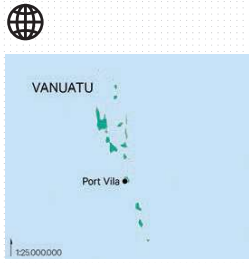


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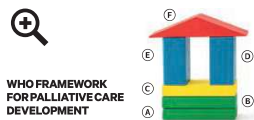


General data

POPULATION, 2023  
**320,409**  
SURFACE, KM², 2022  
**12,190**  
PHYSICIANS / 1,000 INH, 2022  
**N/A**

Socioeconomic data

COUNTRY INCOME LEVEL, 2022  
**Lower-middle**  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING, 2021  
**140**  
GDP PER CAPITA (US\$), 2023  
**3515,24**  
HEALTH EXPENDITURE (% GDP), 2021  
**4,37**  
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, 2021  
**47**



**WHO FRAMEWORK FOR PALLIATIVE CARE DEVELOPMENT**

- Ⓐ EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
- Ⓑ POLICIES
- Ⓒ RESEARCH
- Ⓓ USE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
- Ⓔ EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- ⓫ PROVISION OF PC



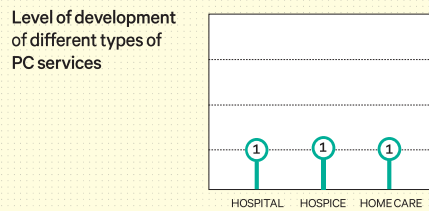
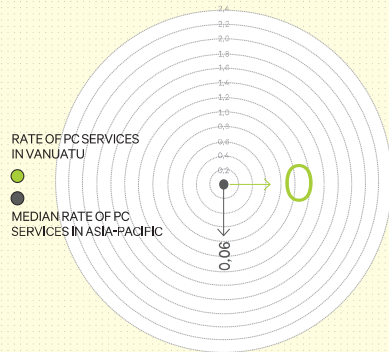
# Vanuatu

**F Provision of PC (Specialized Services)**

Total number of Specialized PC services **0**

Rate of PC services per 100,000 inhabitants **0**

Vanuatu in the context of Asia-Pacific regions



Pediatric PC Services

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND INTEGRATION **1**

TOTAL NUMBER **0**

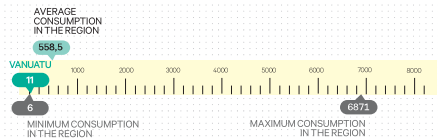
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# Vanuatu

**D Use of essential medicines**

Opioids consumption (excluding methadone) **11**  
S-DDD/MILL INHABITANTS/DAY

Vanuatu in the context of Asia-Pacific regions



Overall availability of essential medicines for pain and PC at the primary level



General availability of immediate-release oral morphine at the primary level



**C Research**

PC-related research articles **1**

Existence of PC congresses or scientific meetings **2**

National Association: -  
Consultants: -  
Data gathered through a literature review

Data collected: June-September 2024.  
Report sponsored by National Association: N/A  
Edited by Atlantes Research Team University of Navarra (Spain)

**E Education & Training**

Medical schools with mandatory PC teaching **0/2**

Nursing schools with mandatory PC teaching **0/2**

Recognition of PC specialty **2**

**B Policies**

National PC plan or strategy **3**

Responsible authority for PC in the Ministry of Health **1**

Inclusion of PC in the basic health package at the primary care level **3**



**A Empowerment of people and communities**

Groups promoting the rights of PC patients **3**



Advanced care planning-related policies **1**

AP Vanuatu

People & Communities





<p><b>Ind1</b></p> <p>Existence of groups dedicated to promoting the rights of patients in need of PC, their caregivers, and disease survivors.</p>	 <p>Existence of group(s) that cover palliative care in a more integrated way or over a wider range of disease/program areas.</p>	<p>In Vanuatu, several organizations actively support the rights of patients needing palliative care, their caregivers, and disease survivors. The Butterfly Trust has expanded palliative care initiatives by engaging stakeholders to gather insights on improving care delivery. Similarly, Ik-Kana focuses on creating a cervical and breast-cancer-free Vanuatu through education, advocacy, and accessible palliative care. Additionally, Vanuatu has become the first Pacific country to adopt a cervical cancer elimination strategy, providing women with essential screening, vaccination, and treatment services. These initiatives highlight the efforts of local organizations and government agencies to promote the rights and well-being of patients requiring palliative care, as well as their commitment to addressing broader cancer-related health challenges.</p>
<p><b>Ind2</b></p> <p>Is there a national policy or guideline on advance directives or advance care planning?</p>	 <p>There is no national policy or guideline on advance care planning.</p>	<p>There is no evidence available about a national policy or guideline addressing advance directives or advance care planning. Documents such as the Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy 2021–2030 and the Vanuatu Mental Health Policy and Strategic Plan 2021–2030 do not reference these topics.</p>

Policies

<p><b>Ind3</b></p> <p>3.1. There is a current national PC plan, programme, policy, or strategy.</p>	 <p>Actualized in last 5 years, but not actively evaluated or audited.</p>	<p>Vanuatu does not currently have a specific national plan, program, policy, or strategy dedicated to palliative care. However, the Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy (HSS) 2021–2030 recognizes palliative care as an essential component of health services, alongside health promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation throughout the life course. Similarly, the Vanuatu Non-Communicable Disease Policy &amp; Strategic Plan 2021–2030 acknowledges palliative care as part of its framework, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive care approaches.</p>
<p>3.2. The national palliative care plan (or programme or strategy or legislation) is a stand-alone.</p>	 <p>There is a dedicated section on palliative care contained within another national plan such as for cancer, NC diseases or HIV.</p>	<p>Additionally, palliative care is incorporated into the PEN package 2020, which aims to integrate palliative care into primary healthcare services.</p>

AP Vanuatu

Policies

<p>3.3. There are indicators in the national plan to monitor and evaluate progress, with measurable targets.</p>	 <p>Not known or does not exist.</p>	
<p><b>Ind4</b></p> <p>PC services are included in the list of priority services for Universal Health Coverage at the primary care level in the national health system.</p>	 <p>Included in the essential list of services recognized by a government decree or law but not in the General Health Law.</p>	<p>The Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy (HSS) 2021–2030 recognizes palliative care as an essential component of health services, alongside health promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation throughout the life course. Similarly, the Vanuatu Non-Communicable Disease Policy &amp; Strategic Plan 2021–2030 acknowledges palliative care as part of its framework, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive care approaches. Additionally, palliative care is incorporated into the PEN package 2020, which aims to integrate palliative care into primary healthcare services.</p>
<p><b>Ind5</b></p> <p>5.1. Is there a national authority for palliative care within the government or the Ministry of Health?</p> <p>5.2. The national authority has concrete functions, budget and staff.</p>	 <p>There is no authority defined.</p>  <p>Does not have concrete functions or resources (budget, staff, etc.)</p>	<p>Currently, Vanuatu does not have a dedicated national authority within the Ministry of Health (MoH) with specific functions, budget, and staff exclusively allocated for palliative care services. While the Ministry of Health manages overall healthcare services, including curative and public health programs, palliative care is not assigned to a specialized unit. However, organizations like the Butterfly Trust have collaborated with the Ministry to explore the establishment of a palliative care system in Vanuatu. The Trust has presented a comprehensive report on this subject to the Ministry, which is currently under consideration within the political process in Port Vila.</p>

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Research

Ind6

Existence of congresses or scientific meetings at the national level specifically related to PC.



Only sporadic or non-periodical conferences or meetings related to palliative care take place.

There are no national-level congresses or scientific meetings in Vanuatu specifically dedicated to palliative care. However, the country hosts general health research events, such as the Vanuatu Health Research Symposium, which addresses various health topics. Additionally, the New Zealand National Child Cancer Network (NCCN) established a Pacific Working Group in 2011 to provide palliative care support in Pacific nations, including Vanuatu, where advanced treatment options are limited. Twinning relationships have been developed with hospitals in New Zealand to establish triage criteria, treatment protocols, supportive care guidelines, and cancer registration systems. Although the funding for this program has ended, ongoing teleconferences with healthcare professionals in Vanuatu continue to offer guidance on patient care and treatment protocols, indirectly contributing to palliative care efforts.

Ind7

Estimation of the level of peer-reviewed articles focusing on PC research published in any language in the past 5 years with at least one author from the country.



Indicates a minimal or nonexistent number of articles published on the subject in that country.

No articles found in PubMed with inclusion criteria.

Medicines

Ind8

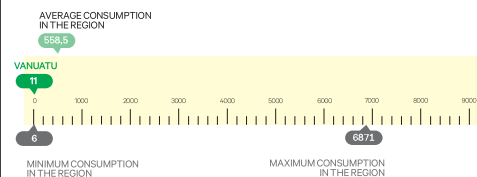
Reported annual opioid consumption –excluding methadone– in S-DDD per million inhabitants per day.

Average consumption of opioids, in defined daily doses (S-DDD) for statistical purposes per million inhabitants per day, 2020–2022: 11 S-DDD



S-DDD PER MILLION INHAB / DAY

COUNTRY VS REGION



AP Vanuatu

Medicines

Ind9

9.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



Fair: Between 10% to 30%.

In Vanuatu, basic analgesics like paracetamol and ibuprofen, listed in the Vanuatu Essential Drug List (EDL), are generally available at primary healthcare (PHC) facilities such as dispensaries and health centers. However, stronger analgesics and opioids like morphine and fentanyl are typically only accessible at main hospitals, including rural hospitals. Vanuatu faces challenges, including fragmented procurement systems, frequent stock shortages, and high medicine prices. These issues, combined with geographical remoteness, transportation difficulties, and limited human resources, hinder consistent access to essential medicines across the healthcare system.

9.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have pain and palliative care medications as defined in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.



Fair: Between 10% to 30%.

Ind10

10.1. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in urban areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

In Vanuatu, basic analgesics like paracetamol and ibuprofen, listed in the Vanuatu Essential Drug List (EDL), are generally available at primary healthcare (PHC) facilities such as dispensaries and health centers. However, stronger analgesics and opioids like morphine and fentanyl are typically only accessible at main hospitals, including rural hospitals. Vanuatu faces challenges, including fragmented procurement systems, frequent stock shortages, and high medicine prices. These issues, combined with geographical remoteness, transportation difficulties, and limited human resources, hinder consistent access to essential medicines across the healthcare system.

10.2. Percentage of health facilities at the primary care level in rural areas that have immediate-release oral morphine (liquid or tablet).



Poor: Between 0% to 10%.

AP Vanuatu

Education & Training

Ind11

11.1. The proportion of medical schools with **COMPULSORY** teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching) over the total number of medical schools in the country

0/2



Vanuatu has two medical schools: Hills College of Medicine and upGrad Institute of Medical Sciences. Currently, there is no publicly available information indicating that either institution includes compulsory palliative care education in their curricula. Currently, there is no publicly available information indicating that the medical schools in Vanuatu offer optional courses in palliative care. Vanuatu offers nursing education through the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education (VCNE), which is managed by a board of technical experts from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. In addition to VCNE, the National University of Vanuatu (NUV) incorporates several institutions, including the Vanuatu Nursing College, further contributing to nursing education in the country. Currently, there is no publicly available information indicating that the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education (VCNE) includes palliative care education in its curriculum.

11.2. The proportion of medical schools with **OPTIONAL** teaching in PC...

0/2

11.3. The proportion of nursing schools with **COMPULSORY** teaching in PC (with or without other optional teaching) over the total number of nursing schools in the country.

0/2

11.4. The proportion of nursing schools with **OPTIONAL** teaching in PC...

0/2

Ind 12

12. Existence of an official specialisation process in palliative medicine for physicians, recognised by the competent authority in the country.



There is no process on specialization for palliative care physicians but exists other type of professional training diplomas without official and national recognition (i.e., advanced training courses or masters in some universities of institutions).

Currently, Vanuatu does not have an official specialization process in palliative medicine for physicians recognized by the national health authorities. However, physicians in Vanuatu seeking to enhance their expertise in palliative care have the option to pursue international postgraduate programs. For instance, TECH Vanuatu offers online Professional Master's Degrees in Palliative Care, providing comprehensive training in this field.

AP Vanuatu

Provision of PC / Services

Ind13

13.1. There is a system of specialized PC services or teams in the country that has **GEOGRAPHIC** reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.



No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams exist in the country.

13.2. Are available in **HOSPITALS** (public or private), such as hospital PC teams (consultation teams), and PC units (with beds), to name a few examples.



Not at all.

13.3. Free-standing **HOSPICES** (including hospices with inpatient beds).



Not at all.

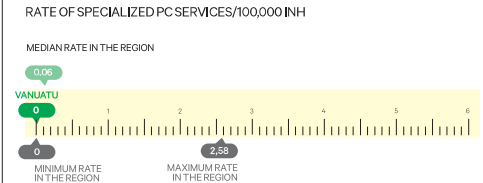
13.4. **HOME CARE** teams (specialized in PC) are available in the community (or at the primary Healthcare level), as independent services or linked with hospitals or hospices.



Not at all.

13.5. Please enter the total number of specialized PC services or teams in the country.

Vanuatu does not have a formal system of specialized palliative care services. Collaborations with organizations like the Butterfly Trust have addressed palliative care needs through stakeholder engagement, needs assessments, and training in Port Vila and Epi. The New Zealand National Child Cancer Network (NCCN) has supported palliative care through its Pacific Working Group by establishing treatment protocols and supportive care guidelines. However, palliative care services remain fragmented, with no formal continuity between hospital and community-based care. Geographic challenges, such as infrequent and unsafe sea transport, limit access to care for rural and outer island residents. Older in Vanuatu, disproportionately affected by functional disabilities and limited healthcare access, face significant barriers, including high transport costs and inadequate care in rural areas. Aged care services remain informal, with families serving as the primary caregivers.



Ind14

14.1. There is a system of specialized PC services or teams for **children** in the country that has **geographic** reach and is delivered through different service delivery platforms.



No or minimal provision of palliative care specialized services or teams for children exists in country.

14.2. Please enter the total number of pediatric specialized PC services or teams in the country.



PPC TEAMS