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## Research Summary

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**Title** Prevalence and Impacts of Disability on Primary Health Care Service Delivery, Management and Utilisation in Vanuatu

### Abstract

Vanuatu's new Health Sector Strategy commits to meeting the health care needs of all people, including people with disability, and yet there is little understanding of the levels of functional impairment amongst visitors and providers at community care facilities, which comprise more than half of Vanuatu's operating health facilities.

In order to inform the Ministry of Health's sectoral planning towards more inclusive health at the community-care level, the national Village Health Worker Program is seeking to establish evidence on the prevalence and impact of functional impairment (as a proxy indicator of disability) amongst service providers (Village Health Workers and nurse supervisors), service managers (Aid Post Committees) and service users.

A national Village Health Worker Program Evaluation Survey was conducted in 2018, in all provinces of Vanuatu. Four Survey Teams visited a statistically representative sample of 67% (124) of the country's operating Aid Posts, and using an extension to the Washington Group Short Set [of questions] on Functioning, collected responses from over 1,500 respondents regarding difficulties they experience with: seeing; hearing; communicating; mobility and movement; self-care; remembering and concentrating; learning new things.

Mild-moderate functional impairment was reported amongst all respondent groups. While no respondents reported to be unable to complete any of the functions, reported impairment with the potential to impact on effectiveness of primary health care services included: vision impairment (23.3 - 42.6%); difficulty remembering/concentrating (20.2 - 33.6%); mobility impairment/difficulty moving around (10.5 - 16.0% - see Figure 1).

While this research focuses on the community care level, it is expected that similar levels of functional impairment, and similar access issues and trends would be found amongst service providers, managers and users at most primary health care levels. This has significance for health sector planning to meet inclusive health commitments in accordance with the Health Sector Strategy.