

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Prepared for the AGM Meeting | July 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE VANGO CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT	3
ABOUT VANGO	4
OUR BOARD & TEAM	5
ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST STRATEGIC GOALS	6
PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS	10
OTHER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS	17
CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS	18
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	19
VANGO MEMBERS	20
PARTNERS AND SPONSORS	22

MESSAGE

FROM THE VANGO CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT

The year 2025 has been one of significant progress and achievement for the Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations (VANGO). Throughout the year, VANGO continued to strengthen its role as Vanuatu's national umbrella body for civil society — building the profile and collective voice of the sector, strengthening collaboration and coordination, promoting local leadership, and providing practical support to community-based organisations.

We also continued to invest in VANGO's governance, systems and organisational capacity, recognising that a strong and accountable umbrella body is essential to effectively represent and support a diverse civil society sector.

During 2025, we expanded our partnerships, diversified our funding base and strengthened engagement with Government, development partners, regional networks and the private sector. We created opportunities for civil society to connect, learn from one another and contribute to national dialogue and decision-making. Endorsement as an eligible partner for UNOCHA's Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund and for funding directly from Global Support and Development were important milestones that reflect the growing confidence in VANGO's governance, financial management and accountability.



SHIRLEY ABRAHAM | VANGO CEO



WILLIE TOKON | VANGO Chairperson

We recognise that this confidence has not been built overnight. It reflects sustained effort by our Board, Secretariat, staff, volunteers, members and partners to strengthen VANGO, demonstrate accountability and consistently deliver on our commitments. We remain committed to maintaining these standards as VANGO continues to grow.

As we launch this Annual Report alongside VANGO's inaugural report on Civil Society Contributions to the National Sustainable Development Plan, we are reminded that strong institutions create stronger communities. While much work remains ahead, we are proud of the progress made during 2025 and remain committed to ensuring that Vanuatu's civil society organisations continue to grow, collaborate and lead positive change for the people of Vanuatu.

Tankyu tumas, thank you and Vinaka vakalevu.



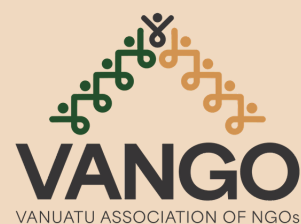
Willie Tokon
VANGO Chairperson



Shirley Abraham
VANGO Chief
Executive Officer



ABOUT VANGO



The Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (VANGO) is the national umbrella organisation for all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) operating in Vanuatu. It was founded in 1991 and registered with the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) in 1995.

VISION

Our Vision is to be a vibrant and inclusive network of all CSOs in Vanuatu working collaboratively and proactively to contribute to the prosperity of all Vanuatu people.

MISSION

Our Mission is to serve as an umbrella organisation for all CSOs in Vanuatu, championing good governance, accountability, networking, capacity development, and partnerships for and between all stakeholders.

We represent over 200 organisations and associations across the country. Over 80% of these are small, volunteer led, community-based organisations and associations that are working at grass roots level to address needs in their communities. The remaining approximately 20% are our National and International NGO's that are vital partners in working with Government and key stakeholders in delivering services and programs that contribute to the goals of Vanuatu's NSDP. For the 2025 calendar year, VANGO recorded a total of 85 financial members, an increase of 26 members in 2024.

OUR BOARD & TEAM

BOARD



Dr Willie Tokon

Chair

Organisation representation:

Transparency International Vanuatu

Term: Re-elected August 2023



Noel Steven

Secretary

Organisation representation:

Youth Challenge Vanuatu

Term: Elected in August 2023



Narand Beerbul

Deputy Chair

Organisation representation:

Kolisen Blong Leftemap Edukesen

Term: Elected in August 2023



Annie Benua

Member

Organisation representation:

Save the Children Vanuatu

Term: Elected in August 2023



Leisong Kalsong

Treasurer

Organisation representation:

Wan Smol Bag

Term: Resigned October 2025



Yasmine Bjornum

Member

Organisation representation:

Sista

Term: Elected October 2024

TEAM



Shirley Abraham

Chief Executive Officer



Selicia Ronolea

FALE Coordinator

Finished Mar 2025



Petronelala Kilu

Project Coordinator

Commenced Oct 25



Ayla Nganga

Capacity Building

Coordinator



Hosea Bebe

FALE Coordinator

Commenced Dec 25



Natalie Venables

Technical Advisor



Elines Mansen

Finance Coordinator

Finished Aug 25



Jilda Shem

Technical Advisor

Jan- Dec 25



Celinda Frazer

Finance Support Officer

Commenced Oct 25

Volunteers / Interns who supported VANGO during the year:



Brian Wagare

V-Lab Intern



Eloise Kaloran

Care Intern



Jessica Simon

Volunteer

ACHIEVEMENTS

AGAINST VANGO'S STRATEGIC PLAN

VANGO has four overarching goals contained in its current Strategic Plan. This section provides an overview of key achievements for the year against each of these goals.

Strategic Goal: Institutional Strengthening of VANGO

VANGO Team expanded - 2 new Coordinator positions & an EU funded Technical Advisor.

Board Strengthened with dedicated consultant led training and endorsement of a VANGO Board Charter.

Successful organisational rebranding completed, resulting in new logo, style guide, and publicity materials.

Diversified funding sources progressed– DSSPAC, GSD, BBC Media, UNOCHA, UNDP. 13 proposals submitted.

Successful acquittals completed for 6 Projects – FALE, Canadian Fund, Oxfam, BBC Media & SCA.

A dedicated VANGO vehicle secured through a partnership with DSSPAC.

Staff training with topics including leadership (USP), media, project management and others.

Updated VANGO Capacity Assessment completed (IAM) using PIANGO template.

Successful delivery of 2024 financial and narrative reports (including Audit) and convening of AGM.

Strengthened VANGO regional representation - PIANGO Board, Oxfam Regional Board and ASPBAE Board

Approved as a partner for Australian Volunteers International.



VANGO meeting with DSSPAC following approval of funding for CSO Partnership on Nature Based Solutions Project, August.

Strategic Goal: Promoting Good Governance, Building Capacity, and Strengthening Communications with Members

Over 40 CBOs benefited from training and individual support including the delivery of over 20 OCATs.

CSO's were supported with training and individual support across three provinces (SHEFA, SANMA & TAFEA).



Microgrants were provided to four CBOs – 2 with Oxfam funding, 2 with DSSPAC funding.

A CSO Good Governance and Practice Training Guide was developed and launched.



The first national Vanuatu CSO Directory developed and launched.



Communication with members was expanded – 43 new contacts added to CSO Messenger chat groups.



VANGO's facebook page gained an additional 1229 followers during 2025.

VANGO's website was updated with relevant reports and publications.



Launching of the first Vanuatu Civil Society Directory, June.

Strategic Goal: **Strengthening CSO Voice and Advocacy**

Child Protection Bill advocacy including media releases, a short video, tokbak show, and public awareness raising session. Two Children's Ambassadors were also announced.

PFM advocacy including a petition to Government, submission to the PIF, press release, community awareness sessions, Facebook campaign and CSO representation at a 2026 Public Budget briefing.

Various press releases developed including the importance of CSO voice, CBO empowerment, Presidential Pardons, role of VANGO.

Launch of CSO Thematic Advisory Councils - Localisation and Humanitarian.

Convened CSO and stakeholder consultations tracking progress towards localisation of Humanitarian Aid in conjunction with the Humanitarian Advisory Group.

A CSO reporting template developed and launched to track CSO contributions towards the NSDP.



Launching of the VANGO Child Protection Advocacy Video, February.

Strategic Goal: Strengthen Partnership Cooperation

Quarterly meetings convened with member CSO networks to strengthen collaboration and coordination

Regional partnerships secured to expand reach and impact of FALE – Near INGO, Pacific Guardians and confirmation from UNOCHA as an eligible partner.

Strengthened public private partnerships through business support for NGO Day (complemented through generous donations from CSOs, Govt and other stakeholders)

Partnership with Titan FX that resulted in the donation of 6 laptops to CBOs

Approximately 10 Government led consultations benefited from VANGO facilitated CSO member representation

Strengthened working relationships with Government including Ministries of Prime Minister; Internal Affairs; Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity; Justice; and Climate Change.



Partnership with Titan FX for Laptop Donation Initiative, November.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

1

CBO STRENGTHENING

VANGO CBO Strengthening was delivered through funding provided by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives; Department of Strategic Policy, Planning, and Aid Coordination; and Global Support and Development (GSD).

2

Governance and Institutional Strengthening Training Workshops

were convened, engaging 20 organisations from Santo and Tanna

20

CBOs were assessed using VANGO's Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT)

enabling tracking over time of their development

29

CBOs across 3 Provinces Benefitted

from one to one support and mentoring to help them with their constitutions or policies



Partnership between NGO Desk and VANGO

was strengthened through collaboration in training delivery



CBO Training, Santo, February

Key Insight



Community Based Organisations comprise around 80% of VANGO's membership base. Work during the year highlighted the need for sustained progress in this area, with the importance of relationship building and flexibility proving key determinants of success.

2 FALE VANUATU

Despite experiencing a lack of staffing for much of the year, the Facility Aiding Locally Led Engagement (FALE) platform achieved sustained progress in areas of CBO capacity building, emergency response, disaster recovery and partnership building.

2 Supported grants were provided to CBOs

to pursue Earthquake Recovery Projects following a call out that attracted over 20 submissions.



Partnerships were established and strengthened with regional partners including Near Network, Humanitarian Advisory Group, Global Support & Development, Pacific Guardians & UNOCHA



Visibility of FALE Vanuatu increased with representation on the National Advisory Board, Solomon Island regional learning event, convening of 2 stakeholder events and multiple courtesy meetings.

3

Workshops were held in TAFEA, SANMA and SHEFA to build CBOs skills and knowledge in resource mobilization

FALE-VANUATU
FACILITY AIDING LOCALLY-LED ENGAGEMENT (FALE) IN THE PACIFIC REGION



The framework for FALE was developed and refined through the launching of documents including the FALE Pasifika Strategy, FALE Vanuatu Draft Standard Opening Procedures and a report into VANGO member needs following the Earthquake.



FALE Planning Workshop, November.

Grant to Foundation 1, June.

Key Achievement



During the year, VANGO was successful in securing endorsement as an eligible partner with UNOCHA for the Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund for Asia and the Pacific and with Global Support and Development. This followed extensive due diligence processes that confirmed VANGO's financial management systems, governance structures, and safeguarding mechanisms met the standards required to responsibly manage donor funds.

3

PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

The Public Finance Management activities continued during the year in close collaboration with PIANGO in recognition of this being a priority across the region. The program aims at building community understanding of, and engagement with, government budget processes.

40 CSO representatives increased their knowledge on PFM

through attending workshops convened in Tanna and Santo.

40 Key stakeholders

attended an accountability workshop convened in partnership with PIANGO and UNDP in July 2025.

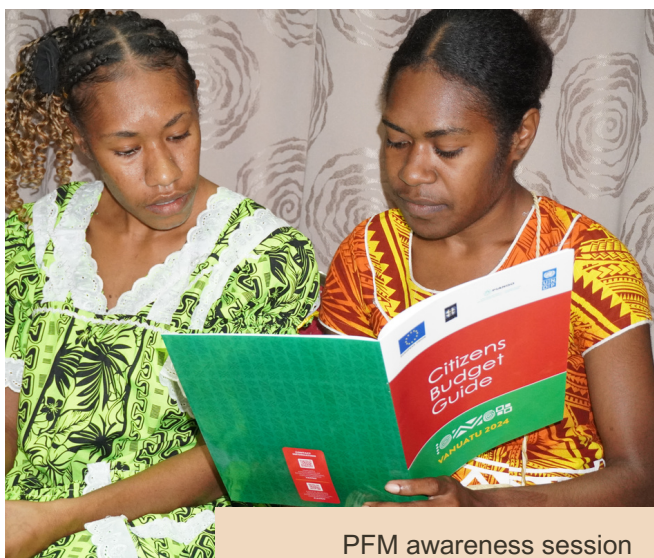
30 Representatives from Vanuatu Christian Council and Malvatumauri council of Chiefs

contributed their insights into PFM advocacy through attendance at an awareness session held at Iririki in June 2025.

10 PFM Posters were promoted on VANGO Facebook, attracting close to 300 likes.



Key PFM recommendations were presented to both regional and local stakeholders, including a formal submission to the Ministry of Finance.



PFM awareness session



PFM Meeting with VCC and Malvatumauri

Key Insight



A significant milestone was achieved during the year with the enactment, for the first time ever, of a law to govern the use of MP allocations. This law provides a basis for VANGO and civil society in general to hold MPs and Parliament accountable for the spending of MP allocations.

Supported by

4

CHILD LED ADVOCACY

The Child Led Advocacy Project focusses on advocating for the passing of a Child Protection Bill for Vanuatu whilst also working to increase community understanding of the importance of preventing violence against women and children.

58 People attended the launch of the VANGO Child Protection Bill Advocacy video

The Minister of Youth, Justice and Community Services launched the video and it was also screened on VBTC following the event.

300+ Facebook likes for the Child Protection video, + 235 shares



Other advocacy activities were also progressed during the year, including press releases and meetings with key stakeholders and decision makers

2 Children's Ambassadors were appointed, tasked with Championing Children's rights to the public and key stakeholders.



VBTC Panel discussion

was hosted and aired to continue raising awareness, educating, and sensitising the community about the draft Child Protection Bill. Advertisements were screened in the lead up to the session which was re-aired a second time to maximise exposure.



Child Protection Video Launching, February

Key Insight



The Child Protection Bill has not as yet been formally tabled and discussed in Parliament. It was drafted in late 2023 and, during 2025, was expected to be listed on the Parliamentary Agenda once, in October, but was subsequently removed from the Agenda.

5 BBC Media Survey

Between June and August 2025, VANGO partnered with BBC Media Action to conduct a series of focus group discussions to contribute to an audience research project focused on understanding the role and perception of media in Vanuatu, usage and access to media, and media preferences. The focus groups complemented a nationwide mobile phone survey of 1,073 adults in Vanuatu.

12 Focus group discussions convened across 2 urban and 4 rural locations, as part of a broader media audience survey by BBC Media Action

112 People across three provinces were provided with the opportunity to share views and insight about their media use and perspectives as part of the focus group. All focus group discussions were recorded, transcribed and translated, ensuring high quality research data was provided for the study

30 People attended the launch of the resulting research report at an event convened at Warwick Le Lagon through a partnership between BBC Media and VANGO



BBC Media Audience Consultations, Efate



BBC Media Audience Consultations, Efate

Key Insight



The research was the first comprehensive independent media survey ever undertaken in Vanuatu. The findings confirmed a significant shift in the way Ni-Vanuatu access news, with digital platforms and radio emerging as the most relied upon media sources nationwide. The study provided evidence that audiences are not consuming less news—they are consuming it differently.

6 CSO PARTNERSHIP ON NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Commencing in October 2025, this project aims to empower Community Based Organisations to deliver locally-led, community-driven initiatives in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, nature based solutions, and local governance. The Project was gratefully funded by DSSPAC with the finances provided through the Chinese Embassy.

2 **Community Based Organisations** were partnered with for the first phase of the project. These partnerships will enable Efate based organisations to strengthen their governance and institutional capacity whilst also supporting the replanting of tree species following the Efate Earthquake on 17 December 2024.



VANGO strengthened its relationships with Government, with partnerships established with Dept of Urban Affairs and Planning, Port Vila City Council, Dept of Forestry and Ministry of Climate Change.

2000+ **Seedlings, cuttings and germinant's** were planted into new nursery garden beds created by the two CBOs



The development of a localisation Policy Position was also progressed as part of the project, with consultations progressed with key stakeholders and CSOs.



Key Insight



This project is enabling VANGO to work more meaningfully in support of member Community Based Organisations. It provides the opportunity for supported CBOs to put into practice the learnings from VANGOs trainings and individual support, and seeks to put them on a meaningful path to self sustainability.

6 VANUATU NGO DAY

The 2025 Vanuatu NGO Day, held on 27 November 2025, at Saralana Park, successfully brought together Civil Society Organisations, Government representatives, and private sector partners to celebrate and promote the contributions of civil society across Vanuatu. The event was convened under the theme “**Tugeta Gavman mo CSO i bildim Vanuatu**”.

32 **Booths displayed promotional information** from a range of CSOs, grouped by NSDP pillar. International NGOs, National NGOs and Community Based Organisations were represented.

12 **CSO Awards and 5 Laptops** were presented on the day, recognising the contributions from people and organisations across the sector.

400+ **People attended NGO Day**, with representation from CSOs, Government agencies, development partners, private sector actors and the wider public.

15 Stakeholders from across civil society, Government, business and development partners contributed towards the event through financial and in-kind support.

4500 **People were reached through a social media campaign** in the lead up to NGO Day, celebrating the contribution of CSOs.



CSOs set up in the Social Pillar Tent



Mama I Gat MUV, Wan Smol Bag

Key Insight



The event was convened through a partnership between VANGO and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with support from DSPPAC, and aimed to highlight the contributions from Civil Society in driving social, environmental and economic development. It recognised the complementary partnership between Government and civil society in achieving outcomes and was aligned with the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

OTHER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



VANGO Office relocation, January.



Visit from Emeline Siale Ilolahia, PIANGO, March



VANGO Board Planning, November.



Staff Team Building, December



VANGO Rebranding - the new logo symbolizes unity and protection. The roof element represents a "Nakamal" roof, offering protection and guidance, emphasizing a locally-led approach. Launched in June.

BUILDING A STRONGER VANGO: CHALLENGES & LESSONS

CHALLENGES

Funding Limitations

VANGO continues to rely solely on project funding. Many donors also request that all or most funding is directed to activities, with limited or no support provided for administration and overhead costs.

Unfunded Work

Significant staff time is dedicated to proposal development, coordination, and advocacy activities that are essential but mostly unfunded.

Growing Demand

Requests for governance support and mentoring from CBOs increased significantly during the year, exceeding available capacity.

Workforce Capacity

Funding delays significantly affected the recruitment for two key positions. Balancing project delivery with professional development also placed additional demands on staff.

LESSONS LEARNT

Building Trust takes Time

VANGO's revitalisation is still recent and it takes time to rebuild relationships and develop trust. VANGO seeks to consistently demonstrate strong accountability, transparency and follow-through.

Localisation is a Journey

Meaningful progress towards localisation requires shared understanding, addressing systemic and practical barriers, and working flexibly to recognise and build on local strengths.

Diversifying Funding is Essential

Building a sustainable national umbrella NGO requires VANGO to pursue diverse funding opportunities aligned with its mandate, rather than relying on a small number of traditional funding sources.

Partnership and Accountability

Strong relationships with Government help VANGO represent civil society and influence change but mustn't compromise our independence. We need to work constructively whilst still being prepared to challenge & advocate as needed.

LOOKING AHEAD

These lessons will guide VANGO's work into 2026 as we continue strengthening and developing as an effective and impactful umbrella body for Vanuatu's Civil Society. Priority will continue to be given to supporting the development of a robust civil society, valuing the contributions of all levels of organisations and seeking to strengthen the collaborative partnership with Government, civil society and other stakeholders.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



15,813,985 VUV
Total Receipts



20,953,084 VUV
Total Payments

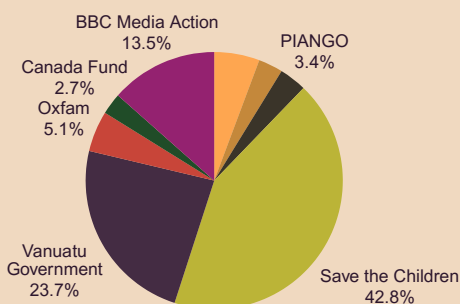


9,408,393 VUV
Opening Cash
Balance

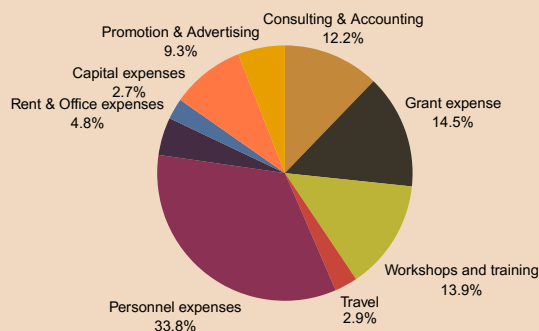


4,269,294 VUV
Closing Cash
Balance

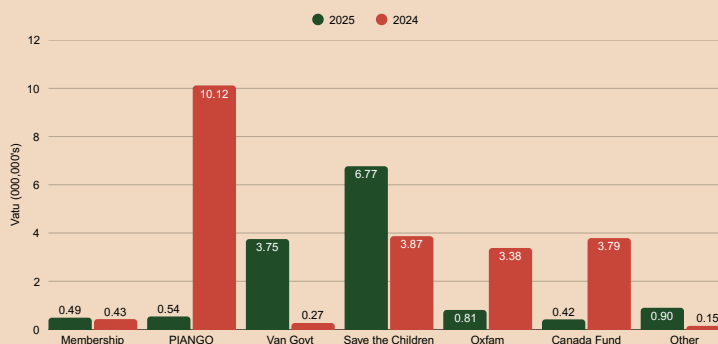
2025 Cash Receipts



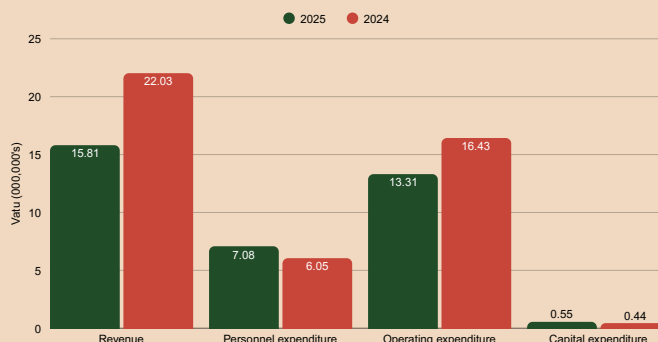
2025 Cash Payments



24/25 Revenue Sources Comparison



24/25 Total Revenue & Expenditure Comparison



VANGO MEMBERS

The below include our Financial Members for 2025. Affiliate members, without voting rights have not been included.

INGOs

- Action Aid Vanuatu
- Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA)
- Care Vanuatu
- Engineers without Borders in Vanuatu
- IsraAid Vanuatu
- Impact Charitable Association Vanuatu
- Oxfam In Vanuatu
- Pacific Islands Climate Action Network
- Save the Children Vanuatu
- The Burnet Institute Vanuatu
- Transparency International Vanuatu
- Uttermost Ministries
- World Vision Vanuatu
- Friends in Action International
- Field Ready
- Live and Learn Vanuatu

NNGOs

- Camp Shining Light
- Food Health Right Inc
- Further Arts
- Human Capacity Development International (HCDI)
- Kolisen Blong Leftemap Edukesen
- Media Association of Vanuatu
- Nasaras Blong Vanuatu
- Sista
- V2 Life
- Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association
- Vanuatu Emergency Services Association
- Vanuatu Family Health
- Vanuatu Indigenous Land Defence Desk
- Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centre Association
- Vanuatu Society for People with Disability
- V-Lab
- Wan Smol Bag
- Wilkins Family Foundation
- Youth Challenge Vanuatu
- Vanwoods Microfinance

CBOs

- Adventist Women Sewing
- Aore Women Farmers Association
- Arabulu Pentecostal Church of Hurilau
- Big Bay Hapwara Association
- Chapions for Change Youth Association
- Elulakwir Association
- Enable Committee
- Erakor Bridge Revolution Youth Association
- Eraso Nafzan Association
- For the One Vanuatu
- Foundation 1
- Green Environmental Network
- Hog Harbour Farmers Association
- I Lil Uas Community Association
- Kaweriki SDA Church Community
- Leo Mwasigi Market Association
- Luganville Plants and Flowers Association
- Malo Mama Market
- Media Association
- Mitinger Women and Girls Association
- Nakor Alam Youth and Women Association
- Nikimlua Tribe Council
- Nonda Association
- Nonda Bulbula Gorge Lini Association
- Ohlen 73 Street Community Council of Chiefs
- Pakiare Brothers
- PBG Foundation Vanuatu Committee Inc
- PECO Committee
- Port Vila City Council of Women
- Romika Developing Association
- Sanma Luganville Resilient Network
- Santo Sunset Environment Network
- Silae Vanua Market Association
- Soarm Bible School
- Teuma Women Zone 1
- Tongoa Shepherds Womens Association
- Vanuatu Forester Association
- Vanuatu Geoscience Association
- Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition
- Vanuatu Leading Association
- Vanuatu Skills Empowerment
- Vanuatu Spiritual Healing Association
- Vanuatu Widows Association
- Vanuatu Women Against Crime and Corruption
- Vanuatu Young Women for Change
- Vanwods MicroFinance Inc
- Vilvil Vanuatu Association
- Vois Blong Yumi
- Vunarei Noman Water Kommunity Association

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

VANGO would like to extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors and partners. Whilst many of the below provided direct financial support, many provided in kind assistance, or directed funding or support through other entities.



**Department of Strategic
Policy, Planning & Aid
Coordination**



Save the Children



**Ministry of Internal
Affairs**



**European
Union**



PIANGO

**BBC
MEDIA
ACTION**



中国援助
CHINA AID
FOR SHARED FUTURE



Pacific Islands Association of
Non-governmental Organisations | Association Des Ongs
Desiles Du Pacifique



CFLI/FCIL

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales



TITANFX

Vitol Foundation



OXFAM



World Vision

**BALANCE
OF POWER**

Australian
Aid

HUMANITARIAN
ADVISORY GROUP



National Bank
Vanuatu's Own Bank



ELECTROCOOL
SERVICES

act:onaid



HCDI

Human Capacity Development Int.

