**NATIONAL POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT**

**2025**

**ACTION-BASED IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK TO INFORM THE**

**COSTED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**2026 - 2030**

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**SYSTEM-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS**

**STRATEGIC AREA 1: INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Institutional structures must ensure coordination with environmental agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC).
* Environmental assessment, planning and permitting processes, climate risk mapping, and sustainability planning must be incorporated into inter-ministerial coordination and institutional SOPs.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Ensure women’s representation and leadership across governance bodies, including within the institutional hub, provincial committees, and institutional taskforces.
* Ensure alignment with the National Gender Equality Policy and involve the Department of Women’s Affairs in institutional reform processes.

**Cultural considerations**

* Embed customary leadership and kastom governance into institutional design where possible, through partnerships with the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs and their networks, and the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta.
* Incorporate traditional conflict resolution mechanisms into dispute governance processes.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Ensure engagement with child-focused agencies and stakeholders in institutional design and decision-making processes.
* Incorporate child-sensitive feedback and referral mechanisms into governance frameworks at national, provincial, and community levels.
* Integrate child protection, safety, and education priorities into displacement and relocation planning.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure the needs of people with disabilities, older persons, and other vulnerable groups are integrated into institutional structures, planning, and service delivery.
* Strengthen partnerships with organisations representing vulnerable groups to inform decision-making and policy implementation.
* Ensure accessibility of information, participation processes, and grievance mechanisms for all, including through accessible formats and targeted outreach.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Institutional Leadership and Coordination**

**Action 1.1** (originally Action 1.2)

**Identify a lead Ministry** to implement this policy and act as focal point for matters relating to displacement, internal migration and relocation. While the policy is underpinned by an inter-ministerial approach, a Lead Ministry must be designated to ensure implementation and coordination, with clear procedures for involvement of other key agencies.

***Outcome****: A lead government ministry is officially designated to coordinate and implement this policy.*

**Action 1.2** (originally Action 1.3)

**Establish institutional “hub”.** Establish a Department, Office, or similar institutional hub under the lead Ministry, with associated staff, expertise and resources to support policy implementation. This could take the form of an “Office for internal migration and displacement safeguards”, or similar institutional title.

***Outcome:*** *Government of Vanuatu is equipped with the authority, staff, and resources (institutional hub) needed to coordinate displacement, climate mobility, and relocation efforts across all levels of government.*

**Action 1.3** (originally Action 1.4)

**Define Terms of Reference (ToR), governance structure and budget for institutional hub.** Undertake a consultation process to inform development of the ToR for the institutional hub. A draft TOR is included in Annex E.

***Outcome:*** *Institutional hub ToR is developed and validated.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | NAB Secretariat, through Durable Solutions Taskforce | **Support** | MoCC, MoLNR, MoIA, PMO, IOM |
| Outputs | * CoM endorsement confirming the lead ministry. * Institutional hub established with office, staff, and ToR, budget and governance structure. * Three-year institutional budget and organisational chart approved and operational. * Integration of the lead ministry into national development frameworks. * Core technical staff recruited and trained within 3 years. | | |

**Action 1.4** (originally Action 1.1)

**Establish interim arrangements for a “first point of contact”** to respond to requests from people affected by displacement, as well as other institutions and organisations working on displacement issues, whilepermanent structures (institutional hub) are being established.

***Outcome:*** *An accessible and responsive contact point within the lead ministry is in place, enabling displaced individuals and communities to receive timely information, support, and referrals during the policy’s initial implementation phase.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 1.4 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | NAB Secretariat |
| Outputs | * Interim displacement focal officer appointed, trained, and equipped. * Nationally publicized contact point accessible by phone, email, and referral network. * Interim referral protocols established with key service ministries and provincial bodies. * Community awareness materials distributed in all provinces and key at-risk areas. | | |

**Inter-Agency Collaboration and Specialized Mechanisms**

**Action 1.5** (new)

**Establish specialized institutional roles and mechanisms to address distinct types of displacement drivers and solutions.**

These may include:

* Climate-induced.
* Geohazard-induced.
* Human-induced (e.g., land disputes, evictions).
* Urban and peri-urban displacement.
* Evacuations.
* Relocation (rural and urban).
* Return.
* Local integration.

Each mechanism will have a dedicated mandate and operational focus, and all will be required to coordinate through the lead ministry that will host a central inter-agency platform to ensure joint planning, policy coherence, and integrated responses.

***Outcome*:** *Specialized mechanisms are in place for each primary displacement driver and solution, working collaboratively through a national coordination platform. This ensures that all forms of displacement are addressed through timely, well-coordinated planning, targeted response, and accountable, durable solutions.*

**Action 1.6** (new)

**Facilitate an agreement and coordination mechanism** between key ministries and/or departments responsible for climate change and disaster risk reduction, disaster management, internal affairs, urban affairs and planning, land management and leasing processes, and any other relevant sector, to define coordination protocols, and reporting arrangements for collaborating and coordinating in the management of displacement across typologies under the lead ministry. The agreement will form the basis for implementing the four institutional mechanisms and establishing structured collaboration through the national inter-agency platform.

***Outcome***: *An inter-ministerial coordination framework is formalized through a signed agreement, providing streamlined decision-making, and effective collaboration across climate-induced, geophysical, human-induced, urban/peri-urban displacement and other displacement typologies and solutions as required.*

**Action 1.7** (originally Action 1.5)

**Strengthen coordination mechanisms and linkages to service delivery** for the lead ministry to implement the policy in coordination with government and non-government partners, not only in relation to emergency responses (i.e. national cluster system), but also to coordinate with Line Ministries for long-term recovery (land, infrastructure, health, education, agriculture, livelihoods etc.), through establishment of an “inter-ministerial displacement protection and planning committee” or similar group.

***Outcome***: *Improved coordination and service delivery mechanisms enable the lead ministry to effectively oversee displacement responses, ensuring timely, integrated, and people-centered support for affected communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | NAB, DoCC, NDMO, VMGD, DLA, DUAP, Department of Lands, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Functional mechanisms with approved ToRs and dedicated staff and resources are confirmed. * Annual workplans and coordination reports for each mechanism. * Inter-agency coordination structures revised, amended (if needed) and operational. * Signed formal agreement between relevant ministries. * National endorsement of MoU. * National SOPs for coordination across displacement drivers and solutions. * Annual joint workplan and reporting system in place. | | |

**Action 1.8** (originally Action 1.7)

**Strengthen Provincial and Area Council, and Municipal and Ward-level coordination** for implementation of displacement management, in line with the government’s decentralisation priorities. Sub-national structures relevant to displacement planning are included in Annex C.

***Outcome***: *Subnational coordination mechanisms are established and strengthened, enabling more responsive, context-specific, and community-driven implementation of displacement management activities across Vanuatu.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 1.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Focal points designated in all six provinces and high risk area councils. * Provincial and area council displacement coordination ToRs developed and adopted. * Provincial/area officials or decentralised representatives trained in displacement governance. * Annual coordination plans produced and aligned with national policy relevant to context. | | |

**Inclusive Participation**

**Action 1.9** (originally Action 1.6)

Ensure participation and roles for local communities, Chiefs, women’s representatives, faith-based groups and vulnerable and minority groups in new institutional arrangements and decision-making processes.

***Outcome***: *Displacement governance is inclusive and locally grounded, reflecting diverse perspectives and cultural values in decision-making to ensure legitimacy, equity, and community ownership.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 1.9 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 3 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DLA, DWA, Malvatumauri, VCC |
| Outputs | * Inclusive participation guidelines developed and adopted. * Community representatives trained nationwide. * Participation protocols integrated into six provincial coordination structures. * Regular consultations held in at-risk and host communities. | | |

**Legal Frameworks**

**Action 1.10** (originally Action 1.9)

**Ensure emerging institutional arrangements are legislated**, either through preparation of a new Act or amendments to existing legislation, to strengthen the authority and sustainability of the policy framework.

***Outcome***: *Institutional arrangements are legally recognized, strengthening the policy framework’s authority, accountability, and long-term sustainability.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 1.10 | Timeframe | Years 4 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | State Law Office |
| Outputs | * Legal review and recommendations report. * Enabling legislation or amendments enacted and azette. * Public briefings and legal literacy tools disseminated. * Institutional mandates and structures formally recognized under law. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 2: FUNDING ACCESS AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Ensure proposals and financing strategies include environmental safeguards and align with national environmental regulations and permitting processes.
* Prioritise funding opportunities that support sustainable, low-impact solutions for displacement and mobility needs.
* Coordinate with DoCC and DEPC to incorporate climate and hazard risk mapping into project design and funding justifications.

**Cultural considerations**

* Engage customary authorities and cultural institutions (e.g., Malvatumauri, VKS, Area Councils of Chiefs) in project design to ensure proposals reflect kastom values and cultural priorities.
* Incorporate traditional knowledge in resilience and relocation project financing to support locally led adaptation and solutions.
* Ensure cultural promotion, preservation and utilisation is prioritised and financed appropriately whenever possible.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Integrate gender analysis in funding strategies to ensure resources address the needs of and access for women in an equitable way.
* Prioritise women’s leadership in grant management and decision-making roles at community and provincial levels.
* Track and report on the gender impacts of funded projects to support accountability and learning.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Ensure funded projects include child-focused interventions, such as safe education facilities, child protection mechanisms, and access to psychosocial support.
* Design communications on funding opportunities in ways that engage tertiary students, schools, youth groups, and child-focused organisations, where relevant.
* Incorporate child protection risk screening into project proposals and financing approvals.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Build accessibility requirements into funding strategies to ensure people with disabilities, older persons, and marginalised groups can participate and benefit.
* Partner with organisations representing vulnerable groups to co-design inclusive projects and support their grant readiness.
* Provide information and training in multiple accessible formats to ensure equitable participation in funding and project processes.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Policy Financing Strategy**

**Action 2.1** (new)

**Develop and implement a national financing strategy** to resource the actions in this Displacement Policy, identifying costed priorities, potential funding sources, and mechanisms for sustained financing including allocation of responsibility for resource mobilisation. The strategy should align with national budget cycles, integrate with sectoral financing plans, and explore diverse funding streams, including government allocations, donor contributions, climate finance, development finance, and public–private partnerships.

*Outcome: The Displacement Policy is supported by a clear, government-led and government-owned financing plan, ensuring sustainable and predictable funding for priority actions across prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and durable solutions.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | Department of Finance and Treasury, DSPPAC |
| Outputs | * Costed implementation plan linked to Displacement Policy actions. * Mapping of potential funding sources across domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and private sectors. * Agreed financing strategy document endorsed by the Council of Ministers. * Integration of priority actions into national and provincial budgets. * Funding partnership agreements with donors and development partners. * Periodic financing strategy review to adjust to changing priorities and funding landscapes. | | |

**Expanding Access to Funding Opportunities**

**Action 2.2** (new)

**Identify, compile, and regularly share information on funding opportunities relevant to displacement** prevention, management, relocation and other durable solutions. Ensure relevant opportunities are made known to communities, local organisations, provincial and national governments through accessible channels and in user-friendly formats, including Bislama summaries.

***Outcome:*** *Communities, local organisations, provincial and national government are aware of current funding opportunities and can align their initiatives with available resources.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, VANGO |
| Outputs | * Central online or physical repository of current funding calls. * Regularly updated funding opportunities are distributed through multiple channels. * Bislama and/or plain-language summaries of each opportunity. * Outreach plan to ensure rural and remote communities receive information. | | |

**Support for Community Project Funding**

**Action 2.3** (new)

**Provide training, tools, and tailored support** to help communities, local organisations, provincial and/or national government design and prepare high-quality funding applications and manage grants effectively. Activities may include workshops, mentoring, provision of templates, and linkages with experienced partner organisations.

***Outcome:*** *Local actors have the skills, confidence, and resources to successfully apply for and manage funding aligned with Displacement Policy priorities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.3 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, VANGO, VCAN |
| Outputs | * Mapping of potential partner organisations and their capacity to support communities, local organisations, provincial and/or national government in displacement and mobility program implementation. * Strategy for linking partner organisations with grantees. * Capacity-building workshops on proposal writing, budgeting, and donor compliance. * Template application forms, budgets, and work plans available to all applicants. * Mentoring or helpdesk services for applicants needing one-on-one guidance. * Case studies and examples of successful applications shared for learning. * Follow-up coaching for grant recipients on project implementation and reporting. | | |

**Action 2.4** (new)

**Use prioritisation of displacement-affected and at-risk hotspots to support communities to develop targeted, bankable projects** addressing prevention, preparedness, relocation, and resilience needs in those areas. Ensure these projects are designed in collaboration with affected communities, meet donor readiness requirements, and are integrated into national and provincial development plans. Actively connect prioritised hotspot projects with domestic and international funding opportunities, including the National Loss and Damage Fund, climate finance and development partners.

***Outcome:*** *High-priority displacement hotspots are supported by well-prepared, community-informed projects that are ready for funding and implementation, ensuring timely and targeted investment where it is most needed.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.4 | Timeframe | Years 4 - 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, NDMO, DUAP, DLA |
| Outputs | * Portfolio of hotspot-specific projects developed, including concept notes, feasibility assessments, and costings. * Community engagement reports documenting participation in project design. * Integration of projects into relevant national, provincial, and sectoral plans. * Funding opportunity mapping matched to each project. * Pipeline submissions made to domestic and international funding mechanisms. * Annual update of hotspot project portfolio to reflect new risk data and funding landscapes. | | |

**Prioritisation within Climate Finance and Loss and Damage Financing Mechanisms**

**Action 2.5** (new)

**Align priority climate mobility and displacement actions with Vanuatu’s national climate finance strategy and platforms** by preparing them as bankable, high-quality project proposals suitable for diversified funding sources. Highlight these projects in national financing pipelines and ensure they are coordinated across agencies, supporting streamlined access to climate finance—including public, private, Loss & Damage, and multilateral funds.

***Outcome:*** *Climate mobility and displacement initiatives are embedded within national climate finance mechanisms and are consistently structured and promoted as viable investment opportunities, improving their visibility and likelihood of funding across varied channels.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.5 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | Department of Finance and Treasury, NDMO, DUAP, DLA |
| Outputs | * A displacement-focused project pipeline, aligned with climate finance strategies and coordination mechanisms, featuring bankable concept notes and feasibility outlines. * Coordination protocols between the Lead Ministry overseeing the Displacement Policy implementation and the Climate Finance Platform to ensure cross-agency collaboration and joint promotion. | | |

**Linking Displacement to Loss and Damage Funding**

**Action 2.6** (new)

**Ensure priority climate mobility and displacement-related actions from the Displacement Policy and related projects are formally recognised as eligible interventions under Vanuatu’s National Loss and Damage Fund**, including community-based small grants mechanisms. Establish a process to regularly integrate these actions and projects into the Fund’s national project pipeline so they are proactively considered for financing alongside other loss and damage priorities, with clear pathways for ministries, provincial governments, and communities to access funding for prevention, preparedness, relocation, and in-situ adaptation initiatives.

***Outcome:*** *Climate mobility and displacement solutions are consistently prioritised within the Loss and Damage Fund’s allocations, ensuring timely and predictable financing for interventions that reduce risk, protect livelihoods, and enable safe and dignified mobility choices.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | NDMO, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * List of Displacement Policy priority actions formally recognised in the Loss and Damage Fund’s eligibility criteria. * National project pipeline including climate mobility and displacement-related proposals for Fund consideration. * Guidance note for ministries, provincial governments, and communities on accessing the Fund for displacement-related initiatives. * Annual submission of displacement-related funding proposals to the Fund. * Government–Fund coordination mechanism established to review and align funding allocations with policy priorities. | | |

**Links to Adaptive Social Protection and Disaster Risk Financing**

**Action 2.7** (new)

**Establish pre-agreed financing arrangements** to rapidly scale social protection measures, aligned with Vanuatu’s *Adaptive Social Protection Policy*—such as cash transfers, in-kind assistance, or service subsidies—for households displaced or at risk due to disasters and climate impacts. Link these mechanisms to disaster risk financing instruments (e.g. contingency funds, parametric insurance, contingent credit), with clear triggers for activation.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced and at-risk households receive timely, predictable financial or in-kind support following shocks, enabling them to meet urgent needs, reduce negative coping strategies, and support recovery while addressing compounding impacts and vulnerability.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.7 | Timeframe | Years 5+ |
| Lead | DSSPAC | **Support** | NRU, NDMO, DoCC, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Shock-responsive social protection protocol with triggers, tailored to displacement scenarios with pre-defined triggers for activation (e.g. disaster declarations, parametric payout thresholds). * Contingency financing agreements linking displacement-related assistance to existing DRF instruments. | | |

**Budget Tagging**

**Action 2.8** (new)

Introduce a **climate- and displacement-related budget tagging system** within the national public financial management framework to identify, track, and report on government spending related to displacement prevention, preparedness, response, and durable solutions. Integrate the tagging system into the national budget process and publish annual expenditure reports to improve transparency, accountability, and alignment with Displacement Policy priorities.

***Outcome:*** *Government and partners can clearly see how much is being invested in displacement-related activities, enabling better planning, coordination, and advocacy for increased resources.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | Department of Finance and Treasury | **Support** | DSSPAC, DoCC, NRU, NDMO, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Budget tagging methodology developed and approved by the Ministry of Finance and relevant ministries. * Updated Chart of Accounts to include climate/displacement budget tags. * Annual tagged-expenditure report published and disseminated. * Training sessions for budget officers and line ministries on applying tags. * Integration of tagging system into national budget guidelines and templates. | | |

**Financing for TK and Cultural Systems**

**Action 2.9** (original Action 12.6)

Increase **financial and technical resources to support traditional knowledge and cultural systems mapping**. The Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta ~~Cultural Centre and Museum~~ has existing technical and financial resources which could be strengthened.

***Outcome*:** *Expanded capacity at national, provincial, island and community levels enables systematic documentation and use of traditional knowledge in displacement and mobility preparedness, management and solutions, ensuring cultural preservation and local leadership in adaptation planning.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.9 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Malvatumauri, Lead Ministry, DLA |
| Outputs | * Institutional assessment completed. * Expansion program and budget designed and staged financing strategy and sources identified. * Financing strategy implemented. * VKS fieldworkers and officers resourcing and training plan developed, adopted and implemented. * Traditional knowledge and cultural systems documentation program underway. * National and community archives updated with existing and new digital collections. * Knowledge products created and shared with communities and government partners. | | |

**Micro-finance and Climate Insurance for Communities**

**Action 2.10** (original Action 10.8)

**Explore affordable micro-insurance and “climate insurance” models** to provide additional safety nets to remedy loss of income, damage to housing, infrastructure, crops and other assets from disasters. Insurance models need to be suitable for people with limited means to pay insurance premiums or negotiate claims. Insurance-related protections could be developed in partnership with the private sector, development partners, international financial institutions and-, non-governmental sector.

***Outcome****: Communities in Vanuatu access affordable micro- and climate insurance products that provide timely protection against disaster-related losses. These mechanisms reduce vulnerability, support faster recovery, and complement social protection and disaster financing systems, while being designed to suit low-income households.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 2.10 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | MFEM | **Support** | DoCC, MALFB, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Feasibility study on affordable micro- and climate insurance options tailored to Vanuatu’s context. * Partnership agreements with private sector insurers, development partners, and financial institutions. * Prototype insurance products piloted with vulnerable households and communities. * Awareness and training sessions for communities on how to access and use insurance schemes. * Evaluation reports documenting uptake, accessibility, and effectiveness of insurance models. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 3: EVIDENCE, INFORMATION AND MONITORING**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Ensure data and evidence systems integrate environmental indicators, aligning mobility and displacement data with sustainability considerations where relevant, for holistic planning.
* Apply sustainable practices in data collection, such as reducing unnecessary field travel or energy-intensive processes and digitising workflows where possible.
* Collaborate with DEPC and VBoS to ensure environmental indicators are reflected in mobility analysis and reporting.

**Cultural considerations**

* Involve customary leaders and cultural institutions in the design of data systems and mapping to reflect local knowledge and cultural priorities and indicators where relevant.
* Ensure mobility frameworks, classifications, and communication products use culturally appropriate language and concepts that resonate with communities.
* Incorporate traditional knowledge and historical narratives into risk mapping and mobility profiles to strengthen relevance and trust.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Ensure sex- and gender-disaggregated data is consistently collected and analysed to highlight differential impacts and inform targeted interventions.
* Engage women’s groups in the design and validation of data tools to ensure they capture women’s experiences and priorities.
* Include gender-sensitive indicators in monitoring frameworks to measure equity of access and outcomes.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Collect age-disaggregated data to monitor impacts on children and inform planning for education, health and child protection purposes.
* Consult with child-focused organisations to ensure child safety and protection are considered during data collection and reporting.
* Ensure child-centred data collection methodologies are included in data collection and ensure that these are designed and validated by experts in this field.
* Communicate findings to communities in child and youth-friendly formats (visual or audio) to raise awareness and engagement of young people.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure data systems and outputs are inclusive of people with disabilities, older persons, and other at-risk groups, using appropriate disaggregation.
* Engage representative organisations in tool design to ensure data collection methods are accessible and inclusive.
* Provide reports and dashboards in multiple formats (plain language, audio, and visual tools) to ensure equitable access and usability across diverse stakeholders.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Human Mobility Framework**

**Action 3.1** (new)

**Develop a National Human Mobility Framework** to provide clear, standardised definitions and guidance on the full spectrum of mobility typologies relevant to Vanuatu, including:

* Displacement: sudden- and slow-onset from climate, geohazard, human-induced, and mixed drivers; cyclical and secondary displacement.
* Evacuations: temporary and mass evacuations/displacement.
* Pre-emptive / preventative relocation.
* Durable solutions post-displacement: local integration, return, and planned relocation.
* Immobility: voluntary immobility (staying in place) and involuntary immobility (“trapped populations”).
* Internal Migration: internal migration, including rural–urban and cyclical migration.
* Cross-border Migration: temporary protection; mass displacement; labour mobility and seasonal work.
* Urban mobility/settlement trends: informal settlements and urban expansion.

The framework should be developed through national consultation, aligned with international and regional standards, and integrated into policy, planning, data collection, and operational practice across sectors.

***Outcome:*** *Government, partners, and communities share a common language and understanding of all human mobility forms in Vanuatu, enabling coherent policies, consistent data collection, and coordinated action across displacement, migration, and settlement planning.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, VMGD, VBoS, DUAP, DLA, MoFA, NDMO |
| Outputs | * National Human Mobility Framework developed and validated through consultation. * Standardised definitions and typologies for all forms of mobility adopted. * Integration into national policy, planning, and data systems. * Awareness and training sessions delivered for government and community leaders. | | |

**Displacement Risk Classification Framework**

**Action 3.2** (new)

**Develop and adopt a national Displacement Risk Classification Framework** that defines and distinguishes between different drivers, including:

* Climate-induced displacement.
* Geohazard-induced displacement.
* Human-induced displacement.
* Mixed driver displacement.

Ensure that risk classification identifies standards, criteria, triggers and / or tipping points for different displacement drivers and typologies, where possible. This framework will be a standard reference for all government and partner agencies.

***Outcome***: *A nationally endorsed Displacement and Mobility Risk Classification Framework is developed and provides a shared understanding of distinct displacement drivers and typologies, supporting specific role allocation, coordinated policy, planning, and targeted interventions across different sectors.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, VMGD, VBoS, DUAP, DLA, MoFA, NDMO |
| Outputs | * National Displacement Risk Classification Framework drafted and validated through consultations. * Agreed standards, criteria, triggers, and tipping points for different displacement drivers. * Framework formally endorsed by government and adopted as a reference tool. * Integration of framework into sectoral planning, policy, and operational guidance. * Training and awareness materials disseminated to government and partners. | | |

**Action 3.3** (new)

**Integrate the contents of the national Displacement Risk Classification Framework into existing tools and processes** (e.g. DoCC community vulnerability assessment questionnaire, the National Vulnerability Assessment Framework, DLA community profiling assessments) and ensure coordination between partner agencies overseeing these tools.

***Outcome:*** *Displacement risk as outlined in the Displacement Risk Classification Framework is integrated into national and local planning tool and processes, enabling targeted, evidence-based actions to reduce risk and support at-risk communities, supported by agency coordination.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, VMGD, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Framework elements translated into indicators and modules for inclusion in existing vulnerability and community assessment tools. * Inter-agency technical group established to harmonize integration across DoCC, DLA, and partner-led tools. * Updated versions of national and local assessment tools piloted and rolled out with displacement risk content. * Training sessions conducted for government and partner field teams on applying integrated tools. * Regular monitoring and feedback loop established to ensure alignment and continuous improvement. | | |

**Displacement Profiling and Event Registry**

**Action 3.4** (new)

**Prepare a comprehensive displacement profile for Vanuatu** to consolidate and analyse existing qualitative and quantitative data on displacement trends, drivers, impacts, and responses. The profile should include historical and recent displacement events, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of displaced populations, geographic patterns, protection concerns, and current solutions pathways. It should draw from government, humanitarian, and academic sources, as well as provincial, area council and community consultations, and be regularly updated to track changes over time.

***Outcome:*** *Government and partners have a centralised, evidence-based reference on displacement in Vanuatu, enabling targeted policy-making, improved preparedness and response, and better alignment of resources to the needs and priorities of displaced and at-risk populations.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.4 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, VMGD, NDMO, DLA, DUAP, MoLNR |
| Outputs | * Consolidated displacement profile and analysis drawing from multiple sources and covering different displacement typologies. * Geographic mapping of displacement hotspots and mobility trends. * Area council consultations incorporated into the profile. * Regular updates to capture new events and trends. * Profile published in accessible formats for government, partners, and communities. | | |

**Action 3.5** (new)

**Establish a national displacement event registry and response tracker**, disaggregated by driver and typology using the Displacement Classification Framework, and linked to the Displacement Profile. Regularly update the registry drawing on community, sub-national and national reporting of hazards and displacement events. Link the system to existing national data platforms (e.g., DoCC’s NVAF, IOM DTM, VBoS, NDMO).

***Outcome***: *A national displacement event registry is established, utilising the Displacement Classification Framework, to support evidence-based planning, reporting, and resource mobilization.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.5 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, VMGD, NDMO, DLA, DUAP, MoLNR |
| Outputs | * Functional national registry platform linked to the Displacement Profile. * Standardised registry template developed. * Disaggregated event records by driver, typology, location, and population group. * Integration protocols with existing systems (NVAF, DTM, VBoS, NDMO) if relevant. * Annual public summary reports on displacement events and responses. * Capacity building for government and provincial officers on data entry and use. | | |

**Driver-Specific Displacement Risk Mapping**

**Action 3.6** (originally Action 2.1)

**Identify and prioritise displacement-affected and at-risk hotspots** **across all area councils** for targeted planning and interventions, by ~~prioritise~~ building on existing multi-hazard mapping initiatives and integrated vulnerability assessments ~~in all Area Councils~~, in line with the CCDRR Policy and Ministry of Climate Change work plans and projects. Ensure displacement hotspot identification and at-risk population estimates are carried out involving the relevant government agencies, for different drivers and typologies including:

* Climate-induced displacement.
* Geohazard-induced displacement.
* Human-induced displacement.
* Mixed driver-induced displacement.

***Outcome***: *Hotspots and populations affected by or at risk of displacement caused by different drivers are identified and prioritized across Vanuatu by building on existing hazard and vulnerability mapping and assessments across area councils and communities, enabling national and local authorities to identify potential caseloads, plan for displacement, and direct resilience investments based on localized and updated risk data.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | VBoS, VMGD, NDMO, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * National displacement hotspot mapping completed across all Area Councils, aligned with existing multi-hazard and vulnerability assessments. * At-risk population estimates generated for climate, geohazard, human-induced, and mixed driver displacement. * Joint government and partner methodology developed for hotspot identification and prioritisation. * Provincial and community-level awareness of hotspot mapping results. * Integration of results into proactive displacement planning. | | |

**Protection and Participatory Methodologies**

**Action 3.7** (originally Action 2.3)

**Promote gender and child-inclusive participatory methodologies**, which involve communities in hazard and displacement risk mapping and capture local knowledge about hazards, exposure, vulnerability and adaptive capacity.

***Outcome***: *Mapping processes reflect diverse community perspectives and local knowledge, resulting in more accurate risk data and more substantial community ownership of displacement planning and preparedness.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.7 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | DWA | **Support** | DoCC, VMGD, VBoS, NDMO, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Gender- and inclusion-sensitive methodology for hazard and displacement risk mapping developed and applied. * Community mapping sessions conducted with diverse participation, including women, youth, elderly, and people with disabilities. * Local knowledge on hazards, exposure, and adaptive capacity systematically documented and integrated into mapping products. * Community feedback reports produced and fed into national and provincial displacement risk databases. | | |

**Climate Displacement Projection Modelling**

**Action 3.8** (new)

**Map projected future climate-related displacement risks across Vanuatu** by modelling the impacts of different climate change scenarios on communities, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Include projections of land that may become partially or fully uninhabitable and estimate potential numbers of people who may need to move in the future. Use these projections to identify priority areas for early intervention, adaptation, and potential relocation planning, and integrate findings into national and provincial development and land use plans.

**Outcome:** Authorities have forward-looking evidence on areas and populations at risk of becoming uninhabitable under different climate change scenarios, enabling proactive adaptation, targeted resilience investments, and timely, well-coordinated relocation planning where necessary.

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.8 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | VMGD, NDMO, DLA, DUAP, VBoS |
| Outputs | * Climate displacement risk modelling methodology developed, aligned with IPCC scenarios and national climate projections. * Maps and datasets produced showing projected mobility patterns based on climate scenarios. * Estimates of potential population displacement generated (by area council, province). * Findings integrated into national and provincial development, land use, and adaptation planning processes. * Technical briefs and communication materials prepared for policymakers, provincial authorities, and communities. | | |

**Evidence-informed Planning Preparations**

**Action 3.9** (originally Action 2.2)

**Ensure multi-hazard and displacement risk mapping and hotspot identification underpins planning** to address displacement or risk of displacement and internal migration, including in-situ adaptation options for staying in place, the locations of evacuation centres, temporary or transitional housing, relocations and new permanent settlements.

***Outcome***: *Hazard and displacement risk data guides displacement and migration planning, enabling safer adaptation options for staying in place, relocation as a last resort, better preparedness, and reduced risk for vulnerable communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.9 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 4 |
| Lead | DS Taskforce | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DoCC, DLA, DUAP, VMGD, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Planning guidelines developed to apply hotspot data in decisions on in-situ adaptation, evacuation centres, temporary housing, relocations, and permanent settlement planning. * Hotspot maps and data integrated into national and provincial development, land-use, and disaster management plans. * Results integrated into planning, dialogues and decision-making undertaken by multi-agency stakeholder groups, Lead Ministry and support agencies. * Training sessions conducted for government and partners on applying risk and hotspot data in planning. | | |

**Displacement Tracking and Data Frameworks**

**Action 3.10** (originally Action 2.4)

**Establish a displacement tracking mechanism and related SOPs** to mainstream displacement tracking into national information systems across all displacement drivers and typologies, and use displacement tracking data to inform preparedness, response and recovery interventions for displacement-affected or at-risk populations.

The mechanism should monitor data on population mobility in all Area Councils, including the evolving needs and circumstances of people affected by displacement whether they are en-route or on site. Data should also be maintained on internal migrants and host communities. The mechanism would produce summary reports on the status of displacement and migration, relating to:

* Number and location of people displaced at a given time
* Location of evacuation centres and number of people being accommodated at a given time
* Site conditions at evacuation centres or in other places of temporary housing
* Host communities and number of people being accommodated
* Disaggregated data on number of affected men, women, children, older people, people with disability or other health and protection needs
* If possible, primary cause of displacement or perceived displacement risks (this would assist to record broad trends in displacement, whether from natural hazards or other processes, such as eviction)
* Number, location and transportation routes of internal migrants
* Progress towards achieving durable solutions for affected communities.

~~Displacement tracking could be established through a partnership between the NDMO, VNSO and MoIA.~~

***Outcome***: *A national displacement tracking system is established, accessible and operational and is being used to inform preparedness, response and recovery interventions for displacement-affected populations.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.10 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DoCC, DLA, DUAP, VBoS, CRVS |
| Outputs | * Displacement tracking mechanism and tools established, linked to existing platforms (DoCC NVAF, IOM DTM, VBoS, NDMO) for sudden- and slow-onset events and changes. * SOPs developed and endorsed for displacement tracking, integrated into national systems. * Analysis system developed and embedded within government (e.g. PowerBI platform). * Regular data collected on displacement, needs and internal mobility across all Area Councils. * Disaggregated datasets (sex, age, disability, vulnerability) produced and shared with government and partners. * Assessment planning and budgeting established to carry out displacement tracking. * Periodic reports generated on displacement trends, site conditions, mobility routes, and progress toward durable solutions. * Staff trained on data collection and analysis, with outputs feeding into preparedness, response, and recovery planning. | | |

**Action 3.11** (originally Action 2.8)

**Ensure communication with communities (CwC) principles underpin displacement tracking**, to increase accountability to affected populations and so that communities participate in and benefit from the data being collected.

***Outcome***: *Displacement data informs, engages, and benefits affected communities, improving trust and accountability in planning and response efforts.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.11 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | MoJCS, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * CwC protocols integrated into displacement tracking SOPs and tools. * Training provided for government and partners on CwC standards in displacement data collection and reporting. * Inclusion of communities in displacement tracking lessons learned, data reviews and interpretation displacement tracking findings. * Feedback loops established to adjust planning and interventions based on community input. | | |

**Action 3.12** (new)

**Establish a data ethics and protection framework for displacement tracking** mechanism and systems to safeguard personal information and prevent misuse, discrimination, or stigmatization.

***Outcome***: *Personal data within displacement tracking systems is securely managed under an ethics and protection framework, ensuring responsible use to protect the rights and dignity of displaced and mobile populations.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.12 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | MoJCS, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * National data ethics and protection framework for displacement tracking developed and endorsed. * Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on data protection integrated into displacement tracking systems. * Clear protocols for informed consent and anonymization of sensitive information. * Training modules for government and partners on ethical data collection, storage, and use. * Independent oversight or review mechanism established to monitor compliance with data protection standards. * Secure data-sharing agreements developed with partner agencies. | | |

**Displacement Indicator Integration and Data Management**

**Action 3.13** (new)

**Integrate displacement, internal and external migration indicators in national data collection tools and systems** such as censuses and sectoral surveys (e.g., health, education, labour force) to support long-term tracking and planning.

***Outcome***: *National data systems capture displacement trends, enabling longitudinal analysis and integrating mobility into national development, service delivery, and policy planning.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.13 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | VBoS | **Support** | NDMO, DoCC, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Agreed set of displacement and migration indicators endorsed for national use. * Indicators integrated into census, household surveys, and sectoral data tools. * Technical guidance developed for consistent data collection and reporting. * National statistical staff and sectoral agencies trained on mobility-related indicators. * Regular reporting on displacement and migration trends produced and disseminated. | | |

**Action 3.14** (originally Action 2.5)

**Define, confirm and formalise institutional arrangements to collect, manage, store, disseminate and utilise displacement and internal migration data**, including procedures to procure and develop the necessary equipment and systems for data collection, storage and analysis.

***Outcome***: *Institutional arrangements for displacement data collection, management, storage and utilisation are established, ensuring coordinated governance, accountability, and sustained inter-agency collaboration.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.14 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | VBoS | **Support** | NDMO, DoCC, VMGD, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Mandates and roles of lead and partner agencies defined and endorsed. * Inter-agency coordination mechanism for displacement data established. * SOPs for data collection, storage, dissemination, and use developed and applied. * Data-sharing agreements formalised across relevant agencies. * Infrastructure, equipment, and systems procured and operationalised for secure data management. * Periodic institutional review conducted to ensure accountability and sustainability. | | |

**Displacement Data Training and Decentralisation**

**Action 3.15** (originally Action 2.6)

**Train ~~local~~ national displacement ~~tracking~~ data focal points ~~specialist surveyors~~ in the operation of the displacement tracking** and SoPs for coordination of data collection.

***Outcome***: *National capacity for displacement data collection, management, storage and utilization is strengthened through training, ensuring timely and accurate data to inform preparedness, response and recovery interventions for all displacement typologies.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.15 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | VBoS, DoCC, VMGD, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Training curriculum and materials on displacement tracking and SOPs developed and integrated into DECM Cluster training. * National focal points from government and non-government identified and enrolled in training. * Training sessions conducted at national level. * Surveyors and focal points certified/endorsed as displacement tracking operators. * Refresher trainings and mentoring provided periodically. * Post-training evaluations conducted to assess skills and application in practice. | | |

**Action 3.16** (originally Action 2.7)

**Decentralise and train designated focal points across all Area Councils to conduct tracking and data collection** ~~year-round rapid assessments and surveys~~ on displacement and internal migration, for both sudden and slow-onset hazards, especially in key locations and communities.

***Outcome*:** *At provincial, area council and/or community levels, focal points are equipped to collect displacement data and monitor displacement trends, strengthening local early warning, real-time data collection, and timely response.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.16 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | VBoS, DoCC, VMGD, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Focal points nominated within each Area Council and endorsed by provincial authorities. * Training curriculum and tools tailored to local capacities developed and disseminated. * Training sessions delivered across all provinces. * Rapid assessment and survey templates standardised and distributed. * Local focal points equipped with basic data collection kits (e.g., mobile devices, forms, guidelines). * Regular data submissions and feedback loops established with national information systems. * Periodic supervision, refresher trainings, and peer exchanges conducted to maintain quality and consistency. | | |

**Displacement Risk Triggers and Monitoring for Anticipatory Action**

**Action 3.17** (new)

**Integrate displacement risk triggers into national early warning systems** by adding climate, geohazard and other thresholds to support anticipatory action, and ensure ongoing monitoring of hazards to update displacement risk mapping at regular intervals.

***Outcome***: *Displacement risks are embedded in early warning systems, enabling timely alerts and proactive planning that strengthen preparedness and integrate climate mobility into disaster risk management.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 3.17 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 4 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | VMGD, DUAP, DLA |
| Outputs | * Displacement risk thresholds (climate, geohazard, and other drivers) defined and integrated into existing early warning protocols. * National and provincial early warning systems updated to include displacement-specific indicators. * Training and orientation for disaster management authorities and focal points on applying displacement risk triggers. * Community awareness and communication channels strengthened to ensure timely dissemination of displacement-related early warnings. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 4: SAFEGUARDS AND PROTECTIONS**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Build environmental safeguards into evacuation, return, integration and relocation SOPs (e.g. accounting for needs such as site selection, waste/water management, erosion control, ecosystem protection).
* Coordinate with DEPC so protection measures reflect multi-hazard maps, EIAs/permits, and do not create new environmental risks.
* Prioritise nature-based solutions (shade, drainage, coastal buffers) in temporary sites and permanent solutions to reduce heat, flooding and contamination risks.

**Cultural considerations**

* Apply kastom protocols and free, prior and informed consent in designing/triggering evacuations, returns, local integration and planned relocation, engaging Malvatumauri/VKS and chiefs early.
* Include priorities set out in the *Cultural Guidelines and Protocols for Evacuation and Relocation* in writing safeguards or include these protocols as annex documents.
* Protect sacred sites, graves, and cultural spaces in site planning and embed cultural continuity (rituals, knowledge transfer) in recovery and solutions.
* Use locally appropriate languages and formats for all guidance, rights information and consent processes.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Integrate GBV risk mitigation in safeguards relating to shelters and sites (safe lighting, privacy, complaint pathways, women-only spaces/services).
* Ensure women’s leadership/representation in protection committees and verification/consent processes and resource women’s groups as partners.
* Include safeguards including collection and use of sex-disaggregated data to tailor assistance and monitor equitable access to services, land/tenure, and livelihoods.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Include child safeguarding in all SOPs (safe spaces, family tracing, PSEA, child-friendly complaints mechanisms) and ensure that designing child and youth-centred approaches are overseen by expert agencies.
* Plan for education continuity (temporary learning spaces, school transfers, materials) and psychosocial support during/after displacement.
* Engage youth as partners (risk communication, site committees, MHPSS peer support) with training and supervision.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Safeguard accessibility for vulnerable groups (e.g. universal access to shelters/WASH, assistive devices and accessible information) and collect disability/age-disaggregated data.
* Establish targeted support for persons with disabilities, older persons, people with chronic conditions and minority groups, including tailored evacuation and case management.
* Ensure fair grievance and redress access for all groups (inclusive outreach, reasonable accommodation, interpretation) in complaints/appeals processes.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Community Participation**

**Action 4.1** (originally Action 3.1)

**Ensure community-led and participatory approaches are used to develop all safeguards, guidelines and SoPs**, so that responses reflect the needs of affected communities.

***Outcome:*** *Safeguards, guidelines, and SOPs are informed by the lived experiences of displaced populations, resulting in more inclusive, culturally appropriate, and responsive protection measures.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DWA, Child Desk Officer, Disability Desk Officer, DLA, DUAP, DoCC, VANGO, Gender and Protection Cluster, Community Communications and Engagement Sub-cluster |
| Outputs | * National participatory methodology for safeguards development. * Protection and participation framework or SOPs drafted, validated, and endorsed nationally. * Framework / SOPs translated and disseminated with training materials. * Community toolkits produced and distributed. | | |

**Evacuation and Temporary Displacement**

**Action 4.2** (originally Action 3.2)

**Strengthen safeguards and SoPs for evacuations and temporary displacement scenarios** to ensure the application of humanitarian principles during an emergency response, building on existing initiatives, including the national cluster system and SOPs, NDMO guidelines and hazard-specific operational plans, National Evacuation Centre Management Guidelines, National Guidelines for the Selection and Assessment of Evacuation Centres and operational guidelines for mass evacuations.

***Outcome:*** *Emergency response procedures are guided by strengthened, rights-based safeguards and SOPs, ensuring safe, coordinated, and principled evacuations during crises.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.2 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 4 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Updated and rights-based evacuation and temporary displacement SOPs, including updated mass evacuation plans. * SOPs validated and formally endorsed by NDMO. * Government, non-government and community first responders trained. * Simulation exercises conducted in high-risk provinces. * Monitoring system established for evacuation standards in temporary shelters. | | |

**Durable Solutions**

**Action 4.3** (originally Action 3.3)

**Develop protection-centred guidelines to assist communities and other stakeholders to identify appropriate durable solutions options** (i.e. return and reintegration at place of origin, local integration or sustainable reintegration in another location/planned relocation) **or other options** (staying in place, adaptation in-situ), and to obtain free, prior and informed consent. Decision-making should be underpinned by the guiding principles of this policy, relating to voluntary and informed choice, community participation and more ~~(see Section 5 above)~~.

***Outcome:*** *Communities and stakeholders are assisted to select durable solutions or other options through inclusive and informed processes, ensuring options reflect displaced communities' needs, rights, and preferences.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | Support | Gender and Protection Cluster, Department of Women’s Affairs, Disability Desk, Child Desk, NDMO, DoCC, DLA, DUAP, IOM. |
| Outputs | * Solutions identification and consent process framework developed and endorsed. * Participatory tools developed and distributed to key agencies. * Training of implementors and local authorities on the framework / guidelines and tools. * Framework / guidelines and tools mainstreamed into relocation planning and SOPs. * Community validation reports published. | | |

**Action 4.4** (originally Action 3.4)

**Develop safeguards and SoPs for return and reintegration to places of origin**, to coordinate assistance and provide guidance in supporting displaced individuals and communities to return and recover following disaster, if this is possible and preferable.

***Outcome:*** *Clear, rights-based safeguards and SOPs support returning communities who have been displaced, when this is the preferred durable solution identified, ensuring safe, inclusive, and sustainable return and recovery in places of origin.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.4 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 4 |
| Lead | National Recovery Unit | **Support** | NDMO, Clusters / Working Groups, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Return and reintegration framework / guidelines and SOPs validated and approved. * Training of implementors and local authorities on the framework / guidelines and SOPs. * Community validation reports published. * Minimum standards checklists developed. * Return and reintegration indicators mainstreamed into monitoring systems. | | |

**Action 4.5** (originally Action 3.5)

**Develop safeguards and SoPs to support local integration.** This relates both to people who have been evacuated and are not able to return home ~~or people living in informal settlements~~, where it has been agreed through a consultative, voluntary and informed process that the community will integrate locally.

***Outcome:*** *Clear, rights-based safeguards and SOPs support locally integrating communities who have been displaced into new environments, when this is the preferred durable solution identified, ensuring safe, inclusive, and sustainable integration into host areas.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.5 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 4 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DWA, Child Desk Officer, Disability Desk Officer, DLA, DUAP, DoCC, VANGO, Gender and Protection Cluster, Community Communications and Engagement Sub-cluster |
| Outputs | * Local integration framework / guidelines and SOPs validated and approved. * Training of implementors and local authorities on the framework / guidelines and SOPs. * Host community engagement frameworks in place. * Community validation reports published. * Minimum standards checklists developed. * Integration indicators mainstreamed into monitoring systems. | | |

**Action 4.6** (originally Action 3.7)

**Develop safeguards and SoPs on planned relocation**, where communities are seeking to relocate away from hazards or relocation is required by Government as a last resort. The relocation safeguards must include the following guidelines:

* Relocation should be avoided, unless all other alternatives have been explored and it is considered absolutely necessary.
* Where relocation is necessary, all communities should be able to make an informed voluntary choice about the location of relocation without coercion;
* Good practice relocation safeguards also aim to address all direct economic and non-economic ~~social~~ losses resulting from land taking and restriction of access to land, including relocation or loss of shelter, loss of assets or access to assets, loss of cultural and traditional knowledge and networks, or loss of income or means of livelihoods, irrespective of land tenure status (consistent with national policies and plans ~~the VNLUPZP, Section 8~~); 80
* A relocation plan should be developed based a comprehensive assessment of the different needs of men, women, children, vulnerable and minority groups, including social-cultural dimensions. It should also include plans for the provision of basic utilities (water, sanitation, electricity) and services (health, education and transportation) and livelihood restoration ~~(Also see Strategic Areas 6-10~~);
* Careful consideration should be given to the location of new relocation sites to minimize disruption to livelihoods and social networks of all relocated and host communities ~~(See Strategic area 10).~~ New locations should also be selected taking into account multi-hazards information and environmental and ecological sustainability considerations ~~(see Strategic area 2 and 6);~~
* Relocation planning should adopt the “relocation as development” approach, in which relocation is seen as an opportunity to improve the lives of all affected people, including host communities, and advance gender equality.81

***Outcome:*** *Clear, rights-based safeguards and SOPs support planned relocation for communities for which relocation is a last resort and when this is the preferred durable solution identified, ensuring safe, inclusive, and sustainable relocation to new locations.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, DUAP, Department of Lands |
| Outputs | * Planned relocation framework / guidelines and SOPs validated and approved. * Planned relocation toolkits developed. * Minimum standards checklists developed. * Training of implementors and local authorities on the framework / guidelines and SOPs. * Relocation indicators mainstreamed into monitoring systems. | | |

**Evictions and Protection from Harm**

**Action 4.7** (originally Action 3.6)

**Develop safeguards and SoPs on evictions**, to prevent evictions taking place without protections, including adequate notice and carefully planned relocation arrangements for communities moving to new locations. Protection-focused safeguards and SoPs on evictions need to reflect international law and include key protections, including due process, such as:

* Affected people must have a means of challenging the decision or the process of eviction, through a complaints mechanism, including an appeal mechanism to an independent authority or before a court. ~~(Cross-reference with Strategic area 12).~~
* Evictions need to involve meaningful consultation, provision of information, adequate notice, with a plan for adequate and suitable compensation, relocation and housing ~~(aligning with the VNLUPZP, Section 8);~~
* Movement of people should not be carried out at night or in bad weather, with no protection for people’s belongings, or with the threat of violence and harassment. Use of force should be a measure of last resort following prolonged negotiations (aligning with SOC 4.2 of the People’s Plan);
* Evictions should not disrupt the education of children, interrupt access to health and medical treatment, or basic services such as water and electricity (SOC 2.1 and 3.1). Nor should they impact voting rights, result in homelessness or the destruction of property papers and other documentation.78
* Evictions must be carried out in a manner which respects the dignity of the people concerned and that the use of force will be a measure of last resort following prolonged negotiations. Special attention should be paid to families with children or other vulnerable persons.79

***Outcome:*** *Clear, rights-based safeguards and SOPs support the governance of evictions for communities for which eviction is a last resort, and which prevent harm, ensure due process and uphold the dignity, safety and rights of affected individuals and communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.7 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 4 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DLA, DUAP, Department of Women’s Affairs, Child Desk, Disability Desk, State Law Office, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Legal and policy gap assessment completed. * Evictions framework / guidelines and SOPs validated and approved. * Evictions toolkits developed. * Minimum standards checklist developed. * Training of implementors and local authorities on the framework / guidelines and SOPs (e.g. law enforcement, provincial officials, chiefs, CSOs). * Monitoring and grievance channels activated and linked to judicial and protection systems. | | |

**Urban and Rural Planning**

**Action 4.8** (originally Action 3.8)

**Ensure future urban and rural planning incorporates displacement safeguards.** ~~The Draft Greater Port Vila Plan and Strategic Plan for Port Vila are currently being developed, led by a “zoning team” comprised of representatives from MoIA through the DLA, in partnership with the Port Vila Municipality, MLNR and Shefa Province.~~ As any future rezoning or land use changes may involve displacement of communities ~~living in areas that will be no longer be residential, this policy framework and proposed SoPs above provides~~ a safeguards framework for affected people should be developed and adopted.

***Outcome***: *Urban and rural development plans are aligned with displacement safeguards, ensuring communities affected by rezoning are included in the planning process and protected through rights-based planning and relocation protocols.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | DUAP, DLA | **Support** | Lead Ministry, Department of Lands, Department of Women’s Affairs, Child Desk, Disability Desk, State Law Office, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Planning guidance notes / frameworks / guidelines and SOPs that embed displacement safeguards developed, approved and mainstreamed into or aligned with urban and rural planning policies and strategies. * Training toolkit developed. * Planners / planning team trained on displacement guidance and safeguards. * At-risk communities mapped and consulted during planning processes. * Displacement professionals included in urban and rural planning consultations and activities. | | |

**Testing and Readiness**

**Action 4.9** (new)

Conduct regular simulation or pilot exercises to test protection protocols and SOPs under real and simulated displacement conditions, ensuring all stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities.

***Outcome****: Simulation exercises validate and improve safeguards and protection measures, ensuring preparedness, coordination, and effective response during actual displacement events.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 4.9 | Timeframe | Years 4 - 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, DUAP, NDMO, Clusters / Working Groups |
| Outputs | * National simulation framework and testing schedule developed. * Simulation exercises conducted at regular intervals (across national, provincial, area council and community level as required). * After-action reviews completed and shared with stakeholders. * Guidelines / frameworks / SOPs and protection protocols revised based on simulation results. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 5: ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT DRIVERS**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Use up-to-date multi-hazard, climate and environmental risk data to guide planning, relocation, and adaptation actions.
* Incorporate environmental impact assessments and sustainability planning into all interventions to avoid creating new vulnerabilities.
* Integrate nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches (e.g. mangrove restoration, natural flood barriers) into relocation, risk reduction, and adaptation measures.

**Cultural considerations**

* Engage chiefs, customary landowners and cultural institutions in planning and decision-making to respect kastom and support local ownership.
* Ensure relocation, in-situ adaptation, and recovery processes safeguard cultural identity, sacred sites and cultural and social networks.
* Use local languages and culturally relevant communication to build understanding and trust in risk reduction and mobility initiatives.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Include gender analysis in all planning and monitoring to ensure women and men benefit equally from interventions.
* Support women’s leadership and participation in relocation, adaptation and recovery decision-making forums.
* Design services and infrastructure to address safety, health and economic needs of women and girls during and after displacement.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Involve children and young people in community planning and risk communication activities, ensuring their voices inform decisions.
* Maintain access to education and youth-appropriate psychosocial support in relocation, recovery and adaptation programs.
* Provide safe spaces and youth engagement programs during and after displacement to strengthen well-being and community cohesion and ensure youth-centred recovery is tailored to their specific needs.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure planning and services are accessible to people with disabilities, older persons, and those with health or mobility limitations.
* Embed non-discrimination and rights-based safeguards so that no group is excluded from participation or support.
* Provide accessible information formats (e.g. visual, audio, plain language) and ensure responders are trained to engage inclusively.

**Policy actions and implementation framework:**

**Climate Change-induced Displacement**

**Action 5.1** (new)

**Develop a National Climate Mobility Action Plan** as a practical implementation roadmap for climate mobility typologies within durable solutions roadmap planning for the Government of Vanuatu, including climate-related displacement, translating relevant policy commitments into concrete programs, timelines, responsibilities, and resource allocations, and prioritising climate displacement risk hotspots. This should be aligned with the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. Where relevant, link this action plan to other national programming in the area of loss and damage and climate change adaptation.

***Outcome:*** *Climate mobility actions are implemented in a coordinated, practical, and measurable manner across government and partners.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.1 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | Department of Climate Change | **Support** |  |
| Outputs | * Draft National Climate Mobility Action Plan developed through inclusive consultations with government, partners, and communities. * Clear implementation roadmap outlining programs, timelines, responsibilities, and indicative resource allocations. * Prioritisation matrix for climate displacement risk hotspots integrated into the plan. * Alignment of the plan with the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility and other national frameworks (e.g., Loss and Damage, Climate Change Adaptation, and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies). * Endorsement of the action plan by the Council of Ministers and/or other key stakeholders. * Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework established for tracking progress and impacts. * Communication materials prepared to share the plan with communities, partners, and regional stakeholders. | | |

**Action 5.2** (new)

**Develop pre-emptive and proactive relocation planning** for areas at risk of becoming uninhabitable due to climate change impacts, prioritising human rights, cultural continuity, and community-led decision-making. Plans should safeguard land rights, livelihoods, culture and social cohesion, while integrating with national and sub-national development, land use, and disaster risk reduction frameworks.

***Outcome:*** *Proactive, well-coordinated relocation plans are in place before conditions become uninhabitable, reducing risks to lives, livelihoods, culture and social cohesion, and ensuring relocations are safe, dignified, and rights-based.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.2 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | Department of Climate Change | **Support** | DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Prioritisation of communities and areas at risk of becoming uninhabitable (in line with Action XX). * Draft relocation plans in a participatory collaborative way with community members for high-risk communities, with timelines, responsibilities, and indicative budgets. * Land suitability and tenure assessments completed for potential relocation sites. * Integration of relocation plans into national and provincial planning frameworks. * Financing strategy developed to link relocation planning with national and international funds. * Capacity-building and awareness sessions delivered for government and community leaders. * Monitoring and evaluation framework established to track readiness and progress. | | |

**Action 5.3** (new)

Develop and apply relocation protocols for urban and per-urban populations, especially informal settlements in high-risk areas, ensuring risk assessments, community consultation, and dignified, rights-based processes.

***Outcome****: At-risk urban populations are relocated safely and fairly through inclusive, standardized protocols that support participation, minimize disruption, and promote long-term resilience and integration.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | Department of Climate Change | **Support** | DUAP, DLA, MoLNR, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Standardised urban relocation protocols developed and endorsed, with clear steps for assessment, consultation, planning, and implementation. * Urban relocation protocols and processes integrated into broader relocation guidelines. * Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted for informal settlements in high-risk areas. * Community engagement and consultation processes established to guide relocation decisions. * Guidance on securing land, tenure, housing, and services for relocated households developed. * Pilot relocation planning implemented for priority urban settlements. * Training delivered for municipal and provincial authorities on applying the protocols / processes. * Monitoring and feedback systems set up to track relocation impacts and ensure accountability. | | |

**Action 5.4** (new)

**Recognise and respect voluntary immobility** by ensuring the rights, safety, and dignity of communities or individuals choosing to stay in place through comprehensive governance around voluntary immobility and developing in-situ adaptation plans that strengthen infrastructure, protect livelihoods, and uphold cultural continuity, while addressing evolving climate and disaster risks.

***Outcome:*** *Communities are empowered to remain in place with security, dignity, and the capacity to adapt to environmental change.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.4 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 5 |
| Lead | Department of Climate Change | **Support** | DLA, Malvatumauri, VKS, DUAP, MoLNR, MIPU, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * National guidance formalised on governance, rights, and support for voluntarily immobile communities. * Community-led in-situ adaptation plans developed, including infrastructure, livelihoods, and cultural continuity measures. * Risk reduction and early-warning systems strengthened for areas choosing to stay in place. * Capacity-building and awareness programs delivered for local leaders and communities on adaptation and evolving risks. * Monitoring and reporting systems established to track conditions and guide periodic reviews of support and risk management. * Integration of voluntary immobility actions into national financing frameworks, including Loss and Damage and adaptation funds. | | |

**Action 5.5** (new)

**Identify and address the needs of communities and individuals experiencing involuntary immobility** (“trapped populations”) due to economic, social, cultural, physical, or legal barriers to movement in the face of climate and disaster risks. Develop targeted assistance measures—such as livelihood support, accessible relocation options, improved infrastructure, and tailored disaster risk reduction plans—to remove barriers and ensure safety, dignity, and choice for those unable to move without support.

***Outcome:*** *Vulnerable populations who wish to move but face barriers are identified and then supported to identify safe, dignified, and viable mobility options.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.5 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 5 |
| Lead | Department of Climate Change | **Support** | DLA, Malvatumauri, VKS, DUAP, MoLNR, MIPU, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * National guidance developed on identifying and supporting involuntarily immobile (“trapped”) populations. * National assessment and analysis on barriers to mobility and national level dialogues on this issue held. * Targeted support programs designed, launched, including livelihood support, safer relocation pathways, and adaptive infrastructure, as well as programs designed to work on or eradicate long-term barriers to mobility. * Community engagement processes established to co-design solutions and uphold cultural dignity and rights. * Financing pathways identified, linking support measures specifically tailored to trapped populations to climate, adaptation, and Loss and Damage funds. * Monitoring and review systems in place to track barriers and adjust support over time. | | |

**Geohazard-induced Displacement**

**Action 5.6** (new)

**Map and continuously monitor geophysical hazard risk zones** and population exposure to identify displacement risks and support proactive planning and evacuation preparedness.

***Outcome*:** *Geophysical displacement risks are identified and regularly updated, enabling timely planning, targeted preparedness, and effective evacuation strategies that protect vulnerable communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 3+ |
| Lead | VMGD | **Support** | NDMO, NRU, DLA, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * National multi-hazard maps updated to include geophysical risks, population exposure, and displacement hotspots in one integrated system. * Area- and community-level risk profiles developed for priority geohazard zones, aligned with hotspot identification for climate, human-induced, and mixed drivers. * Data platforms enhanced to allow overlays of geohazard-related displacement risk. * Evacuation and preparedness plans revised using combined geophysical and displacement risk data for more targeted interventions. * Training delivered for provincial and area council officers on interpreting integrated maps and applying data for planning and response. * Regular public summaries and visual maps produced for communities to improve awareness and preparedness. | | |

**Action 5.7** (new)

Deliver coordinated, rights-based **emergency support to people displaced by geophysical hazards**, ensuring safety, dignity, and access to recovery pathways.

***Outcome:****Displaced populations receive timely, principled support that protects their rights, ensures safety and dignity, and enables effective recovery and durable solutions.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.7 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | VMGD, NRU, DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Hazard-specific plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) (or similar) for rights-based emergency response updated and operationalised for geophysical hazards. * Consultations with chiefs to incorporate kastom rods or custom authorities and networks in evacuation and displacement planning and approaches. * Pre-positioned stocks and rapid deployment teams ready to deliver essential assistance (shelter, WASH, health, protection, and food) to areas impacted by geophysical-induced displacement. * Mechanisms established for safe, dignified registration of IDPs and needs assessments, including disaggregated data collection. * Protection and safeguarding protocols for geophysical displacement scenarios developed and applied, with particular attention to women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities. * Coordination structures strengthened between national, provincial, and humanitarian partners for timely and efficient responses. * Clear referral pathways and information systems in place to connect displaced populations to recovery and durable solutions support. * Periodic after-action reviews conducted to capture lessons learned and improve future responses and displacement management systems and authorities dealing with these matters. | | |

**Action 5.8** (new)

**Improve mass evacuation guidelines and operational protocols** and planning for Vanuatu, particularly for islands at high risk of geohazard-induced displacement.

***Outcome:****Mass evacuation procedures are clear, tested, and operationalised at national and provincial levels, ensuring that communities on high-risk islands can be evacuated safely, quickly, and with dignity during geohazard events. Strengthened guidelines and protocols improve coordination among agencies, reduce loss of life, and enhance preparedness for large-scale displacement.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | VMGD, NRU, DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Updated national and provincial mass evacuation guidelines and SOPs, with clear roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols. * Risk mapping and evacuation route planning completed for high-risk islands and coastal communities. * Logistics and resource mobilisation plans prepared, with pre-agreed arrangements for transport, shelter, and essential supplies. * Regular simulation exercises and drills conducted to test, refine, and cost evacuation procedures. * Training delivered for provincial disaster management teams, community leaders, and response partners. * Community-facing communication and awareness materials developed on evacuation triggers and safe procedures. * Contingency financing pathways established, including links to national disaster funds, recovery funds, Loss and Damage financing and partner support. * Monitoring and review framework created to assess resource gaps, capture lessons learned and ensure continuous improvement. | | |

**Action 5.9** (new)

**Improve community-based awareness of scientific geohazard risk and evacuation triggers**, and **government awareness of community perspectives and thresholds around risk** assessment and adaptive or coping capacities for geohazard-induced displacement at the local level. This would assist in preventing forced mass evacuation and ensure common understanding of expectations around triggers for relocation.

***Outcome:****Communities and government share a common understanding of geohazard risks, evacuation triggers, and local coping capacities. Improved two-way awareness helps prevent unnecessary or forced mass evacuations, ensures decisions reflect both scientific assessments and community perspectives, and strengthens trust, preparedness, and cooperation in displacement planning.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.9 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | VMGD | **Support** | VMGD, NRU, DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Community engagement sessions held to explain scientific geohazard risks, early-warning systems, and evacuation triggers in locally relevant terms. * Participatory risk mapping conducted with communities to capture local knowledge, understandings of risk within kastom stories and traditional knowledge, coping capacities, and thresholds for evacuation or relocation. * Joint risk communication protocols developed to ensure consistent messaging between government, provincial authorities, and communities. * Training for government officials on understanding community perspectives, cultural priorities, and adaptive capacities during risk assessments and hazard events. * Communication from both sides on expectations around triggers for mobility and evacuations on-island and off-island. * Feedback mechanisms established so communities can share concerns or updates to inform ongoing risk analysis and evacuation planning. * Awareness materials (visual, audio, and multilingual formats) produced for communities and updated regularly to reflect evolving risks and triggers. | | |

**Action 5.10** (new)

**Develop and implement inclusive, long-term local integration, relocation and recovery options or pathways** for communities that may be affected by geophysical hazards where return is impossible.

***Outcome*:** *Affected communities can access sustainable relocation and recovery options that restore lives and livelihoods while strengthening long-term resilience.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.10 | Timeframe | Years 3- 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | NRU, NDMO, VMGD, DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri, VKS, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Scenario-based planning models developed to guide integration, relocation or recovery actions for varying scales of displacement. * Site identification and risk assessments completed for potential relocation and integration areas, aligned with land-use frameworks and in consultation with customary landowners and chiefly networks. * Protocols for rapid decision-making established to activate pathways during emergencies. * Infrastructure and service plans or methodologies for planning prepared for potential sites, covering housing, WASH, health, education, transport and livelihood options. * Cultural resilience, recovery and well-being approaches integrated into scenario plans. * Resource mobilisation strategies linked to national budgets, contingency funds and international finance (e.g., Loss and Damage, adaptation funds). * Capacity-building programs delivered for government, provincial authorities, and community leaders on implementing these pathways. * Monitoring and review systems established to keep pathways updated and responsive to evolving risks and population needs. | | |

**Human-induced Displacement**

**Action 5.11** (new)

**Strengthen coordination between the Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and customary authorities** to jointly manage and mediate displacement risks related to land and development.

***Outcome*:** *Institutional and customary systems work together to prevent conflict and uphold the rights of displaced and at-risk populations through coordinated governance.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.11 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 4 |
| Lead | MoLNR | **Support** | MoIA, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Formal coordination mechanism established between the Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and customary authorities for managing displacement-related land issues (or integration of these issues into Durable Solutions Taskforce or other existing mechanism). * If necessary, joint protocols and SOPs developed for land mediation, tenure security and dispute resolution during displacement and relocation processes. * Capacity-building sessions delivered for government officers and customary leaders on land governance, rights protection and urban planning processes. * Regular coordination forums held to review emerging risks, share information and jointly plan interventions. * Community engagement guidelines developed to ensure land decisions are transparent, inclusive and rights-based. * Monitoring and reporting system created to track disputes, resolutions, and lessons learned for continuous improvement. | | |

**Action 5.12** (new)

**Develop legal and policy safeguards to prevent forced evictions** and unplanned displacement, ensuring alignment with human rights standards and customary land protections, including development of a **national roadmap to act on root causes of evictions.**

***Outcome*:** *National legal frameworks include clear safeguards against unjust displacement, with mechanisms for redress and compliance monitoring in place.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.12 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 5 |
| Lead | DUAP | **Support** | MoJCS, Lead Ministry, State Law, Law Reform Commission, DLA, Malvatumauri, MoLNR |
| Outputs | * Legal and policy review completed to identify gaps in protections against forced eviction and unplanned displacement. * Safeguards adopted in line with international principles and safeguards, and customary land protections, guaranteeing rights to housing, land, and property for displaced persons. * National roadmap developed to address root causes of evictions, integrating urban planning, secure tenure, and livelihood resilience strategies. * Accessible legal remedies and redress mechanisms established, with clear pathways for claims, appeals, and enforcement. * Training programs delivered for government officials, customary authorities, and judiciary on rights-based displacement and land governance. * Community awareness campaigns rolled out to inform the public of their rights, procedures for seeking restitution and avenues for participation in planning. * Monitoring and compliance systems set up to track cases of eviction or unplanned displacement and ensure accountability and regular public reporting. | | |

**Action 5.13** (original Action 5.4)

**Ensure tenure security for all people** in order to prevent forced evictions, especially evictions which occur at night and with force. ~~(also see also Strategic areas 3 and 6).~~

***Outcome***: *Populations with insecure tenure are protected from unlawful evictions through strengthened tenure security, promoting dignity, stability, and legal safeguards in displacement contexts.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.4 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | DUAP | **Support** | MoLNR, MoJCS, Lead Ministry, DLA, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Mapping of informal settlements and insecure tenure completed. * Tenure risk and protection maps developed for urban and rural zones. * Research papers into pathways for tenure security improvements. * Roadmap and program developed, endorsed and commencing implementation for improving tenure security for informal / insecure tenure lots and settlements. * Eviction protocols developed, adopted and disseminated (including principles on anti-forced evictions). * Training developed and disseminated for security services who carry out court ordered evictions on rights of evictees and proper eviction protocols. * Legal aid and mediation services available in high-risk communities. * Occupancy documentation or informal settlement regularization piloted in high-risk locations. * Eviction early warning system operational and linked to grievance redress. * Annual tenure security reports and eviction incident data published. | | |

**Action 5.14** (new)

**Develop an evictions profile and national mapping of past and ongoing human-induced displacement cases**, documenting causes, legal context, and community responses to inform future policy and planning.

***Outcome*:** *More substantial evidence based on human-induced displacement enables more targeted policies, improved risk reduction, and informed decision-making.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.14 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 2 |
| Lead | DUAP | **Support** | Lead Ministry, Malvatumauri, DLA, MoLNR, IOM |
| Outputs | * National database of evictions and human-induced displacement cases. * Geospatial map layer of cases (past/ongoing) linked to severity and exposure indicators (if geospatial data exists). * Evictions profile developed identifying common drivers (e.g. development, tenancy, land disputes) and remedies / solutions found or utilised by evictees. * Community perspectives documented on impacts and coping responses with protection concerns highlighted. * Policy and practice recommendations for prevention, safeguards, and redress mechanisms. * Data-sharing and integration with the Displacement Profile/Registry, with an annual update cycle and provincial reporting templates. * Orientation for provincial focal points on case identification, verification, and reporting. | | |

**Action 5.15** (new)

**Support durable solutions for communities displaced by or at risk of displacement by human-induced causes** by ensuring access to land, legal status, essential services and livelihood recovery.

***Outcome*:** *Displaced populations are assisted with safe housing, secure land tenure, and sustainable options for integration or return, enabling them to rebuild their lives with dignity.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.15 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | DUAP | **Support** | DLA, NDMO, NRU, DSPPAC, Malvatumauri, |
| Outputs | * Durable solutions plans developed with affected or at-risk communities for safe return or local integration. * Land access and secure tenure arranged, with basic legal documentation provided. * Essential services restored or upgraded to improve resilience, including housing, WASH, health, and education. * Livelihood recovery support delivered, such as cash, skills training, or enterprise support. * Grievance and redress mechanisms available for disputes related to land, housing, or services. * Monitoring system established to track progress toward sustainable, dignified solutions. | | |

**Action 5.16** (new)

Develop a digital library to **compile and categorize national and regional cases, reports, and policy documents related to human-induced displacement in Vanuatu**, such as land disputes, evictions, and unplanned development. This tool will support evidence-based planning, legal advocacy, and policy development by making key information accessible to the government, communities, and partners.

***Outcome*:** *A centralized digital library on human-induced displacement in Vanuatu is established, providing accessible, organized information that strengthens legal advocacy, policy development, and coordinated responses by government and stakeholders.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 5.16 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 4 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DUAP, DLA, Malvatumauri, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Government-hosted digital library platform established. * Searchable database with filters and map view; downloadable case summaries, templates, and citations. * Curated case briefs and policy notes to support advocacy and planning. * Data protection and consent protocols applied, with redaction/as-needed anonymisation. * Integration links to the Displacement Profile/Registry and relevant planning systems. * User guidance and training delivered; governance and maintenance plan established with an update schedule and usage analytics. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 6: CLIMATE JUSTICE AND LOSS AND DAMAGE**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Ensure documentation of loss and damage also captures ecosystem degradation and environmental harm linked to displacement, as these can inform claims and preventative measures.
* Integrate environmental sustainability into solutions funded through loss and damage financing, avoiding maladaptive responses that increase future risks.
* Align planning with national environmental policies to ensure consistency in land use, conservation and recovery planning.

**Cultural considerations**

* Respect kastom protocols when documenting cultural loss, ensuring communities have ownership and control of sensitive cultural information.
* Involve chiefs, cultural leaders and institutions such as VKS and Malvatumauri in decision-making around cultural loss and damage to maintain legitimacy and trust.
* Use cultural knowledge to shape culturally grounded recovery and adaptation or solutions for issues beyond adaptation that protect identity, social cohesion and heritage.
* Ensure cultural continuity and transmission measures are promoted and implemented as part of loss and damage initiatives wherever possible, making this a central priority.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Ensure women are represented and supported in documenting loss and in decision-making about solutions.
* Apply gender analysis to identify how displacement, loss and access to redress affect women, men and other groups differently.
* Include targeted support for women’s livelihoods and safety in adaptation, relocation and recovery initiatives.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Include children and youth perspectives in documenting non-economic losses and planning culturally relevant solutions.
* Ensure education continuity and youth skills development are integrated into loss and damage recovery pathways.
* Use youth-friendly communication channels to explain rights, processes and available support.
* Acknowledge transgenerational loss by capturing both past and anticipated future impacts of climate change and displacement on youth, ensuring their perspectives shape claims and long-term adaptation or solutions planning.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Make consultations and decision-making accessible to people with disabilities, older persons and those with limited literacy.
* Provide information in plain language and in multiple accessible formats to ensure equitable participation.
* Apply safeguards to ensure that all groups are protected from exclusion or discrimination in access to claims, financing and adaptive solutions.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Legal and Policy Research on Climate Change Litigation**

**Action 6.1** (new)

**Develop a digital legal and policy research database focussed on displacement-related climate litigation and precedent**—including cases, articles, academic analyses, and reports on forced mobility, human displacement, planned relocation, and non-economic loss (e.g. on culture, land, identity). This searchable tool will support Vanuatu’s legal, policy, and diplomatic efforts to pursue avenues for loss and damage support in displacement contexts, feeding into broader justice and mobility strategies.

***Outcome:*** *Vanuatu has a centralized, up-to-date legal knowledge resource tailored to displacement-related climate justice, empowering government, legal advisers, and communities with the evidence and precedent needed for claims, policy development, and advocacy on displacement and loss and damage.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 6.1 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | State Law Office | **Support** | DoCC |
| Outputs | * A live, searchable digital repository focused on displacement-related cases—domestic and international—including peer-reviewed analyses, rulings, policy briefs, and grey literature. * Categorized content modules (e.g., forced mobility, planned relocation cases, non-economic loss, victim-centred legal instruments). * User guidelines for legal advisers, policymakers, and community advocates to navigate and apply the content in displacement contexts. * Support documents that contextualize precedent for Vanuatu’s specific concerns—e.g., land-loss migration, cultural displacement, island-based relocations. | | |

**Documentation of Displacement and Mobility-related Loss and Damage**

**Action 6.2** (new)

**Support communities to lead participatory and systematic documentation of displacement- and mobility-related losses**, including both economic (e.g. land, assets, livelihoods) and non-economic (e.g. culture, identity, heritage, social cohesion) dimensions. Develop and apply consistent methodologies and tools for estimating and capturing loss and damage in mobility contexts, ensuring they are locally led, rights-based, and aligned with national and international reporting standards.

***Outcome:*** *Displacement-affected or at-risk communities generate robust, credible evidence of their economic and non-economic losses, empowering them to advocate for justice, inform national policy, and strengthen claims for redress under Vanuatu’s loss and damage frameworks.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 6.2 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | VKS, Malvatumauri, NCLMO, MoJCS, Dept Lands, DEPC, MoET, MoH, MALFB, NDMO, VMGD, VBoS |
| Outputs | * National toolkit and methodologies developed for documenting displacement- and mobility-related loss and damage. * Community training programs for local leaders, women’s groups, and youth on documenting losses. * Community loss registries established for at-risk and displaced locations. * Periodic synthesis reports feeding community loss data into national databases and policy planning. | | |

**Action 6.3** (new)

**Support communities to document and safeguard non-economic loss and damage (NELD) linked to displacement and mobility**, with a focus on culture, kastom, spiritual values, identity, language, traditional governance, traditional knowledge and all other facets of intangible cultural heritage. Develop participatory methodologies for capturing these intangible losses in ways that respect cultural protocols and community ownership and integrate this evidence into national loss and damage frameworks, relocation planning, international advocacy and cultural preservation activities.

***Outcome:*** *Non-economic dimensions of displacement — including losses and damages to culture, custom, and identity — are formally recognised, documented, and used to strengthen claims for redress, inform policy, and guide culturally respectful solutions that protect community dignity and heritage.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 6.3 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Malvatumauri, DoCC, NDMO, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Community-led cultural loss / impact inventories documenting heritage, sites, practices, and values threatened by displacement. * Participatory methodologies and guidance for identifying and recording non-economic loss, tailored to Vanuatu’s cultural contexts, and aligned with national and international standards. * Safeguarding protocols to ensure cultural documentation respects local customs and community consent. * Integration of non-economic loss data into national loss and damage reporting and policy processes. * Awareness and advocacy materials amplifying cultural and identity-related losses in regional and global loss and damage discussions. * Cultural preservation activities designed and programmed for implementation in displacement-affected and at-risk hotspots. | | |

**Pathways for Compensation, Redress and Justice**

**Action 6.4** (new)

**Set up pathways for displacement-affected and mobility-impacted communities to use documented losses and damages as the basis for accessing compensation, redress, and justice**, as well as preventative and adaptive financing for displacement-related solutions under Vanuatu’s Loss and Damage Fund and related mechanisms. This includes developing means such as advisory services, standard operating procedures, and provincial-level support channels to ensure that both claims and project proposals are formally recognised, processed, and resourced.

***Outcome:*** *Displacement-affected and mobility-impacted communities can use documented losses to gain fair access to both compensation and preventative/adaptive financing, ensuring that their rights to redress are upheld while also enabling them to resource practical solutions for resilience, relocation, or in-situ adaptation. This strengthens justice, empowers communities, and aligns national systems with the Loss & Damage Policy and Fund.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 6.4 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5 |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NDMO, DLA and DUAP |
| Outputs | * Community-friendly claim and project proposal templates, available in Bislama and plain language, for both compensation and preventative/adaptive financing. * Advisory services established and trained at provincial level to support communities in preparing claims and project applications. * Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) defining the process, roles, and timelines for reviewing, approving, and funding displacement- and mobility-related claims and projects. * Pilot round of claims and project proposals processed and financed, providing lessons learned to improve the system. | | |

**Integration of Loss and Damage Principles**

**Action 6.5** (new)

**Integrate climate justice and loss and damage (L&D) principles** into all displacement management, relocation, land use and durable solutions planning by embedding safeguards, guidelines and participation requirements to uphold affected communities' rights, dignity, cultural heritage and access to redress. These principles must guide decisions in contexts where climate-induced displacement causes irreversible harm to land, ecosystems, and identity, ensuring planning is grounded in fairness, equity, and community participation.

***Outcome*:** *Displacement and solutions planning processes are guided by climate justice and L&D principles, resulting in equitable, culturally respectful, and community-driven outcomes that minimize harm, uphold rights, and promote long-term resilience and environmental sustainability.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 6.5 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | DoCC | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NDMO, DLA and DUAP |
| Outputs | * Development of climate justice and loss and damage principles and safeguards related to displacement, mobility and solutions. * National displacement, mobility and durable solutions guidelines (e.g. planned relocation guidelines) with embedded climate justice and loss and damage principles into displacement, relocation, and land use processes. * Mandatory community consultation protocols for relocation and durable solutions planning with embedded climate justice and loss and damage principles. * Training programs for government officials, planners, and provincial authorities on applying climate justice and loss and damage principles as part of durable solutions planning. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 7: CROSS-BORDER DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Ensure cross-border mobility and admission planning considers environmental sustainability, including pressures on land, water, and ecosystems in host communities.
* Align humanitarian and migration frameworks with national and regional climate adaptation and environmental protection strategies.

**Cultural considerations**

* Respect and promote cultural identity, practices and customs of ni-Vanuatu moving abroad and those arriving in Vanuatu, incorporating kastom protocols into reception and reintegration processes.
* Develop culturally sensitive communication and orientation materials for both migrants and host communities.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Address gender-specific vulnerabilities in mobility, such as risks of exploitation, violence, trafficking or barriers to services for women and girls, by embedding gender safeguards in all agreements and protocols.
* Promote women’s participation in consultation, decision-making and negotiation processes on mobility policies and agreements.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Include child protection protocols in admission, relocation and reintegration plans to ensure continuity of education, health and psychosocial support.
* Create youth-focused pathways in skills training, education and safe labour migration, ensuring young people have opportunities to contribute to resilience and adaptation strategies.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure protocols and agreements safeguard the rights and access to services for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly or those with chronic health conditions.
* Include the promotion of anti-discriminatory practices in admission, relocation and reintegration planning.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**National Positioning and Agreements on Cross-border Climate Mobility**

**Action 7.1** (new)

**Develop and adopt a national position** and if relevant, a **contingency framework for receiving climate-displaced persons from Pacific neighbours** (and if required, other regions). Define humanitarian admission and protection pathways, activation triggers, eligibility and prioritisation, rights and service packages, and transition options. Ensure alignment with regional cooperation frameworks and connect to existing financing mechanisms.

***Outcome:*** *Vanuatu is prepared, through a nationally endorsed position and framework, to extend safe, lawful, and dignified admission to climate-displaced persons in solidarity with regional neighbours—ensuring rights are protected, host communities supported, and arrangements integrated into national systems.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.1 | Timeframe | Years 4 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoFA | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DoCC, State Law, AGD, DSPPAC, MoIA |
| Outputs | * Government position paper. * Approved framework on receiving climate-displaced persons. * Legal and policy options note, with draft regulations or amendments as needed to enable rapid activation. * Operational SOPs covering screening, registration/ID, family unity, minimum service packages (shelter, WASH, health, protection), and transition pathways. * Bilateral/MoU templates with sending states and operational partners (e.g. health, border, logistics, protection). * Costed contingency plan, identifying financing routes (Loss & Damage Fund, DRF instruments, donors) and pre-arranged supply chains. * Host-community support package, including engagement processes, conflict-sensitivity measures, and additional livelihood/service support. * Preparedness drills with border, health, protection, and provincial authorities. * Cultural and protection guidance to safeguard custom, land, and prevent exploitation or GBV. * Public communication plan to ensure transparent, community-friendly messaging and regional updates. * Monitoring and review mechanisms to assess effectiveness, inclusivity, and adapt as conditions evolve. | | |

**Action 7.2** (new)

**Develop and adopt a national position and protocols on cross-border climate mobility and planned relocation** that outlines the rights and protection needs of Ni-Vanuatu who may need to migrate abroad due to climate change in the future. Ensure this position and protocols are aligned with regional guidelines and embeds safeguards on legal status, familial and cultural continuity, and consultation with sending/receiving communities. This position will guide diplomatic engagement, regional advocacy, and contributions to global frameworks like the Global Compact for Migration.

***Outcome*:** *Vanuatu has a clearly defined national stance on climate mobility, and if ever needed, cross-border planned relocation, which enables effective engagement in regional and international forums, strengthens advocacy for protective mechanisms.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.2 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 5 |
| Lead | MoFA | **Support** | MoCC, DLA, PMO, Vanuatu Mission to the UN |
| Outputs | * Discussion paper and stakeholder consultation report completed. * National position on cross-border climate mobility and planned relocation drafted, validated, and endorsed. * Policy launched and shared at regional/international forums. * Position integrated into foreign policy strategies and diplomatic engagements. * MoFAICET focal points trained to represent Vanuatu’s stance. | | |

**Action 7.3** (new)

**Engage with Pacific Island countries and labour host nations (e.g. Australia, New Zealand, Fiji) to negotiate and formalise agreements that facilitate safe, dignified, and legally recognised climate-related migration for Ni-Vanuatu**. These agreements should secure migrant rights, embed climate mobility considerations into existing schemes (e.g. seasonal labour mobility), and include provisions for humanitarian admission, pre-crisis planning, and reciprocal support.

***Outcome****: Formal agreements are in place with key regional partners, ensuring that Ni-Vanuatu have safe, lawful, and rights-based migration and admission options when climate impacts drive mobility, while strengthening regional solidarity and Vanuatu’s leadership in climate diplomacy.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.3 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | MoFAICET | **Support** | Department of Labour, PMO, Vanuatu Missions in host countries |
| Outputs | * Mapping of entry points or gaps in existing schemes. * Signed bilateral or multilateral agreements with host nations embedding climate mobility. * Government position paper on climate mobility and managed migration. * Draft legal and policy instruments for activation of agreements. * Regional coordination mechanism linking Pacific states and host nations. * Advocacy briefs positioning Vanuatu in regional and global dialogues on climate mobility. | | |

**Rights-based Migration Pathways**

**Action 7.4** (new)

Expand and target rights-based migration pathways (e.g. labour mobility, education) for climate-affected and at-risk communities as a proactive adaptation measure. Provide pre-departure preparation (skills, language, culture, rights awareness), ensure support in host countries (consular, legal, cultural), and establish reintegration programs so returning migrants can contribute skills and remittances to community resilience.

***Outcome****: Climate-affected communities have practical, safe, and regular migration options that reduce risk, diversify livelihoods, and strengthen resilience through skills, remittances, and expanded networks, while minimising exploitative or irregular migration.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.4 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | MoFAICET | **Support** | Department of Labour, MoIA, PMO, Vanuatu Missions in host countries |
| Outputs | * Targeted selection framework to link affected or at-risk communities with migration pathways. * Pre-departure training packages on rights, skills, and adaptation roles. * Consular and diaspora support programs in host countries. * Reintegration support services (training, financial literacy, enterprise support). * Community-level communication campaigns on safe migration options. * Monitoring system to track climate-related migration flows and impacts on households and communities. | | |

**Cross-border Humanitarian and Extended Stay Admissions**

**Action 7.5** (new)

**Negotiate and establish cross-border humanitarian admission and longer-term stay agreements** with regional partners to manage displacement triggered by climate change and disasters, including mass evacuations and sudden-onset displacement. These agreements should include provisions for safe entry, legal status, access to services, and pathways for either eventual return or longer-term residency when return is not possible.

**Outcome:** *Climate- or disaster-displaced individuals from Vanuatu or neighbouring Pacific states are granted safe, legal, and dignified protection abroad or in Vanuatu when displacement occurs, with clear rights and access to services during both temporary admission and longer-term stays.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.5 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | MoFAICET | **Support** | NDMO, Department of Immigration, MoIA, PMO, Vanuatu Missions in host countries |
| Outputs | * Draft bilateral or regional agreements with humanitarian admission clauses. * National procedures for identifying, referring, and supporting displaced persons eligible for admission or longer-term stay. * Awareness and preparedness materials for communities about humanitarian admission pathways. * Coordination protocols with host/partner governments and regional organisations (e.g. PIFS). | | |

**Stranded Migrants**

**Action 7.6** (new)

**Establish bilateral, regional, and national mechanisms to support stranded migrants**, including Ni-Vanuatu abroad and foreign nationals in Vanuatu, who are unable to return home or access basic rights due to disasters or climate impacts. This includes setting up protocols for humanitarian assistance, safe temporary stay, consular coordination, and repatriation or relocation support, in alignment with Pacific solidarity principles and the Regional Framework on Climate Mobility.

***Outcome:*** *Stranded migrants—whether Ni-Vanuatu overseas or foreign nationals in Vanuatu—receive timely, safe, and dignified assistance, with clear regional protocols ensuring their protection, humanitarian needs, and pathways for safe return or longer-term solutions.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.6 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | MoFAICET | **Support** | NDMO, Department of Immigration, MoIA, PMO, DoCC, Vanuatu Missions in host countries |
| Outputs | * Regional and bilateral protocols with Pacific neighbours and host countries for identifying, assisting, and repatriating stranded Ni-Vanuatu. * National SOPs for humanitarian support to foreign nationals stranded in Vanuatu due to climate change or disasters (temporary stay, protection, assistance, liaison with embassies/consulates). * Consular coordination arrangements with key host nations (Australia, NZ, Fiji, etc.) to facilitate emergency support and returns. * Training modules for provincial authorities and border officials on assisting stranded migrants during crises. * Annual simulations or case reviews of stranded migrant support to test protocols and improve coordination. | | |

**Climate Migrant Returnees**

**Action 7.7** (new)

Strengthen legal, policy, and operational systems to **ensure that Ni-Vanuatu returning due to climate-related migration are formally recognised and supported**. This includes access to identification, housing, land, services, and reintegration programs, with coordinated roles for national and provincial authorities.

***Outcome*:** *Returning climate migrants are legally recognised and practically supported with housing, services, and reintegration measures, reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience upon return.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.7 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 5 |
| Lead | MoFA | **Support** | Lead Ministry, State Law Office, Civil Registry, Department of Lands, DUAP, PMO, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Revised legislation and policy to ensure recognition and rights of returnees. * Operational SOPs for reintegration support (housing, services, land access). * National–provincial coordination mechanisms for case management of returnees. * Awareness and outreach programs to inform returnees of available support. | | |

**Tracking Cross-border Climate Migration**

**Action 7.8** (new)

**Create a national mechanism to track and register cross-border climate-related migration**, capturing data on numbers, drivers, demographics, and protection needs.

***Outcome*:** *A functional monitoring and registration system enables evidence-based cross-border mobility planning, better humanitarian coordination, and stronger international protection and finance access advocacy.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 7.8 | Timeframe | Years 4 - 5 |
| Lead | MoIA | **Support** | MoFAICET, Department of Immigration, DLA, NDMO |
| Outputs | * National cross-border migration registration system designed and piloted, and integrated into existing displacement and migration tracking systems. * Data tools and ethical guidelines developed and distributed. * Relevant staff and stakeholders trained on cross-border mobility data collection. * Data integrated into national and international reporting frameworks. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 8: CAPACITY BUILDING, TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

**Cross cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Include environmental resilience and sustainable land-use principles in all training, mentoring and community resources to ensure durable solutions are ecologically sound.
* Use case studies that highlight the environmental impacts of displacement and relocation to strengthen evidence-based decision-making.

**Cultural considerations**

* Integrate kastom principles and local knowledge into training curricula and mentoring frameworks to ensure culturally grounded approaches.
* Ensure materials and sessions are available in Bislama and, where relevant, vernacular languages to enhance inclusivity and local ownership.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Promote the participation and leadership of younger and older women in all capacity-building, mentoring, and dialogue initiatives, ensuring their perspectives shape durable solutions.
* Address gender-specific barriers to participation, such as caregiving responsibilities or safety concerns, in the design of training and exchange programs.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Incorporate youth voices in training, mentoring, and curriculum development to build intergenerational understanding and resilience.
* Highlight how displacement and mobility affect future opportunities for young people, fostering youth-led dialogue and action.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure training venues, materials, and sessions are accessible to people with disabilities, older people and those with chronic conditions.
* Embed safeguards and safe participation mechanisms in mentoring and exchange activities to protect vulnerable groups and ensure equitable benefits.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Displacement and Durable Solutions Training**

**Action 8.1** (original Action 4.1)

**Develop and implement trainings for implementers and communities on displacement issues and durable solutions** (including return, local integration, relocation planning) ~~and land law~~. Training ~~for implementers~~ would focus on:

* Community engagement to ensure communities are respectfully and appropriately involved in planning durable solutions;
* Needs and risk assessments in displacement contexts, including undertaking intentions surveys and displacement tracking and data collection;
* Relocation planning, including staging of movement, community participation in developing relocation plans, identifying suitable locations, ensuring access to basic utilities and services in new locations, restoration of livelihoods, compensation for lost land and assets, where appropriate, conflict-minimization in relocation contexts;
* Migration management, relating to safe, well-managed internal migration;
* Non-customary and customary land law in Vanuatu as relevant to establishing durable solutions, and including training for communities about how to register and gazette new land agreements (if applicable), so they are transparent and available for future generations to see.

***Outcome:*** *Government and non-government implementers and communities have the technical, legal, and community engagement skills to design and implement effective, inclusive, and lawful durable solutions for displaced populations.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, DUAP, NDMO, Clusters / Working Groups |
| Outputs | * Durable solutions training modules developed and nationally endorsed. * Government training schedule and plan developed and endorsed. * Community training schedule and plan developed and endorsed. * Training incorporated into public service development pathways. * Participant knowledge and application tracked through monitoring field case studies. * Legal and community engagement competencies enhanced across sectors. | | |

**Training on Vulnerability Representation**

**Action 8.2** (original Action 4.4)

**Training and capacity-building for local NGOs, faith-based organisations and community-based organisations** on displacement issues, such as churches, women’s collectives, organisations representing people with disability orchronic illness, ~~HIV/AIDs~~ and other community groups representing vulnerable people, to support their role in representing and assisting vulnerable populations.

***Outcome***: *Local NGOs, faith-based organisations and community-based organizations are better equipped to respond to displacement challenges and support vulnerable groups through inclusive, informed, and coordinated action.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.2 | Timeframe | Years 4 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | Malvatumauri, DoCC, DLA, DUAP, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Local NGO, faith-based organisations and CBO mapping and needs assessments completed in all provinces. * Culturally adapted training materials developed and approved. * Representatives from churches, local NGOs and CBOs trained. * Active CBO engagement in displacement sites. * Provincial CBO coordination platforms established and functional. | | |

**Resources and Case Studies**

**Action 8.4** (original Action 4.2)

**Compile useful resources and case studies** for government, chiefs, mediators, women representatives, pastors, and other community members. Case studies and stories of communities experiencing displacement and response, recovery and durable solutions (including relocation) challenges in Vanuatu and the Pacific could be shared, and lessons learned, as guided by the advice of the Malvatumauri.

***Outcome***: *Government and community leaders are empowered with culturally relevant knowledge and practical examples, enabling them to effectively support displaced and at-risk communities and contribute to informed, inclusive, and locally grounded solutions.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.4 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, DUAP, NDMO |
| Outputs | * National resource pack of existing materials and tools compiled. * Case studies, stories and examples gathered from Vanuatu and the Pacific. * Resources produced in Bislama and vernacular languages (when required). * Distribution of case studies and resources distributed to government, chiefs, churches, women’s groups, and mediators. * Integration of case studies and resources into formal training curricula and hosted online. * Case study and resource collection plan for future years developed. | | |

**Community Resources for Relocation**

**Action 8.5** (new)

Establish a Community Relocation Resource Centre with developed resources in each community identified for relocation to provide accessible, timely, and culturally appropriate information on relocation processes, preparedness, and community rights.

***Outcome****: Communities targeted for relocation are empowered through dedicated local resource centres, enhancing informed decision-making, active participation, and preparedness across all stages of the relocation process.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.5 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Community Relocation Resource Centres established in pilot communities with managers identified. * Relocation information packages produced and distributed in local languages and formats. * Community sessions held in each centre. * Community feedback mechanisms operational at each site through the centre. | | |

**Mentoring, Knowledge Exchanges and Dialogues**

**Action 8.6** (original Action 4.3)

**Create voluntary mentoring arrangements between chiefs and between communities** to enhance the flow of knowledge about addressing displacement challenges. Special attention should be given to providing assistance to peri-urban communities and informal settlements, and between displaced and host communities where relevant. Women representatives also need to be included in mentoring arrangements.

***Outcome***: *Traditional and community leaders, including women representatives, are engaged in peer mentoring, strengthening knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and culturally informed approaches to displacement across diverse settings.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.6 | Timeframe | Years 4 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | Malvatumauri, DoCC, DLA, DUAP, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Mentoring framework co-developed and endorsed by Malvatumauri and women’s networks. * Mentor-mentee pairs established in priority displacement-prone areas. * Knowledge exchanges and site visit guidance and process established, and facilitated across provinces. * Mentoring program embedded in provincial and municipal resilience initiatives. | | |

**Action 8.7** (new)

**Organise and participate in structured Pacific and international knowledge exchanges**, dialogues and sharing of lessons learned on displacement, climate mobility, and durable solutions, including virtual learning sessions, peer-to-peer interactions, technical workshops, site visits and resource sharing. Ensure active involvement of government and non-government counterparts in sharing mechanisms at regional level, and integration of lessons into national policy and practice.

***Outcome:*** *Strengthened technical skills, policy coherence, and operational capacity among government and non-government stakeholders, informed by practical experiences and best practices from the Pacific region and beyond.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.7 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DoCC, DLA, DUAP, Department of Lands, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Regional Pacific-based knowledge exchange on displacement and durable solutions convened as required, with participation from Vanuatu government representatives. * Post-exchange reports produced and disseminated, with lessons learned feedback sessions provided to relevant cross-sectoral officers and ministries and the National Durable Solutions Taskforce. * International (beyond Pacific) exchange or collaboration attended by Vanuatu government officials as required. * Repository of shared resources (e.g., policy briefs, case studies, tools) accessible to Vanuatu government stakeholders via an online platform. * Documented lessons learned from exchanges formally integrated into national displacement and durable solutions policies, strategies, or SOPs. * Staff capacity strengthened, with government officials trained through exchange or online peer-to-peer activities. | | |

**Curriculum Development**

**Action 8.8** (new)

**Integrate displacement and durable solutions topics into primary and secondary school and tertiary educational curricula** and civic education programs to raise awareness among students, youth, and emerging leaders of climate mobility, displacement, durable solutions, relocation rights, and disaster risk reduction.

***Outcome****: Students and youths gain early awareness and understanding of displacement and solutions issues, strengthening future resilience, informed civic participation, and intergenerational knowledge transfer.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 8.8 | Timeframe | Years 4 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoET | **Support** | CDU, VQA, DoCC, DLA, DUAP, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Displacement and durable solutions modules developed, piloted and endorsed. * National curriculum updated to include mobility, DRR, and resilience themes. * Teachers trained in displacement-related education. * Student-led awareness and resilience projects implemented in all provinces. * Civic education on climate mobility institutionalized through MoET and CSO collaboration. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 9: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Cross-cutting priorities:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Ensure that legal mapping and gap analyses assess environmental considerations as part of analysing the placement of relocation and durable solutions in the law.
* Ensure legal frameworks integrate environmental safeguards so land, coastal and marine ecosystems are protected during relocations and dispute resolutions.
* Link legal processes to environmental assessments to prevent environmental degradation that could worsen displacement risks.

**Cultural considerations**

* Embed customary governance and kastom principles in legal and grievance mechanisms to ensure community trust and acceptance.
* Work closely with the Malvatumauri and cultural leaders when designing safeguards, neutral broker mechanisms and dispute resolution processes so that customary governance structures are part of their design where relevant.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Guarantee women’s participation in consultations, grievance mechanisms, and policy design to ensure protections and solutions meet their needs.
* Ensure women and other underrepresented groups can access legal assistance and decision-making platforms without barriers.
* Promote the participation and leadership of women in all capacity-building, justice-setting, mentoring and dialogue initiatives, ensuring their perspectives shape durable solutions.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Incorporate the rights and needs of children and youth in legal reforms, grievance systems, and training for leaders.
* Ensure education and awareness programs use youth-friendly language and channels so younger populations understand their rights and protections.
* Include youth opportunities as a result of durable solutions and relocations as a component of the messaging in training.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure legal services, grievance mechanisms and dispute resolution are physically and financially accessible to people with disabilities, the elderly, and those with limited literacy or language proficiency.
* Embed safeguards that protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation or discrimination during displacement, relocation, or legal processes.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Legal Frameworks and Safeguards**

**Action 9.1** (originally Action 12.4)

**Legislate and institutionalise changes to policy and guidelines relating to displacement scenarios**, especially to ensure protections in the context of evictions and relocations are embodied in law. This includes new safeguards, frameworks and SOPs (refer Strategic Area 4).

***Outcome***: *Binding legislation strengthens legal protections for displaced populations, ensuring consistent enforcement of rights during evictions, relocations and recovery.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | State Law Office, Law Reform Commission, DS Taskforce, MoCC, MoIA, MoLNR, PMO |
| Outputs | * Legal review and recommendations paper completed to identify gaps in current laws, policies and guidelines relating to displacement and solutions-related issues. * Draft legislation developed to embed new safeguards, frameworks, and SOPs into binding law, ensuring protections for displaced populations. * Parliamentary approval process supported, with technical briefs and consultations to secure adoption. * Institutional frameworks strengthened, including designated agencies or units to enforce compliance and coordinate displacement governance. * updated and harmonised with new legal provisions. * Training programs delivered for government agencies, provincial authorities, and customary leaders on implementing the legislation and SOPs. * Community awareness campaigns rolled out to inform affected populations of their legal rights under law and institutional mechanisms for support. | | |

**Complaints and Appeal Mechanisms**

**Action 9.2** (originally Action 12.1)

**Establish complaints and appeal mechanisms**, which include ~~a right of appeal~~ access to ~~a~~ courts or independent tribunals, for people affected by displacement, including host communities, especially in the context of evictions and relocations. ~~This action is supported by multiple policy frameworks already in place in Vanuatu (including the People’s Plan SOC 5 and VNLUPZP, Section 8, bullet point 5). Further consultation is needed regarding the most appropriate mechanisms.~~

***Outcome***: *Individuals and communities affected by displacement (including host communities) can access fair, transparent, and accountable grievance and appeals processes, strengthening legal protections and trust in displacement-related decisions.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.2 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | State Law Office, Public Solicitor’s Office, Office of the Ombudsman, PMO, DS Taskforce, MoCC, MoIA, MoLNR |
| Outputs | * Stakeholder consultations completed with government, customary authorities, legal bodies and communities to design accessible, context-appropriate grievance and appeal mechanisms. * Grievance mechanism designed, costed and resourced. * Grievance mechanism established, with clear steps for filing, mediation, and resolution, accessible at both provincial and national levels. * Formal appeal pathways institutionalised, guaranteeing the right of appeal to courts or independent tribunals. * Awareness and education campaigns launched, ensuring displaced and host communities know their rights and how to access these mechanisms. * Capacity-building delivered for officials, customary leaders and community focal points to manage grievances transparently and equitably. * Monitoring and evaluation framework implemented to track case volumes, response times, and outcomes, with data used for continuous improvement. | | |

**Legal Assistance and Case Support**

**Action 9.3** (originally Action 12.2)

**Develop or strengthen accessible and affordable legal support and referral systems** for ~~people~~ individuals and communities affected by displacement, enabling them to make use of complaints and redress mechanisms effectively.

***Outcome***: *Affected populations can access legal support to exercise their rights, increasing the use and effectiveness of complaints mechanisms and ensuring more equitable outcomes.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.3 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoJCS | **Support** | Public Solicitor’s Office, State Law Office, Lead Ministry, PMO, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Mapping of existing legal aid services and referral networks to identify gaps and opportunities for coordination. * Legal support hubs resourcing plan designed and resources mobilised. * Legal support hubs or focal points established at provincial and national levels to assist displaced individuals and communities. * Referral pathways formalised, linking communities to qualified legal professionals or legal aid organisations. * Training delivered for community focal points and NGOs on rights-based approaches to displacement issues. * Awareness campaigns conducted to inform displaced and host communities of their rights and how to access legal support. * Mobile or remote legal clinics piloted in high-risk or hard-to-reach areas to ensure inclusivity. * Monitoring system established to track the use and effectiveness of legal support services, with reports published to inform improvements. | | |

**Action 9.4** (originally Action 12.3)

**Provide legal assistance or case management support for people making insurance claims** relating to displacement and disasters.

***Outcome***: *People affected by displacement can navigate insurance systems effectively, improving claim outcomes and financial recovery through accessible legal and technical assistance.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.4 | Timeframe | Year 5+ |
| Lead | MoJCS | **Support** | Public Solicitor’s Office, State Law Office, Lead Ministry, PMO, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Mapping of insurance claims available to displaced or at-risk communities. * Guidance materials developed to explain insurance rights, claim procedures, and documentation requirements in plain language. * Legal and technical assistance services established at provincial and national levels to support individuals and communities with claims. * Referral systems created to connect claimants with legal support. * Capacity-building programs delivered for community focal points and local leaders to help households prepare and submit claims accurately. * Mobile or remote support clinics deployed to reach communities in high-risk or hard-to-access areas. * Monitoring system implemented to track claim outcomes, barriers, and common issues, informing future policy and insurance system improvements. * Partnerships formalised with insurers, regulators, and consumer protection agencies to streamline claim processes and improve transparency. | | |

**Public Awareness and Legal Literacy**

**Action 9.5** (new)

**Develop public information campaigns to raise awareness of legal rights and justice mechanisms** among at-risk populations, displaced populations, host communities and relevant stakeholders.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced and at-risk communities are better informed of their rights and available legal remedies, which improves access to justice, legal literacy, and the effectiveness of protection mechanisms.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.5 | Timeframe | Year 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoJCS | **Support** | Public Solicitor’s Office, State Law Office, Lead Ministry, PMO, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Awareness materials developed in plain language and multiple formats (print, radio, social media, and community theatre) to reach diverse audiences. * Community outreach sessions conducted in at-risk, displaced and host communities to explain legal rights, protection frameworks, and justice mechanisms. * Partnerships established with community leaders, NGOs, and faith-based organisations to co-deliver campaigns and ensure cultural relevance. * Hotline and digital platforms set up for people to access legal information and referrals to support services. * Monitoring and evaluation tools created to measure reach, understanding, and uptake of legal services with feedback loops to refine messaging. | | |

**Conflict and Dispute Resolution**

**Action 9.6** (originally Action 1.8)

**Establish a “neutral broker”** mechanism to reduce potential for community conflict in negotiating durable solutions for displaced populations. A neutral broker would ensure adherence to common standards and sharing of information. This is particularly relevant where relocation is required and there is a need to negotiate land, access to services, education and health equitably. The neutral broker should work closely with the institutional hub to assist in policy implementation and in determining eligibility for assistance.

***Outcome***: *A trusted, neutral broker mechanism is established, which facilitates inclusive dialogue and conflict-sensitive decision-making, helping to build trust and prevent disputes in displacement-affected or at-risk communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.6 | Timeframe | Years 2 - 3 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | MoJCS, DoCC, DS Taskforce, MoLNR, MoET, MoH, MoIA |
| Outputs | * Governance and operational framework for the neutral broker agreed and endorsed, outlining roles, mandates and accountability measures. * Roster or dedicated staff assigned consisting of trained, independent personnel capable of facilitating conflict-sensitive dialogue and mediation. * Protocols and standards developed for fair negotiation of land access, service provision, and eligibility for assistance, aligned with national laws and customary practices. * Information-sharing systems set up to ensure all stakeholders—government, communities and partners—have transparent access to relevant data and decisions. * Capacity-building delivered for the neutral broker team on mediation, rights-based approaches, and cultural sensitivity. * Pilot cases facilitated in high-priority relocation or durable solutions contexts, with lessons captured and fed back into policy implementation. * Linkages formalised with the institutional hub to integrate the broker’s work into national coordination and planning systems. * Monitoring and evaluation framework created to track effectiveness, trust-building and dispute resolution outcomes. | | |

**Action 9.7** (new)

**Train chiefs, local authorities, and community leaders in displacement-sensitive dispute resolution** and legal referral pathways to strengthen local justice systems and support culturally appropriate, rights-based mediation and response during displacement and relocation.

***Outcome***: *Local leaders and traditional authorities have the knowledge and tools to mediate disputes fairly and refer complex cases appropriately, resulting in more effective, culturally grounded, and rights-compliant resolution of displacement-related conflicts.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 9.7 | Timeframe | Years 4 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | MoJCS, DoCC, DS Taskforce, Malvatumauri, VCC |
| Outputs | * Training curriculum developed on displacement-sensitive mediation, rights-based approaches, and legal referral systems, co-designed with cultural and legal experts. * Workshops and practical training sessions delivered for chiefs, area councils, and community leaders in all relevant provinces. * Guidance materials created in plain language and Bislama to support consistent, culturally appropriate mediation practices. * Peer learning networks established for chiefs and local leaders to share experiences, challenges, and best practices. * Monitoring and support systems in place to assess the effectiveness of mediation and referral processes and provide refresher training where needed. | | |

**SECTOR-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS**

**STRATEGIC AREA 10: LAND, HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Apply environmental impact assessments (EIA) and nature-based design approaches for all relocation and housing projects to safeguard ecosystems and maintain biodiversity.
* Integrate climate resilience and sustainable resource management into land allocation, settlement planning and infrastructure development to reduce future risks.

**Cultural considerations**

* Respect customary land rights and traditional governance structures in all negotiations and planning for relocation, land acquisition or settlement upgrades.
* Involve cultural leaders and chief and village councils in designing site layouts, access to natural resources and settlement governance to maintain kastom links and community identity.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Ensure women are actively included in land-use decision-making, relocation planning and settlement governance to address their specific housing, livelihood, and safety needs.
* Track and address barriers to women’s participation in land agreements and relocation planning to promote equitable access and benefits.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Design settlements and relocation sites with safe spaces for children and youth, including access to schools, play areas and youth engagement opportunities.
* Prioritise youth perspectives in planning and decision-making to ensure future-oriented solutions and intergenerational ownership of land and housing arrangements.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure settlement layouts, housing and public services are accessible to the elderly, people with disabilities and others with mobility or health needs.
* Embed protections against exclusion or exploitation for vulnerable groups, ensuring equal access to land, housing and related services during and after relocation.
* Ensure all vulnerable groups have access to consultation sessions and the ability to raise their priorities and concerns confidentially or otherwise.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Mapping of Safe, Suitable Land for Relocation**

**Action 10.1** (original Action 6.1)

**Map safe, suitable and available land for relocating displaced or at-risk populations,** ~~and housing. Mapping should be undertaken by the lead Ministry for this policy with MLNR, and~~ in conjunction with multi-hazards national displacement risk mapping and broader infrastructure and environmental planning controls. Considerations for suitable land ~~for displaced populations~~ need to include community preferences, proximity to previous locations, customary boundaries and customary links between locations, access to natural resources, sources of traditional livelihoods, markets and urban centres, suitability of land for gardening, accessibility of water, electricity, transportation, education and health services~~(see Strategic area 3)~~. Protection of environmentally-sensitive land should also be ensured in this process to limit degradation of sensitive ecosystems.

***Outcome*:** *A national inventory of safe and suitable land and housing is established, providing a clear foundation for relocation planning that respects community needs, protects ecosystems, and supports long-term sustainability and access to essential services.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | MoLNR; Lead Ministry | **Support** | NCLMO; Malvatumauri; DLA; DUAP; NDMO; NRU; DoCC |
| Outputs | * Land identification taskforce established and operational. * Prioritised list of communities based on multi-hazard displacement risk hotspot mapping. * National framework and toolkit for land assessment developed. * Relocation or resettlement sites assessed and documented. * National digital inventory of suitable land and housing sites published and linked to GIS platforms (e.g. national relocation land bank). * Site selection reports validated and used in priority planned relocation initiatives. * Provincial and sectoral actors trained in site assessment and land use inventory. | | |

**Potential Host Household Mapping**

**Action 10.2** (original Action 6.2)

Identify and map private households willing and able to host displaced people temporarily through a structured, community-based survey. This information will support preparedness planning and expand short-term shelter options during emergencies.

***Outcome***: *A community-informed database of potential host households is established for high-risk locations, enhancing local preparedness and providing safe, dignified, and culturally appropriate temporary accommodation options during displacement events.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * Host household identification protocol endorsed and rolled out nationally. * Community-based survey completed in high-risk communities. * Households identified, assessed, and recorded in digital Host Household Database. * Orientation and support materials developed and distributed to all registered host families. * Host household database linked to national emergency preparedness systems and response planning tools. * Review mechanism established for data quality and household status verification. | | |

**Land Access and Allocation Arrangements**

**Action 10.3** (original Action 6.3)

Promote innovative, community-led processes for negotiating new land arrangements, supported by local and customary authorities ~~government~~. Exploration of new community-led processes should draw on lessons learned from past relocations, in Vanuatu and elsewhere in the Pacific.

***Outcome***: *Locally driven and culturally appropriate land agreements are facilitated, increasing community ownership, reducing conflict, and enabling more sustainable and accepted relocation outcomes.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | Malvatumauri, VKS, NCLMO, MoLNR, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * National workshop/dialogue series convened with traditional leaders, landowners, and displaced groups. * Review of Pacific and Vanuatu-based community land negotiation practices published. * Negotiation and land arrangement framework developed. * Community-led land agreements successfully negotiated and documented. * Safeguards and legal templates for community agreements standardized and disseminated. * Local government staff and community facilitators trained in culturally sensitive negotiation support. * Relocation guidelines, SOPs or other operational documents updated to incorporate community-led land negotiation models. | | |

**Action 10.4** (original Action 6.4)

Explore land acquisition options in consultation with custom landholders and Malvatumauri. Every effort should be made to sensitively and peacefully explore land acquisition options with custom landholders, with an emphasis on voluntary agreements rather than compulsory acquisition.

***Outcome***: *Land acquisition for relocation of at-risk or displaced communities is investigated as an option, and if deemed appropriate, is implemented through peaceful, voluntary agreements that respect customary ownership, uphold community rights, and maintain cultural and social cohesion.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.4 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoLNR | **Support** | Malvatumauri, NCLMO, VKS, DLA |
| Outputs | * Legislative review and gap assessment undertaken. * Dialogues with Malvatumauri, NCLMO and MoLNR held. * National guideline on voluntary land acquisition for relocations developed and endorsed. * Successful land acquisition agreements facilitated and documented through voluntary, negotiated processes. * Safeguards protocol and grievance mechanisms established for all land acquisition processes. * Land acquisition registry developed and linked to inventory of available land for relocations. * Legal agreements registered. * Stakeholder awareness and training sessions conducted in provinces. | | |

**Action 10.5** (original Action 6.5)

Increase annual budget for acquisition of land in the “public interest”. The annual budget for land acquisition by ~~the~~ MoLNR could be extended through accessing ~~“~~climate finance~~”~~ or other disaster and climate-related or development funds of government and development partners~~, including UNFCCC funds, such as the GCF~~. The definition of “public interest” in the law ~~Land Acquisition Act 1992~~ could be interpreted to include provision of land to displaced people. Protections need to be in place to ensure land acquisition is only carried out where absolutely necessary and in compliance with ~~the requirements~~ related policies. ~~in the VNLUPZP.~~

***Outcome***: *An expanded land acquisition budget is available to support durable solutions for displaced populations, with strong safeguards in place to prevent misuse and ensure compliance with national land policies.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.5 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoLNR | **Support** | DSPPAC, DoCC, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Definition of public interest expanded to integrate relocation and displacement-affected populations (if agreed). * Dedicated national budget line/s for land acquisition for displacement approved and operational. * Mapping of external funding options through climate or development finance, and outcome of donor and development partner discussions – funding secured if agreed. * Land acquisition plans aligned with related policies and integrated into national zoning and master planning tools. * Land ownership agreements for communities developed and agreed, in case of public interest acquisition. * Public expenditure reports and annual audits publicly released. | | |

**Action 10.6** (original Action 6.6)

Develop a land allocation program for displaced or at-risk populations in need, particularly in urban or peri-urban areas. ~~The Land Sector Framework recommends the introduction of land acquisition schemes to reduce urbanisation pressures. This could be extended to a land allocation program for displaced people, which would include provision of basic infrastructure and services.~~ Voluntary ~~“~~community-led~~”~~ movement should be emphasised, with the idea that housing could be made available for communities and individuals under certain conditions, should they choose to relocate.

***Outcome***: *A structured land allocation program is established, providing displaced or at-risk populations, particularly in urban or peri-urban areas, access to serviced land and voluntary relocation options supporting dignity, self-reliance, and long-term settlement planning.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.6 | Timeframe |  |
| Lead | MoLNR | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, DUAP, NCLMO, Malvatumauri, MIPU, MoH |
| Outputs | * Allocation criteria developed and adopted. * National voluntary land allocation program developed, formally adopted and disseminated. * Pilot sites developed with basic infrastructure and community-approved planning. * Displaced or at-risk populations relocated to serviced land under transparent, voluntary arrangements. * Tenure security instruments issued to all relocated households. * Monitoring and review system fully integrated into displacement and relocation frameworks. | | |

**Action 10.7** (original Action 6.7)

Ensure clear processes are in place for all new land agreements to be registered and gazetted, so that new agreements are properly recorded, transparent and available for future generations ~~to see~~.

***Outcome***: *All new land agreements are formally registered and publicly gazetted, strengthening legal certainty, preventing disputes, and safeguarding long-term access and records for displaced communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.7 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | MoLNR, NCLMO, Malvatumauri, State Law Office |
| Outputs | * Process for registration and gazettal of land integrated into displacement and relocation guidelines, SOPs or other framework and operational documentation. * Digital and hardcopy land registration records maintained in all relevant provinces. * Community-facing visual summaries and public notices distributed across all host and relocation sites. * Land officer and community facilitator training delivered in provinces for displacement-related land registration and gazettal. * Regular compliance audits and review reports produced. | | |
| Outputs |  | | |

**Relocation Site Planning and Approvals**

**Action 10.8** (new)

Develop a relocation site planning framework that sets out a consistent approach for assessing, designing, and developing sites for communities that may need to relocate. The framework should provide a practical methodology that can be adapted to different cultural and geographic contexts, while also setting out guiding standards for land use, essential services, and environmental safeguards. The framework would be integrated into government relocation SOPs, offering a nationally endorsed process for planning that reduces ad hoc approaches. It would also allow for the creation of model site designs that can be adjusted to the needs of specific communities, enabling relocations to be carried out in a more timely, fair, and sustainable way.

***Outcome****: Future relocation and displacement sites are guided by a coherent, nationally recognised framework, ensuring that planning is systematic, transparent, and responsive to the diverse needs of communities. This strengthens the quality and consistency of relocation processes, making them more culturally respectful, environmentally sustainable, and better aligned with national planning and disaster risk reduction objectives.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | MIPU, DoCC, NDMO, DLA, DUAP, Malvatumauri, DEPC |
| Outputs | * Draft National Relocation Site Planning Framework endorsed by relevant ministries and provincial authorities. * Clear methodology for site planning developed, drawing on past relocation experiences and international good practice, and adaptable to diverse cultural and geographic contexts in Vanuatu. * Integration of the framework into national relocation SOPs and related planning processes (e.g. land use, disaster risk reduction, housing and infrastructure development). * A set of guiding standards for land allocation, housing layouts, service provision, and environmental safeguards to ensure relocations are safe, dignified, and sustainable. * Model site designs prepared that can be adapted to community-specific needs and scaled up for future use. * Orientation and training provided for provincial planners, technical officers, and community leaders to operationalize the framework. | | |

**Action 10.9** (original Action 6.12)

Ensure ~~the development of~~  that all new and existing settlements for displaced populations comply with existing environmental and ecosystem protection legislation and policy, to safeguard biodiversity and ensure sustainable ecosystem and resource management ~~in line with the Environmental Protection and Conservation Act 2002 and the Vanuatu Environment Policy and Implementation Plan of 2017~~.

***Outcome***: *Displacement-related settlement development aligns with national environmental regulations, supporting ecosystem protection, climate resilience, and sustainable natural resource management.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.9 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | DEPC | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Environmental screening framework for displacement-related sites is finalised and integrated into durable solutions guidelines, SOPs or other operational documentation. * 100% of new relocation sites undergo environmental screening or EIA. * Site-specific compliance guidelines and checklists used in all provinces. * Green infrastructure and nature-based designs implemented at relocation sites where possible. * Environmental audits and mitigation reports completed annually. * Training delivered to relevant displacement / relocation personnel on environmental safeguards. | | |

**Resource Access**

**Action 10.10** (new)

Promote equitable and sustainable access to natural resources for displaced and host communities by integrating environmental justice into relocation and settlement planning. This includes community training on participatory resource management, environmental education, and long-term stewardship of local ecosystems.

***Outcome***: *Displaced and host communities are equipped to manage shared natural resources sustainably and equitably, reducing environmental degradation, preventing conflict, and strengthening ecological resilience and social cohesion in relocated areas.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 10.10 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 4+ |
| Lead | DEPC | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NRU, NDMO, DLA, VKS, Malvatumauri |
| Outputs | * Community training sessions delivered on sustainable resource management. * Environmental justice and resource access provisions included in relocation site plans and tenure agreements. * Participatory monitoring systems operational in relocation / hosting sites. * Knowledge products shared nationally and regionally to promote replication. | | |

**Informal Settlements**

**Action 10.11** (new)

Integrate urban displacement and informal settlement issues into national and municipal development, resilience, and land-use planning to improve services, tenure security, and hazard risk reduction in cities like Port Vila and Luganville.

***Outcome*:** *Urban displacement and informal settlements are addressed through inclusive planning frameworks, leading to better living conditions, secure tenure, and reduced vulnerability in Port Vila, Luganville, and other urban areas.*

**Action 10.12** (new)

Initiate in-situ upgrading of safe and viable informal settlements through participatory planning, infrastructure improvements, and land tenure regularization.

***Outcome*:** *Residents of eligible informal settlements gain improved living conditions, secure tenure, and better access to services, strengthening resilience and reducing displacement risk.*

**STRATEGIC AREA 11: HEALTH, NUTRITION AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL WELLBEING**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Design health and WASH infrastructure to be climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable, reducing risks of contamination and pollution to the local environment.
* Promote the use of local, sustainable food sources to enhance nutrition programs and minimize dependency on imported, less sustainable options.

**Cultural considerations**

* Incorporate kastom medicine and traditional healing practices into health, nutrition and psychosocial support interventions to strengthen trust and uptake and allow options for those in less accessible locations.
* Engage cultural leaders in awareness campaigns to ensure health messaging aligns with cultural values and traditional governance structures, and for messages to have further reach into communities.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Prioritize sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls, ensuring access to information, care and privacy before, during and after displacement.
* Involve women in designing health and nutrition programs so interventions respond to their needs and roles as primary caregivers.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Provide child-friendly health, nutrition and psychosocial spaces in relocation or temporary shelter sites, ensuring safety and well-being.
* Incorporate youth participation in health and mental well-being awareness initiatives to build intergenerational resilience and agency.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure health facilities, mobile units and psychosocial services are physically accessible and tailored for the elderly, people with disabilities, those with chronic conditions and take into account access for marginalized groups in the community.
* Use plain language and multiple communication channels to ensure all displaced people, including marginalized groups, can understand and access health services and referrals.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Action 11.1** (original Action 7.6)

Mainstream displacement and migration considerations into national and sub-national health strategies, plans and budgets. ~~The existing national Vanuatu Health strategy ran until 2016. The National Health Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management, 2016 – 2020 is in place.~~

***Outcome*:** *National and subnational health strategies, plans and other relevant documents incorporate displacement and mobility risks and solutions, enabling more inclusive, adaptive, and responsive health systems across Vanuatu.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Policy brief/s on displacement and health developed including mapping of entry points for integration of displacement in health plans. * Displacement-sensitive indicators, plans and information embedded in relevant health plans, strategies and M&E frameworks at national and sub-national level. * Awareness provided on changes to national and sub-national health employees. * Endorsement of updated strategy language by relevant health committees. | | |

**Action 11.2** (original Action 7.1)

Ensure awareness of and access to basic health and medical services for all people affected by displacement. Ensure displaced people, people at-risk of displacement, internal migrants, people living in informal settlements, communities relocating to new locations and host communities, have continuity of access to basic health and medical services, including post-sexual assault treatment and care relating to sexual and reproductive health and chronic illness, as well as nutrition advice and information. ~~This builds on the commitments made under the National Health Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management, 2016 – 2020 and the People’s Plan 2030.~~

***Outcome*:** *Displaced and at-risk populations can access essential health services, safeguarding their physical and mental well-being and supporting their preparedness, recovery and resilience.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NDMO, NRU |
| Outputs | * Health access assessment focussed on improvements in access for displaced or at-risk populations, sensitive to specific needs for displaced, returning or relocated populations. * Displacement-sensitive health access plan developed for sudden and slow onset scenarios, in collaboration with NDMO, DECM Cluster and NRU, and integrated into existing health emergency, DRR or recovery planning. * Displacement-sensitive health access plan implemented across all six provinces. * Health workers and volunteers trained in inclusive and trauma-informed care and displacement-sensitive health access. * Referral systems and patient tracking established in all relocation and host sites. | | |

**Action 11.3** (original Action 7.2)

Incorporate physical health and medical considerations into return, local integration and relocation planning. Continuity of access to health treatment and care needs to be incorporated into all community return, local integration and relocation plans. Access to adequate WASH services for displaced populations is also required to prevent disease and other health risks.

***Outcome***: *Health and WASH services are embedded in all durable solutions plans and interventions, reducing disease risk and ensuring consistent care for affected communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ (scaling as needed) |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | NDMO, NRU, DoCC, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * National guidelines adopted for health and WASH integration in durable solutions planning. * 100% of new or revised relocation/return plans include integrated health and WASH components. * Relocation/integration sites supported with new or upgraded WASH/health infrastructure (as required). * Relevant durable solutions, health, WASH and community members trained in integrated planning. * Monitoring reports generated to track service continuity in transitional settings. | | |

**Action 11.4** (new)

Integrate culturally-grounded Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) planning and services into all displacement, local integration, return and relocation interventions, to address trauma and promote emotional and mental recovery and well-being for displaced and host communities.

***Outcome*:** *Displaced and host communities have access to culturally grounded, trauma-informed MHPSS services, improving emotional and mental well-being, reducing distress, and fostering long-term resilience.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.4 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | NDMO, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Culturally-appropriate MHPSS research and options researched. * National MHPSS guidelines and integration framework for displacement and solutions scenarios developed and adopted. * Trained MHPSS responders, including nurses, teachers, NGOs, women’s groups, chiefs and faith leaders. * Referral systems and support materials operational in all six provinces. * Culturally grounded healing spaces and group sessions available as part of programming. | | |

**Action 11.5** (new)

Establish mobile mental health units and remote care options to deliver psychosocial support in displacement-affected communities.

***Outcome*:** *Mobile mental health units and remote care options ensure timely and equitable access to psychosocial services, treatment and referrals for displaced populations, bridging service gaps and improving health outcomes.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.5 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ (scaling as needed) |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NDMO, NRU, DoCC, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Mental health, counselling unit and remote care model approved and operational. * MHPSS staff recruited, trained and available for deployment for sudden and slow-onset displacement events. * Mobile units deployed across provinces based on displacement needs. * Community feedback integrated into continuous quality improvement. * Mental health data incorporated into MoH and relocation site planning for future at-risk populations. | | |

**Action 11.6** (original Action 7.3)

Build new health facilities or explore mobile health services for displaced or at-risk populations. In circumstances where communities are moving to new locations where health services are not available or existing facilities are not accessible, new health facilities should be considered, and regular mobile health services should be provided in the interim.

***Outcome*:** *Relocated communities receive timely, accessible healthcare services through mobile or newly established health infrastructure, reducing health service gaps and improving overall community well-being.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5 (scaling as needed) |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * Health access plan methodology, template, budgeting and responsibility allocation developed for potential relocation sites. * Health access plans developed for agreed relocation sites (if required). * New health infrastructure or improved access to existing health infrastructure implemented for agreed relocation sites (if required). | | |

**Action 11.7** (original Action 7.5)

Strengthen health and medical services in rural and remote areas to reduce the push-factors of rural-urban migration, in line with ~~Vanuatu Health Strategy 2010-2016 and~~ the People’s Plan (SOC 3).

***Outcome*:** *Improved healthcare access in rural and remote areas reduces rural-urban migration, enhances community resilience, and supports in-place adaptation.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.7 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ (ongoing) |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | DLA |
| Outputs | * Rural-urban health migration data plan developed and implemented. * Health decentralisation plan developed for high-need provinces and area councils. * Rural health worker presence expanded in high-need provinces and area councils. | | |

**Action 11.8** (original Action 7.4)

Ensure adequate medical stocks are available and stored in a disaster-resilient manner, to ensure continuity of supply in the event of disaster.

***Outcome*:** *Medical stockpiles are secured in disaster-resistant locations, ensuring uninterrupted access to life-saving medications and supplies during disaster and displacement events.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5 (ongoing) |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | NDMO |
| Outputs | * Medical supply coverage maps produced for national level and all six provinces. * Disaster-resilient medical supply storage locations confirmed. * Pre-positioning planning and medical supplies confirmed and deployed (if relevant). * Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for stockpile activation and restocking in place. * Health / logistics staff trained in supply chain resilience and emergency delivery. | | |

**Action 11.9** (new)

Develop health preparedness plans for evacuation centres and temporary shelters, including sanitation infrastructure, medical protocols and referral mechanisms, deployment plans and assigned health personnel.

***Outcome*:** *Health sector is prepared and ready to meet the needs of displaced persons sheltering in evacuation centers and temporary shelters to meet essential health and hygiene needs, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks and enhancing safety and well-being during displacement.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.9 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 3 (and ongoing) |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | NDMO, DECM Cluster, NRU |
| Outputs | * Health plans for evacuation centres and temporary shelters developed. * Health Cluster readiness programming implemented. * Mobile health and MHPSS teams trained in health preparedness and response for shelters. * Annual simulations conducted. | | |

**Action 11.10** (new)

Promote nutrition-sensitive interventions in displacement recovery plans with focus on women and children. This includes nutrition education, dietary diversity, and access to healthy local food.

***Outcome*:** *Displaced households, particularly women and children, benefit from improved nutrition and food security through targeted education and access to diverse, healthy foods, enhancing recovery, long-term health, and resilience.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 11.10 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoH | **Support** | Nutrition Sub-Cluster, DLA, DARD |
| Outputs | * Nutrition action plans developed and implemented displacement-affected and relocated communities. * Nutrition IEC materials developed specific to displacement scenarios. * Caregiver networks trained in nutrition-sensitive recovery. * Gardens and local food production initiatives established, in partnership with DARD and Area Councils. * Supplementary nutrition services operational in all high-risk sites. * Nutrition outcomes (diet diversity, child growth) tracked and reported annually. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 12: EDUCATION**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Design and construct new schools and education facilities in high-risk areas to meet climate-resilient and disaster-safe standards, in line with environmental compliance approvals and mitigation measures.
* Promote environmental education in school programs to strengthen children’s and youth’s understanding of climate risks and community stewardship, as well as an understanding of mobility issues related to climate and hazard-induced displacement.

**Cultural considerations**

* Incorporate kastom knowledge and local languages into education continuity planning and teaching materials to ensure relevance and acceptance.
* Engage chiefs and community leaders in supporting displaced children’s transition to new schools to strengthen inclusion and trust.
* Integrate traditional and customary education into pre-, during and post-displacement scenarios for children and youth.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Aim for girls to have uninterrupted access to education during and after displacement.
* Provide targeted support for young mothers and adolescent girls to re-enter and remain in education following displacement-related crises.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Create safe, child-friendly learning environments in relocation or temporary sites to support psychosocial well-being and continuity of learning.
* Ensure child and youth psycho-social support, including access to family and support networks, is provided and maintained in displacement crises.
* Engage youth in education planning and awareness activities to build ownership and agency in preparing for and responding to displacement.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure education facilities and materials are accessible for children with disabilities and students with chronic health conditions.
* Use inclusive approaches in learning environments so all displaced children, including those from marginalized groups, are integrated smoothly and safely.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Action 12.1** (original Action 8.1)

**Minimise disruption to education during disasters.** Schools are only appropriate as evacuation centres for short periods of time. If schools are used as evacuation centres, plans to minimise disruption to education services need to be incorporated in CCDRR planning, in line with the National Evacuation Centre Management Guidelines and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Education in Emergency Guidelines ~~National Guidelines for the Selection and Assessment of Evacuation Centres~~.

***Outcome***: *Education services continue with minimal disruption during disasters, even when schools are temporarily used as evacuation centres, ensuring children’s right to learning is upheld in emergencies.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 12.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | MoET, Education Cluster | **Support** | DECM Cluster, NDMO, IOM |
| Outputs | * School Disaster Management Plans are developed and address planning for schools used as evacuation centres. * Education Cluster coordination mechanisms formalized and activated during crises. * School staff and CDCCC members trained on evacuation centre management best practice. * Emergency learning supplies pre-positioned in all six provinces. | | |

**Action 12.2** (original Action 8.2)

Ensure continuity of access to education for children affected by displacement. Disruption education must be minimised for children who are evacuated, children of households returning to previous locations or moving to new areas through planned relocation and children of internal migrants, including those in informal settlements. Relocation should not begin before access to education in new locations has been established. This may involve securing places for children in new schools. Where existing schools are at capacity or not situated in the locality, the building and establishment of new schools is required, built in accordance with DRR standards and building codes.

***Outcome***: *Displaced children have continuous access to quality education throughout evacuation, return, and relocation, supported by flexible learning solutions that minimize disruption, protect psychosocial well-being, and promote long-term development.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 12.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoET, Education Cluster | **Support** | DECM Cluster, NDMO, IOM, DLA, DUAP, Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * School placements secured for 100% of displaced children prior to relocation or return. * Relocation education planning approach developed and adopted for future use. * Portable classrooms and flexible learning systems established in relocation or host sites. * Teachers trained in emergency and trauma-sensitive instruction for displacement contexts. * Education liaison officers deployed to all major relocation communities. * Regular monitoring reports produced to assess access, learning continuity, and equity. | | |

**Action 12.3** (original Action 8.3)

Strengthen educational opportunities in rural and remote areas to reduce push-factors of rural-urban migration, in line with the Vanuatu Education Sector Strategy ~~2007-2016~~ and People’s Plan (SOC 2).

***Outcome***: *Enhanced education access in rural and remote areas reduces displacement pressures, supports community resilience, and promotes equitable development across all provinces.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 12.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoET | **Support** | DSPPAC, MoIA, DLA |
| Outputs | * Rural Education Expansion Plan endorsed and operational. * New or upgraded schools serving remote communities. * Rural teachers recruited, trained, and retained with improved working conditions. * Digital and mobile learning hubs established in outer island and inland locations. * Annual monitoring reports on rural education access, performance, and migration trends. | | |

**Action 12.4** (original Action 8.4)

~~Develop secondary and tertiary education courses on displacement and migration to promote country-wide understandings of displacement and safe, well-managed migration.~~

Integrate topics on displacement and migration into primary, secondary, and tertiary education curriculums to build national awareness and understanding of safe, well-managed human mobility.

***Outcome***: *Students across all education levels develop informed, empathetic, and practical knowledge of displacement and migration, fostering a more resilient, inclusive, and mobility-aware society.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 12.4 | Timeframe | Years 3 - 5 |
| Lead | MoET – Curriculum Development Unit | **Support** | DoCC, NDMO, VMGD, DLA, DUAP, IOM |
| Outputs | * Displacement and human mobility modules integrated into all education levels. * Teachers trained to deliver content using inclusive, interactive methods. * At least 20 schools pilot modules with student activities and civic campaigns. * Educational materials and student outputs translated and documented for national rollout. * National awareness and understanding of displacement improves across generations. | | |

**Action 12.5** (new)

Deploy education liaison officers in displacement-affected communities to assist displaced families with school enrolment, transport, and integration to provide inclusive, trauma-informed training to teachers in host schools.

***Outcome***: *Displaced children are successfully enrolled and supported in their new schools, while teachers are equipped to deliver inclusive, trauma-sensitive education, ensuring continuity of learning and well-being in displacement contexts.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 12.5 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoET | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NDMO, DECM Cluster, DoCC, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Develop guidelines, materials and training for education liaison officers. * Education liaison officers trained and deployed as needed. * Teachers trained in trauma-informed and inclusive education practices. * Displaced students supported in school integration and learning continuity, as needed. * Regular education liaison officer progress and needs reports submitted to MoET and stakeholders. * Case referral system developed and operational for at-risk displaced learners. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 13: INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Design and upgrade infrastructure using disaster-resilient and climate-smart standards that protect ecosystems and minimize long-term environmental impact.
* Use renewable energy and sustainable construction materials to reduce vulnerability and improve environmental sustainability.
* Ensure all infrastructure projects are compliant with environmental assessments and approvals processes.

**Cultural considerations**

* Ensure planning and placement of infrastructure respects community preferences, including traditional access to land and resources.
* Engage chiefs and community leaders in decisions about site selection and design to strengthen trust and ownership.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Integrate safety and accessibility features in transport and infrastructure to meet the needs of women and girls, such as well-lit pathways and safe waiting areas.
* Ensure women participate in infrastructure planning and maintenance training to promote inclusive decision-making and livelihoods.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Design safe pathways and transport access for children to reach schools and community areas in relocated or at-risk communities.
* Include youth voices in planning processes to ensure infrastructure supports their educational, social and livelihood needs.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure roads, transport services, and public infrastructure are accessible to people with disabilities, the elderly and those with chronic health conditions.
* Incorporate universal design principles in all infrastructure to make facilities safe and accessible for everyone, regardless of mobility or health status.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Action 13.1** (original Action 9.1)

Integrate displacement, relocation and internal migration considerations into existing national infrastructure planning. The Lead Ministry responsible for implementing this policy should work closely with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities to promote an inclusive and innovative approach to infrastructure planning to meet the needs of people affected by displacement in a range of scenarios, including people living in informal settlements.

***Outcome:*** *Infrastructure planning at national and local levels reflects the realities of displacement and internal migration, ensuring services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to affected communities' current and future needs.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 13.1 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | MIPU | **Support** | Lead Ministry, MFEM, DUAP, DLA |
| Outputs | * Displacement-Inclusive Infrastructure Planning Framework (DIIPF) developed and adopted. * Existing, relevant infrastructure plans revised to integrate displacement considerations. * Displacement and mobility criteria included in NIIP, VISIP, and sectoral project appraisal tools. * Planners and engineers trained in inclusive and forward-looking infrastructure design. * Annual reporting on infrastructure accessibility for displaced and mobile populations initiated. * Case studies and design templates documented and shared across planning agencies. | | |

**Action 13.2** (original Action 9.2)

Improve disaster-resilience of existing infrastructure in vulnerable communities as a displacement-prevention measure, in line with existing initiatives, such as the VCCDRRP and VISIP. Priority areas are: WASH, affordable and renewable energy, adherence to disaster-resilient building codes, roads, drainage, telecommunications, ICT.

***Outcome***: *At-risk communities benefit from upgraded, disaster-resilient infrastructure that reduces exposure to hazards, supports in-place adaptation, and lowers the likelihood of forced displacement.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 13.2 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | MIPU | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DoWR, DoE, PWD, MoCC, DLA |
| Outputs | * High-risk communities assessed and prioritized for resilient infrastructure investment. * Community-specific Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure Investment Plans (DRIIPs) developed * WASH, energy, transport, and ICT systems upgraded in at least 10 communities. * Residents trained in infrastructure maintenance and disaster-resilient construction. * Resilient infrastructure data integrated into national DRR and climate adaptation plans. * National knowledge products developed on in-place adaptation through infrastructure resilience. | | |

**Action 13.3** (original Action 9.3)

Provide assistance to communities returning to places of origin to restore basic infrastructure following disasters (WASH, affordable and renewable energy, roads, drainage, adherence to disaster resilient building codes, telecommunications, ICT).

***Outcome*:** *Returning communities have timely access to restored and upgraded essential infrastructure, enabling safe resettlement, recovery, and improved long-term resilience.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 13.3 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | MIPU | **Support** | Lead Ministry, NRU, DoWR, DoE, DUAP, DLA |
| Outputs | * Protocols and/or regulations and/or SOPs on infrastructure restoration for returning communities are developed and endorsed. * Integration of restoration of services protocols into displacement, return and recovery frameworks and operational plans. * Rapid infrastructure damage assessments completed in targeted return areas. * Resilient Infrastructure Recovery Plans developed for return sites. * WASH, energy, ICT, and transport systems restored to resilient standards in high-priority communities * Community members trained in infrastructure maintenance and disaster risk reduction. * Community-led maintenance committees re-established and supported. * Lessons learned published and shared with national and provincial actors. | | |

**Action 13.4** (original Action 9.4)

Ensure transportation considerations are built into relocation plans. Transportation is often left out of relocation plans. Providing transportation options can assist people to recover following relocation. Efforts should be made to provide free or subsidised bus or boat transport to take people back to their previous locations, hospitals, nearest markets/urban centres, during the initial periods (1-2 years) after a community moves. If these services are put in place and are only temporary, then a transition plan is needed for when services cease, based on community consultation.

***Outcome:*** *Through inclusive transport options, relocated communities have reliable access to essential services and social connections, supporting their recovery, mobility, and reintegration during the transition period.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 13.4 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MIPU | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, MFEM |
| Outputs | * Approach to community mobility planning is designed and approved. * Community mobility planning approach is integrated into relocation planning guidelines and operational protocols. * Community Mobility Support Plans developed for all new relocation sites. * Subsidized or free transport services operational in high-priority sites. * Individuals provided with consistent access to essential services through transitional mobility programs. * Access infrastructure (e.g. jetties, rural roads) upgraded in all participating communities. * Community transport focal points trained and active. * Transition plans designed and piloted for sustainable post-subsidy mobility. | | |

**Action 13.5** (original Action 9.5)

Invest in affordable transportation options for inter-island and intra-island travel. In line with the VISIP, investment should continue to focus on improving a range of transportation modes, including air, maritime and road transport for all citizens. Specific consideration should also be given to finding affordable and accessible options for migrants in a range of scenarios, including migrants moving to urban centres and relocated communities.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced, relocated and mobile populations have improved access to transportation networks, reducing isolation, strengthening resilience, and enhancing access to services, livelihoods, and opportunities.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 13.5 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | MIPU | **Support** | MFEM, Lead Ministry, DLA, VMSA, CAA |
| Outputs | * Displacement-Inclusive Transport Access Plan (DITAP) developed and integrated into VISIP. * Transport infrastructure upgraded or constructed underserved or high-receiving areas. * Affordable transport models piloted in at least 5 island communities. * Subsidies, vouchers, or PSO pricing schemes implemented for vulnerable households. * National Transport Equity Dashboard operational. * Provincial and national staff trained in inclusive transport planning. | | |

**Action 13.6** (original Action 9.6)

Explore partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organisations to improve access to quality infrastructure for communities affected by displacement.

***Outcome:*** *Public-private and civil society / NGO partnerships mobilize resources and innovation to deliver essential infrastructure to displacement-affected communities, improving quality of life and long-term sustainability.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 13.6 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | MIPU | **Support** | MFEM, Lead Ministry, DoWR, DoE, OGCIO, DLA |
| Outputs | * Public–Private–Civil Society Infrastructure Partnership Framework (PPCIPF) finalized and endorsed. * Legal and financial tools developed for displacement-sensitive PPPs. * Pilot projects implemented in displacement-affected communities across key infrastructure sectors. * Stakeholders trained in PPP design and governance * Case studies and national learning products disseminated * PPCIPF integrated into government-led infrastructure planning and financing systems. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 14: AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Promote climate-smart and ecologically sensitive agriculture practices that conserve soil, water and biodiversity while improving productivity and resilience.
* Integrate ecosystem protection into agriculture recovery and livelihood planning to avoid over-exploitation of natural resources during recovery or relocation periods.

**Cultural considerations**

* Respect and integrate traditional farming, fishing and food preservation practices in training and recovery programs to strengthen cultural continuity.
* Engage chiefs, women’s groups, and elders in decisions on agricultural recovery and market strategies to ensure community ownership and acceptance.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Ensure women farmers and market vendors have equal access to resources, training and market linkages to strengthen household resilience and food security.
* Ensure livelihood programs are designed to consider barriers faced by women so that solutions are tailored to their needs.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Include youth in climate-smart agriculture training, innovation projects and enterprise development to build future-oriented skills and leadership.
* Promote school and community garden programs in disaster and displacement preparedness, response and recovery programs to teach children about nutrition, local food production and environmental stewardship.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Design livelihood recovery and support programs for displaced or at risk populations that are accessible to people with disabilities, older persons and those with chronic conditions wherever possible.
* Provide targeted support and simplified tools for vulnerable households to access grants, training and market opportunities without discrimination.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Action 14.1** (original Action 10.1)

Strengthen existing efforts to provide timely and appropriate support to restore livelihoods, agricultural, fisheries and livestock activities during recovery, in partnership with humanitarian agencies, development partners, faith-based organisations and the private sector.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced and disaster-affected individuals regain sustainable livelihoods through timely support and cross-sector collaboration, accelerating recovery and reducing long-term economic vulnerability.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | MALFB | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Livelihood recovery assessments completed in displacement-affected areas. * Sector-specific recovery packages developed (agriculture, fisheries, livestock). * Households receive livelihood inputs and training. * Technical officers and extension workers trained and deployed. * Partnership MoUs signed with faith-based, private sector, or development actors. * Recovery outcomes and market reintegration report published. | | |

**Action 14.2** (original Action 10.2)

Explore small-grant and soft loan options for people affected by displacement to restore livelihood activities. Careful consideration should be given to capacity to repay loans and financial literacy of people committing to loans. Partnerships should be explored with the private sector, international organisations, development partners and non-government organisations.

***Outcome***: *Displaced individuals access appropriate financial tools to rebuild their livelihoods, supported by safeguards that promote economic empowerment while minimizing debt risk.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.2 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | Department of Cooperatives and Ni-Vanuatu Business Development | **Support** | MFEM, Lead Ministry, DLA |
| Outputs | * Livelihood finance needs and gap assessment conducted in displacement-affected areas. * Small grant and soft loan options designed, consulted on and selected for further operationalisation. * Operationalisation of small grant / loan options. * Pilot small grant/loan programs launched. * Financial literacy training delivered to high priority displacement / at-risk sites. * Households receive small grants or soft loans. * Delivery partnerships formalized with local organisations, churches, or cooperatives * Community-based monitoring reports and satisfaction surveys published annually. | | |

**Action 14.3** (original Action 10.3)

Connect people affected by displacement to employment services support where available and appropriate~~, such as the Employment Services Vanuatu pilot which is currently underway in Shefa Province~~.

***Outcome***: *Displaced people gain access to employment opportunities, skills training, and job placement services, fostering economic self-reliance and integration into local labor markets.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 3 |
| Lead | DoL | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA |
| Outputs | * Employment support pathway developed and piloted in high-risk displacement locations. * Displaced individuals registered and profiled in employment support services. * Employers formally engaged through MoUs or job-matching initiatives. * National or provincial job fairs targeting displaced populations conducted annually. * Mobile employment support teams established in all provinces. | | |

**Action 14.4** (original Action 10.4)

Connect people affected by displacement to technical and vocational education centres, where available and appropriate. ~~TVET~~ Skills Centres have been established in Sanma, Malampa, Torba and Tafea provinces, with non-formal agricultural training opportunities available in other locations.

***Outcome***: *Displaced populations strengthen their economic resilience through skills development and vocational training, increasing their opportunities for employment, self-reliance, and sustainable recovery.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.4 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | Vanuatu Skills Partnership | **Support** | MALFB, DoL, Lead Ministry, MoET, VQA |
| Outputs | * Skills gap assessment conducted across at least 6 displacement-affected locations * Displaced individuals enrolled in TVET or non-formal training. * Targeted short courses delivered in priority skill areas. * Formal partnerships signed between TVET, employers, and the Displacement Lead Ministry. * Graduate tracking and reporting system established at the national level. | | |

**Action 14.5** (original Action 10.5)

Include people affected by displacement in “farms to markets” networks, to assist recovery following return, local integration or relocation.

***Outcome***: *Displaced farmers are reconnected to markets and agricultural value chains, enhancing income generation, food security, and successful reintegration or settlement in new communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.5 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MALFB | **Support** | DLA, MoTICT, Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * Market access gap assessments completed across all provinces. * Farm to market strategy for displacement-affected communities developed and endorsed and integrated in displacement and relocation protocols. * Displaced farmer groups formed and trained. * Displaced farmers linked to market chains. * Cold storage units upgraded/constructed in displaced / relocated communities. * Displaced farmers represented in national/local “Buy Local” campaigns. * Contracts signed with private sector buyers for displaced producers. | | |

**Action 14.6** (original Action 10.6)

Engage youth in education, training and employment opportunities, as part of return, local integration and relocation planning, where possible and appropriate, especially in the areas of climate-smart agriculture, agri-tech, digital tools for farming, sustainable food systems, and green enterprise development to strengthen food security and build resilient agricultural livelihoods. ~~(Cross-reference with Strategic Area 8).~~

***Outcome:*** *Youth from displaced and host communities are equipped with practical skills in sustainable agriculture and food production, enabling them to enhance food security, restore livelihoods, and lead innovation in climate-resilient farming and agri-based economic recovery.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.6 | Timeframe | Years 3-5+ |
| Lead | MALFB, MoYS | **Support** | DLA |
| Outputs | * Youth needs assessments conducted in high-risk displacement areas. * Youth capacity development program developed. * Youth trained in green livelihoods and agri-tech. * Demonstration farms established for youth to work on. * Youth-led agribusinesses launched or supported. * National awareness campaign and showcase events held to promote youth leadership in food systems. | | |

**Action 14.7** (original Action 10.7)

Explore options to facilitate safe, well-managed international labour migration as a livelihood and adaptation option to assist ~~some~~ at-risk and displaced families and communities, where appropriate, to diversify their incomes through international remittances. Ensure labour mobility frameworks include pre-departure training, rights protection, reintegration support, and community reinvestment strategies, ensuring safe and beneficial overseas employment for affected individuals.

***Outcome****: Displaced and at-risk communities and individuals access safe international employment opportunities, while remittances and reinvestment contribute to community recovery, with frameworks in place to align labour mobility with national resilience and retention goals.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.7 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | DoL | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, MFAT, IOM |
| Outputs | * Prioritisation of displaced or at-risk communities integrated into labour mobility policy and operational frameworks. * Pre-departure training modules for displaced participants implemented * Displaced or at-risk communities / individuals supported into safe labour migration programs. * Returnee reintegration and reinvestment projects supported in displaced or at-risk communities. * Displacement status integrated into national labour mobility indicators and data collection procedures. | | |

**Action 14.8** (original Action 10.9)

Strengthen efforts to support climate resilient and sustainable agriculture, in close consultation with affected communities about their needs and existing practices.

***Outcome***: *Displaced and host communities adopt sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices that improve food security, restore livelihoods, and preserve traditional knowledge, contributing to long-term resilience and self-reliance.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 14.8 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MALFB | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DEPC, DLA |
| Outputs | * Community agriculture assessments and climate risk maps developed in 6+ locations. * Demonstration sites or learning plots established in host and relocation areas. * Households trained in climate-resilient farming practices. * Traditional practices documented and integrated into training. * Community seed banks and farmer field schools operationalized in all priority provinces. * Agriculture and environment ministries adopt guidelines for sustainable agriculture in displacement contexts. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 15: SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Incorporate environmentally compliant designs and site selection for safety infrastructure such as evacuation centres, to reduce environmental impacts and improve resilience.
* Promote community-based environmental stewardship programs in displacement and relocation sites, encouraging local involvement in protecting ecosystems and managing resources sustainably to improve security and safety of the community.
* Integrate environmental awareness and education sessions into safety and security activities to build understanding of how environmental degradation can heighten risks during disasters and displacement.

**Cultural considerations**

* Integrate kastom governance systems and community protocols into safety, conflict prevention and protection measures to build trust and cooperation.
* Engage chiefs, women’s groups, and church leaders in awareness, planning, monitoring and solutions to security and safety incidences to ensure community ownership and culturally respectful approaches.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Include gender risk assessments in all safety planning and site security planning to address unique protection needs of women and girls during displacement and relocation.
* Train and monitor security personnel including Police and VMF on code of ethics around attitudes and practices towards women and girls during disaster and displacement crises.
* Ensure access to safe reporting and referral mechanisms for gender-based violence and family violence survivors.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Design safe spaces and child-friendly protocols in evacuation and relocation sites, including recreational and psychosocial support activities.
* Include youth in safety committees and conflict prevention initiatives to foster engagement and build future leadership in community protection.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure that safety infrastructure, early-warning systems and evacuation routes and protocols are accessible to and account for people with disabilities, the elderly and those with chronic conditions.
* Develop communication and outreach in plain language and multiple formats (visual, audio, and local languages) to reach all groups effectively.

**Action 15.1** (original Action 5.1)

Ensure emergency services for people affected by displacement. Ensure all people, including displaced populations, at-risk populations, populations returning to places of origin, populations that are integrating locally, relocated populations, internal migrants and host communities, have access to emergency services of the standard available to the general population.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced and affected communities receive equal access to emergency services, ensuring safety, dignity, and protection in all displacement and resettlement contexts.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5 |
| Lead | MoIA | **Support** | NDMO, VPF, VMF, MoH, Lead Ministry, DLA |
| Outputs | * Emergency services gap report completed and disseminated. * Displacement-related benchmarks integrated into national emergency service standards and response protocols. * Emergency service coverage expanded in high-priority relocation or displacement-affected areas. * Emergency service responders trained on disaster response. * Community responders trained and deployed. * Early warning systems operational in 100% of new relocation or return zones. * Annual equity audits and community feedback reports produced. | | |

**Action 15.2** (original Action 5.2)

Ensure people affected by displacement have equitable access to police, security assistance and justice, without discrimination ~~(also see Strategic Area 12).~~

***Outcome:*** *Displaced individuals and communities can access protection and justice equally, enhancing safety, accountability, and trust in rule-of-law systems.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoJCS | **Support** | MoIA, VPF, VMF, Public Solicitor’s Office, Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * Access to justice, quality of justice and security services assessment completed. * Displacement projection and justice access protocols developed and integrated into displacement management documentation. * Training on displacement-sensitive and anti-discriminatory principles in service provision is developed. * Police, judicial, and paralegal staff trained in displacement-sensitive access and protection. * Community policing and legal aid services operational in displacement-affected areas. * Annual reports on access to justice and community satisfaction levels published. * Complaints and redress systems strengthened and operationalized. | | |

**Action 15.3** (original Action 5.3)

Incorporate gender and protection concerns into physical planning and social services planning in existing settlements and new locations where displaced populations are moving.

***Outcome***: *Physical and social planning reflects the diverse needs of women, children, and vulnerable groups, enhancing protection and reducing risks in temporary and permanent displacement and relocation settings.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | Lead Ministry | **Support** | DWA, MoJCS, DUAP, DLA |
| Outputs | * Gender- and Protection-Inclusive Site Planning Guidelines (GPISPG) developed and adopted. * Inclusive design principles applied in new or existing displacement sites. * Community Safety Committees established and active in all relocation and return areas. * Site planners, engineers, and community leaders trained in inclusive planning. * Monitoring and feedback tools operational in all priority displacement sites. * Lessons shared and integrated into site planning SOPs and national resilience policies. | | |

**Action 15.5** (original Action 5.5)

Access to CCDRR assistance for all people affected by displacement. Ensure affected communities, including people living in informal settlements, are included in all CCDRR activities and planning.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced and at-risk communities are fully included in CCDRR programs, ensuring equal access to risk reduction, adaptation support, and resilience-building initiatives.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.5 | Timeframe | Years 3 – 5+ |
| Lead | DoCC, NDMO | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, DUAP, VMGD |
| Outputs | * CCDRR inclusion mapping and gap assessment undertaken with all CCDRR providers. * National CCDRR policies updated to include displaced populations. * Program developed to integrate displacement and at-risk communities currently not included in CCDRR programming into existing or future programs. * Early warning, drills, and adaptation programs extended to active relocation sites. * Displaced and host community members trained in CCDRR. * Inclusion indicators integrated into national CCDRR reporting. | | |

**Action 15.6** (original Action 6.6)

Ensure Provincial Disaster and Climate Change Plans ~~and Climate Risk Management Plans~~ include planning for people living in informal settlements, and other populations affected by displacement.

***Outcome***: *Subnational disaster and climate risk plans include displaced populations and residents of informal settlements, enabling more responsive, risk-informed, and equitable planning.*

**Implementation Framework**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | NDMO, DoCC | **Support** | Lead Ministry, DLA, VMGD |
| Outputs | * Provincial plans gap assessment report completed. * Provincial plans revised to include displacement and at-risk population needs and priorities. * Best practices shared nationally. | | |

**Action 15.7** (original Action 6.7)

Access to evacuation centres for people affected by displacement, including people living in informal settlements is improved. Ensure displaced people, internal migrants, people living in informal settlements and host communities are included in ~~the evacuation centre baseline and~~ evacuation centre upgrading activities ~~planned under the VCCDRRP~~. In particular, populations living in informal settlements should receive equal prioritisation as the general population in evacuation centre access and upgrading.

***Outcome***: *Evacuation centers are equitably accessible and upgraded to meet the needs of displaced and vulnerable urban populations, including informal settlement residents, ensuring safety and protection during emergencies.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 15.7 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | NDMO | **Support** | DUAP, DLA, PWD, Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * Evacuation centre / shelter mapping across Vanuatu completed and gaps assessed and communicated to government. * Planning for catchments where evacuation centres are lacking is completed. * Updated Selection and Assessment Guidelines for Evacuation Centres completed. * Evacuation Centre Management Guidelines updated to ensure inclusivity for full population. * Evacuation centres upgraded or built to inclusive and hazard-resistant standards in high-risk catchments where no or limited centres or shelters exist. * Evacuation route maps and outreach campaigns implemented in all high-risk informal and displacement risk areas. * Residents trained in evacuation protocols; inclusive drills conducted annually. * National audit tool and joint management structures operational. | | |

**Action 15.8** (original Action 5.8)

Ensure inclusion of women’s organisations and other community-led groups in processes to improve DRR and safety and security measures.

***Outcome***: *DRR and protection strategies are strengthened through inclusive participation, ensuring they reflect the specific needs and perspectives of women and grassroots groups, and enhancing community ownership and effectiveness.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.8 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | DWA | **Support** | MoJCS, Lead Ministry, NDMO, VPF, DLA |
| Outputs | * Community-based inclusion protocols and framework established, endorsed and integrated into CCDRR, displacement and relocation protocols and operational manuals. * Women’s organizations actively leading DRR and safety planning in at least displacement-affected communities. * Community members trained in inclusive protection and DRR planning. * Small grants disbursed to grassroots groups for safety infrastructure and protection awareness. * Participation indicators and community feedback integrated into national CCDRR monitoring. | | |

**Action 15.9** (new)

Develop and implement protocols on safety and conflict prevention in displacement contexts, to guide the prevention and resolution of tensions and violence between displaced and host communities during relocation and displacement processes, and including traditional governance and dispute resolution practices.

***Outcome***: *Displacement management and relocation operations are guided by a unified safety and conflict prevention framework, which reduces the risk of violence, strengthens social cohesion, and supports peaceful, inclusive, and coordinated transitions.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 15.9 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoJCS | **Support** | DoCC, NDMO, DLA, Malvatumauri, Lead Ministry |
| Outputs | * National protocols on safety and conflict prevention developed and endorsed. * Protocols integrated into displacement response, management, relocation or resettlement operational guidelines and frameworks. * Conflict risk profiles created high-risk provinces or municipalities * Local stakeholders trained in conflict prevention and trauma-informed practices. * Community dialogue and social cohesion platforms active in all major relocation and return sites. | | |

**Action 15.10** (new)

Establish, train and deploy mobile safety and protection teams to provide outreach, conflict mitigation, gender-based violence (GBV) and family violence support, and protection services in displacement-affected and high-risk areas, especially where access to formal services is limited.

***Outcome*:** *At-risk and displaced communities receive timely, community-based gender and protection support through mobile teams, closing service gaps and enhancing safety, trust, and access to essential protection services.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.10 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | DWA | **Support** | Gender and Protection Cluster / Working Group, NDMO, MoJCS, VPF, Lead Ministry, DLA |
| Outputs | * Protection principles, guidelines and referral systems for disaster, displacement and at-risk contexts and populations. * Establishment and training of mobile safety and protection teams. * Multidisciplinary mobile teams operational in high-risk or underserved displacement locations. * Individuals provided with direct protection services and referrals annually. * Community education sessions conducted in all operational sites. * Partnership agreements signed with local referral and shelter actors. * Protection service data and community feedback regularly collected and reported. | | |

**Action 15.11** (new)

Install essential safety infrastructure at evacuation and temporary relocation sites, including lighting, secure WASH facilities, designated safe spaces for women and children, and accessible pathways for persons with disabilities.

***Outcome*:** *Evacuation and temporary relocation sites are safer, more inclusive, and reduce risks of violence, injury, and exclusion, especially for vulnerable groups, by integrating protection into physical site design.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 15.11 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | MoJCS | **Support** | Gender and Protection Cluster / Working Group, NDMO, MIPU, Lead Ministry, DoWR |
| Outputs | * Protection assessment guidelines and tools for evacuation centres, shelters and host households developed. * Assessment guidelines and tools integrated into disaster and displacement management frameworks, guidelines, operational manuals and / or displacement tracking mechanisms and systems. * Inclusive safety infrastructure installed in at least 10 large evacuation and temporary relocation sites. * Community members and evacuation centre managers involved in construction, training, or oversight. * Maintenance and safety committees established and active in all upgraded sites. * Awareness sessions conducted with all residents of upgraded locations. * Inclusion indicators integrated into national DRR and relocation frameworks. | | |

**Action 15.12** (new)

Strengthen safeguards against human trafficking and exploitation during displacement by developing early warning systems, referral pathways, and protection protocols.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced populations, especially women and youth, are protected through proactive systems that detect, prevent, and respond to trafficking and exploitation risks in displacement contexts.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 15.12 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | VPF | **Support** | Gender and Protection Cluster / Working Group, NDMO, MoJCS, VPF, Lead Ministry, DLA, Department of Immigration |
| Outputs | * Displacement-sensitive trafficking prevention and response protocol developed and implemented. * Risk mapping and vulnerability profile completed for high-risk displacement areas. * Referral pathways and rapid response mechanisms operational in pilot sites and later expanded. * Frontline workers and community leaders trained on trafficking risks and mitigation measures. * Survivor support and reporting systems available in all active relocation and return sites. * Trafficking prevention integrated into national displacement and protection strategies. | | |

**STRATEGIC AREA 16: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, CULTURE AND DOCUMENTATION**

**Cross-cutting considerations:**

**Environmental considerations**

* Ensure relocation and site planning respect sacred sites and important natural resources such as the bush, rivers and reefs that are linked to cultural identity, origin stories or ancestors.
* Include environmental stewardship in cultural protocols, reinforcing traditional knowledge about conservation and sustainable resource use, particularly when agreeing on resource sharing in host community scenarios.

**Cultural considerations**

* Guarantee that cultural protocols and kastom practices guide all stages of preparedness, displacement, relocation and recovery.
* Prioritise intergenerational knowledge transfer to keep oral histories, traditional practices and identity alive in changing contexts.
* Involve professional cultural practitioners and VKS Fieldworkers wherever possible in designing culturally-informed approaches to disaster and displacement management, including durable solutions.
* Use community-driven processes to decide how cultural materials are recorded, shared and stored to protect ownership and consent.

**Gender-responsive considerations**

* Create safe, inclusive spaces for women and girls to contribute to cultural documentation and decision-making.
* Recognise and integrate women’s traditional knowledge and roles into preparedness, relocation and recovery planning.
* Support capacity building for women to take leadership roles in cultural governance and documentation initiatives.

**Child and youth-centred considerations**

* Involve children and youth in documenting stories, songs and cultural practices to build ownership and connection to heritage.
* Use creative, youth-friendly methods like digital media, art and theatre to make cultural knowledge engaging and accessible.
* Ensure planning reflects intergenerational impacts, considering the future cultural losses youth may face due to climate and mobility changes.

**Inclusion and accessibility considerations**

* Ensure participation of elders, people with disabilities and other often-excluded groups in documentation, planning and cultural ceremonies.
* Provide materials and activities in accessible formats, including oral, visual and local-language resources.
* Incorporate safeguards to protect sensitive information and ensure cultural data is managed ethically and securely for all community members.

**Policy actions and implementation frameworks:**

**Action 16.1** (original Action 12.1)

Map family histories, birth records, connections to land, and property and assets ownership to provide records in the event of displacement. Personal documentation and access to documentation regarding ownership of land and assets can be critical during recovery.

***Outcome:*** *Displaced individuals and families have access to verified documentation supporting identity protection, land and asset recovery, and access to services during and after displacement.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action/s | 16.1 | Timeframe | Years 1 - 5+ |
| Lead | CRVS, NCLMO | **Support** | Lead Ministry, VKS, Malvatumauri, DLA |
| Outputs | * Baseline survey and Displacement Documentation Protocol finalised. * Individuals’ identity, land, and property records mapped and preserved. * Secure digital archives established for individuals and community histories and records. * Household documentation kits and processes disseminated in all priority relocation and return areas. * Documentation linked to relocation, legal, and recovery processes. * Registry support available in all provinces. | | |

**Action 16.2** (original Action 12.3)

Improve birth registration to ensure personal identification documentation is protected in the event of displacement, in line with existing efforts by the Department of Civil Registry and Vital Statistics and the Ministry of Health. ~~(Also see Strategic Area 7 relating to health).~~

***Outcome***: *Individuals in high-risk or at-risk displacement locations have reliable personal identification documents that protect their legal status and enable access to essential services, benefits, and recovery assistance.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.2 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | CRVS | **Support** | DLA, MoH |
| Outputs | * Mobile registration services operating in high-priority displacement locations. * Children and adults in affected areas receive birth certificates. * Outreach campaigns delivered in all provinces. * Birth registration integrated into relocation and humanitarian systems. * Monthly tracking of registration rates and quality assurance indicators. | | |

**Action 16.3** (original Action 12.2)

Facilitate community-led plans to ensure connections to ancestors and relatives buried in original locations are sustained, where this is identified as a priority by affected communities. This can be an important cultural aspect of relocation planning.

***Outcome:*** *Cultural continuity is preserved through respectful practices that maintain ancestral and spiritual ties and support emotional well-being, identity, and dignity during relocation.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.3 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Malvatumauri, Lead Ministry, DLA |
| Outputs | * Community – ancestor continuity guidelines developed and endorsed. * Community – ancestor planning approach integrated into relocation guidelines and community relocation action planning tools. * Culturally designated spaces established in all new relocation sites. * Communities supported with cultural ceremonies and documentation as part of community – ancestor continuity practices. * Community - ancestor continuity training delivered to relocation staff and planners. * Good practice resources shared nationally and regionally. | | |

**Action 16.4** (original Action 12.4)

Map traditional knowledge, kinship and historical networks and cultural systems of displaced, at-risk and host communities ~~at risk of displacement~~ and investigate ways for traditional knowledge and cultural systems to be used in adaptation and durable solutions efforts and integrate these into future approaches. A process for mapping traditional knowledge should be undertaken as an early step in improving displacement and disaster preparedness ~~preparing for displacement~~, whether communities return or relocate to new locations. Existing initiatives underway to map traditional knowledge could be more explicitly linked to displacement and adaptation planning, in partnership with the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta ~~Cultural Centre~~ and ~~Provincial~~ island-level cultural fieldworkers ~~officers~~.

***Outcome***: *Traditional knowledge is preserved, integrated into adaptation strategies, and used to strengthen community-led planning, increasing resilience and continuity of cultural identity during displacement and relocation.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.4 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Malvatumauri, DLA, DWA, NDMO, NRU |
| Outputs | * Mapping methodology developed and applied for traditional knowledge, cultural network and systems at community level. * Mapping undertaken in high-risk displacement and host communities. * Culturally-sensitive guideline and protocols for relocation and evacuations developed that integrate learnings from community level mapping. * Culturally-sensitive disaster and displacement preparedness method and toolkit developed, piloted and rolled out for high-risk communities. * Intergenerational cultural activities held in all participating communities. * Cultural practices relating to mobility and cultural memorialisation ceremonies / practices held where required. * Cultural system and traditional knowledge reinvigoration program as part of displacement and preparedness. * Mapping of kastom rods within and between islands mapped and utilised in mobility preparedness and operations (e.g. evacuations). * Audio-visual knowledge products created and archived nationally and locally. * Integration of traditional knowledge into national relocation and adaptation strategies. | | |

**Action 16.5** (original Action 12.5)

Showcase traditional knowledge, including stories of migration. Stories of displacement and migration are of significant interest, locally, regionally and globally. Stories of survival, return and relocation are extraordinary in their demonstration of community-level resilience, mobility, problem-solving and innovation in the face of adversity. Providing a place to share experiences of displacement would increase the profile of adaptation strategies at a community level in Vanuatu. Potential partnerships with the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta ~~Cultural Center and USP~~ or other stakeholders specialising in using multi-media would assist to collect, display and share these stories.

***Outcome***: *Local, regional and international audiences are engaged through storytelling that showcases Vanuatu’s cultural resilience and adaptation experiences, empowering communities and promoting awareness of displacement realities and responses.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.5 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Lead Ministry, Malvatumauri, DoCC, VMGD, NDMO, DLA |
| Outputs | * Storytelling framework / priorities developed and implemented. * Stories collected and shared in multiple formats (film, print, audio, exhibition). * Community-based storytelling workshops conducted. * Story materials broadcast via national, regional and international platforms. * Stories integrated into school curricula and advocacy toolkits. * Archive and access protocols developed and maintained by VKS. | | |

**Action 16.6** (original Action 12.7)

Create safe spaces for women’s participation in traditional knowledge mapping and other documentation processes relating to family histories, land and more.

***Outcome:*** *Women’s voices and knowledge are actively included in cultural preservation efforts, ensuring gender-inclusive documentation processes and strengthening the protection of community identity and land connections during displacement.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.6 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | DWA, Malvatumauri, DLA |
| Outputs | * Gender-inclusive knowledge mapping strategy developed, including collection of women’s kastom and cultural knowledge. * Expansion program developed for VKS’ Women’s Fieldworker Program. * Safe spaces and safe methods for women’s participation established in relevant communities. * Program for transmission of women’s cultural knowledge to future generations developed and implemented. * Women’s cultural and kastom knowledge and practices integrated into displacement and durable solutions planning and operational implementation. * Women trained in documentation, oral history, and storytelling methods. * Women’s stories integrated into national archives and multimedia products. * Visibility of women’s knowledge increased through exhibitions and public forums. * Policy reforms initiated to embed gender inclusion in cultural documentation systems. | | |

**Action 16.7** (new)

Review, strengthen, and enhance customary governance structures to ensure they remain effective pillars of resilience, disaster preparedness and mobility management. Strong customary systems will support communities to make collective decisions, maintain cultural cohesion and prepare for displacement, relocation, return and recovery if required.

***Outcome:*** *Customary governance systems are revitalised and empowered to play a central role in community mobility preparedness, enabling culturally grounded decision-making and resilience in the face of displacement and disasters.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.7 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | Malvatumauri | **Support** | VKS, NCLMO, MoLNR, DLA, Lead Ministry, MoJCS |
| Outputs | * Assessment report on the role and gaps of customary governance in supporting mobility preparedness. * Capacity-strengthening initiatives for Malvatumauri, Area Councils of Chiefs, local NGOs and communities. * Locally endorsed guidance on integrating customary governance with displacement and relocation planning. * Case studies documenting how strengthened custom leadership supports community resilience and mobility. * Annual joint forums between customary and government leaders to align approaches to displacement and mobility management. | | |

**Action 16.8** (new)

Develop national tools that articulate the key facets of culture and kastom, and how they intersect with disaster risk management (DRM), displacement preparedness, and solutions planning. These guidelines should provide a framework for recognising cultural protocols, identity, land connections, and traditional practices as core components of displacement management, disaster response and recovery and resilience strategies.

***Outcome:*** *Cultural and kastom dimensions are systematically integrated into displacement preparedness, management, and durable solutions planning, ensuring responses uphold community identity, cohesion, and traditional governance while strengthening resilience to future displacement.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.8 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Malvatumauri, NCLMO, Lead Ministry, DLA, NDMO, NRU, IOM |
| Outputs | * National guidelines on culture, kastom, DRM, and displacement developed and endorsed. * Practical tools/checklists for integrating kastom authorities and considerations into preparedness, evacuation, response, relocation, and recovery plans. * Documentation of cultural protocols and practices relevant to mobility, relocation, and land negotiations. * Training modules for government, provincial authorities, and customary leaders on applying the guidelines in displacement contexts. * Pilot testing of guidelines in selected communities with lessons captured for national scale-up. | | |

**Action 16.9** (new)

Strengthen the capacity of chiefs, community leaders, and customary authorities to actively participate in displacement governance, disaster response systems and relocation planning, particularly in relation to land negotiations, tenure security, and customary rights. Ensure their perspectives and authority are embedded in decision-making processes, so that land-related challenges in relocation and integration are resolved in ways that uphold kastom, fairness, and community cohesion where relevant.

***Outcome:*** *Customary authorities are empowered to guide and mediate land and relocation processes, ensuring that displacement solutions are culturally appropriate, socially accepted, and grounded in kastom-based governance. This leads to more equitable, sustainable, and legitimate relocation outcomes for displaced communities.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.9 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | Malvatumauri | **Support** | VKS, NCLMO, MoLNR, Lead Ministry, DLA, NRU, NDMO |
| Outputs | * Capacity-building programme and training modules developed in collaboration with, and for chiefs, community leaders, and customary authorities on displacement, land, and relocation. * Customary leaders actively included in relocation SOPs, decision-making committees, and land planning processes. * Dialogue forums established between chiefs, government agencies, and affected communities on land use and relocation. * Case studies or guidance notes documenting good practices in kastom-led mediation of relocation and land disputes. * Provincial and community-level mechanisms institutionalised for chiefs to provide input and oversight on relevant aspects of relocation planning. | | |

**Action 16.10** (new)

Support mapping of customary boundaries to clarify rights, reduce disputes, and inform future relocation and integration planning and durable solutions, including peri-urban areas where displacement risk intersects with customary land tenure, ensuring that urban expansion and settlement dynamics are addressed in a fair and planned manner.

***Outcome:*** *Customary governance structures and cultural boundaries are clearly defined and integrated into displacement and relocation planning, reducing land conflicts and enhancing legitimacy of decisions. Chiefs and community leaders are empowered to guide relocation and urban settlement risk management in line with kastom, while peri-urban communities at high risk of displacement are supported with culturally appropriate and tenure-sensitive solutions.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.10 | Timeframe | Years 2 – 5+ |
| Lead | Malvatumauri | **Support** | VKS, NCLMO, MoLNR, Lead Ministry, DLA, DUAP |
| Outputs | * Customary and cultural boundary maps produced and validated with communities, linked to Area Council planning and relocation preparedness. * Guidelines developed for integrating customary boundary data into relocation SOPs and site planning frameworks. * Chiefs, councils of chiefs, and community leaders trained in displacement, relocation, and urban displacement risk management. * Mechanism established for addressing peri-urban customary land disputes and risks, with participation from local chiefs, urban planners, and government. * Good practice documentation on kastom-led dispute resolution and land mediation in peri-urban displacement contexts. | | |

**Action 16.11** (new)

Integrate respect for intangible cultural and spiritual safeguards into all stages of displacement and relocation by engaging traditional leaders, protecting sacred sites, and supporting cultural practices.

***Outcome*:** *Displacement and relocation processes respect and uphold affected communities' cultural and spiritual values, reinforcing dignity, community cohesion, and acceptance of durable solutions.*

**Implementation Framework**

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| Action/s | 16.11 | Timeframe | Years 1 – 5+ |
| Lead | VKS | **Support** | Malvatumauri, DLA, IOM |
| Outputs | * Cultural and spiritual risk assessments completed for all relocation operations. * Cultural Safeguards Checklists adopted and applied by relocation planners. * Sacred site protection protocols implemented in at least 10 sites. * Relocation ceremonies supported in all major displacement cases. * Cultural Advisory Groups active in priority provinces. * Cultural indicators integrated into displacement monitoring and evaluation frameworks. | | |