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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The creation of this, the first ever, Annual Report for the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is a great achievement for the Society. An annual report gives us opportunity to reflect on the year that’s been and celebrate the work and achievements of VRCS.

2013 was a very productive year for the Society. Projects focusing on improving resilience to disaster and climate change were carried out on some of Vanuatu’s most remote and vulnerable islands. We worked to improve hygiene and sanitation in West Ambrym and Motalava as well as distributed vital supplies to those affected by natural disasters. In addition, VRCS participated in and supported numerous activities and events designed to help people in need.

During the year VRCS continued to work as an auxiliary to the Vanuatu Government. This auxiliary status is one of the defining characteristics of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies and distinguishes them from national and international NGOs. This unique relationship means that the government may call on the society to deliver humanitarian services or provide technical counsel. In return the government often provides funding assistance to the Society. However the Society must adhere at all times to the 7 Fundamental Principles including independence. Accordingly, the government cannot ask the society to perform any activities, which could compromise this, and the Society has the right to refuse the government should they see fit.

The auxiliary relationship between a National Society and its government is a valuable tool to assist the most vulnerable. Even with frequent changes of government, Vanuatu Red Cross has maintained this relationship and continually provided humanitarian assistance as required to the most vulnerable people of Vanuatu.

The important work carried out by the VRCS in 2013 would not have been possible without the commitment of so many who worked to help the Society in our mission. In particular, I say thank you to the Vanuatu Government, the Delegate of the French Red Cross, the New Zealand Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC in Suva, and the Chinese Embassy for their ongoing support and cooperation during 2013.

To the board, the members, the staff, the volunteers and friends throughout the islands of Vanuatu, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your contribution. By working together I am confident that, in 2014 and beyond, we can continue to carry out our humanitarian duties and provide assistance to those most in need.

Hannington Godfrey Alatoa
FROM THE CEO

2013 was a really exciting year for VRCS. I think it’s important that we reflect on how far we have come and grown as an organization.

When I started as CEO in January 2008, there was one volunteer, one staff and myself. In 2013 we now have 30 branches and sub-branches, 3 offices, a presence in Torba, Malampa, Sanma, Panama, Shefa and Tafea provinces, supported by 5 departments to ensure we are leading the way in reaching Vanuatu’s most vulnerable.

In 2008 we had one unique program in disaster management; today we have:
- PMDP, Pacific Disaster Management program, with 10,850 beneficiaries;
- LFP, Law and Fundamental Principles program disseminating Red Cross principles;
- P2HK, building infrastructure providing accessible water on the island of Ambrym;
- DRR, Disaster Risk Reduction with 2,500 beneficiaries;
- CCA with 2,500 beneficiaries;
- SCP with 2,727 beneficiaries.

In line with the requirements of the IFRC, we have established a strategy 2020 to ensure clear direction for the National Society moving forward. Our focus remains on assisting those most in need. This includes working with youth, women, elderly people and people with disabilities.

We have placed a strong emphasis on the future for Vanuatu’s youth, with the successful launch of “Empowering Vanua Malagwelo”, focusing on life development for young girls on Efate who have not received the same level of education and opportunities as their male counterparts.

This has been a groundbreaking initiative for VRCS funded by the generous support of the Swiss Embassy in Canberra, and we look to forward to developing this program throughout 2014.

We have also strengthened our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable in all of our work with the development of a comprehensive child protection policy.

It is important that we share knowledge and expertise amongst our peers to ensure all are providing a clear consistent message of support across Vanuatu.

At a national level we are members of:
- The NDC - National Disaster Committee
- The NAP - National Action Plan
- The VHT - Vanuatu Humanitarian Team
- Gender in Development Partnerships Committee
We are also partners and decision makers in three development clusters: WASH, Logistic and Health.

At the core of our work, we have provided emergency response to various communities and 2013 saw us as first respondents to the Paama landslides, ensuring the community received effective assistance in a timely manner. VRCS places a focus on training local staff in the provinces so that the skills required to deal with emergency situations are never far away.

The motto of the IFRC “Do more, do better, reach further.” is particularly relevant for Vanuatu - the work of the Society could is only made possible by the great contribution of our volunteers working right across the country.

In 2013 we also focused on investing in our commercial first aid program. With changing world landscapes it is important that we build our resilience as an organization and develop our income streams to ensure the continuance of a vibrant National Society. We take this opportunity to thank the generous support of the Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross, who have supported our programs.

It is a bright future for the VRCS where, with clear vision and focus, our mission is working towards a better future for the people of Vanuatu.

Jacqueline de Gaillande

VRCS Mission
To improve the lives of the most vulnerable without discrimination through voluntary service.
THE RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Fundamental Principles

Proclaimed in Vienna in 1965, the seven Fundamental Principles bond together the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They guarantee the continuity of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian work.

**Humanity**
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all people.

**Impartiality**
It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality**
In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence**
The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service**
It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity**
There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality**
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.
Components Of The RCRC Movement

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS – (ICRC)
ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and co-ordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES - (IFRC)
The IFRC works to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies. Founded in 1919 the IFRC directs and coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programs.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

NATIONAL SOCIETIES
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 189 Countries. National Societies acts as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own Countries in the humanitarian field, and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programs. During wartime, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate.
ABOUT VRCS

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society was founded on October 11th, 1982 pursuant to the Vanuatu Red Cross Society Act No: 23 of 1982, and is a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal. Its Constitution is based on the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977, to which Vanuatu is a party, and the fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Red Cross began operating in Vanuatu as a branch of the British Red Cross.

1982 Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) is formed pursuant to the Red Cross Society Act [Cap151]
1993 VRCS is recognised by ICRC and becomes a member of the Federation
2009 VRCS’ Constitution adopted during the general assembly
2010 VRCS successfully signed an MoU with the Government of Vanuatu
2010 VRCS was officially allowed to use the Namele leaf emblem alongside of its own logo
2011 VRCS signed an MoU with Ministry of Health
2011 After TC Vania, VRCS, in coordination with Oxfam and French Red Cross, initiated and developed a disaster supporting group: The Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, whose core activity is to provide support to NDMO in times of disaster
2013 VRCS develops and adopts a Child Protection Policy

Membership of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society is open to everyone. There are three (3) forms of membership: active (volunteers), subscribing (fee-paying) and honorary. The Society has over 500 volunteers and this number increases when there is an activity needing the volunteers to support.

The Society regularly seeks feedback and involvement in decision making from beneficiaries, volunteers, members, donors and partner organisations.

Constituency

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society has a total of 5 Provincial branches with its Headquarters located in Port Vila, Shefa Province.
Organisational structure

Commonly Used Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VRCS</td>
<td>Vanuatu Red Cross Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFRC</td>
<td>International Federations of Red Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRC</td>
<td>French Red Cross/Croix Rouge</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Australian Red Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDMP</td>
<td>Pacific Disaster Management Program</td>
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<td>TBR</td>
<td>Together Becoming Resilient</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBR TAFA</td>
<td>Together Becoming Resilient—Tafea/Shefa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCP</td>
<td>Supporting Community Planning for a more resilient Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2HK</td>
<td>Yumi evriwan i paticipat blong helti mo hapi komuniti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Climate Change Adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVM</td>
<td>Empowering Vanua Malagwelo</td>
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Where VRCS works

VRCS operates in all six provinces of Vanuatu to ensure that we are always available to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.
BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The 2009 Constitution adopted during the General Assembly provides the legal framework for the Vanuatu Red Cross Society. This document is strictly adhered to in accordance with good governance practices. The General Assembly is the highest authority within the Society and membership is open to the public. This body is responsible for the election of the National Board.

The National Board has a mandate to effectively and efficiently govern the Society between each General Assembly. The Board is the guardian of the legal base consisting of the Society’s statutes and the national law under which it is recognised by the Vanuatu Government. The National Board is responsible for governing the affairs of the Society, with a particular focus on finance against budget and the delivery of programs. The National Board sets the policies and strategy while the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the implementation of these policies and the management of staff and activities. The CEO reports directly to the Board.

In 2013, the VRCS had 52 paying members. A new VRCS board was elected by these members at the Annual General meeting held in July 2013. The board members will stand for a two-year term, until the next election.

The new board & executive is as follows:

President
Hannington Alatoa

Vice President
Monica Croccolo de Gaillande

Treasurer
Easuary Deamer
Each board member has elected a number of areas of expertise or interest. These areas of interest provide a focal person or people when information is sent from the IFRC, they help to distribute workload and decide who will take part in Society activities.
The French Red Cross (Croix Rouge Française) is one of the founding national societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It unites 50,000 volunteers engaged on the many fronts of the battle against poverty. It is also engaged in a non-lucrative service activity in health, social and training fields with 18,000 employees in over 600 establishments. The Board of the French Red Cross has been renewed in 2013 with a newly elected President Prof. Jean-Jacques Eledjam and a new Secretary General M. Stephane Mantion. The main activities of the organisation in France are Emergency Response and First Aid training, Social Action, Training/Education of Nurses, Health and the International Operations.

Under its International Operations Department, the French Red Cross is working with its Sister National Societies in 30 countries and is reaching around 2.5 million of vulnerable persons all over the world. In the Pacific, the French Red Cross set up a Regional Intervention Platform for the South Pacific (PIROPS) in New Caledonia in 2006. This Platform will reduce its scope starting in 2014 and will focus on the New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna territories. In Vanuatu, the French Red Cross Delegation opened in 2007 with a delegate bringing technical advice to the VRCS CEO.

Vanuatu being the most vulnerable country to disasters according to a study published by the UN University in 2012 and the FRC having long Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) technical expertise, an assessment was done in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in this field at the end of 2009. The DRR program implemented by the VRCS with the support of the FRC called “Together Becoming Resilient!” started in 2010 and its third phase has begun in May 2013.
Besides the DRR program, the FRC is also working together with the VRCS in the fields of Climate Change Adaptation and WASH since July 2012. The second phase of the WASH project started in September 2013 (SCP2).

Besides the operational/technical support provided by the FRC to the VRCS, some other activities were implemented in common in the field of organizational development in 2013. A Memorandum of Understanding which still formalizes and guides the partnership between the FRC and the VRCS was signed with the Vanuatu Red Cross on the 15th March 2010. While the FRC Delegation was encompassing both Vanuatu and Solomon Islands since 2010, 2013 marks the reopening of the Vanuatu FRC Delegation on the 1st of September 2013, allowing closer work with the VRCS with clearly dedicated resources. One regional meeting was organized by the French Red Cross with Partner National Societies (including the VRCS) in Nouméa in March 2013 and the FRC HoD attended the Australian Red Cross Meeting in Brisbane in April 2013. The French Red Cross team supported the VRCS in organizing participatory workshops which helped designing the 2013-2017 VRCS strategy which was adopted by the General Assembly in July 2013. The FRC also facilitated the participation of one Board Member at the Asia-Pacific Fundraiser Network Meeting in Manila on July 4th-6th 2013.

2014 will mark the 150th anniversary of the creation of the French Red Cross.
VANUATU RED CROSS SOCIETY
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

ONE | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TWO | DISASTER MANAGEMENT

THREE | HEALTH

FOUR | YOUTH SERVICES

FIVE | INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW & VALUES

SIX | CHILDREN, WOMEN & SENIOR CITIZENS
STRATEGIC DIRECTION ONE | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aim: to develop and sustain the maximum level of commitment and performance of VRCS’ staff and volunteers in the delivery of all services with adequate resources.

HQ Development

Website for VRCS
During 2013, the VRCS communications officer worked closely with an AVID volunteer on the creation of a new website for VRCS. The website provides information on the programs run by VRCS and allows the public and other stakeholders greater access to VRCS’ work. The website can be found at: www.redcross.org.vu

Volunteers
Vanuatu Red Cross has over 500 volunteers registered to assist in our programs. The volunteer program aims to provide volunteers with training and experience and ultimately build the capacity of the Society to respond to emergencies and deliver our programs. By fostering the development of a volunteer network that spans the country, VRCS is able to ensure that assistance is available wherever disaster may strike. In 2013, 68 new volunteers registered with the Society.

During 2013, VRCS volunteers participated in the following trainings:
- Basic First Aid
- First Aid Instructor Course
- Emergency Response Team
There were also a number of activities run by VRCS that would not have been possible without the assistance of the volunteers. Volunteers assisted in the delivery of activities such as disaster assessment, relief distribution, stock inventory, DRR awareness, WASH programs and first aid training.

MOUs with ARC, NZRC & AVID program
During 2013, VRCS signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with Australian Red Cross (ARC) and New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC). These agreements detail a partnership arrangement in which ARC and NZRC provide support to VRCS to strengthen our capacity for program development and implementation. These partnerships play a very important role in ensuring that VRCS is able to deliver vital programs to the people of Vanuatu.

VRCS also signed an MOU with the ARC Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program which allows AVID volunteers to work with VRCS to develop capacity in areas identified by the Society.

Branch Development

Tafea Branch
In January 2013, the new branch office in Tanna opened with a ceremony attended by provincial government representatives, local community leaders, VRCS board members and staff. Construction of the new building was made possible through funding provided by USAID, the office was complemented by a shipping container full of emergency supplies provided by AusAID. The rest of the year was spent recruiting new volunteers, raising awareness about Red Cross in local communities and liaising with sub-branch officers on the outer islands in the province.

Penama Branch
Penama branch staff and volunteers assisted the disaster team in a number of activities for the PDMP project during 2013 including undertaking a KAP survey, creating community action plans and establishing community disaster committees in 5 communities. The Penama branch
officer also facilitated DRR training for provincial government representatives and local communities. Late in the year, Penama provincial government donated a house on provincial land to VRCS to be used as a new branch office. VRCS plans to renovate and open this new office in 2014.

Sanma Branch
Whilst Sanma province did not have an office space during 2013, VRCS volunteers in the province still worked hard to contribute to the work of the Society. In March, a logistics workshop was held in Santo and attended by staff from VRCS HQ and branches. The workshop was facilitated by a delegate from the Australian Red Cross and covered planning for logistical practices and issues during times of disaster. It is anticipated that an office space will be delegated to VRCS by the province in 2014.

Malampa Branch
The 13th of October 2013 was International Disaster Risk Reduction Day and VRCS was honoured to have our Malampa Branch Officer appointed as chair of the coordination committee for Malampa province. Over 3000 people attended the IDRR day activities which spanned a full week. VRCS used the opportunity to disseminate information about disasters and our PDMP strategy by holding an open forum to help explain to beneficiaries the role of VRCS HQ and it’s provincial
branches. This was also an opportunity to discuss and receive feedback on VRCS and our role within the communities. Following the landslide in Paama, the Malampa Branch Officer was part of the team led by the NDMO who went to assess the damage and plan the relief effort. The VRCS Malampa branch staff and volunteers also assisted with the subsequent distribution of relief items.

Torba Branch
Staff and volunteers of Torba branch were called on early in the year when a tsunami hit Hiu Island. The Torba branch was able to coordinate with the provincial government to provide first response relief items to those affected. In addition, Torba staff and volunteers worked on supporting the DRR and Climate Change projects run by HQ within their province. A serious incident occurred late in the year when a Red Cross boat went missing however luckily they were found soon after, safe and sound.

Commercial First Aid
2013 was good year for the VRCS commercial first aid program, we strengthened our customer base by including trainings with Digicel and Unelco and have also have started a relationship with Customs Inland revenue providing training for their officers. A new commercial first aid officer was hired to answer the growing need for commercial training in Vanuatu and is working with the team to prepare a new first aid manual to be published in Bislama in 2014. During 2013 VRCS trained 140 people through our commercial first aid program, a commendable improvement having not secured any trainings in 2012.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION TWO | DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**Aim:** to reduce the risks of vulnerable communities to emergencies and disasters through capacity building and promoting community resilience.

*Vanuatu is located in the “Pacific ring of fire” and at the centre of the Pacific “cyclone belt”. It is exposed to a substantive range of hazards compared to most of the other Pacific Island Countries resulting in a relatively high frequency of volcanic eruptions, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, storm surges, coastal and river flooding and landslides. Climate variability and change is likely to lead to sea level risk and the increase in frequency and/or intensity of some of these events. In light of these threats, there is an increasing focus on development processes and how these can impact vulnerability and exposure to natural disasters.*

**Pacific Disaster Management Partnership**

**Emergency Response Team training**
Throughout July and September VRCS developed and introduced a new and improved Emergency Response Team training curriculum. This curriculum, reviewed by the IFRC and the National Disaster Management Office, was delivered to all VRCS branch officers and ERT members across all six provinces to ensure that VRCS was ready to respond effectively in case of emergency. For the first time, the important aspect of restoring family links (RFL) in times of disaster was incorporated into the ERT training with the assistance of an RFL Facilitator from the Australian Red Cross.

**Raising Disaster Awareness**
The PDMP team worked with communities
on the islands of Tanna and Ambae to raise awareness regarding what to do in times of disaster. Both islands are home to active volcanoes which greatly increases the likelihood of natural disasters. Covering the obvious threat of volcanic activity and earthquakes, the team also discussed flooding, landslides, and cyclones, all common in Vanuatu during the wet season. Community participation in the sessions was encouraged with educational games being used to introduce children to the disaster risk reduction concepts.

Tsunami hits Hiu Island
Hiu is the northernmost island in the Vanuatu archipelago. When a powerful tsunami struck the Solomon Islands the flow on effect to Hiu was swift – 19 households were affected and 54 people displaced. VRCS were the first response team to the crisis, our regional branches liaised with the Torba provincial government and we were able to get crucial relief items to those in need.

Landslide in Paama
In late October 2013 unexpected, heavy rainfall caused flooding and landslides in various locations of Paama Island, Malampa Province. 678 people were affected and/or displaced.
VRCS collaborated with the Prime Minister’s office and NDMO to host two fundraising appeals in Port Vila. As a result we were able to distribute essential relief supplies and building materials to the value of 600,000 vatu.

Together Becoming Resilient – Phase 3

The Project “Strengthening the sustainability of (RC) Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives in Vanuatu (TBR3)” is the third phase of a DRR program known as the ‘Together Becoming Resilient’ Initiative (TBR) which has been implemented in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu since February 2010. Based in Torba province, the most remote of Vanuatu, this program aims to develop Community Disaster Committees (CDC) and build their capacity to be better prepared to face and reduce the impact of a disaster. So far, 25 communities have benefitted from the activities in Vanuatu. The project follows a community-based methodology: Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, DRR awareness and development of DRR tools (response and action plans). The project targets around 4000 people from the community level to the provincial and national authorities. This 15 month project, commenced in May 2013, is funded by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO).

Sustaining and Reinforcing the existing Disaster Committee Network

One of the main objectives of the project was to sustain the activity of the existing CDCs in the target area by continuing their training and building capacity.

In this scope the Red Cross Sub Branch officer (SBO) provided tools and training to the CDC to be able to review their action plan and make plans for community work. The SBO also provided first aid training to community members to assist in emergency situations. To improve the communication between authorities and the CDC, the VRCS involved the Area Council Secretary (ACS) in all activities. This helped to strengthen links and allows the ACS to monitor the CDC activities.

Disaster simulation exercise and Community Response Plans reviews

The TBR 3 implemented a cyclone simulation exercise in most of the 23 communities in order to test the community response plans that were made in the previous phase of the program. The exercise was an opportunity for community members to understand clearly their
individual responsibilities by enacting a false cyclone situation. Results from the simulation allowed the communities to revise their response plans accordingly. The CDCs will implement this exercise on a regular basis in order to ensure the details of the community response plan are fresh in the minds of the community before the cyclone season.

**Replicating Good Preparedness Practice by using Participatory Video.**
VRCS in partnership with the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society conducted a ‘train the trainer’ workshop in December 2013 on participatory video production. Participatory video is aimed at teaching communities how they can use this media format to assist in building capacity and increasing DRR awareness both within their communities and further afield. During the workshop, participants visited Mele village and involved the locals in creating three videos containing valuable messages regarding how best people can avoid disasters in regards to tsunamis, flooding and waste management.

**Standardizing Community-Based DRR Practice**
The DRR team has been a key actor in helping the NDMO and other stakeholders to set up a working group that aims to standardize the community based disaster risk reduction practice in Vanuatu. This ongoing process, lead by NDMO, should improve the tools used at the community level.
As part of this aim, the DRR team has developed a DRR handbook which describes the full methodology used in TBR projects. This handbook details the key
tools to be able to set up and train CDCs, conduct risk assessments and develop a response and action plan. The DRR team plan to conduct a train the trainer workshop based on the handbook for all VRCS branches in early 2014.

**Together Becoming Resilient – Tafea & Shefa Provinces**

Commenced in August 2013, the TBR TAFA project is working with communities in Shefa & Tafea provinces to build disaster resilience and preparedness. Funded by USAID through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the project is scheduled to run for 12 months.

Work in late 2013 focused on Shefa province. Through a process of community profiling and appraisal, five communities were selected to participate in this project. Within each of these communities, a Community Disaster Committee (CDC) has been established with the help of VRCS. This is a crucial first step in this project as these committees will work with the VRCS to develop strategies and plans for how their individual communities can better respond to and cope with natural disasters. Following the development of the CDCs, VRCS trained volunteers in each of the communities to undertake a baseline survey which will direct the project activities and allow VRCS to effectively measure the results.

The TBR TAFA team also worked with community leaders on the island of Emae to plan the rehabilitation of their evacuation centre however unfortunately, due to land ownership disputes, the project was unable to proceed. The team is now considering other remote communities in the Shepherd Island group that could benefit from this assistance.

The TBR TAFA project was officially presented to the Secretary General of Shefa province in a presentation held in late 2013. The Secretary General made plans to sign an MOU with VRCS in early 2014, which will commit to working together towards the development goals of Shefa province relating to disaster risk reduction in these communities.

**Together Becoming Resilient – Supporting Community Planning for a more resilient Vanuatu**

**Gravity-Fed Water System in Motolava**

Access to clean and safe drinking water is one of the main concerns for rural communities when it comes to being
disaster ready. Through the ‘Supporting Community Planning for a more resilient Vanuatu’ (SCP) project, VRCS in conjunction with FRC has alleviated this concern for much of the population on the islands of Motolava and Rah with the construction of a gravity-fed system to ensure clean water is always available, especially in times of disaster. Taps were installed in five different villages for general use as well as in each of the three schools, the two health clinics and at the emergency evacuation point.

VRCS/FRC implemented a number of measures to increase sustainability of the project. Local skilled workers were provided with basic construction and plumbing training before being employed to construct the system and the tap-stands. This guarantees that the skills to maintain the system in the future are readily available. A water committee was established to look after the system and within this committee a water-use fee structure was established to cover the cost of any future repairs.

The level of community support for this project was overwhelming with over 7

![Image of children using the new water system]
million vatu being contributed by the local population in the form of labour and resources. The SCP team are now working to replicate this project on the island of Hiu, conducting a topographical survey in late 2013 to begin work in 2014.

Constructing Disaster Ready Shelter in Gaua & Hiu

The SCP project also focused on improving disaster resilience by ensuring safer structures within the community. A study for the project showed that the majority of the local population chose to stay in their houses during a natural disaster rather than moving to the evacuation centres. VRCS & FRC trained 32 local skilled workers in construction methods to ensure stronger more disaster resilient structures. In addition, we also managed the structural reinforcement of two evacuation centres on Hiu Island and one on Gaua Island.

Basic Construction Handbook

Following on from the construction workshop, the SCP project team developed a handbook detailing the principles and methods of building a safe structure. Written in Bislama with clear pictures and diagrams as examples, this handbook is targeted at all community members, not just skilled workers, as many people in Vanuatu build their own houses. A workshop was run to
introduce the handbook to VRCS branch officers who will then disseminate the information to their local communities. The handbook has also been shared with other organisations operating in DRR to maximise the benefits of this resource.

**Strengthened Communication**
Communication and information play a key role in reducing vulnerability to natural disaster events. HF radios can provide an invaluable means of communication when disaster strikes or to receive forecast updates in the time prior to a potential disaster. Working with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the SCP project installed six HF radios in remote communities in the Banks & Torres islands and trained 31 locals in radio operation and maintenance with the potential to benefit a local population of nearly 2,500 people.

**Mini-wata Kit**
VRCS/FRC trialed the use of a kit which allows self-production of chlorine. The initial trial in Motolava was successful, particularly in the use as a disinfectant in the health clinic, and so the team plan to continue and hopefully expand the use of this kit in the second phase of the project in 2014.

**Climate Change Adaptation**
With support from FRC and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCRC Climate Centre), VRCS assisted communities in Torba province to increase their ability to cope with the effects of climate change through the Climate Change Adaptation project (CCA). Funded by Australian Aid, the VRCS is part of a consortium of six agencies, led by Oxfam, who are all contributing to the implementation of the CCA program.

**Weather & Climate Change Awareness**
VRCS targeted 23 communities on the islands of Gaua, Vanualava, Motolava and Torres to create awareness regarding the impacts of climate change. A handbook on Weather and Climate Change was developed in conjunction with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) for use by VRCS branches and sub-branches. This handbook was introduced at a four day workshop held at HQ in late 2013 and will be translated into Bislama before being distributed to the branches and volunteers to be used throughout Vanuatu.

**Agricultural Adaptation for greater Food Security**
Three communities in west Gaua received training on crop management and agricultural adaptation techniques to improve community resilience to the effects of climate change. Each community identified lead farmers to create pilot gardens encouraging diversification of planting to ensure year-round food security. The Torba Branch Officer and Sub-Branch Officers attended training on basic agriculture and pilot plot techniques which
they were then able to pass on to the lead farmers. Planting in the gardens commenced in April and will be continually monitored until harvest. In addition, tools and seeds were distributed for planting and awareness was raised in regards to food security preparedness prior to cyclone season. These activities were facilitated by the VRCS in partnership with the Farmer Support Association (FSA).

Natural Resource Management
The people of Torba province rely heavily on their marine resources for survival. VRCS worked with six communities on the islands of Motolava and Vanualava to help preserve these resources in the face of climate change. Working with existing community Marine Protected Areas, we provided resources to support the area including the construction of a notice board to create awareness and materials for the maintenance of the area.

Coastal erosion is also a major issue for these islands. On Motolava, VRCS is working to create a nursery for species of vegetation which provide coastal protection to decrease the level of erosion on the “flying doctor” airstrip – a crucial access point for medical emergencies on the island. To increase community awareness of the issue, educational materials were developed which explained the causes and impacts of coastal erosion. In partnership with the FSA and GIZ, VRCS also distributed and facilitated the planting of Vetiver grass to decrease levels of river bank erosion in the community of Vatop.

Klaod Nasara
In 2013 an exciting new tool was produced to raise awareness of the science and impacts of El Niño and La Niña in Vanuatu. The comical animation film and toolkit called ‘Kload Nasara’ were produced to link climate science with decision making and preparedness. The film and resource took kit was produced in three languages (Bislama, English and French). El Niño typically brings dry conditions and drought to Vanuatu and La Niña brings wetter conditions. The tool therefore aims to encourage the people of Vanuatu to take VRCS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS PLANTING TREES TO PREVENT COASTAL EROSION, MOTOLAVA, TORBA PROVINCE.
early action in preparing for these extreme events. A similar region wide animation featuring a climate crab was also produced.

The animations and tool kits were produced in collaboration with a large team of national and regional stakeholders including:

- Red Cross (Vanuatu Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Australian Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross)

- Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

- Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD)

- GIZ/Secretariat of the Pacific Community Climate Change Program

The Klaod Nasara project was developed through an extensive consultation process in Vanuatu, including with Vanuatu Red Cross staff. The Klaod Nasara animation was launched by VMGD and Vanuatu Red Cross on 5th August 2013 at the VMGD office. The animation features a reggae loving parrot, a string band and a mama selling produce at a roadside stall.

The Klaod Nasara animation and tool kit was distributed to and is being utilized by all Vanuatu Red Cross branch offices and sub-
branch offices in every province of Vanuatu as well as national headquarters. It is also being used by GIZ, CARE International, ADRA, Farmer Support Association, Live and Learn, Oxfam, Save the Children, the Vanuatu Christian Council and Wan Smol Bag. Government Departments include VMGD, Agriculture, Education, Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, Health, and the National Disaster Management Office. It was distributed to all schools in Vanuatu through its inclusion in the new Vanuatu climate curriculum.

104 people have attended Kload Nasara train the trainer trainings in Vanuatu and over 80% of these people responded that their knowledge of El Nino and La Nina has improved as a result of watching the film and attending the training. Over 80% of these people also thought that the film was very easy or easy to understand. Feedback from Vanuatu Red Cross branch officers demonstrates that the tool is being used throughout Vanuatu in communities and schools. Suggestions for improvement include printing more El Nino/La Nina posters to leave with communities and schools and including more photos of dry and wet impacts on the poster. Branch officers also suggest return visits to revise what has been learnt and link the animation to preparedness in communities. These suggestions will be incorporated into work in 2014. Further provincial level trainings for Vanuatu Red Cross staff and volunteers are also planned for 2014 in Malampa and Torba provinces.

The animation and toolkit is available at: http://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/animations/cloudnasara/
Evrwan i paticipat lo wan helti mo hapi komuniti (P2HK)

The P2HK project has provided water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to 13 communities in Horhor and Dhakakar in west Ambrym.

Water & Sanitation Construction

Dry season brings serious problems for the people of Horhor and Dhakakar as their clean drinking water dries up and many of the water sources are polluted from acid rain and ash from the active volcano in the centre of the island. Working with the Australian Red Cross, P2HK constructed water tanks and latrines in these communities to assist in the collection of clean rainwater for drinking and avoid pollution of the ground water which is used for other household purposes. Construction was not without its challenges; water is so scarce in west Ambrym that there was not enough to mix the concrete required for building needs. VRCS solved this issue by sourcing water from other villages who had water to spare allowing construction to continue. Community-based health committees were established and underwent training in water management and maintenance to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Aim: to collaborate with partners and stakeholders and communities to promote a healthy lifestyle through all relevant VRCS health programs.
PHAST Training
PHAST Training (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) was provided to the local communities to improve hygiene and reduce the incidence of disease caused by poor sanitation and hygiene. PHAST is a 7 step process which communities follow to transform their health & hygiene behaviors. The gradual implementation of the process gives communities the time to make lasting change.

The VRCS health team also facilitated a train the trainer session for branch officers in Torres, Banks, Ambrym & Efate islands so that they can then implement this process within communities in other areas of Vanuatu.

First Aid Training
As part of the goal to improve the health of these communities and others, VRCS provided Basic First Aid training to 317 people across Vanuatu. In addition, 39 people were trained as first aid trainers and can now pass this knowledge on to others in their community.

Community Based First Aid
Back in 2008, AusAid & NZAid jointly funded a project delivering first aid training and train the trainer workshops to rural communities in the outer islands of Vanuatu. In 2013, the VRCS Health team scheduled a visit to some of these communities to monitor progress. Visiting communities on Malekula and the Maskelyne Islands, local first aid trainers were found to be continuing to provide regular trainings to their communities. Challenges noted were the need for more first aid trainers and difficulties accessing remote communities to deliver training. This visit also gave the local trainers the chance to update their skills with new first aid techniques taught by VRCS staff.
Youth Activities

Children and adolescents represent a substantial component of VRCS' humanitarian commitment. Young volunteers can make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people within their local communities through Red Cross programs. VRCS is committed to involving young people in their activities not only as beneficiaries but also as workers and partners in management.

The main areas in which VRCS is focusing its efforts to involve young people are as follows:

- **P2HK project** – ensuring young people are included in activities aiming to promote primary health care and healthy living.

- **Dissemination** – raising awareness of Red Cross fundamental principles encouraging community service through training and education.

- **Promoting activities** that cultivate a humanitarian spirit amongst young people.

- **Technical support** in the development of youth programs, fundraising and materials.

**Aim:** To enable and empower the youth to be active in leading and participating in the mobilization of peers.
Empowering Vanua Malagwelo

In late 2013 VRCS launched a new project aimed at providing basic life skills to young women living in rural Efate. The project name, Empowering Vanua Malagwelo, uses language from the northern island of Ambae and translates to “empowering the young women of this land”. The project launch in October was attended by the Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister and the Swiss Ambassador as representatives of the Swiss Embassy in Canberra, the donor for this project.

With the first workshop due to commence in February 2014, the last few months of 2013 were spent planning the training program, creating awareness in target communities and recruiting participants. Currently with funding for 12 months, the project is due to complete in September 2014 however there are hopes that, with further funding, this project can continue to provide opportunities to the young women of Vanuatu.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION FIVE | INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW & VALUES

Aim: To raise the awareness of the Authorities and the general public of IHL and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Law & Fundamental Principles (LFP)

At Vanuatu Red Cross Society, we advocate for a wider understanding and application of the Fundamental Principles of the RCRC movement. These humanitarian values are the foundation of our work, promoting social inclusion and reducing discrimination. We strive for equality within our organisation and work, and ensure there is no gender-based or other discrimination. We promote social inclusion in our activities and programs, helping to empower vulnerable groups in Vanuatu. The LFP project delivers information on humanitarian principles and teaches practical skills in disseminating information from peoples to peoples. The project provides a platform for recruitment of volunteers and helps to establish other project activities in these communities.

In 2013 we raised awareness through monthly radio and television broadcasts. Workshops were also held at schools and with local community groups, using materials such as books, posters and DVDs to support learning. While workshops have focused on sub-branch locations (due to availability of resources), we aim to include more locations in 2014. Continued use of the radio and television and a new MOU with Radio Vanuatu and national newspaper, The Independent, to provide regular space for Red Cross features will help VRCS to continue to build this project.
Gender Partnerships Committee

2013 saw VRCS join the Vanuatu Gender Partnerships Committee, a cross organizational group to meet and discuss the work being done in gender in Vanuatu. The committee aims to collaborate ideas and resources so that we can provide consistency and strengthen the message about gender in Vanuatu and the Pacific.

VRCS Child Protection Policy

One of our strategic goals had been working to protect Vanuatu’s children. To start this process we collaborated with Save
The Children to ensure all HQ staff are fully trained and aware of the VRCS child protection policy and procedures; over a 3 day workshop staff were trained on reporting techniques and how to recognize and acknowledge at risk children. We discussed the role of VRCS in communities working with beneficiaries. This policy strengthens our projects positions throughout the provinces and states the absolute commitment to protecting Vanuatu’s most vulnerable.

**MOU with Foyer Guysajean**

The Foyer Guysajean is the first aged-care facility of its kind in Vanuatu. Created as a non-profit organisation, the Foyer was constructed entirely with donated funds. In April of 2013, the VRCS signed an MOU with the Foyer Guysajean committing to support the new organisation through the donation of financial and account keeping assistance for the first year of operation. By supporting the governance of this one-of-a-kind facility, the VRCS is working towards it’s strategic aim of supporting Vanuatu’s elderly.

**White Ribbon Day Campaign**

In November, VRCS were given a small grant from ARC to promote White Ribbon Day. We ran a partnership event with Wan Smol Bag, Department of Women’s Affairs, Vanuatu Police force and UN women raising awareness on Gender based Violence in Vanuatu. Hon. Minister for lands and Natural resources Ralph Regenvanu signed on as ambassador for our pledge or “Mi Promis” Campaign. To affect real change in this area we understand it needs to be a movement led by men and asked the men of Vanuatu to make a commitment to stop violence in the home- over 500 pledges were signed. VRCS also went with UN Women into the Low Risk prison to run a workshop on gender based violence (GBV); we spent the morning having an open forum where the inmates were encouraged to discuss and raise concerns about domestic violence.

This was a great opportunity for VRCS to collaborate with other organisations to promote a united front that gender-based violence is always unacceptable and must be stopped.
ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN 2013

March

World Water Day

April

World Health Day

May

World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day

June

Annual VRCS Gala Dinner
  Children’s Day Celebrations

July

Annual General Meeting & Election of Board

August

Second Model IFRC General Assembly & International RCRC Youth Camp

September

World First Aid Day

October

Child Protection Policy Workshop with Save the Children
  International Disaster Risk Reduction Day

November

RCRC Statutory Meetings in Sydney
  RCRC Climate Centre Presentation
  White Ribbon Day
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2013

### 2013 General Summary

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<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>NET INCOME</th>
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### Restricted Funds/Project Funds

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<td>Project Expenditures</td>
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### Society Expenses

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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
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# 2013 Profit & Loss Statement

## Income

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Gala Nights Events</td>
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<td>Flea Markets</td>
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<td>Grants from IFRC</td>
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<td>Grants from New Zealand RC</td>
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<td>Grants from French RC (Salary)</td>
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## Cost of Sales

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**Gross Profit** 14,455,423
## Expenses

### Advertising & Promotion
- Advertising: $121,585

### Board Expenses
- Board Expenses: $39,690
- President Representation Exp.: $189,694

### Building & Maintenance
- Building Maintenance: $1,784,691
- Fire Safe: $27,226
- Security: $384,000

### Interest & Bank Charges
- Bank Charges: $27,620

### Membership Fees
- IFRC Statutory Contribution: $152,119
- ICRC Statutory Contribution: $59,451
- APFN Fundraising Network: $50,545

### Motor Vehicle Expenses
- Fuel: $51,906
- Vehicle Maintenance: $90,341
- Vehicle Registration: $308,563
- Insurance: $586,411

### Office Expenses
- Cleaning: $113,625
- Postage: $67,834
- Stationary & Supplies: $208,866
- Electricity: $445,351
- Water: $112
- Telephone: $270,195

### Other
- Sundry expenses: $27,200
- CEO Representation Expenses: $41,883

### Professional Fees
- Annual Audit Fees: $115,313

### Salaries & Benefits
- Salaries: $3,686,584
- Severances Pay: $1,297,623
- Allowances: $480,000
- Staff Medical Insurance: $47,249

### Travel
- Travel: $89,500
  - Domestic Travel (air ticket): $137,900
  - Travelling Insurance: $6,321
  - Perdiem: $15,500
  - Transport for Int'l Meeting: $2,600
  - Accommodation Expenses: $28,400
  - exceptional expenses: $96,797

### Total Expenses
- $11,052,695

### Operating Profit
- $3,402,728

### Other Income
- $0

### Other Expenses
- $0

### Net Profit / (Loss)
- $3,402,728
TANKYU TUMAS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Our international partners within the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement offer us financial and technical support that help to strengthen our capacity as a National Society. We would like to thank the IFRC, the ICRC, New Zealand Red Cross and in particular French Red Cross and Australian Red Cross who work closely with our team.

Our Partners

![ICRC Logo]

ICRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Our Donors

![Australian Aid Logo]

Australian Aid

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

![UNELCO Logo]

UNELCO GDF SUEZ

Our Supporters

The ongoing support of local business is also an important part of our success. We would like to thank:

- Uplift Australia
- Pacific International Trust
- Nick Gorshenin, Author - ‘Cargo Cult’

This is only some of the many organisations that assisted us in 2013. While we don’t have space to name all of you, we would like to thank each and every organisation, group and individual who has supported us.
Shefa Province (HQ)
Port Vila Office
PO Box 618
T: (678) 27 418
F: (678) 22 599

Torba Province
Sola Office
T: (678) 38 550
F: (678) 38 544

Penama Province
Saratamata Office
T: (678) 38 348
F: (678) 38 414

Malampa Province
Lakatoro PO Box 22
T: (678) 48 491

Sanma Province
Luganville Office
PO Box 239
T: (678) 36 712

Tafea Province
Isangel Office
PO Box 28
T: (678) 88 664
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VANUATU RED CROSS SOCIETY PLEASE CALL US ON (678) 27 418, OR:

TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER PLEASE EMAIL REDCROSS@VANUATU.COM.VU

TO PURCHASE A FIRST AID KIT OR TRAINING COURSE EMAIL FIRSTAIDOFFICER@GMAIL.COM

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PLEASE CONTACT REDCROSS@VANUATU.COM.VU

FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL REDCROSS@VANUATU.COM.VU