

Ministry of Health – Key Achievements and Developments, 2025

Overview

This brief provides a high-level summary of major achievements, ongoing programs, and future priorities within the **Ministry of Health (MoH)** during the third quarter (July-September) of 2025. It highlights the Government's commitment to strengthening national health systems, advancing hospital redevelopment, and improving service delivery for all citizens.

Malaria Reduction and Elimination Efforts

- Continued success in the **reduction of malaria cases in Torba Province**, marking a milestone toward national elimination.
 - Sustained interventions, including active case detection, vector control, and community awareness, are ongoing in **Sanma and Penama Provinces**, with the goal of **achieving nationwide malaria elimination by 2030**.
 - Strengthened surveillance and rapid response mechanisms have enhanced early detection and treatment at provincial and community levels.
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Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and Case Management

- **Nationwide TB catch-up screening** programs have been rolled out across all provinces to identify, isolate, and treat active cases.
 - The initiative focuses on early detection and ensuring treatment adherence, supported by provincial health teams and community health workers.
 - These efforts contribute to reducing transmission and improving patient outcomes, particularly in remote and high-burden areas.
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Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Prevention and Healthy Lifestyle Promotion

- The Ministry has prioritised **public awareness campaigns on healthy diets and physical activity**, focusing on reducing NCD risk factors.
 - **Food and nutrition education** programs were strengthened in collaboration with partners, promoting locally produced healthy foods.
 - The Government continues to pursue **fiscal and taxation measures** on unhealthy products (such as tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks) to encourage healthier choices and reduce disease burden.
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Cancer Screening and Early Detection

- **Cancer screening programs** have been expanded to reach more communities nationwide, with particular focus on **women's cancers** such as cervical and breast cancer.
 - Screening services are now more accessible through provincial hospitals, outreach teams, and newly equipped diagnostic centres.
 - These programs aim to improve early diagnosis, increase survival rates, and raise community awareness on preventive health practices.
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HIV and AIDS Response Strengthening

- The Ministry has successfully established a **national HIV and AIDS database**, providing reliable data for policy and program planning.
 - Preparations are underway for the **rollout of dedicated HIV screening centres in 2026**, ensuring improved access to testing and treatment services.
 - Ongoing awareness and prevention campaigns continue to target high-risk populations and promote safe practices.
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Vanuatu Hospital Redevelopment Program

- **Phase 1** completed for all five provincial hospitals; **Phase 2** completed for VCH.
 - **Phase 3 (Master Planning & Construction)** for the Vanuatu National Hospital to commence before the end of 2025, with secured funding through the DFAT program.
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Diagnostic and Imaging Services

- **CT Scan** fully operational since **February 2025**, with more than **173 scans** completed.
 - **Mammogram services** launched in **August 2025** during the 50th Golden Jubilee celebrations; staff trained and equipment operational.
 - **Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS)** implemented at VCH and NPH, enabling secure digital sharing of medical images; extension to Lenekel and Sola hospitals under way.
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Equipment & Infrastructure Strengthening

- **VT 50 million** biomedical budget secured; **VT 19 million** already spent on essential equipment.
- Laboratory modernisation across provinces:
 - **Biochemistry analysers** installed in Lenekel, NPH, VNH and Norsup.
 - **Haematology and microbiology machines** received and being deployed.
- **Wall-mounted blood-pressure machines** distributed nationwide.

- **Echocardiogram machine** for adults installed at VCH; **children's echo** machine purchase process completed.
- **Standalone scan machines** for NPH and Lenekel to be procured this month; **donated scan unit** secured from Japan.
- **Maternity-ward renovation** planned for Norsup.

Wastewater Treatment – VCH

- **Kramer Ausenco** contracted (signed 2 October 2025) to design, construct, and maintain the new **Wastewater Treatment Plant** at VCH.
- Project duration: **8–10 months construction + 3 years maintenance.**

Provincial Hospital and Infrastructure Updates

TORBA

- Quatvaes Hospital equipment (scan, portable X-ray, haematology) installation scheduled mid-October.
- Major facility upgrades include:
 - MCH Clinic and vaccine storage completed.
 - Maternity wings at Lou and Mataka Health Centres.
 - Dispensaries upgraded or newly declared at Toga and Hanington.
 - Staff houses and new dispensaries at Merelava and Wureparapara complete.
 - **Starlink internet** with solar installations (10–15 kW) at Lou and Qatvaes facilities.

SANMA

- Biochemistry and microbiology upgrades in progress.
- New lab equipment installed, improved diagnostics capacity.
- Establishment of the new NCD Hub in Sanma, Northern Provincial Hospital

MALAMPA

- **Tontar Dispensary renovations** complete.
- **Espigles Bay Dispensary** construction and **new maternity ward** underway.
- **New Walarano Dispensary** and **upgraded Provincial Health Office/Public Health building** progressing.
- Construction ongoing at Olal and Nebul Dispensaries.

PENAMA

- **Starlink and solar systems** installed at six facilities including Lolowai Hospital, Pawadnatni, Tari Hilo, Abwatuntora, Lolopeupe and Nduindui.
- New WASH system, OPD extension and two staff houses completed.
- **Lolovanua Dispensary** building finished.

SHEFA

- **Shefa Health Office relocated** to VCH compound.
- **Saupia Health Centre promoted** to Shefa Provincial Hospital.
- **Erase Dispensary renovation** completed.
- **VCH renamed the Vanuatu National Hospital** as part of national rebranding.

TAFEA

- Major infrastructure drive:
 - **MCH extension**, new dispensaries (Futuna, Nakero, Dillons Bay, Point Navin), and solar installations (10 kW each) at Aneityum, Ikiti and Green Hill.
 - **Iquarumanu Health Centre completed; Yaruwanran** to complete in 2026.
 - **27 beds and mattresses** distributed to health facilities.
 - Staff houses completed at Green Hill and White Sand (latter due end 2025).

Human Resources & Training

- **74 students** commenced Diploma in Nursing (VCNE).
- **42 nurses** graduated from SINU.
- **7 midwives** began training at VCNE.
- **Bachelor Conversion Program with PAU** to start 2026.
- **10 students** enrolled at PAU for Nursing Degree.
- **65 applications** ready for Batch 2 for the Diploma in Nursing in 2026.
- **More than 7 doctors undergoing specialist training should be complete next year and return**
- **2 doctors recently posted to Lolowai and Qaetvas in Sola, Vanua Lava**

Dialysis Services

- Dialysis treatment operational since **August 2024**, with **10 patients** receiving ongoing care.
- **New Policy Proposal (NPP)** submitted for staffing, equipment, consumables, and medicines to sustain and expand dialysis services nationwide.

Strategic Direction and Institutional Reform

- The Ministry is advancing work toward establishing a **Health Services Commission**, to professionalise management of the health workforce and operations, ensuring accountability and efficiency.
 - The renaming of **Vila Central Hospital** to **Vanuatu National Hospital** marks the start of a broader national reform toward a modernised, centralised tertiary-care system.
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Challenges and Way Forward

Key Challenges – Ministry of Health, 2025

- **Staffing and recruitment delays** with the PSC continue to affect service delivery in provincial health facilities.
- **Infrastructure and equipment deployment** to remote provinces requires ongoing logistical, donor, and financial coordination.
- **Low community acceptance of the HPV and Routine vaccines** remains a barrier to preventing cervical cancer among young girls.
- **Sustained budget support and workforce training** are essential to maintain progress in service delivery and infrastructure development.
- **Limited mental health capacity**, with only one psychiatrist and no dedicated mental health centre, constrains national mental health services.

Conclusion

The Ministry of Health has demonstrated tangible progress in upgrading infrastructure, enhancing diagnostic services, and investing in the health workforce across all six provinces. These achievements reaffirm the Government's commitment to universal, quality healthcare for every Ni-Vanuatu, while building a resilient, modern health system fit for the future