

# Relationship Education About Choices and Healing: REACH

## Gender and Protection Programming | WORLD VISION VANUATU

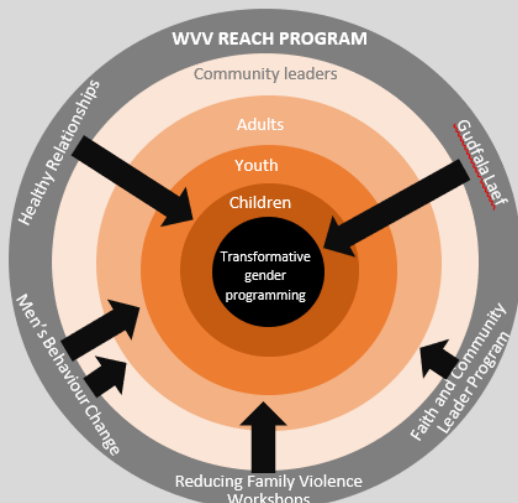
*World Vision Vanuatu's Gender and Protection programming builds on our six years of work among Vanuatu communities and the trust relationships we have developed over time with community members and leaders to positively transform gender norms and foster safer, more inclusive communities. Strategically working across multiple social levels and overlapping spheres of influence, World Vision's REACH Program integrates both primary and secondary prevention activities that equip participants to form healthy, respectful relationships free from violence. World Vision is supported by the government of Australia, and the people of New Zealand to implement the REACH Program across communities in Espiritu Santo, Efate and Tanna.*

### WORKING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

**The Faith and Community Leader Program** aims to develop their knowledge and understanding of gender, gender equality and gender-based violence and apply it to their work in the community. Using a faith-based approach and mixed delivery methods including workshops, mentoring and peer support groups, the Faith and Community Leader program develops the skills of leaders to model positive gender norms and relationships, promote gender equality and anti-violence messages in their communities.



The peer support group is a key element of the model, with faith and community leaders meeting every 6-8 weeks to encourage each other, discuss challenges and practice facilitation sessions on key topics. Teaching leaders how to assist community members who are facing violence and how to empower others to reduce their use of violence is an important focus.



### REACH'S INFLUENCE APPROACH

World Vision works with key stakeholder groups within the community, including children, youth, parents, faith leaders and community leaders. As their awareness and conviction develops, these community members in turn spread messages among their own spheres of influence, triggering grassroots, community-wide change.

## WORKING WITH ADULTS

**Reducing Family Violence Workshops** are a two-part series delivered to adult couples by WVV staff using a faith-based approach. The workshop gives participants tools to control emotions and behaviours as well as information about formal support services. Results from the first three years of this programming found that **71% of participants of this workshop stopped using violence** after completing the workshop series.

**Men's Behavioural Change** is a 10-week small group therapy program for men who use violence. Co-facilitated by WVV staff and faith leaders who have received specialist training in the approach, the program addresses attitudes and behaviours around abuse while creating opportunities for men to understand the impact of their violence on their partners and families. Initial results found the program has been highly effective in changing the attitudes of men.

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"My husband treated me and our children terribly. I was expected to do all the work around the house and he would beat me badly. Then after attending the workshop, a big change happened to him and to our home. He would cut the firewood, clean the house, and make food in the house. My husband even started telling the other young married men what he has learned from the World Vision workshop! Not once has he beaten me again or treated my children badly, so we feel much safer and happier around him."

- TOVOK, PARTICIPANT IN REDUCING FAMILY VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS

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## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS | *Respect Yourself, Respect Others*

Targeting young people 12-25 years at the pivotal period when they are engaging in their first intimate partner relationships, this program is comprised of four key modules to promote healthy relationships. The curriculum covers online safety, the characteristics of a healthy relationship, warning signs that a relationship is not healthy, complex emotions and how to manage them, consent and Vanuatu law, and how to identify support systems they can reach out to if they need help. WVV staff and trained WV youth facilitators co-facilitate the program, leveraging peer-to-peer learning. The delivery of the program is tailored to the needs of the cohort participating, with sessions after school for school groups, during working hours for unemployed youth, and integrated into existing training schedules for sports federations.

## A GOOD LIFE FOR ALL GIRLS AND BOYS *Gudfala Laef*

**Gudfala Laef** is a Sunday School curriculum developed to promote positive gender norms and healthy gender relationships between boys and girls aged 5-12 years. Each of the 17 lessons are based on simple biblical principles about equality between girls and boys (e.g. we are all created equal in the eyes of God), with complimentary *kastom* stories and activities to reinforce key learnings. Teachers are trained and supported by World Vision staff to deliver the program to their students in an age appropriate way, using an illustrated flip chart as a key teaching aid. Teachers have reported observing both attitudinal and behavioural changes about gender and disability as a result of the program.



"The boys share more with the girls, groups that would normally be made up of only one gender became more mixed and the girls who were usually reluctant to speak or participate in front of boys were more confident to get involved."

- AMANDA, FRESH WOTA ANGLICAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER