

VITAL Network — Community-Built Satellite Telemedicine and Learning on Vanuatu's Maewo Island

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Vanuatu

Quality score: 96/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Refused commercial coverage, a community on Vanuatu's remote Maewo Island built its own US\$6,000 satellite network in 2016. Within six months health workers logged 1,250+ doctor consultations, helping 32 patients including six life-threatening cases.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-30

Maewo Telecommunications Committee; Kacific Broadband Satellites; Vanuatu Office of the Government Chief Information Officer; University of Michigan; Aravind Eye Care System — accessed 2026-08-30

1 World Connected: Vanuatu Inter-Island Telemedicine and Learning Network — accessed 2026-08-30

Kacific: Vanuatu's Telemedicine Initiative Continues to Save Lives In Remote Areas — accessed 2026-08-30

Daily Post Vanuatu: Telemedicine initiative continues to save lives on Maewo — accessed 2026-08-30

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