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Research Summary

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Category (clinical/public health):	Clinical
Data focus:	SHEFA, TAFEA

Title Expanding NCD services to remote population of Vanuatu through mass screening and referral

Abstract

Background

Noncommunicable disease (NCD) is one of the silent killers in Vanuatu. The scientific evidence showed that introduction of so-called WHO 'Best Buys' can help to prevent and stop development of NCDs. The NCD CVD risk estimation (1) which determines fatal and non-fatal consequences in 10 years' time caused by NCDs, (2) which also proved to be a cost-effective approach to identify and manage high risk people, has been implemented in Vanuatu since 2012.

Methods

The target areas were Tanna and Efate Islands and target population were adults aged 25 years and above. The specially devised forms for screening, tally sheet and referral forms were used to collect data, the data were then analyzed for the proportion of CVD high risk people, hypertension and diabetes. Those who were identified as high-risk people and who needed treatment were referred to the nearest referral facility.

Results

In total, 9,809 adults were involved in the NCD screening programme (41.5% males and 58.5% females). Over 90% of all involved people were with any risk for CVD (47%-low, 30%-intermediate, 15%-high and 3.4%-very high) with 3% referred for treatment.

Conclusion

The purpose for the NCD screening programme has been successfully met. Community and local leaders appreciated this activity organized by Ministry of Health and Shefa and Tafea Health Offices. This one-stop shop health service to reach the remote population of Vanuatu to identify NCD high risk people, people with hypertension and diabetes with referral for a proper treatment is an approach that can be expanded to other provinces of Vanuatu. The authors hope that while we face a lack of data on NCDs, these data from two provinces will help decision-makers to plan and implement NCD actions to reduce the number of high-risk people ultimately morbidity and mortality in Vanuatu caused by NCDs.