

VANUATU

August 2023

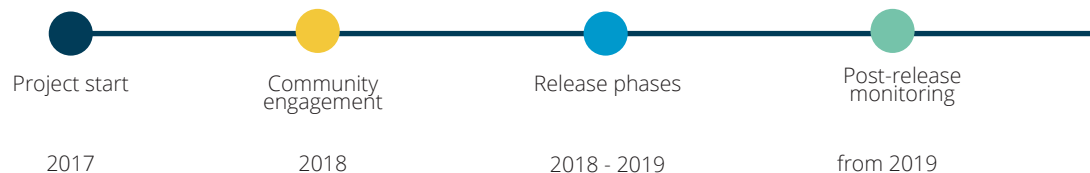


The World Mosquito Program and Vanuatu health authorities have been working together on an innovative approach to protect people from mosquito-borne diseases. The project has been funded and supported by the Australian Government.

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.

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

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 km²



61,000
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.

“

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 (WMP) is a not-for-profit group of companies owned by Monash University that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases. The World Mosquito Program uses naturally occurring bacteria called *Wolbachia* to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit viruses to humans.

Following decades of research and successful field trial results, the World Mosquito Program is currently partnering with communities in 14 countries around the world to implement our ground-breaking

solution. We have staff working in countries across Oceania, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and offices established in Australia, Vietnam, France and Panama.

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

A collaboration between:



Contact us

