

**VANUATU**

**INCEPTION  
REPORT  
2006**

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# **1. COUNTRY DATA**

## **1-1 General Information**

The republic of Vanuatu is a Y shape of 80 small islands spread over a distance of 1,100 square kilometers in the South West Pacific with a population of 196,000 people (2003 estimate) and it divided into six provinces.

The provinces are;

1. Torba Province
2. Sanma Province
3. Penama Province
4. Malamp Province
5. Shefa Province
6. Tafea Province

PORT VILA is its Capital City.

The country became an independent state from France and Britain on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1980 and has a parliamentary system of government.

The indigenous people speak over 100 different local languages. The official medium of communication is English and French. The national language is Bislama.

There are different ethnic groups living in Vanuatu including Pacific Islanders. These ethnic groups are Australians, New Zealand, Chinese and other Asians, Europeans, Americans and some other ethnic groups.

## **1-2. Disability Related Issues**

No national definition of disability as yet. Adopt the international definition.

The 1989 national population censuses puts the number of people with disabilities at around 2,000 people. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 people with disabilities in Vanuatu.

VSDP currently has a total of 789 registered clients of different types of disabilities. The common types of disabilities that found are;

1. Hearing
2. Physical
3. Visual Impairment and
4. Intellectual.

VSDP carried out a survey in 2005 in the Province of Tafea. Below is a table showing some of the clients finding from the Tafea Disability Survey.

**Table 1: Population by the Islands in TAFEA Province**

<b>ISLANDS</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>
Tanna	25,840
Anietyum	821
Futuna	402
Erromango	1,560
Aniwa	424
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>29,047</b>

Table 2 below lists the types of disabilities and the number of disabilities people reported. To clarify, one person may have reported more than one disability hence if one person reported being both physically disabled and blind then the total number of disabilities is two not one. The total number of disabilities reported was 559.

**Table 2: Disabilities Population by Types of Disabilities and Ages**

<b>TYPES OF DISABILITY</b>	<b>Ages 0-5</b>	<b>Ages 6-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-20</b>	<b>Ages 21-30</b>	<b>Ages 31-39</b>	<b>Ages 40-49</b>	<b>Ages 50 +</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>% of TOTAL</b>
<b>Autism</b>	0	4	3	1	0	0	0	<b>8</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Blind/Low Vision</b>	2	19	9	10	5	14	42	<b>101</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Cerebral Palsy</b>	1	3	2	0	2	0	1	<b>9</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Deaf/Hearing Impaired</b>	6	38	31	28	10	6	19	<b>138</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Epilepsy</b>	0	9	17	8	1	5	1	<b>41</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Intellectual</b>	1	29	19	9	9	4	3	<b>74</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Physical</b>	11	35	19	25	19	24	40	<b>173</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Psychiatric</b>	0	1	1	4	3	2	4	<b>15</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>559</b>	
<b>% of TOTAL</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8.75</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>19.8</b>		<b>100</b>

Physical disabilities were the highest report with 173 (31%) followed by Deaf/Hearing impairment with 139 (25%) and Blind/Low Vision with 101 (18%).

Autism and cerebral palsy were the least reported with 8 cases (1.4%), reported for Autism and 9 cases (1.6%) reported for Cerebral palsy. This may be because the local community is not aware or familiar with these types of disabilities. Also these categories are very specific compared with the others.

## **Policy / Laws**

No specific law on disability as yet. However, Vanuatu now has a national disability policy in place as of 2005 and has also recently established a National Disability Council to address disability issues at a national level with members from both Government and the two disability organizations, Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP) and Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association (DPA).

Persons with disabilities are cared for and supported by their respective parents and families. There is not direct financial assistance given to people with disabilities, except with the exception of few individuals who are privileged to be sponsored through education or through equipment support.

Vanuatu Government does not provide direct financial assistance to people with disabilities nor the local disability organizations.

Both VSDP and DPA rely on donor funds for their programme.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE (MY) ORGANIZATION**

### **2-1 General Information**

The name of the Organization is called '**Vanuatu Society for Disabled People**'. It is a charitable local Non-Governmental organization.

The organization has 11 board members who are the main decision makers for the Society as well as an Executive Committee who works closely with the Executive Director on programme planning and implementation. VSDP, goal is to provide services to all people with disabilities through out Vanuatu.

### **Objectives:**

1. To facilitate the fullest possible integration of and participation by people with disabilities in all aspects of their life,
2. to assist in prevention and early intervention of disabilities through education and public awareness campaigns,
3. to facilitate cooperation and collaboration with government and non-government organizations to ensure people with disabilities have fullest access to all rights guaranteed to all citizens by the constitutions.

## Staffing:

The organization currently has a total of staff of which 7 are on contract basic and 8 are full time workers. Of the total, eight are persons with disabilities of whom four are male and four are female.

(See table below ;)

POSITION	FUNDING SUPPORT	NUMBER
Executive Director	CBM & VSDP	1
Accounts Officer	CBM & Project	1
Field Workers	CBM & Project	6
Local Consultant	Project	1
Daily Workers on contract in catering services	VSDP	8
Handy Man	VSDP	1
Regular Volunteer	VSDP In-Kind	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>19</b>

(*Note:* CBM – Christian Blind Mission or Christoffel- Blindden Mission)

The organization has 20 registered members and over 600 unregistered members. The annual membership fee is 500vatu minimum.

## Finance:

The organizations provide the funding support in 2005, provided in order of priority and continuity;

1. Chritoffeblindden mission International (CBM) – Core funding
2. UNESCO – Project funding
3. AusAID – Project funding
4. European Union, Non State Actors Programme – Project funding
5. Inclusion International, New Zealand
6. Local Donations & Fundraise

## Strengths and Weaknesses:

The following are some of Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP) strengths and weaknesses;

***Strengths:***

- Dedicated and committed staff members
- Dedicated and committed Executive Director
- Active Chairman & Executive Committee
- Ability to develop project proposals for donor consideration
- Active volunteer group
- Good network and can be further improved and strengthen
- Has own office building, (only lease land to Vanuatu Government)

***Weakness:***

- Lack of adequate core funding for the organization
- Weak programme support especially after end of projects
- Irregularities of meetings by the board members
- Lack of financial support from Vanuatu Government.

**2-2. My Activities In My (Our) Organization**

I am an Accounts Officer and Administrator for the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People. My responsibilities are as follows,

- Updating of monthly Income and Expenses (using MYOB)
- Updating of filing, answering phone and etc.
- Meeting visitors, customer and conduct community awareness or information sessions on disability issues,
- Promoting the rights of people with disabilities,
- Supervise and coordinate special projects for people with disabilities
- Public relations

I started working in the organization since last year, the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 and as up to this year 2006 is my first year in the job. I was there because during that time the organization need accountant. I began this job for seven months volunteered.

To begin or strait a particular job or responsibility in new organization there are not mush problems or difficulties to face as to continue of what someone been left and not well organize consenting that some job. Problems or difficulties can be solve by seeking more information and artvices from the Executive Director, Staffs and other that have more experience at the job.

As I am a disabled person myself. I was very interested in knowing more about people with disabilities and how to care and promote to development in the country.

The kind of role that I would like to take in this process is to be a good management of leadership by keeping in report of what happening, updating of expenses and income for the organization and also of writing good project proposals.

### **Other Disability Related Activities:**

I was a teller, handcrafter, a singer, sign language learner and also how to do massage.

I participate in women activities and church youth activities when and where possible. I am an assistant leader for my particular youth group and also coordinate trainings within my church youth group.

I coordinate a team of disabled doing community awareness raising on disability issues and sexual health and assist people with disabilities working at Air Vanuatu Catering Service.

### **Conclusion**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my government for dominating me to this course and thank JICA especially Vanuatu Office for processing and arranging my participation at this training course.