

MoET COVID-19 Contingency Plan Progress Report Template

Ministry of Education and Training COVID-19 Contingency Plan Progress Report 01 – 27/03/2020

1. Overview

Since the declaration of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 10th of March 2020, the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) has been taking measures to ensure the safety of school children/students in Vanuatu. This progress report presents the significant and emerging developments that have been undertaken between the 11th and 27th of March 2020.

During the stated period, some of the significant developments that were achieved includes, but not limited to:

- Circulation of WHO's declaration notice by the DG to all Directors and PEOs for consideration and action
- The Hon. Care-Taker Minister signed an Order to close of schools in the Sanma, Shefa and Tafea provinces and disseminated to the media and government network on the 23rd of March 2020
- An urgent Education Cluster meeting was held on Friday 13th March at the MoET conference room that discussed a way forward for MoET towards COVID-19.
- The Director General's approval of the reviewed education emergency operation centre structure and appointment of the Technical Working Group (TWG)
- On the 16th of March, Directors, PEOs and some senior officers met at CDU conference room. During this meeting, works on the MoET COVID-19 Contingency Plan started
- 18th March 2020 the TWG Coordinator and member briefed the education cluster meeting on MoET's efforts towards developing its contingency plan
- The MoET COVID-19 Contingency Plan was finalized and approved by the Director General on Monday, 23rd March 2020. The plan was then presented to the education cluster on Wednesday 25th March 2020
- Following the appointment of the technical working group, an advisory was send out to all education officers at the central and provincial levels to reduce or to some extend stop social gatherings , meetings, workshops and trainings within two weeks or depending on the declaration of SoE.
- An advisory note was send out to all provincial education boards, education authorities, school principals, teaching staff and school communities informing them to take necessary measures to ensure children's safety at all times
- An awareness video targeting students with the message "Stay at Home" was produced on Tuesday 24th March. However, it is yet to be officially published
- Installation of hand-washing kits at the reception area of the central MoET
- Installation of security door at the MoET central's reception. This is measure taken to control the spread of Covid-19
- Awareness and demonstration of best hand-washing technique to MoET staff on Friday 27th March at MoET central Office

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2. Key Outputs delivered, main challenges/issues and way forward

Communication & Logistics Strategy	% Achieved	Main challenges/issues	Way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting held with Education Cluster on Wed 18th & 25th March 2020 and endorsement/approval of the MoET COVID-19 Contingency Plan Order signed by Minister on 21st March to close schools in Shefa, Tafea and Sanma 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear and limited information circulated to MoET staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to prioritize activities to be funded by DP Order to be updated if situation extends to other provinces, upon release of Presidential Declaration Staff advisory letter to be issued every week to update staff on planning progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff advisory letter sent on 21st March and information session held with staff on 23rd March 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers in the PEOs are NOT likely to be informed of processes to access funds at VNPF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relay information to provincial officers and teachers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNPF has responded nationwide to employees that a loan package of VUV 100,000 will be made available to any staff. Communication strategy on Emergency Action Plan for prevention measures to Shefa Officers in development stages 	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No communication strategy in place at Shefa PEO. Communication breakdown is another challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn key messages for COVID -19 reduction; involve and communicate with your working community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 key messages disseminated via available means of communication to Shefa schools 	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to geographical or Topographical location of some schools on Shefa Province, telecommunication networks is an challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication strategy plan for COVID-19 preventive measures in place in Shefa PEO
Health & Hygiene Strategy	% Achieved	Main challenges	Way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DG's Advisory Notice No.1 stressed that all social gatherings within the MoET, PEOs & schools to be 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanuatu Cultural way of life need more time to adapt to change or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous reminder to all staff and teachers to limit

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limited or reduced			follow instruction given by COVID 19 Task force Behaviour control	social gathering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation of health & hygiene practices at the Central and Provincial levels following instructions from the DG's Office Posters on hygiene practices and COVID-19 posted on walls around MoET central and provincial levels Hygiene kits/materials made available in all wash areas within MoET Central and Provincial levels Installation of hand-washing station at the MoET Central reception area. Health & hygiene awareness and demonstration conducted to MoET staff at Central Office on Friday 27th March 2020 Health & hygiene IEC materials developed. Some of the materials were adopted by the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and ready for printing, package and dissemination to schools Schools to use their grants to pay for health & hygiene kits for students 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No budget for hygiene kit purchases in Province Ignorance to read posters Supply of hygiene kits/materials are out-of-stock Slippery floor at the reception area Not all staff attended the demo session Budget constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoET Cluster, COVID-19 Task Force to seek financial support to meet the items mentioned Reminders to staff to read the posters and practice the messages on the poster Place orders with suppliers MoET Cleaners to monitor and mop the floor at the reception area Reminders to staff to read the posters and practice the messages on the poster MoET TWG and Education Cluster to collaborate in delivering this task 	
	100%		Unclear communication to schools	MoET will disseminate clear instructions to schools next week (30 March – 03 April)
Home-schooling Strategy (Teaching & Learning)		% Achieved	Main challenges	Way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from the Hon. Caretaker Minister of Education and Trainings Order signed on 21st March 2020, all schools (ECCE, Primary, Secondary, & TVET institutes) are closed from 23rd March 2020 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools were unprepared for the immediate ceasing of classes at all level (ECCE – Y13/14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of Home-schooling package Home school package to extend to other 3 provinces upon release of Presidential Declaration To extend to other 3 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers in Shefa, Tafea and Sanma provinces have been instructed to work on the home-schooling packages for each class 	45%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malampa, Penama and Torba PEOs and principals unsettledness after the SOE is declaration by State Office. Most teachers are not trained to develop Home-schooling 	<p>provinces upon release of Presidential Declaration after clarifications and advice from the State Law Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For immediate respond, the MoET and development partners to consider providing support to HOME SCHOOLING ONLINE short trainings packages for teachers, parents and caregiver to sustain learning continuity at home. For immediate assistance, PEOs must continuously seek technical advice and assistance to assist schools during the development of Home-schooling packages from the Technical Team (VITE/EAU/CDU) through PEO SBM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of schools in Shefa province have developed their home-schooling package 	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No budget for hygiene kit at the Provincial level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoET TWG and Education Cluster to collaborate in delivering this task
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tafea, Shefa and Samna schools have printed 50 to 70 % of student's home-schooling packages and should be distributed to parents end of this week 27/03/2020 and beginning the following week 	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of Home-schooling packages need to be well coordinated and monitored Shefa Schools have reported the challenge to meet the cost of printing materials for home- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SBM Unit at the central to make sure all provincial Education offices coordinates and monitors the development of Home-schooling packages considering the Guidelines

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Online Learning Moodle / Platforms for Malapoa College. The platform is live at http://malapoacollege.edu.vu/moodle¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malapoa teachers are engaged in uploading 5 weeks' worth of course materials to the platform, which should be available to students from 2nd April 2020. ○ A registration system has been designed and all student accounts have been created as of this morning. ○ Login credentials for each student will be sent accordingly before that date. ○ The PEO ESD has been granted access to view the different courses and the overall progress so far. • IT Unit and CDU of the MoET are uploading learning resources into MoET public website and Open VEMIS as two online learning platforms for students to accessing learning resources 	80%	<p>schooling printing packages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malapoa College needs more time (extra week) to upload course materials into their Online Moodle • The ELearning Platform of all Senior Secondary Schools are yet to be developed 	<p>developed by Technical Team (VITE/EAU/CDU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MOET and Development Partners to prioritise the cost of paper mode printing of Home-schooling for Shefa, Sanma and Tafea immediately • MOET / IT Units to assist in the development E-learning platforms for schools • Malapoa College E-learning platform will be used as a model to be duplicated to all Senior Secondary schools after the crisis of COVID-19 • Senior Secondary Schools are encouraged to print Home-schooling paper lessons packages while developing E-learning platform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Unit and CDU of the MoET are uploading learning resources into MoET public website and Open VEMIS as two online learning platforms for students to accessing learning resources 	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Curriculum Development Unit and IT unit need more time to upload big quantity of resources to MOET Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time to allocate to this development of resources online • IT Unit to provide students and parents access to learning resources and learning platform

¹ Refer to Annex 1 for Malapoa College's Acting Principal note to Education Services confirming its online learning Moodle

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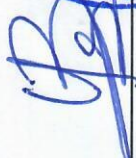
International Students Repatriation Strategy	% Achieved	Main challenges	Way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In regards to students in Fiji, the Vanuatu High Commission in Suva has issued a memo on the 26th of March 2020 articulating that all students stay back in Fiji and for students to be at home at all times for precaution (STAY AT HOME) and apply COVID-19 preventive measures – personal hygiene, social distancing, wearing protective wears. Students Residence (MDE) in New Caledonia will be open as normal, but with strict preventive measures to residence and also provide food to students 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the country's lockdown status, students were not able to be repatriated 	<p>established in OPEN VEMIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates continue with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Consuls/Embassies in respective countries for any change of plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USP Disaster Management Committee authorised mid-semester break to extend to 5th April 2020, and encourages online teaching and learning, as well as the practice of hygiene protocol, social distancing, and limit movement of students 	100%		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TSCU to collaborate with respective universities and organizations to coordinate response to COVID-19 and ensure students safety TSCU to collaborate with respective universities and organizations to coordinate response to COVID-19 and ensure students safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 26th of March 2020, students in Fiji raised their concerns and requesting repatriation back to Vanuatu 	100%		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates continue with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Consuls/Embassies in respective countries for any change of plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Tertiary Education responded to the students' concerns and reassure them on the government's support to them. The Director also requested the Education Attaché in Suva to provide updates in situation in Fiji. 	50%		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Attaché gave an update on the 27th of March 2020 – the High Commission in Suva has 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling the VNPF scholarship scheme issues during this times is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship Office, Education Attaché and

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<p>established an effective communication channel with the student bodies and using that to communicate. The Education Attaché reassures the MoET that students are safe and continuing to adhere to the "Stay Home" messages.</p>	<p>a challenge for both the Vanuatu High Commission in Suva, and the students</p>	<p>VNPF to collaborate to ensure students' welfare during this COVID-19 pandemic is effectively addressed</p>
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Sign Off

I take responsibility for this report and certify that it is true, correct and complete.



Director General



14/04/20

Date

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3. Annexes

Annex 1: Note from Acting Principal, Malapoa College to Education Services, confirming the school's Online Learning Moodle

From: Shem Simon <saimons23@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, 28 March 2020 2:25 PM

To: Samuel Katipa; Hopkins Dick

Subject: Progress update

Good day to you both. Our ICT Team has acted upon an Administrative resolution to offer Malapoa College's homeschooling package online.

The platform is live at <http://malapoacollege.edu.vu/moodle>

Our teachers are engaged in uploading 5 weeks worth of course materials to the platform, which should be available to students from 2nd April 2020. A registration system has been designed and all student accounts have been created as of this morning. Login credentials for each student will be sent accordingly before that date.

The PEO ESD has been granted access to view the different courses and the overall progress so far.

The team has been briefed on the request for a presentation to the Senior Management of the MoET on Monday at a time convenient to you.

Thank you for your support in driving much needed changes in lesson delivery and increased access to course material.

Regards,

Shem B. Simon
Acting Principal