



# **NPO OUTREACH STRATEGY**

**May 2026**

**LEGAL DEPARTMENT**

## Background

The goal of the NPO outreach strategy is to strengthen trust, ensure compliance with FATF standards, mitigate the risk of ML/CTF and support the non-profit sector without restricting its activities. This outreach strategy outlines how VFSC engages with NPOs to raise awareness, strengthen compliance, and promote transparency. It also positions VFSC as both a regulator and partner, ensuring NPOs are empowered to operate responsibly while contributing to the fight against financial crime.

## Legal Basis

These approaches are issued under -

- Section 15A, 15AA, 15AB and 15AC of the Charitable Associations (Incorporation) Act [Cap 140], and
- Part 7 of the Foundations Act No. 38 of 2009

## Expected Outcomes

- Improved NPO compliance with AML/CTF laws.
- Stronger collaboration between VFSC, NPOs, and enforcement agencies.
- Reduced vulnerability of NPOs to financial crime and terrorist financing.
- Enhanced trust and credibility of Vanuatu's financial system internationally.

## Objectives

- **Raise Awareness:** Educate NPOs on AML/CTF risks and obligations.
- **Strengthen Compliance:** Support NPOs in implementing internal controls and reporting mechanisms.
- **Promote Transparency:** Ensure beneficial ownership and financial records are accurate and accessible.
- **Enhance Collaboration:** Build trust between VFSC, NPOs, and enforcement stakeholders.
- **Safeguard Integrity:** Reduce the risk of NPOs being exploited for illicit purposes.

### 1. Key Activities

#### 1. Stakeholder Mapping

- Identify all registered NPOs in Vanuatu.
- Categorize them by size, purpose, funding sources, and geographic reach.
- Highlight sub-sectors at higher risk (e.g., international aid groups, cash-heavy charities).

## **2. Training & Workshops**

- Regular sessions for NPO boards and members on AML/CTF requirements.
- Guidance on identifying and reporting suspicious transactions.
- Develop simple guidance notes explaining FATF requirements in plain language.
- Host workshops and webinars for NPO boards, members, staff, and volunteers.
- Share case studies of how NPOs can be misused, and how strong controls prevent abuse.
- Use of mobile registration and outreach in the communities

## **3. Information Sharing**

- Distribute compliance guidelines and updates.
- Establish secure channels for NPOs to communicate with VFSC and FIU.

## **4. Stakeholder Engagement**

- Joint meetings with law enforcement, Customs, and FIU to align strategies.
- Encourage partnerships between NPOs and government agencies.
- Collaborate with umbrella NPO associations, faith-based groups, and community leaders.
- Work with banks to ensure NPOs have access to safe, affordable financial services.
- Engage international donors to align compliance expectations.

## **5. Monitoring & Support**

- Provide templates for risk assessments and record-keeping.
- Conduct onsite compliance reviews and offer corrective guidance.

## **6. Public Awareness Campaigns**

- Promote transparency in fundraising and donor reporting.
- Highlight the importance of beneficial ownership disclosure.

## **7. Onsite Reviews**

- Under the law, the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) is mandated to conduct onsite inspections of NPOs. These inspections are an essential supervisory tool that foster understanding, cooperation, and transparency between VFSC and NPOs.
- Onsite visits provide an opportunity to raise awareness of AML/CTF obligations, assess compliance practices, and emphasize the importance of NPOs responding accurately to regulatory inquiries.
- The findings from onsite inspections are documented in formal reports, which may be used to support further AML/CTF investigations where risks or irregularities are identified.

- Through this process, VFSC strengthens oversight, promotes accountability, and ensures that NPOs operate in line with international standards while safeguarding Vanuatu’s financial system from misuse.

#### **8. Feedback & Continuous Improvement**

- Establish a consultation forum where NPOs can raise concerns about regulation.
- Conduct annual surveys to measure awareness and compliance progress.
- Adjust outreach based on feedback and evolving FATF guidance.

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