



A BETTER START FOR HEALTHY FUTURE



Save the Children



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VANUATU 2ND HEALTH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

National Convention Center, Port Vila

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INTRODUCTION

Funded by DFAT through ANCP (Australian NGO Cooperating Program) from 2017 – 2021

Goal: Reduce prevalence of stunting among children 0-23 months in project areas

Outcome 1: Improved coverage of maternal nutrition, IYCF, and hygiene practices among PLW and caregivers of children 0-23 months

Outcome 2: Improved enabling environment in the community to support maternal and child nutrition

Outcome 3: Program-derived evidence and recommendations considered for adoption by MOH

BACKGROUND

- 22 communities across Shefa & Sanma Provinces
- Communities selected based on:
 - # case of underweight reported
 - # of PLW in community
 - Existence of Aid Post
 - Lack of other nutrition programming

Province	Island	Community
Shefa	Efate	Erakor, Eton, Mele Pangpang, Paunangisu, Takara
	Epi	Lopalis, Nulnesa, Tekelele
	Nguna	Newora
	Pele	Launamoia
Sanma	Santo	Banban, Chapuis, Fimele, Lorevilko, Mataloi, Narango Showground, Solway, Tanavusvus, Teproma
	Malo	Avurani

PLANNED ACTIVITIES: OUTCOME I Peer support Group Model*

Mothers' Group



Fathers' Group



Grand Mothers' Group



PLANNED ACTIVITY: OUTCOME 2 Community Action Plan



PLANNED ACTIVITIES: OUTCOME 3: Program-derived evidence And recommendations considered for Adoption by MoH

Goal : Influence national and sub national (provincial) governments to increase prioritisation and investment to reduce stunting through improved maternal and child nutrition

Generate evidence to inform the finalization and operationalization of the MOH RMNCAH Communications Strategy, including key learning in relation to equity and inclusion (rural / remote communities, male engagement, adolescents and people with disabilities)



Prevalence of stunting > 5 years from (VDHS, 2013) : 28.5%

Health sector strategy of 2017-2020 objective is to decrease stunting amongst children under five to >23.5% by 2020



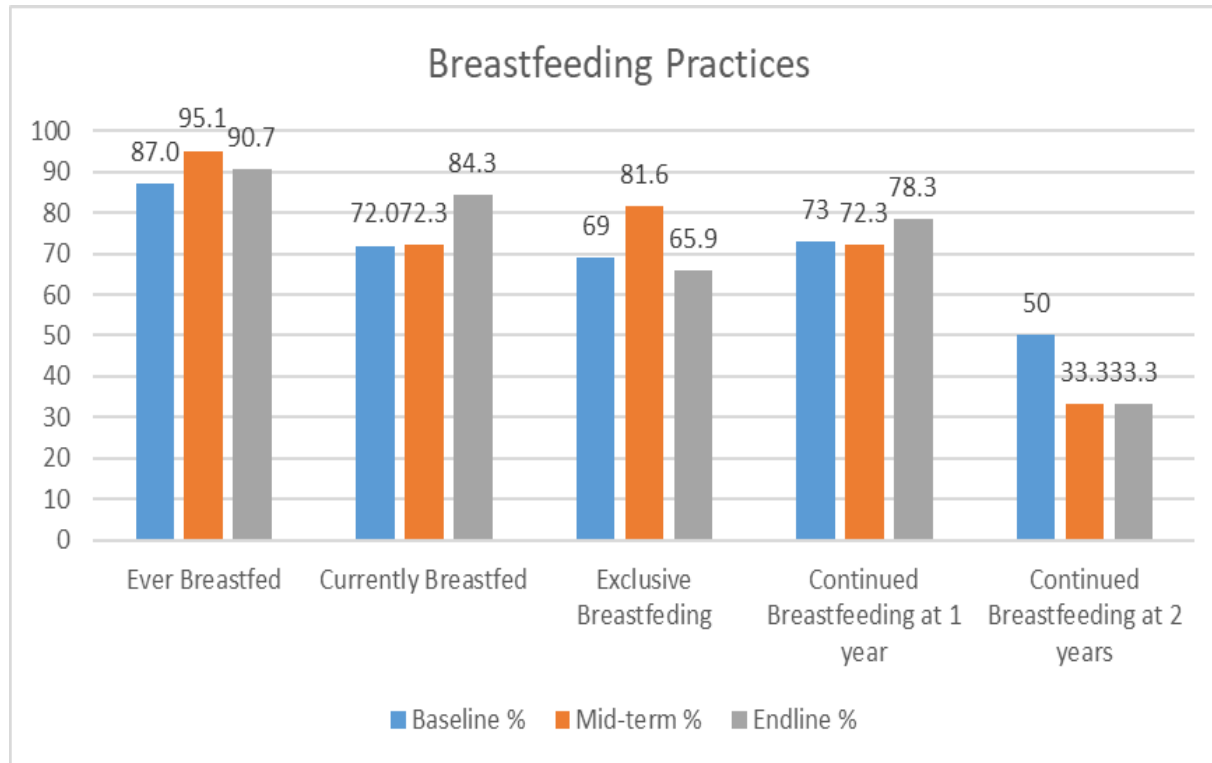
RESEARCH

Aim: To Measure progress towards the project goal and outcome indicators

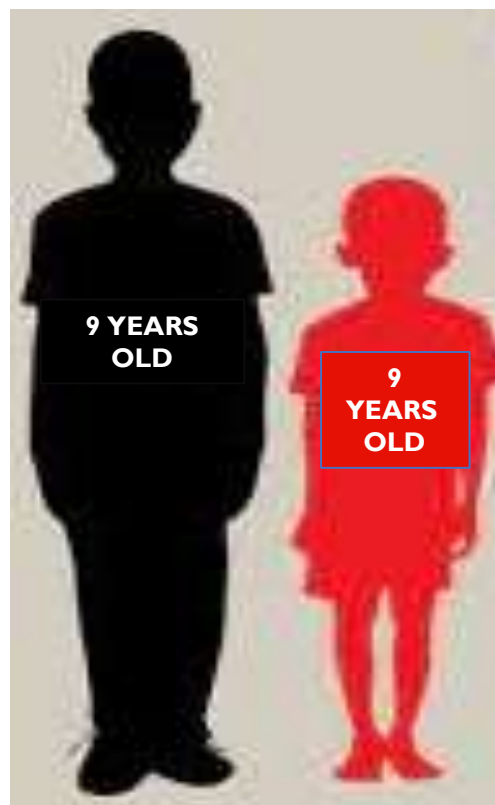
Data collection methods:

- Quantitative- 150 HH survey
- Qualitative data via focus group discussions with lead mothers/ grandmothers/ fathers and key stakeholder partners

RESEARCH FINDINGS: “LESS PROGRESS WAS MADE ON BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES”



RESEARCH FINDINGS: “Stunting was significantly reduced in target communities”



	Baseline %	Endline%
Total	20.8	13.8
Sex		
Male	25.6	15.3
Female	15.6	12.1
Province		
Shefa	21.1	17.6
Sanma	17.0	10.0
Location		
Urban	18.6	17.6
Rural	22.2	9.4

DISCUSSION

- The project was successful in increasing key complementary feeding practices but less so in breastfeeding practices
- Stunting is higher in urban areas which may partially be explained by challenges with working mothers (who aren't able to breastfeed)

RECOMMENDATIONS / IMPLICATIONS

- The data shows that community-based, behavior change approaches are successful at reducing stunting.
 - Strongly recommend MOH to invest more in this area(CBC) and scale up Peer Support Group approach
 - Potential to also adopt the approach to reduce NCD and other public health issues in Vanuatu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Our project funders, the Australian government
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- Health Research Symposium committee

THANK YOU



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