



Vanuatu



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Country snapshot

Population:	215,000
Life expectancy at birth:	70 years
Adult literacy rate:	78%
Access to improved water source:	59%
Under five mortality rate:	38 per 1000 births
Maternal mortality rate:	68 per 100,000 live births

Source: UN Human Development Report 2009

Program overview The establishment of CARE's newest country office follows CARE's strong commitment to expand their work in the Pacific region. Communities in Vanuatu are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and have limited capacity to rebuild when disasters strike. After looking at ways in which CARE could assist communities in the area, Vanuatu was highlighted as a country where CARE's work in community-based emergency preparedness would be most relevant.

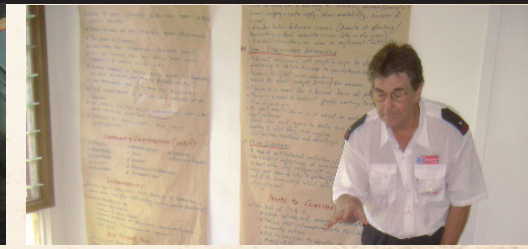
In mid 2008, CARE began to work in Vanuatu and have a functional office in Port Vila, with a small team of four. CARE has one project in Vanuatu and will work with communities to identify other areas where the need is greatest.



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Emergency preparedness

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

Through the project; *Improving Community Based Emergency Preparedness in Vanuatu*, CARE will work with 18 communities to develop emergency preparedness plans and identify ways to make these plans sustainable - so that CARE's help is no longer needed. To do this, CARE will build the capacity of communities and local organisations to prevent or mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and rebuild after disaster.

Working over a three and a half year period, the project will take every opportunity to work with other NGOs and government bodies in community based emergency preparedness activities.

By partnering with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, CARE aims to build the capacity of this office at national and provincial levels. The project will actively seek gender balance in all its activities as well as giving high consideration to environmental issues and their impact on emergency preparedness.

Major Donors

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

CARE International members supporting current program

CARE Australia

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