

Vanuatu Health Research Symposium
22-24 September 2021
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Hosted by the Vanuatu Medical and Dental Association



Research Summary

Submission by: Vile, Sharin
Position/Title: Emergency Response Officer
Collaborators:
Contact email: sharinvile27@gmail.com
Category (clinical/public health): Public Health
Data focus: TORBA, PENAMA, SANMA, MALAMPA, TAFEA

Title Comparative analysis of provincial Health Emergency Structures throughout Vanuatu.

Abstract

Background

Public health emergency preparedness sits at the core of the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED). While much of the focus of the APSED is the development of emergency plans, it also highlights the importance of health emergency structures. Vanuatu launched its Incident Management System (IMS) in 2021 which is intended to be a cross-Government emergency response structure implemented at the provincial level to manage health and other emergency events. The objective of this study was to review the implementation of the IMS structure in Vanuatu and identify gaps so that the system can be strengthened.

Methods

Led by the Ministry of Health held focus group discussions that focused on how to strengthen collaboration between national and provincial health level and the provincial governments in TAFEA, MALAMPA, SANMA, PENAMA and TORBA provinces between April–August 2021.

Results

Five consultations were conducted and reports were obtained from previous IMS baseline assessment. The discussion was different in each province however all provinces identified the need for capacity building and emergency response focal points to be established at the provincial level. There is also need to support and strengthen coordination of emergency response between the provincial government and partners through the development of emergency response plans that aligns with the health overarching emergency response operational plan.

Conclusion

Implementation of provincial health emergency structures including incident management systems will improve effective emergency response management. This review has found that capacity building and improved communication is needed. Provinces have identified the need for provincial focal points and will be supported to train and support these roles.