

# International Women's Day

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**Position:** Provincial Disaster Officer, Torba  
**Organisation:** National Disaster Management Office

## Background and Career Journey:

I began my career journey from a very humble place, serving as a youth volunteer with the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRC) Torba Branch, where I first discovered my deep passion for humanitarian work.

I pursued courses through the University of the South Pacific (USP), holding firmly to the belief that God would create a pathway if I remained faithful to the gifts, He had placed within me.

Though the beginning was challenging and filled with uncertainty, I chose to trust God's plan and timing over my fears. Each act of service strengthened my calling, as I witnessed how compassion and dedication could bring hope and even life-saving change to vulnerable communities.

*Slowly, the humanitarian field became more than volunteer work—it became my mission to serve, uplift, and protect lives.*

Through patience, focus, unwavering faith, and complete trust in God's perfect timing, my purpose was fulfilled as I stepped fully into a life dedicated to saving and changing lives on taking up the role of Provincial Disaster Officer through NDMO as an only woman officer in Torba from the other provinces.

## What inspired you to pursue this career path?

My inspiration to pursue this career path came from my early experiences as a youth volunteer with the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, where I saw firsthand the struggles faced by vulnerable communities.

Serving others opened my eyes to how even small acts of kindness and preparedness could save lives and restore hope.

I was deeply moved by the resilience of the people we assisted and felt a strong calling to be part of meaningful change.

My faith in God also played a major role, as I believed He planted this passion within me for a greater purpose.

The combination of compassion, education, and faith ultimately inspired me to fully commit to the humanitarian field.



## Were there any pivotal moments or experiences that significantly shaped your career?

One pivotal moment that significantly shaped my career was actively engaging in collaborative work through the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, where partnerships strengthened the impact of our humanitarian response. Working alongside community leaders, volunteers, and partner organizations taught me that collaboration is essential for sustainable change.

I was also deeply influenced by opportunities to lead and support advocacy initiatives that amplified the voices of vulnerable groups, especially in disaster preparedness and community resilience. Engaging with young people through structured youth programs showed me the power of youth engagement in driving positive social transformation.

Seeing young volunteers grow in confidence and leadership inspired me to invest more intentionally in mentoring and capacity building. These experiences in collaboration, advocacy, and youth empowerment became defining moments that shaped both my professional path and my commitment to humanitarian service.

## Leadership and Management:

As a Provincial Disaster Officer, I would describe my leadership style as proactive, coordinated, and community centered.

In my role, I prioritize preparedness, timely response, and clear communication during emergencies. I believe in leading from the front during crises while remaining calm and solution-focused under pressure.

Collaboration is central to my approach, as I work closely with government authorities, partners, community leaders, and volunteers to ensure an effective and unified response. I also place strong emphasis on capacity building, ensuring youth, women and people with disabilities are equipped with knowledge and skills to reduce disaster risks.

Above all, my leadership is guided by integrity, accountability, and faith, trusting God to grant wisdom and strength in every decision I make.

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## ***What are the key qualities that you believe are essential for effective leadership/teamwork?***

I believe effective leadership and teamwork require:

- strong communication, trust,
- mutual respect among all members.
- Clear and honest communication ensures that everyone understands their roles.
- Integrity and accountability are also essential- leaders must model the values they expect from their teams.
- Collaboration and inclusiveness strengthen teamwork by recognizing and valuing each person's contribution.
- Adaptability- key quality, particularly in the humanitarian field where situations can change rapidly.
- Compassion and a shared sense of purpose unite a team and drive them to work together effectively toward saving and improving lives.

## ***Can you share a challenging situation you faced as a leader/ team member and how you navigated it?***

One of the most challenging situations I faced as a woman officer leading the NDMO in my province was managing a major disaster response within a traditionally male-dominated environment while also fulfilling my responsibilities as a mother at home.

At times, my leadership decisions were questioned, and I felt the pressure to constantly prove my competence and resilience. Despite this, I remained focused on delivering results through clear coordination, firm decision-making, and inclusive teamwork.

By strengthening collaboration with partners and stakeholders I demonstrated that effective leadership is defined by action, not gender. Balancing professional demands and family responsibilities required strong time management, a supportive home environment, and unwavering determination.

Through faith, confidence, and perseverance, I turned those challenges into opportunities to break barriers and inspire other women to lead with courage and purpose.

## ***How do you foster a positive and productive work environment?***

I foster a positive and productive work environment by promoting open communication and mutual respect among all team members. In my role within the NDMO, I ensure that everyone clearly understands their responsibilities and feels valued for their contribution.

I encourage teamwork and collaboration with government agencies and partners to strengthen coordination and shared learning. Creating opportunities for capacity building and mentorship also helps staff grow in confidence and competence.

I lead by example, demonstrating integrity, accountability, and a calm attitude even in high-pressure situations. Above all, I cultivate an inclusive environment where trust, encouragement, and a shared sense of purpose motivate the team to perform at their best.

## **Achievements and Impact:**

Some of my proudest accomplishments in my career include coordinating emergency responses that saved lives through timely action and ensuring the fair and efficient distribution of relief to affected areas.

I take pride in leading successful search and rescue operations, both inland and at sea, where teamwork and quick decision-making made the difference between life and death.

Another milestone was ensuring that all area councils in my province became fully equipped and trained to manage Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs).

Seeing communities recover faster and become more self-reliant after disasters gives me a profound sense of purpose that through these achievements reflect my commitment, faith, and determination to serve and protect lives through effective, inclusive, and resilient humanitarian leadership.



*By empowering local leaders and volunteers, we strengthened disaster preparedness at the community level also taking the lead in implementing risk reduction initiatives, promoting strategies that build resilience across all sectors mentoring partners and stakeholders that worked closely with in disaster management practices that has been deeply rewarding, as it ensures continuity and sustainability of humanitarian efforts.*

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## ***How do you measure the success and impact of your work?***

I measure the success and impact of my work by the tangible improvements in community:

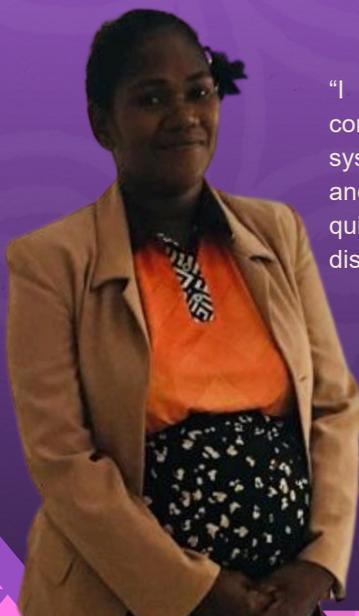
- Safety, preparedness, and resilience pre & post disasters.
- Timely and fair delivery of aid.
- Lives saved through coordinated emergency responses & search-and-rescue operations.
- Community engagement and empowerment.
- Assess the readiness and capability of area councils, Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).
- Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs) manage crises independently with confidence.
- Compassion and a shared sense of purpose unite a team and drive them to work together effectively toward saving and improving lives.

## ***What challenges have you faced as a woman in leadership, and how did you overcome them?***

As a woman in leadership, I have faced challenges such as skepticism of my capabilities, gender biases, and operating in traditionally male-dominated environments. At times, my decisions were questioned more critically, requiring me to consistently prove my competence through results and professionalism.

Balancing leadership responsibilities with my role as a mother added another layer of pressure, demanding strong time management and prioritization.

I overcame these challenges by remaining confident, focused, and leading by example, showing that effectiveness comes from action, not gender. Building strong networks, mentoring others, and fostering collaboration also helped me gain trust and support from colleagues, partners friends and families. Above all, faith, resilience, and persistence enabled me to turn challenges into opportunities to inspire other women and strengthen my leadership impact.



"I view success as a combination of strengthened systems, resilient communities, and the ability to respond quickly and effectively when disaster strikes."

## **Future Vision and Goals:**

### ***How do you foster a positive and productive work environment?***

I want to continue serving in the provinces while expanding my impact to national, regional, and even international disaster response efforts. I am committed to believing in my dreams and trusting that God will continue to open pathways as I pursue them.

I plan to never stop learning, gaining knowledge and skills that strengthen my capacity to lead and respond effectively in the humanitarian field. Advocacy in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) remains a core focus, as I aim to influence policies and practices that protect vulnerable communities.

I aspire to mentor and empower youth and women, fostering leadership that ensures sustainability in humanitarian work. Strengthening collaboration with partners at all levels is another priority to enhance efficiency and reach during emergencies. I want to implement innovative strategies that build resilient communities capable of facing disasters with preparedness and confidence.

Above all, I intend to serve with integrity, patience, and faith, trusting God's perfect timing in every step of my journey. Through perseverance and dedication, I hope to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the humanitarian sector both locally and globally

### ***What initiatives or changes would you like to see to further support women in leadership roles or in your field of work?***

I would like to see initiatives that provide targeted mentorship, training, and capacity-building programs for women in leadership, especially in disaster management and humanitarian work.

Encouraging women to take on more operational and field roles can break traditional barriers and demonstrate that leadership is not defined by gender. I strongly believe that if a man can put on a safety boot and lead during a response, women can do the same, because we are born to serve and excel in the passions God has placed within us. Policies that promote gender equality, inclusiveness, and representation at decision-making levels would create a stronger, more balanced workforce.

Opportunities for women to lead in high-stakes environments, such as emergency response or risk reduction programs, will empower confidence and inspire others. Above all, fostering a culture of support, encouragement, and recognition will ensure that women are celebrated for their contributions and fully equipped to lead with purpose and faith.