



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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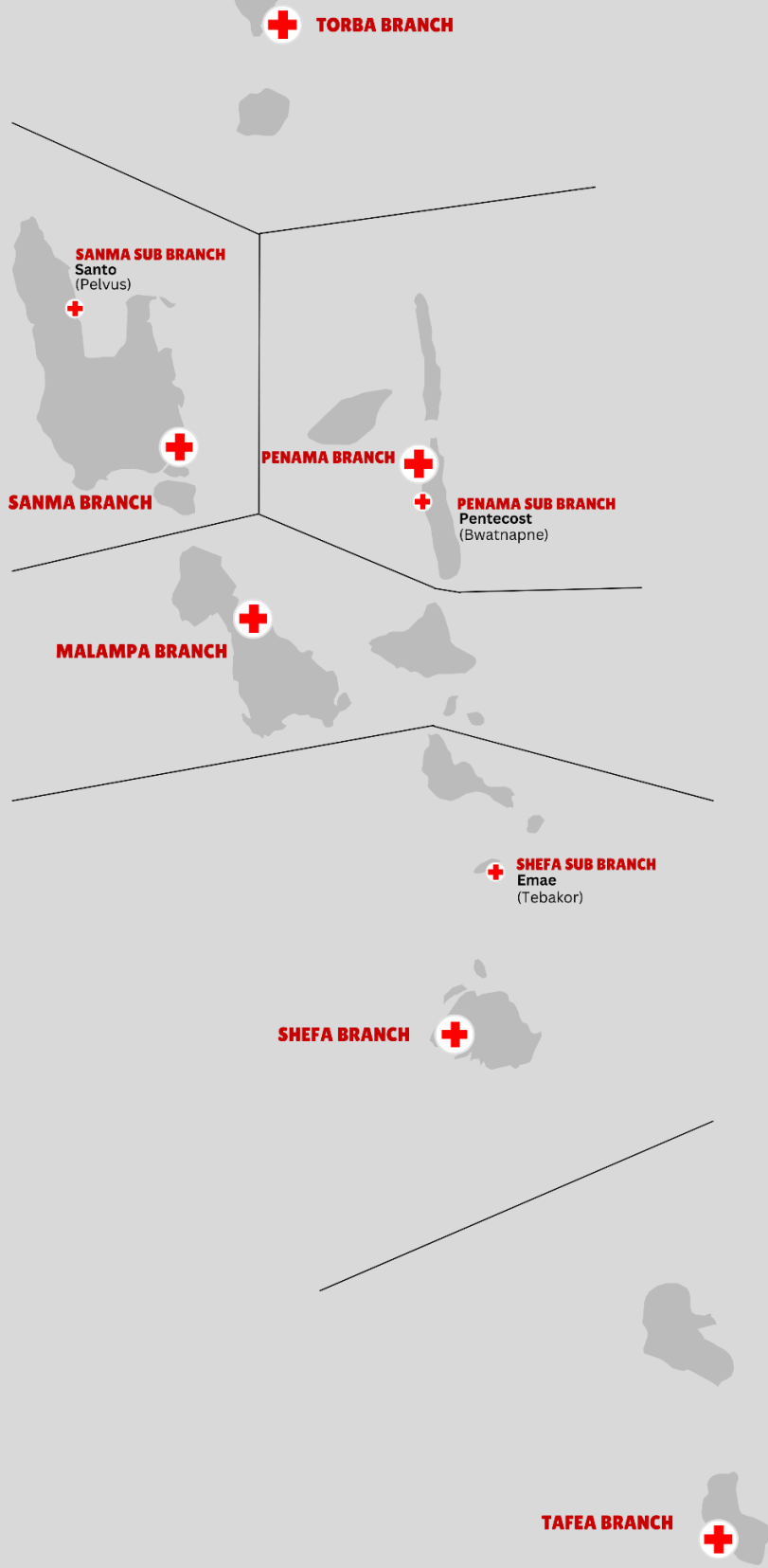
Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Statement:

Vanuatu Red Cross Society remains dedicated to providing humanitarian aid while ensuring responsible stewardship of resources. We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint, improving disaster preparedness, and empowering communities across Vanuatu through sustainable, socially responsible programs. Our initiatives continue to be driven by a commitment to transparency, accountability, and the highest ethical standards.



VANUATU MAP

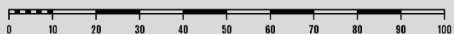


VANUATU RED CROSS Sub Branches and Branch Locations



Location

-  Branches Location
-  Sub Branches Location



The Seven Fundamental Principles

Humanity

Impartiality

Neutrality

Independence

Voluntary Service

Unity

Universality



Our Vision

A trusted leading humanitarian organisation providing effective and inclusive quality service to mitigate human suffering.

Our Mission

Improve life of the most vulnerable without discriminating through voluntary services and working inclusively with the government and other stakeholders.

Our Values

- **Teamwork and friendliness**
- **Professionalism**
- **Accountability**
- **Transparency**
- **Dignity and Respect for all**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Safety and Child Protection**



List of Acronym

VRCS	Vanuatu Red Cross Society
ARC	Australian Red Cross
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
CCA	Climate change and Adaptation
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CP	Cerebral Palsy
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DMF	Disaster management Forum
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
FA	First Aid
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IYCP	International Youth Cooperation Project
IEC	Information, Education and Communications
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NS	National Society
NZRC	New Zealand Red Cross
PGI	Protection, Gender & Inclusion
PASSA	Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RM	Resource Mobilization
ToT	Training of Trainers



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Strategic Goals



Strategic Goal 1

People are resilient, anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from Crisis

Strategic Goal 2

People lead safe, healthy and dignified lives and have opportunities for all to thrive.

Strategic Goal 3

People are empowered to mobilize for inclusive and peaceful communities.

Message from our National President



In 2023, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has continued to establish itself as one of Vanuatu's leading humanitarian organizations. This year, our nation faced significant challenges, including the devastating impacts of two twin cyclones, Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin, in March, followed by Tropical Cyclone Lola. These back-to-back disasters severely impacted communities across the islands. In response, VRCS, in collaboration with the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and other partners, mobilized quickly to provide vital support to the most vulnerable, ensuring they received the help they needed during these difficult times.

Despite these challenges, VRCS has remained focused on strengthening our partnerships with NGOs, stakeholders, and the Government. This collaboration has allowed us to deliver a range of diverse projects and activities, thanks to the generous financial backing of various funders and partners.

As we reflect on the events of this year, we are proud of the incredible resilience shown by both our staff and volunteers. Their unwavering dedication has enabled us to remain agile and responsive in the face of multiple challenges, from public health crises to natural disasters. We have also used this opportunity to assess the direction of the National Society, reaffirming our commitment to enhancing the lives of the most disadvantaged through volunteer activity and expanding our reach across the country.

Looking ahead, we are confident in the future and the continued strength of our partnerships. While we remain acutely aware of Vanuatu's vulnerability to disasters, the resilience demonstrated by our communities gives us great hope. With another successful year behind us, VRCS remains committed to working alongside our partners, funders, and stakeholders to build a more resilient and prepared nation, ensuring that we continue to deliver critical humanitarian support to those in need.

Message from our Secretary General



The year 2023 has been a transformative one for the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) as we navigated new challenges and opportunities. Our Strategic Plan, allowed us to reflect on our past successes and areas for growth while setting future goals. This process has helped us sharpen our vision and develop strategies that not only address the evolving needs of communities but also strengthen VRCS's position as a leading humanitarian organization in Vanuatu, focused on helping the most vulnerable.

The year also saw Vanuatu face a series of severe natural disasters, including twin cyclones, Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin, in March, followed by Tropical Cyclone Lola. These cyclones caused extensive damage, displacing families and disrupting livelihoods. VRCS responded swiftly, providing emergency shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, along with health and awareness campaigns to mitigate disease risks in affected areas. Our teams worked tirelessly to distribute essential supplies, while our volunteers carried out health and safety awareness efforts to ensure that vulnerable communities received critical support during these difficult times.

Alongside our disaster response efforts, VRCS has continued to grow and strengthen its capacity to serve. With six fully operational branches across Vanuatu's six provinces and three newly established sub-branches, VRCS now has 28 permanent staff and 9 board members. This expansion has allowed us to deliver important training programs in disaster preparedness, health, and WASH, empowering local volunteers and building resilience in the communities we serve, ensuring a stronger response to future emergencies.

We are deeply appreciative of the continued support from our partners, including IFRC, ARC, ICRC, NZRC, and the Japanese Red Cross Society. Although many of our programs are reaching their conclusion, we remain optimistic about securing additional funding to enhance both new and existing sub-branches and to further develop the National Society. Our Master Plan outlines key initiatives we aim to pursue as resources become available. I am incredibly proud of our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose efforts have been instrumental in helping the most vulnerable. This Annual Report reflects the significant impact of our work, showing how our programs align with the mission and vision of VRCS.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent

International Committee of the Red Cross – (ICRC)

ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and co-ordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavors to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – (IFRC)

The IFRC works to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member national societies. Founded in 1919 the IFRC directs and coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies and works to strengthen their capacities to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programs.

National Societies

National Red Cross and Red Crescent embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the 189 Countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field, and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programs. During wartime, national Societies assist the affected civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate.



About Vanuatu Red Cross

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society was founded on October 11th, 1982, under the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No: 23 of 1982. This act provides the legal framework for the society's operations, granting it the status of a corporate body with perpetual succession and a common seal.

The society's Constitution is based on the principles outlined in the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977, to which Vanuatu is a party.

The Red Cross began operating in Vanuatu as a branch of the British Red Cross. Over time, the local branch evolved into the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, with its own governance structure, programs, and activities tailored to meet the specific needs of the Vanuatu population. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society carries out a range of humanitarian activities aimed at promoting the well-being and resilience of communities across Vanuatu. These activities may include disaster preparedness and response, healthcare services, community-based health education, first aid training, support for vulnerable groups, and advocacy for humanitarian principles and values.

The society collaborates with various stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, to enhance the effectiveness and reach of its humanitarian programs. By working in partnership with other actors, the society can better address the complex challenges faced by communities in Vanuatu. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society plays a vital role in providing humanitarian assistance and promoting humanitarian values in Vanuatu, drawing on its legal mandate, international commitments, and principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Constituency

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society has a total of 6 Provincial branches with its headquarters located in Port Vila, membership of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society is open to everyone. There are three (3) forms of membership: Active (volunteers), Subscribing (feepaying) and honorary.

The society boasts over 900 registered volunteers, who play a critical role in supporting its humanitarian efforts. This volunteer base can expand further as needed during times of increased activity or emergencies, demonstrating the flexibility and responsiveness of the organization.



PATRON



His Excellency

Nikenike Vurobaravu

HONORARY MEMBERS



Ati George Sokomanu



Antony Deamer

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

The role of the board is to make decisions in regards to the approval and development of policy, act as guardians to the legal base of the national Society, and ensure the statutes of the national Society conform to the Red Cross Red Crescent law, while also conforming to the local law. Most importantly the National Board plays a lead role as guardian of the Society's integrity, setting example by acting with integrity itself.



Treasurer –
Johnston Tau



President –
Moses Stevens
Jenery



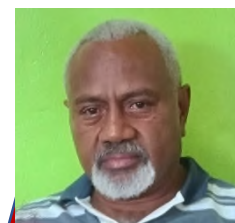
Vice President
– Jacob Bani



Torba Board
Member –
Judah Silas



Shefa Board –
Ruth Amos



Penama Board
– Selwyn Garu



Sanma
Province -
Simon Tambe



Tafea Board -
Mary Kaviamu
Jack



Malampa
Province –
Jack Roy



MEET OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Secretary General: Dickinson Tevi



Mr. Dickinson Tevi, has been the Secretary General of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) since 2021, he is responsible for implementing the policies and strategies set by the National Board of Directors, managing the organization's daily operations, overseeing financial management, and representing the VRCS in interactions with government agencies, donors, and international organizations. Having joined the VRCS in 2013 as a Finance Officer with the French Red Cross and later serving as the Organizational Development Coordinator from 2015, Mr. Tevi ensures that the organization's programs align with its mission while keeping the National Board informed to guide strategic decisions.

Disaster management Coordinator: Augustine Garae



The Disaster management Coordinator works closely with the national Disaster management officer and other humanitarian actors in Vanuatu to manage the disaster response operations of Vanuatu Red Cross Society. Ensuring the preparedness of the Society to respond to disasters is a main responsibility which involves coordination of disaster relief and training and management of Emergency Response teams. the disaster Coordinator also oversees disaster risk reduction programming.

Augustine started with VRCS in 2004 as a Community Health & First Aid officer and now working as the VRCS Disaster Coordinator. He is one of the longest serving staff of the Society and one of the experienced disaster management coordinators in the country. He looks after a total of 5 staffs, this includes 2 Shelter officer, 2 CVA staffs and 1 PGI officer.

Finance Manager: Shilla Nishai



The finance Manager oversees all financial affairs of Vanuatu Red Cross Society. This includes coordination of multiple projects budgets as well as core funds, managing procurements procedures and donors reporting. The finance Manager also supervises the work of the Administration and Human Resources staffs. Shilla has been with the Vanuatu Red Cross as an Officer in 2021 and in 2022 was promoted to finance Manager. She has a total of 2 finance officers that she looks after and a finance volunteer.

Health & WASH Coordinator: Linda Peter



The Health and WASH Coordinator oversees all programming related to health and water, Sanitation & hygiene activities. This position also works with the Disaster management Coordinator for any health-related emergency response.

Linda joined VRCS in 2014 as a health officer and in 2017 being promoted as the Health Coordinator. Looking after a total of 3 staffs and that is the Assistant health & WASH officer and the First Aid officer.

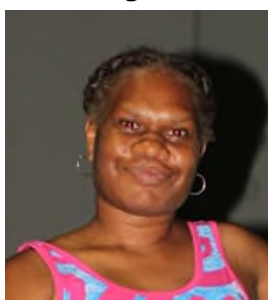
Logistics Senior Officer: Suzanna Gislapno



The Senior Logistics Officer has a total of 3 staffs that are working under its department. These department works in looking at the stock update and stock replenishment of the VRCS warehouses and mainly doing procurements of the items and things that the VRCS needs in order to operate its activities and programs.

Suzanna joined the VRCS at 2015 as a volunteer, and later being promoted as the logistics officer and currently as the senior Logistics officer.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting Officer: Jennifer Nakou



The PMER Officer works closely with all operational departments to assist in planning, monitoring, and reporting, while also being responsible for producing public reports and facilitating the development of the Society's Strategic Plan. Jennifer joined the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) as a reporting officer in March 2022 and was promoted to PMER officer in September 2022.

Resource Mobilization: Neomi



The Resource Mobilization Officer is responsible for coordinating and nurturing partnerships and actively managing relationships with partner National Societies and donors across diverse income streams. This role involves driving corporate, social enterprise, and government partnerships to ensure financial sustainability. Additionally, the officer executes fundraising strategies and plans for HQ, providing crucial support to the six branches nationwide. Crafting compelling grant proposals, fundraising appeals, individual donation campaigns, and business development projects is central to generating income. Neomi joined the National

Society in November 2023.

Cash Voucher Assistance Officer: Tevita Gideon



A Cash and Voucher Officer is responsible for managing and implementing cash-based interventions (CBI) or cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programs, which are designed to provide financial support directly to beneficiaries. Tevita Gideon joined VRCS in 2021 working closing the disaster coordinator to support people that have been affected by disasters.

Volunteer Officer: Jessica Lange



The Youth and Volunteers officer joined VRCS in 2019 working closely with volunteers and youths that are registered under the Vanuatu Red Cross Society. This Position also works closely with the different heads of departments to ensure that volunteers are trained on essential projects that are to be implemented in different provinces of Vanuatu. Volunteers must have insurance before being deployed to targeted areas.

Communication & Dissemination Officer: Virginia Taravaki

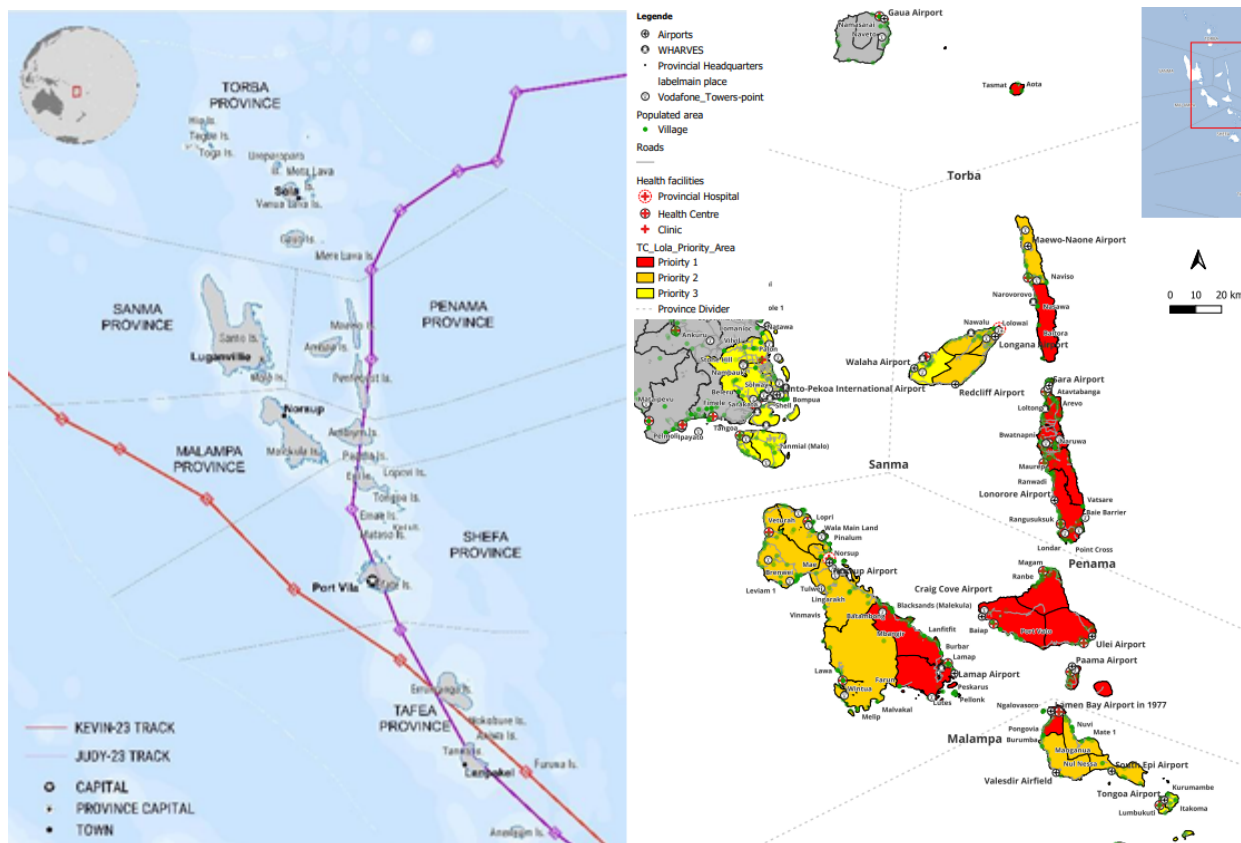


The Communication & Dissemination Officer, is to raise the profile of the National Society and promote VRCS's work through improving National Society external communication channels and strengthening internal communication capacity. She is also responsible for ensuring that National Society Staff and Volunteers have a good knowledge of the VRCS, the movement, the 7 Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law. joined in Mid September 2023.

2023 OPERATIONS



TROPICAL CYCLONE RECOVERY



Path of TC Judy & Kevin through the Vanuatu Islands.

TC Lola Cyclone affected areas.

In March of 2023, Vanuatu was devastated by Tropical cyclone Judy and Kevin, both category 4 storms. The destructive winds, heavy rainfall, and rough seas caused widespread damage to infrastructure, homes, and crops across the affected provinces of Malampa, Penama, Sanma, Shefa, Tafea and Torba. An estimated of about 197,388 people were affected. Also, in October of 2023 a Category 5 cyclone hit the northern part of Vanuatu namely TC Lola which cause significant damage to homes, livelihoods and infrastructure cutting off or limiting access to food, water, shelter and basic services for much of the population of the northern islands. It is estimated that over 91,000 people were affected.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society continue to work with affected communities in Penama, Malampa, Torba, Shefa, and Tafea.

OVERVIEW OF 2023 CYCLONE JUDY & KEVIN, TC LOLA RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
Shelter	Penama, Malampa, Tafea, Shefa	IFRC
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	Penama, Malampa, Tafea, Shefa	IFRC
CASH	Shefa	IFRC
Disaster Risk Reduction	Penama, Malampa, Tafea, Shefa	IFRC

SHELTER



A woman from North Pentecost preparing her house before cyclone Lola

In 2023, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) took crucial steps to support communities impacted by cyclones that devastated village buildings and schools across the northern islands of Vanuatu. These disasters significantly disrupted access to shelter, cooking facilities, and education. To address these issues, the VRCS Shelter Officer organized training sessions for local volunteers on "build back safer" techniques. These trained volunteers are now capable of sharing this knowledge with community members through practical awareness sessions, aiding them in constructing more resilient houses and shelters to better withstand future disasters.

The shelter recovery program, focusing particularly on the aftermath of Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin, commenced with a thorough 4-day training held at the VRCS headquarters in Port Vila, Efate. A total of 20 volunteers, both male and female, participated in this training. Following the program, the volunteers facilitated a safe shelter training session in the Mataso community area of Port Vila, involving 15 participants, including 6

females and 9 males. The training covered four key steps for building safe shelters: selecting a safe site, constructing a solid foundation, using bracing techniques, and ensuring robust joints and connections. During these sessions, participants were educated on the significance of safe shelter construction and practical methods for achieving it. The training also heightened awareness about safe shelter practices within the community and equipped individuals with the skills necessary to build resilient shelters.

The VRCS advocates for extending these training sessions to additional communities to ensure widespread understanding of how to utilize shelter toolkits and tarpaulins effectively. By preparing individuals for natural disasters or emergencies, these sessions empower them to construct safe and secure shelters, enhancing preparedness and resilience against future challenges.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Pre-crisis information indicates that many communities in the provinces hardest hit by recent cyclones in Vanuatu depend on river water for their daily needs, making them particularly vulnerable to water contamination following these

disasters. In Malampa Province, areas such as Southwest Malekula, Southeast Ambrym, and Paama have experienced significant damage to household toilets, increasing the risk of open defecation if sanitation issues are not promptly addressed. Additionally, some communities face poor hygiene practices due to limited access to water and sanitation facilities, including a shortage of handwashing stations in many community toilets. The presence of stagnant water and debris further exacerbates the risk of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria.

A rapid assessment conducted by the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) across 4,175 households by April 25th revealed that 1,956



Volunteers doing WASH Awareness in communities.

households are experiencing water access issues, while 1,469 households lack adequate sanitation facilities. Restoring access to clean and safe water has been identified as a top priority to prevent the spread of

waterborne diseases in these affected communities. Equally important are hygiene promotion activities focused on handwashing, safe food handling, and waste management to mitigate potential health risks.

To address these challenges, VRCS plans to develop hygiene-related awareness materials in local languages and prioritize building the capacity of local communities, government agencies, and humanitarian organizations. Training on water and sanitation management, hygiene promotion, and disaster risk reduction will be essential for ensuring a sustainable and effective response to the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) needs in Vanuatu.



Volunteers doing distribution of Jerry cans to affected communities.

“Restoring access to clean water and improving sanitation through hygiene promotion and capacity-building are top priorities for the VRCS to prevent the spread of diseases and ensure community resilience in the aftermath of disasters”

CASH VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

“The VRCS's Cash Preparedness initiative is a strategic move to strengthen disaster response by providing cash-based interventions, empowering communities to recover more effectively and sustainably in the aftermath of disasters”



Cash Registration in Port Vila.

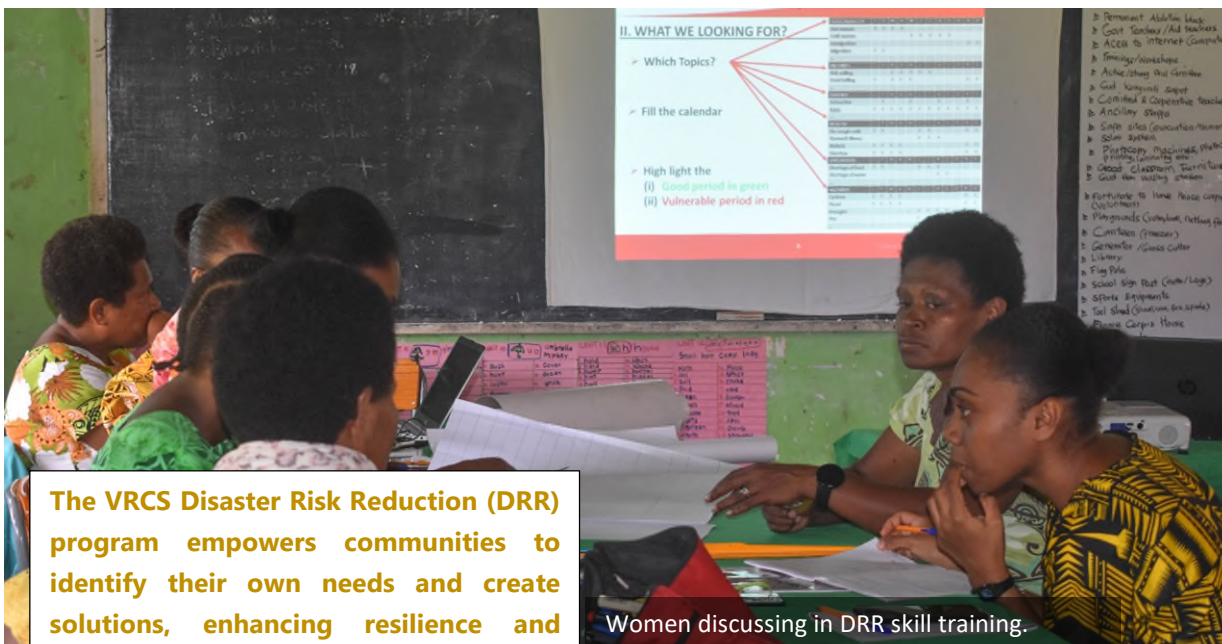
The twin cyclones severely impacted 25,933 workers, with 67% employed in the informal economy and 9,691 self-employed individuals, of whom 45% were women micro-entrepreneurs. In rural areas, significant crop losses affected farmers growing temporary, seasonal, and cash crops, while 1,444 fishers and aquaculture farmers also experienced setbacks. The cyclones exacerbated income losses, potentially increasing poverty and food insecurity in Vanuatu, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. Approximately 84% of home gardens were destroyed, and 42% of people faced food shortages. Employment and livelihoods were identified as the third highest recovery needs, following housing and transportation.

The impacts of the cyclones were most severe for already vulnerable groups, such as informal workers, self-employed individuals, micro-businesses, particularly those run by women, and subsistence workers, likely leading to a rise in poverty and hardship rates. In response, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has implemented a Cash Preparedness initiative,

focusing on integrating Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) into their national strategy and disaster management response. This strategic approach is crucial for enhancing disaster response capabilities in Vanuatu, given the country's susceptibility to various hazards.

As one of the pilot national societies under the 5-year Pacific Cash Readiness roadmap, VRCS is recognized for its commitment and organizational capacity in cash-based interventions. The initiative has enabled VRCS to distribute cash in communities such as Eton in South Efate in response to Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin in 2023. Capacity building efforts are ongoing at the VRCS branch to enhance knowledge, assessment capabilities, and the overall effectiveness of CVA interventions. These efforts include clarifying roles and responsibilities and fostering the exchange of learning experiences to reflect a comprehensive approach among staff and volunteers.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) SKILL TRAINING



The VRCS Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program empowers communities to identify their own needs and create solutions, enhancing resilience and preparedness while equipping volunteers with essential skills for effective disaster response.

Women discussing in DRR skill training.

Climate change has intensified the frequency and severity of natural disasters, exacerbating vulnerabilities due to factors like population growth, environmental degradation, and rapid urbanization. To combat these challenges, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has implemented a two-day Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program aimed at training volunteers. The program begins with community engagement, involving stakeholder meetings to build relationships and gather support, followed by community needs assessments where locals identify and address their own needs using available resources.

The DRR training empowers communities by enabling them to identify their own needs and develop solutions, thereby enhancing resilience and preparedness. The program equips volunteers with essential disaster response skills

and promotes a proactive approach to risk reduction. The training uses the VRCS DRR Handbook along with resources from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with objectives focused on reducing vulnerability, raising awareness, and strengthening the capacities of national and local actors.

Despite severe weather conditions from June to December 2023, including heavy rain and rough seas, the training was successfully conducted within the project timeframe. Weather-related challenges, such as rough sea conditions, impacted activity implementation, with the cost of chartering flights being a more expensive alternative.

The training also highlighted the need to include individuals with special needs in future programs, a request that has been noted for future consideration. The program included gender-inclusive participants who demonstrated confidence and engagement throughout the training, further supporting community resilience and preparedness efforts.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

OVERVIEW OF 2023 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
ERT Training	Shefa	ARC
IDRR Day	Penama	ARC
Shelter Training	Shefa	IFRC
PASSA Training		IFRC
Installation of Early Warning Sign Board	Penama, Sanma, Malampa, Shefa	
EU	Penama	USAID

ERT VOLUNTEERS

Upon completion of the training, participants demonstrated the ability to conduct rapid disaster needs assessments, identify urgent requirements, and create a simple response plan of action. They also gained skills in creating situation reports, conducting briefings, and managing information, all of which are crucial for effective disaster response. The training equipped them to take swift and informed actions during crises.

The visibility of this training has also strengthened the Vanuatu Red Cross Society's (VRCS) collaboration with stakeholders, enhancing its disaster response coordination. This partnership approach ensures a more unified and effective effort during emergencies. With this enhanced collaboration, VRCS is better positioned to respond to disasters more efficiently and effectively than in previous years.



ERT volunteers with their certificates.

Moreover, VRCS has significantly strengthened its preparedness and response capacity at the national, provincial, and community levels. The organization now has a pool of trained Emergency Response Team (ERT) members at provincial branches, ready to deploy in times of crisis. These ERT volunteers have acquired the necessary skills to act swiftly and competently during emergencies, ensuring timely and effective assistance.

At the conclusion of the four-day training, participants expressed their willingness and availability for deployment in crisis situations across affected communities and islands in Vanuatu's provinces. Both male and female participants recognized the importance of timely intervention to assist the most vulnerable people impacted by natural and human-made crises, highlighting their commitment to serving their communities in times of need.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TOT TRAINING



The VRCS now has a pool of ERT Trainers of Trainers (ToT) at both HQ and branch levels, which will enhance the number of trained volunteers and ensure a more coordinated and effective disaster response.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) Training of Trainers (ToT) provided a valuable platform for discussing and reviewing the updated ERT Manual, as part of an initiative to standardize tools and PPE kits for the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) ERTs. The goal is to ensure that these resources are available, prepositioned at branches, and that funding is secured to support facilitators in training volunteers. This approach will familiarize volunteers with the tools, roles, and responsibilities of the Red Cross during disasters and enable a localized response in emergencies.

The training took place on the island of Efate from September 26th to 30th, 2023, with 15 participants (8 males and 7 females) from both HQ and branches attending the ToT. The primary aims of the training were to establish a pool of ERT facilitators within the National Society (NS) at both the HQ and branch levels, to empower facilitators to train more volunteers at their branches, thereby increasing the number of ERT volunteers with the necessary skills and knowledge to support partners and work together in a coordinated manner. The training also focused on enhancing NS readiness by utilizing Early Warning and Early Action strategies and improving the capacity of NS tools, including the information management system, to ensure efficient and effective response and recovery efforts in the event of a crisis.

As a result of this initiative, VRCS now has a pool of ERT ToT trainers at both HQ and branch levels. With this new approach, the number of ERT volunteers is expected to increase, leading to better-coordinated response efforts during emergencies.

INSTALLATION OF EARLY WARNING SIGN BOARD

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has played a crucial role in supporting the Ministry of Health (MOH) during the COVID-19 pandemic. This support included assisting with the national vaccine program and managing the COVID hotline (165). During the peak of the outbreak, VRCS provided significant aid to community isolation centres. Although the national vaccine campaign has scaled down, with vaccines now accessible at health facilities, VRCS continues to improve community access to COVID-19 information by distributing AM/FM radios to health centres and installing COVID-19 Information Boards in targeted communities.

In addition to COVID-19 response efforts, VRCS has been actively involved in disaster preparedness and resilience building. Under the leadership of Salome Sumbe, a dedicated Disaster Information Board was installed at Matevulu College in Santo. This board will serve as a key resource for students, staff, and the wider community, keeping them informed about essential disaster preparedness and response measures. This initiative empowers youth to take an active role in disaster

readiness, integrating safety and resilience into daily school life.

The International Youth Cooperation Project (IYCP), funded by the Japanese Red Cross Society and implemented by VRCS, further supports disaster risk reduction in schools across Vanuatu. This school-based project aims to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters through disaster preparedness and First Aid awareness. As part of the project, VRCS has distributed tool kits to several schools, including Ekiye School, Matarisu School, Onesua Presbyterian College, and Eles Center School, enhancing their capacities in disaster risk reduction.

Furthermore, the VRCS Resilience team has developed Early Warning Information boards to be displayed in central locations within communities. These boards, which complement simulation drills conducted by VRCS, play a vital role in community preparedness by providing clear, accessible information. By displaying early warning signs and recommended actions, the boards help communities respond swiftly and effectively to potential threats, thus strengthening community resilience.



Distribution and installation of notice board.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION DAY 2023



Student trying on first Aid Manikins at the IDRR day in Ambae.

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) organized a public event for International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (IDRR) on October 13, 2023, in PENAMA Province. Recognizing the region's vulnerability to volcanic activity and its recent experience with mass evacuation following the 2018 Ambae eruption, the NDMO arranged outreach activities aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness. The event supported NDMO's multi-hazard approach, engaging relevant government agencies, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS), and non-government partners who collaborate under the Cluster approach during emergencies, covering areas such as shelter, food security, maritime security, and gender protection.

A total of five VRCS staff members and four volunteers participated in the event, including six males and three females. Four representatives were from the local branch, while five were from the headquarters. The

event aimed to strengthen disaster preparedness in PENAMA Province by reducing the negative impacts of major disasters, particularly volcanic eruptions and mass evacuations. Additionally, the event focused on raising awareness and promoting action around Climate Change Adaptation, Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (PGI), and health-related issues through hygiene and health awareness campaigns.

Approximately 5,000 people participated in the three-day event, with an estimated 2,000 individuals, including primary and secondary students, visiting the VRCS booth. Government partners, ministries, and departments were also involved in the IDRR Day activities. Looking ahead, the 2024 IDRR Day will be hosted by the Malampa Provincial Government, where VRCS has an active branch. It is recommended that VRCS actively participate in the upcoming event to continue its efforts in disaster risk reduction and community engagement.

EU PROJECT

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is focused on strengthening community resilience, environmental sustainability, and socioeconomic stability through its capacity development initiatives, as outlined in the National Society Plan 2022-2026. Supported by various stakeholders, VRCS is formulating and implementing activities in targeted communities to address resilience, food security, and women's empowerment. These initiatives aim to achieve key outcomes by the end of the project.

Key goals include enhancing food security through early warning systems, access to safe drinking water, and improved nutrition knowledge. Additionally, VRCS aims to establish mechanisms that promote women's protection and inclusion in household and community decision-making

processes. The organization is also working to strengthen the VRCS Penama Branch and Pentecost Island Subbranch, ensuring that they have robust organizational structures, operational systems, and a strong base of members and volunteers.



Distribution of hardware to communities in Pentecost.

In September 2023, VRCS, in collaboration with the EU project, deployed a team to Pentecost Island to implement WASH activities. These efforts included overseeing the construction of toilets, installing slabs beneath water taps to reduce vector risks, and linking community water tanks to roof catchments with first flush systems to ensure access to fresh water. The project also focused on improving community water supply, sanitation facilities, and promoting WASH concepts. Additionally, agricultural tools and seeds were distributed to support food security efforts in the community.

The project aims to contribute to food security and women's economic empowerment in Vanuatu by providing farmers with improved agricultural inputs and technologies, promoting sustainable farming practices, supporting women in starting and

growing their businesses, and offering access to financial services and training. Through these efforts, VRCS is making significant strides in building resilience and fostering long-term community development.



Installation of water catchment on Pentecost.

SAFE SHELTER -PASSA



A house destroyed by TC Lola.

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is playing a vital role in reducing the impacts of natural disasters and enhancing community resilience. Recognizing the significant effects of disasters on sectors like water, shelter, livelihoods, food, and infrastructure, VRCS emphasizes the importance of robust disaster and emergency preparedness. Strengthening these capacities is essential for minimizing the consequences of crises and ensuring that communities can adapt to emerging risks.

In line with this mission, VRCS conducted Safe Shelter Awareness training in the Ohlen Mataso community on Efate and in selected areas on the islands of Pentecost and Malekula. The training involved female participants aged 13-59 and male participants aged 13-69, with no

disabilities reported among the attendees. The sessions focused on four key messages of safe shelter: choosing a safe place, building a strong foundation, ensuring strong connections, and implementing strong bracing. Participants were also equipped with the

knowledge and skills necessary to construct safe shelters using shelter tool kits.

The training was well-received, with participants expressing gratitude for the opportunity to learn about safe shelter construction. Some even requested the distribution of shelter tool kits to apply their newly acquired knowledge. VRCS plans to replicate these trainings in other communities across Vanuatu, aiming to help people build safer shelters and reduce the risks of injury or death from natural disasters.

Overall, the Safe Shelter Awareness training was a success, contributing to improved safety and preparedness in communities throughout Vanuatu.



Volunteers training on Safe Shelter on Pentecost Island.

Strengthening community resilience through Safe Shelter Awareness training, teaching key principles for constructing safer shelters. VRCS aims to reduce disaster risks and protect lives.

WASH & HEALTH

OVERVIEW OF 2023 WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
First Aid		
Public health in Emergency		

FIRST AID



A first Aid training with teachers.

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) continues to prioritize its First Aid program as a critical component of its operations and a key fundraising activity. In 2023, the program aimed to improve the quality of its first aid training and products. VRCS developed a new range of first aid kits tailored to meet the diverse needs of customers, from individual users to large companies. Additionally, VRCS first aid trainers enhanced their skills through specialized courses offered by the International Federation of Red Cross

and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), including training sessions in Fiji.

As an auxiliary to the Government of Vanuatu, VRCS plays an essential role in providing immediate assistance during disasters. Recognizing the importance of first aid in preventing injuries from worsening and reducing casualties, VRCS conducted a two-day intensive First Aid training for volunteers at the Emae Red Cross Sub-Branch. The training equipped 15 staff members and volunteers with life-saving skills, enabling them to offer prompt and effective emergency care to their communities.

The training, held on the island of Emae, involved practical exercises, group activities, and assessments. Volunteers were trained in basic health awareness and first aid techniques, preparing them to provide crucial support in emergencies. With only one dispensary on the island, these trained volunteers are vital in supporting the local healthcare system by offering initial treatment until professional medical help can arrive.

Following the training, the volunteers were deployed to conduct first aid awareness sessions within the community. This initiative ensures that community members are better informed and prepared to respond to emergencies. The skills acquired by the volunteers enhance the community's resilience and contribute to the recovery and well-being of those impacted by disasters. Through these efforts, VRCS ensures that its volunteers are always ready to provide essential first aid support, mitigating the effects of emergencies.



Teacher having training on first Aid.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCY

As part of its strategic goal two, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) aims to build the capacity of its staff and volunteers in life-saving knowledge, enabling them to identify and address health risks while effectively engaging with communities. This approach empowers communities to take ownership of the activities and programs implemented by VRCS. To achieve this, VRCS has developed training programs focused on Public Health in Emergencies (PHiE) and Public Health Emergencies (PHE).



Public Health training with community.

The primary objective of the training is to ensure participants understand the concepts of PHiE and PHE, including basic disaster terms and the language used in these contexts. The training also introduces participants to the IFRC's approach and response capacities in emergency health, with a strong emphasis on the importance of considering gender and diversity in any response. This comprehensive training equips humanitarian workers with the skills needed to identify risks and implement effective strategies to respond to epidemics in specific areas.

The training content covers a range of critical topics, including an introduction to Public Health in Emergencies, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Secondary Data analysis, Basic Epidemiology, Rapid Health Assessment, Epidemic Control for Volunteers, and the protection and promotion of breastfeeding. These components are designed to provide a holistic understanding of health in emergencies.

Communities in vulnerable areas often face disruptions in safe water access, exposure to vector-borne diseases, overcrowding, and a lack of health services, all of which increase health risks. The PHiE training educates Red Cross staff and volunteers on how to prevent disease outbreaks by effectively communicating with and engaging communities to mitigate risks. This training also ensures that volunteers can assist responders in coordinating and responding to epidemics during natural disasters.

Overall, the training aims to enhance the capacity of VRCS branches to promote health and PGI programs at the provincial level, strengthening the organization's ability to respond to public health challenges in emergencies.



Awareness with community.

GENDER PROTECTION & INCLUSION

OVERVIEW OF 2023 GENDER, PROTECTION & INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	PROVINCE	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
PGI Awareness	Malampa, Penama, Sanma, Torba	
ECV,HP,PGI & PSEA Training and Awareness		

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION AND CHILD PROTECTION



During disasters response, PGI department is continually work close with departments heads to ensure they integrate PGI in their response plan

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) maintains a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) policy that is regularly reviewed to ensure its relevance and effectiveness within the modern context of the national society. This ongoing evaluation is a fundamental practice, aligning the policy with current laws, regulations, and societal changes. The resilience team, consisting of the Resilience Coordinator, Program Officer, and PGI focal person, spearheaded the recent review process. This comprehensive review involved data gathering on the policy's implementation and outcomes, consultations with the IFRC and Australian Red Cross for technical feedback, and a revision of the draft policy based on findings. The final draft was collectively reviewed by the team to incorporate their feedback and understanding before being submitted to the VRCS National Board for endorsement.

Recognizing that women and girls make up more than half of Vanuatu's population, the

VRCS emphasizes that true inclusive growth is only possible through the promotion of gender equality. Despite advancements, significant gender gaps persist, impacting health, education, and economic outcomes for women throughout their lives. The VRCS's protection, gender, and inclusion programs aim to address these gaps by relying on legal framework reforms and policies that promote equal access and challenge entrenched social norms.

The VRCS acknowledges that these efforts must also adapt to emerging trends such as digitalization and climate change, as well as shocks like pandemics. By integrating these factors into their PGI programs, VRCS aims to stay responsive to the evolving needs of the communities they serve.

Moving forward, VRCS is committed to replicating its PGI programs across all focus communities in the two provinces, ensuring that gender equality and inclusive practices remain at the forefront of their efforts to build resilience and support vulnerable populations.

ECV, HP, PGI & PSEA TRAINING AND AWARENESS



Distribution of Menstruation Hygiene Management (MHM) to primary and Secondary girls.

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) Health and PGI team undertook a comprehensive program in Sanma Province, North Vanuatu, to address critical health and security needs within targeted communities and schools. The program, implemented from September 25th to October 6th, 2023, spanned 15 days and focused on three key areas: Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) and Hygiene Promotion, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and the integration of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) Minimum Standards in emergencies.

In collaboration with the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, VRCS ensured that these initiatives supported broader national efforts to promote cohesion and healthy living. The activities included training for VRCS staff and volunteers on PGI standards, advocacy, and child protection, specifically in the intervention areas of Sanma, Shefa, and Tafea provinces. Additionally, VRCS raised awareness of its policies during the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR), further emphasizing the importance of health, safety, and protection.

The VRCS's proactive approach in reaching out to communities and schools reflects its commitment to not only respond to disasters but also to prevent and mitigate health and safety risks. By implementing programs like ECV, hygiene promotion, and PSEA, VRCS plays a vital role in safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable populations, especially during challenging times.

Continued community engagement and awareness are essential for the success of these initiatives. Through the efforts of the Sanma Red Cross team, VRCS significantly contributes to fostering a culture of health, safety, and respect, ultimately enhancing the resilience and well-being of the communities they serve.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion awareness to Banban College Centre School, Santo, Northern part of Vanuatu.

VOLUNTEER

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has prioritized "Inspiring and Mobilizing Volunteerism" as the first of its seven transformations in the Strategic Plan. Recognizing the crucial role that volunteers play in the organization's success, VRCS is committed to creating programs that foster volunteer retention and skill development. To achieve this, several initiatives have been developed with the generous financial support of the Australian Red Cross (ARC). These efforts aim to not only motivate volunteers but also to strengthen their connection to VRCS, ensuring long-term engagement and impact.

One of the key activities in this initiative is the support provided to strengthen the National Youth Commission Network across all VRCS branches. By empowering youth networks, VRCS ensures that young volunteers have a platform to contribute meaningfully to the organization's mission. Additionally, the Volunteer Induction program has been instrumental in equipping new volunteers with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively participate in VRCS activities, laying a strong foundation for their involvement.

To further acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of volunteers, VRCS has organized Volunteer Recognition events. These events celebrate the dedication and hard work of volunteers, fostering a sense of belonging

and pride within the organization. The Youth & Volunteer Drive and Branch Youth Assemblies are also key initiatives designed to inspire and mobilize volunteers, providing them with opportunities to engage, learn, and grow within the VRCS community.

Throughout 2023, VRCS volunteers and youth have made significant contributions to the success of these programs. The allocated funding has enabled the implementation of various activities that have not only inspired volunteers but also enhanced their overall experience with VRCS. The positive feedback from volunteers indicates that they have enjoyed their time spent with the organization, and their continued engagement reflects the success of these initiatives.



Volunteers training on Shelter at HQ.

However, one lesson learned from the year's activities is the importance of having contingency plans in place. Recognizing the challenges that can arise during the rollout of planned activities, VRCS acknowledges the need for a "Plan B" to ensure that programs can continue smoothly despite unforeseen obstacles. This forward-thinking approach will strengthen the organization's ability to adapt and maintain the momentum of its volunteerism efforts, ensuring that VRCS continues to inspire and mobilize volunteers effectively in the future.

LAW FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPAL



Volunteers training on communications.

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) has been a vocal and visible presence in mass media, both locally and internationally, particularly during the responses to Tropical Cyclones Judy, Kevin, and Lola in 2023. Through platforms such as Facebook, radio, and television, VRCS disseminated vital information regarding its operations and response efforts. The organization's impactful images and updates were widely shared by international media, underscoring VRCS's role as

a key source of on-the-ground information during these critical times.

Recognizing the importance of communication in disaster response and community engagement, VRCS has placed a strong emphasis on enhancing the skills of its branch volunteers. As part of its decentralization process, the organization has prioritized training initiatives to uplift the communication capabilities of its team members across the country. This commitment led to the hosting of a transformative workshop on humanitarian communications, facilitated by Mr. Soneel Ram, the Communication Manager from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) based in Suva.

The workshop, titled "Humanitarian Communications: Storytelling and Content Gathering," provided VRCS staff and volunteers with valuable insights into the art of effective communication in humanitarian contexts. Participants learned essential skills in storytelling and content gathering, crucial for accurately capturing and sharing the realities on the ground during disaster responses. The training emphasized the importance of delivering timely and relevant information to stakeholders, ensuring that VRCS's messages reach the public efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Soneel Ram's expertise brought a practical and hands-on approach to the workshop, equipping participants with tools and strategies to enhance their communication efforts. The training covered various aspects of humanitarian communication, from crafting compelling stories to leveraging different media channels. This comprehensive session empowered VRCS members to improve their communication capabilities, ultimately strengthening their impact within the community and in times of crisis.

This workshop represents a significant advancement in VRCS's commitment to fostering stronger community ties through effective communication. By equipping its staff and volunteers with advanced skills, VRCS enhances its ability to respond to disasters with greater efficiency and coordination. The organization's ongoing dedication to improving communication practices underscores its mission to support and serve the community with informed, timely, and impactful efforts.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JAGAN CHAPAGAIN, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT VISIT TO VANUATU

It's an absolute honour to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Jagannath Chapagain, the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to our region. Together with the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, we are privileged to host this inspiring leader, whose journey began as a youth volunteer with the Nepal Red Cross Society.

Mr. Jagan's visit serves as a powerful reminder of the pivotal role played by National Societies within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. With over 200,000 local units, supported by an incredible force of 17.5 million volunteers and 650,000 staff globally, the impact of our organization is deeply rooted in the grassroots efforts of our volunteers and National Societies. This local action forms the foundation of our work, creating a global connection through the leadership of IFRC, under Mr. Jagan's guidance.

Our Director General, Ms. Ragigia (Gia) Dawai, is among the esteemed Secretary Generals from the Pacific region in Vanuatu. Together, they will accompany Mr. Jagan on this significant tour, engaging directly with him to address vital issues concerning the Pacific and our respective National Societies.

We thank the Head of State for Vanuatu, His Excellency Mr. Nikenike Vurobaravu, and the First Lady Rima Vurobaravu for the beautiful welcome and reception accorded to Mr. Jagan and the Red Cross Pacific family.

Here's to fostering collaborations and creating positive change together.



Mr Jagannath Chapagain visit to Vanuatu meet with His Excellency Mr. Nikenike Vurobaravu, President of Vanuatu Red Cross Mr Moses Stevens and VRCS Secretary General Mr Dickinson Tevi.

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT



Finance training in Samoa. (Photo: VRCS)

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Financials

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Vanuatu Red Cross Society
National Board's Report
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

The National Board present their report together with the financial statements of the Society, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

National Board Members

The National Board members of the Society during the financial year and the office at the date of this report were:-

		<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Term End</u>
President:	Moses Stevens Jenery	02.08.19	
Vice President:	Jacob Bani	02.08.19	
Treasurer	Johnston KalmanTau	02.08.19	
Members:	Judah Silas	02.08.19	
	Sam Vula	02.08.19	20.06.23
	Simon Tambe	20.06.23	
	Selwyn Garu	02.08.19	
	George Nipiko	02.08.19	
	Mary Jack	11.09.23	
	Ruth Amos	27.07.21	
	Etienne Tiasinmal	08.02.21	
	Jack Ruby	30.10.23	
	Brendon Tari	25.11.21	

State of Affairs

In the opinion of the National Board, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Society that occurred during the financial year under review not otherwise disclosed in this report or the financial statements. The state of the Society's affairs is considered to be satisfactory.

Principal activities or 'About Vanuatu Red Cross Society'

The Society, which was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 29 September 1993, is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It was admitted as a member to the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies on 25 October 1993. Agreements concluded with other organisations or entities, in particular with the public authorities regarding the execution of a public service, shall be in writing, and shall not in anyway constitute an obligation for the Society to act against the fundamental principles.

The Society is a legally constituted association under the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No.23 of 1982. It possesses legal status. It's terms of existence is unlimited. It's headquarter is located in Port Vila.

Financial Year Summary

The general summary of the Society's operations for the financial year was a surplus of Vt48,725,734 (2022: deficit of Vt1,186,648).

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
National Board's Report (Continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

Events Subsequent to balance Date

There does not exist at the date of this report any contingent liability or any change on the Society's assets securing the liability of any other person which has arisen since 31 December 2023. No contingent or other liability has become enforceable on or before the date of this report which, in the National Board's opinion, will or may substantially affect the ability of the Society to meet its obligations as and when they fall due.

Other Circumstances

At the date of this report, the National Board is not aware of any circumstances which would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.

Certificates

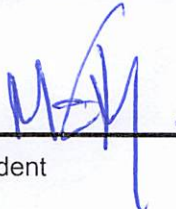
The National Board Members certify that:

(a) the enclosed statement of financial position, is a true copy of every statement of financial position laid before the Society in general meeting during the period to which this return relates (including every document required by law to be annexed to the statement of financial position) and of the report of the auditors thereon; and

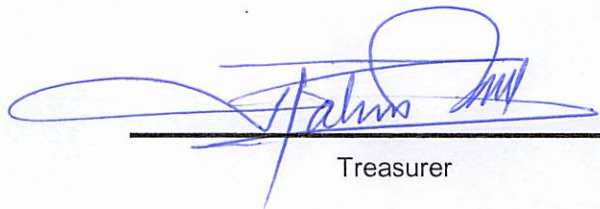
(b) this report is a true copy of the National Board accompanying the statement of financial position enclosed herewith as at 31 December 2023.

Dated this 20th February 2025.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the National Board:



President



Treasurer

**Independent Auditor's Report
To The Members of Vanuatu Red Cross Society**

Audit Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS)** which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at **31 December 2023**, the Statements of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Movement in Funds and the Statement of Cash Flow for the year then ended, and Notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion,

- (a) the financial statements of **Vanuatu Red Cross Society** have been properly prepared:
 - i) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of **Vanuatu Red Cross Society** as at **31 December 2023** and of its result for the year then ended;
 - ii) in accordance with the provisions of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act (CAP151 as amended).
 - iii) in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- (b) We have been provided with all information and explanations required, except for the limitation of scope noted below.
- (c) Proper accounting records have been kept by the Society.

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described under *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of ethics for Professional Accountants* that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Vanuatu. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in the Society.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. We have determined that no additional key audit matters need to be communicated in our report.

Scope Limitation

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society undertakes a number of projects that are administered separately from the day to day running of the organization, as noted in Note 2.5. The projects are subject to audit by individual donors. As a result, we have not been requested to audit these projects.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Vanuatu Red Cross Society (continued)

Responsibility of Management and National Board for the Financial Statements

The VRCS Management and the National Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and the information they contain, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act (CAP151 as amended) and for devising and maintaining a system of internal controls to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Management and the National Board members are responsible for assessing the ability of the Society to continue as a going concern.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also;

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the VRCS National Board;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the activities within the Society to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Society audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Vanuatu Red Cross Society (continued)

Moores Rowland

MOORES ROWLAND
Chartered Accountants

Qualified pursuant to Section 130
of the Companies Act No.25 of 2012
of the Republic of Vanuatu.

Dated this 20th February 2025

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Statement of Comprehensive Income - Society

For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

	Note	2023	2022
Income	3(i)	81,323,013	19,987,149
Income Donation & Others	3(ii)	19,577,719	18,027,730
Other Expenses	5(i)	(1,533,703)	(468,410)
Expenses -Fund raising	5(ii)	(1,247,511)	(1,273,955)
Surplus / (deficit)		98,119,518	36,272,514
VRCS Expenses			
Accounting fees		-	138,000
Advertising & World Red Cross Day		14,920	(165,780)
Auditors remuneration- audit fees		632,500	527,500
Bank charges		263,730	171,467
Board members expense		919,160	527,500
President representation exp		63,000	-
National Board meeting costs		492,620	303,475
AGM National		1,054,030	-
Consulting fees		6,000	64,000
Work Permit & Residency Permit		20,000	-
Cleaning costs		215,694	216,411
Office equipment & maintenance		566,495	245,932
Emergency responses		967,243	-
Office equipment		500,773	-
General expenses		1,425,290	600,436
IFRC statutory contribution		137,330	170,040
Insurance		55,000	263,994
Motor vehicle expenses		592,066	1,497,237
Utilities - electricity & water		1,491,222	1,012,367
Printing & Stationery		568,952	230,592
Repair & maintenance- buildings		365,193	494,194
Salaries & severance paid		20,743,827	23,795,181
Salaries & allow- prior periods		823,900	822,820
Security costs		450,000	-
Telephone, internet exp & mnthly maint. Fee		1,218,656	975,445
Travelling expenses		587,459	190,767
Recruitment cost		54,948	73,600
Volunteer & emergency resp. expenses		82,683	142,110
VRCS - Branch expenses		200,000	313,166
Prior Year Exp Adj		(221,095)	-
Total Expenses		34,291,596	32,610,454
Surplus / (Deficit) before depreciation & Provision		63,827,922	3,662,060
Depreciation		1,994,314	1,756,353
Provision for severance inc/(dec)		13,107,874	3,092,355
Surplus / (Deficit) after depreciation & Provision		48,725,734	(1,186,648)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		48,725,734	(1,186,648)

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Statement of Comprehensive Income - Projects For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

	Note	2022	2021
PROJECTS			
Income	4	145,431,429	110,583,349
Project Expenses	6	(145,431,429)	(110,583,349)
Surplus / (deficit)		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		=====	=====

The Statement of Comprehensive Income - Projects should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Statement of Movement in Funds
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

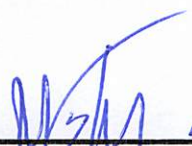
	2023	2022
General Funds at beginning of year	5,767,941	6,954,589
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	48,725,734	(1,186,648)
General Funds / Surplus at end of year	<u>54,493,675</u> =====	<u>5,767,941</u> =====

The Statement of Movement in Funds should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

	Note	2023	2022
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	93,506,392	28,389,334
Other assets	8	258,336	799,426
Total current assets		93,764,728	29,188,760
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	12	4,648,822	5,792,675
Total non-current assets		4,648,822	5,792,675
Total Assets		98,413,550	34,981,435
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			
Current liabilities			
Trade & other payables	9	1,789,608	3,571,614
Deferred revenue	11	27,307,983	16,999,613
Provision for severance	10	14,822,284	8,642,267
Total current liabilities		43,919,875	29,213,494
General Funds			
Accummulated surplus		54,493,675	5,767,941
Total funds		54,493,675	5,767,941
Total Liabilities and funds		98,413,550	34,981,435

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.



 President

Date: 20th February 2025



 Treasurer

Date: 20th February 2025

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Statement of Cash Flow
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

	Note	2023	2022
Operating Activities			
<i>Cash was provided from:</i>			
Grants from Donors		183,573,954	143,725,179
Interest Income		7,555	3,981
Other Income		73,059,022	6,093,645
		<u>256,640,531</u>	<u>149,822,805</u>
<i>Cash was applied to:</i>			
Payments to suppliers & employees		(190,673,012)	(141,921,702)
Net cash from operating activities		<u>65,967,519</u>	<u>7,901,103</u>
Investing Activities			
Purchase of plant & equipments		(850,461)	(1,484,039)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		<u>(850,461)</u>	<u>(1,484,039)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		65,117,058	6,417,064
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>28,389,334</u>	<u>21,972,270</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	7	<u>93,506,392</u>	<u>28,389,334</u>

The Statement of Cash Flow should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

1. General information

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) "The Society", was founded on 11 October 1982 pursuant to the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act no.23 of 1982. The Society was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 29 September 1993, and is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It was admitted as a member to the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies on 25 October 1993.

The Society is a legally constituted association under the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No.23 of 1982. It possesses legal status. It's terms of existence is unlimited. Its headquarters is located in Port Vila.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the Society are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the requirements of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No.23 of 1982 of the Republic of Vanuatu.

2.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and a historical costs basis, and do not take into account changing money values nor, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

2.3 Property, plant & equipment

i) Property, plant & equipment

Items of property, plant & equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation.

ii) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis to recognise the consumption of economic benefits of an asset over its useful life.

The estimated useful lives of property, plant & equipments are as follows:

Leasehold land & buildings	20 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Office equipments	5 years

2.4 Foreign currencies

All amounts are expressed in Vanuatu currency - VATU. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies have been translated at the approximate rates of exchange ruling at the balance date except that where forward exchange cover has been obtained the forward exchange rate has been used. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates prevailing on transaction dates.

Foreign exchange translation gains or losses arising on current account balances and unhedged foreign currency borrowings are reflected in the results for the year.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

2.5 Donor funded Program income and expenditures

The costs of providing various programs and other activities have been funded by various donors as summarised in Note 4 and Note 6. The donors representatives regularly conduct their internal finance audit process into their projects or programs by sending their delegate or by requesting the Society to send their regular finance report. As a result, the National Board has requested that we limit of the scope of our audit so as not to include project income and expenses.

2.6 Provision for employee benefits

i) Annual leave

Annual leave is calculated on employee leave at balance date, at the current rate of remuneration.

ii) Severance provision

Severance allowance is calculated using the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the employer resulting from employees' services to balance date.

Severance allowance is calculated at the rate of one month salary for each year of service. The provision for severance is disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position as current liabilities.

iii) Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF)

Contributions to the VNPF are expensed as incurred.

2.7 Income tax

VRCS is a Charitable Organisation. It was incorporated under the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No. 23 of 1982. Under the laws of the Republic of Vanuatu, no income tax or capital gains tax is levied on companies, trusts or individuals.

2.8 Value added tax (VAT)

VRCS is not registered for VAT. All items in the Statement of Comprehensive Income are stated inclusive of VAT. VRCS is not required to remit Value Added Tax on grant or other income received.

2.9 Provisions

A provision is recognised in the statement of financial position when the company has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

2.10 Accounts receivable

Accounts Receivable are recorded at their estimated realisable value after providing for doubtful and uncollectable debts.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

2.11 Statement of cash flow

The following are definitions of the terms used in the cash flow:

(a) Cash comprises cash on hand, current bank balances and short term deposits that can be converted to cash within two working days, net of bank overdraft.

(b) Operating activities includes all transactions and other events that are not investing or financing activities.

(c) Investing activities are those relating to the acquisition, holding and disposal of fixed assets and investments. Investments can include securities not falling within the definition of cash.

(d) Financing activities are those activities that result in changes to the size and composition of the company's capital structure. This includes both equity and debt not falling within the definition of cash.

2.12 Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes in accounting policy.

2.13 Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to achieve consistency in disclosure with the current financial year amount and other disclosure.

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

	2023	2022
3.(i) Income - Society		
<u>Donations & membership fees:</u>		
General Donations	64,615,615	1,025,665
Membership fees	31,200	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total donations & membership fees	64,646,815	1,025,665
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>First Aid (FA):</u>		
FA Kits	1,242,445	686,600
FA Trainings	1,444,500	255,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total First Aid income	2,686,945	941,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Fundraising:</u>		
Gala Nights Events	-	1,760,585
Flea Markets & other fundraising	281,665	15,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Fundraising income	281,665	1,775,585
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Overhead:</u>		
Overhead from Australian RC	3,199,585	2,534,800
Overhead from IFRC	1,604,382	8,745,573
Overhead from ONE PLAN	1,863,835	-
Overhead from Japanese RC-IYCP	829,584	283,632
Overhead - Others	759,050	1,986,847
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Overhead income	8,256,436	13,550,852
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Interest:</u>		
Interest Income - bank	6,255	2,651
Interest Income - Deposits	1,300	1,330
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Interest income	7,555	3,981
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Other Income:</u>		
Sales - Water Filter	10,500	-
Training Centre & room - hire	286,000	340,000
Vehicle hire	190,400	428,920
Other Income	4,956,697	1,920,546
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other income	5,443,597	2,689,466
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income - Society	81,323,013	19,987,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3.(ii) Income - Donation & Others	2023	2022
Australia Red Cross Grant - VRCS operations	19,577,719	18,027,730
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

4. Income - Projects	2023	2022
<u>Grants:</u>		
Grant - Australian RC	27,030,286	24,496,337
Grant - Australian RC ROF	2,914,351	1,733,862
Grant - WHO	1,359,072	2,735,189
Grant - IFRC	98,333,456	26,762,139
Grant - OXFAM Australia	-	119,735
Grant - Small Projects	-	2,010,929
Grant - French Embassy /RC	-	353,050
Grant - Japan RC /IYCP	7,848,687	5,570,914
Grant - Vanuatu Government / Bed Net/ DWSSP	-	145,080
Grant - NSD	4,062,307	5,680,052
VRCS - Emergency Funds	-	139,695
Grant - UNICEF TC Lola	699,683	-
Grant - DREF YASUR	186,153	23,350,370
Grant - Kirby Institute	1,287,905	-
Grant - Youth & Volunteer	312,285	866,092
Grant - UNICEF COVID19	-	9,968,745
Grant - Vanuatu Govt HEALTH	-	5,191,755
Grant - MOH Malaria	1,191,989	-
Grant - CVD 2022	205,255	1,459,405
	-----	-----
Total Grants income - Projects	145,431,429	110,583,349
	=====	=====
5.(i) Society Expenses		
First Aid trainings	40,800	27,405
First Aid Kit - purchases	460,800	441,005
First Aid - Manual costs	26,280	-
First Aid - Instructor Salary	1,005,823	-
	-----	-----
	1,533,703	468,410
	=====	=====
5.(ii) Fundraising - Expenses		
Gala night expenses	-	847,630
Volunteer expenses	87,000	-
Catering expenses	426,080	426,325
Donation expenses	734,431	-
	-----	-----
	1,247,511	1,273,955
	=====	=====

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

6. Project Expenses	2023	2022
Australia RC - DCP project expenses	27,030,286	24,496,337
WHO expenses	2,914,351	1,733,862
ICRC- LFP	1,359,072	2,735,189
IFRC DREF Judy & Kevin	56,027,671	-
IFRC OFDA expenses	10,714,309	10,264,056
IFRC - DREF TC Lola	20,335,786	-
IFRC - EU	11,255,690	16,214,460
IFRC - DREF Covid	-	283,623
OXFAM Australia - project exp	-	119,735
Small Projects	-	2,010,929
RM - Project exp NSD	4,062,307	5,680,052
French Embassy /RC - expenses	-	353,050
Kirby Institute	1,287,905	-
Japanese RC- IYCP project	7,848,687	5,570,914
Vanuatu Govt- DWSSP	-	145,080
MOH Malaria	1,191,989	-
VRC- Emergency Funds	-	139,695
DREF YASUR	186,153	23,350,370
Youth & Volunteer	312,285	866,092
UNICEF TC Lola	699,683	-
UNICEF Covid19	-	9,968,745
Vanuatu Govt - Health	-	5,191,755
COVID Grant exp	205,255	1,459,405
	<u>145,431,429</u>	<u>110,583,349</u>
	=====	=====

Project expenses in 2023 were Vt145,431,429. Vt128,431,816 related directly to the project incomes and Vt16,999,613 related to prior years deferred projects income (2022: Project expenses in 2022 were Vt110,583,349. Vt93,502,813 related directly to the project incomes and Vt17,080,536 related to prior years deferred projects income).

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

7. Cash and cash equivalents	2023	2022
<i>Bank Balances:</i>		
ANZ Bank - Society	1,426,731	277,184
ANZ - Malagwelo	3,239,689	1,717,609
ANZ - DCP (ARC) 03 & 14	6,496,036	733,521
ANZ ROF (ARC)	2,201,249	4,589,895
ANZ - Emergency funds	10,639,287	2,030,363
ANZ - USD Call	-	-
NBV - Prov. For Severance a/c	3,195,685	624,064
NBV - Project Support A/c	3,207,882	366,626
NBV - Provincial Branch A/c	308,745	221,120
BRED - DREF	3,857,188	156,153
BRED - TAFA Fixed deposit	1,207,607	1,206,148
BRED - NZ Core Funds	2,176,675	20,535
BRED - OFDA	2,137,450	2,478,756
BRED - Japan RC- IYCP	651,649	176,899
LFP Bank 06 & 07	305,695	234,603
ANZ Projects Account	4,423,312	13,316,864
BRED - World Mosquito Program	42,743,488	205,225
BRED - VRCS Core Cost	5,288,024	33,769
	-----	-----
Total cash at bank	93,506,392	28,389,334
	=====	=====
8. Other assets		
<i>Current:</i>		
Field cash advances	-	799,426
Staff advance	258,336	-
	-----	-----
	258,336	799,426
	=====	=====
9. Trade & other payables		
Trade payables	233,148	350,513
Accrued charges	642,500	665,500
VNPF payable	91,140	1,196,817
Other payable [accrued severance]	822,820	1,358,784
	-----	-----
	1,789,608	3,571,614
	=====	=====
10. Provision for Severance		
<i>Current:</i>		
Provision for severance	14,822,284	8,642,267
	=====	=====

Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Vatu)

11. Deferred Revenue / Unearned Grants	2023	2022
ICRC LFP - Project Grant	285,695	234,603
ARC MASTER PLAN	6,146,036	2,125,789
WHO - Grant	3,146,113	6,060,464
IFRC OFDA - Grant	2,137,450	(224,941)
IFRC DREF TC LOLA	5,196,772	-
IFRC EU	2,215,919	4,824,635
RM Project	2,176,675	3,410,756
DREF YASUR	-	186,153
IFRC DREF Judy & Kevin	3,857,188	-
Japan RC - IYCP Grant	624,049	176,899
MOH MALARIA	287,975	-
Youth & Volunteer	343,825	-
UNICEF TC LOLA	387,817	-
KIRBY INSTITUTE	502,469	-
COVID - Grant	-	205,255
	-----	-----
	27,307,983	16,999,613
	=====	=====

Deferred revenue related to grant income received in 2023 and prior years, but will be used in 2024 or future years.

12. Property, plant and equipment

<u>2023</u>	Cost	Accum Depn	NBV
Leasehold land & building	19,941,259	19,557,938	383,321
Property Improvements -at cost	9,867,980	9,465,536	402,444
Motor Vehicles - at cost	11,163,833	8,947,923	2,215,910
Office furniture & equip - at cost	6,079,931	4,432,784	1,647,147
	-----	-----	-----
	47,053,003	42,404,181	4,648,822
	=====	=====	=====
 <u>2022</u>	 Cost	 Accum Depn	 NBV
Leasehold land & building	19,941,259	19,161,113	780,146
Property Improvements -at cost	9,867,980	9,361,749	506,231
Motor Vehicles - at cost	11,163,833	7,791,795	3,372,038
Office furniture & equip - at cost	5,229,470	4,095,210	1,134,260
	-----	-----	-----
	46,202,542	40,409,867	5,792,675
	=====	=====	=====

Vanuatu Red Cross Society
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Vatu)

12. Property, plant and equipment (con't)

Reconciliation of property, plant & equipment	2023	2022
Net book value brought forward	5,792,675	6,064,989
Additions	850,461	1,484,039
Depreciation	(1,994,314)	(1,756,353)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value carried forward	4,648,822	5,792,675
	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. Financial Instruments

All financial instruments to which the Society is a party are recognised in the financial statements.

Credit risk

Management has a credit policy in place and the exposure to credit risk is monitored on an on going basis. The Society does not require collateral in respect of financial assets.

At balance date there were no significant concentrations of credit risk. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset in the statement of financial position. Debtors considered uncollectable have been written off and doubtful debts have been provided for.

Interest rate risk

The Society's exposure to interest rates and the effective interest rates of financial assets and liabilities at balance date are as follows:

Bank -Term Deposit	0.10%
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All other financial assets or liabilities are non-interest bearing.

Fair values

As at balance date, the fair values are the same as the carrying amounts for all financial instruments held by the company (2022: the fair values were the same as the carrying amounts).

14. Capital commitments

The Society has not entered into any contracts to purchase plant and equipment for 2023 (2022: Nil).

15. Contingent liabilities

The National Board members are not aware of any contingent liabilities as at the date of signing the National Board's Report.

16. Subsequent events

No events have occurred since the balance sheet date which would require any adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements.

CONTACT US



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