

# RED CROSS

## NEWSLETTER



April – June 2021

Issue 2



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Covid19 Vaccine roll out on Shefa Province  
EU Recovery project for 11 Pentecost communities  
6 Red Cross Branch assessed through BOCA Activity  
Youth Assembly underwent in each branches  
World Red Cross Day celebrated around Vanuatu

Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment- BOCA is a self-assessment tool developed for branches of National Societies to identify and assess their strengths and weaknesses in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities which then lead to strengthening relevant, focused and sustainable local services which can be scaled up to a national level. The BOCA exercise took place every 4 years.

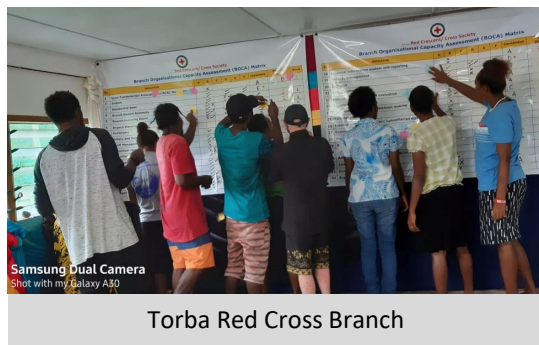
6 Branches have gone through an exercise during this second quarter:

“**Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment- BOCA** is a self-assessment tool developed for branches of National Societies to identify and assess their strengths and weaknesses in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities which then lead to strengthening relevant, focused and sustainable local services which can be scaled up to a national level.

**BOCA has 3 objectives:**

- 1) To refresh local vulnerability analysis and a complementary appreciation of the organizational capacities of the branch and how it is currently performing
- 2) To reach a consensus on priorities for branch enhancement;
- 3) To develop an operational plan to strengthen and sustain its services delivery capacity and resilience of the communities.

However, BOCA is not about testing or examining the branch, but rather about identifying - through a self-assessment exercise – the current capacity of the branch, and agreeing on areas for further enhancement. It can inspire the branch to work harder for the improvement of their local humanitarian impact and regularly reassessed relevance after going through the process and understanding more clearly which areas need attention and gathering momentum on how to collectively address the issues that arise. As part of this exercise process, each branch have developed their Action Plans based on the findings collected at the end of the BOCA exercise, in each branch across the country.



Torba Red Cross Branch



Sanma Red Cross Branch



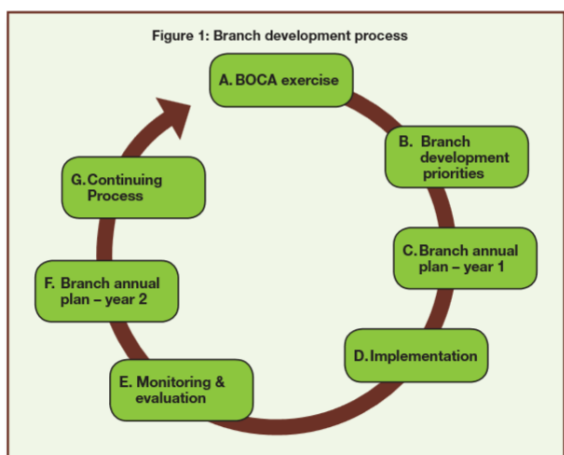
Malampa Red Cross Branch



Penama Red Cross Branch



Tafea Red Cross Branch





# OPERATIONS

## HEADQUARTER



Board and staffs completed OCAC sessions with IFRC

Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification process is first, to enable National Societies to assess their own organization capacity, performance and relevance in their country so as to determine opportunities for self-development; secondly to ensure that all National Societies commit and comply with a comprehensive set of organisational minimal standards and thus to protect/improve the performance of the overall Federation network.



DSPPAC induction with VRCS staffs

Planning Monitoring Evaluation Reporting-PMER- hosted for the first time a staff induction to help them understand the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016—2030 that is the country's highest-level policy framework. This is in line with the current review of the National Society's Strategic plan (2022–2026). The session was facilitated by Mr Erick Malesas from the Department of Strategic Policy Planning and



Program leads presented their Quarter 1 reports to National Board Members

The National Board members met on a quarterly basis—once every three months as per the VRCS constitution. This year, it is the first time for Coordinators, program leads to present their quarterly reports to the Board Members to highlight achievements and challenges as well as way forwards. It was an opportunity for staffs interact directly with Board members by presenting the progress of their action plans as well as re-



First ever IHL induction with 2021 1st Police intake in Port Vila .

For the first time, VRCS organized an induction session with Police recruits officers to introduce and build their knowledge on Red Cross movement. Police as a Law enforcement agency is an important contact for the ICRC, both in armed conflict and in other situations of violence,



# TORBA PROVINCE



## PROGRAM

Branch organizational Capacity Assessment –BOCA- was an effective exercise for the financial members, volunteers and staffs to reflect on the operations where discussions centred around challenges and achievements. The exercise was a good opportunity for the branch team to assess the branch itself, through Boca Scoring Matrix, and all gaps activities

Annual General Assembly was held during his quarter in Sola, and gathered all young boys and girls from the nearby villages of Sola. All youth between the age of 18 and 30 years , who were registered as youth members, turned up to elect a Youth Commission . An executive committee was elected to have their voices in decision making and the Red Cross development.

The current Branch Board is led by a representative from the productive sector, who actively participated to humanitarian operations particularly in times of disaster, and he is Peter Maho. Other members are from representatives from the Department of Water, Vanuatu Police Force, Ministry of Health, National disaster Management Office, Community Chief, University of the South Pacific.

Branch registered quite number of youth members who started to actively engaged in Branch activities as volunteers. As new members, they need to know what they are doing, why they are doing it , and how important are their actions that could impact someone’s life. It is also important for them to know the rules of being a volunteer of Red Cross.

## ACTIVITY



Volunteers during BOCA scoring activities



Newly elected Youth commission Sola—Vanualava



Newly elected Board for Torba Branch



Board Members and Youth’s induction





# SANMA PROVINCE



## PROGRAM

## ACTIVITY

VRCS partnered with Oxfam on the Cash Transfer Program (CTP) that was implemented since 2018. Volunteers were engaged in different stages of the program, such as assessment, data collection, registration of beneficiaries, distribution of vouchers, monitoring, and reporting.



CTP Beneficiaries registration by volunteers.

Sanma Branch elected its Youth Commission this year. It is the body of the governance of the Branch that is responsible for advising on matters that relate to young people and development of National Society youth sections. The commission is made up of youth members. There is a chair and eight members, all under 31 years old at their appointment. The commission mandate is for four year



Newly elected Sanma Youth Commission

Under the project of Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), a baseline survey was conducted in North West Santo targeting 10 communities. The survey aims at mapping out the current status of the communities to enable Red Cross to design its program activities related to natural hazards, health problems, risk management,



EU baseline survey in North West Santo

Branch social activity is a way to stay connected as family red cross, to maintain the social connectedness in the community. "Community clean up activity" is one of the social activity to allow volunteers to be socially active, to energize, to reduce risk of illness and depression, to balance time and energy. It is also a way to provide opportunities for social support and foster a sense of belonging



Luganville Clean up social activity



# MALAMPA PROVINCE



## PROGRAM

## ACTIVITY

Annual General Assembly (AGM) in June 2021 elected the governing board of the branch . The new Board consisted of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, 2 youth Members and 2 members . Branch Board aims to do what they can to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in the province, without discrimination , through voluntary service and they work



Malampa Branch Board

The branch registered youth members who gathered during the AGM to elect their Youth Commission; which is a committee in the branch that is responsible for advising on matters that relate to young people and development of national society youth section. The commission is made up of young people who are be-



Newly elected Youth Commission

One of the first low cost activity of the newly elected Youth Commission was the “elderly visitation”. Youth visited elderly men and women, including people living with disability, to provide companionship, support, encouragement and listening ear..



Youth visited PLWD at Lakatoro

We raised the National Society’s profile and promote the work of Red Cross to ensure that our partners understand how Red Cross works. The approach aims also improve and strengthen the existing working partnership. Key representatives from Government sectors were taken through sessions on Red Cross operational procedures, Society’s Auxiliary status and understand



Government partners attended RC dissemination sessions.





Pentecost

# PENAMA PROVINCE



## PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Penama Red Cross branch office has been relocated to a new site in Lolotong.

Staffs and volunteers have partitioned the building to create friendly office spaces, to accommodate 3 recruited staffs under the European funded Project, for the implementation of a Community Resilience activities on the island.



Penama Red Cross Branch office is now relocated to a new site.

The island of Pentecost was severely impacted by TC Harold in 2020 and VRCS was in the forefront of emergency response providing life saving services. The Project “supporting communities Resilience” was directly focused on the island to contribute towards food security, Waster Sanitation and Hygiene. An MOU was signed between community chiefs and VRCS to enable a clear and better outstanding of roles and responsibilities of both parties.



Chief signed the MOU with VRCS

“Disaster Risk Reduction in schools “ activity, under International Youth Corporation Program, targets several schools around the country, including Lini Memorial College on Pentecost Island. The safety of school is important “at reducing the vulnerability to, and impact of disasters on schools”. It prepares both teachers and students for potential disasters by reducing the impact of said disaster.



Volunteers doing the DRR baseline survey

Hygiene promotion is one of the program in the National Society that empowers our communities by ensuring that the program is a part of all water and sanitation activities. Volunteers continue to reach out to help communities to be able to examine existing hygiene behaviour and understand how transmission of diseases takes place and how it can be prevented at a household level.



Volunteer advocating hygiene promotion



# SHEFA PROVINCE



## PROGRAM

People on the island of Emae are privileged to improve their knowledge, attitudes and practices in the areas of Disaster, health, Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction, First Aid, Community resilience. These activities are under “Building Resilience Community in Vanuatu” BRCV program that target 11 communities. The First stage was to introduce in the communities, activities that will be

Shefa Province was the first province for the Ministry of Health to implement the Vaccination roll out. Our volunteers were involved on covid-19 vaccine roll out planning meetings, Training of Trainers, awareness, registration and mobile vaccine, facilitated by MoH Risk Communication.

## ACTIVITY



Community Leader signed MOU with VRCS



vaccination roll out in rural community



Four families in Port Vila lost everything in a fire which swept through their homes. Red Cross Branch responded when they called in to seek for humanitarian assistance.

Branch President handed over NFI to affected families.



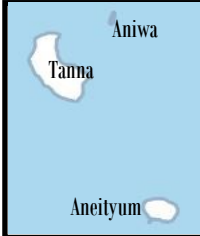
Red Cross awareness during Port Vila Day



CTP beneficiary receiving her voucher

In partnership with Oxfam, the Cash Transfer Program has targeted people living with disability as beneficiaries. During the months of implementations, VRCS volunteers assisted in registering beneficiaries and distributed a pay card with credit on it through the Oxfam program. This enables the beneficiaries and their families to decide what they need and wish to purchase and restores dignity and choice to the beneficiaries, across a network of local shops and vendors.





# TAFEA PROVINCE



## PROGRAM ACTIVITY

4 Red Cross staffs and volunteers took part in the Un-blocked Cash transfer Program in Tafea Province. They have gained a wealth experience coordinating the program in Tanna for six months from December 2020 to May 2021 . Their hard work provided 398 vulnerable families in the White Sands area council with a card that allowed them to purchase goods and services based on their individual family needs.



Tafea Red Cross team partnered with Oxfam

The ongoing ash fall in White Sands area at North East Tanna continue to affect the livelihoods of the people, particularly agricultural root crops that communities rely on for their daily survival. Branch Board took the initiative through their established network with chiefs and Community based volunteers to mobilize non affected communities to donate food from their garden to neighbouring affected villagers at Ilarang .



Communities on West Tanna donated crops to Ilarang community in North East Tanna.

The ongoing partnership with the Department of Water resulted with the engagement of 10 volunteers who assisted the Department in collecting data information in 23 community from Tanasul tribe. This activity is to enable the installation project of a GFS system for the tribe.



Volunteers & Water officers met with villagers

Staffs, board members and volunteers participated in a 3 days workshops facilitated by BOCA facilitator Ms Marie Keiruan. BOCA is a comprehensive assessment tool that provides an in-depth view of a branch’s strengths and weaknesses, and allows them to assess their current capacity to deliver services to initiate or strengthen their overall development. Branches are the service arms of the organization in the community, responding directly to the needs of the most vulnerable. BOCA also allows HQ to provide support in cases where recurring weaknesses in branches are identified .



Boar members at the BOCA collective exercise

## Why do we celebrate WORLD RED CROSS DAY on the 8th May ?



Across the country, Provincial Red Cross branches commemorated the historical day through various activities like raising Red Cross awareness with special focus on Covid19, membership drive, schools and community quizzes with give-away prizes, barbecue sales, cutting of cakes. The this special day is :

1. To commemorate the principles of the Red Cross society and the Red Crescent movement.
2. To recognize the importance of volunteers who have given their lives to help people.
3. The founder of Red Cross is Henry Dunant, and his birthday falls on 8th March.
4. Noble Laureate Henry Dunant founded the philanthropic Organization, International Red Cross Committee, in the year 1863.
5. Red Cross organization helps the people affected by natural disasters or conflicts such as wars, floods, fires, and earthquakes.
6. To inspire other organizations like Non-profit making Government Organizations that promote the welfare of people.
7. The NGOs that are inspired by RedCross organize blood donation camps in their cities.
8. Each year the World Red Cross Day is celebrated across the globe according to a theme, and this year's theme was **#Unstoppable**



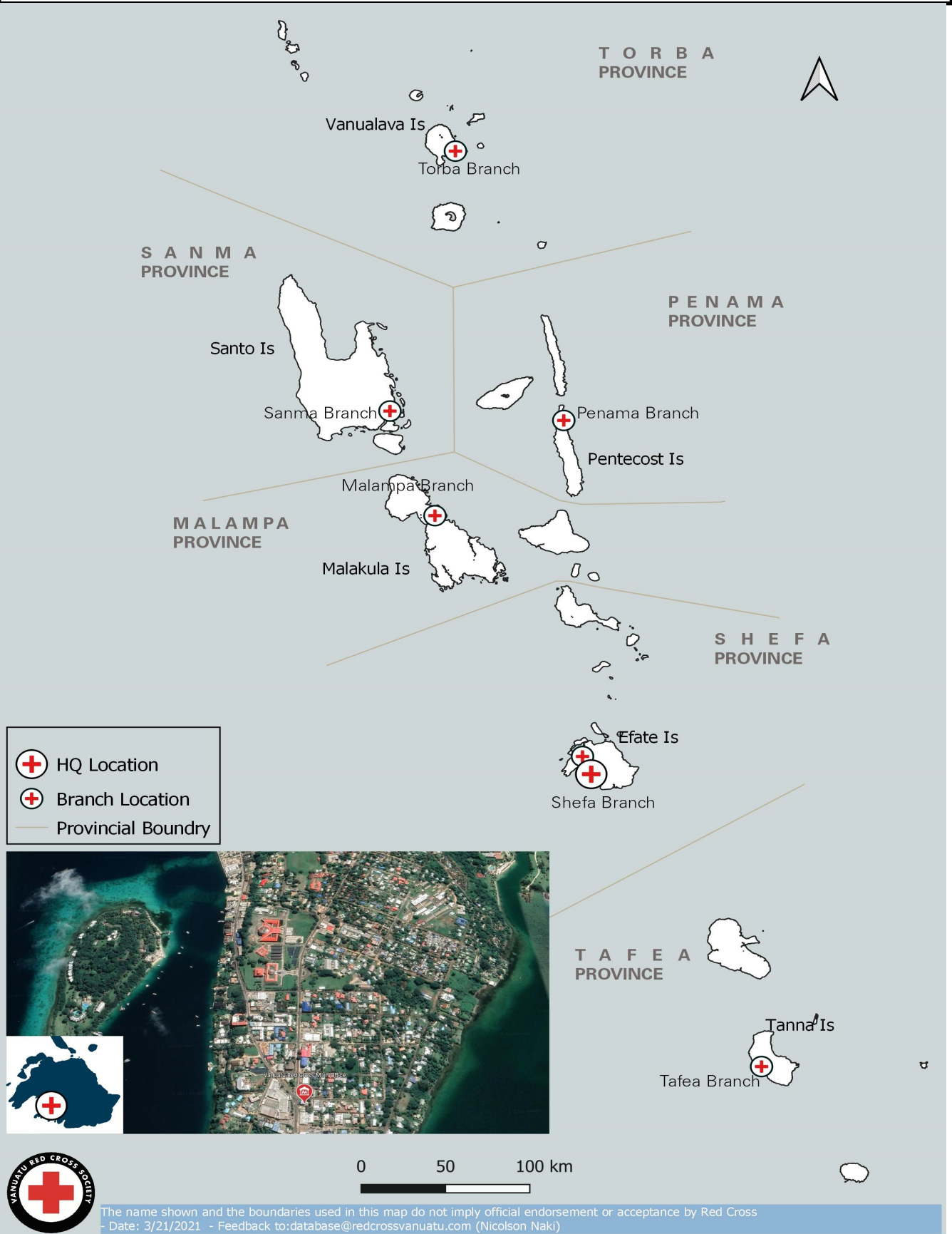
Vanuatu Red Cross Society would like to acknowledge all of its Donors, and partners for their support :

International Committee of Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent

Australian Red Cross, European Union, Vanuatu Government, Ministry of Health, Oxfam Vanuatu, Shefa Provincial Government, USAid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia).



Vanuatu Red Cross Society Headquarters is located in Nambatu, Port Vila (opposite Au Bon Marche). To get in touch, you can reach out to us via phone or email as per the details listed below or else drop in and say hello in person. Thank-you!



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# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

- 1- **Humanity**—Prevent and alleviate human suffering
- 2 - **Impartiality**— non discrimination and Proportionality
- 3 - **Neutrality**—retain credibility by not taking sides
- 4 - **Independence** –autonomy with respect to all powers
- 5 - **Voluntary Service** –disinterested relief movement
- 6 - **Unity**—only one National Society per country
- 7 - **Universality**—equal rights for all National Societies



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