

---

# U-REPORT VANUATU – VOICES OF YOUTH RESEARCH, ENGAGEMENT & ACTION

**MELISSA KALMATAK**, MELISSA BINIHI, MANOJ KUMAR NARESH (UNICEF), SONYA SAGAN (UNICEF), REBECCA OLUL (UNICEF) - (HPU, UNICEF)

**VANUATU 3RD HEALTH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

APTC/MIT, Port Vila, Efate

27-28 October 2022



# INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS U-REPORT?

- A digital real-time youth engagement, communication and data collection platform
- A tool for young people to speak out on issues they care about
- A tool that can bring young people and governments closer together
- Free and anonymous
- Accessed through **SMS**, **Facebook Messenger**, Viber, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.
- Transparent, results available online and in real time: <https://pacific.ureport.in/>
- Worldwide, over 22 million young people are members and growing
- More than 90 Countries and more in the pipeline



# METHODS

- Ministries of Health, Education, Youth and Sports together with UNICEF and Youth Challenge Vanuatu working together on U-Report in Vanuatu.
- **1274 U-Reporters** in Vanuatu to date (716 female, 557 male)
- Polls/mini surveys developed to assess perceptions across sectors – health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, economic empowerment, climate action, etc.
- 3 Health related polls developed to date:
  - Covid 19 – Stigma
  - Covid 19 - (Adolescent vaccination)
  - HPV vaccine – Underway



# RESULTS: STIGMA

## Respondent demographics

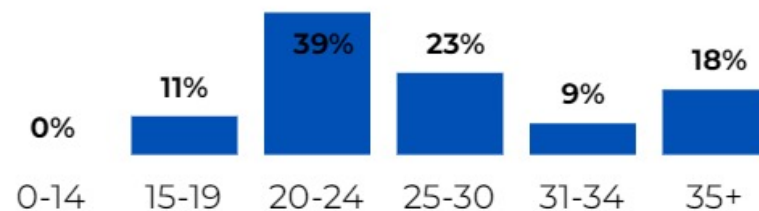
May 6, 2022

**369**  
RESPONDERS

**97%**  
RESPONSE RATE

  
**29%**  
42

  
**71%**  
105



# RESULTS: STIGMA

*Are you aware of anyone who currently has/previously had COVID-19 being mistreated by community members?*

369 responded out of 381 polled

YES

32%

**20%** of Health Care/Essential workers mistreated by community members

NO

68%





# ACTIONS: EMPOWERING HEALTH WORKERS & COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS STIGMA

- **Health Care Workers Training** Improved skills to address/prevent stigma in communities
- Engaging stakeholders and communities on stigma prevention



# COVID-19 STIKMA

Stikma I hapen taem man i **diskriminetem o tritim nogud** wan man o wan long grup blong pipol from wan isu.

Samtaem pipol i **diskriminetem** olgeta pipol we oli kasem **COVID-19**, oli wok o ko raon wetem olgeta pipol we oli kasem **COVID-19**, olsem olgeta helt woka mo ol esensol sevis woka.



Stikma from COVID-19 i save:



- ▶ Stopem man blong oli no mekem ol helti fasin
- ▶ I mekem ol pipol oli save haedem sik blong olgeta
- ▶ stopem pipol blong lukaotem helt kea seves we bae oli nidim

From wanem i gat stikma from COVID-19?

I gat tri mein risen:



- ▶ COVID-19 hemi wan niufala sik long komuniti blong Vanuatu
- ▶ Hemi kontribut long fulap ded raon long wol stat long taem we pand i stat mo i kasem plante man Vanuatu vinis.
- ▶ Taem i gat samfala samting we yumi no save, yumi no sua o fraet lor hem, hemi isi blong poentem finga long "narafala man" from fraet blong yumi

No fogetem se:

- I no nid blong yumi sem taem yumi sik
- COVID-19 i no diskriminetem yumi mo yumi no shud diskriminetem ol narafala man
- Mas kat sori long olgeta we oli sik wetem COVID-19. Hemi wan sik we i spred plante, mo nogat man i wantem kasem COVID-19.
- Mas tolem olgeta nul we i kam long Ministri blong Helt blong mekem se yu mo famili blong yu i stap seif long COVID-19.
- Mas usum olgeta sos nomo we yumi save tristem, olsem Ministri blong Helt
- Mas ko kasem vaksins blong katem daon risk blong no sik bigwan sipos yu kasem COVID-19.



Blong moa infomesen, visitim Ministri blong Helt COVID-19 websaet long [www.covid19.govvu](http://www.covid19.govvu), o koletem fil hottaen long 119

## ACTIONS: REACHING A WIDER AUDIENCE

- ▶ Social media tiles developed and disseminated to address stigma
- ▶ Key Messages towards stigma developed into talking points for: Community awareness, COVID-19 daily updates, talk-back shows, Press Release, Press Statements, Radio Spots, 119 free-line





# RESULTS: ADOLESCENT VACCINATION

## Respondent demographics

July 2, 2022

**430**  
RESPONDERS

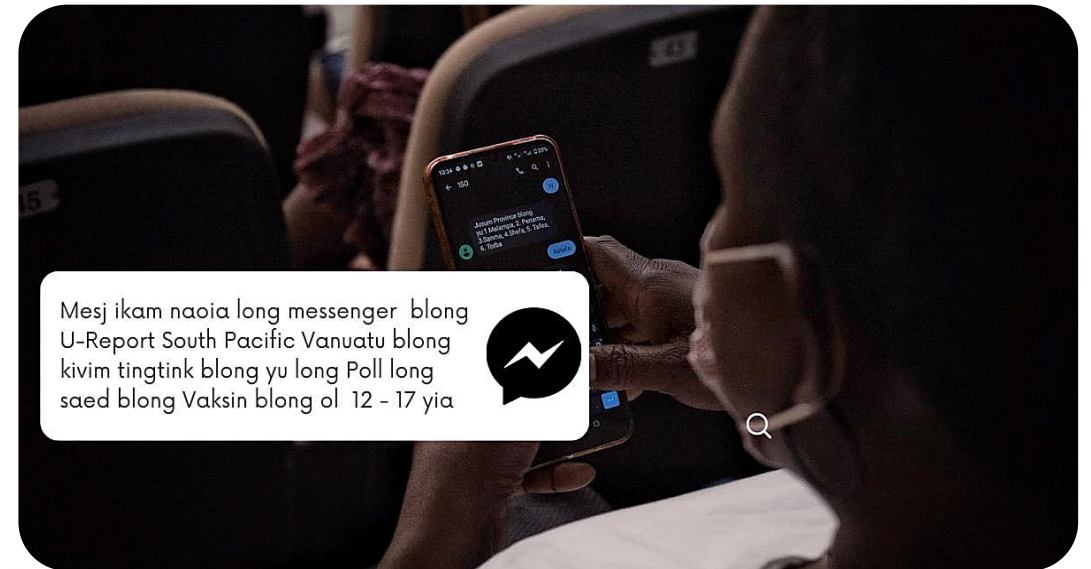
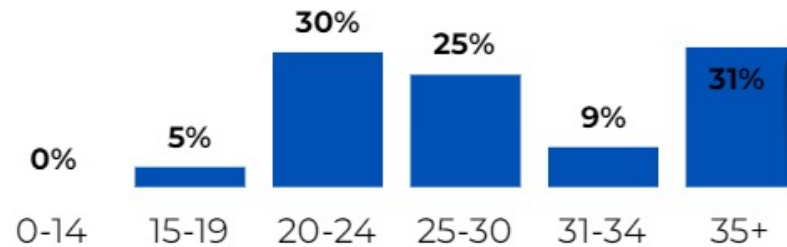
**98%**  
RESPONSE RATE



**47%**  
187



**53%**  
210





# RESULTS: ADOLESCENT VACCINATION

*Do you plan to get vaccinated/get your child vaccinated when it is made available for children 12-17 years?*

456 responded out of 462 polled

YES

35%

NO

36%

UNSURE/DON'T KNOW

29%



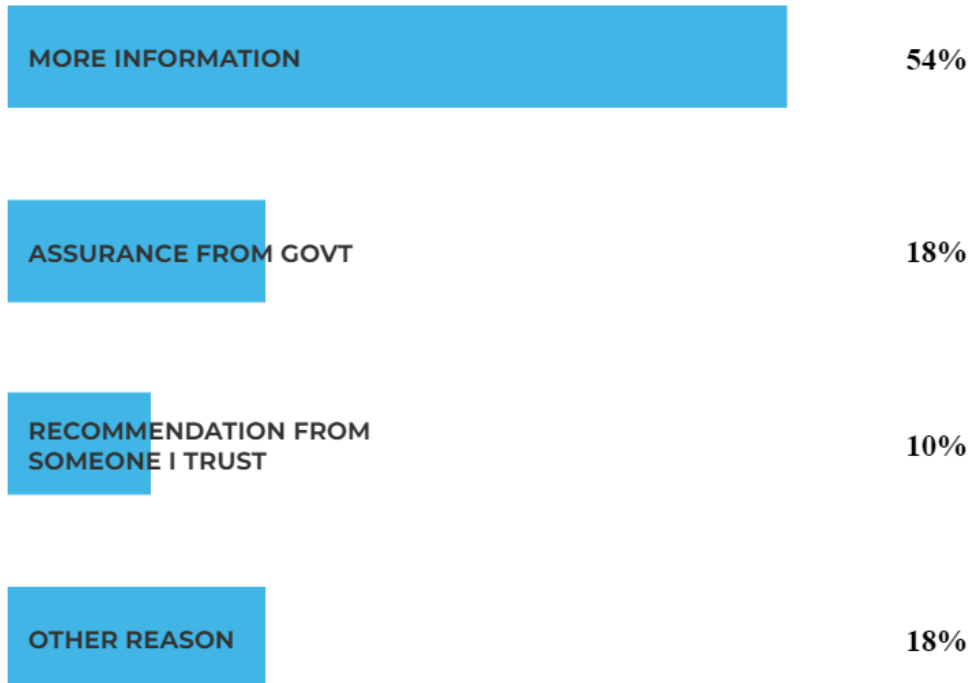
# RESULTS: ADOLESCENT VACCINATION



***Why are you unwilling to get vaccinated/get your child vaccinated?***

124 responded out of 125 polled

# RESULTS: ADOLESCENT VACCINATION



***What is needed to make informed decisions to get vaccine?***

439 responded out of 449 polled

# ACTIONS

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) developed which focused on side effects and vaccine safety
- Integrated into parent and adolescent engagement modules delivered by the Health Promotion Unit Risk Communication Community Engagement (RCCE) team
- Adolescent vaccination brochure including side effects, aftercare of side effects





## DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS / IMPLICATIONS

- Highlights the importance of using data and evidence to inform Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities/key messages – need to keep doing this
- Importance of linkages between RCCE and operations to ensure data is shared and leads to timely action
- Opportunity to continue strengthening youth engagement so they have a voice in decision making



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- We humbly acknowledge:
  - Health Promotion Unit - RCCE Members - UNICEF Communications team - Mr. Manoj Kumar Naresh (UNICEF) Ms. Sonya Sagan (SBC, UNICEF), Ms. Rebecca Olul (UNICEF), WHO Technical Advisors – Dr. Tessa Knox & Dr. Phillip Guyant, Mr. Yohann Lemonnier (VHP), Ms. Lilyrose Welwel (Youth Challenge Vanuatu), Youths at Youth Challenge Vanuatu, Essential Health Partners and everyone who are supporting the work of RCCE in Vanuatu and beyond!!

