



Key Results: Vanuatu's MCC Compact

The Efate Ring Road and the Santo East Coast Road are the most important roads in their respective islands, and in the nation. The rehabilitated roads are bolstering economic development by decreasing the cost of vehicle repairs and maintenance, creating more local income opportunities in villages, promoting investment in tourism and providing better access to markets, health and education services.

- ★ 149.7 kilometers of roads have been rehabilitated (92.5 kilometers of the Efate Ring Road and 57.2 kilometers of the Santo East Coast Road).
- ★ Due to the importance of these road projects, the ni-Vanuatu named the Efate Ring Road the “Road of Life” and the Santo East Coast Road the “Goodwill Highway.”
- ★ Preliminary estimates show that average travel time reductions can range from 50 to 75 percent on Efate and Santo Islands, respectively. The roads have withstood earthquakes, cyclones, and heavy rains, important tests given the frequency of natural disasters.
- ★ 15 new market stalls have opened along the Efate Ring Road in association with local villages and women’s groups. Villagers are planting more cash crops because it is easier to transport their goods to market. Several new tourist and hospitality businesses have already opened along the roads.

A new Road Act is scheduled for adoption in June/July 2011 to protect roads and implement penalties for non-compliance from developers, authorities and other users. The national road maintenance budget was raised to \$5.5 million in 2011 and the maintenance program has dedicated and trained road maintenance crews for the Efate and Santo roads.

To help ensure the roads’ sustainability and success, the Public Works Department has entrusted the basic maintenance of completed roads to 19 communities who are currently contracted to provide routine maintenance for 67.3 kilometers of roads. These communities are responsible for organizing teams, including women’s organizations and youth groups, to regularly clear vegetation and sight lines and clean weeds from culverts. Those involved with the maintenance are compensated for their work, generating additional income for the community along with ownership, pride and respect for the roads.

School children were trained in road safety awareness during and following construction of the road through interactive exercises including a poster competition. Local teachers were trained and delivered road safety lessons in all the schools along both roads. These lessons have been presented to Vanuatu’s Ministry of Education for use in other school districts. From February 2009 to February 2010, a total of 23 road safety awareness events were conducted in communities and schools along the Efate Ring Road and the Santo East Coast Road.

The Vanuatu Compact provided a sound model of strategic partnerships and donor harmonization. The New Zealand Government entered into an agreement with Millennium Challenge Account-Vanuatu (MCA-Vanuatu) to provide additional funds to support the road project and the institutional strengthening activity. The Australian Government agreed to fund tourism surveys as part of MCA-Vanuatu's monitoring and evaluation plan and plans to fund several of the sub-projects which had been re-scoped from the compact. Development agencies such as the United Nations Field Office have worked closely with the Government and MCC to capitalize on MCC's eligibility criteria to achieve policy reforms in areas such as health and education.

The Government of Vanuatu is using MCC's Eligibility Criteria to guide policy reform and has integrated the criteria into national and institutional planning. This includes a substantial increase in efforts to immunize children, implementation of the Free School Policy at the basic education level (years 1-8), and enactment of a long-term land reform program.