

VANUATU

STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2021-2023

Strengthening emergency management
performance through sector coordination and
cooperation



FOREWORD

Vanuatu has recently updated the Disaster Risk Management Act (2019) underpinning the way we plan, prepare, and response to disasters. The Act establishes clear objectives that include:

- (a) establishing the necessary institutions and mandates for effective disaster risk management in Vanuatu, including an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness and response, at the national, provincial and municipal level;
- (b) ensuring the development and implementation of disaster risk management policies, strategies and plans at national, provincial and municipal level;
- (c) supporting a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk management through education awareness, capacity building and training of elected officials, government employees the private sector, non-governmental organizations and communities that is also gender responsive and respectful of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems;
- (d) Supporting a whole-of-government approach to disaster risk management, especially the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across the different sectors and through all levels of Government, through information-sharing, cooperation and joint planning, as appropriate;
- (e) governing the declaration of emergencies in disaster situations;
- (f) ensuring disaster response operations are coordinated and effective;
- (g) facilitating the entry and coordination of international humanitarian assistance when required during disaster situations; and
- (h) establishing an Emergency Fund.

We are also updating the National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) which serves to further describe arrangements for managing disaster. The redevelopment of the NDRMP is ongoing and set to be finalised in 2021.

The National Disaster Committee (NDC) is established by the Act to service as the primary advising body for the government and other disaster management stakeholders on implementation of disaster management policies and priorities for actions. The Vanuatu Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (SREM) serves to highlight the key priorities that the NDC and the emergency and disaster management sector more broadly intend to address over the next three years. In this sense it serves as a strategic action document for the NDC.

The SREM does not capture every disaster and emergency management priority, but rather brings to light key priorities, which require a collaborative approach, and which all NDC stakeholders commit to address. Importantly, the SREM is not a static reference document; rather it aims to bring a focus to key priorities; catalyse action and serves to reinforce and support a shared commitment to ongoing processes of whole-of-sector dialogue, collaboration, planning and progress monitoring.

I hope that the Vanuatu SREM establishes a new level of commitment and transparency, on the priorities of the NDC, and the progress it expects to see.

It is with great enthusiasm that I on behalf of the whole of government NDC endorse the Vanuatu SREM and thank all those involved in its development. As Chair of the NDC, I look forward to assisting with, and monitoring its progress.

Esline Garaebiti
National Disaster Committee Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Vanuatu Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (SREM) has been developed to guide a stronger and more coordinated approach to disaster and emergency management in Vanuatu.

This SREM has been developed at an important juncture in Vanuatu's disaster planning process - the Disaster Risk Management Act (2019) has been updated, and the National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP), which sets out overall emergency response arrangements in Vanuatu, is currently being reviewed to align with the updated DRM Act.

With the DRM Act and the NDRMP in place, it is important that barriers to their operationalisation are identified and addressed. Obviously there is no single solution and it will take time to build the institutional, human and technical capacities needed. The SREM has been developed to establish a systematic and collaborative approach in addressing barriers to effective disaster and emergency management that is demanded by the DRM Act and NDRMP.

At the core of the SREM is an emphasis on dialogue, collaborative planning and action involving stakeholders across all sectors and levels. To drive this forward, the SREM will be overseen by the National Disaster Committee (NDC), who will bring a multi-stakeholder, whole of sector perspective, and in turn help drive action to mainstream and integrate DRM across planning and decision making within all sectors and at all levels. All agencies represented through the NDC will be responsible for supporting SREM implementation.

The SREM highlights four Goals identified and agreed to by the sector to progress over the next three years, with corresponding annual milestones against which progress will be monitored.

Vanuatu SREM Vision and Goals

Vision

Vanuatu is operationalising the Objectives of the Disaster Risk Management Act (2019).

Goals and Milestones

Goal 1: A harmonized and integrated set of Disaster Risk Management Plans are in place

Year 1 The NDRMP is finalised based on a highly collaborative development process

Year 2 All relevant sectors, agencies and clusters have developed relevant SOPs and ToRs aligned to the updated NDRMP

Year 3 Key barriers to implementation of plans at sector / agency level are being addressed

Goal 2: An interoperable emergency management communications platform

Year 1 A disaster communications enhancement plan is established to set out specific priorities to progress in parallel and in synergy with Vanuatu-Australia Defence Cooperation Program

Year 2 Delivery of relevant enhancement plan actions and initiatives

Year 3 An integrated and expanded emergency communications platform is created, and SOPs are developed and mainstreamed

Goal 3: Emergency response agencies work more effectively as part of disaster response efforts

Year 1 A review has been undertaken of emergency response agency arrangements with recommendations on how to maximise effectiveness, including through possible establishment of an Emergency Services Act

Year 2 Operational arrangements across NDMO, Vanuatu Fire Service (within VPF) and other emergency response agencies such as ProMedical and ProRescue are harmonised through relevant legislation, agreements, SOPs and infrastructure (e.g. - including in relation to one emergency contact number)

Year 3 Emergency response agencies such as Vanuatu Fire Service (within VPF), Promedical, ProRescue and others including NDMO are undertaking joint training, exercises and real-world emergency response

Goal 4: Vanuatu has a professional and consistently trained disaster/emergency management sector

Year 1 Training needs assessment aligned with NDRMP undertaken with recommendations to government on way forward

Year 2 DRM Training Framework aligned with NDRMP established inclusive of accredited training pathways

Year 3 DRM Training Framework is guiding training engagement and coordination. Access to a broader range of accredited training is available

BACKGROUND

Summary of Disaster Management Arrangements

Vanuatu is rated as having the highest level of natural disaster-risk of any country in the world, with hazards predicted to intensify with climate change.

The **Disaster Risk Management Act (2019)** establishes key disaster and emergency management mandates functions in Vanuatu at national, provincial, municipal and community levels.

Execution of roles and responsibilities established in the DRM Act, are further described in an updated National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP), which is currently being developed.

The DRM Act establishes the **National Disaster Committee (NDC)** as the head advisory body to government on disaster risk management including planning, preparation, preparedness and response.

The **National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)** is mandated to provide overall coordination of all disaster/emergency management activities. The DRM Act calls for **Provincial, Municipal, and Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees** to be established to provide localised leadership and coordination, including via disaster response plans within respective jurisdictions. The DRM Act also formalises Vanuatu's Government-led multi-sector **National Cluster Framework**; and ascribes specific functions to the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) during times of disaster.

The Vanuatu Fire Service operates under the Vanuatu Mobile Force within the VPF, along with the Police Maritime Wing, who also provide important response functions including in relation to search and rescue.

The NDMO coordinates and leads on the technical development of national plans and procedures, including the **National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC)** Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and coordinates annual updates to the National Cyclone Response and Tsunami Response Plans.

The **Joint Police Operations Centre (JPOC)** has capacity to assist during times of response through the VPF. Provincial (and Community), and Municipal councils also have mandated planning and response responsibilities under the DRM Act.

Although not formally recognised within the overall disaster management structure, the **Vanuatu Emergency Medical Services Association Committee – ProMedical (VEMSA)** (non-government organisation (NGO) incorporated locally as a charitable association privately run organisations), provide important emergency services, including a dedicated volunteer rescue team (ProRescue) who provide road accident rescue as well as assistance at complex and multi-casualty cases.

The National Disaster Committee

The NDC is the high level advisory body consisting of Director Generals, Director NDMO, Commissioner of Police and CEO of Vanuatu Red Cross Society that are mandated to *inter alia*:

- Advise government agencies on DRM planning, preparation, preparedness and response;
- Oversee DRM implementation; and
- Advise on need for declaration of emergency

The NDC is to meet four times a year and the NDMO is the secretariat of the committee.

BACKGROUND

Disaster Management Structure

Aligned with its mandate, the SREM will define the National Disaster Committee's disaster risk management planning, preparation, preparedness and response priorities for action through collaborative arrangements including private sector, government ministries, clusters, provincial and community and partner agencies.

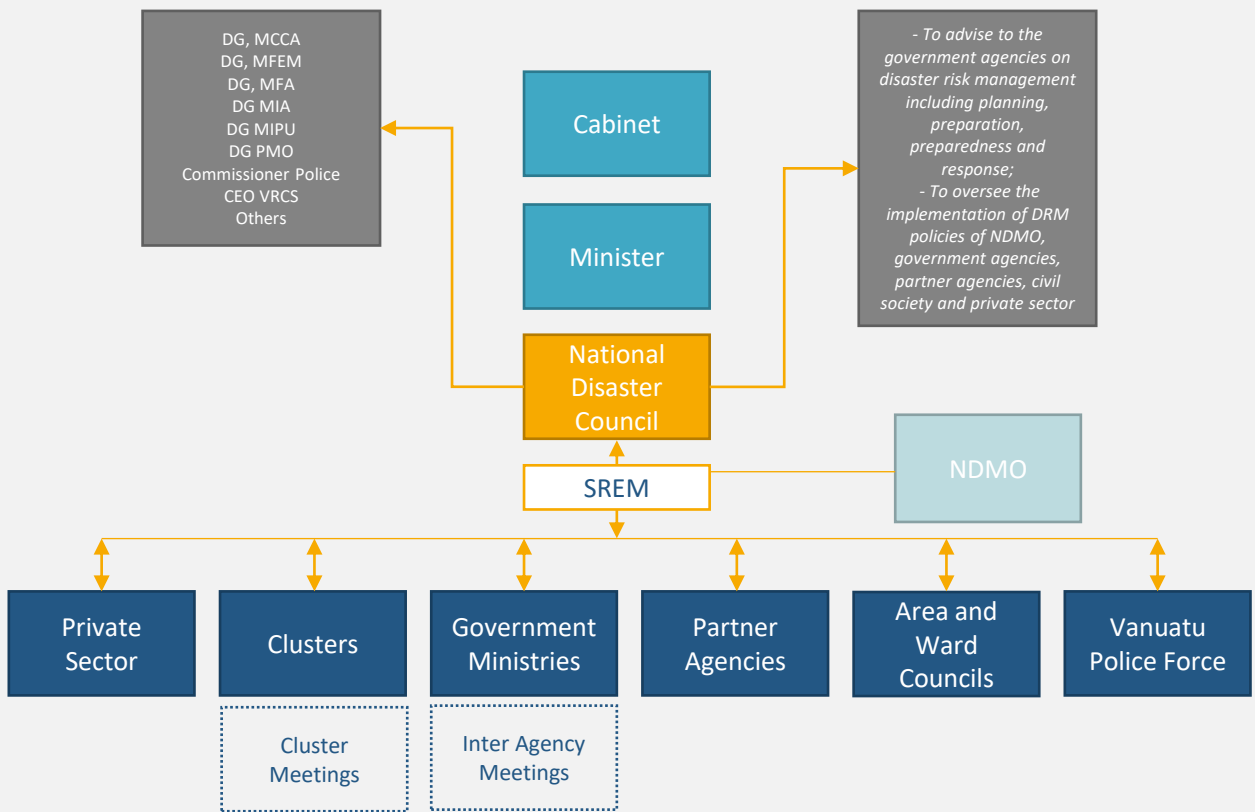
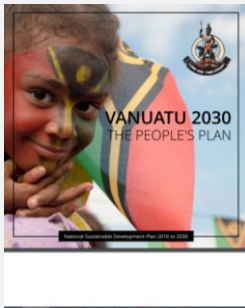


Figure 1 – The SREM serves to communicate NDC strategic priorities (goals) for action through existing DRM Governance Arrangements.

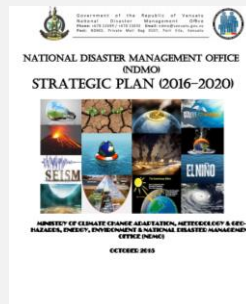
BACKGROUND

Key Documents

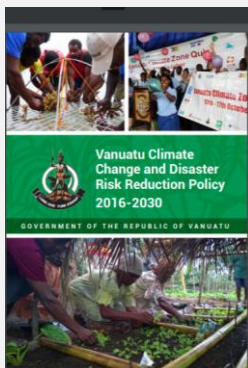
In addition to the Disaster Risk Management Act (2019) and the National Disaster Risk Management Plan, that establish overall disaster management arrangements, ongoing strengthening and development of the emergency and disaster management sector is currently driven and coordinated through several key documents, as summarised below.



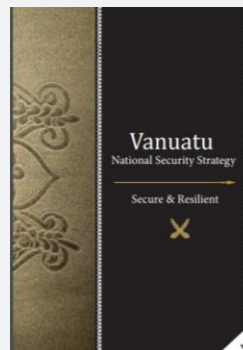
Vanuatu 2030 The People's Plan (also known as The National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 - 2030) charts the country's vision and overarching policy framework for achieving a 'Stable, Sustainable and Prosperous' Vanuatu and includes an objective on achieving a *strong and resilient nation in the face of climate change and disaster risks posed by natural and man-made hazards.*



The NDMO Strategic Plan 2016-2020 sets out the NDMO's Objectives towards 'ensuring resilient communities in Vanuatu' including through Objective 2 which is to *Improve Disaster Risk Management (DRM) coordination arrangements with all stakeholders at regional, national, provincial and community levels.*



The Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016 – 2030 articulates a range of disaster/emergency management planning and preparedness actions including a focus on DRM mainstreaming and coordination.



The Vanuatu National Security Strategy which includes Pillar 4: *Disasters and Climate Change resilience - Further strengthen capacity for natural disaster preparedness, response and recovery and climate change adaptation.*

This Vanuatu SREM aims to help progress key objectives within these policy and strategy documents. The SREM serves to support the strategic function of the National Disaster Committee mandated to advise government agencies on disaster risk management including planning preparation and response; and oversee implementation of disaster risk management policies implemented across government.

BACKGROUND

The Vanuatu SREM aims to build on the strengths and help address and work through key challenges for more effective disaster and emergency management coordination and performance in Vanuatu. Through the consultation processes key stakeholders identified the following strengths and challenges:

Strengths

- Strong overarching national planning framework in place with recognition of disaster and emergency management priorities, including National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 -2030, the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, and the Vanuatu National Security Strategy.
- Commitment to strengthened disaster and emergency management arrangements at high levels.
- Established sector-based national Cluster system, and increasingly well-functioning provincial and village-level governance mechanisms in place.
- A strong foundation of trust and partnership across government, civil society, and private sector.
- Lessons learned documented from recent experience in disaster/emergency situations.
- An established NEOC with SOPs in place.

Challenges

- An out-of-date NDRMP and lack of detail regarding specific roles and responsibilities.
- Limited awareness of emergency management responsibilities and lack of mainstreaming across government planning, budgeting, and procurement processes; and limited cross-sectoral coordination in terms of planning and preparedness.
- Limited community awareness and capability, including within Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees, with no SOPs in place; and resource challenges particularly to support greater coordination and outreach at provincial and community levels.
- An ad hoc training regime for disaster and emergency management, including a lack of ongoing support for training of trainer arrangements; and limited expertise and experience in NEOC operations.
- Limited awareness across the sector of the needs of vulnerable people in disaster and emergency contexts.

About PIEMA

PIEMA was established in 2013 as a coordinating mechanism that engages directly with Pacific Island countries to create 'excellence in emergency management'. PIEMA has a focus on building the foundations of trust, leadership, and teamwork among key emergency management agencies. The Pacific Community (SPC) provides secretariat services to PIEMA and manages the PIEMA project.

The PIEMA project is providing the opportunity to support all Pacific islands embark on a SREM development process, and is also supporting the development of a Regional SREM, which will serve as a framework for coordination across disaster managers and decision makers across the Pacific.

PIEMA plays a key role in supporting delivery of the Boe Declaration

Action Plan, as well as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).



PACIFIC ISLANDS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

THE VANUATU SREM

Objectives

The Vanuatu SREM aims to support the objectives of the National Disaster Risk Management Act (2019). To do this the SREM aims to enable:



Collaborative and inclusive priority setting.

The SREM promotes collaboration and inclusion by encouraging full representation through the National Disaster Committee (NDC), and serves to communicate its strategic priorities (see SREM Goals)



Coordinated planning.

The SREM encourages coordination across DRM stakeholders in the planning of priority actions. The inter-agency and inter-cluster meetings coordinated through the NDMO are key.



Action and accountability.

Ultimately the success of the SREM will be based on the actions that are implemented. The SREM is supported by Workplans for each of the defined Goals and progress will be monitored and reported.

Vision

Vanuatu is operationalising the Objectives of the Disaster Risk Management Act (2019).

The SREM aims to help focus and drive efforts to address key priorities as agreed by the NDC. It does not intend to duplicate or re-invent priorities – but rather bring greater focus to key strategic priorities agreed through the NDC for action.

SREM GOALS

The SREM sets out the following four Goals for the Vanuatu disaster/emergency management sector to progress over the next three years. The Goals have been identified as priorities for focused attention and progress in the short to medium term (and therefore do not represent a comprehensive list of DRM priorities). For each Goal, as sub-set of Priority Actions have been identified to provide further guidance on the critical steps necessary to progress towards the Goal.

1

Goal 1: A harmonized and integrated set of Disaster Risk Management Plans are in place

2

Goal 2: An interoperable emergency management communications platform

3

Goal 3: Emergency response agencies work more effectively as part of disaster response efforts

4

Goal 4: Vanuatu has a professional and consistently trained disaster management sector

Goals and Priority Actions will be monitored and updated upon advice of the NDC, which meets four times a year.

GOAL 1



A harmonized and integrated set of Disaster Risk Management Plans are in place.

In times of emergency and disaster response, all sectors and stakeholders need to know what to do, what their roles and responsibilities are, and how to work together. With the Disaster Risk Management Act (2019) gazetted, there is a need and opportunity to reinforce and build the integrated set of disaster management plans across all sectors and at all levels.

As a key first step an overarching National Disaster Management Plan (NDRMP) needs to be established. The NDRMP will set the overarching framework within which sector specific and provincial/community level plans can be developed and aligned.

This Goal 1 brings a focus to development of key plans and associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure a comprehensive and integrated set of plans across sectors.

Milestones

- Year 1** The NDRMP is finalised based on a highly collaborative development process.
- Year 2** All relevant sectors, agencies and clusters have developed relevant SOPs and ToRs aligned to the updated NDRMP.
- Year 3** Key barriers to implementation of plans at sector/agency level are being addressed.

Priority Activities

- Draft and finalise NDRMP, and undertake NDRMP and Disaster Risk Management Act (2019) awareness activities.
- Complete stock take of all SOPs (across government).
- Update (or develop) all SOPs in alignment with the NDRMP. Ensure SOPs are published on relevant government website (e.g. NDMO webpage) and maintained/updated overtime.
- Establish and implement a schedule for live and desk-based exercises to practice the SOPs.
- Undertake review of barriers and opportunities for enhanced disaster and emergency management mainstreaming and develop a process for addressing these barriers (e.g. streamlining response-time reimbursement procedures). Review ToR and recommendations to be considered/endorsed at Cabinet level to ensure full government support and buy-in.
- Implement a plan (based on review above) to embed NDRMP roles, responsibilities and enablers into all government/agency processes.

GOAL 2 An interoperable emergency management communications platform.



A critical barrier to effective emergency management is inadequate, siloed and underutilised communications procedures and equipment. Ensuring information is shared across sectors and with communities is key to effective disaster management.

In Vanuatu there is a need to systemically plan out communications infrastructure and processes to support interoperable cross-agency communications. Leveraging existing telecommunications programs and mobilising the active Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) are key.

The repair and upgrade the national government emergency radio network across Vanuatu being progressed through Australia's Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) provides a unique opportunity to increase Vanuatu's disaster preparedness and response capability via an expanded communication network. The infrastructure is to be prioritised in Port Vila, Luganville, Aneityum, Sola, Loh, Ambae and Epi, before expanding to a total of 15 police outposts over the next three years, including mobile two-way radio in five locations.

The SREM priorities a coordinated effort to ensure the renewed communications network is integrated into broader DRM arrangements and is complemented through other initiatives that enhance communications capabilities in times of emergency.

Milestones

- Year 1** A disaster communications enhancement plan is established to set out specific priorities to progress in parallel and in synergy with Vanuatu-Australia Defence Cooperation Program.
- Year 2** Delivery of relevant enhancement plan actions and initiatives.
- Year 3** An integrated and expanded emergency communications platform is created, and SOPs are developed and mainstreamed.

Priority Activities

- ETC and NDMO to convene workshop with DRM stakeholders (including Police, OGCI0 etc.) to develop recommendations for plan that will guide the development of communications platform.
- ETC to undertake stock take and assessment of emergency communication equipment and processes.
- ETC to convene workshop/s with DRM stakeholders to review findings and identify a program of work to connect Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) and NDMO systems.
- ETC to secure support for rollout of program of work to connect systems, including all technical, equipment, training, and awareness raising activities that are required.
- ETC to develop SOPs for the use of emergency communications equipment consistent with the procedures developed.
- ETC to develop a Maintenance Plan for emergency communications equipment.
- ETC to organise and deliver desk and field-based simulation exercises, testing the use of equipment and platform.

GOAL 3 Emergency response agencies work more effectively as part of disaster response efforts.



There is a growing capability within key emergency response agencies, and it is critical that they work effectively together when responding to emergency situations. In addition to the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF), which is mandated to provide a range of emergency response functions, the Vanuatu Fire Service (within VPF); Promedical and ProRescue have potential to provide a greater and more efficient level of service, aligned with Vanuatu's overall disaster management and emergency response arrangements.

Due to low-levels of coordination, resource constraints and unclear mandates these services are not being supported and utilised to full potential.

In this context, previous assessments and reports have made various recommendations including:

- To expand existing fire service to include broader emergency service roles and deliver a range of additional services to the whole of Vanuatu.
- That the Government consider the long-term view (10 years) of integrating the strengthened emergency services with the NDMO to form a national emergency management authority.
- A new funding model for 'Emergency Services' in Vanuatu considers a blended approach incorporating government, user pays and fee for service funding sources.

Milestones

- Year 1** A review has been undertaken of emergency response agency arrangements with recommendations on how to maximise effectiveness, including through possible establishment of an Emergency Services Act .
- Year 2** Operational arrangements across NDMO, Vanuatu Fire Service (within VPF) and other emergency response agencies such as ProMedical and ProRescue are harmonised through relevant legislation, agreements, SOPs and infrastructure (e.g. - including in relation to one emergency contact number).
- Year 3** Emergency response agencies such as Vanuatu Fire Service (within VPF), Promedical, ProRescue and others including NDMO are undertaking joint training, exercises and real-world emergency response.

Priority Activities

- A working group made up of, but not limited to, NDMO, Vanuatu Fire Service (within VPF), ProMedical, ProRescue, Ministry of Health and others established and supported to develop ToR for review of emergency response arrangements.
- Expert and consultative review of emergency arrangements undertaken with options and recommendations presented to government.
- Implement agreed initiatives and reforms (including legislative, institutional, SOPs etc).
- Develop and deliver desk and field-based response simulation exercises to practice SOPs aligned with NDRMP.

GOAL 4 Vanuatu has a professional and consistently trained disaster management sector



The effectiveness of the disaster management sector in Vanuatu relies on the continuing professionalisation of the workforce and ensuring people have the skills they need to deliver on the DRM roles and responsibilities they hold. By establishing a coordinated and country-led process for reviewing existing trainings as well as identifying, developing, and accrediting a robust training regime, a greater level of skills attainment and qualification recognition can be achieved.

A range of relevant trainings at the local level exist but lack formal accreditation and are ad hoc. The Vanuatu Police Training College is or has the ability to be a national Registered Training Organisation, and there are a range of other potential training providers, though no strategy exists to utilise these opportunities.

This Goal will focus on development of a DRM Training Framework that identifies requisite skills and training for key DRM roles (aligned with the NDRMP). Further, it will provide guidance on professional standards, and promote the development and access to certified courses as a basis for obtaining micro and recognised qualifications.

Milestones

- Year 1** Training needs assessment aligned with NDRMP undertaken with recommendations to government on way forward.
- Year 2** DRM Training Framework aligned with NDRMP established inclusive of accredited training pathways.
- Year 3** DRM Training Framework is guiding training engagement and coordination. Access to a broader range of accredited training is available.

Priority Activities

- NDMO to coordinate establishment of an Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (EMTAG) with ToR to guide their advisory support work over three years
- ToR for undertaking training needs assessment established and financial support for review is secured. Assessment undertaken through consultative approach. EMTAG to oversee, direct and advise.
- SPC through the PIEMA project to coordinate and provide technical advice (including in consultation with APTC and others), including on the development of micro-qualifications and certified training pathways, as input to the Training Framework.
- EMTAG to endorse recommended options / strategies for DRM Training Framework (based on assessment) to government for endorsement.
- Training Framework to be developed (with technical assistance, guided by an agreed ToR).
- Training Framework, mainstreamed through government and DRM stakeholders, with agencies committed to allocating agency budgets to ensure all stakeholders are supported to receiving relevant training.
- Ongoing implementation and monitoring against DRM Training Framework Monitoring and Evaluation plan.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Implementation of the SREM will be overseen by the NDC, who as part of the quarterly meeting will require an update on progress against the SREM Performance Plan (see below). In its role as secretariat for the NDC, the NDMO will collate progress information through relevant interagency and inter-cluster meetings.

Strategic Direction

The NDC will:

- Endorse this SREM
- Review SREM progress
- Endorse new SREM activities and workplans

Coordinated Work planning

The NDMO will lead coordination of:

- Inter-agency and Inter-cluster meetings (and engagement with other stakeholders) to discuss and coordinate implementation
- Support development of SREM workplans
- Providing technical support to stakeholders

Review and Report

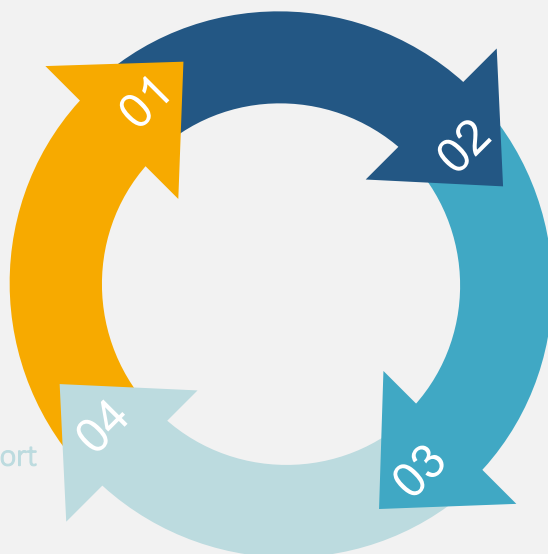
The NDMO will coordinate:

- Review of process in collaboration with the Inter-agency / Inter-cluster meeting
- Proposed updates to SREM workplans

Implementation

All relevant DRM Stakeholders will :

- Ensure SREM activities are reflected in individual agency workplans or equivalent
- Implement relevant actions and collaborate with NDMO and others



Workplans

SREM Goals and Milestones will be progressed through workplans that set out actions to be implemented within a specified timeframe. The SREM workplans will be endorsed by the NDC and therefore essentially represent a NDC workplan, which establishes a mandate for all agencies to take the necessary action to achieve the relevant Milestone and Goal. The NDC will require progress reports on the implementation of the workplans, as per the SREM Monitoring Framework detailed over the page. SREM workplan templates are attached to this SREM and will be maintained by the NDMO.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Vanuatu SREM Monitoring Framework

The SREM Monitoring Framework (below) establishes a simple set of indicators to demonstrate implementation and progress, and to be reported through relevant reporting channels (NDMO / NDC Reports). A report by the NDC (coordinated through the NDMO) will be prepared annually, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to document issues, action taken and future directions.

Performance Area	Targets / Indicators	Report Details
1. Collaborative and inclusive priority setting	The NDC meets quarterly to review and advise on SREM (and other DRM priorities)	NDMO to collate relevant information and include in relevant annual reports
	The NDC is inclusive, with relevant stakeholders from NGO and community, women and PWD sectors represented	
2. Coordinated Planning	SREM workplans (or similar) are established and updated regularly through Inter-cluster / inter-agency meetings	NDMO to document meeting minutes and collate in reporting to NDC
	Number of SREM actions that incorporate / or have a primary focus on gender and inclusion	
3. Action and accountability	Number of agencies and clusters informing implementation of SREM	NDMO to collate information and report on to NDC, and through other relevant reports
	Inter-agency / Inter-cluster meetings provide opportunity for diversity of stakeholders to input to SREM implementation (including gender, PWD and private sectors)	
	Number of SREM Milestones met	

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Gender and Social Inclusion

The **Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016 - 2030** specifies social inclusion in Pillar One, Goal Four, with a focus on gender considerations in education, as well as whole of government planning and budgeting processes.

The **National Gender Equality Policy (NGEP) 2015 - 2019** further details Vanuatu's commitment to promoting equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities among men and women, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls by specifically calling for all disaster/emergency planning and policy to be gender responsive.

Te Vanuatu SREM supports gender and social inclusiveness priorities in disaster management by:

- ✓ Supporting the NDC to agree on a gender and social inclusion focused SREM Priority Outcomes, and corresponding workplans, as part of ongoing implementation of the SREM.
- ✓ Promoting the Vanuatu NSDP and NGEP commitments by supporting the sector to mainstream gender and social inclusion considerations into disaster management policy and planning. Development of the updated NDRMP and SOPs is one such opportunity.
- ✓ Supporting gender and social inclusion awareness training across the sector (as per of DRM Training Framework), including across government (national and sub-national), Municipal, and clusters, to promote integration and mainstreaming of gender and social inclusiveness considerations into all aspects of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- ✓ Supporting the development of proactive, targeted gender empowering recruitment processes in the Vanuatu Fire Service within VPF (see workplan 2).
- ✓ Support increased attendance of women at meetings (and trainings and events) associated with implementation of the SREM and the NDRMP.

These and other strategies align with and will also be supported through implementation of the PIEMA 'Responding Together: Strategy for Gender Equality in Disaster Management in the Pacific' and 'Becoming a Leader: a leadership learning pathway for PIEMA member agencies.'

Resourcing the SREM

The implementation of the Vanuatu SREM can be achieved in large part through low or no-cost actions, integrating into 'business as usual' disaster management work. However, there are some activities that require financial resources for completion. All agencies will take shared responsibility for sourcing funds for supporting these activities which are highlighted within each of the relevant SREM workplans. In these instances, the SREM can be used to help communicate funding needs within government and to partners as it demonstrates a country led commitment to strengthen coordination for more effective and efficient service delivery.

Provincial and Community Engagement

The successful integration of Provincial Government Councils and Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCC) with national disaster management bodies, including clusters, is essential. This is in line with decentralization efforts of the Vanuatu Government in ensuring effective disaster management in Vanuatu must be responsive to, and include, the geographically disperse and diverse population across all six provinces.

Through collaborative development, the Vanuatu SREM supports 1) the development of a NDRP where local level roles and responsibilities will be further elaborated, and 2) the professionalisation of the sector through the establishment of a disaster management training regime, including for Provincial and community levels. As the SREM is progressed and evolves overtime, additional and more focused support for provincial and community engagement may be prioritised in future iterations of the Vanuatu SREM.

GLOSSARY

DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
JPOC	Joint Police Operations Centre
NDC	National Disaster Committee
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDRM	National Disaster Risk Management
NDRMP	National Disaster Risk Management Plan
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Centre
PIEMA	Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	The Pacific Community
SREM	Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management
ToR	Terms of Reference
VPF	Vanuatu Police Force