

SUCCESS STORY

From Survivor To Advocate

Amelia's Story of Empowerment



Amelia Somosomo Vota, a mother of six from Vanuakula Settlement, is a powerful example of how personal adversity can be transformed into a force for positive change. A survivor of domestic violence herself, her journey has not only reshaped her own life but has also fueled an unwavering commitment to helping others escape similar hardship.

Her path to advocacy began on a deeply personal level. She initially became a compassionate ear for women in her community, providing basic counseling and facilitating referrals for cases of gender-based violence and child abuse. This grassroots work was strengthened by her graduation in 2021 from the women's empowerment program run by Lifebread Stay Connected Foundation (Fiji). She then went on to complete a UN Women-sponsored training on Gender-Based Violence – Awareness and Prevention, which equipped her with the foundational skills to make a real difference.

Recognized for her dedication and leadership, Amelia was appointed Community Health Worker for her settlement in 2022, a direct result

of her participation in the Leadership and Community Volunteer program at Almanah Hope Centre. She has since cultivated a strong network of connections with local police, health, and social welfare departments, ensuring that vulnerable members of her community have a direct link to vital support services.

Today, Amelia holds the position of Counsellor Advocate at the Ba Women's Crisis Centre, a role she began in 2023. Her personal experience as a survivor deeply influences this work. To further professionalize her passion, she proactively enrolled in a two-year Diploma in Counseling at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Lautoka Centre, in 2022, a testament to her commitment to lifelong learning.

Amelia's story is a powerful testament to the impact of investing in women. Your support is not only helping women find their voice, but it is also creating community leaders who are transforming lives every day.



Amelia and her colleagues during Leadership training in 2020 at the Foundation's training centre – Almanah Hope Centre



Amelia and colleagues with the former Minister for Women, Children & Social Protection – Madam Mereseini Rakuita at the launching of NAP in 2021