency International Vanuatu

PLP's partnership with Transparency International Vanuatu has helped them to run a successful campaign to raise awareness and support for the government's Right to Information Act. The Right to Information Bill was passed in November 2016 and published in the National Gazette in February 2017. The new Act gives citizens legal rights to access information from government and public organisations. The community engagement campaign by Transparency International Vanuatu and the Government's Right to Information Unit reached over 15,000 people in Vanuatu's provinces prior to the gazettal. The next phase of the information campaign is focused on building awareness on the implementation of the Act. This will ensure that citizens understand how to access government information and seek accountability from Members of Parliament, including on the allocation of government resources.

One of the key benefits of adaptive leadership training through PLP's Pacific Regional Leadership Initiative was the creation of a cadre of adaptive leadership facilitators across five Pacific island countries, including Vanuatu. The CEO of Transparency International Vanuatu is working to enhance provincial leadership by providing adaptive leadership training to Vanuatu's traditional customary leaders, the *Malvatumauri*, as well as other community and civil society organisations. This training has provided the *Nikoletan* Council of Chiefs and *Vaturisu* Council of Chiefs with a space to discuss sensitive issues around natural resources, land ownership, women's leadership and youth decision-making. Many participants also report that it has given them a different perspective on how to lead their communities.

For further information on PLP's Vanuatu Country Program email: PLP@cardno.com