

2nd Vanuatu Health Research Symposium

Vanuatu Roadmap to Malaria Elimination in the Pacific Region



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Global progress against malaria has levelled off

- In recent years, global gains have levelled off - many high burden countries have been losing ground: insufficient funding, COVID-19, limited resources overall.

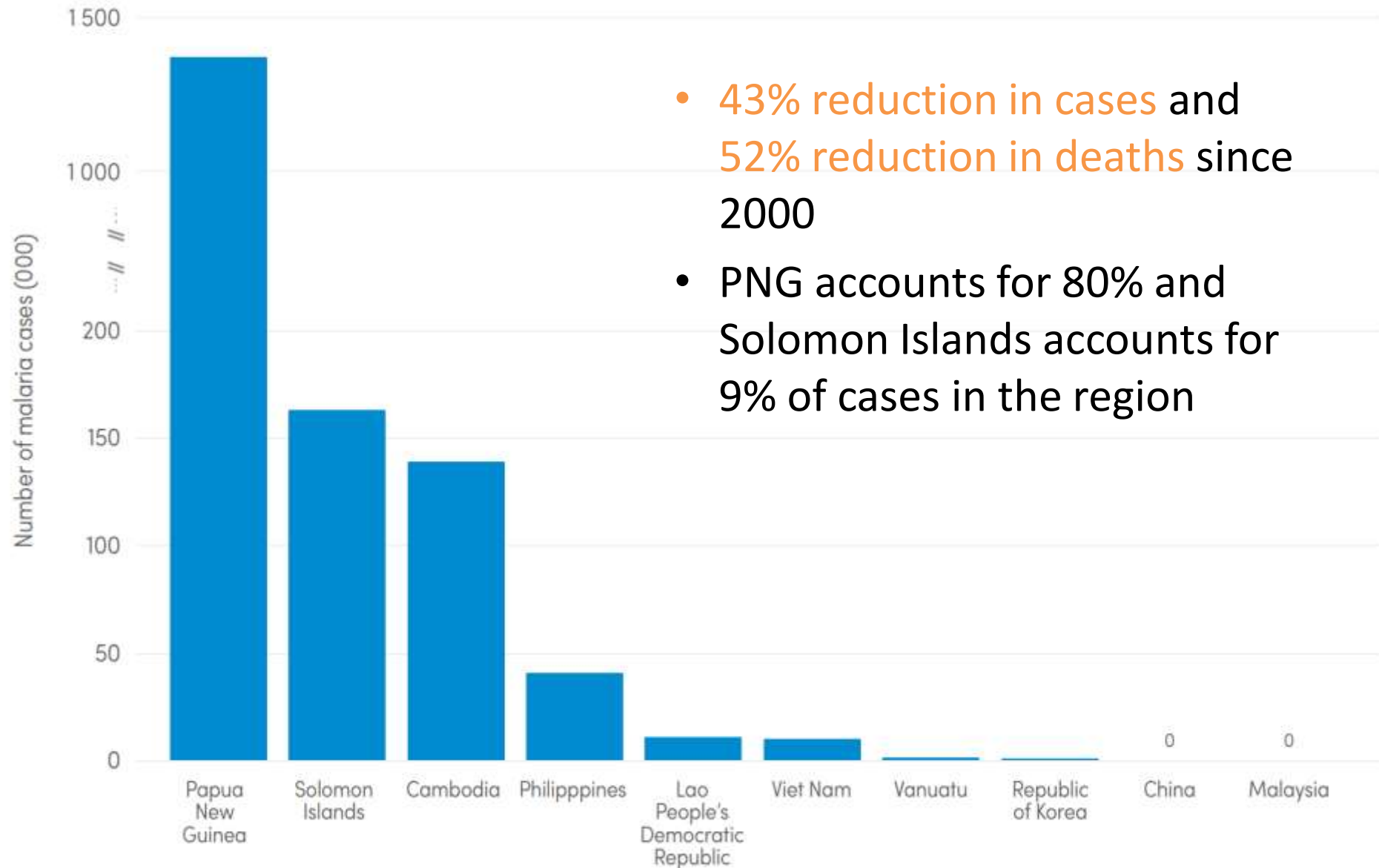
Goals, milestones and targets for the *Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030*

GOALS	MILESTONES		TARGETS
	2020	2025	2030
1. Reduce malaria mortality rates globally compared with 2015	At least 40% 18% reduction achieved 22% off track	At least 75%	At least 90%
2. Reduce malaria case incidence globally compared with 2015	At least 40% 3% reduction achieved 37% off track	At least 75%	At least 90%
3. Eliminate malaria from countries in which malaria was transmitted in 2015	At least 10 countries On track	At least 20 countries	At least 35 countries
4. Prevent re-establishment of malaria in all countries that are malaria-free	Re-establishment prevented On track	Re-establishment prevented	Re-establishment prevented

- Local data and intelligence are vital to inform local solutions**

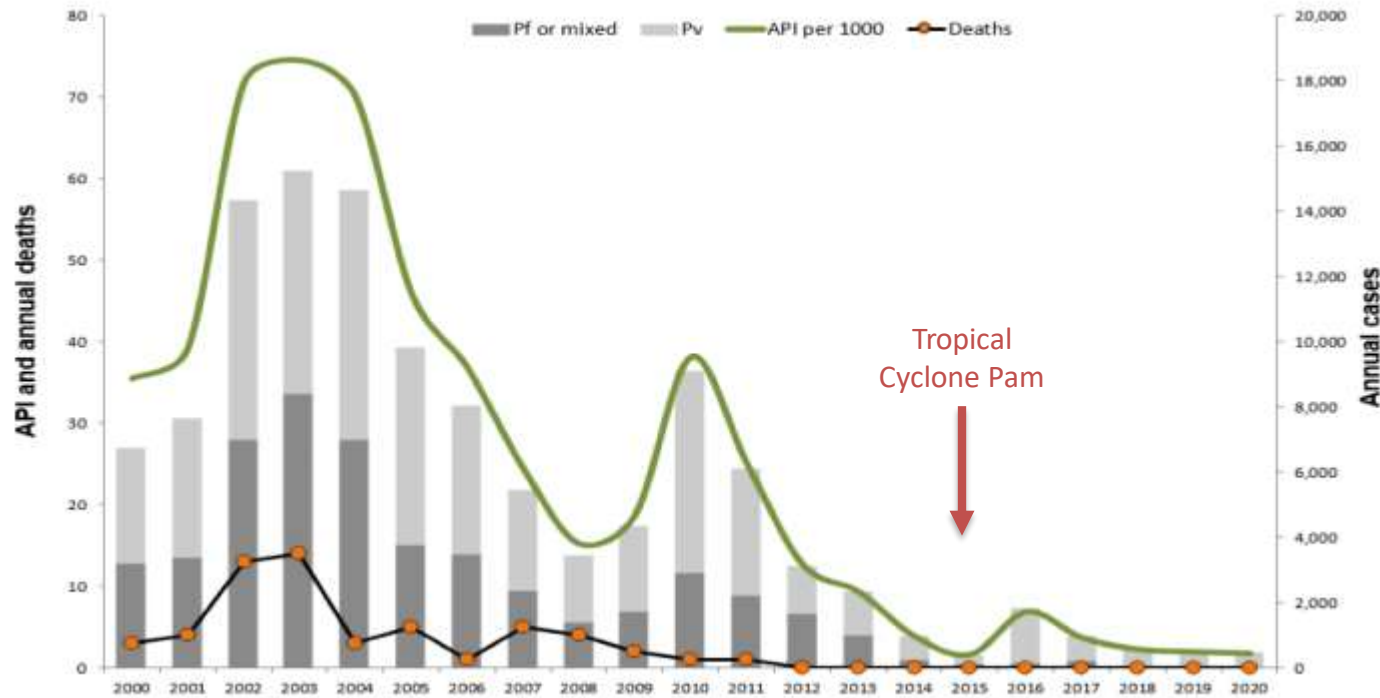
Lowered burden in Western Pacific region

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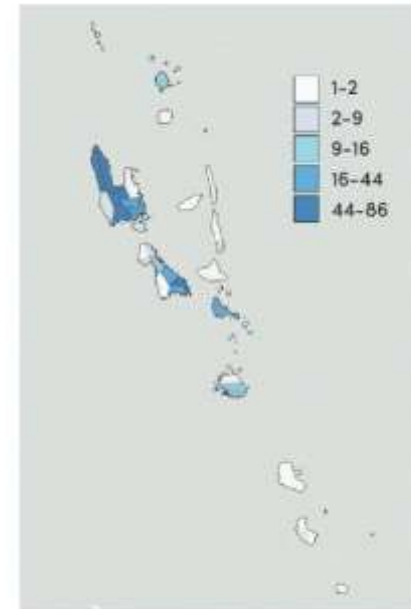


Excellent progress made in Vanuatu

Deaths, cases by parasite species, and annual parasite incidence (API) (2000-19)



Cases by HZ, 2020



Province	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Malampa	2.8	24.3	10.7	5.1	4.9	3.7
Sanma	3.8	15.7	10.7	3.8	4.2	4.7
Penama	2.2	0.6	0.78	0.17	0.03	0.05
Shefa	0.2	0.4	0.18	1.7	1.0	0.43
Tafea	0.0	0.0	0.03	0.08	0.03	0.03
Torba	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.72	0.97	0.87
Vanuatu	1.6	6.8	3.8	2.2	1.9	1.7

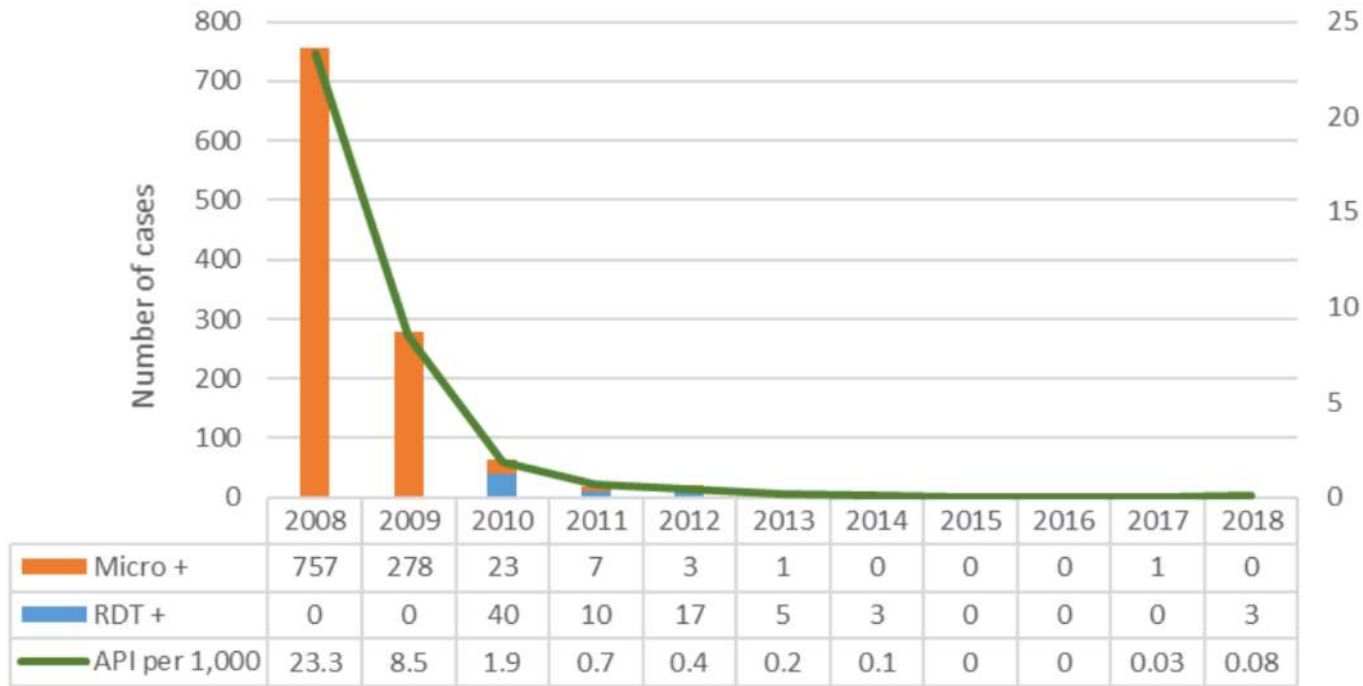
Malaria Program Review 2018:

“Vanuatu is well on the way to achieving malaria elimination”

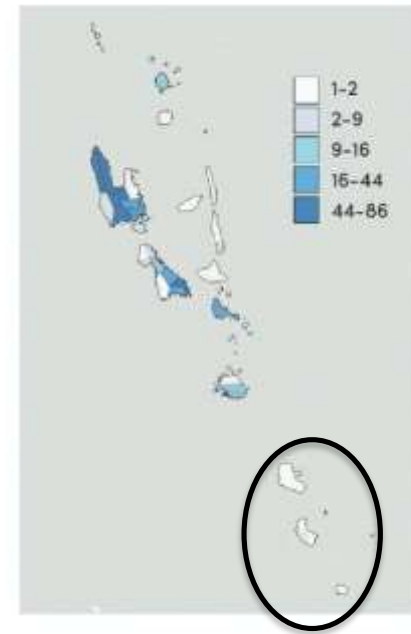


Successful elimination in Tafea Province (2017)

Case load and annual parasite incidence (API) in Tafea Province (2008-18)



Cases by HZ, 2020



Strong political commitment and effective partnerships

Effective national program management coupled with strong capacity on the ground

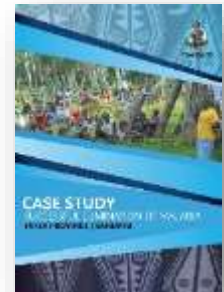
Timely delivery of proven interventions by trained personnel to achieve high coverage and impact

Active community leadership and ownership

Access to adequate funds and resources

Tafea Case Study 2019:

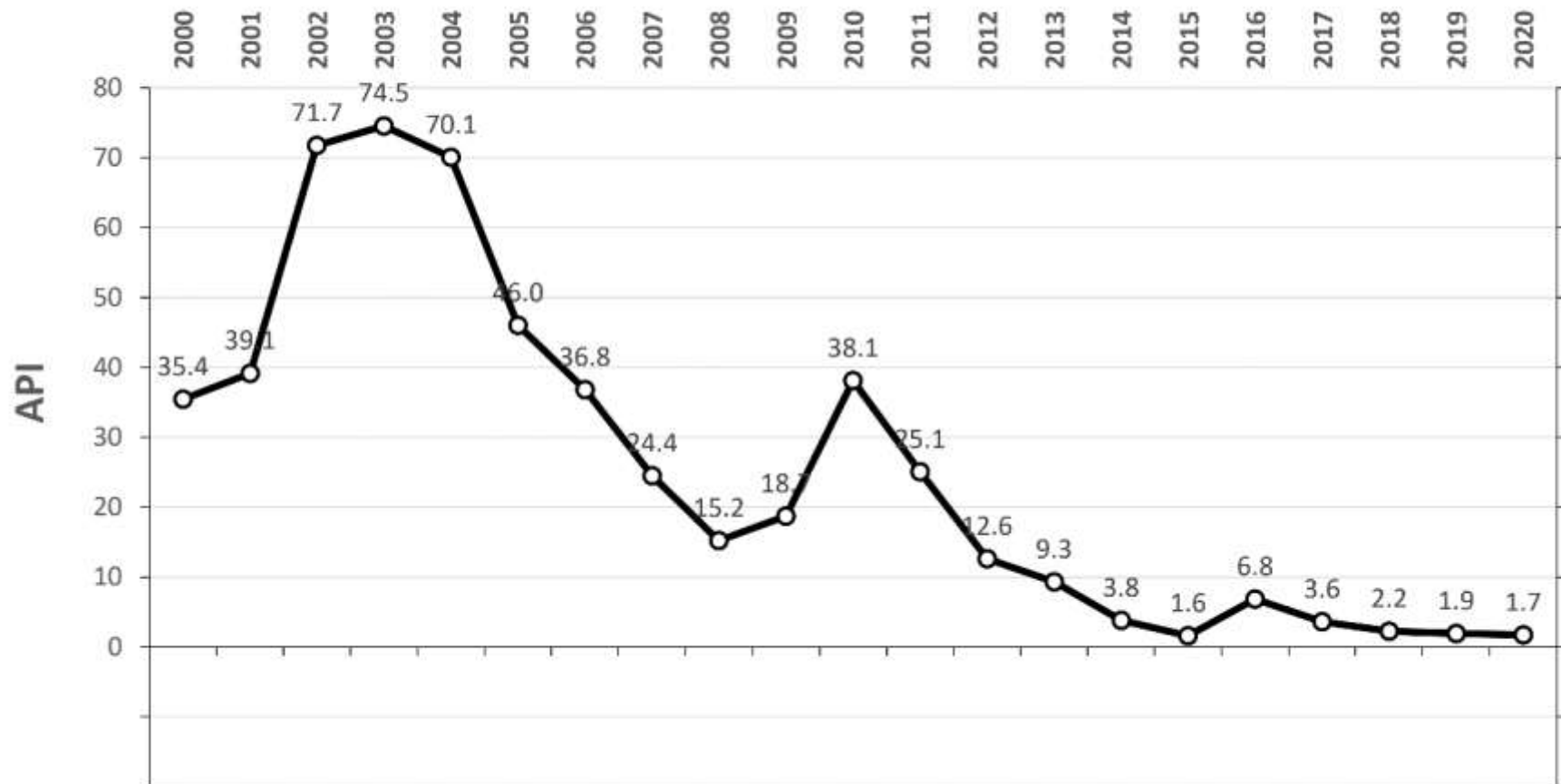
“The TAFEA model needs to be adapted for other settings”



Ongoing technical challenges

PROGRESS HAS SLOWED

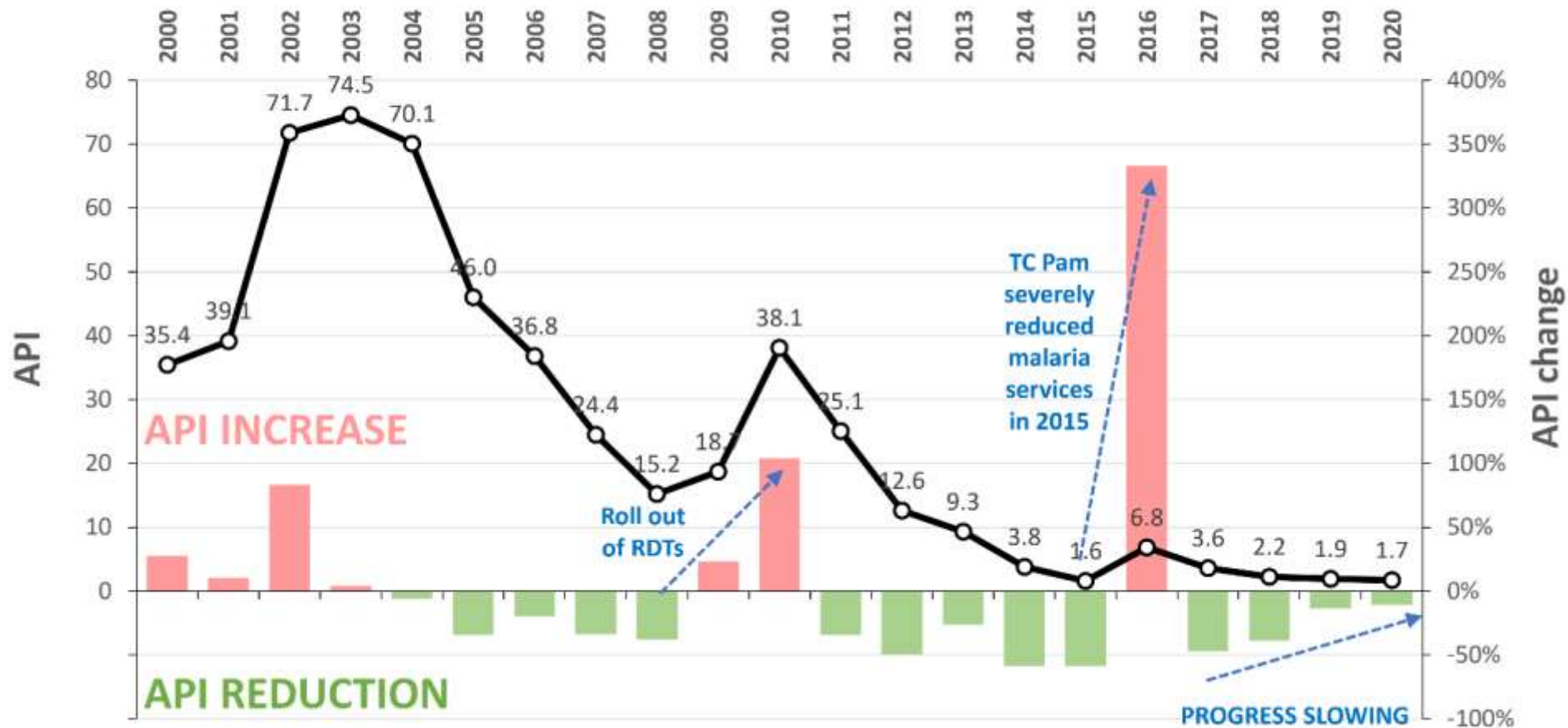
Annual Parasite Incidence (API)



Ongoing technical challenges

PROGRESS HAS SLOWED

Annual Parasite Incidence (API) and % change from previous year

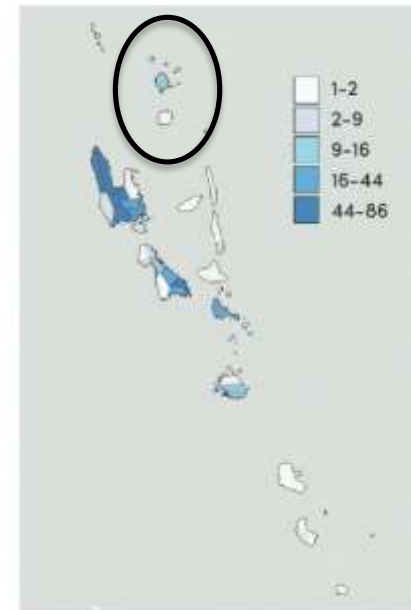


Ongoing technical challenges

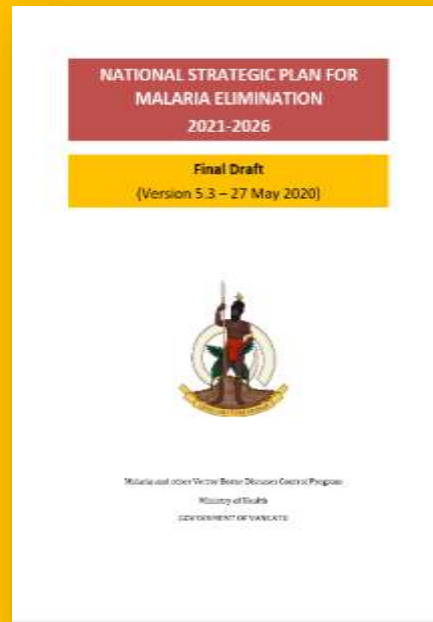
In 2020:

- **Active foci:** ongoing transmission in some areas, including of *P. falciparum*
- **Relapses:** *P. vivax* relapses due to inadequate primaquine treatment (limited G6PD testing)
- **Re-establishment of transmission:** Torba
- **COVID-19:** re-allocation of financial and human resources to intensive preparedness activities
- **Tropical Cyclone Harold:** widespread damage, including in 2 provinces with highest malaria incidence

Cases by HZ, 2020



Despite these challenges, GOV remains committed to malaria elimination



NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION (NSPME) 2021-2026

**Vision: A malaria free Vanuatu,
contributing to the good health and well-being of the population**

Goals

1. Prevent re-establishment where transmission has been interrupted
2. Achieve zero indigenous malaria cases in all provinces by end of 2023
3. Receive WHO certification of malaria-free status in 2026

Objective 1
Universal
LLIN
coverage
and
Targeted
IRS

Objective 2
Case-based
Surveillance and
Response
(1-7-60)
in elimination
areas

Objective 3
Universal
access to
diagnosis and
prompt radical
treatment

Objective 4
Health
promotion,
multi-sectoral
engagement
in elimination

Objective 5
Malaria and
VBDs in
disaster
preparedness
and response

Supporting Elements:

1) Enabling Environment 2) Research and Innovation

**Technical
assistance**

Mission: Partnership between health services and communities → malaria elimination as part of UHC

Timelines and targets

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
National API (per 1,000 persons)	≤ 1	≤ 0.5	≤ 0.2	≤ 0.1	≤ 0.1	≤ 0.1
Indigenous cases	≤ 280	≤ 140	≤ 56	0	0	0
Provinces with zero monthly indigenous cases (by end of year)	3	4	6	6	6	6
	Penama Torba	Shefa	Malampa Sanma			National certification
Maintain prevention of re-establishment	Tafea	Tafea Torba Penama	Tafea Torba Penama Shefa	All	All	All

LLIN distribution and community advocacy



Geographical Reconnaissance (GR) that supports Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in Tafea



Case based surveillance and response (case-investigation)



Opportunities to be leveraged

- **Past success** - gives us a strong starting point
- **Extensive experience** - amongst the team to draw on
- **New strategy** - lays out clear path to elimination by 2023 and certification by 2026
- **Existing tools** - can be adapted to the new strategy
- **New vehicles** - will enable case investigations
- **Renewed partnerships** - eg. the Vanuatu Red Cross Society
- **Renewed interest** - from development partners eg. Rotarians Against Malaria
- **Additional technical support** - eg. WHO SSAs, WHO STOP-Malaria Consultant, Malaria Elimination Officers, Peace Corps (?)

As we push towards elimination

- **Challenges** may become greater
- **Momentum** will be harder to sustain
- Priorities shift and funding can reduce
- We need to operate **smarter** – informed by data

TANK YU TUMAS

