



**RESPOND**   
**GLOBAL**

HEALTH CRISIS MANAGEMENT · OPERATIONS



HEALTH EMERGENCY LOGISTICS PREPAREDNESS +  
RESPONSE VESSEL (HELPR1)

# THE HELPR PROGRAM

Under Respond Global's social enterprise model, the HELPR program seeks to prioritise and empower in-country response capability.

Many Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in the region have experienced devastating natural and health disasters in recent years, which has greatly impacted its people and health systems. Founded on the concept of National Emergency Medical Teams, the HELPR program helps to provide stronger operations and logistics support to PICs.



## HELPR1

HELPR1 is a medical emergency response and logistics support vessel carrying medical equipment and supplies to assist in the reduction of loss of life.

Stationed in Vanuatu, HELPR1 can provide medical equipment, personnel, training and supplies wherever needed in PICs, from PNG to Samoa, and beyond. The vessel is fully equipped with medical rooms and vaccine storage.

HELPR1 provides a safe logistical, operational and accommodation base for use by national response teams, with support from Respond Global and other agencies as required.

The 34 metre vessel has a range of over 2,500km, a cruising speed of 10 knots and the ability to make 5,000 litres of potable water per day. An extremely shallow draft of 2.4 meters allows easy access to shallow lagoons and inlets.

# MEDICAL CAPACITY

The medical capacity on board is to the level of Intensive Care, with a fully equipped resuscitation room housing bottled oxygen, an oxygen concentrator, two ventilators, full cardiac monitoring, and the entire range of medical and trauma equipment and drugs required.

A fully equipped trauma response bag is kept on board, as well as everything that is required for a response team to medevac a sick patient off the vessel to shore or to the nearest hospital.



**Located opposite the treatment room is a large medical store and preparation room that serves several functions:**

### **Medication and vaccination storage and preparation room**

- Cold chain is maintained using three Australian TGA approved vaccine fridges with inbuilt temperature recording and alarms
- All three vaccine fridges are connected to a visual and audible siren system that goes off in the vessel's main corridor to alert health staff 24 hours per day of any cold chain breach

### **Onboard laboratory diagnostic capacity**

- Cepheid GenXpert machine with multi-test cartridges for COVID-19, Influenza A and B and RSV
- Over 2,500 COVID Rapid Antigen Test kits
- Rapid Detection test kits for Malaria and Dengue
- Capacity for further testing machines as required

### **Deployable cold chain capacity**

- Three mobile battery and power vaccine fridges
- Multiple cold chain temperature data loggers
- Multiple spare back up long-life eskies, cool packs and freezer and ice making facilities onboard

### **Storage of mobile communications equipment**

- Radios for use by deployable health teams are stored here and recharged each evening before being distributed each morning

### **Medical team briefing room and office space**

- Work area for 6-8 people
- Space for daily briefings
- Multiple laptops and printing/scanning facilities

### **Pharmacy and medical stores**

- A well-stocked pharmacy, and supplies for mass casualties to support the higher level medical equipment in the main treatment room
- Three fully equipped vaccination and response packs are stored here and replenished each evening as required



## VOYAGE TYPES

HELPR1's maiden voyage is to provide logistical and health support to the Vanuatu Ministry of Health in its COVID-19 vaccination rollout, as well as support the restoration of essential health services, childhood vaccines, and the delivery of supplies to remote and hard-to-reach communities.

Being stationed in the Pacific means that HELPR1 can take action in the first 72 hours after the onset of a health crisis, primarily to act as a mobile base of operations for national response teams responding to disasters.

HELPR1 can be used for vaccine and health campaigns and programs run by central and provincial health ministries. The vessel can also be used for remote access by local teams from disaster management and emergency services, education, fisheries, and agriculture as well as for research purposes by National and International teams and partners.

## TRAINING

HELPR1 has the capacity for on-board medical training of national teams preparing to respond to natural disasters and critical events.

The vessel accommodates training spaces in both outdoor and indoor areas, allowing for simulations of medical missions, water safety training, and disaster preparedness.

The vessel has a large number of cabins to accommodate teams on board while they are being trained, making it a cost-effective and unique educational experience.





## CREW AND PASSENGERS

HELPR1 carries 44 passengers comfortably, with up to 56 during emergency deployments. The 12-person marine crew includes both international and local crew members.

The crew includes a Master (Captain) and Chief Engineer, two deck officers, two additional engineers, two deckhands, a cook, a galley assistant, and a cleaner. Importantly, we employ 10 Ni-Vanuatu seafarers providing employment and capacity building opportunities.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is comfortable, with 26 cabins available, 4 being doubles and 22 twin-shares. All cabins have ensuite toilets and showers and the vessel is equipped with laundry facilities - all linen and towels are supplied.



## COMMON AREAS

The vessel is equipped with two main lounges and a large open area on the top deck. All areas are well furnished for the rest and recovery of staff and are easily reconfigured to become training and briefing areas.



The main dining area has a buffet for rapid service, adequate seating for the entire ship's manifest to eat at once, and a brand new walk-in fridge, freezer and pantry. The fridge is stable at 2 degrees C, and the walk in freezer at -20-25 degrees C. There is a full commercial galley onboard to cater for all passengers and crew.

HELPR1 is equipped with three full sets of shade shelters, generators, and the required furniture to create three separate pop-up clinics for vaccination in three separate locations, or to bring all equipment to one location for a very large clinic. The shade shelters are of varying sizes.



Over 30 foldable tables and 200 chairs are provided for clinic use. These can be carried along with the vaccination equipment to each location daily. Each clinic is managed by medical and administrative staff, as well as a dedicated cold-chain manager. Cold chain is ensured through mobile fridges powered by battery and a portable generator, in addition to two backup ice chests.



## LANDING CRAFT



The explorer has been upgraded to include two large cargo cages, allowing the safe transport of equipment and supplies, along with a 27-person health team on each trip to a remote beach or island.

HELPR1 can lower a large “explorer” tender into the water, allowing health teams to enter directly from the aft deck and be safely lowered into the water without difficult stair or rope access.

The explorer tender can be used for the evacuation of at least 4 stretchered patients at a time, or for other personnel and cargo movements.



HELPR1 also carries 2 rigid inflatable rescue/tender craft which are lowered into the water via an on board crane.





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