

# Making registration more accessible through schools and hospitals

## VANUATU



Vanuatu is an island nation of 271,089 people. Much of the population still lives traditional lifestyles with little interaction with government.

### Vanuatu has greatly improved birth registration in the last few years by:

- registering children through schools as part of their initial enrolment processes
- registering new births at hospital prior to discharge
- “catch up days” in remote areas that do not have regular contact with government.

In just one year (2013 to 2014), birth registration rates for children aged under 1 increased from 35% to 57%.

These activities have been supported by the roll-out of IT connectivity to provincial centres and the development of a national CRVS database.



### Linking CRVS to Education



- The Department of Civil Registry and the Ministry of Education signed an MOU outlining cooperation between both departments with the goal of increasing birth registration through schools.
- This system benefits both departments; it encourages birth registration by improving access, and allows the Ministry of Education to track student progress by using birth certificate numbers as unique identifiers.

### Linking CRVS to the Ministry of Health

- The Department of Civil Registry and the Ministry of Health established a partnership introducing on-site birth registration in the main hospitals.
- A Civil Registry staff member sits with the maternity ward at Vila Central Hospital.
- HIS officers at provincial hospitals have authority to register on-site births
- Birth registration rates for children under age 5 have significantly increased in a short period of time.

### Next Steps

Vanuatu recently held a workshop to prioritize improvements in their system and will use those priorities to draft a national CRVS improvement plan. A key focus will be to learn from the experience gained with births to improve death registration coverage.

### Improving Infrastructure

Greater collaboration with education and health partners at provincial levels has been made possible through the rollout of internet and telecommunication infrastructure across Vanuatu under its Universal Access Policy

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is currently rolling out infrastructure to ensure that all schools are able to serve as an internet “hotspot” for government access, creating further opportunities to bring registration points closer to communities.

*Close cooperation between departments is an essential component of effective registration.*

Alongside the ongoing support provided by BAG partners, Vanuatu has also benefitted from significant support for decentralising access to registration points through an EU funded UNICEF project.

### SUPPORTED BY THE BRISBANE ACCORD GROUP (BAG)

