

# Vanuatu - Recognised Seasonal Employer Program Impact Evaluation 2007-2010

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Report generated on: July 14, 2016

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## Overview

### Identification

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ID NUMBER  
VUT\_2007\_RSEIE\_v01\_M

### Version

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VERSION DESCRIPTION  
v01

There were four rounds of surveys (baseline and three follow-up surveys). Each survey had a household section and an individual section. The data was saved as corresponding household data files (round1HHa.dta, round2HHa.dta, etc.) and individual data files (round1Inda.dta, round2Inda.dta, etc.).

## Overview

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### ABSTRACT

Seasonal migration programs are widely used around the world, yet there is little evidence as to their development impacts. A multi-year prospective evaluation of New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) worker program was designed to measure the impact of participating in this program on households in Tonga and Vanuatu. New Zealand launched the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) program in 2007. The program set up a new migration category to allow workers to be recruited for seasonal work in New Zealand's horticulture and viticulture industries.

Between 2007 and 2010 researchers from the World Bank and New Zealand's University of Waikato conducted four waves of surveys in Tonga and Vanuatu providing 70 percent of the Pacific Island workers in the RSE. In each country the team surveyed 450 households drawn from about 50 communities, including households supplying workers, households with RSE applicants who were not recruited and non-applicant households.

The baseline survey was conducted before workers left to work in New Zealand in the first season. The workers were re-interviewed 6, 12 and 24 months later. Using the baseline data and institutional knowledge of how recruitment for the program occurred, the impact evaluation team used propensity-score matching to identify an appropriate set of households to act as a comparison group for the households participating in the RSE, and then used panel difference-in-differences and fixed effects estimation to assess the impacts of the RSE on household income, consumption, durable assets and subjective well-being.

The baseline and three follow-up rounds datasets are documented here.

KIND OF DATA  
Sample survey data [ssd]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS  
- Households  
  
- Individuals

## Scope

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NOTES  
The scope of the Impact Evaluation includes the following:

- Education

- Labour market activity
- Health
- Foods in the diet
- Dwelling facilities and durables
- Remittance channels and use of the financial system
- Inward transfers
- Outward transfers
- Household income and expenditure
- Migrant experience and network
- Knowledge and selection procedure of the RSE policy
- Returned RSE workers
- Household's reasons for applying and expectations about the RSE policy
- Reasons for not applying for the RSE policy
- Changes in life over last two years and Australian Seasonal Worker Pilot
- Households with new seasonal workers
- Households never having a RSE worker

## Coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Vanuatu's rugged geography and high transportation costs made it infeasible to survey in all islands, as a result the evaluation was limited to three islands from which it was believed that there was a high chance of workers coming. The three islands are: Efate (population 50,000), containing the capital city, Port Vila, Ambrym (population 10,000) and Tanna (population 20,000).

## Producers and Sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

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### OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
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### FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Australian Agency for International Development	AUSAID	

## Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

<b>Name</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Development Data Group	DECDG	World Bank	Study documentation

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2014-04-04

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

v01 (April 2014)

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI\_VUT\_2007\_RSEIE\_v01\_M\_WB

## Sampling

### Sampling Procedure

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Researchers used a rolling sampling methodology, adding sample as they received updates of when, where, and who employers were recruiting, with the baseline survey conducted between October 2007 and April 2008. Vanuatu's rugged geography and high transportation costs made it infeasible to survey in all islands, as a result the evaluation was limited to three islands from which it was believed that there was a high chance of workers coming. The three islands are: Efate (population 50,000), containing the capital city, Port Vila, Ambrym (population 10,000) and Tanna (population 20,000). Not all villages in Vanuatu initially participated in the RSE, so as well as sampling non-applicant households in villages with participating RSE workers, households from nearby villages which had not participated in the RSE were also sampled. The baseline survey covered 456 households containing 2,173 individuals in 48 villages or communities.

### Response Rate

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Of the 456 households in the baseline survey, 382, 388, and 348 households were re-interviewed in rounds 2, 3 and 4 respectively, whilst 33 households were only interviewed in round 1.

### Weighting

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No weights

# Questionnaires

No content available

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Cycle</b>
2007-10-01	2010-03-31	N/A

### Data Collection Mode

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Face-to-face [f2f]

### Data Collection Notes

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A baseline survey of households and communities in Vanuatu was conducted before workers left to work in New Zealand, and then these same households were re-interviewed 6, 12 and 24 months later. The baseline survey conducted between October 2007 and April 2008. Three rounds of follow-up surveys were then conducted. The first took place between April and July 2008, approximately six months after the baseline survey. This was intended to be a time when RSE workers were still in the midst of their 7 month stint abroad. However, as in practice many contracts were for shorter than 7 months, approximately one-fifth of Vanuatu RSE workers in the sample had returned by the time of this survey. The second follow-up survey took place between October 2008 and February 2009, approximately one year after the baseline, while the third and final follow-up survey took place between October 2009 and March 2010, two years after baseline.

## Data Processing

No content available

# Data Appraisal

No content available