

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

***Eyes Ahead-* The State of Eye Health Research in the
Pacific**

**Vanuatu Ministry of Health
Solomon Islands Ministry of Health
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ**

Building eye health evidence in Vanuatu and Solomon Is

State of Eye Health
Research in the Pacific
(Solomon Is, Vanuatu,
Samoa, Fiji, Papua New
Guinea)

Phase 1:

- ✓ Desktop review
- ✓ Country level eye care situational analysis
- ✓ Health economic analysis
- ✓ Population based prevalence survey

- We recognize we don't have a good understanding of the burden of avoidable blindness in our countries nor its economic implications.
- We recognize we need to strengthen our understanding of eye health data and information for better planning and workforce needs for the future.
- We want to be able to monitor how we are responding to the growing burden of avoidable blindness and vision loss

Eye Care Situation Analysis Tool (ECSAT) - Solomon Islands

Next Steps in the Solomon Islands:

- ✓ Complete ECSAT and Eye Health Economics Reports.
- ✓ Use ECSAT and health economics assessment findings to strengthen National Eye Health Plan, policy development and budgeting.

- (i) Leadership and governance in the eye health sector is strong and public-health focussed.
- (ii) Access to eye health service delivery is an area where equity across disadvantaged population groups need strengthening.
- (iii) Quality eye health service delivery is progressing.
- (iv) Workforce and infrastructure needs major strengthening
- (v) Some key milestones on eye health financing have been met
- (vi) Eye health information strengthening

Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB)- Vanuatu

Next Steps in Vanuatu

- ✓ Complete RAAB Report
- ✓ Use findings to inform national eye health plan review and reporting, including the WHA indicators.

RAAB will provide Vanuatu with the following evidence:

- (i) Prevalence of visual impairment by category (mild, moderate, severe, blind)
- (ii) Main causes of visual impairment
- (iii) Coverage and effective coverage of cataract surgery (adjusted by age and sex).
- (iv) Cataract surgical quality.
- (v) Coverage and effective refractive error coverage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pacific Heads of Health are invited to:
 1. Support the State of Eye Health research to generate the evidence for programme policies, planning decision making and reporting.
 2. Acknowledge that the State of Eye of Health project is an integral part of an eye health information system strengthening.
 3. Recognise that there is commitment by strategic partners to continue to support this area of development in eye health research.
- Development partners are invited:
 1. To support PICTs in scaling up eye health research by enabling resources and in-country capability.