

# RAPID RESPONSE. REAL IMPACT

TIMELY ACTION. STRONG PARTNERSHIPS. HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES IN VANUATU.



## WHERE WE WORK

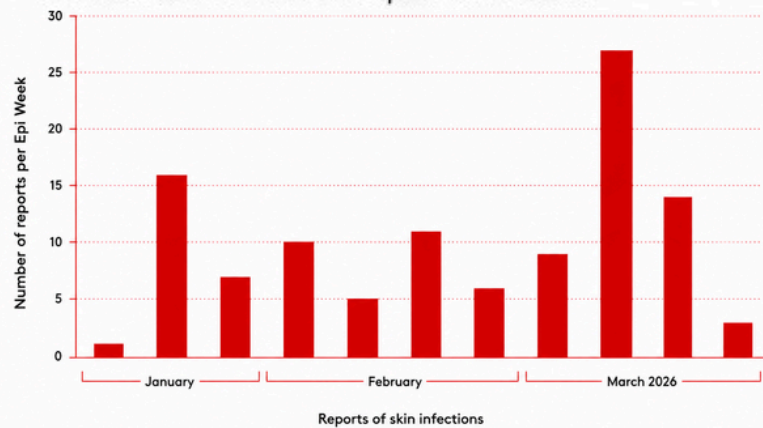
### VANUATU



Reaching the community of Etas

## SURVEILLANCE DATA: SKIN INFECTIONS

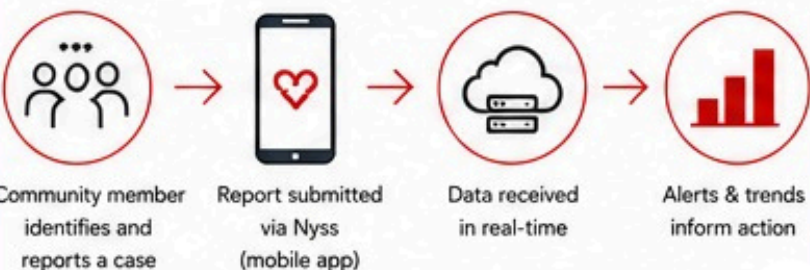
Nyss surveillance data shows a sustained increase in skin infection reports from Etas.



Anonymised Nyss data, Shefa Province.

## NYSS: COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE

Empowering communities to report. Enabling early action.



Red Cross Red Crescent

**nyss**  
a community-based surveillance platform

## RAPID RESPONSE TIMELINE

18 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2026

- 18 January – 31 March 2026**  
 Nyss surveillance data demonstrates a sustained increase in skin infection reports from Etas community.
- 26 March 2026**  
 VRCS formally escalates surveillance concerns to Ministry of Health.
- 30 March 2026**  
 Joint coordination meeting held between VRCS and Shefa Provincial Health including medical officers, public health officers and Neglected Tropical Disease staff.  
 Decision made to deploy an outreach clinic.
- 30–31 March 2026**  
 VRCS volunteers mobilise the community:
  - Community awareness raising
  - Venue preparation
  - Coordination with local leaders
  - Outreach promotion
- 1 April 2026**  
 Mobile outreach clinic deployed to Etas community  
 VRCS volunteers support:
  - Health promotion
  - Hygiene awareness
  - Patient registration
  - Crowd management
  - Community engagement

Ministry of Health leads all clinical activities.



## RESPONSE OUTCOMES

### KEY RESULTS

<b>124</b> Community members reached	<b>124</b> People provided deworming treatment
<b>8</b> Scabies cases treated	<b>5</b> Suspected Yaws cases tested
<b>3</b> Positive Yaws cases confirmed	<b>100%</b> Positive Yaws cases immediately treated

## WHY THE RESPONSE WORKED

- REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE**  
 Nyss enabled early identification of changing disease patterns directly from the community.
- STRONG PARTNERSHIPS**  
 Established relationships between VRCS and Ministry of Health enabled rapid coordination and decision making.
- COMMUNITY TRUST**  
 Local volunteers were already trusted members of the community, supporting strong participation and engagement.
- CLEAR ROLES**  
 Ministry of Health led clinical care while VRCS coordinated community engagement and operational support.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Community-based surveillance systems can rapidly identify emerging public health threats.
- ✓ Existing National Society and Ministry of Health relationships are critical for timely outbreak response.
- ✓ Community mobilisation is essential to successful outreach activities.
- ✓ Timeliness is important to maintaining community trust and participation.

