

Celebrating Women in Education – International Women’s Day 2026

In celebration of International Women’s Day 2026, the Save the Children Australia (SCA) team in Tonga will be sharing the stories of inspiring women across the Ministry of Education and Training (MET), Save the Children Australia (SCA), and Non-Government Schools.

Through these stories, we celebrate and recognise the dedication, leadership, and contributions of women who continue to shape and strengthen the education sector in Tonga. Their journeys remind us that behind every successful program, policy, and classroom are women working with commitment, resilience, and heart to support the future of our children.

A Story of Leadership, Integrity, and Service

Mrs. Kalolaine Moeaki

Mrs. Kalolaine Moeaki’s journey into leadership began quietly through service. After graduating from university, she joined the Ministry of Education and Training as an Education Officer in the Policy and Planning Division. It was there that she first gained exposure to planning, budgeting, and development projects—experiences that opened her eyes to how careful financial management and strong planning shape real outcomes for schools and communities.



Recognizing the importance of these responsibilities, she later pursued further studies in Business Administration, strengthening her expertise in financial management and organizational leadership. Over time, her dedication, discipline, and deep understanding of accountability led her to take on greater responsibilities, eventually serving as Director of Finance and Projects.

In a role where every decision can affect schools, teachers, and students across Tonga, Mrs. Moeaki approaches her work with integrity and a strong sense of stewardship. She believes that public resources must always be managed

transparently and responsibly, and that trust is built when leaders can explain and stand behind every decision they make.

Like many leaders, her journey has not been without challenges. Managing diverse teams, enforcing accountability, and upholding policies can sometimes be difficult. Yet these experiences have strengthened her resilience and leadership. She believes that true leadership is not about making everyone agree, but about guiding people toward a shared purpose with fairness, patience, and consistency.

Her message of encouragement is simple but powerful:

“Stay committed to your values, work with integrity, and never be discouraged by challenges. Difficult moments are often the ones that shape the strongest leaders.”

Through her leadership, Mrs. Moeaki continues to demonstrate that behind every successful education system are leaders who quietly uphold accountability, professionalism, and service to the people of Tonga.