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Outline

- Migration and development
- Temporary labour migration schemes
- The RSE scheme and Vanuatu
- The 'triple wins' of RSE
- Key relationships
- Methodology
- Key findings
- Summary



Migration and development

- Three main phases in the history of migration and development (Faist 2008)
 - 1960s 'Migration can facilitate development'
 - 1970s 'Migration is the failure of development' (Black & King 2004)
 - 1990s 'Migration can be beneficial'

Temporary migration programmes

- Temporary labour migration programmes have reemerged because:
 - They address issues of 'brain drain' by encouraging circulation
 - There is currently a greater understanding of the scale and scope of remittance flows
 - Temporary migration is seen as preferable to permanent migration (OECD 2008)

The RSE scheme and Vanuatu

- Established 2007
- Allows workers, primarily from the Pacific, to work temporarily in New Zealand's horticultural industry
- First season 2390 Pacific workers
- Second season 5207 Pacific workers
- 1,067 ni-Vanuatu workers in the first season
- 2,523 ni-Vanuatu workers in the second season
- Workers were predominately male, in their late 20s to early 40s, married, subsistence farmers with children

The 'triple wins' of the RSE scheme

For the workers and their families:

"It's made a difference to people's lives"

(Maclellan 2008:2)

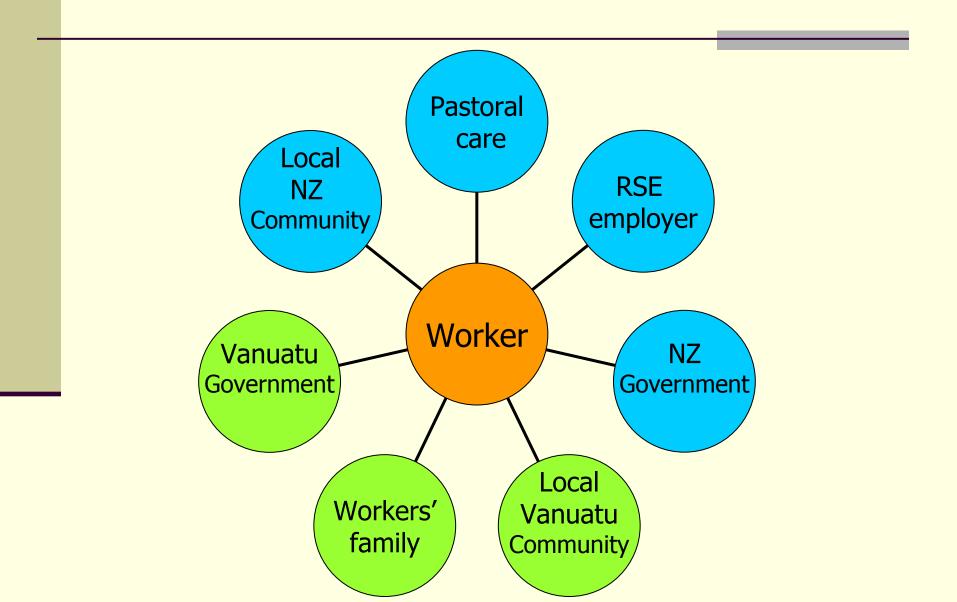
For participating countries:

Addressing excess labour issues



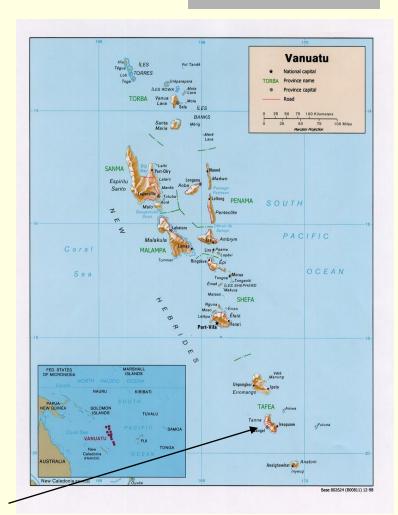
- For New Zealand's horticultural industry:
 - "For the first time the fruit was picked on time, across all industries" (NZ DoL 2009:8)

Key relationships within the RSE scheme



Methodology

- Fieldwork in:
 - Blenheim (NZ)
 - Tanna Island (Vanuatu)
- Qualitative research techniques
 - Semi-structured interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Participant observation
 - Fieldwork diary



Tanna

Results Time Key Themes Return Money workers Dependency /Paternalism/

Time

"You work on time, you make money, you waste time, you waste time, you waste money" (RSE worker)

Return workers

"The good thing about returnees is they fit just right in to where they left and they've got that information and they've absorbed it" (RSE employer)

Dependency/Paternalism

"It's a bit like bringing up children" (Pastoral carer)

■ "As soon as something goes wrong the company fixes it...they should make us know how to solve our own problems" (RSE worker)

Money management

- "You've got one week if you mismanage your finances you're in trouble!" (RSE worker)
- Money management one of the main skills gained in New Zealand
 - Workers received \$80 per week
 - Workers under pressure from home to save
 - Some negative outcomes
- 'Educating' the men on money management
 - Cell phones versus food
- Money management in Vanuatu is changing
 - Workers are being more careful with their money

Remittances

- "I do miss him, but I'm happy he's coming back with the money!" (Worker's wife)
- Remittances are bringing benefits to workers and their families
 - School fees
 - Houses
 - Small businesses
- The community is also benefiting
 - Donations to local churches
 - Altruism versus obligation?



Summary

There are real benefits for ni-Vanuatu workers and their families, but there are also costs

Some final thoughts

"If you want something sweet, it's harder to get. It's hard for us, but in the end it's sweeter" (RSE worker)

