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## Research Summary

Submission by: Binihi, Melissa  
Position/Title: Community Mobilization Officer  
Collaborators:  
Contact email: mbinihi@vanuatu.gov.vu  
Category (clinical/public health): Public Health  
Data focus: National

**Title** Understanding key COVID-19 health messages and review how and from who communities are receiving and accessing information about COVID-19.

### Abstract

#### Background

As COVID-19 pandemic commence, this has boost up the work for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to address the situation within the Vanuatu Ministry of Health. This pandemic has placed overwhelming pressure on individuals, communities, healthy systems, economic and the government to prepare adjust and respond to the virus as a new normal. COVID-19 has strengthen the partnership between the Vanuatu Ministry of Health with other government organization, agencies and their partners ( Non-Government Organization, Civil Society) and have undertaken RCCE campaigns, aimed to share information about COVID-19, prevention measures and prepare communities for any community transmission that might occur if the situation occur. In 2020, the Risk Communication team from the Ministry of Health has conducted a two round rapid awareness survey to collect some initial data on the reach to coverage of health messages regarding COVID-19.

#### Methods

The first survey conducted from a face-to-face interviews and response was facilitate via online surveys and a zero-data landing page link to SMS by the national and provincial teams on Shefa Province and its urban areas. On the other hand, the second survey aims to act as interim measure prior to develop and delivery of a larger, more formal KAP Survey undertaken by the National Risk Communication Team, supported by the NHEOC and HTAG. The survey has been updated to include key questions on knowledge of transmission and prevention of COVID-19, as well as concerns and questions of respondents. The survey is conducted by Provincial teams. Supported by the use of electronic survey form using Kobo (Free, open source platform)

#### Results

The results of the first round of the survey provided preliminary information that was predominately collected from individuals residing in Shefa Province and urban Port Vila. A majority of responses were collected from via the landing page survey form, which is access via smartphone from an SMS link, followed by National and Provincial Public Health team surveys. The data from second survey supports the findings from the first survey. Respondents have reported receiving COVID-19 messaging from MOH. Respondent receiving messages are clear and easy to understand on the knowledge of symptoms, transmission and prevention of COVID-19.

#### Conclusion

A larger national level of knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey would be able to provide formal result regarding dissemination of messaging and behaviors. In addition, to enhance and strengthen the risk communication and community engagement response to COVID-19 preparedness and any emergency outbreak or pandemic situation in Vanuatu in the future.