

# VANUATU

June 2021



The World Mosquito Program and Vanuatu health authorities have been working together on an innovative approach to protect people from mosquito-borne diseases. The project has been funded and supported by the Australian Government.

By releasing in the areas most at risk of outbreaks, we expect that surrounding communities will also have greater protection against mosquito-borne diseases.

After extensive community engagement and public acceptance of the project, *Wolbachia*-carrying mosquitoes were released (beginning in July 2018) across Port Vila and surrounding areas, across a population of more than 50,000 people.

In March 2019, the Vanuatu Ministry of Health agreed to continue long-term monitoring of the local mosquito population, to help measure the impact of the World Mosquito Program's method.



**1**  
project site

size of the project  
**39 km<sup>2</sup>**

**76,858**  
target population

**4458**  
people attended  
community meetings

**PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE**  
measured by survey  
**93%**

**44**  
project staff

**1035**  
volunteers who  
released mosquitoes

**3**  
local partners  
and supporters

## MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE BURDEN IN VANUATU

Vanuatu has a long history of mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue. Large dengue outbreaks are frequent, including thousands of suspected cases in 2016 and 2017.

From mid-2020, 12 months after the completion of releases, we'll be able to use disease surveillance data to assess the impact of our program on the health of the community.

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I like the World Mosquito Program because it protects me from dengue and other sicknesses from this mosquito.

- Arthur Simrai, Port Vila resident



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It truly is remarkable to believe that, with the help of the *Wolbachia* bacterium, mosquitoes have become our allies in helping protect Port Vila communities from mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika.

Gracia Sedrack,  
Honourable Minister of Health,  
Vanuatu

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I live in Ohlen Area in Port Vila. I hosted one of the mosquito boxes and what I like about the project is that it helps to reduce dengue in my community and across this country as a whole.

- Anne Ruth, Community Volunteer

#### Partners and supporters



#### Further information:

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## About us

The World Mosquito Program is an international, not-for-profit initiative that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases including dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we can make a difference to millions of lives.

Currently the World Mosquito Program works in 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. Our aim is to protect 50 million people over the next five years.

In addition to the Oceania Office in Melbourne, Australia, the World Mosquito Program has a regional Asian Hub in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and plans for an Americas Hub in Panama City, Panama.

These hubs support projects in their respective regions and contribute to core global operations.

#### Contact us

