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Vanuatu



Fast Facts

Population:	245,000
Life expectancy:	70.8 years
Under 5 mortality rate:	33/ 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	no data
Adult literacy rate:	80.4%
HIV prevalence:	no data
Access to improved water:	96% (urban) 79% (rural)**

Source: International Human Development Indicators, United Nations Development Programme, 2010.

*HIV and AIDS Estimate, UNAIDS, 2009

**Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, WHO/UNICEF, 2008

Program Overview

Communities in Vanuatu are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and have limited capacity to rebuild when disasters strike. After looking at ways in which CARE could assist communities in the area, Vanuatu was highlighted as a country where CARE's work in community-based emergency preparedness would be most relevant.

In mid 2008, CARE began to work in Vanuatu and have a functional office in Port Vila, with a small team of four. CARE now has two projects in Vanuatu and will work with communities to identify other areas where the need is greatest.

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Emergency Preparedness

Vanuatu, made up of 83 islands, is located on the Pacific rim of fire and is highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards including cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis, as well as rising sea levels due to climate change.

Through the current project; Improving Community Based Emergency Preparedness in Vanuatu, CARE will work with 19 communities to develop emergency preparedness plans and identify ways to make these plans sustainable - so that CARE's help is no longer needed. To do this, CARE will build the capacity of communities and local organisations to prevent or mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and rebuild after disaster. Over the project duration, every opportunity has been taken to work with other NGOs and government bodies in community based emergency preparedness activities.

The next phase of the project; Be Better Prepared, will build on the experiences and lessons learnt from the current project; as well as the already developed relations with local communities and authorities on the ground. The focus of activities will be complementary in that they will continue to work in the same 19 communities to further strengthen and reinforce previous activities. In addition, new activities will be introduced, including community emergency plans, and the targeting of households and children through household awareness activities, school safety plans and risk education to children to ensure a broader community reach.

Climate change community perception assessment and awareness raising activities will also be introduced to progressively integrate this component in existing community DRR plans at CDC level.

By partnering with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, CARE has worked to build the capacity of this office at national and provincial levels. CARE's work in Vanuatu actively seeks gender balance in all its activities as well as giving high consideration to environmental issues and their impact on emergency preparedness.

Major Donors

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
ECHO

CARE International members supporting current program: CARE Australia, CARE Netherlands

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