

Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the National Sustainable Development Plan

Pilot Project | July - December 2025



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VANGO gratefully acknowledges the organisations that contributed information to this pilot report and shared evidence of their contribution to Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan.

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Special thanks to VANGO's Shirley Abraham, Jilda Shem and Natalie Venables for their leadership and coordination of this initiative.

This report reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the visibility of civil society contributions to national development in Vanuatu.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
Message from the CEO & Chairperson	4
Sector Snapshot	5
About VANGO	
Vanuatu's civil society in focus	
About this pilot report	
Social Contributions	6
Case study: New tools helping communities prevent mother-to-child disease transmission	
Environment Contributions	8
Case study: Growing resilience from the ground up	
Economic Contributions	10
Case study: Replacing false hope with real pathways to work	
Case study: Sewing skills open pathways to income	
Strengthening Sector Reporting	13
Lessons from the pilot	
Supporting stronger CSOs	
Next reporting cycle	
Participating Organisations	14

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & CHAIRPERSON

The Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (VANGO) is pleased to present this pilot report showcasing contributions of civil society organisations towards achieving the goals of **Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan – National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016–2030**.

This initiative responds to a shared call from civil society and Government for greater visibility of the sector's contribution to national development. While civil society organisations regularly report to donors and, in many cases, Government agencies, this information remains fragmented across multiple reporting systems. Many valuable initiatives, delivered by larger international NGOs right through to grassroots community-based organisations, are not captured at all, leaving a significant gap in understanding of the full contribution of the sector.

Although this report presents only a small snapshot of activities undertaken during July to December 2025, it demonstrates the **breadth and significance of contributions made by community-based organisations, national NGOs and international NGOs** across all three pillars of the NSDP. It also highlights the considerable potential of a more coordinated national reporting approach to provide Government and development partners with a stronger evidence base for policy, planning and partnership.



SHIRLEY ABRAHAM | VANGO CEO



WILLIE TOKON | VANGO Chairperson

We sincerely thank every organisation that contributed information to this pilot. We also acknowledge the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) for its financial support, which made this initiative possible, and the NGO Desk within the Ministry of Internal Affairs for its valuable guidance and collaboration throughout the design of the reporting framework and implementation of the pilot.

As Vanuatu's national umbrella body for civil society, VANGO remains committed to **strengthening coordination, building organisational capacity and supporting Government and development partners** to better understand and recognise the vital contribution that civil society makes to achieving the NSDP. We hope this report represents the first step towards a more comprehensive national picture of civil society's contribution to sustainable development.

Willie Tokon
VANGO Chairperson

Shirley Abraham
VANGO Chief
Executive Officer

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

About VANGO

The Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (VANGO) is the national umbrella body for civil society organisations (CSOs) in Vanuatu. It plays a key role in strengthening the visibility, coordination, and collective voice of international NGOs, national NGOs, and community-based organisations.

Through its network of over 200 organisations and associations, VANGO supports a diverse civil society sector working across sectors such as health, education, livelihood support, inclusion, climate resilience, disaster preparedness, human rights and community development. Together, these organisations contribute to national priorities and support communities across Vanuatu.



Vanuatu's Civil Society in Focus



About this pilot report

This pilot report provides a snapshot of selected civil society contributions to the NSDP between July and December 2025. The report is not intended to be a full stocktake of all civil society activity in Vanuatu. It draws on project information provided by participating organisations through VANGO's pilot data collection process and represents a first step towards demonstrating how CSO-led projects are contributing to the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (NSDP) goals.

Throughout the report, icons are used to show where projects specifically targeted key groups, including young people, women, people with disabilities, and those living in rural or remote areas.



Youth



Women



PWD



Remote

Key Insight



Vanuatu's civil society sector is broad, diverse and deeply connected to community needs. The pilot data shows that **CSOs are contributing across all three NSDP pillars**, with strong links to service delivery, inclusion, climate and disaster resilience, livelihoods, and local development.

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

CSO contributions to the Society pillar show a strong focus on people, participation and practical support. From health screening and education to disability inclusion, women's skills development and organisational strengthening, these projects are helping communities access services, build confidence and create new pathways for wellbeing and cultural identity.

SOC 1 Vibrant Cultural Identity

167 people reached through faith-based activities supporting staff, community leaders and faith leaders to provide pastoral care and psychosocial support after disasters.

→ *World Vision Vanuatu: Faith & Development*

SOC 2 Quality Education

29,304 children from 103 schools across Shefa province benefited from social and emotional learning storybooks and classroom activities following the December 2024 earthquake.

→ *Save the Children: Earthquake Recovery*



SOC 3 Quality Health Care

601 children aged 0–5 were screened for nutritional status across 13 communities in Shefa and Sanma, supporting earlier identification of children at risk of poor health outcomes.

→ *Save the Children: Helti Pikinini Helti Vanuatu*



SOC 3 Quality Health Care

10,615 people accessed free health services including free HIV, STI, and HPV screening and family planning support through health clinics and outreach services in Port Vila and Luganville.

→ *Wan Smolbag: Helpem Komuniti Projek*



SOC 4 Social Inclusion

2,860 people reached across Efate and Tongoa through theatre performances with advocacy and messaging on disaster preparedness, child protection and disability inclusion.

→ *Wan Smolbag: Rainbow Disability Theatre*



SOC 6 Strong and Effective Institutions

37 civil society organisations strengthened through governance, institutional strengthening, project planning and grant-writing support across Shefa, Sanma and Tafea.

→ *VANGO: Building capacity of CSOs in Vanuatu*



Save the Children: Earthquake Recovery



Wan Smolbag: Rainbow Disability Theatre

CASE STUDY

3 Quality Health Care

New tools helping communities prevent mother-to-child disease transmission



Organisation: Burnet Institute
Project: Triple Elimination Service
Province: Shefa, Sanma
NSDP Goal: Quality Health Care
GoV counterpart: Ministry of Health

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

The **Triple Elimination** project supports communities in Shefa and Sanma to improve knowledge, access and action around family health. Using a train-the-trainer model, **Burnet Institute** equips health workers and facilitators with the **Helti Famli toolkit** so they can support clearer conversations with mothers, families and communities about preventing mother-to-child transmission of **HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B**.

NSDP CONTRIBUTION

This project contributes to the NSDP's **quality health care** goal by supporting health workers to strengthen community-level health promotion and disease prevention and help families understand the care available to them.

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

Burnet Institute worked with the Ministry of Health to co-design the **Helti Famli** toolkit for the Vanuatu context, ensuring messages and approaches reflected local health services, cultural considerations and community realities. It then trained 28 health workers from 13 health facilities across Shefa and Sanma to use the toolkit through a train-the-trainer model. Through follow-on sessions and use in health facilities, the program is estimated to have reached around 180 mothers, families and community members with practical information on preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

The toolkit has been formally adopted by the Ministry of Health for use in its work to eliminate syphilis, hepatitis B and HIV in Vanuatu. This marks an important step from project-supported training to wider use within national communicable disease elimination efforts and shows how CSOs can help extend public health messages beyond clinics and into everyday community conversations.

Key Insight



Some of the biggest barriers to prevention are not medical, but social. By **supporting health workers to talk openly** about topics often affected by stigma or cultural sensitivities, this project helps families feel safe to ask questions, seek care and make informed decisions.

ENVIRONMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

CSO contributions to the Environment pillar show a strong focus on practical, community-led action to protect natural resources, strengthen local food systems and build resilience to climate and disaster risks. Across the reported projects, organisations are supporting households, schools and communities to grow food, reduce waste, prepare for hazards, manage marine and coastal resources, and combine traditional knowledge with environmental monitoring.

ENV 1 Food and Nutrition Security

33 community gardens established across Tanna, Erromango and Malo, engaging 159 people in agriculture and nature-based solutions training that supports nutrition, food security, household resilience and disaster preparedness.

→ *ActionAid: Three Gardens Initiative*



ENV 2 Blue-Green Economic Growth

2,480L waste recycled, with youth-led recycling education, circular economy showcases and roadside and coastal litter surveys across Efate helping more than 3,400 people engage in practical waste and pollution control.

→ *World Vision Vanuatu: Whakaora-EcoCare*



ENV 3 Climate and Disaster Resilience

5 communities in Tafea advanced local disaster readiness systems through community disaster committees, validated disaster plans, early warning toolkits and water-security planning, helping them better prepare and respond to disasters

→ *World Vision Vanuatu: STORM, NUMRA*



ENV 4 Natural Resource Management

5 fisheries and marine resources developed in collaboration with Department of Fisheries on crown-of-thorns, sea cucumber, blue fish, mangroves and sea pollution to support community marine resource management and outreach.

→ *Wan Smolbag: Helpem Komuniti Projek*

ENV 4 Natural Resource Management

1,000 coastal trees planted in South Santo through a self-funded community initiative, strengthening coastal resilience, local food gardens, and community-led environmental stewardship.

→ *Vunusi Environmental Conservation Organisation: Tree Planting & Food Gardens*



SOC 5 Ecosystems and Biodiversity

500+ ClimateWatch observations generated by students and teachers along 2 climate trails launched in Tanna, blending kastom knowledge, citizen science and connection to the local ecosystem.

→ *HCDI: ClimateWatch Traditional Knowledge Curriculum Pilot*



Vunusi Environmental Conservation Organisation



HCDI: ClimateWatch Traditional Knowledge Curriculum

CASE STUDY

Growing resilience from the ground up

ENV 1 Food and Nutrition Security

ENV 3 Climate and Disaster Resilience



Organisation: World Vision Vanuatu
Project: Pacific Island Rural and Agricultural Stimulus (PIRAS)
Province: Tafea
NSDP Goal: Food & Nutrition Security; Climate & Disaster Resilience
GoV counterpart: MALFFB, MOCCA

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

The **PIRAS project** supports rural households on Tanna Island to **strengthen food production**, nutrition, livelihoods and resilience. It responds to limited farming support, climate shocks and disaster pressures by combining climate-smart agriculture, nutrition education, nursery houses, rainwater harvesting, protein production and savings groups, with a focus on skills and economic opportunities for **women and young people**.

NSDP CONTRIBUTION

This project contributes to the NSDP's environment goals by supporting **sustainable food production, improved nutrition, disaster resilience and climate-smart agricultural practices**. It also contributes to rural livelihoods by linking food production with practical household resilience.

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

World Vision Vanuatu reported reaching 4,668 people (64% female). This included 405 community members (70% female) from 7 Tanna communities, who received climate-smart agriculture training to build skills in soil preparation, seed propagation, crop rotation, intercropping, mulching, pest and disease management, and nursery establishment.

Those skills were supported by practical infrastructure, with 7 nursery houses established, each supported with rainwater harvesting systems and 50 seedling trays. These facilities improved access to quality seedlings and water for agricultural use in communities facing climate and disaster pressures.

The project also connected food production with health and nutrition, with 3,029 people (61% female) receiving nutrition awareness and health screening. Of these, 286 people participated in intensive nutrition education, including practical cooking lessons, awareness on health and malnutrition and use of pop-up kitchen kits and cookbooks.

Key Insight



PIRAS shows that climate-smart agriculture is strongest when households have the full chain of support. By connecting farming skills, seedlings, water access, nutrition knowledge and practical livelihood assets, the project helped rural communities move from training alone to a more **complete model of household resilience**.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

CSO contributions to the Economic pillar showed a strong focus on helping communities move from resilience to opportunity. Through savings groups, microloans, agribusiness support, local enterprise development and community infrastructure, projects strengthened household financial resilience while creating pathways to livelihoods, income generation and economic participation. Together, these initiatives are helping communities recover from shocks and build more resilient local economies.

ECO 1 Stable and Equitable Growth

Savings groups and budgeting training across Shefa, Sanma, and Torba provinces increased financial literacy and improved household economic stability.

41 savings groups with
2,184 savings group members

7 groups completed share-outs

1,130 beneficiaries received household budgeting training

→ *World Vision Vanuatu:*

GROW, PIRAS, NOURISH, UCRP, Whakaora Ecocare, AHP Disaster Ready projects



ECO 2 Improve Infrastructure

958 people in Sanma benefited from WASH infrastructure upgrades, including 6 rainwater harvesting systems, 4 tank bases, 1 new 6,000L polytank, and 7 pump tests.

→ *ADRA: Wash Infrastructure Upgrades*

549 beneficiaries at 3 schools across Efate received new wells and water tanks to improve access to clean, safe water.

→ *V2 Life Association: Earthquake Relief*



ECO 3 Strengthen Rural Communities

720 women across four provinces received microloans of up to VUV 30,000 to improve access to small-scale livelihood opportunities and household income generation.

Microloan applications and decision-making processes were managed locally by women's group and priority given to single mothers, women with disabilities and widows.

→ *ActionAid: Sista Saving & Loan Scheme*



ECO 3 Strengthen Rural Communities

2 duck farms established in Tanna supporting rural economic diversification, primary production, and local protein supply.

→ *World Vision: PIRAS*



ECO 4 Create Jobs and Business Opportunities

VUV 2.5 million granted to 4 local civil society organisations to support women and youth agribusiness, access to finance and climate-smart initiatives.

→ *World Vision Vanuatu: GROW*



ECO 4 Create Jobs and Business Opportunities

4 new economic hubs supported women-led poultry, beekeeping, coconut oil and value-added crop livelihood pathways in Tanna, Erromango, Malo and Efate.

→ *ActionAid Vanuatu: Women I TokTok Tugeta Network*



V2 Life Association: Earthquake Relief



ActionAid: Sista Saving & Loan Scheme

CASE STUDY

ECO 4 Create Jobs and Business Opportunities

Replacing false hope with real pathways to work



Organisation: Youth Challenge Vanuatu
Project: YCV Empowerment Program
Province: Shefa, Sanma
NSDP Goal: Create Jobs & Business Opportunities

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

The **YCV Empowerment Program** supports disadvantaged young Ni-Vanuatu people by unlocking pathways to employment, entrepreneurship and training. Through work-readiness training, internships, mentoring and formal partnerships with government and private sector agencies, YCV is helping young people who may lack formal qualifications build the skills, confidence and connections needed to participate in the economy.

NSDP CONTRIBUTION

This project contributes to the NSDP's **economic development goals** by increasing access to productive employment opportunities for young people. It also supports skills development by linking young people to practical training, internships, entrepreneurship and employment pathways.

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

YCV continued to strengthen pathways from training to work, with 612 young people enrolling across Ready 4 Work, Ready 4 Business, and entrepreneurship programs in Shefa and Sanma, and 237 selected for immediate placement opportunities.

YCV also strengthened access points between young people, training and employers. This included the launch of the Vanuatu Wok job portal and establishment of an accessible youth hub with a 20-computer lab offering basic computer literacy training. Results from completed placements show the potential of this model. Through YCV's hospitality and tourism training partnership with VIT, 65 young people (72% female, 28% male) completed accredited training units and internships, with 48 securing employment. YCV's ongoing 2025 placements will be assessed with employers to confirm further employment outcomes.



"Through their training, moral support, and care, YCV helped me find a job to support my family. Through the Ready 4 Work program, I am now working at the National Bank of Vanuatu as a teller."

Mireille Cevouard, Ready 4 Work participant

CASE STUDY

ECO 4 Create Jobs and Business Opportunities

Sewing skills open pathways to income



Organisation: Foundation 1
Project: Ladies Sewing Club
Province: Shefa

NSDP Goal: Create Jobs & Business Opportunities

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Foundation 1 Vanuatu's Ladies Sewing Club supports women and girls in Tanvasoko to build **practical sewing and garment-making skills** that can be used at home, shared with others, or turned into small income opportunities. The project combines hands-on training, access to sewing equipment and peer learning, helping participants create garments while building confidence and practical livelihood skills.

NSDP CONTRIBUTION

This project contributes to the NSDP's **economic development goals** by helping women and girls build practical skills for home-based income, garment sales and small business activity. It also supports social and cultural wellbeing by strengthening women's participation, peer learning and local garment-making.

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

In 2025, Foundation 1 delivered 7 sewing workshops with 65 participants, with all participants completing their workshop. Training supported practical skills in machine operation, sewing, garment construction and creative design. Participants included 35 people aged 18 or over, 30 under 18, and one participant with disability.

The project also strengthened the equipment base for future training, with 5 electric sewing machines and 2 overlock machines purchased through a small grant, and Foundation 1 later purchasing another 10 electric sewing machines. Participants produced items including handbags, zipper dresses and traditional Vanuatu island dresses, with four participants reported to have moved into garment sales or small business activity. The next step is to secure a suitable venue so workshops can continue in 2026.



"Through the program, we have seen the profound difference that learning sewing has made to these young women. They have gained skills that will benefit them in learning how to support themselves, whilst also increasing their confidence."

Kym Jones, Foundation 1 Chairperson

STRENGTHENING SECTOR REPORTING

Lessons from the pilot

This pilot helped VANGO test a sector-wide approach to showing how CSO work contributes to the National Sustainable Development Plan. It also created a foundation for stronger, more consistent reporting that can better capture the scale, reach and value of CSO contributions in future reporting cycles.

Across the Society, Environment and Economic pillars, participating organisations provided valuable evidence of contribution. A key data limitation was that some project information covered slightly different implementation periods, reflecting the different reporting cycles used by participating organisations. The process also highlighted opportunities to improve future reporting, including more consistent disaggregation, clearer definitions of reach and beneficiaries, and better guidance to help organisations identify the strongest links between project activities and NSDP pillars and goals.

Supporting stronger CSOs

Stronger reporting starts with stronger CSOs, and several organisations in the sector are working to support the development of smaller organisations. As the umbrella body, VANGO recognises this as one of its core functions and is supporting CSOs to build the systems and skills needed for **stronger planning, delivery and reporting**. Through organisational capacity assessments, institutional strengthening, and governance, project planning, and grant-writing support, VANGO is helping organisations better understand their capacity needs and strengthen the foundations for future reporting.



Next reporting cycle

Future reporting will build on this pilot by using an improved, more succinct data collection template, shifting to an annual reporting cycle, providing clearer guidance on reporting periods, strengthening disaggregated data and expanding participation to include more community-based organisations. Together, these improvements will help make CSO work more visible, better supported by data and easier to connect to national development priorities.



VANGO Institutional Strengthening



VANGO NGO Day 2025

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

This pilot draws on information provided by participating civil society organisations through VANGO's pilot data collection and follow-up process. The report features selected examples from projects across these organisations to demonstrate CSO contribution across the Society, Environment and Economic pillars. Some organisations reported multiple projects, not all of which are individually profiled.



ActionAid Vanuatu
INGO
Environment | Economy



ADRA Vanuatu
INGO
Economy



Burnet Institute
INGO
Society



Foundation 1
CBO
Economy



HCDI
NGO
Environment



Save the Children Vanuatu
INGO
Society



V2 Life Association
NGO
Economy



VANGO
NGO
Society



Vunusi Environmental Conservation Organisation
CBO
Environment



Wan Smolbag Theatre
NGO
Society | Environment



World Vision Vanuatu
INGO
Society | Environment | Economy



Youth Challenge Vanuatu
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