



Routine health surveillance system supports effective health planning, decision-making and policy analysis, and research. Countries pursuing malaria elimination require robust and effective surveillance system. This research was conducted in the elimination provinces of Tafea and Shefa in the Pacific Islands of Vanuatu.

Objectives.

To identify contextual factors and assess the fidelity of the malaria surveillance system, and how it can be improved to support the progressive malaria elimination in Vanuatu.

Method.

It was a cross-sectional mixed method study, using purposive sampling technique. Qualitative data collection involved a semi-structured in-depth interview with Provincial and National Management staffs, and quantitative data collection method involved a structured questionnaire with Health Workers. The quantitative primary data were doubled entered into Epi Data (v.4) and analyzed using SPSS (v.17) to get the descriptive information. Qualitative data were transcribed and were analyzed using conventional content analysis.

Results and Discussions.

There were 37% (15/40) of the health facilities that faced challenges in routinely sending reports to PMSO. Logistical and financial support were the common factors encountered to affect reporting completeness. Furthermore, 85% (34/40) of health workers mentioned they did not have access to the logistical support from the programme or other health programmes. There were 68% (27/40) respondents attended Malaria surveillance training, while 32% (13/40) on the other hand had not attended any trainings. Results obtained also showed only 35% (14/40) of the health facility had been visited during the last-six months. All ([100%] 40/40) workers recommended continuous training and continuous visits from provincial and national levels surveillance staffs.

Conclusions

The supporting elements of Public Health Surveillance are still low in most facilities in both provinces. There is also less system support on providing logistic and financial support in facilitating report collections on routine basis. Therein, the Programme require health systems support to enhance and strengthen its surveillance systems.

Keywords: implementation fidelity, implementation research, public health surveillance system (PHSS), reporting completeness, health systems, Vanuatu.