



VANUATU

- DISASTERS & PROGRESS ON ACTION AREAS RAF

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***“DEEP DIVE ON PROGRESS MADE DURING THE
FIRST HALF OF THE DECADE”***

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DISASTERS IN VANUATU – AN OUTLOOK

- 2015 – Tropical Cyclone PAM:

- Category 5
- 3/6 province affected
- Food security challenge
- Mass population registration exercise
 - Collaboration with UNICEF
 - Mobile registration – Paper base (PAPI)
 - Increase registration to around 70%

- 2018 – Ambae Volcanic eruption

- Complete evacuation of island population (Displaced population)
- Registration exercise in displacement areas.
- Analysis of Displaced population using mobile phones. Supported by UN Pulse Lab Jakarta

- 2020 – Topical Cyclone Harold:

- Category 5
- 3/6 province affected
- Food security challenge

- 2020-21 – Covid-19

- Vaccination challenge
- Contact tracing challenge
- Mass population registration exercise
 - Collaboration with UNDP
 - Joint Civil & Voter registration program
 - Mobile registration – Tablet base (CAPI)
 - KoBo application for data collection
 - Usage of Population Census Tablets
 - Increase registration to around 85%

- 2020-21 – Tanna Ash fall (Volcanic eruption)

- Food security challenge

CIVIL REGISTRATION IN PREPARATION FOR DISASTERS

Vanuatu Government Actions (related to actions areas of the RAF)

- **Political Commitment (action area A)**

- 2017: National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Policy 2017-2030

- *Maximize efficiency and effectiveness of CRVS to a sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu*
- *Promote vital statistics as a powerful instrument to develop national policies and planning*
- *Review of Policy in 2022, align with Govt policy and priorities*

- 2019: National ID Policy 2019-2030

- 2020: Voting using National ID Cards issued by Civil Registration
- *Review of Policy in 2022, align with Govt policy and priorities*
 - Mobile phone registration using National ID Cards issued by Civil Registration
 - National Data Protection & Privacy Policy

CIVIL REGISTRATION IN PREPARATION FOR DISASTERS

Vanuatu Government Actions related to actions areas of the RAF

- **Policies, legislation and regulations (action area D)**
 - 2017: National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Policy 2017-2030
 - 2019: Government decision: Civil Registration fundamental source enabling citizens to exercise their rights on legal identity, access to services and vote
 - 2019: National Identity Card policy
 - 2021: New legislation on Civil Registration & Identity Management and National Identity Card
 - 2021-22: Regulations on Civil Registration and National Identity Card drafted
 - 2022: National Data Protection & Privacy Policy

CIVIL REGISTRATION IN PREPARATION FOR DISASTERS

Vanuatu Government Actions related to actions areas of the RAF

- **Infrastructure and resources (action area E)**
 - 2021: Redesign Business Processes Birth and Death. Start development Handbook for registrars and
 - 2022: Training of registrars based on Handbook
 - 2021-22: Restructure of CRVS Department
 - Establishment of Authorised Officials and Registration Centres

CIVIL REGISTRATION IN PREPARATION FOR DISASTERS

Vanuatu Government Actions related to actions areas of the RAF

- Operational procedures, practices and innovations (action area F)
 - 2021: Started discussion on the development of Population Register
 - 2021: Started the discussion on CRVS data synchronization

OPEN ISSUES RELATED TO ACTIONS AREAS OF THE RAF

- **Public engagement, participation and generating demand (action area B)**
 - 2022: Development Policy & Strategy ‘demand-for-service’ based on cultural and geographical context
- **Production, dissemination and use of vital statistics (action area G)**
 - Legal: Regulation on Vital Statistics (2022)
 - Technical: Include Vital Statistics demands into population register development (2022/23). Support Statistics Office with Implementation of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).
 - Organizational: Work with relevant stakeholders on production and use (2022)

RELATED CRVS ISSUES (I)

How will action area activities help to prepare for future emergencies?

- Civil registration based on the continuous and universal registration of vital events is the only way to have a complete and up-to-date insight in your population and population location.
- Establishing vital statistics will help the Government of Vanuatu with understanding the population dynamics and through that provide budgeting and planning for services to citizens where they are needed.
- The Ministry of Health stated that the vaccination rollout in Vanuatu, Contact tracing, and health care system in general, are largely benefiting from the support given by CRVS Department. The CRVS support has resulted in a high level of data accuracy during the vaccination and a professional operation.

RELATED CRVS ISSUES (2)

Activities To Ensure Civil Registration before Disasters;

The National ID card is now proactively used as a tool to help the government respond to pandemics and natural disasters, for example:

- The civil registration services, undertaken by the CRVS Department, are truly essential services, and in the cases of natural disasters or pandemics like COVID-19, the civil registration data supports the government in handling the situations, where the National ID card is a tool to help government respond to these emergencies

(Vanuatu is again, first on the list in the World Risk Report 2021).

- As a result of the COVID-19 crisis the Government is going to be increasingly reliant on digital technology to verify identity and to quickly onboard people to digital services. The Civil Registry has the most accurate data regarding the population, including their geographical location. This database house a unique set of biographical data of anticipated 70% of the Vanuatu citizens.

- Across ministries and agencies, they are now benefiting from the support given by CRVS Department whereby they make use of citizen data and their unique identifiers, and a central civil register with high level of data accuracy resulting in aligned systems and professional operations, ensuring all citizens have equitable access to critical services and benefits incl. stimulus package, education. health care and electoral participation;

RELATED CRVS ISSUES (3)

Did these activities require collaboration with other agencies?

- MoU's were signed with stakeholders to use the Civil Registration for verification purposes.
 - Civil Registration in the Life-Cycle of Ni-Vanuatu [Health, Decentralisation, Civil Society (Church & Culture), Education, Employment, Elections, Lands, Disasters, etc.]
 - Health MOU: Hospital civil registration improved coverage by over 80% of birth occurring in 6 country hospitals
- For the National Disaster Management Office, the civil registration data and ID card data is required for assessment of the number of persons affected and location.
- Joint field registration activities were implemented with electoral authorities, and international partner agencies, to establish a mutual data source of all citizens of Vanuatu, including GPS coordinates of all villages;

RELATED CRVS ISSUES (4)

How could these lessons learned be relevant for other countries preparing for future crises such as COVID-19?

Vanuatu's civil register system can now provide for an agile response at a time of crisis such as natural disasters, pandemics etc.

- *Capitalizing on **new digital technologies**, hundreds of data collectors were deployed with electronic tablets to capture biometric data of citizens, powered by solar panels, with data captures work round the clock to enter the data in the central system;*
- *Ministry of Health has used the civil registration data, as well as tablet-based approach and the pool of UNDP trained enumerators (trained for joint civil registry and voter data validation field work) to roll out the Vaccination Program.*
- *The health care system in general, is largely benefiting from the results of a high level of data accuracy and the **increased National ID coverage** which allows the Ministry of Health to implement an improved patient information system in the coming years;*
- *Track and tracing, and planning (knowing their locations by GPS) – Using National ID*



**Tenku
tumas!**

