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Forward

The National Policy and Strategy on Healthy Islands and Primary Health Care for 2011-2015 provides a guiding framework for the implementation of the revitalisation of primary health care using health promotion concepts and tools.

The policy document outlines the concepts, principles and approaches to help the government achieve its health sector goals and objectives and to work towards its mission in protecting health, preventing diseases and promoting healthy lifestyles among all people in Vanuatu. It translates the health sector strategy (HSS 2010-2015) into practical and achievable activities that can bring results and differences in health outcomes.

The scattered islands and the wide spread of populations and communities across land and sea makes it challenging for government to provide easy access to health services. To address access to services, the Ministry of Health is committed to implement primary health care revitalization bringing services closer to where people live and engaging community participation in health and well-being.

This policy and strategy guides the direction and the focus to achieve the healthy islands vision of improved health for all through primary health care. Health promotion is the vehicle that drives the agenda to apply a simultaneous top down and bottom up approach where government sets the policy direction from top which translates down to provincial level, and at the same time engaging stakeholders and individuals down at community level. The involvement and assistance of development partners and stakeholders are important in undertaking this exercise.

In developing this document, a number of consultations have taken place, and hence the process represents joint ideas and planning at national and provincial levels. However, progress does not happen unless the policy and strategic directions are actively implemented and monitored. The document is fairly detailed and outlines activities at all levels to bring about the move towards revitalization of primary health care in all provinces. I encourage all staff of the Ministry of Health at all levels of care to familiarize yourselves with this document and integrate its implementation into your respective section planning and budgeting. The Health Promotion Unit coordinates its implementation working alongside other programmes at national level and providing support to the provinces. The coordination and supervision of primary health at provincial level is the role of provincial health managers working in close collaboration with respective provincial health teams in each province.

I take this opportunity to thank our staff who have been involved in the development of the strategy and also acknowledge the collaboration of our health partners in this process, in particular WHO as the lead technical partner in the development process. The Ministry of Health will continue to seek the continuous technical and financial support of health partners for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this strategy.

Let’s all join our hands together to build and educated, healthy and wealthy nation.
Executive Summary

National Policy and Strategy for Healthy Islands 2011-2015 is a mechanism to revitalize Primary Health Care (PHC) in the context of "Healthy Islands" approach in Vanuatu. The Healthy Islands vision provides a long-term goal for achieving health-for-all people in the island setting. The 2008 World Health Report by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted the need to improve access to health services by strengthening health systems based on the values of PHC. PHC as defined in Alma Ata in 1978 is the mechanism to realise the vision of Healthy Islands.

This policy focuses on strengthening the principles of health promotion and its supportive structures as a vehicle for driving the PHC Revitalisation agenda. The document serves as the principle point of reference for health partners in Vanuatu in matters related to increasing access to services through PHC approach.

The background section describes the core concept of PHC, Healthy Islands, Health Promotion, and Health System Strategy 2010-2016. The background helps the reader to understand why this policy is essential to support health goals.

The policy statements define the principles of health promotion as a vehicle for PHC Revitalisation. The main functions are: 1) Integration of public health policy, strategies, and activities; 2) Development of communication channels available for all partners; 3) Delivery of public health information and services through the multi-media communication channels.

The Rollout Plan of the PHC Revitalisation aims to translate vision and concepts to action. It specifies a plan for the implementation of strategies at national and taking the plan down to provincial and community level. A crucial component of the strategy is the importance of engaging relevant stakeholders and partners in the implementation process to achieve coordinated synergy for maximum results and outcomes.

The Monitoring and Evaluation aims to ensure that the policy and strategy are implemented as planned and that results are achieved. Indicators for achievement of results at different levels must be clearly outlined to guide the process of measuring for results. Monitoring and evaluation should be integrated into the regular activities, and where relevant should link with national health surveys.

Finally, this policy is a mechanism for engaging health partners through the Health Partners Group (HPG) to harmonise their technical and financial support, promote better coordination and strengthen collaborative efforts for better health outcomes.

Policy Development Process

The main dates of the development process of the Healthy Islands Strategy are outlined below:

Oct 2010: National Primary Health Care Revitalisation workshop
Feb 2011: 1st draft of Policy paper written by Health Promotion Unit
Mar 2011: Feedback from National Health Promotion workshop
Mar 2011: 2nd draft of Policy paper written by Health Promotion Unit
Mar 2011: Feedback from Public Health Division meeting
Apr 2011: Final draft of Policy paper written by Health Promotion Unit
Apr 2011: Feedback from Senior Health Managers’ meeting
May 2011: Final version of Policy paper submitted to Executive Committee
## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Community Nurse</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF</td>
<td>Global Fund</td>
<td>PHM</td>
<td>Provincial Health Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>GO</td>
<td>Government Organization</td>
<td>PHO</td>
<td>Provincial Health Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>HFA</td>
<td>Health for All</td>
<td>PHP</td>
<td>Principle of Health Promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td>Healthy Islands</td>
<td>SCA</td>
<td>Save the Children Australia</td>
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<td>HIP</td>
<td>Healthy Islands Package</td>
<td>SO</td>
<td>Sanitation Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIS</td>
<td>Health Information System</td>
<td>SWAp</td>
<td>Sector Wide Approach</td>
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<td>HPG</td>
<td>Health Partners Group</td>
<td>PHC</td>
<td>Primary Health Care</td>
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<td>HSS</td>
<td>Health Sector Strategy</td>
<td>TG</td>
<td>Target Group</td>
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<td>TOR</td>
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<td>HPO</td>
<td>Health Promotion Officer</td>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information Education Communication</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nation Children’s Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGO</td>
<td>International Government Organization</td>
<td>VHW</td>
<td>Village Health Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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