Taking Another Step on the Climb to Ensure Lifesaving Vaccines Reach all ni-Vanuatu Children

Fun (UNICEF) partners from the Japan Committee Vaccines for the World's Children (JCV), were on a field mission to Vanuatu from September 1-7,

JCV, a nonprofit organisation established in 1994, supports immunisation of children in a number of developing countries worldwide, including Vanuatu. For 25 years, UNICEF has had a longstanding global partnership with JCV to ensure lifesaving vaccines reach all

"UNICEF's partnership with JCV supports government efforts throughout the Pacific to ensure children under five receive all essential vaccines," said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett. "Field visits provide opportunities to highlight results for children as well as provide a window on the challenges faced by small island nations like Vanuatu," explained Mr. Yett

During the field mission, JCV and UNICEF staff visited immunisation outreach sites run by Vanuatu's Ministry of Health where they observed results of the work supported by the generous funding of the Japanese people. Health staff and front-line nurses on Efate and Santo Islands highlighted achievements of, and challenges faced by, the Government's Expanded Programme on Immunisation.

"We are proud to contribute to supporting Vanuatu reach for eight years now," stated Director General of JCV Okudera Noriho. "Investing in immunisation of all children is a cost effective public health intervention that JCV will continue to support."

Despite significant increases in coverage rates achieved through Vanuatu's Expanded Programme on Immunisation with third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus coverage increasing from 55.1 per cent to 89.9 per cent between 2013 and 2018, challenges remain. These relate to human resources, geography, and remoteness of rural communities that mean at least one in five ni-Vanuatu children do not have reliable access to vaccines.

JCV and UNICEF team members discussed and



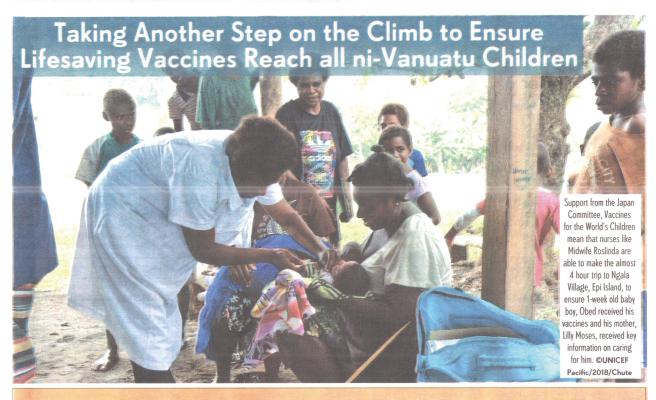
explored with government of Vanuatu's children strategic areas of future support towards immunisation

JCV and their donors,

through UNICEF, contributed to date giving Vanuatu's US\$1,438,051 (approx. VUV170 million) from 2011

children the best start in life







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