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# TOWARDS A PRIORITISED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA FOR VANUATU: THE NEXT STEPS

DR TESSA KNOX, ON BEHALF OF THE PRELIMINARY WORKING GROUP

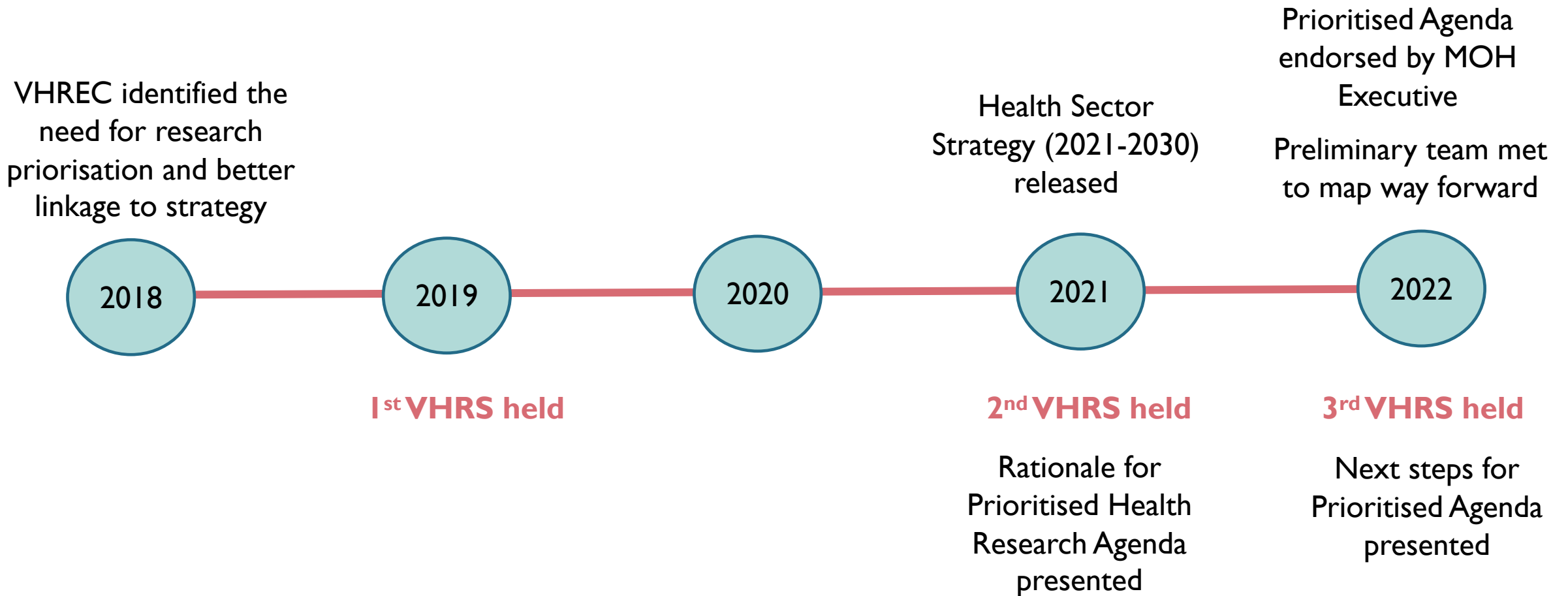
VANUATU 3RD HEALTH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

APTC VIT Campus, Port Vila, Vanuatu

28 October 2022



# BASIC TIMELINE



## 3 X RESEARCH SYMPOSIA

- Highlighted the **wealth of local capacity** and the **breadth of research** being undertaken to support the health sector in Vanuatu
- Underscored the need for a **strategic approach** to guide research initiatives to ensure optimal use of limited resources for positive outcomes for the health and well-being of the population
- Has indicated that **alignment of priorities** is required with the *Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy 2021-2030*.



# CLEAR HEALTH STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

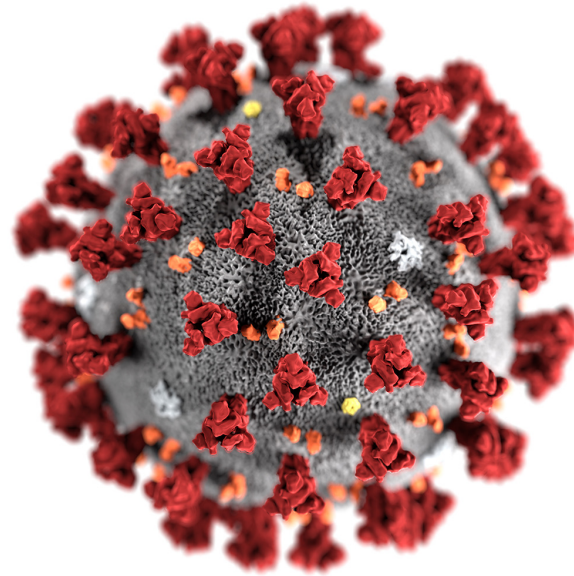
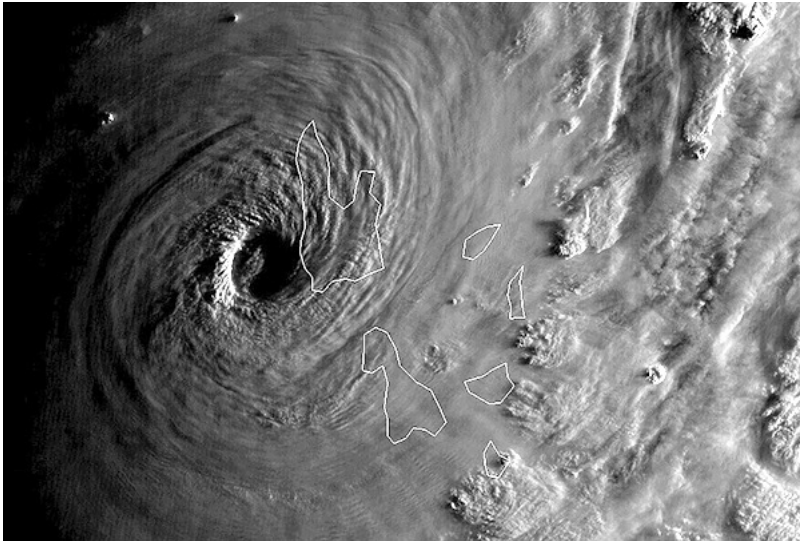


**Health Information:** Evidence is essential for monitoring the operation of policies and strategies, and for making decisions for planning and management of health services. Clinicians need health information to inform patient care. Core health indicators for measuring progress and improving the health information system have been established, including for hospital patients. However, there is a lack of reliable data for decision making and performance measurement. The systems and processes to collect and report progress are weak. Research to inform evidence-based practice is limited. This limits the ability of managers, clinicians and public health officers to understand and address challenges.

**Corporate services, policy and planning** will establish the evidence-base for inclusive health decision-making through: systems to collect, analyse and report inclusive health data, including an inclusive health baseline audit on services, staff attitudes, referral systems; an Inclusive Health Research Strategy and annual reporting; and two-way feedback loops linking services to policy makers that includes communities, frontline health workers, services, and MOH.



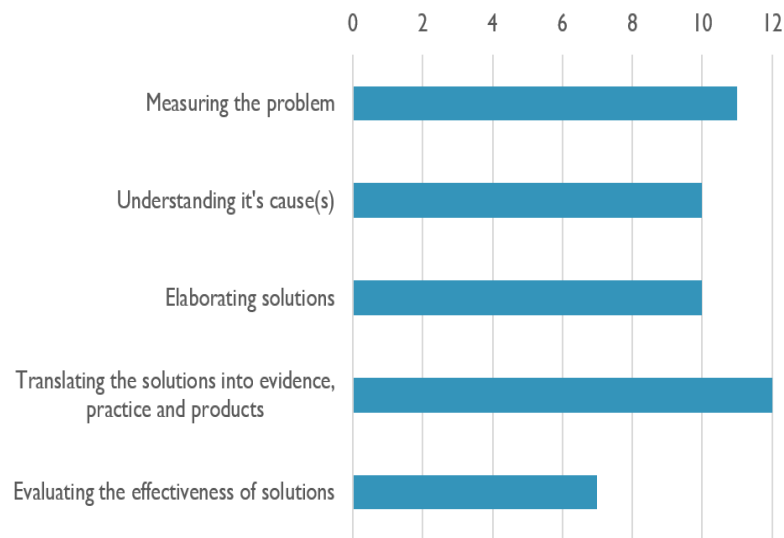
# EVOLVING HEALTH LANDSCAPE



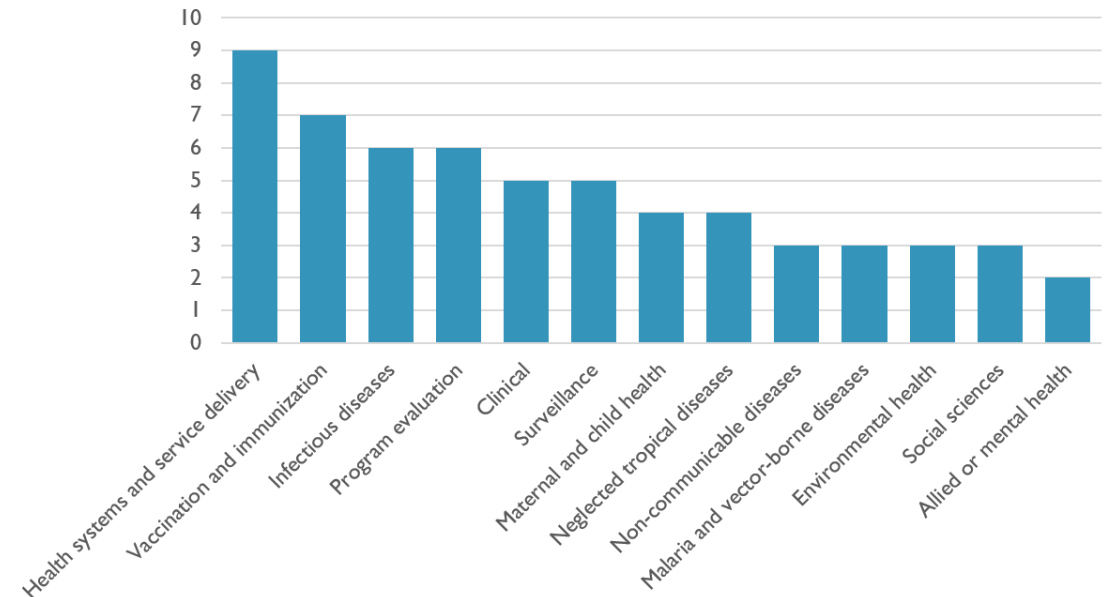
# ONGOING PARTNER SUPPORT

2021 preliminary survey of collaborative research with development partners and overseas research institutions

## AREAS OF ACTIVITY



## TOPICS OF RESEARCH SUPPORT



# EXECUTIVE PAPER ENDORSED

## ISSUE:

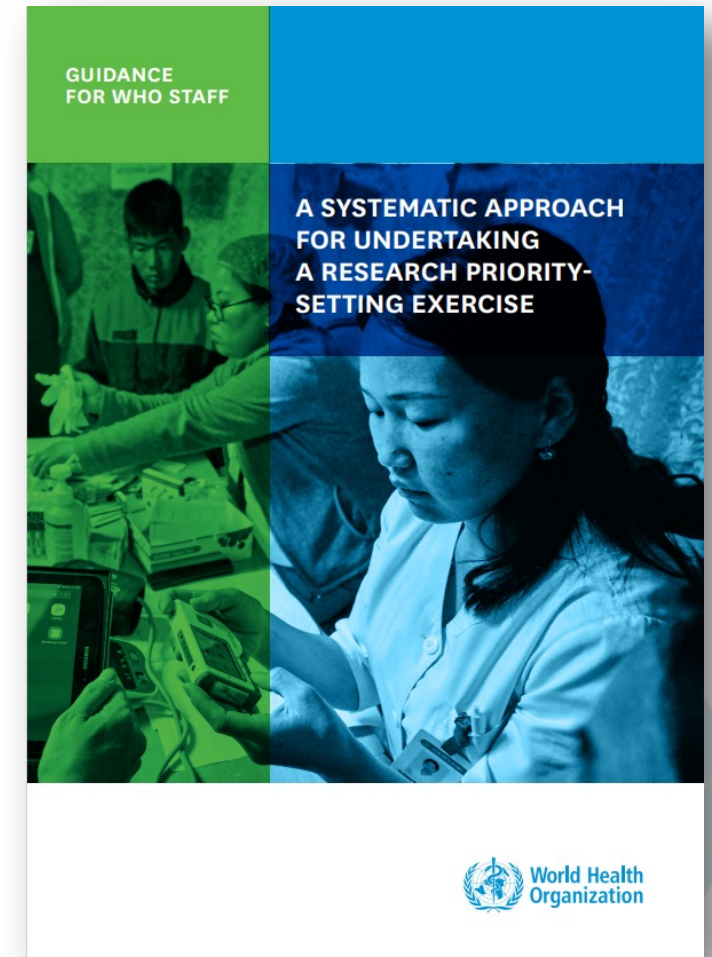
A strategic approach to health research in Vanuatu is required to ensure optimal use of resources to address key areas and issues outlined in the *Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy 2021-2030*, as well as emerging areas of key interest to protect the health and well-being of the population of Vanuatu.

## AIM:

- To ensure that research conducted in Vanuatu is aligned with national health priorities and issues, as outlined in the *Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy 2021-2030*
- To guide allocation of domestic and development partner research resources, including for health workforce, education and training
- To guide and channel overseas researchers and institutions to ensure alignment with the health research priorities of Vanuatu

# MOH EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Executive Committee provide in principle support to initiate development of a prioritized health research agenda
2. Vanuatu Health Research and Ethics Committee with the support of WHO to outline the process and timelines for development of a prioritized research agenda
3. Baseline inputs, consultations and work to be conducted through the three directorates to ensure a representative outcome
4. The Vanuatu Health Research Symposium to include a consultation session on a draft prioritized research agenda for Vanuatu

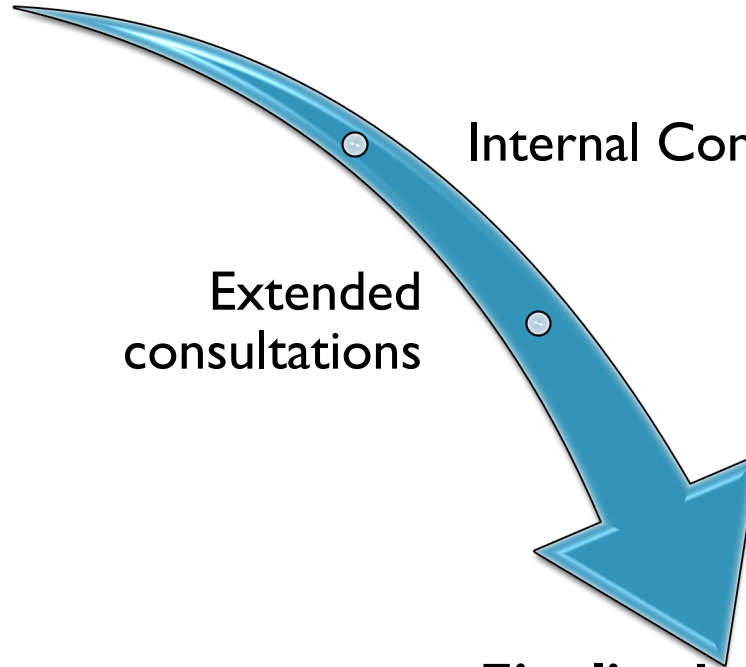




# PRELIMINARY WORKING GROUP FORMED

- Dr Posikai Samuel Tapo
- Dr Lawrence Bo
- Dr Vincent Atua
- Wendy Williams
- Charity David
- Florita Toa
- Dr Philippe Guyant
- Dr Tessa Knox

Scoping Review



**Finalised prioritised  
research agenda**



# PROPOSED NEXT STEPS (I)

Phase	Purpose	Actions
<b>I. Scoping review</b>	To assess health research already conducted in Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mine online sources for scientific literature related to health in Vanuatu</li> <li>- Identify “grey” literature such as from FNU</li> <li>- Create a compendium of references</li> <li>- Review titles/abstracts and classify each by technical area</li> </ul>
	To assess health research ongoing in Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compile list of approved and ongoing research in Vanuatu</li> <li>- Review and classify each by technical area</li> <li>- Map each to HSS strategic objective</li> </ul>
	To document outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce a summary report of findings</li> <li>- Disseminate findings</li> </ul>



## PROPOSED NEXT STEPS (2)

Phase	Purpose	Actions
<b>II. Internal consultations</b>	To conduct preliminary needs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Create data collection tool for gathering feedback from technical teams on key research questions</li><li>- Conduct survey through each of the three directorates</li><li>- Compile feedback for each of the three directorates</li><li>- Collate all feedback and identify any synergies, overlap or gaps</li></ul>
	To document outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Produce a summary report of findings</li></ul>
	To conduct initial consultation to validate findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Present findings at 2023 Health Research Symposium (?)</li><li>- Validate or update findings</li><li>- Convene discussions on major considerations for health research in Vanuatu (training, education, experience, collaborations, funding etc)</li></ul>



## PROPOSED NEXT STEPS (3 & 4)

Phase	Purpose	Actions
<b>III. Extended consultations</b>	To extend consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Conduct additional consultations with key groups, including additional MOH staff, implementing agencies, development partner organizations, overseas collaborators</li><li>- Convene discussions on major considerations for health research in Vanuatu</li></ul>
<b>IV. Finalisation</b>	To finalise document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Draft document based on feedback</li><li>- Circulate draft and conduct final consultation with MOH team</li><li>- Finalise report</li><li>- Present to MOH Executive Committee for endorsement</li></ul>



# IMPLICATIONS

- The Prioritised Health Research Agenda will only be as helpful as the contributions to develop it
- Consultation takes time – but it also yields better and more appropriate results
- As the process proceeds, active involvement would be appreciated!
- An appointed committee with local capacity would ensure swifter progress

