



Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Job description

WMP Project Team Lead

(World Mosquito Program – Port Vila)

Position Title:	WMP Project Team Lead
Line Manager:	VRCS Health Coordinator
Manages:	The community engagement and communications co leads and field officers
Appointment:	Fulltime for 5 months (potentially renewable for a further 6 months)
Job location:	VRCS headquarters in Port-Vila

Purpose of the job: The WMP Project Team Lead will work fulltime – providing on-going support to the World Mosquito Project. Working under the Management of the VRCS Health Coordinator and will lead a team of communication staff, community engagement staff and field officers to undertake community engagement and communications aimed at creating awareness and preparing all people within the Port Vila Region for World Mosquito Program (the release of Mosquitos which are unable to spread dengue, chikungunya and Zika).

This position is part of a pilot project which seeks to identify Pacific friendly methods of community engagement for the broader World Mosquito Program within Pacific Countries.

All work will be in line with the vision, mission, policies and strategic directions of the National Society and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Reporting Relationships: The WMP Project Team Lead will report directly to the VRCS Health Coordinator – The project is in collaboration with the Ministry of health and the Monash World Mosquito Program Team, which will see the WMP Project Lead also working alongside other stakeholders in a collaborative nature.

Purpose of the program

The World Mosquito Program (previously known as the Eliminate Dengue project) is an international collaborative research program, based at the Monash University, designed to prevent the transmission of arboviral diseases threatening the health of people living in tropical and subtropical regions and aims to improve global health whilst significantly reducing the financial burden on local health systems in these regions.

The World Mosquito Program is using naturally occurring bacteria called Wolbachia to reduce the ability of mosquitos to transmit harmful human viruses such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. Following years of laboratory research into Wolbachia, the World Mosquito Program has been conducting field trials of the method since 2011 which have shown this method sustains itself. The Program is now developing the method for low-cost, large-scale application across urban areas in countries affected by dengue.

In Port Vila, people are at risk of getting sick from dengue, chikungunya and Zika. These illnesses are spread to people by a type of mosquito called Aedes aegypti. In 2017, there were 2,820 suspected cases and 406 confirmed cases of dengue in Vanuatu.

Port Vila is joining Fiji and Kiribati in welcoming the Wolbachia method to the Pacific, helping protect communities against dengue, chikungunya and Zika. The World Mosquito Program and the Vanuatu Ministry of Health are working together, with the assistance of the Vanuatu Red Cross, to help make our home a safer place to be, by reducing outbreaks of dengue, chikungunya and Zika.

A Ministry of Health led project, the role of the VRCS team is for general Community engagement and communications throughout the life of the project.

The World Mosquito Program wants to help make Port Vila communities healthier places to live. Our aim is to work with local communities to help to reduce dengue, chikungunya and Zika.

The program has developed an effective method to help stop diseases which are spread by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. In combination with traditional methods (such as tidying the garden or using mosquito coils) we use natural and safe insect-only bacteria called Wolbachia. When Wolbachia is inside an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the mosquito cannot make people sick with dengue, chikungunya and Zika.

The Program have specially bred Port Vila *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that have Wolbachia. When they mix with wild *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, they pass Wolbachia to their offspring. We hope to introduce Wolbachia to almost all *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Port Vila, helping to protect people from dengue, chikungunya and Zika.

Responsibilities & Task

DUTIES APPLICABLE TO ALL:

- Work towards the achievement of VRCS objectives in the country/province of operation through effective managerial and lateral relations and teamwork
- Ensure understanding of roles, responsibilities, lateral relationships and accountabilities
- To perform other tasks as may be assigned by the VRCS CEO (up to 10 % of work time might be dedicated to other VRCS activities)

Strategic Planning:

- Collaborate with the Health Coordinator, Communications/Community Engagement team within the World Mosquito Program to develop and implement a work plan to ensure the program is effectively planned, implemented and managed.

World Mosquito Program

- Build and maintain proactive and trusted relationships with a range of internal and external stakeholders
- Provide leadership, direction and support to the communications and engagement team ensuring that the World Mosquito Project has a consistent message and brand, while taking into account local concerns and needs
- As a recognised subject matter expert provide appropriate guidance and assistance to various fields teams with small and large scale communications, engagement and stakeholder management activities
- Provide appropriate guidance and assistance to project teams with small and large scale communications, engagement and stakeholder management activities
- Assess, analyse and make recommendations around external engagement activities in Vanuatu and the wider World Mosquito Program
- Communicate effectively with the VRCS Health Coordinator to Collaborate and communicate with the Project Coordinator (WMP), Ministry of Health and Australian partners on the progress, key insights and issues
- Ensure stakeholder engagement material is aligned with key program messaging and consistent across all channels while also recognising the need to continue and include existing messaging which is already utilised to prevent the spread of Mosquito Borne diseases across Vanuatu.
- Provide professional representation of VRCS a high level of customer service.
- Undertake regular online and other Red Cross and partner related trainings under the direction of the Health Coordinator and also support others within the team to do so
- Attend regular meetings with the Health Coordinator upon request.
- Support and work collaboratively with the VRCS WMP Community engagement and communications staff to develop effective communication and community engagement skills.

Selection Criteria

Education Required:

- A Tertiary degree in relevant field (Humanitarian, Social Work or Communications) with demonstrated experience in communications/ or community engagement
- Red Cross Child Protection Training

Experience Required:

- Experience training or supporting training of peers, Red Cross clients or Beneficiaries
- Proven ability to follow and carry out instructions and assignment tasks under minimal supervision.
- Experience maintaining and updating data bases and budgets
- Knowledge of the Vanuatu Red Cross and the broader Vanuatu community
- Experience representing Red Cross at Events and meetings

Knowledge & Skills required

To provide the assistance sought effectively, it is expected that the candidate will possess skills in the following areas:

- Demonstrated ability to cultivate and sustain trusted valuable relationships, ideally across a range of cultures and countries.
- Demonstrated high level interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to influence, negotiate, and provide advice with a wide range of individuals, communities and agencies.
- International field experience in community engagement, ideally with global NGOs or donor agencies
- Proven ability to act independently, take initiative within established management guidelines, and have the ability to be self-organising, work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Experience in leading a multi-disciplinary team in a changing and dynamic work environment.
- Demonstrated experience in leading teams of communication or community engagement
- Demonstrated written and oral communications skills, including fluency in Bislama. English or French desirable.
- Administrative and organisational skills.

Personal Characteristics

- Initiative, drive and direction.
- Flexibility, adaptability, and sensitivity to diversity.
- Commitment to VRCS's policies and code of conduct, including child protection.

VRCS is an organization involved in emergency, early recovery and development program. Therefore, all VRCS staff and trainees have to be available at any time in order to respond to any emergency work, should the need arise.