

## Youths trained in CP Response and PSS

More than 350 youths throughout Vanuatu were trained in Child protection (CP) responses and psychosocial support (PSS) training.

The PSS project coordinator, Mrs. Rebecca Solomon says in a report that quite a number of youths, children and adults have benefited a lot from the program itself.

*“PSS have made a history in carry out trainings. With PSS, we have gone far as reaching the unreached island or communities who are dying to receive awareness”,* says Mrs. Solomon.

According to a 2015 PSS report, 10,602 children were involved in the CP Response and PSS; 350 youth peer educators were trained; 1500 service providers were trained in CP Emergency response and PSS training throughout Vanuatu. and 42 community leaders were selected as Community Focal Peer Educators.

*“It is interesting to see that PSS has impact the lives of rural youths. Most have seen that nothing can be done for their community if they rely for government to provide them the service they need. They have to do it themselves, depending on whatever resources they already have”,* says Solomon.

Psychosocial has changed minds of the Community leaders – especially youths, allowing them to be more proactive in community participation especially towards disaster response.

*“We are working really hard to help local communities have access to awareness they deserve. As long as PSS exists, we will continue to train our young people to reach out to their peers & expand scope of psychosocial activities resulting in activities such as; community mapping, identifying PSS needs for children, creation of drop in centers, sports activities and children festivals”,* says Mrs. Solomon.

Additionally, Mrs. Solomon has also mentioned that continuous support to focal peer educators will also be provided.

Child Protection issues are essential for the future of our children. Therefore, more awareness should be considered. Child Protection responses (includes justice, police, child and family social services, health, education and communities) provides improved quality of and access to services for prevention and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children at all times.

Accordingly, a number of Child Protection trainings will be provided, whilst, establishment of several community child protection committees will also be undertaken.

*“We had great plans to carry out this year. There is still need to carry out more Child Protection awareness and activities; continue PSS trainings; provide refresher trainings for*

*community peer educators as well as ongoing registration of the Vanuatu National Youth Council”, concludes Mrs. Solomon.*

In another news, the Vanuatu National Youth Council registration for Loh is schedule for 30<sup>th</sup> January – 01<sup>st</sup> February. The PSS program will commence in Hiu (an island in TORBA Province) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> January. Civil Status birth registration is also included.

Meanwhile, the psychosocial program is a program funded by the UNICEF in partnership with the Department of Youth Development & sport. It has commenced in April last year (soon after PAM) and will end in February.

PSS has rolled out in the provinces of TAFEA, SHEFA, SANMA, MALAMPA and PENAMA.