



# SKILLS FOR HEALTH

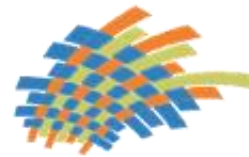
6-MONTH  
PROGRESS REPORT



**Vanuatu  
Australia  
Health  
Partnership**



**VANUATU  
SKILLS  
PARTNERSHIP**



**JANUARY - JUNE 2023**

## INTRODUCTION



*Image 1: Produce harvested from the Northern Provincial Hospital farm*

- This report provides an update on the activities undertaken by the Vanuatu Skills Partnership's Skills for Health (SfH) workstream over the six-month period from January to June 2023.
- The SfH workstream works with the following partners:
  - Ministry of Health (MoH), specifically the Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH) in Luganville, Santo as well as Health Offices in all provinces
  - Vanuatu Australia Health Partnership (VAHP)
- Priorities for the SfH workstream align with MoH's Health Sector Strategy 2021–2030.
- In 2023, SfH activities have primarily focused on the Farm to Hospital (F2H) initiative being implemented at the Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH) in Santo, through the Sanma Skills Centre. This includes the coordination and implementation of activities to strengthen the farm, such as the completion of the water tank basement for a new irrigation system.
- The Partnership is also supporting MoH to strengthen the capacity of Provincial Health Offices through the delivery of an accredited Certificate I in Computing training.



# CONTEXT

- Vanuatu experienced two category 4 cyclones in March 2023. While Santo and the NPH farm were largely unscathed, there was severe damage in other provinces including Shefa and Tafea, and a State of Emergency was announced by the Government for a period of 6 months.
- In the weeks following the cyclones, government partners were fully committed to emergency response and recovery efforts, which meant there were some delays to the Partnership's planned activities for the SfH workstream. There were also challenges with procurement and transport logistics, given the scale of the humanitarian response.
- While the NPH Farm Manager and his support officer have continued to produce food for the hospital kitchen, other planned F2H activities such as cooking workshops for NPH kitchen staff have not yet been delivered.



*Image 2: NPH Farm Manager harvesting white bun from the hospital farm*

# PARTNERSHIP STATUS AND CO-CONTRIBUTIONS

- No partnership agreements for the SfH workstream have been formalised to date in 2023.
- Now that the focus on emergency response activities has slowed, the Partnership will prioritise formalising agreements with key partners including MoH and the Vanuatu Australia Health Partnership. It is expected this will include a partnership agreement that will relate specifically to the NPH F2H initiative, in addition to supporting the Tasmalum Health Centre model pilot and joint support for the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education.

Partner	Amount committed for 2023 (VUV)	Amount received at 30 June 2023 (VUV)
MOH / NPH	0	82,485 (NPH farm materials and feed for livestock)

# WORKSTREAM WORK PLAN STATUS

Work Plan Priority Areas &/Or Green Shoots	Mid-Year Status Update (No activity, some progress, good progress)	Additional Comments
ICT Professional Development	Good progress	First block of training delivered to health officers in Sanma, Malampa, Shefa and Torba.
F2H [NPH]	Some Progress	Construction of water tank complete, however other activities delayed until second half of the year.
Support of Tasmalum pilot project	Some progress	Procurement of office desk and Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment for new Administration/Support Officer at the Tasmalum Health Centre, but other planned support to be implemented in the second half of 2023.
Support to Vanuatu College of Nursing Education (VCNE) to establish re-accreditation and delivery requirements	Some progress	VCNE technical working group has engaged a consultant to develop a strategic plan for the institute as a step towards re-accreditation.

## QUANTITATIVE DATA (JAN-JUNE 2023)

Number of accredited trainings	Skills providers engaged	Number of participants in four provinces Block I of Block III ICT training
4 accredited training blocks in four (4) provinces	Ituani Vocational Skills Centre 5 trainers engaged including 2 women and 3 men	35 participants including 4 HIS officers and 21 provincial health administration staff and 10 provincial partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 men</li><li>• 15 woman</li></ul>

# KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED



*Image 3: A range of produce from the NPH farm available for use in the hospital kitchen*

## Savings generated for NPH from the hospital farm

- The farm at the NPH continues to produce a range of vegetables and protein sources for use in the NPH kitchen. In the last 6 months, this has included over 1,500 eggs and 628 fish. While egg production has reduced slightly due to limited availability of stock and feed, the tilapia ponds have increased production by 30% compared to 2022. A range of fruits and vegetables are also regularly harvested.
- The value of the produce harvested from the farm over the January-June period is estimated to be VUV 365,000. This is over 50% higher than the same period in 2022.
- To strengthen the long-term sustainability of the farm and promote resilience to the impacts of climate change, an irrigation system is in the process of being implemented. This includes the establishment of bore holes and construction of a new water tank.



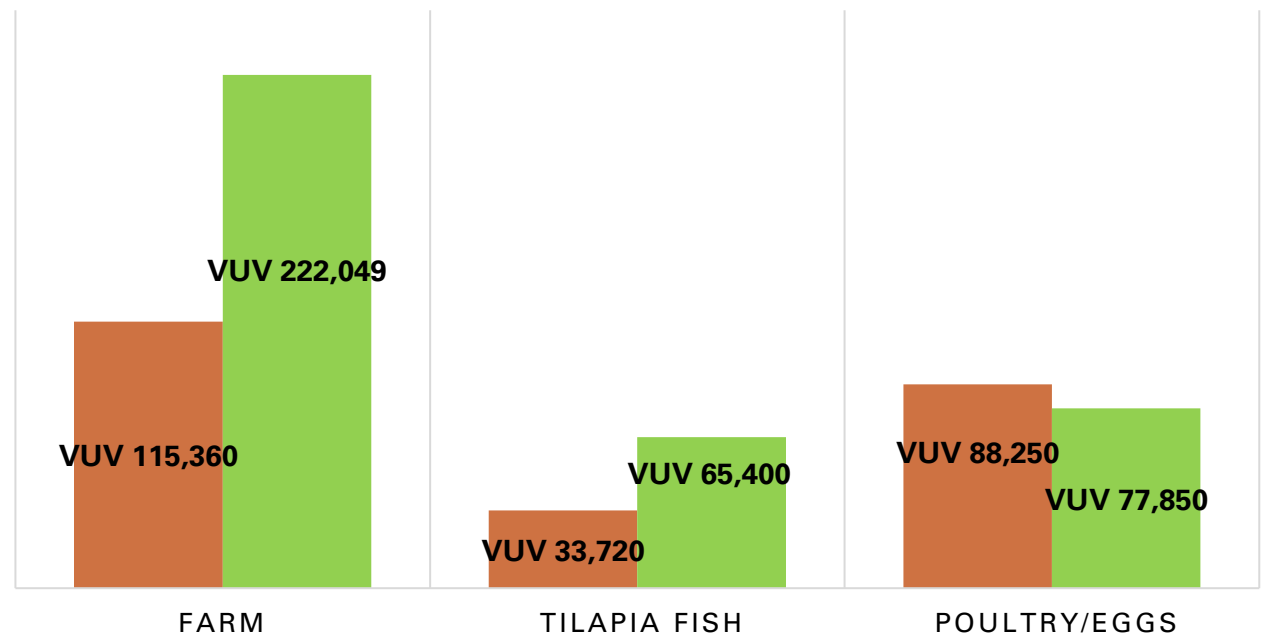
# KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED



*Image 4: NPH farm manger feeding chicken layers in the poultry hut.*

## ESTIMATED VALUE OF NPH FARM PRODUCE: JAN-JUN 2022 COMPARED TO JAN-JUN 2023

■ Jan - June 2022    ■ Jan - June 2023





# KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED



Image 5: Malampa health staff during block I training of Certificate I in Computing.

## Commencement of ICT training for provincial health sector workers

- Initial blocks of accredited training in computing and ICT have been delivered in four provinces (Torba, Sanma, Malampa and Shefa) to 35 participants.
- The training aims to improve the capacity of these health sector workers to use ICT in their workplace, including for administration, management and reporting to ensure they can provide accurate and timely information to senior management within the Ministry of Health in Port Vila, especially during times of disease outbreaks.
- This training is aligned with the MOH Corporate Plan 2023, " *Management and strengthening of Health Promotion Offices National and Provincial (Including capacity building, monitoring etc)*".

*"Training ia, hemi dreamscome true long mi. Once mi enter office long 2019, wetem ol appraisal blong ol staffs blong mi, mi identify se computing skills hemi wan gap therefore oli needim computing skills. But, this year as VSP hemi come in wetem training ia mi personally, mi glad tumas as hemi longtime request blong mi go long national but nogat any respond mo tu hemi stap long bisness plan blong mi blong yia ia".*

**Salome Kenneth, Malampa Provincial Health Manager**

# LESSONS LEARNED AND ACTIONS

**Lesson 1:** There is a lack of clarity around how F2H initiative should be taken forward beyond the continued strengthening of the farm.

**Action:** The Partnership will facilitate a partnership workshop with MOH/NPH and VAHP to agree roles, responsibilities and contributions to the full F2H concept, as well develop a clear set of immediate priorities for action.

**Lesson 2:** There is uncertainty regarding roles and responsibilities between VAHP and the Partnership when jointly implementing health activities in provinces.

**Action:** Co-create a detailed workplan to complement the current draft high level collaboration agreement between the Partnership and VAHP, which needs to be finalised ASAP.

**Lesson 3:** There is a need to strengthen the working relationships with Provincial Health Managers, including to better understand their organisational structure and processes.

**Action:** Actively engage with Provincial Health Managers to promote communication and collaboration and strengthen the coordination of health program priorities.

**Lesson 4:** While the SfH workstream has trialled and tested several pilot initiatives, it needs to identify its strategic 'niche' relative to other partners working in the health sector, including MOH and VAHP.

**Action:** Conduct an internal review of the strategic priorities of the SfH workstream and consider niche opportunities to contribute to change in the health sector.

# PRIORITIES FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2023



*Image 6: Produce ready for harvest at the NPH farm.*

## **NPH Farm to Hospital:**

- Establish a formal partnership agreement with MOH/NPH and VAHP to foster collaboration and clarify responsibilities for the NPH F2H initiative.
- Action the outstanding elements of NPH F2H, such as training for NPH kitchen staff and information on the benefits of healthy eating for patients and their families.

## **Professional development for Provincial Health Sector workers:**

- Support the delivery of of Certificate I in Computing across all provinces.

## **Tasmalum pilot project:**

- Continue to participate in meetings of the Tasmalum pilot working group and identify niche opportunities to provide assistance.

## **Strategic/internal:**

- Formalise a partnership agreement between VAHP and the Partnership
- Conduct an internal review of the strategic priorities of the SfH workstream