

Vanuatu

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

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Reporting period : 2009-2011

Last updated on : 6 Jul 2011

Print date : 06 Jul 2011

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/oceania/vut/>

Outcomes for 2007-2009

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Outcomes:

Strengthening the approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster management (DM) in Vanuatu continues to be an important cross-cutting development issue for government and development partners alike. Vanuatu has recognised that disasters can significantly compromise development progress, reduce the effectiveness of aid investments, and halt or slow progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Vanuatu Government has significantly increased the base level of budget funding for the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) in recent years. The government has also established a VT25m emergency operations budget which can be quickly drawn upon by the NDRMO to help respond to disaster.

In principle, approval has also been provided to increase the level of human resources within NDRMO. In keeping with broader government objectives on decentralization, and to better address the need for on-the ground coordination, the NDRMO has also taken positive steps to strengthen its presence at provincial level (e.g. establishment of two provincial disaster management offices and focal points in Malampa and Santo provinces, with two more planned in the pipeline). The provincial offices were established by utilizing Disaster and Emergency funds requested under the 1.5% contingency funding for response to the Ambrym volcano and Tonga earthquake. NDRMO has included a budget request for provincial Disaster Coordinators in its 2012 budget.

With respect to broader sector planning, both the Health and Education ministries have developed sector strategies for DRR-DM. Several other ministries (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, environment) are also implementing some small-scale activities which contribute to DRR (e.g. promoting use of fast growing local root crops in disaster settings, improving drainage in some flood prone areas, various climate change adaptation initiatives).

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Outcomes:

A proposed amendment to the government's National Disaster Act, (Nov 2000) was drafted in 2009, although it is yet to be approved by the Council of Ministers or passed by Parliament. The amendment aims to clarify institutional / governance arrangements, and establish the National Disaster Management Office (NDRMO) as a civilian authority with prescribed powers and responsibilities. The proposed organizational restructure is also intended to establish the NDRMO as an office of its own with sufficient personnel to support its operations.

The Vanuatu Government has fully funded the construction of a new purpose built building, which will host a National Emergency Operations Centre. The new building is bringing key agencies with functional responsibility for DRR-DM (i.e. NDRMO, Meteorology, Geo-hazards, and Climate Change Unit) under one roof, which is expected to significantly strengthen future coordination. The amalgamation of

Meteorology and Geo-hazards under a new department of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities has already become effective in September 2010. The NDRMO which is co-located, however, has remained under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Outcomes:

There is a very high level of awareness about DRR-DM issues across government – from national through to provincial level. This is a significant achievement and a strong testament to the work the NDRMO has done to raise the profile of DRR-DM issues since the Vanuatu National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Management (NAP) was first introduced.

Several NGOs and other key agencies have conducted numerous community awareness programs in Vanuatu. This support has helped a significant number of communities to establish their own disaster management plans and committees. Communities have also received practical support in areas such as identifying hazards, conducting disaster assessments, first aid training, water supply and sanitation (WASH), and emergency response drills.

Across government, there is evidence that some agencies (e.g. Health and Education) are beginning to use hazard assessments to inform their forward planning. For example, the Ministry of Health has identified the need to relocate Lolowai hospital in Ambae; the Ministry of Education has supported the relocation of a vulnerable school; and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities has identified some government buildings which are no longer safe for occupation.

The Vanuatu government has established a National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) which has helped Vanuatu successfully secure donor funding and implement a range of activities to address climate change related risks (e.g. conducting vulnerability assessments, implementing adaptation activities such as sea walls, introducing climate-resistant crops, developing community land-use plans, conducting community education programs.)

Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:

Recognize disaster risk management as a sustainable development issue and mainstream all-hazards risk management into all sectors and decision making processes at all levels of government, including national planning and budgetary processes.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:

Establish a strong governance framework for DRR and DM, with clear policies and legislation, accountable institutional and organizational arrangements and connections across and within levels of government, sectors and communities.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:

Empower communities through targeted capacity enhancement to reduce their risks to hazards and prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters; promote knowledge based decision-making, including traditional knowledge and know-how on disaster risk reduction and coping mechanisms in times of disasters.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Is DRR included in development plans and strategies? Yes
- * Yes: National development plan
- * Yes: Sector strategies and plans
- * Yes: Climate change policy and strategy
- * No: Poverty reduction strategy papers
- * Yes: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

Although some good progress has been made, major stumbling blocks around legislative reform, yet to be finalized institutional reforms, and ongoing capacity constraints contribute to the current rating.

DRR-DM had already been elevated during the last biennial reporting cycle as a national policy priority in the form of a Supplementary for Mainstreaming DRR and DM into the country's main national development framework – the Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA); however, it is not yet fully integrated. It is also not identified as an expressed priority of the current coalition government in the “Planning Long, Acting Short” policy document, which outlines the government's short-medium term policy priorities over the period 2009-2012. The PAA and “Planning Long, Acting Short” are currently undergoing revision and attempts to strengthen the visibility and emphasis on DRR-DM continue.

Vanuatu has a NAP which functions as the country's national level DRM planning tool which embodies the principles of the RFA and HFA. Overall, Vanuatu has made some progress against its NAP. Key achievements include a raised awareness of DRR-DM issues across all levels of government, progressive improvements in information systems, and moves to bring key government agencies responsible for DRR-DM under one roof.

Context & Constraints:

The absence of either dedicated human or financial resources to coordinate and progress DRR issues represents a major constraint. An early NAP implementation plan for Vanuatu identified the need for a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) to coordinate the efforts of national and international agencies involved in DRR-DM, however funding from either government or donors was never secured. Overall, review findings suggest that much more remains to be done to accelerate progress against the NAP. The most pressing challenge constitutes insufficient government and donor partner investment in

risk reduction measures, institutional and legislative constraints, limited progress on mainstreaming DRR-DM issues across all sectors, and poor coordination amongst the various actors engaged in DRR-DM.

The revised National Disaster Act (draft 2009) is yet to be passed. The main stumbling block appears to have been a lack of political support, although the new Minister has reportedly expressed renewed support in this area. Going forward, strong political leadership will be essential to help guide the legislative amendment through Parliament.

Perhaps the single greatest current challenge has been that the institutional and governance arrangements have not effectively supported the management of DRR-DM issues across government. The primary agencies responsible for DRR-DM (Meteorology, Geohazards and NDRMO) were all located under different Ministries and Departments, with differing lines of accountability and reporting responsibility which has created challenges in implementing a coordinated and seamless approach to DRR-DM.

The recent amalgamation of Meteorology and Geo-Hazards under a single new department within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities is a promising new development. The government has also taken very positive steps with its plan to co-locate all key agencies under one roof, including the NDRMO. The NDRMO, however, will remain under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Even so, there remains a need for greater clarity over the respective roles and responsibilities of agencies.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?
- * 0.16 % allocated from national budget
- * 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund
- * 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)
- * 0 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)
- * 0 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

The government has taken several positive steps to increase funding for disaster management, and there are some early signs of sector planning for DRR in two ministries (Health; Education). A first breakthrough has also been achieved with the Ministry of Finance & Economic Management and there is now evidence of broader mainstreaming of DRR-DM into macro-economic, fiscal or budget policy.

However, there are still no dedicated human resources to support mainstreaming of DRR across government and no specific budget allocations for disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities – either at national level or within line ministries – and DRR-DM is not currently considered in forward macro-economic projections.

In terms of financing for disaster management, there is a disaster management fund of VT25m which can be released post disaster. In addition to this, under the Public Finance and Economic Management (PFEM) Act of 1998, the Minister for Finance can sign an order approving supplementary budget funding of up to 1.5% of the national budget to respond to a state of emergency. In theory, this could enable the government to quickly mobilize additional budget resources in the event an emergency (and without having to seek Parliamentary approval). In practice, however, accessing funds can still take up to several months.

In the past six years the budget allocation for the National Disaster Management Office (NDRMO) has increased by over 200 percent from an allocation of around VT11 million in 2005 to VT 32 million in 2010 equivalent to only 0.16 percent of total Government budget expenditure. This is largely driven by the large increase, almost 100%, in the recurrent budget allocation received in 2010. This increase was the direct result of successful New Policy Proposals (NPP) drafted in 2009 following the attendance of NDRMO officials at NPP training given by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM).

In addition to the increased budget allocation for NDRMO, the Government of Vanuatu has been proactive in establishing a VT 25 million provision for natural disasters. This provision is managed by MFEM and can be released when necessary in the wake of an event. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to disaster management efforts, however, in the area of risk reduction little has been done. There is still a lack of awareness that DRR is actually separate from DM and required specific resources.

Context & Constraints:

In August 2007, a 3-year Provisional Indicative Implementation Program (PIP) 2008-2010 was adopted by the government as the means to implement the NAP. The Government committed VT 25 million (US \$220,887) towards the implementation subject to discussions with donors on supporting the full implementation of the PIP at a cost of approximately US \$3.3 million. For the emergency funds to be released, a formal request of the National Disaster Committee is required. However, the NDRMO reports that the 25m Vatu emergency budget has not yet been established.

In terms of broader mainstreaming, even where ministries have developed DRR-DM sector plans (e.g. health, education), budgets are not clearly defined and there are no dedicated human resources identified to support their implementation.

Opportunities

Although there is generally a high level of awareness about DRR-DM issues within government, overall investment in DRM is inadequate and DRM expenditure is not visible in annual budgets at the sectoral level. It is hoped that the new recurrent budget allocation will result in an improved focus on risk reduction efforts. This would help reduce the direct costs for reconstruction and recovery to the Government such as the VT 104 million that was appropriated in 2009 in response to several disasters.

Investing in risk reduction would also help reduce those losses which are larger and more difficult to measure and have greater impacts on development of the country such as the loss of employment or foregone tax revenue in terms of corporate tax, duty and VAT to be paid to the Government.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR? No
- * Yes: Legislation
- * No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

In keeping with broader government objectives on decentralization, and to better address the need for on-the ground coordination, the NDRMO has taken positive steps to strengthen its presence at provincial level (e.g. establishment of two provincial disaster management offices and focal points in Malampa and Santo provinces, with two more planned in the pipeline). The provincial offices were established by utilizing Disaster and Emergency funds requested under the 1.5% contingency funding for response to the Ambrym volcano and Tonga earthquake. There is, as yet, no ongoing budget allocation available to sustain their operations.

Several NGOs and other key agencies have also conducted numerous community awareness programs in Vanuatu. This support has helped many a significant number of communities to establish their own disaster management plans and committees. To date community disaster plans have been developed in Ambrym, Tanna, Shefa (Tongoa), Futuna, Maewo, Santo and Vanua Lava. Communities have also received practical support in areas such as identifying hazards, conducting disaster assessments, first aid training, water supply and sanitation (WASH), and emergency response drills.

Context & Constraints:

Although awareness of DRR issues within government is generally high, the NDRMO currently lacks the human resources to conduct routine training of government officers or to lead a national community awareness program. At present, the NDRMO's community awareness activities are largely opportunistic (i.e. conducted when on assessment missions), rather than a strategic national approach which targets the most vulnerable communities. Moreover, there are as yet no nationally endorsed guidelines for DRR.

The majority of community awareness programs are being undertaken by NGOs. Due to resource constraints, the NDRMO is currently unable to play a lead role in overseeing, prioritizing and coordinating the efforts of the many NGOs engaged in delivering community based programs. NGOs are also using a variety of different tools, systems and approaches, which has sometimes led to mixed messages on the ground. Concerns have also been raised over the sustainability of some of these activities (e.g. where community based DRR programs have been implemented as a one-off intervention with no follow up).

In terms of traditional knowledge, the Vanuatu Cultural Centre has collected information on traditional knowledge and community coping mechanisms in the event of a disaster, but this information is yet to be transcribed and incorporated into national guidance, policies and tools.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

* Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform? No

* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

According to the new Vanuatu National Disaster Reduction and Disaster Management Arrangements, the following organizational structure is foreseen:

A National Disaster Risk Management Council consists of the following members:

- Director General of Internal Affairs (Chair)
- Secretary of the Development Committee of Officials
- Director of Public Health
- Police Commissioner
- Director of Finance
- Director of Public Works
- Director Provincial Affairs
- Director Secretariat (NDRMO)

An NGO and Red Cross Coordination Group:

To ensure close collaboration and coordination with all Non-Government Organisations, and the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) will facilitate regular meetings with their respective representative.

DRR and DM National Working Groups:

The NDRMO can establish representative Working Groups as required to assist the process of implementing the national disaster risk management committee's NDRMC priorities for mitigation, preparedness, response, relief and recovery actions. The composition, terms of reference and reporting arrangements of such Working Groups will be determined by the NDRMO and representation may consist of a range of national stakeholders including government agencies, NGOs, private sector, provincial, island, area or community representatives.

A comprehensive multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRM bringing together key government departments and sectors, civil society, private sector and academia does not yet exist and is also not foreseen in the new national DRR/DM Arrangements.

Context & Constraints:

The main challenge is getting the various actors who are engaged in DRR-DM to work together, to get everyone focused on addressing the most pressing priorities, and to develop clear and adequately funded programs targeting risk reduction. To date, the urgent need to respond to the latest crisis or

threat has seen a diminished focus on addressing the full spectrum of actions that are needed across the DRR-DM continuum. In short, efforts by both donors and government are still largely disaster driven, with insufficient investment in up-front risk reduction measures.

There are currently around 37 regional partner agencies engaged in DRR-DM in the Pacific region, and this is without taking into account the significant number of government agencies, NGOs and other organisations engaged at national level. Getting all of the various actors to adopt a consistent and nationally led approach has proven difficult. The huge number of actors makes the task of coordination extremely challenging, which in turn puts significant pressure on national agencies responsible for DRR-DM, particularly the NDRMO. The absence of dedicated resources for DRR-DM at national level currently makes effective coordination almost impossible. Most regional and bilateral partners consulted during the review do not currently use the NAP as an entry point or anchor for their assistance.

Opportunities

In the medium term, establishing a national multi-stakeholder platform for DRR-DM may help to improve coordination and mainstreaming of DRR-DM amongst all key actors. Coordination should ideally be facilitated by one agency, perhaps with lead responsibility shared on a rotating basis. Such a coordination mechanism at national level, such as a National Platform for Disaster Risk Management, would facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation between NGOs and other key stakeholders engaged in DRR-DM activities.

There is an opportunity to simplify governance arrangements and move towards a multi-hazard approach to DRR-DM by joining the DRR-DM NAP and NAPA (NACCC) task forces. Such a move may help government and donors to make more informed and balanced decisions about the most pressing DRR priorities based on a holistic assessment of all hazards. It would also enable the DRR-DM NAP to benefit from the experience and successes already achieved under the Climate Change NAPA, and reduce duplication (especially given that the NAPA and NAP task forces are essentially comprised of the same people).

Priority for action 2

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions? No

* No: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

Some progress has been made in the area of hazard mapping and assessments (e.g. volcano hazard assessments in Gaua, Tanna, assistance with population mapping / vulnerability assessments), although more work is still needed in this area. There is also a need to move towards multi-hazard approaches, and to link hazard mapping with land use planning.

There is also some evidence that some government agencies and communities are now using this information to better inform their planning (e.g. Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities is reportedly using weather forecasts to schedule road works and routine maintenance, copra and kava growers are using forecasts to inform planting).

Work has begun to develop a Pacific Catastrophe Risk Financing mechanism, including a regional GIS based Pacific Exposure Database. This initiative is expected to provide better information for vulnerability assessments, strengthen links with development partner financing, and improve risk sharing between public-private entities (with the aim of improving timely access to disaster funding and insurance). This is a World Bank initiative, which is being implemented in collaboration with Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), AIR Worldwide, Secretariat of the Pacific Community Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC), GNS New Zealand, Pacific Disaster Centre, and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Context & Constraints:

There is a need to review the information systems currently used in Vanuatu with a view to identifying

critical gaps in information (e.g. high priority hazard assessments) and to joining up / better integrating the information that is available. There is also a need to identify opportunities to better use available information to support forward planning across sectors.

Bringing together the task forces for climate change and DRR-DM may help to strengthen coordination and the adoption of a multi-hazard approach to reducing vulnerability.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

- * Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed? Yes
- * Yes: Disaster loss database
- * No: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

Vanuatu has made good progress to improve its information systems. Meteorology has strengthened its capacity to monitor a range of meteorological and other hazards, including:

improved monitoring of rain fall through the installation of 28 rain gauges throughout the country (this helps with monitoring and predictions of drought, flood, and potential landslide risks).

Better monitoring of the impacts of climate change and sea level rise (e.g. through the installation of tide gauges, measurement of sea temperatures etc). The following initiatives contributed to this progress: The South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project and Pacific Islands Climate Change Prediction project (PICCP), with support from the Australian BOM. Achievements include the establishment of ENSO alert system (which informs industry, government agencies, academia and the public about the onset and status of La Niña and El Niño). Technical support is also being provided by the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand).

Geo-hazards are progressively strengthening monitoring of seismic and volcanic threats:

Vanuatu now has real time monitoring of earthquakes and tsunami threats, and has established relationship with key international scientific agencies (e.g. Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, GFZ, JMA, US National Weather Service).

Permanent seismic monitoring stations have been established for three volcanoes, with temporary seismic stations established in Gaua and Ambae.

There are plans to move towards real time monitoring of major volcanic threats (with donor support).

Meteorology and Geo-hazards have both established web sites to help inform the public about threats.

An historical database of disaster events and losses has been developed on a pilot basis (DESINVENTAR), with training provided in its use. This database, which captures data on past disasters, aims to help Vanuatu better plan for and respond to future disasters. Further updates of the database has been identified a priority,

All of these improvements to information systems are helping the Vanuatu government to better monitor

hazards, inform the public and help communities better prepare for disasters.

Context & Constraints:

Vanuatu is currently facing an increased threat from volcanic hazards with no real time volcano monitoring and only limited time series data on historic volcano behaviour. Although significant progress has been made to strengthen Vanuatu's DRR-DM information and systems, integration of these systems remains a major challenge. Many of the systems have been developed with support from a number of different technical agencies and donors. This has resulted in a patch work of different systems which are not always well integrated at national level (e.g. different GIS systems / information being developed with support from a wide a range external technical agencies, but information is not well integrated at national level). Intra-government coordination is also a challenge (e.g. the Vanuatu government's GIS is managed by the Ministry of Lands, but it is reportedly difficult for other government agencies to access / share information). The NAP proposes establishing a GIS user group (intended to help address some of these issues), but this is yet to be established.

Sustainability of some information systems has also been identified as a challenge (e.g. significant effort and investment has been made to establish DESINVENTAR, but the data is yet to be used to inform planning and there are currently no dedicated human resources available at national level to keep the database up to date). A dedicated information and data officer has been included in NDRMO's revised staffing structure for 2012, and updating the DESINVENTAR will be an important priority for the coming year.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?
Yes

* Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively

* Yes: Local level preparedness

* No: Communication systems and protocols

* No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

Vanuatu has made good progress to strengthen its early warning capacity. Meteorology has strengthened its capacity to inform the public on a range of meteorological and other hazards, including:
provision of seven day weather forecasts
provision of tropical cyclone predictions, with three day outlook (recent improvements at national level mean that Vanuatu is no longer reliant on forecasts from Fiji).
Improved seasonal forecasting (i.e. predication of La Nina and El Nino events).

Meteorology is also working with Digicel to formalize arrangements to distribute timely SMS warnings for

sudden onset events, such as tsunamis. SMS and radio warnings were broadcast for the last two tsunami warnings (in late 2009 and early 2010). Further work is planned to improve timeliness and accuracy of these warnings.

As regards Tsunami Early Warning, a national technical team was established to prepare a tsunami hazard map of Port Vila. The team comprises of geo-hazards, Port Vila municipality and the department of lands and survey. Baseline information on updated vector data is to be provided as input into hazard map. Since the lands department cannot share the information, it will take on the responsibility to create the hazard maps which will indicate areas that are high and low risk. However, at this time there are no standards in place yet for producing tsunami hazard maps to determine danger zones. Work is ongoing to look at topography and existing studies to determine inundation level to identify the risk. This will be the basis to develop evacuation maps and public awareness.

All of these improvements are helping the Vanuatu government to better inform the public and help communities better prepare for disasters.

Context & Constraints:

Vanuatu is currently facing an increased threat from volcanic hazards. The absence of real time volcano monitoring and limited time series data on historic volcano behaviour, limits the ability of Geo-hazards to provide timely and accurate warnings (e.g. the absence of real time and historical time series data on the Gaua volcano makes it much more difficult to predict when it would be prudent to move to a full-scale evacuation).

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

- * Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects? Yes
- * Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

Vanuatu is exposed to a range of hazards that present trans-boundary risks, i.e. tropical cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, climate change, and pandemics. The need for regional cooperation is consequently widely acknowledged. Cooperation includes the collection, sharing and analysis of data for hazard and risk assessments which provides key inputs for determining suitable risk reduction options, including early warning.

Vanuatu has ongoing cooperation dealing with trans-boundary hazards and risks:

- For Cyclones: linkages with the RSMC Nadi Regional Tropical Cyclone Centre.
- For Earthquakes: linkages with the Global seismic network.
- For Tsunami: linkages with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre and participation in the Pacific Tsunami Capacity Assessment implemented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and SOPAC which identified the need to develop Tsunami Risk Maps, evacuation policy and plans, and to establish a Tsunami early warning system in a regional approach.
- For Climate change: linkages with regional monitoring efforts supported by SPREP, SPC, WWF.
- For Volcanoes: Member of the Melanesian Volcanological Network which established a tripartite relationship for the sharing of skills and resources for the preparedness and response to volcanoes. Vanuatu received support in 2009 from PNG when an expert from the Rabaul Volcano Observatory was made available to assist with the monitoring of the Ambae volcano.
- For Pandemic: agreement between SPC and WHO.

The above partnerships and collaboration are backed by a range of regional strategic frameworks and information exchange mechanisms, such as:

- The Pacific Plan and Kalibobo Road Map
- The Pacific Regional DM and DRR Framework of Action 2005 – 2015
- The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2005 – 2015
- Pacific Health and Disability Action Plan (2002)
- Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF) 2009-2015.

Vanuatu is also partner to a number of regional DRM initiatives, such as:

- The Pacific Risk Exposure Databases which is implemented by SOPAC, GNS New Zealand and the Pacific Disaster Centre with funding support from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. There is a need to compare the risks posed by each hazard in a standardized manner using potential impacts such as cost and casualties.
- The Pacific Humanitarian Team and Regional Cluster approach which is currently being interfaced with the national institutional arrangements for response and preparedness in Vanuatu. The 2009 National Contingency Planning workshop was instrumental in moving this ahead.
- The AusAID NAP Facility which provides regional support administered through SOPAC to assist national implementation of the HFA and the Pacific Regional Framework for Action 2005-2015 through National Action Plans and priorities initiatives.
- The Pacific regional review of progress in implementing the HFA, the Regional DRM Framework for Action and the National Action Plans or DRM. The progress review process is technically assisted by UNISDR and SOPAC and financially assisted SOPAC in collaborative approach.

Context & Constraints:

Regional programmes and information exchange mechanisms provide for excellent opportunities and increase efficiency, especially in highly technical and specialized areas such as weather forecasting. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to fully replicate at national level in small island countries with limited capacities such as Vanuatu.

While regional initiatives uncover new initiatives and needs, they often do not build in sufficient follow up measures and technical assistance to ensure the long-term sustainability of what they initiate. For small and often under-resourced NDRMOs such as that in Vanuatu, it is a considerable challenge to provide the necessary in-country support to take full advantage of what is offered from these regional programmes.

A related concern has been the weak coordination of regional initiatives at national level resulting in high demands on staff.

Priority for action 3

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes

* Yes: Web page of national disaster information system

* Yes: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

Meteorology and Geo-hazards have both established web sites to help inform the public about threats.

NDRMO is available to answer queries from the public in Port Vila. Information on how to contact NDRMO is provided in the public phone book. At the provincial level, the two Provincial Disaster Offices established in Malampa and Santo, provide information services to the local population.

Existing public information materials and preparedness brochures for all main hazard, i.e. cyclones, earthquake, tsunami, volcano have recently been revised by NDRMO and are used and disseminated by civil society organizations through their community level programmes.

Context & Constraints:

The public information system is still operating only during office hours. There is no dedicated 24hrs/7 information service established with a dedicated staff.

A major concern raised by many stakeholders had been the lack of a common understanding of disaster and hazard related terminologies. This has led to inconsistencies in messaging when awareness materials were adapted by stakeholders. The NDRMO addressed this issue by holding a workshop in October 2010 that brought all relevant stakeholders together to work towards the standardization of terminologies for public awareness and information and a common understanding.

The co-location of NDRMO with Meteorology and Geo-hazards provides an opportunity to develop joint web-pages. There is also a discussion that national web-sites will be established for the NDRMOs, including Vanuatu, on PDN.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

* Yes: Primary school curriculum

* No: Secondary school curriculum

* No: University curriculum

* Yes: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

The Ministry of Education has successfully updated the education curriculum to incorporate emerging DRR-DM issues (e.g. what to do in the event of a tsunami, cyclone, and volcanic eruption). The new curriculum will be progressively rolled out over the coming years, starting with students aged 11-13. There are also plans to introduce safety drills as part of the curriculum.

NDRMO has successfully incorporated DRR training in the Public Service Commission's annual training schedule. This will help to further improve the level of awareness of DRR-DM issues within government.

NDRMO has conducted some limited training of officers with responsibility for DRR issues (e.g. line agency and provincial focal points for DRM).

Vanuatu has also benefited significantly from training provided by a number of technical agencies including SOPAC and the Red Cross.

Context & Constraints:

NDRMO currently does not have a Training Officer who can conduct relevant training programs across government or at community level (this position is proposed as part of the yet to be approved NDRMO restructure).

Insufficient technical staff (e.g. planners, people with training in humanitarian response) also represents a significant challenge. The NDRMO currently relies heavily on the Vanuatu Police Mobile Force as stipulated in the current disaster management act. While police officers are trained in logistics / command and control operations, they don't necessarily have relevant skills and training in running a civilian humanitarian operation.

Most officers engaged in DRR work within government currently have to wear many hats, which makes the task of implementing DRR initiatives very difficult. Especially the provincial level focal points in Malampa and Santo are affected.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Means of verification:

- * Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? No
- * Yes: Research outputs, products or studies
- * No: Research programmes and projects
- * No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

There is currently no comprehensive applied research programme with a focus on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction in place for Vanuatu. However, a number of stand-alone scientific and technical studies on a variety of DRM and climate change related issues have been carried out, such as for example (list is not exhaustive):

- Louise Munk Klint, Min Jian, Emma Wong, Terry de Lacy: The Climate Change Adaptation Policy Analysis for the Republic of Vanuatu; Pacific Tourism Climate Adaptation Project; Centre of Tourism and Services Research, Victoria University, September 2010.
- ADB: Drainage Risk Assessment in Port Vila which identified water protection zones, drainage hotspots, environmentally sensitive features, marine coastal features, and proposes coastal water quality monitoring sites.

Context & Constraints:

A number of opportunities have arisen for moving ahead in the area of assessing the economic costs and benefits of DRR in Vanuatu. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) requested the support from SOPAC to strengthen their ability to assess the economic impacts of disasters. This request followed on from a presentation on this subject to the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in October 2009. A workshop was held on the 14th and 15th December 2010 with participants from MFEM, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and the Vanuatu NAP Task Force. The Workshop provided an overview of the economic impact of disasters, and resulted in the identification of a strategies and concrete actions towards mainstreaming DRM in national macroeconomic and fiscal policy and budgetary processes in Vanuatu.

Also, a regional training course on economic impact assessment was held in March 2011 in Vanuatu for 8 Pacific island countries, including the Government of Vanuatu. The pilot training was organized jointly by UNISDR, SOPAC/SPC, ESCAP, ECLAC and the WB combining the prevalent methodologies currently in use. The workshop resulted in an improved understanding of the importance and key steps of economic impacts assessments.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities? Yes

- * Yes: Public education campaigns.
- * Yes: Training of local government
- * Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

There is a very high level of awareness about DRR-DM issues across government – from national through to provincial level. This is significant achievement and a strong testament to the work the NDRMO has done to raise the profile of DRR-DM issues since the NAP was first introduced.

In terms of community awareness and participation, the Vanuatu government (NDRMO, Meteorology, Geo-hazards) have:

- conducted successful annual National Disaster Awareness Week events
- conducted numerous education and awareness programs at provincial level
- distributed information and education materials on key issues to all provinces (e.g. over 1200 brochures on what to do in the event of a tsunami, earthquake or cyclone were distributed in three languages)
- conducted radio broadcasts to try and educate the community about new threats, such as tsunamis.

Anecdotally, there is evidence that this has raised community awareness and led to modified behaviour (e.g. more people moving to high ground when a tsunami alert is issued).

Several NGOs and other key agencies have also conducted numerous community awareness programs in Vanuatu. This support has helped many a significant number of communities to establish their own disaster management plans and committees. To date community disaster plans have been developed in Ambrym, Tanna, Shefa (Tongoa), Futuna, Maewo, Santo and Vanua Lava. Communities have also received practical support in areas such as identifying hazards, conducting disaster assessments, first aid training, water supply and sanitation (WASH), and emergency response drills.

Context & Constraints:

Although awareness of DRR issues within government is generally high, the NDRMO currently lacks the human resources to conduct routine training of government officers or to lead a national community awareness program. At present, the NDRMO's community awareness activities are largely opportunistic (i.e. conducted when on assessment missions), rather than a strategic national approach which targets the most vulnerable communities. Moreover, there are as yet no nationally endorsed guidelines for DRR.

The majority of community awareness programs are being undertaken by NGOs. Due to resource constraints, the NDRMO is currently unable to play a lead role in overseeing, prioritizing and coordinating the efforts of the many NGOs engaged in delivering community based programs. NGOs are also using a variety of different tools, systems and approaches, which has sometimes led to mixed messages on the ground. Concerns have also been raised over the sustainability of some of these activities (e.g. where community based DRR programs have been implemented as a one-off intervention with no follow up).

In terms of traditional knowledge, the Vanuatu Cultural Centre has collected information on traditional knowledge and community coping mechanisms in the event of a disaster, but this information is yet to be transcribed and incorporated into national guidance, policies and tools.

Priority for action 4

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) No
- * Yes: Protected areas legislation
- * No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- * No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- * Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- * Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

The Vanuatu government has established a National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) which has helped Vanuatu successfully secure donor funding and implement a range of activities to address climate change related risks (e.g. conducting vulnerability assessments, implementing adaptation activities such as sea walls, introducing climate-resistant crops, developing community land-use plans, conducting community education programs.)

The Government is considering plans for the integration of the implementation programmes under its NAP for DRM with those for both the Vanuatu National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and the Climate Change Policy. The integration of the major national DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) policies and plans would ensure a more coherent and coordinated approach to dealing with issues of natural hazard risk within Vanuatu.

The Environmental Management and Conservation Act 2002 of Vanuatu provides for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to be undertaken for all development activities that impact or are likely to impact on the environment of Vanuatu. At the moment Risk assessment is not yet incorporated into EIA. However, the government is planning to do so in its legislation in order to further harmonize development planning.

Vanuatu does have in place legislation on protected areas, ecosystem and coastal zone management. These, however, are not fully implemented due to the country's complex land tenure system.

Context & Constraints:

The report card is mixed in terms of broader sector regulatory and planning processes for DRR. Some good work has been done in the area of hazard assessment, although assessments are typically hazard

specific (rather than multi-hazard), and it is not clear to what extent this information is being used to systematically inform land use planning at provincial and community level. Moreover, enforcement of issues such as building and planning codes remains a major challenge (e.g. Building Code has been in draft form for 10 years). Due to resource constraints, NDRMO engagement with the private sector in this area is also very limited.

DRR-DM activities in other sectors (e.g. infrastructure) are largely incidental, and are not guided by an overarching DRR-DM strategy or clearly linked to the NAP. Some DRR related activities are, however, linked to the government's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) for climate change.

Even when there is good information, there are not always sufficient budget resources to address identified problems (e.g. condemned buildings still being occupied by some government departments).

Bringing together the task forces for climate change and DRR-DM may help to strengthen coordination and the adoption of a multi-hazard approach to reducing vulnerability. In the medium term, establishing a national multi-stakeholder platform for DRR-DM may help to improve coordination and mainstreaming of DRR-DM amongst all key actors.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Means of verification:

- * Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? No
- * No: Crop and property insurance
- * No: Employment guarantee schemes
- * No: Conditional cash transfers
- * No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes
- * Yes: Microfinance
- * No: Micro insurance

Description:

Institutions such as Credit Corp, Vanwoods and National Bank of Vanuatu (NBV), have been offering micro-finance products since 2001.

Property insurance is available for domestic and commercial properties. This is most prominent in the developed urban areas. There is little taking up of insurance in the rural areas, largely because insurance providers do not operate in the rural areas and there is no crop insurance available as it is viewed as high risk investment.

Context & Constraints:

The biggest challenge is created by the geography of Vanuatu itself. Currently, the micro finance provision is largely focused in and around Port Vila, the main economic hub of Vanuatu. The National Bank of Vanuatu and Vanwoods are the only institutions which offer micro finance opportunities outside Efate but this provision is still limited.

Micro finance providers (with the exception of NBV as it is a registered bank) are currently unregulated and as a result have no reporting obligations. This makes it difficult to establish an accurate picture of the size of the market and whether it is operating successfully. It would seem sensible for a reporting body such as the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu to be appointed.

There is no micro insurance, employment guarantee scheme, conditional cash transfer, or DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy or programmes on offer in Vanuatu at present.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? Yes
- * Yes: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.
- * No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

Most public investments are funded by donor supported programmes which require that at least seismic and cyclone standards are met for buildings and other infrastructure.

Context & Constraints:

The largest share of public investment is paid for by donor supported programmes, whilst the government covers recurrent/operational costs only. Hence government does apply standards for hazard resilient investments, albeit, the current situation does not yet demonstrate a systematic policy and institutional commitment.

Challenges arise with ensuring adequate maintenance to keep assets and investments in good condition. Resources are not sufficiently allocated for maintenance. There is limited capacity - human and financial - to meaningfully incorporate DRR principles even where they are mainstreamed into some of the sector plans. In general, the rate of policy implementation is hampered across the board reflecting existing challenges in the public sector performance management. This also applies to DRR-DM even though it is acknowledged a national priority.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes
- * Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- * No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- * No: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- * No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

Enforcement of building and planning codes remains a major challenge (e.g. Building Code has been in draft form for 10 years). Due to resource constraints, NDRMO engagement with the private sector in this area is also very limited. Recent developments indicated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources are looking to review the document to make it more practical and enforceable within existing capacity.

Investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements is not systematic, albeit the Port Vila Urban Development Masterplan touches on this in regards to improved drainage for the most flood-prone areas (recommended 6 locations). Also AusAID infrastructure projects are climate proofing investments for increased resilience to climate change.

While much work has been carried out in recent years under the Vanuatu Short Term Land Reform Initiative with zoning and development control documents for Luganville and Port Vila completed, they remain to be gazetted and tried on the ground.

Context & Constraints:

Urban risk assessments are not conducted at this time although it is anticipated that this will be raised in the proposed Vanuatu urban profiling exercise which will be supported by CLGF in 2011 utilising UN-HABITAT rapid urban sector profiling tools.

More concerted efforts could be made in initiating more frequent consultations between national steering committees to capture windows of opportunity in programmes and projects such as the preparatory phase of the Port Vila Urban Development Masterplan project (ADB) and the Cities and Climate Change Initiative in Port Vila (UN-HABITAT).

A stronger emphasis on the inclusion of “local councils and urban communities” would benefit the mainstreaming of DRR in the urban sector.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Means of verification:

- * Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR? No

* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

The Vanuatu Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Arrangements recognize the need to take into account risk reduction considerations when recovery and reconstruction priorities are identified. A National Recovery Committee (NRC) is responsible for the disaster recovery process. The Disaster Recovery Committee plans for, coordinates and monitors all disaster recovery activities working closely with NGO's and other support agencies. Its core functions include:

- Develop a recovery program including estimated timeframes and costs.
- Identify immediate recovery activities, including medium and long-term recovery activities.
- Coordinate the development of various recovery plans and processes.
- Document recovery programs based on social services of the Government.
- Formulate donor submissions for long-term recovery and reconstruction.
- Conduct donor meetings.
- Liaise with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management.
- Advise NDRMC of progress on recovery.

Context & Constraints:

Although Vanuatu experienced frequent disasters and emergencies during the reporting period, none of these resulted in major recovery operations necessitating the drafting of comprehensive recovery plans. Hence there is no recent account of implementing the national policy and institutional arrangements for recovery as well as the integration of risk reduction considerations into these. Overall capacity constrains in terms of human and financial resources for disaster risk management at national and local level, suggest the need for dedicated capacity building and technical assistance for risk sensitive recovery.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed? -- not complete --

* No: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

According to Vanuatu's National Disaster Risk Management Arrangements, all national development programmes and projects are subject to the formal risk management process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation, and that appropriate risk treatments be applied to the evaluated risks to ensure that identified risks are either eliminated (prevented) or reduced (mitigated) as far as is practicable. The National Disaster Risk Management Council will be responsible for providing policy

advice and guidance to the responsible Minister on all matters relating to disaster risk reduction. This shall be achieved through the development and maintenance of a National Risk Reduction Plan based on the identification, analysis and evaluation of underlying risks to national development and vulnerabilities within Vanuatu. The plan should identify and monitor priorities for disaster risk reduction and allocate specific responsibilities to key agencies for the implementation of mitigation programmes consistent with national policies and priorities endorsed by the National Disaster Risk Management Council and approved by the Council of Ministers. The risk reduction planning process will take note of the need for:

- Reducing the underlying risks to the Priorities and Action Agenda (2006 – 2015).
- Incorporating the key actions contained in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management National Action Plan (2006 – 2016) and the designated responsible agencies taking appropriate actions to ensure their successful implementation.
- Adopting appropriate adaptation measures to deal with the emerging risks associated with Climate Change and Climate Variability.
- Applying available regional risk management decision-making tools such as Comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management (CHARM).
- Embracing and applying as appropriate modern technologies such as GIS, satellite sensing and photography.

Environmental impact assessment procedures stipulate for geological hazards to be assessed on all development work prior to approval, particularly if it were to alter significantly the environment such as coastal dynamics and pollution of water resources.

Context & Constraints:

The implementation of the national disaster risk reduction policy as stipulated in Vanuatu's National DRR and DM Arrangements is yet to start in view of technical, human and financial resource constraints. Major development projects such as major roads, mining, and tourist developments are not yet systematically subject to risk assessments, albeit may occur in the case of selected bilateral assistance for such developments.

Priority for action 5

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Means of verification:

* Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? No

* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* Yes: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

The Vanuatu Government has fully funded the construction of a new purpose built building, which will include a new National Emergency Operations Centre (scheduled for completion in July 2010). The new building will bring key agencies with functional responsibility for DRR-DM (i.e. NDRMO, Meteorology, Geo-hazards, and Climate Change Unit) under one roof, which is expected to significantly strengthen future coordination.

The National Emergency Operations Centre currently operates for only 18 hours a day, which has led to difficulties in issuing warnings for sudden onset disasters. There is a desire to move to 24-7 operations once a proper NEOC is available, however this will require commitment of additional budget and human resources.

The NDRMO plans to extend its reach through the establishment of provincial disaster management offices. The NDRMO is also planning to develop disaster management plans for high risk areas including Tanna, Ambae, Torba and Ambrym in its forward program.

Context & Constraints:

Although the situation is improving (e.g. establishment of disaster management offices in two provinces, expanded mobile network coverage), coordination and communications between the NDRMO in Port Vila and provinces generally remain weak. Establishing vital two-way information flows in the event of an emergency is also difficult due to the limited communication infrastructure in country. The NDRMO has requested additional budget funding to help strengthen communications and emergency response (e.g. to purchase portable Very High Frequency radios).

Poor infrastructure on many of the outer islands (roads, ports, electricity) and the geography of Vanuatu (i.e. many islands spread over thousands of square kilometres of ocean) mean that logistics are also a major challenge (i.e. moving goods and people in the event of an emergency).

There is an opportunity to strengthen the use of practical tools, such as maps. For example, in discussing the Gaua evacuation plan, the Director NDRMO suggested that a simple map which shows proposed relocation areas and links to existing infrastructure such as roads would be a welcome addition to the lengthy and complex assessment reports which are currently produced. Such maps would serve

as a useful visual aid to influence national level decision makers and help communicate plans to affected communities.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes
- * No: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities
- * Yes: Operations and communications centre
- * No: Search and rescue teams
- * No: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- * No: Shelters
- * No: Secure medical facilities
- * No: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

A national disaster management plan and provincial disaster management plans for two provinces (Shefa and Sanma) have been developed. The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health have also developed disaster management plans (although the Health department noted that their plan, which was developed in 2003, needs to be reviewed).

In Gaua, an Emergency Operations Centre has been established to respond to the volcanic threat. An Interagency Assessment (led by NDRMO, coordinated by UNOCHA, and with support from many other agencies including the Red Cross, NGOs, and key government line ministries) was completed in early 2010. The assessment's multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approach was highlighted as being very successful. Key agencies also worked together to support the successful evacuation of communities from the western to the eastern side of the island. Contingency planning for a possible full evacuation of the island has also been completed, including registration of the population and assets, identification of possible relocation sites etc. The NDRMO reports that cooperation amongst key agencies has been good. The cluster approach was also highlighted as being effective, although could be further strengthened by ensuring it takes account of local capacity and dovetails with national systems. Donor and NGO support for food and non food aid items has also been welcomed.

In terms of stockpiles, the Red Cross has also pre-positioned emergency (non food aid) supplies for up to 50 households in each province.

In terms of broader donor support for disaster management, the FRANZ alliance (France, Australia, and

New Zealand) was highlighted as a good example of donors effectively collaborating to help Vanuatu respond to disasters.

Context & Constraints:

In terms of preparedness, the NDRMO is currently too busy responding to actual emergencies to conduct regular simulation exercises or emergency drills. There is also no national stockpile of essential supplies which could be drawn on in the event of a major emergency. The NDRMO must source any required items (e.g. water containers, tanks) from commercial hardware stores.

The government is yet to engage with the business and tourism sector on disaster and contingency planning. The Vanuatu Hotels and Resorts Association (VHRA) has formally written to the government in relation to tsunami warnings, but is yet to receive an official response. VHRA members have a keen interest in improving tsunami warnings given that many hotels are located along coastal areas. According to the VHRA, some hotels have developed their own individual emergency plans, but there is not a unified industry-wide approach. The VHRA noted that tourism accounts for up to 40% of local employment, with the tourism sector being one of the most important contributors to economic growth.

The NDRMO has identified stronger collaboration with the private sector as a way to help overcome some logistics difficulties.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes
- * Yes: National contingency funds
- * No: Catastrophe insurance facilities
- * No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

In terms of financing for disaster management, under the Public Finance and Economic Management (PFEM) Act of 1998, the Minister for Finance can sign an order approving supplementary budget funding of up to a maximum 1.5% of the national budget to respond to a state of emergency. However, this 1.5% is the total amount available for any supplementary expenditure in country, not just for disaster purposes.

In addition to the budget allocation for NDRMO, the Government of Vanuatu has been proactive in establishing a VT 25 million provision for natural disasters. This provision is managed by MFEM and can be released when necessary in the wake of an event. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to disaster management efforts.

Context & Constraints:

In theory, ex-ante provisions under the PFEM Act enable the government to quickly mobilize additional

budget resources in the event an emergency (this requires approval from the NDC, but not from Parliament). In practice, however, accessing funds can still take up to several months.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Means of verification:

- * Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? -- not complete --
- * No: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- * Yes: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- * No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- * No: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

Initial damage and needs assessments are conducted as soon as practicable following the impact of a disaster. Assessments are carried out using an agreed standard reporting process by trained personnel. The results are passed on to the NEOC as soon as possible to assist decision-making by the NDC and CCG. The Initial Damage Assessment provides the following information:

- Number of fatalities.
- Number of injuries including urgent and non-urgent.
- Number of missing persons.
- Number made homeless.
- Number of houses destroyed and damaged in categories.
- Damage to other buildings and infrastructure.
- General situation and any major problems/damage.
- Action taken.
- Transport routes open or closed.
- Resources required and;
- Name and contact of person in charge.

Provincial and Community representatives provide assistance to the Damage and Needs Assessment Team as and when required or able. These assessment teams conduct either aerial and/or ground assessments based on the level and scale of damage, and the time they have available to perform the tasks. Local representatives can assist with accurate information and basic assessment of initial relief and recovery needs.

Context & Constraints:

The 2009 experience of Ambrym volcanic response activities showed delays in data processing and reporting (resources) of initial rapid assessment, thus requiring further capacity building in this aspect in order to respond the needs rapidly and also to access to the fund available in a timely manner.

Training is required for multi sector rapid assessment. An assessment reporting format has been developed, and shared with the Provincial government for their future use. These formats need to be shared more widely accompanied by training. Initial information gathering needs to be supported by the community which also needs to be well trained for providing quality information.

Improvements are also required as regards the Information flow from the Community and Provinces to the National level. There is currently limited communication between government and non-government actors.

The Ministry of Land holds much useful baseline information including location of schools, health clinics, roads, wharfs, maps, population data etc. Sector specific information such as WASH facilities in the villages is also available. However, this information is not fully utilized to plan for the immediate response actions when information derived from a rapid assessment has not yet available. Procedural issues such as the access to the government information exist and it is recommended having an informal communication of sharing information even before information being formulated in the report format.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The main thrust of donor assistance appears to have been on responding to highly visible emergency and humanitarian relief operations, rather than investing in less visible risk reduction activities. In recent years there has been increased donor investment in the area of climate change, however this represents only one important side of reducing vulnerability. Globally, there is a push to see a move towards a more holistic, multi-hazard approach to addressing vulnerability, however this is yet to be translated into regional or national level programs. It is also yet to be reflected in more balanced government and donor investments across the DRR spectrum.

There is an opportunity to simplify governance arrangements and move towards a multi-hazard approach to DRR-DM by joining the DRR-DM NAP and NAPA (NACCC) task forces. Such a move may help government and donors to make more informed and balanced decisions about the most pressing DRR priorities based on a holistic assessment of all hazards. It would also enable the DRR-DM NAP to benefit from the experience and successes already achieved under the Climate Change NAPA, and reduce duplication (especially given that the NAPA and NAP task forces are essentially comprised of the same people).

Some good work has been done in the area of hazard assessment, although assessments are typically hazard specific (rather than multi-hazard), and it is not clear to what extent this information is being used to systematically inform land use planning at provincial and community level.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is a high level of recognition among all stakeholders in Vanuatu that disaster risk reduction and preparedness will be improved by greater and more consistent participation of women at all levels.

The National Disaster Committee has good representation of women, including representatives of the Women's Division in the Department of Justice. Women are included in disaster planning discussions, and have participated in numerous national level preparedness events, response planning and assessment missions. Most international NGOs, ensuring women also participate in their community capacity building initiatives.

At community level, women are very active in community mobilization and actual preparedness work; women are generally recognized to have more information on social dimensions of risk and vulnerability in the community. Village disaster management/ preparedness committees usually include one or two

women. While women may not always be included in formal decision-making, there are examples where advice from community women's committees has been adopted. The relocation of community halls to higher ground for possible use as evacuation centres is an example cited of women's successful preparedness lobbying.

A number of livelihoods development initiatives targeting women are ongoing in Vanuatu. In seeking to redress economic inequalities they also serve to reduce social vulnerability.

Challenges

The inclusion of women and attention to balanced and representative participation is still the exception rather than the rule. While the Women's Department has participated in policy development, they have not been systematically included.

There is widespread perception that greater involvement of women would reduce some of the problems of politicization that have affected disaster preparedness and response initiatives administered by male parliamentarians. The issue of land is also one where women are typically excluded from debate, where they might be able to bring new perspectives to community relocation discussions.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The NAP identifies several priorities in terms of DRR and recovery capacity development. These include:

- improving the capacity for DRR-DM at the ministerial, national, sectoral and provincial levels
- designing and delivering an appropriate training program for national government officials
- establishing scholarships and twinning arrangements with relevant overseas agencies
- developing supplementary education material on DRR-DM for schools
- developing community level capacity in DRR-DM (already outlined under Theme 3)

Challenges

NDRMO currently does not have a Training Officer who can conduct relevant training programs across government or at community level (this position is proposed as part of the yet to be approved NDRMO restructure).

Insufficient technical staff (e.g. planners, people with training in humanitarian response) also represents a significant challenge. The NDRMO currently relies heavily on the Vanuatu Police Mobile Force. While police officers are trained in logistics / command and control operations, they don't necessarily have relevant skills and training in running a civilian humanitarian operation.

Most officers engaged in DRR work within government currently have to wear many hats, which makes the task of implementing DRR initiatives very difficult. Especially the provincial level focal points in Malampa and Santo are affected.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some

acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The important role of non-governmental organisations and civil society groups in reaching out to remote, vulnerable communities is largely acknowledged by government. However, there is no strategic national approach which targets the most vulnerable communities. Moreover, there are as yet no nationally endorsed guidelines for Community Based Disaster Risk Management.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Several NGOs and other key agencies have conducted numerous community awareness programs in Vanuatu. This support has helped many a significant number of communities to establish their own disaster management plans and committees. To date community disaster plans have been developed in Ambrym, Tanna, Shefa (Tongoa), Futuna, Maewo, Santo and Vanua Lava. Communities have also received practical support in areas such as identifying hazards, conducting disaster assessments, first aid training, water supply and sanitation (WASH), and emergency response drills.

The majority of community awareness programs are being undertaken by NGOs. Due to resource constraints, the NDRMO is currently unable to play a lead role in overseeing, prioritizing and coordinating the efforts of the many NGOs engaged in delivering community based programs. NGOs are also using a variety of different tools, systems and approaches, which has sometimes led to mixed messages on the ground. Concerns have also been raised over the sustainability of some of these activities (e.g. where community based DRR programs have been implemented as a one-off intervention with no follow up).

Developing a consistent set of tools, guidance and approaches for community programs in DRR (for use by government and NGOs) would help ensure a nationally endorsed and consistent approach.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Vanuatu has one of the highest exposures to both natural and man made hazards in the Pacific, and the frequency with which disaster strikes appears to be on the rise. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, flood, drought and the effects of climate change represent only a few of the major challenges the country currently faces. The threats posed by these hazards are serious and their potential impacts cannot be understated – many people's lives and livelihoods are at risk.

Disaster is an ever present threat in Vanuatu. According to the United States Geological Survey/Services, the “Vanuatu region experiences a very high level of earthquake activity, with almost 50 events of magnitude 7 and larger having been recorded since 1973” (Source: USGS). Since 2003, there have been 12 significant quakes (>6 M) recorded – an average of around two per year. Several of

these historical quakes have caused damage to infrastructure and loss of life.

Vanuatu has at least six active volcanoes, together with several undersea volcanoes which also pose a threat to life and property. Two of these volcanoes are currently on high alert (Gaua and Mt Yassur in Tanna). On the island of Gaua, around 2000 people have already been evacuated from the western to the eastern side of the island due to ash fall, and contingency plans have been made for a possible full evacuation. Assessments of the situation in Tanna are currently in progress.

Vanuatu is also no stranger to the threat of tsunamis. Four Tsunami alerts have been issued in the last 12 months alone. On the 26 November 1999, an earthquake and ensuing tsunami struck the island of Pentecost, killing at least 10 people, injuring many others, and causing extensive damage to homes and infrastructure. Thousands of people were left homeless. Damage was also reported in Ambrym, Ape and Malakula, with the provinces of Penama and Malampa declared disaster areas. Many villagers were forced to relocate their homes further inland.

Vanuatu is also exposed to the threat of cyclones, with several cyclones over the last decade generating damaging winds, flooding and landslides which have impacted on many communities. Recent drought in Aniwa, and seasonal flooding in other parts of the country have also impacted on both food security and health. In recent years, Vanuatu has also had to respond to other threats, such as avian influenza. In total, Vanuatu's disaster database (DESINVENTAR) records around 52 events in the past 25 years (giving some indication of the burden the country faces in terms of disaster management and response).

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

Although DRR-DM has been elevated as a national policy priority, it is not yet fully integrated into the PAA. It is also not identified as an expressed priority of the current coalition government in the “Planning Long, Acting Short” policy document, which outlines the government's short-medium term policy priorities over the period 2009-2012. The revised National Disaster Act is yet to be passed.

Perhaps the single greatest current challenge is that the existing institutional and governance arrangements do not effectively support the management of DRR-DM issues across government. The absence of either dedicated human or financial resources to coordinate and progress DRR issues represents a major constraint.

Although the government has taken several positive steps to increase funding for disaster management, there are currently no specific budget allocations for disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities – either at national level or within line ministries – and DRR-DM is not currently considered in forward macro-economic projections.

In terms of broader mainstreaming, even where ministries have developed DRR-DM sector plans (e.g. health, education), budgets are not clearly defined and there are no dedicated human resources identified to support their implementation. DRR-DM activities in other sectors (e.g. infrastructure) are largely incidental, and are not guided by an overarching DRR-DM strategy or clearly linked to the NAP. Some DRR related activities are, however, linked to the government's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) for climate change, however, the links between the DRR-DM NAP and NAPA climate change frameworks are currently weak.

Future Outlook Statement:

National, sectoral/corporate, provincial and local level plans and national budget allocation explicitly integrate Disaster Risk Management considerations. The following outcomes will be achieved:

- DRR and DM embedded in revised PAA
- Sector and Corporate plans include DRR and DM
- Improved accuracy of macroeconomic forecasts and demonstrable effects of disasters on the national economy
- Increased level of hazard risk awareness and consideration
- Costs and Benefits of DRR fund are established and analysed
- Improved transparency in budgeted DRM investment and expenditure
- Greater capacity for DRM mainstreaming
- Improved capacity for disseminating DRR good practice at community level
- Improved capacity for DRR across the national Government

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

Although there is some awareness of DRR issues within sections of government, the NDRMO currently lacks the human resources to conduct routine training of government officers or to lead a national community awareness program. At present, the NDRMO's community awareness activities are largely opportunistic (i.e. conducted when on assessment missions), rather than a strategic national approach which targets the most vulnerable communities. Moreover, there are as yet no nationally endorsed guidelines for community based disaster risk reduction.

The majority of community awareness programs are being undertaken by NGOs. Due to resource constraints, the NDRMO is currently unable to play a lead role in overseeing, prioritizing and coordinating the efforts of the many NGOs engaged in delivering community based programs. NGOs are also using a variety of different tools, systems and approaches, which has sometimes led to mixed messages on the ground. Concerns have also been raised over the sustainability of some of these activities (e.g. where community based DRR programs have been implemented as a one-off intervention with no follow up).

In terms of traditional knowledge, the Vanuatu Cultural Centre has collected information on traditional knowledge and community coping mechanisms in the event of a disaster, but this information is yet to be transcribed and incorporated into national guidance, policies and tools.

Although significant progress has been made to strengthen Vanuatu's DRR-DM information and systems, integration of these systems remains a major challenge. Intra-government coordination is also a challenge (e.g. the Vanuatu government's GIS is managed by the Ministry of Lands, but it is reportedly difficult for other government agencies to access / share information).

Insufficient technical staff (e.g. planners, people with training in humanitarian response) also represents a significant challenge. The NDRMO currently relies heavily on the Vanuatu Police Mobile Force. While police officers are trained in logistics / command and control operations, they don't necessarily have relevant skills and training in running a civilian humanitarian operation.

Most officers engaged in DRR work within government currently have to wear many hats, which makes the task of implementing DRR initiatives very difficult. Especially the provincial level focal points in Malampa and Santo are affected.

Future Outlook Statement:

Increased transparency, accountability and effective decisions at all levels supported by an appropriate institutional framework and mechanisms for systematic and coordinated Disaster Risk Management. The following outcomes will be achieved:

- Comprehensive DRM legislation in place
- NDRMO operations are fully civilianised
- Improved coordination for DRR and DM at National and Provincial level
- Existing DRM/CCA synergies realized and strengthened, duplication reduced, and a multi-hazard approach to reducing vulnerability developed.
- Strengthened coordination and cooperation in DRM and Climate Change initiatives at all levels
- National building codes/regulations incorporate hazard and risk considerations
- Disaster risk considerations are fully embedded within the planning process.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

In terms of preparedness, the Vanuatu government is currently too busy responding to actual emergencies to conduct regular simulation exercises or emergency drills. There is also no national stockpile of essential supplies which could be drawn on in the event of a major emergency. The NDRMO must source any required items (e.g. water containers, tanks) from commercial hardware stores.

The government is yet to engage with the business and tourism sector on disaster and contingency planning. The Vanuatu Hotels and Resorts Association (VHRA) has formally written to the government in relation to tsunami warnings, but is yet to receive an official response. VHRA members have a keen interest in improving tsunami warnings given that many hotels are located along coastal areas. According to the VHRA, some hotels have developed their own individual emergency plans, but there is not a unified industry-wide approach. The VHRA noted that tourism accounts for up to 40% of local employment, with the tourism sector being one of the most important contributors to economic growth.

The report card is mixed in terms of broader sector regulatory and planning processes for DRR. Some good work has been done in the area of hazard assessment, although assessments are typically hazard specific (rather than multi-hazard), and it is not clear to what extent this information is being used to systematically inform land use planning at provincial and community level. Moreover, enforcement of issues such as building and planning codes remains a major challenge (e.g. Building Code has been in draft form for 10 years, and there is a shortage of civil engineers who are able to assess whether buildings are built to standard). Due to resource constraints, NDRMO engagement with the private sector in this area is also very limited.

Future Outlook Statement:

Effective and rapid recovery of communities from disasters assisted by effective and well coordinated disaster management systems. The following outcomes will be achieved:

- Improved disaster response coordination at all levels
- Increased staff complement for NDRMO
- Improved vigilance and response to disaster events
- Improved disaster management capabilities in the business sector
- Improved emergency/disaster response coordination
- Increased capacity for management of emergency/disaster events
- More comprehensive assessments to enable better understanding of disaster impact
- Improved response to tsunamis in Port Vila, Luganville and environs
- Improved the understanding of hazards, vulnerabilities, and communities at risk.
- Strengthened DRM information management and dissemination

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

- * PCIDRR (NGO) - Anna Shing
- * Red Cross (Networks & Others) - Paolo Malatu
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- * PCIDRR (NGO) - Noel Molvis
- * Care International Vanuatu (NGO) - Robert Hughes
- * French Embassy (UN & Intl) - Michel Epron
- * European Union (UN & Intl) - Nicolas Berlanga
- * World Vision (NGO) - Janet Strong
- * French Red Cross (Networks & Others) - Anne Boemare
- * French Red Cross (Networks & Others) - Leslie Samet
- * DSPPAC-PM's Office (Gov) - Jones Arugogona
- * NDRMO (Gov) - Peter Korisa
- * Vanuatu Red Cross Society (Networks & Others) - Augustine Garae
- * FSPV (NGO) - Peter Kaloris
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- * ADRA Vanuatu (NGO) - Andrina Isaiah
- * Vanuatu Police Force (Gov) - Tari Tamata
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- * AusAid (UN & Intl) - Patrick Haines
- * UNICEF (UN & Intl) - Roslyn Arthur
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- * Education, Unicef (UN & Intl) - Christina Lulu-Karae
- * PCIDRR/VCC (NGO) - Ps.James Kalua
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- * Australian High Commission (UN & Intl) - Lieutenant colonel Sue Graham
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- * UNOCHA (UN & Intl) - Deborah Clifton
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