Building Resilience
And
Accelerating Progress
Through
Local Empowerment

The Vanuatu Government 2nd National Voluntary Review of the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
Presented to the high Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders who engaged in the consultative process for the Voluntary National Review. The collective insights and expertise have been invaluable in shaping a comprehensive and inclusive report that truly reflects our nation’s progress and challenges.

Special appreciation is directed towards the Government agencies whose dedication and commitment to transparency and accountability have been instrumental. We extend our gratitude to the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics as our main partner in their rigorous data collection and analysis efforts, and other government agencies for their policy analysis and strategic planning efforts to provide the backbone for our sustainable development agenda.

We are also thankful to our Development Partners. Your continuous support and partnership have been crucial in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge the financial and technical support from FAO, UNESCAP, UNDRR, and UNRCO towards the VNR process.

Furthermore, the active participation from the public and Civil Society Organisations and the contributions from diverse sectors of the population have ensured that the voices of all Ni-Vanuatu communities are heard. This collaboration illustrates the strength of our national spirit and the shared commitment to a prosperous future for Vanuatu.

Your collective efforts have not only contributed to the successful compilation of the VNR but have also laid down a solid foundation for our ongoing journey towards sustainable development and national prosperity.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
As we look forward to 2030, I am privileged to share with you the strategic path Vanuatu will undertake in order to meet our commitments to the SDG’s. This report encapsulates not just our strategy but also our national aspirations and our commitments to fostering a unified and prosperous future for all the citizens of Vanuatu.

OUR VISION AND COMMITMENT
Our vision is deeply embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals and our National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). Our goal is to transform Vanuatu into a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive nation. We are focused on key achievements so far that will form the foundation for our future initiatives, notably in areas such as decentralisation, resilience, and innovative governance.

OUR POLITICAL AMBITION
Our political ambition is rooted deeply in the Sustainable Development Goals and our National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). We are committed to transforming our beautiful archipelago into a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive society. We have identified several high-level achievements that will serve as the bedrock for our forthcoming actions, focusing particularly on decentralisation, resilience, and innovative governance.

• DECENTRALISATION FOR LOCAL EMPOWERMENT
Our commitment to decentralisation is steadfast. We aim to empower local governments by allocating them greater authority and resources. This shift will ensure that the voices of our local communities are not only heard but are influential in shaping the policies that directly impact their lives. By bringing governance closer to our people, we can address specific regional challenges more effectively and tailor solutions that respect our diverse cultural landscapes.

• BUILDING A RESILIENT VANUATU
Resilience remains at the forefront of our agenda. We are enhancing our infrastructure, not just to withstand the shocks from natural disasters but to turn these challenges into opportunities for growth and development. Our focus extends to economic resilience, where we aim to diversify our economy, reducing our reliance on traditional sectors and fostering new industries that will provide stable and sustainable livelihoods for our people.

• INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Innovation is key to overcoming the challenges we face. We are investing in new technologies and fostering partnerships that leverage global advancements to local benefits. These efforts include enhancing our digital infrastructure to improve access to education, healthcare, and government services, thereby ensuring that every citizen can participate fully in our nation’s growth.

• THE PATH FORWARD
Looking ahead, our path is clear, and our strategies are defined. We are not just planning for the next year or even the next decade, but for a sustainable future that will benefit generations to come. The way forward involves:
Strengthening Partnerships: We will continue to deepen and expand our partnerships at all levels—local, regional, and international. These collaborations are crucial for sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources.

Investing in Our People: Our greatest asset is our people. We are committed to investing in education and healthcare to ensure that every citizen of Vanuatu has the opportunity to lead a healthy and productive life.

Enhancing Sustainable Practices: We will promote sustainable agricultural practices, renewable energy projects, and responsible tourism, which respect our unique environment and contribute to global environmental goals.

Policy Reforms: We will introduce policy reforms that support business innovation and create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and investment.

REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT

As Prime Minister, I reaffirm our nation’s commitment to accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The NSDP remains our guiding framework, aligned with the global goals but tailored to our unique national context. We own these goals, and we are accountable for their success. Our dedication to these ambitions reflects our pledge to not just improve Vanuatu today but to secure a thriving, vibrant, and sustainable future for all our citizens.

Finally, the journey ahead is filled with potential and promise. With the continued support and active participation of every sector of our society, I am confident that we will achieve our objectives and set a benchmark for sustainable development that our Pacific neighbours and the world at large can admire and emulate.

Hon. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas
Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MAIN MESSAGES AND KEY FINDINGS
The key themes of the 2024 Vanuatu Voluntary National Review (VNR) are around local empowerment and resilience in the face of persistent issues including disaster recovery and climate change. A synopsis of the document’s principal takeaways and conclusions is provided below:

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND LOCAL EMPOWERMENT
The VNR emphasises a national commitment to strengthening resilience through local empowerment, a strategic response to Vanuatu’s vulnerability to climate-related events. Since the last review in 2019, Vanuatu has faced multiple severe tropical cyclones, floods and volcanic ashfall and the unprecedented global challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have necessitated an adaptive response from both the government and local communities.

DECENTRALISATION AND IMPROVED GOVERNANCE
A significant theme in the 2024 review is the progress on decentralisation reforms aimed at devolving authority to local regions. This includes enhancing the capacity of provincial and area councils, which has improved service delivery and disaster response. These reforms align traditional and formal governance systems, allowing for a more localised approach to planning, policymaking and budget management.

ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY MEASURES
The pandemic led to the first economic contraction in nearly two decades, deeply impacting livelihoods. The government’s response included a comprehensive support package featuring wage subsidies, tax breaks, and investments in productive sectors. These measures aim to build long-term resilience and stimulate economic recovery.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS
Vanuatu’s social protection framework is deeply rooted in community networks and cultural traditions, emphasising reciprocity and trust. Recent challenges have put pressure on these traditional systems, prompting policy renewals focused on gender equality, protection of vulnerable groups, and inclusion of people with disabilities.

CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
Vanuatu has been proactive in climate advocacy via its involvement in the UNFCC and led an international resolution for a non-binding advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on climate issues. Domestically, efforts to integrate disaster preparedness into local and national planning have resulted in better infrastructure and sustainable practices in agriculture, land, and marine resource management.

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS
Recognising the crucial role of education in development, the government has expanded school-fee subsidies and is now focusing on improving educational quality. This includes infrastructure enhancements and skills training for early school leavers, aiming to equip them better for the future.

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS
The review presents a cautiously optimistic outlook for Vanuatu, highlighting its determination to progress despite significant environmental and economic challenges. The document calls for enhanced financial access, including direct access to climate finance, improved resource allocation, stronger data systems, and deeper partnerships and stakeholder engagement to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
The Government commenced this programme by establishing a ‘stakeholder engagement plan’ for the VNR which was structured to ensure the comprehensive involvement of all societal segments, facilitating an inclusive, informed, and participatory review process. The plan was designed to include a wide array of societal and governmental stakeholders and is briefly summarised below:

**OBJECTIVES FOR ENGAGEMENT**
The primary objectives emphasise inclusivity and participation from all societal sectors, particularly focusing on marginalised and under-represented groups. The aim was to ensure that the VNR is reflective of diverse inputs and facilitated broad-based involvement in sustainable development.

**STAKEHOLDER MAPPING**
The plan provided a thorough stakeholder mapping that categorised stakeholders by their role, interest, influence, and potential contributions to the VNR. This included political leaders, government ministries and departments, sub-national government entities, and various sectoral agencies including cultural, youth, private sector, and development partners. The mapping was designed to ensure that engagement activities are relevant and effectively targeted.

**MODES OF ENGAGEMENT**
A variety of engagement methods were utilised for different stakeholder groups including:

- **POLITICAL LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**: Engagement included initial briefings, regular progress reports, and inclusion in broader stakeholder activities.

- **SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL AGENCIES**: Methods here focussed on remote engagements due to limited resources, with letters and invitations for input and feedback on drafts.

- **CULTURAL AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**: These groups were engaged through direct contact for feedback, as well as invitations to media and public events.

- **PRIVATE AND PRODUCTIVE SECTORS**: Engagement with bodies like the Vanuatu Cooperative Business Network and the Chamber of Commerce involves soliciting feedback through event invitations and direct contact.

- **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND NGOS**: These were included through event participation and direct feedback mechanisms to align international support with national priorities.

- **RESEARCH AND LEARNING INSTITUTIONS**: These were encouraged to contribute through research and knowledge dissemination, enhancing the content of the VNR.

- **GENERAL PUBLIC**: Efforts to reach the broader public included jargon-free media releases and social media engagement to ensure wide accessibility and understanding.

**ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**
The engagement process was designed to be dynamic and iterative, involving:

- **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**: These focus on specific themes relevant to sustainable development goals (SDGs) such as resilience, economic impacts, and social challenges.

- **BRIEFINGS AND DIRECT REQUESTS**: Stakeholders are regularly informed about the VNR process and are directly contacted to contribute specific information or feedback.
THEMES AND TOPICS
The engagement covered themes aligned with the priorities of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including poverty eradication, food security, climate action, and partnership strengthening among others.

STEERING COMMITTEE
The VNR Steering Committee provided strategic guidance and oversight for the VNR process, ensuring that the feedback from these stakeholders was:

- INCLUSIVE: REFLECTING THE VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN VAUATU.
- CREDIBLE: BASED ON ACCURATE AND RELIABLE DATA AND INFORMATION.
- TRANSPARENT: CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MANNER.
- ACCOUNTABLE: REPORTING ON PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN A WAY THAT HOLDS THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR COMMITMENTS.
- STRATEGIC: IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS.

LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES TO BE SHARED
Several key lessons learned, and good practices have been identified for Vanuatu as it continues to address its development challenges, particularly in building resilience and empowering local communities. These were the main takeaways:

LESSONS LEARNED:

NEED FOR RESILIENT AND ADAPTIVE SYSTEMS:
The recurring severe tropical cyclones and the COVID-19 pandemic have demonstrated the critical need for robust systems that can quickly adapt to crises. The integration of disaster preparedness into daily governance and planning processes has proven essential in mitigating the impacts of such crises.

IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL EMPOWERMENT:
Decentralisation reforms have highlighted the importance of empowering local authorities and communities. By devolving more control to local levels, communities can tailor responses and initiatives to their specific needs, which enhances effectiveness and facilitates quicker recovery and adaptation.

CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS IN SOCIAL PROTECTION:
Vanuatu’s reliance on its cultural traditions and community networks for social protection has shown both strengths and vulnerabilities. While these traditions provide a robust foundation for community cohesion and mutual support, modern challenges necessitate formal policy supports to ensure no one is left behind.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND SUPPORT:
The economic impacts of global and local crises have underscored the need for economic resilience through diversification and proactive government support, including financial interventions to sustain businesses and employment during downturns.

GOOD PRACTICES:
COMPREHENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:
The stakeholder engagement plan for the VNR process exemplifies a good practice in involving a wide range of stakeholders, from government bodies and local authorities to NGOs, private sector entities, and international partners. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse perspectives and needs are considered in policymaking and implementation.
INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL AND FORMAL GOVERNANCE:
Vanuatu’s approach to aligning traditional governance mechanisms with formal governmental structures is central to its development efforts. This integration leverages traditional knowledge and practices, particularly in areas like resource management and disaster preparedness, enhancing the overall governance framework.

TARGETED EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INITIATIVES:
The focus on expanding educational access and improving quality addresses long-term development goals will have measurable benefits in the longer term. Similarly, economic initiatives aimed at boosting local production and resilience through Government support to the productive sector serve as good practices for sustainable development.

CLIMATE ADVOCACY AND LOCAL ACTION:
Leading international efforts for a legal opinion on climate responsibilities while implementing local climate action plans demonstrates a strong dual approach. This positions Vanuatu as a leader in climate advocacy and shows a commitment to practical, localised adaptations to climate change. As does Vanuatu’s involvement in NDC and UNFCCC.

PROACTIVE POLICY ADJUSTMENTS IN RESPONSE TO NEW CHALLENGES:
The continuous review and adjustment of policies in response to emerging issues, such as the shift in social norms and the pressures from migration and urbanisation, illustrate good practice in governance. Recognising and responding to these dynamics are crucial for maintaining social cohesion and ensuring inclusive development.

These lessons and practices will be vital for guiding Vanuatu’s ongoing and future strategies to enhance resilience, promote sustainable development, and ensure that all segments of society are engaged and empowered in the development process.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE
Vanuatu faces several key challenges in its future development efforts. Addressing these challenges will be crucial for sustaining progress towards resilience and empowerment. This will require coordinated efforts across various sectors, leveraging international support, and continuing to engage all stakeholders in a transparent and inclusive manner. These efforts are essential for Vanuatu to build a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous future.

The main challenges identified during the 2024 VNR process were:

INCREASING FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF NATURAL DISASTERS
Vanuatu is highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, particularly tropical cyclones and volcanic ashfall, which have become more frequent and severe due to climate change. These events disrupt lives, damage infrastructure, and impede economic growth. Managing and mitigating the impacts of such disasters remains a significant challenge.

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY
The economy of Vanuatu, heavily reliant on public investment, remittances and agriculture, faces vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fragility of the economy, leading to its first contraction in nearly two decades. Diversifying the economy and creating resilient economic structures are essential challenges to overcome.
DECENTRALISATION AND GOVERNANCE
While decentralisation aims to empower local authorities and improve service delivery, the challenge lies in effectively implementing these reforms. Ensuring that local governments are well-resourced, capable of managing budgets, and accountable is crucial for the success of decentralisation.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION
Maintaining the integrity of traditional social protection systems while adapting to modern challenges like urbanisation, labour mobility, and changing social norms is a complex challenge. Additionally, ensuring gender equality, protecting vulnerable groups, and including marginalised communities in the development process require ongoing attention and innovative policy solutions.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
As a small island nation, Vanuatu must contend with the long-term impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and changing weather patterns. Developing sustainable land and marine resource management practices that integrate traditional knowledge with modern science is a key challenge.

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND QUALITY
Improving the quality of education and ensuring equitable access to all segments of the population are significant challenges. While subsidies have improved access, enhancing educational outcomes and aligning them with labour market needs is necessary for economic development and social mobility.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
Building and maintaining infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters and meet the needs of a growing population is a critical challenge. Infrastructure development must be sustainable, resilient, and inclusive to support ongoing development efforts.

HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY AND CAPACITY
Ensuring that healthcare services are accessible to all, especially in remote and rural areas, and enhancing the capacity of health services to handle emergent crises such as pandemics are crucial for the well-being of the population.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND FINANCING
Securing adequate international support and financing for development initiatives, particularly climate finance, remains a challenge. Efficiently leveraging these resources to maximise benefits is crucial for sustained development.

HOW THE DATA LINKS TO THE KEY MESSAGES
The key messages emphasise the nation’s focus on building resilience and driving progress through local empowerment, especially in response to recent climate-related events and the COVID-19 pandemic. This emphasis on local empowerment is linked to the data presented in various goals, highlighting the importance of decentralized governance, economic recovery, social protection anchored in community and tradition, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and educational access.

Here’s how the data supports the key VNR messages:

LOCAL EMPOWERMENT AND DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE:
The data on poverty and employment suggests a strong focus on local capacities and needs. For instance, higher poverty rates in rural areas imply the necessity for area-specific interventions. The data indicates a commitment to improving local governance and policy frameworks that can address such disparities.
**ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19:**
Economic figures, such as the proportion of the population living below the poverty line and unemployment rates, illustrate the economic contraction and the need for government support and recovery strategies that are locally tailored.

**COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL PROTECTION:**
The proportion of the population with access to indigenous customary lands reflects the cultural traditions that underpin social networks and protections. This data supports the VNR message that Vanuatu draws on traditional values, which align with modern human rights and inclusivity aims.

**RENEWED COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION:**
Data showing the differences in mobile phone ownership by sex indicates ongoing gender inequality, validating the VNR’s focus on renewed commitments to gender equality and the full inclusion of all social groups.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:**
The high reliance on solar energy in rural households and the focus on sustainable land and marine resource management are in line with the VNR’s highlighting of significant investments in essential infrastructure and sustainability practices.

**ACCESS TO EDUCATION:**
Data on literacy and educational enrolment by age and sex illustrates the efforts to improve education access and quality, as outlined in the VNR, and reflects the focus on localizing educational opportunities.

**DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT:**
Information on electoral participation, trust in government institutions, and access to media for news reflects the nation’s engagement with democratic processes and the importance of citizen empowerment for the progress on the SDGs.

The data collected to date paints a picture of a nation that is actively working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by leveraging local capacities, understanding the varied needs of its population, and responding to them through inclusive, culturally informed, and environmentally sustainable policies.

**NEXT STEPS TO ACCELERATE VANUATU’S DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS**
To accelerate progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and address the identified challenges, Vanuatu needs to undertake several strategic actions and will require various forms of support to ensure successful implementation. Based on the insights from the VNR process, below is a summary of the next steps and the support needed to implement them:

**NEXT STEPS FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS**

**STRENGTHEN DECENTRALISATION EFFORTS:**
Continue to empower local governments by providing them with the resources, training, and authority needed to make decisions that affect their communities directly. This includes better fiscal allocations, clear governance structures, and capacity-building initiatives.
ENHANCE DISASTER RESILIENCE AND MANAGEMENT:
Invest in comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies, including strengthening infrastructure, early warning systems, and community preparedness programs. Implement and maintain resilient building codes and environmental protection measures.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND RESILIENCE:
Develop sectors beyond tourism to reduce vulnerability to external shocks. Focus on technology, sustainable energy, and climate resilient agriculture sectors that can provide stable employment and contribute to economic stability.

EXPAND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS:
Modernise and expand social protection frameworks to include more comprehensive coverage, addressing gaps in gender, disability, and age. Implement policies that ensure equitable access to services and protection for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

IMPLEMENT CLIMATE ACTION PLANS:
Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into all levels of planning and development. Prioritise sustainable land and marine resource management and invest in renewable energy sources to reduce carbon footprints.

INVEST IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:
Improve educational infrastructure, increase access to quality education at all levels, and align education with current and future job market needs. Focus on vocational training and higher education that supports the national development agenda.

IMPROVE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS:
Strengthen healthcare infrastructure, expand services in rural and underserved areas, and enhance the capability to manage public health emergencies. Increase investments in health technology and personnel training.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY:
Develop resilient and sustainable infrastructure that supports economic activities and provides access to basic services. Enhance digital connectivity to support economic, educational, and health advancements.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS:
Review and update policies and legislation to support sustainable development initiatives, ensuring they are inclusive and comprehensive. Focus on frameworks that support environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and social equity.

SUPPORT REQUIRED

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:
Secure increased international funding, particularly in terms of climate finance, development aid, and disaster response funds. This includes direct access to global climate funds to facilitate local adaptation and mitigation projects.
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE:
Collaborate with international experts to gain technical assistance in areas such as urban planning, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience building.

CAPACITY BUILDING:
Engage with global and regional partners to provide training and capacity building for local authorities, civil servants, and community leaders to effectively implement and manage development projects.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT:
Encourage private sector investment in key development sectors through favourable policies and incentives. This includes investments in infrastructure, technology, and new industries that promote sustainable development.

PARTNERSHIPS:
Strengthen partnerships with NGOs, civil society, and development agencies to leverage their expertise, resources, and networks. These collaborations are crucial for broad-based engagement and for addressing complex development challenges holistically.

BY IMPLEMENTING THESE STEPS AND SECURING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT, VANUATU HOPES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE SDGS AND BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS.
CHAPTER 1. OVERVIEW

Vanuatu, a Pacific island nation known for its rich cultural heritage and remarkable landscapes, faces unique challenges and opportunities as it aligns with the 2024 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) theme of "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions."

Vanuatu aspires to continue to re-build and strengthen its resilience and sustainable development, despite its climate, geographical and economic challenges.

Whilst all 17 of the SDG’s are important, for Vanuatu the nation’s focus is sharply on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17 - each critical to its developmental trajectory.

SDG 1 (END POVERTY): Despite economic growth in recent years, Vanuatu continues to battle significant poverty levels exacerbated by its vulnerability to natural disasters and external economic shocks. The government’s approach integrates economic resilience-building through diversification away from traditional reliance on public investment, remittances and agriculture, aiming to create more stable income sources and reduce poverty.

SDG 2 (FOOD SECURITY): Food security remains a pressing issue, especially in the face of climate change and natural disasters that threaten agricultural output. Vanuatu is investing in sustainable agricultural practices and technologies to increase food production, improve local food systems, and ensure that all citizens have access to nutritious and sufficient food year-round.

SDG 13 (CLIMATE CHANGE): As a frontline state in the climate crisis, Vanuatu is proactive in both advocacy and action. The nation spearheads international discussions on climate accountability and adapts locally through enhanced disaster preparedness and sustainable resource management practices, striving to mitigate the impacts of climate variability.

SDG 16 (PEACE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS): The commitment to strengthening institutions and ensuring peace is evident in Vanuatu’s governance reforms and decentralisation efforts, which enhance governmental accountability and public service delivery at all levels.

SDG 17 (PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS): Vanuatu recognises the importance of robust partnerships across all sectors. Collaborative efforts with international donors, NGOs, and the private sector are vital to securing the financial, technical, and logistical support needed to meet the SDGs effectively.

VANUATU’S STRATEGIC FOCUS

Vanuatu’s strategic focus is on decentralisation and resilience. These form the cornerstone of its sustainable development pathway, particularly critical given its vulnerability to natural disasters and economic shocks. The people of Vanuatu recognise that centralising power often leads to inefficiencies and disconnects between national policies and local realities. Decentralisation, therefore, is aimed at empowering local governments by transferring authority and resources to provincial and area councils. This shift not only brings governance closer to the people but also enhances the responsiveness and relevance of services, ensuring that decisions reflect the unique needs and priorities of local communities.
Simultaneously, resilience is a pivotal aspect of Vanuatu’s developmental strategy, encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. The recurrent severe tropical cyclones and other climatic challenges have made it imperative for Vanuatu to bolster its infrastructural and community resilience. By integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning and budgeting at all levels, the nation seeks to safeguard its progress and ensure stability. This approach is complemented by efforts to enhance economic resilience through diversification, moving away from over-reliance on public investment, remittances and agriculture which are highly susceptible to global and environmental pressures.

IN ESSENCE, VANUATU’S EMPHASIS ON DECENTRALISATION AND RESILIENCE IS NOT MERELY A RESPONSE TO ITS IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES BUT A PROACTIVE, STRATEGIC MEASURE TO LAY A ROBUST FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. BY LOCALISING GOVERNANCE AND FORTIFYING ITS SOCIETAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AGAINST POTENTIAL CRISES, VANUATU AIMS TO SECURE A RESILIENT FUTURE FOR ITS PEOPLE.
CHAPTER 2. PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES SINCE THE LAST REVIEW

IMPROVEMENTS IN DATA COLLECTION, AVAILABILITY, ANALYSIS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Vanuatu has made significant strides in enhancing its data management capabilities, a critical component for effective governance and policymaking, particularly in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These improvements encompass data collection, availability, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation, facilitating a more informed, transparent, and efficient approach to national development planning.

VANUATU SDG PORTAL AND BASELINE DATA REPORT

A cornerstone of Vanuatu’s data enhancement efforts has been the development of the Vanuatu SDG Portal. This online platform was established as a centralised repository for data related to the SDGs. It serves as a vital tool for policymakers, researchers, and the public, providing access to up-to-date and historical data that track the country’s progress on each of the SDG indicators. The baseline data report, published as part of this initiative, offers a benchmark against which all future improvements and setbacks can be measured. This baseline is crucial for setting realistic targets and understanding the gaps in data that need addressing to better monitor progress towards the SDGs.

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Vanuatu’s commitment to data transparency and accessibility is further reflected in its Annual Development Reports. These reports compile comprehensive data on the nation’s economic, social, and environmental developments. They serve not only as a reflection of the past year’s achievements and challenges but also as a detailed account that stakeholders at all levels can use to plan and implement more effective development strategies. The series of recent natural climate related emergencies have meant that the ADR has not been published annually, however, that remains the intention of the Government.

FIRST FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NSDP)

The first five-year review of the NSDP marks another significant milestone in Vanuatu’s data-driven development journey. This review process involved a thorough evaluation of the outcomes achieved compared to the targets set at the NSDP’s inception. The exercise was not just a retrospective analysis but also an opportunity to recalibrate the strategies as needed. It incorporated a wide array of data, from economic growth figures and health service outreach to educational attainment and environmental sustainability metrics. This review underscored the importance of having robust data collection and analysis systems, which have enabled Vanuatu to adapt its development agenda responsively and responsibly.

2023 NATIONAL SUMMIT

Perhaps one of the most pivotal events in recent years was the 2023 National Summit, dubbed the “Summit of the People and their Government”. This summit provided a platform for a comprehensive participatory review of the country’s development strategies and their alignment with the SDGs. One of the key outcomes of the summit was the enhanced emphasis on data-driven decision-making. The summit facilitated open discussions about the current data capabilities and the necessary steps to improve these systems, ensuring that data not only informs policy but is also integral to the monitoring and evaluation processes. This event was instrumental in setting the course for future improvements in data handling and utilisation in governance.
MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS
In line with these developments, Vanuatu has also upgraded its monitoring and evaluation systems. These enhancements are designed to better capture and analyse data, thereby providing more accurate and timely feedback on the effectiveness of various policies and programs. The integration of advanced analytics and data management tools has allowed for more nuanced analyses, which in turn support more informed policy revisions and adjustments.

Part of this work was driven by Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Prime Minister with their review of the planning and reporting guidelines that aimed to create an integrated planning and reporting template that both aligned the system of programme budgeting and human resource management with higher level aspirations included in the NSDP. These guidelines were published in 2021.

DSPPAC is also currently finalising the review of the National Planning Framework so that it also aligns with these guidelines.

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS
Despite these advancements, challenges remain. Issues such as data timeliness, completeness, and accuracy still need addressing to fully realise a robust data ecosystem. The government, aware of these challenges, is committed to continuous improvement of its data systems. Future directions include the integration of more advanced technologies, such as geographic information systems (GIS) and real-time data collection tools, which can significantly enhance the granularity and utility of the data collected.

Moreover, there is an ongoing effort to increase the capacity of local data collectors and analysts through training programs and workshops. These initiatives are crucial for sustaining the improvements made and for fostering a culture of data literacy throughout government agencies and the broader community.

BUILDING ON THE STRONG PLATFORMS BUILD BY KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
In recent years the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) as completed a range of complex and in-depth surveys including:

- Population census 2019
- HIES 2020
- National agriculture census 2022
- Multi Cluster Survey 2023

These have been complemented by major reforms in the area of civil registry data collection through the National ID programme and if they could be combined with strong databases within the social sectors such as the EMIS and HMIS then there is real potential to leverage this to develop a fully automated social protection system.

As such, Vanuatu’s enhanced focus on data collection, availability, analysis, monitoring, and evaluation represents a foundational shift towards more evidence-based governance. By continuing to develop these capabilities, Vanuatu can better navigate the complexities of sustainable development and make strides towards achieving the SDGs with accuracy and accountability.

OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTION POINTS FROM 2019 VNR, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE & DURABILITY GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL AND NATIONAL CHANGES SINCE 2019
The 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR) for Vanuatu highlighted several key action points aimed at propelling the nation towards sustainable development and greater resilience. However, since the publication of that review, the world has undergone significant changes that have impacted global and local development efforts, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions such as the Ukraine invasion, and rising inflation, food, and energy prices.

Vanuatu also faced significant local challenges in 2023 not least of which were that it was struck by two category 4 cyclones, Judy and Kevin, in early March, and one in October, Lola, causing extensive damage to agriculture and infrastructure. This damage was on a scale similar to Cyclone Pam in 2015, which had severe long-term economic impacts.

Therefore, an assessment of the relevance and durability of the 2019 VNR action points in the context of these events is therefore critical to understanding the context within which this review was conducted.

**KEY ACTION POINTS FROM THE 2019 VNR**

**ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:**

Vanuatu, one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries, focused on strengthening its disaster preparedness and climate resilience. This included enhancing early warning systems, implementing more robust building codes, and increasing community awareness and preparedness programs.

**ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION:**

Recognising the risks of heavy reliance on tourism and agriculture, the 2019 VNR called for economic diversification. This was aimed at reducing vulnerability to global economic fluctuations and supporting sustainable growth through the development of other sectors like technology and manufacturing.

**IMPROVING HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND QUALITY:**

The action points included strengthening healthcare systems, expanding access, especially in rural and remote areas, and improving healthcare quality to better meet the needs of the population.

**INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING:**

A significant focus was placed on education and vocational training to enhance employment opportunities and prepare the workforce for a diversified economy.

**STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:**

The VNR emphasised the need for stronger governance structures, better policy frameworks, and enhanced institutional capacities to effectively manage and implement development strategies.

**ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANCE AND DURABILITY**

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:**

The relevance of this focus has only increased in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which underscored the importance of preparedness for unforeseen crises. The foundational strategies laid out for disaster resilience have proven durable, as they also offer a framework for handling emergent global health emergencies. However, there is a need to integrate pandemic response and recovery into traditional disaster preparedness plans and given the frequency of these events to look at simplifying the processes and better harmonising them with more regular on-going development efforts in order to avoid a ‘stop-start’ process whereby key programmes are constantly stalled by new emergency processes and procedures.
ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION:
The pandemic severely impacted global supply chains, heavily affecting Vanuatu’s economy. The call for diversification has shown significant relevance, highlighting the risks of over-reliance on a few economic sectors. The durability of this action point is evident, as diversification could buffer against similar future shocks, but it requires accelerated implementation and perhaps a broader scope, considering the added pressures of global inflation and supply chain disruptions.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND QUALITY:
This action point has proven both relevant and durable, particularly as the pandemic exposed and exacerbated global healthcare disparities. For Vanuatu, enhancing healthcare infrastructure is crucial not just for disease prevention but also for overall development. Sustained investment in healthcare remains a priority, with a possible expansion in focus towards public health capabilities and emergency responsiveness.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING:
The relevance of this focus remains high, especially as the global shift towards digital platforms during the pandemic highlighted gaps in digital literacy and access. The durability of this action point is clear, but there is a need to adapt educational curricula to include more digital skills training and remote learning capabilities to stay aligned with evolving job market requirements.

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:
The geopolitical tensions and conflicts have stressed the importance of strong governance and institutional resilience. This action point is highly relevant as it underpins the nation’s ability to navigate and mitigate external pressures. Enhancing policy frameworks to include considerations for geopolitical risks and global economic fluctuations will be crucial.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS
To adapt to the rapidly changing global environment, Vanuatu has revisited and revise its VNR action points to therefore include and have greater emphasis on the following themes:

• INTEGRATED CRISIS MANAGEMENT: Developing strategies that integrate health, economic, and environmental crises management.
• ENHANCED DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE: Accelerating digital infrastructure development to support economic, educational, and governmental functions.
• GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: Crafting policies that consider global economic dependencies and aim to mitigate associated risks.
• SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY: Focusing on sustainability and self-sufficiency, particularly in food and energy, to reduce vulnerability to global supply disruptions and price fluctuations.

Therefore, while the 2019 VNR for Vanuatu laid a strong foundation for sustainable development, the significant global changes since then necessitate a dynamic approach to ensure that these action points remain relevant and robust in the face of new challenges, and this has been reflected in the 2024VNR.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 AMIDST COMPOUNDING EVENTS
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on nations worldwide, with small island developing states like Vanuatu facing unique challenges due to their inherent vulnerabilities to other compounding events such as cyclones and economic fluctuations. For Vanuatu, the convergence of the COVID-19 crisis with other systemic and environmental challenges has underscored the critical need for adaptive strategies and resilience-building in planning for the ‘new normal.’
Vanuatu’s experience with COVID-19 was notably intensified by existing vulnerabilities. Just as the pandemic began impacting global systems, Vanuatu was hit by Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020, a category 5 cyclone that caused widespread destruction only weeks after the country had closed its borders due to the pandemic. This dual crisis stretched the nation’s resources thin and highlighted the complexities of responding to a health emergency amidst a significant natural disaster.

This was further compounded by three tropical cyclones in 2022 (Kevin, Judy and Lola) numerous volcanic disruptions, national and local elections, political turmoil, and global events.

The economic impact was particularly severe, given Vanuatu’s open economy, as supply chains came to a standstill due to travel restrictions and global lockdowns. This not only affected the nation’s GDP but also the livelihoods of its citizens, many of whom are increasingly dependent on remittance-related income. Furthermore, the disruption to global supply chains affected food security in Vanuatu, an issue exacerbated by cyclone-related damages to local agricultural production.

**LEARNING AND PLANNING FOR THE ‘NEW NORMAL’**

The unique challenges posed by the pandemic amidst other crises have provided critical lessons for Vanuatu in terms of disaster preparedness and economic resilience. The notion of a ‘new normal’ for Vanuatu involves several strategic adaptations:

- **INTEGRATED DISASTER MANAGEMENT:** Vanuatu has learned the importance of integrating health emergencies into its broader disaster management framework. This involves not only preparedness and response strategies but also recovery plans that consider multiple overlapping disasters. Enhanced early warning systems, robust infrastructural standards, and community-based emergency management training are essential components.

- **ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION:**
  The vulnerability of the tourism sector highlighted the risks of economic dependency on a single industry. Vanuatu is now looking towards economic diversification as a buffer against global economic shocks. This includes promoting agriculture, fisheries, and possibly developing digital services that can provide more stable revenue streams.

- **STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS:**
  The gaps revealed by the pandemic in healthcare are infrastructure and services, particularly in remote areas. Investing in healthcare facilities, improving healthcare access, and ensuring a steady supply of medical resources are crucial. This also involves training healthcare personnel not just in routine medical care but in emergency and disaster response.

- **FOOD SECURITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY:**
  Enhancing local food production capacities and developing sustainable agriculture practices have become priorities. This is crucial not only to reduce dependency on import but also to ensure food availability during global supply disruptions.

- **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:**
  With the shift towards remote working and digital platforms seen globally, there is a need for Vanuatu to accelerate its digital infrastructure development. This includes improving internet connectivity, digital literacy, and e-government services to ensure continuity in education, business, and public services.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE BUILDING: Engaging communities in the planning and implementation of local development projects has proven vital. Local knowledge and practices are invaluable in enhancing resilience and ensuring that development efforts are culturally appropriate and widely accepted.

AS WAS NOTED BY ALL OF THE STAKEHOLDERS, THE COMPOUNDED CRISES OF COVID–19 AND OTHER DISASTERS HAVE NOT ONLY TESTED VANUATU’S RESILIENCE BUT ALSO FORCED A RE-EVALUATION OF HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PLAN FOR FUTURE UNCERTAINTIES. THE ‘NEW NORMAL’ FOR VANUATU INVOLVES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO RESILIENCE, WHERE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ARE INTERLINKED, ENSURING THE NATION CAN WITHSTAND AND ADAPT TO THE MULTIFACETED CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN WORLD.
CHAPTER 3. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The diagram below gives an oversight of the overall policy framework for Vanuatu starting with the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) and progressing down through the various levels of bureaucracy into the National Budget.

The NSDP is composed of three pillars, society, environment and economy.

The Ministry Corporate Plans are medium term, and their term is linked to the PFEM Act i.e., they are projections for three years but will now be five years. As a result of this effort all of the key policy and planning documents now have a greater degree of alignment consistent with the NSDP.

Other than the NSDP the remainder of the framework should be built ‘bottom up’ as the shorter term (annual) National Budget and Business Plans are completed annually for all entities, and these should link and be driven by provincial level planning and discussions.

The National Budget is done on a program basis with the budget structures demonstrating clearly that the aims, objectives, and service targets aligned to the pillars above and the NSDP.

In March 2021, the Ministry of Prime Minister along with the Public Service Commission launched updated planning guidelines and templates for all of the planning document referenced above as well as new templates for the reports associated with them. The aim was to have a single method for planning and monitoring across Government. This then necessitated an update of the National Planning and Reporting Framework (NPRF).

NATIONAL PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK – UPDATE

The National Planning and Reporting Framework (NPRF) was originally designed in 2018, since then Vanuatu has had two general elections, two category five cyclones and experienced the effects of COVID 19 on the nation. This has resulted in a revision of many elements of the former planning environment in Vanuatu to better reflect the new reality of development that Vanuatu faces today.

2021 also saw a review of the NSDP that resulted in a recommendation to also have a more explicit set of medium term NSDP indicators integrated into the revised planning framework. This would enable the Government of the day to better, and more accurately, track progress against the overall NSDP which is quite broad in its scope.
The last update of the Corporate Planning Guidelines for Preparing Corporate and Business Plans in the Vanuatu Public Service were approved in 2021 along with an update of the ODA management policy. Hence, the NPRF - Update was designed to:

1. Ensure integration and alignment of NSDP priorities into the updated planning and ODA management process approved in 2021
2. Design better linkages between the business plans, the budget narrative, and corporate plans, ensuring that that performance indicators and service targets are consistent with NSDP
3. Provide an opportunity for high level review of plans by DGs and Ministers
4. Encourage closer coordination between central agencies, especially PSC, DSPPAC and MFEM in reviewing plans in order to strengthen the opportunity for improved performance management

The revised planning and reporting frameworks were further designed to improve the implementation the NSDP and to coordinate ministry planning and budgeting at all levels of Government with a focus on improved performance and service delivery especially within the timeframe of one Parliament.

OVERVIEW - NATIONAL PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The NPRF was developed to ensure planning across the government of Vanuatu is carried out in a uniform manner. Furthermore, the NPRF is designed to provide the necessary background and information so that all government entities are certain as to the “how and why” of the planning process?

The National Planning and Reporting Framework was designed for use by decision makers involved in planning at ministry level. This includes specifically Executive Officers and M&E focal point officers who are responsible for keeping Ministries compliant with legal reporting requirements to the Ministry of Financial and Economic Management (MFEM) and Public Service Commission (PSC). Additionally, the audience for this document can also include other ministry level decision makers with authority in strategic areas such as ministry planning, policy, resource management, and performance management. These decision makers may include Director Generals (DGs), Human Resource and/or Corporate Managers, Planning officers, and Technical Assistance staff.

THE PLANNING PHASE

Under the “one plan – one budget” concept endorsed by the National Planning Summit all plans stem from the one National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP).

- The NSDP has three key pillars – social, economic and environmental.
- The NSDP will be focussed on a limited number of high level IMPACT and OUTCOME level indicators.
- The indicators in the NSDP should be reflected in the lower level documents such as the individual Provincial Plans and Corporate Plans – this will ensure ‘alignment’ which means that the Corporate Plan outcome indicators should directly relate to those in the NSDP. The Provincial Plan outcome indicators should also directly relate to those in the NSDP, except broken down by province – if this data is available.
- The Budget Narrative must link the OUTCOME indicators with OUTPUT indicators (at Programme level) and SERVICE TARGETS (at Activity level)
• The **Budget Narrative** should be broken down by Province to enable the tracking of activities by the SG of the Province.
• The **Business Plan** of each Department should then follow the budget narrative and also be broken down by Province.

**EXECUTION AND REPORTING PHASE**

In order to align to the “**ONE PLAN – ONE BUDGET**” concept it should be possible to extract all of the necessary details at all levels from “one common set of reports”.

• Since the business plan and budget narrative are disaggregated by Province then the quarterly report should also be disaggregated by Province.

• The same applies to the Half Yearly Report

• This will also mean that the Annual Report will report all Ministries programmes and activities by Province.

• This will enable the Provincial Government to easily aggregate a Provincial Level administrative report by aggregating the data from each Ministry and through that mechanism ensure that future planning is done based on Provincial level identified needs

**Monitoring and Evaluation Phase**

There are three distinct elements to this:
1. **FINANCIAL / FIDUCIARY M&E** – this is based on the financial statements and done initially by the CSU and Internal Audit teams of each Ministry and ultimately by the **AUDITOR GENERAL**.

   - This is based on data produced by the FMIS

2. **POLICY M&E** – this is done by the DSSPAC

   - The SECTOR ANALYSTS undertake the policy M&E at the output / outcome level based on the Q1, H1 and Annual Reports
   - The M&E UNIT will review the development M&E against the output / impact indicators using data from the Annual Reports but also their own analytics and commissioned surveys as necessary

3. **PERFORMANCE M&E** – this is done by the **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION** and **PARLIAMENT** based on information from all of the above sources i.e., fiastaments, audit reports, DSPPAC reports and their own HR reports.

   - The Annual Reports are presented to Parliament by 31st March every year.

**Ministerial / DG Performance**

- Financial Statements (from FMIS)
- Annual Report
- Annual Development Report (also using other data from VBoS)

**Provincial / SG Performance**

- Disaggregated and compiled by Province
- Disaggregated and compiled by Province
- Disaggregated by three pillars compiled by Province

**THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK USED FOR PLANNING IN VANUATU**

The Vanuatu Government successfully introduced Programme Budgeting in 1999. This combined with the new IFMIS in 2001 means that it is the only country in the Pacific to have both a single Treasury Account, a consolidated single set of ‘chart of accounts’, a single accounting and reporting tool and a programmatic budget structure. These technical terms in essence mean that whilst financial management is decentralised the operational platform upon which the system of Government is based is fully centralised allowing for a high degree of transparency and control of all resources including ODA.

The figure below shows the standard universal program logic used by many administrations, the key point is that in Vanuatu this structure is hard coded into the budget and finance system i.e., assuming all DPs already use similar structures to design their interventions it should be possible to fully integrate ODA into the Vanuatu budget.
A practical example of how this might work in practice is given below for illustrative purposes.

**DIAGRAM 2: UNIVERSAL PLANNING LOGIC FRAMEWORK – A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE**

It is critical that all resources, both ODA and Government, be shown this way. As figure 3 shows this, then enables the Expenditure Analysts at MFEM to examine the economy and efficiency of public funds and it also allows the Ministry of the Prime Minister to determine the effectiveness of these resources in terms of delivering on the policies of the Government.

**DIAGRAM 3: UNIVERSAL PLANNING LOGIC FRAMEWORK – IN DETAIL**
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL SUMMIT 2023

The 2023 National Summit in Vanuatu was a significant event that underscored the nation’s commitment to sustainable development through major decentralisation reforms. These reforms are vital for improving governance and service delivery at local levels, and they have a profound emphasis on inclusivity, particularly on the principle of ‘leaving no-one behind.’

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL SUMMIT 2023:

DECENTRALISATION BREAKTHROUGH:

The Summit showcased a significant step in Vanuatu’s governance with the implementation of decentralisation reforms, aimed at devolving more power and resources to provincial and local governments. This strategic shift is designed to enhance the alignment and acceleration of development efforts by making governance more responsive and attuned to local needs.

FOCUS ON MARGINALISED GROUPS:

A central theme of the discussions was how these reforms could better include marginalised groups, ensuring that development benefits all sections of society. The decentralisation initiative is seen as a way to give these groups a stronger voice in the decision-making processes that directly affect their lives and communities.

ENHANCED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The reforms are expected to facilitate greater community engagement, allowing for a more participatory approach in governance. This is particularly important for traditionally underrepresented groups, such as Indigenous populations, women, and people with disabilities, ensuring their perspectives and needs are considered at every level of governance.

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUITY IN SERVICE DELIVERY:

By bringing decision-making closer to the grassroots level, the reforms aim to improve the accessibility and equity of public services. This is crucial for marginalised groups who often face barriers to accessing health, education, and social services. The local governance bodies are now better positioned to tailor services to the specific needs of these communities.
ECONOMIC INCLUSION:
Economic initiatives discussed at the Summit are expected to promote local entrepreneurship and job creation, which are vital for inclusive economic growth. Special emphasis is placed on supporting small-scale and community-based projects that can empower marginalised groups and provide them with sustainable income sources.

SUSTAINABILITY AND LOCAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:
The decentralisation reforms enhance the ability of local authorities to manage their natural resources sustainably. This is particularly beneficial for marginalised communities that are often dependent on these resources for their livelihoods. Local management ensures that conservation and development initiatives are balanced and beneficial to all community members.

INCLUSIVITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES:
Discussions at the Summit also highlighted how local governance could help implement environmental policies that consider the needs and rights of marginalised groups. This includes ensuring that climate adaptation and resilience-building measures are inclusive and that these groups are not disproportionately affected by environmental challenges.

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS:
The Summit acknowledged that while decentralisation offers many opportunities for inclusive development, it also presents challenges such as ensuring uniform capacity across various local bodies and maintaining coherence in national policies. Future strategies include continuous capacity building, enhanced support mechanisms for local governments, and robust monitoring systems to ensure that no one is left behind.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION CHANGE SINCE 2019
Since 2019, Vanuatu has implemented several key policy and legislative changes aimed at supporting sustainable development, enhancing decentralisation, and ensuring the inclusion of marginalised groups. Here is a summary of the major reforms:

DECENTRALISATION REFORMS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REVISIONS: Significant amendments were made to the Decentralisation Act and the Municipalities Act, empowering provincial and municipal governments with greater autonomy. The legislative changes are a further step in the decentralisation process, providing local governments with more authority over budgeting, planning, and implementing development projects tailored to their specific needs.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION LEGISLATION: The MoCC launched the 2nd Edition of the CCDRR policy and its implementation plan. It also reviewed the CITIES Legislation Act.

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES: The government has rolled out policies aimed at promoting economic inclusion. These include initiatives to support local entrepreneurship, particularly in rural areas, and to boost access to microfinance and credit for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a focus on those led by women or members of marginalised communities.
HEALTH AND EDUCATION REFORMS

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE POLICY: Reforms in the health sector aim to move towards universal health coverage, ensuring that all residents, irrespective of their socio-economic status, have access to necessary medical services without financial hardship.

EDUCATION ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES: Legislation has been updated to enhance the accessibility and quality of education, with particular emphasis on reducing disparities in education access between urban and rural areas. Policies have been implemented to increase funding for schools in remote areas and to integrate inclusive education practices.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

National Gender Equality Policy 2020–2030: New policy to promote gender equality, combat gender-based violence, strengthen protections against sexual harassment and promote women’s participation in political and economic spheres.

DATA COLLECTION AND TRANSPARENCY

NATIONAL STATISTICS LEGISLATION: To improve data collection and transparency, legislation has been updated to strengthen the national statistics office. This enhancement allows for more accurate and timely data, which is crucial for monitoring progress on development goals and making informed policy decisions.

EMERGING ISSUES AND ADAPTATIONS

COVID-19 RESPONSE LEGISLATION: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary laws and regulations were enacted to manage public health risks, support the economy, and provide social protection measures during lockdowns and restrictions.

By continuously updating these frameworks, Vanuatu aims to create a resilient and inclusive society that aligns with both national priorities and global development goals.

CHAPTER 4. METHODOLOGY

The Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) played a pivotal role as the lead agency responsible for preparing Vanuatu’s Voluntary National Review. The preparation of the VNR was meticulously carried out following a detailed process that was outlined in a roadmap, which had been previously agreed upon by the Ministers. This roadmap served as a strategic guide, ensuring that the preparation of the VNR was aligned with national priorities and involved a comprehensive evaluation of the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By adhering to this agreed-upon roadmap, DSPPAC ensured a structured and coordinated approach, fostering collaboration across various government departments and stakeholders, thus enabling a thorough and inclusive review process along the following lines:

INCLUSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Inclusive stakeholder engagement was a critical aspect of the review process. The approach was to build on previous engagements around the review of the National Sustainable Development Plan (2022) and the National Summit (2023). The VNR engagement activities were designed to deepen existing partnerships and forge new ones so that the next phase of SDG implementation is as inclusive as possible.
Stakeholder engagement activities commenced through an inception workshop (Nov 2023) to bring together and brief key stakeholders on the VNR process. A series of written and verbal briefings followed (Feb 2024) to inform all agencies across government, civil society and the private sector of the process and to reach out directly to key people and institutions to request specific information and contributions. People and institutions that do not have much experience in being consulted in such processes were contacted and asked for their feedback on how they would like to be involved in the VNR process and moving forward. A series of roundtable discussions were then held (Mar 2024) with government agencies involved in monitoring and evaluation, cultural agencies, and civil society organisations.

This approach ensured the active participation of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organisations, private sector actors, and marginalised groups. By involving these diverse parties, the review successfully captured a wide range of perspectives and insights, essential for accurately assessing the progress and challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This inclusive process not only enriched the data collected but also fostered a sense of shared responsibility and commitment among all participants, ensuring that the resulting strategies and policies reflected the needs and priorities of the entire community.

**ALIGNING WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

The review helped further integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into Vanuatu’s national development plans and strategies. By aligning them with the country’s specific context and priorities, the process ensured that these global goals were customised to meet local needs and circumstances effectively. As such this should also add value to future national development reports.

**DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING MECHANISMS**

The review was based on robust data collection and monitoring mechanisms to track progress on the SDGs. It involved strengthening statistical systems, enhancing data disaggregation by gender and other relevant variables, and ensuring the availability of reliable and timely data. These efforts supported evidence-based decision-making, crucial for effectively measuring and analysing SDG advancement.

The review’s aim was to implement a robust data collection and monitoring mechanisms to track progress on the SDGs was achieved through a multi-faceted approach:

**UTILISING THE STRENGTHENED STATISTICAL SYSTEMS**

Vanuatu invested in enhancing the capacity of its national statistical offices. This involved training personnel in advanced statistical methods and upgrading technological infrastructure to support data collection and analysis. These improvements enabled the statistical systems to handle complex data sets and produce more accurate and comprehensive reports.
CAPACITY BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

To sustain these advancements, ongoing capacity-building initiatives were put in place. This involved workshops and seminars for government analysts and policymakers on the latest data analysis techniques and best practices in data management. Furthermore, Vanuatu partnered with international organisations and regional bodies to gain access to global expertise and resources, enhancing the country’s data handling capabilities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The review process also emphasised the importance of public engagement and transparency in data handling. Information on data collection methods and findings was made accessible to the public through online portals and periodic reports. This openness not only fostered trust in the data provided but also encouraged public feedback, which was instrumental in refining data collection practices.

Through these comprehensive efforts, Vanuatu was able to establish a robust system for data collection and monitoring, ensuring that the tracking of SDG progress was grounded in reliable evidence and capable of supporting strategic national development planning.

UTILISATION OF KEY EXISTING DATA-

This report incorporates a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to data collection and analysis. It draws on a wide array of data sources to ensure a well-rounded understanding of the nation’s development trajectory and strategic planning needs. Here is how each component contributed to the overall assessment:

**Baseline NSDP Data:** The report utilises ongoing data collection for 46 indicators outlined in the Baseline NSDP. This foundational data provides a critical benchmark against which progress towards the SDGs can be measured and analysed.

**NSDP Online Platform (nsdp.vnso.gov.vu):** This platform serves as a central repository for data related to the NSDP, making it accessible not only to policymakers and analysts but also to the public. It ensures transparency and facilitates the dissemination of up-to-date information on development progress.

**2022 Business Survey and 2023 Agriculture Census:** These surveys provide specific insights into key sectors of Vanuatu’s economy. The business survey captures trends and challenges in the private sector, while the agriculture census offers detailed data on agricultural practices, outputs, and challenges, critical for food security and economic stability.

**2023 Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS):** The MICS offers comprehensive data on health, education, and infrastructure, which are crucial for assessing social progress and identifying gaps in service delivery.

**Ministry Corporate and Business Plans, and Provincial Strategic Plans:** These documents outline the strategic directions of various government departments and provinces, providing context to the alignment of local and national development efforts with the NSDP and SDGs.

**National Budgets, Ministry and Departmental Presentations:** Information from national budgets and presentations at the 2023 National Summit provide insights into government priorities, resource allocation, and policy directions. They reflect governmental commitment to the NSDP and SDG targets.

**VNR Consultations and First Five Year NSDP Review Materials:** These consultations and review materials offer critical reflections on past performance and future strategies. They include stakeholder inputs that enhance the understanding of the effectiveness of various initiatives and policies.
2024 Youth Monograph and LDC Graduation Report: The Youth Monograph provides specific data on the young population’s challenges and opportunities, which is vital for targeted youth development strategies. The LDC Graduation Report assesses Vanuatu’s readiness and challenges as it transitions from a Least Developed Country status, providing insights into economic and structural progress.

Wellbeing Measures: This new metric offers a holistic view of the well-being of Vanuatu’s citizens, going beyond traditional economic indicators to include social and environmental dimensions.

Progress from 2019 VNR: Comparing current data with that from the 2019 VNR helps to track how far the country has come in its development goals and what remains to be addressed.

By drawing on these diverse data sources, this report provides a nuanced view of Vanuatu’s development landscape. This comprehensive data-driven approach ensures that planning and policymaking are grounded in reality and tailored to meet the country’s unique needs, challenges, and opportunities, thereby facilitating informed decision-making and strategic planning to drive.

INCLUSIVITY AND INTEGRATION OF THE THREE CORE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The analysis aims to emphasise two critical areas of sustainable development: inclusivity and integration of the three core dimensions of sustainability – social, economic, and environmental.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

The principle of “leaving no one behind” is central to the review’s approach. This entails paying special attention to vulnerable and marginalised groups to ensure that development efforts are inclusive and equitable.

Identified Vulnerable Groups: We heard through stakeholder engagement groups, including women, single mothers, widows, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, remote rural communities and people living in poverty. Expanding our understanding of marginalisation and vulnerability does not dilute the rights and protections of others, it simply means we can truly ensure that no one is left behind.

Assessed Barriers to Inclusion: The review examined the particular obstacles that hindered these groups’ full participation in and benefit from development initiatives. These included access to healthcare, education, economic opportunities, and participation in decision-making processes.

Proposed Targeted Interventions: To address issues of marginalization and promote inclusivity, it is crucial to adopt a comprehensive approach. This includes implementing policies that promote inclusivity and equality, providing adequate resources and opportunities to marginalized groups, and fostering a culture of respect and understanding among different communities. By doing so, we can ensure that everyone in Vanuatu, regardless of their background or location, can contribute to and benefit from the SDGs. The commitment of Ni-Vanuatu to peace and social cohesion provides a strong foundation for progress.
SHARING GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The report highlights successful initiatives and practices that are currently contributing to the implementation of the SDGs in Vanuatu. By sharing these lessons learned and good practices, the report aims to inspire other countries and facilitate cooperation for sustainable development. This approach not only showcases Vanuatu’s achievements but also offers valuable insights into effective strategies and approaches that can be adapted or replicated in similar contexts, thereby strengthening global efforts toward sustainable development goals. The dissemination of this information aims to encourage an exchange of knowledge and experience, which is vital for collective progress and innovation in addressing complex global challenges.

ADDRESSING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY GAPS

The report aims to identify and address the financial and technical capacity gaps that may hinder the implementation of the SDGs in Vanuatu. By pinpointing these gaps, the report sets the stage for targeted interventions that can enhance the effectiveness of SDG initiatives. This process involves several key strategies:

Exploring Innovative Financing Mechanisms: The report investigates new and innovative ways to finance SDG-related projects. This could include mechanisms such as green bonds, social impact bonds, or leveraging funds through public-private partnerships. These financial tools are designed to attract and direct investment towards sustainable development projects that might otherwise struggle to secure traditional funding.

Leveraging Partnerships: Recognising the importance of collaborative efforts, the report emphasises the need to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones with a range of stakeholders, including international donors, private sector entities, NGOs, and other governments. These partnerships are crucial for pooling resources, sharing knowledge, and reinforcing efforts towards common goals.

Building Capacity: The report identifies a critical need for building the capacity of both institutions and individuals involved in SDG implementation. This includes training programs, workshops, and continuous learning opportunities that equip policymakers, implementers, and community leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively drive SDG efforts forward. Capacity building also involves enhancing institutional structures and processes to ensure they can manage and sustain SDG activities effectively.

The overarching goal is to create a robust framework within which SDGs can be pursued more vigorously and with greater impact.

COMMUNICATING PROGRESS EFFECTIVELY

The review will develop a clear and concise narrative and share the findings of the VNR widely. This includes engaging various stakeholders, utilising diverse communication channels, and using language that is accessible to different audiences.

The review process for Vanuatu’s Voluntary National Review (VNR) was meticulously designed to develop a clear, concise narrative that encapsulates the country’s journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To ensure a comprehensive and informative report, the process included several key steps centred around stakeholder engagement, consultation, and strategic communication.
CONSULTATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The preparation of the VNR involved extensive consultations with a diverse array of stakeholders. This included government agencies, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, community leaders, and marginalised groups. These consultations were designed to gather a broad spectrum of perspectives and insights, ensuring that the VNR reflects the real experiences and challenges faced by various segments of the population.

This included inception and follow up workshops with the different stakeholder groups starting in November 2023 and culminating in the validation workshop held in June 2024.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee was established to oversee the VNR process. This committee was composed of representatives from different sectors who provided guidance and oversight throughout the review. Their role was crucial in setting the agenda, coordinating the consultation process, and ensuring that all activities aligned with the national development priorities and the SDG framework.

OPEN DRAFTING AND CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The drafting of the VNR was conducted through an open and consultative process. Draft versions of the report were shared with stakeholders for feedback, which allowed for an iterative refinement of the content. All stakeholders were also asked for their internal datasets which some provided in time for drafting and some provided after the report was finalised – the latter will be subsequently used in the Annual Development Report. This approach ensured transparency and inclusivity, allowing for a wide range of inputs to be considered and integrated into the final document.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

To effectively share the findings of the VNR, diverse communication channels were utilised. The aim was to reach different audiences, including policymakers, development partners, and the general public. This included the use of accessible language to ensure that the report was understandable to non-specialists, enhancing its reach and impact. Strategies included publishing summaries in local languages, hosting public forums and discussions, and using online platforms to disseminate the report widely.

OTHER MECHANISMS

Additional mechanisms as determined by the steering committee included engaging local media to cover SDG-related stories, organising workshops and seminars to delve deeper into specific SDGs, and partnering with educational institutions to incorporate the VNR findings into curricula. These efforts were designed to sustain engagement with the VNR findings and promote ongoing dialogue on SDG progress.

By considering these points and integrating them into the review process, Vanuatu has prepared a VNR that not only showcases the nation's progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs but also sets a clear path forward. The comprehensive engagement and meticulous preparation process was designed to help ensure that the VNR is both reflective of Vanuatu's unique context and instrumental in guiding future development efforts.
CHAPTER 5. REVIEW FINDINGS
VANUATU 2030 – THE PEOPLES PLAN

The Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan is the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) for Vanuatu, covering the period from 2016 to 2030. It serves as the country’s highest-level policy framework. Below are some key points about the plan:

FOCUS:
• Aims to achieve a Stable, Sustainable, and Prosperous Vanuatu.
• Prioritises the well-being of all citizens and ensures equitable opportunities for education, health, and economic advancement.
• Emphasises protecting Vanuatu’s natural resources for future generations.

FOUNDATION:
• Built on Vanuatu’s culture, traditional knowledge, and Christian principles.
• Reflects the development journey Vanuatu has undertaken since independence.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS:
• Aligns with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.
• Sets out specific national priorities and context for implementing the SDGs in Vanuatu.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:
• Informed by extensive consultations with Vanuatu’s people, including communities, elected representatives, the private sector, and civil society organisations.

PILLARS:
The plan is structured around three main pillars:
• **Society**: Prioritises human development, social inclusion, and good governance.
• **Environment**: Focuses on sustainable resource management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.
• **Economy**: Aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth focusing on agriculture, tourism, and other key sectors.

Overall, the Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan is a crucial roadmap for Vanuatu’s development aspirations. It provides a framework for achieving a better future for all citizens while ensuring environmental sustainability and cultural preservation.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE VNSDP

In 2021 the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) created a dedicated website to collate the relevant NSDP and SDG data sets based on a range of surveys. This has been periodically updated to reflect sectoral data sets, development partner studies and VBoS surveys. Hence the data in this report draws directly from this data set and is summarised in the annex.
SOCIETY PILLAR

SOCIETY 1: VIBRANT CULTURAL IDENTITY

In analysing the data and objectives outlined in SOCIETY 1 of Vanuatu’s strategic framework, we delve into a nation that places immense value on its cultural heritage and the foundational pillars of traditional governance and Christian principles. These core elements underpin Vanuatu’s societal structure and provide a framework for imparting life skills and knowledge to future generations.

The essence of traditional governance in Vanuatu is rooted in a system that emphasizes community cohesion, respect for elders, and the preservation of customs. It is a system that values consensus and collective decision-making, ensuring that the wisdom of past generations informs the present and guides the future. Such governance is essential in maintaining cultural identity and social order, as well as in managing resources sustainably in a way that aligns with traditional environmental knowledge.

Christian principles complement this by offering a moral and ethical compass that influences social behaviour and community support systems. These principles encourage values such as compassion, service, and stewardship—all crucial for nurturing a society that cares for its most vulnerable members and that works towards the common good.

Together, traditional governance and Christian principles have a multifaceted impact on the nation:

Cultural Preservation and Education: These pillars ensure that cultural practices, languages, and traditional knowledge are maintained and actively taught to the youth. Educational programs are often imbued with these elements, fostering a sense of identity and continuity. The transmission of life skills such as navigation, fishing, and sustainable agriculture continues to be integral to young people’s upbringing, ensuring that they are equipped to contribute to their communities and the nation’s economy.

Social Cohesion and Conflict Resolution: Traditional governance mechanisms provide a framework for resolving disputes within and between communities. The use of customary law and local conflict resolution strategies often leads to outcomes that are culturally appropriate and widely accepted. The reinforcement of Christian principles also promotes forgiveness and reconciliation, which are essential for maintaining peace and unity.

Community Development and Participation: The active involvement of community members in governance ensures that development projects meet the actual needs of the people. This participatory approach results in more sustainable and effective outcomes. Furthermore, Christian principles often inspire community service and the establishment of initiatives like health clinics and schools, directly contributing to the nation’s development.

Based on the data from the 2021 Baseline Survey, Vanuatu’s efforts in preserving and integrating its rich cultural heritage and Christian principles through traditional governance continue to shape the nation’s social fabric and contribute to its development objectives.

LANGUAGE AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSMISSION

The survey data shows that a majority of the population above 12 years old (70%) speaks an Indigenous language daily, with a significant percentage of children aged three and above learning an indigenous language as their first language (80%). This highlights the successful transmission of language, a critical vehicle for carrying forward cultural identity and traditional knowledge. However, the urban population lags behind in this respect (34%), pointing towards the need for targeted language preservation programs in urban areas to bolster cultural continuity.
CULTURAL PRACTICES
Traditional stories, dances, songs, and games are integral to Vanuatu’s cultural education. The survey indicates that 45% of those aged 15 and over have knowledge of at least one form of traditional expression. A deeper look into the data reveals a higher familiarity with traditional stories (76%) compared to other cultural forms, such as dance (57%). This suggests that while oral traditions remain strong, other expressions of cultural heritage may require more focused preservation efforts, especially in empowering female participation, which currently shows a slight lag behind male counterparts.

TRADITIONAL SKILLS AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES
The survey underscores that more than half of the households (56%) possess basic traditional production skills related to housing, food production, and food preparation. However, the urban population significantly lags in these skills (23%), which may be addressed by fostering skills transmission programs that cater to urban settings.

A high proportion of the population has free access to Indigenous customary lands (85%), forest resources (93%), and marine resources (71%). This access is crucial for maintaining traditional practices and sustains the livelihoods of many rural households. Almost all rural households (94%) use traditional lands for growing food crops, underscoring the deep connection between land, culture, and sustenance in rural communities.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS
The data suggests that Vanuatu’s cultural and traditional governance structures robustly support the transmission of knowledge and skills. The pervasive access to and utilization of customary lands for agriculture and forestry reflect a society deeply connected to its environment.

However, the data also indicate areas requiring further support, particularly in urban contexts where traditional practices and language use are less prevalent. Targeted cultural education and skills training programs in urban centres could ensure that the nation’s cultural identity remains vibrant across all demographics.

The survey’s insights also highlight the potential to expand the scope of traditional knowledge, such as the production of herbal medicines and traditional massage, where there is lower proficiency. By leveraging this traditional knowledge, Vanuatu can enhance both cultural preservation and community health outcomes.

In conclusion, the data reveals that while Vanuatu is robust in its cultural retention and the use of traditional governance, continuous efforts are needed to maintain this legacy, especially in the face of modernisation and urbanisation. By addressing these emerging challenges with strategic interventions, Vanuatu can ensure that its cultural wealth and Christian principles continue to enrich future generations, contributing to the nation’s sustainable development and resilience.

IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD
Despite these strengths, challenges such as globalisation, modernisation, and external influences pose threats to traditional governance structures and cultural values. There is a delicate balance to be struck between preserving traditions and adapting to change. The future lies in developing strategies that protect cultural heritage while embracing beneficial innovations. This includes leveraging technology to document and disseminate traditional knowledge and creating platforms for inter-generational dialogue.
Moreover, as Vanuatu progresses, it must ensure that traditional and Christian values continue to align with human rights and gender equality. It is vital to address any aspects of traditional governance that may inadvertently marginalise certain groups, adapting practices to be inclusive and equitable.

**SOCIETY 2: QUALITY EDUCATION**

In examining the ambitions of Society 2 from Vanuatu’s strategic perspective, we centre on the aspiration for “An inclusive and equitable quality education system with life-long learning for all.” This vision is reflective of a commitment to fostering a society where educational opportunities are not privileges for the few but fundamental rights accessible by every individual, thus enabling personal growth, professional development, and societal advancement throughout all stages of life.

The pursuit of inclusivity within the educational sphere is indicative of a holistic understanding that the benefits of education are manifold. Quality education serves as the foundation for individual empowerment, economic prosperity, innovation, and cultural preservation. It promotes the ability of citizens to engage actively and effectively in civic life and to adapt to the evolving demands of the labour market.

Inclusive education goes beyond universal access, encompassing equitable support systems that cater to diverse learning needs and backgrounds. It recognises the challenges faced by marginalised groups – including women and girls, people with disabilities, and rural populations – ensuring that measures are put in place to provide these individuals with the same educational benefits as their peers.

An equitable quality education system is marked by the provision of competent teachers, adequate infrastructure, a relevant and dynamic curriculum, and the use of appropriate languages of instruction, which in Vanuatu’s context, involves respecting and incorporating indigenous languages and knowledge systems. This is vital for honouring the country’s rich cultural tapestry and for ensuring that education strengthens rather than diminishes this heritage.

Life-long learning as a goal underscores the recognition that education is not confined to the formative years but is a continuous process that enhances one’s ability to navigate the complexities of adulthood, parenthood, the workforce, and old age. It encompasses vocational training, adult education, and informal learning pathways, allowing individuals to acquire new skills, retrain in their careers, or pursue personal interests.

For Vanuatu, achieving this goal involves concerted efforts to strengthen policy frameworks, invest in educational resources, and forge partnerships that support the expansion and diversification of learning opportunities. It calls for innovation in education delivery, such as the use of digital platforms to reach remote learners, and initiatives that foster a culture of learning within communities.

The implementation of this vision also requires rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that can track progress, identify bottlenecks, and guide strategic adjustments. Data on enrolment, completion rates, literacy levels, and other key performance indicators must be disaggregated by gender, location, and socioeconomic status to ensure that no group is systematically underserved.
POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

the data from the 2021 Baseline Survey provides a window into the state of early childhood and primary education in Vanuatu, revealing both progress and areas in need of further development.

• Early Childhood Education Access

According to the data, 48% of children aged 3–5 are currently attending kindergarten or primary school, with a marginal gender difference favouring females (49%) over males (48%). These figures are promising in that nearly half of the early learners are being exposed to structured education, setting a foundation for continuous learning. However, they also highlight that more than half of eligible children are not within the education system at this critical stage of development. The lower attendance rate in urban areas (45%) compared to rural (49%) suggests potential disparities in access or availability of early learning centres in urban settings.

• Primary Education Continuity

The attendance rate for primary school-aged children (6–13 years old) stands at 87%, indicating a high level of engagement at this education level. This is an encouraging sign of a robust primary education system that successfully retains learners. Female attendance is slightly higher than male, suggesting equitable access across genders. Interestingly, the urban primary attendance rate (92%) is higher than the rural rate (86%), which may reflect the availability of schools or other socioeconomic factors that affect school attendance in rural areas.

IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD

These data points emphasise that Vanuatu is on the right path toward creating an inclusive education system, but also draw attention to the critical gap in early childhood education participation, especially in urban areas. Addressing this will require targeted interventions to increase access to and awareness of the importance of early education. It may also call for an evaluation of urban early childhood education facilities and programs, to ensure they are meeting the needs of the community.

The primary education survival rates suggest a stable foundation for children once they enter the education system, but they also underscore the need to sustain and improve this success into secondary education and beyond. The slightly lower rural attendance rates point to the necessity for continued investment in rural education infrastructure, teacher training, and community engagement to support consistent attendance and high-quality education delivery.
In shaping an education system that fosters life-long learning for all, these figures are pivotal. They form the basis for policies that not only aim to close the gap in early education attendance but also to ensure that as children progress through the education system, they are provided with quality learning experiences that will carry through to adulthood. This involves enhancing teacher qualifications, incorporating diverse learning materials, and reinforcing inclusive practices that cater to different learning styles and needs.

In summary, the data from the survey provides critical insight into where Vanuatu stands in its educational development. It reveals the successes and the challenges in early childhood and primary education, serving as a guide for the nation’s ongoing efforts to create a truly inclusive and equitable educational landscape, essential for achieving lifelong learning for every citizen.

In light of these considerations, Vanuatu’s educational strategy is poised to not only respond to current needs but also anticipate future challenges. The commitment to an inclusive and equitable quality education system, enriched by the principles of life-long learning, is a powerful declaration of the nation’s dedication to its people and their collective future.

To truly embody the essence of Society 2, Vanuatu must continue to break down barriers to education, encourage community and business engagement in learning initiatives, and maintain a fluid dialogue with cultural custodians to ensure that the education system evolves in harmony with the nation’s values and aspirations. Only then can the foundation be laid for a future where every citizen is empowered through education to contribute meaningfully to the nation’s story.
SOCIETY 3: QUALITY HEALTH CARE

In addressing the aspirations of Society 3 for Vanuatu, the focus is on the nation’s pursuit of a holistically healthy population, one that enjoys high quality physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being. This pursuit is predicated on the understanding that health is a multi-dimensional state of being, essential not only for individual fulfilment but also for the collective prosperity and cohesion of society.

Whilst the indicators within this section are limited broader data is available via analysis such as the Vanuatu Well Being Report

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

A high quality of physical well-being is typically measured through indicators such as life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality rates, prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and access to healthcare services. In Vanuatu, efforts to improve physical health likely include expanding healthcare infrastructure, increasing the availability of medical professionals, and enhancing public health campaigns focused on nutrition, exercise, and preventive care.

MENTAL WELL-BEING

Mental well-being, often harder to quantify, is crucial for a resilient and productive population. Indicators might include the prevalence of mental health conditions, the suicide rate, and the accessibility of mental health services. Progress in this area could be evidenced by the implementation of mental health programs, the integration of mental health into primary care, and the establishment of support systems for those with mental health conditions.

SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

Spiritual well-being, while deeply personal, has communal implications in Vanuatu, where traditional and Christian beliefs are prevalent. Indicators here may encompass the level of participation in spiritual or religious activities and the subjective sense of fulfillment or purpose. Enhancing spiritual well-being may involve preserving cultural practices, supporting faith-based initiatives, and ensuring that individuals have the freedom and resources to pursue their spiritual paths.

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Social well-being is a measure of how individuals feel about their relationships and position within society. It is often assessed through metrics like community engagement rates, perceived social support, and levels of civic participation. Vanuatu’s commitment to social well-being might be reflected in programs that strengthen community bonds, encourage active citizenship, and promote inclusive cultural activities.
Multi-Dimensional Health Approach

Vanuatu’s multi-dimensional approach to health reflects a modern understanding that well-being extends beyond the mere absence of disease. It involves an environment that promotes healthy lifestyles, provides adequate healthcare, supports mental and spiritual growth, and fosters strong social ties. By adopting policies that address each of these aspects, Vanuatu not only improves the quality of life for its citizens but also sets a strong foundation for long-term national development.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Vanuatu’s strategic goal for Society 3 emphasises the need for a holistic approach to health that encompasses physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being. Within this framework, the immunisation coverage for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTP3) serves as a key indicator of the nation’s progress in safeguarding the physical health of its youngest citizens.

The data presented shows that 47% of children aged 0–4 have received all three doses of the DTP3 vaccine. This figure, while indicative of a health system that reaches nearly half of the child population, also suggests a significant portion of children remain vulnerable to these preventable diseases. The gender breakdown shows little disparity with 46% of males and 47% of females receiving the vaccine, indicating a commendable level of gender equity in vaccine distribution.

However, a rural–urban divide is evident, with immunisation rates being higher in urban areas (57%) compared to rural ones (43%). This discrepancy points to possible challenges in rural healthcare delivery systems, such as access to clinics, availability of healthcare professionals, and community awareness about the importance of vaccinations.

Addressing this gap is crucial, as immunisations are fundamental to preventing child mortality and morbidity. Vaccinations are not just a measure of healthcare effectiveness; they are a precursor to educational attainment, economic productivity, and social participation, as healthy children are more likely to attend school, contribute to their communities, and live fulfilling lives.

To enhance the physical well-being of its population, Vanuatu could strengthen its rural healthcare infrastructure, increase the availability of mobile clinics, and invest in public health campaigns tailored to rural settings. Ensuring healthcare workers are available and trained in these areas is essential. Moreover, public education campaigns can be critical in raising awareness about the importance of immunisations, potentially utilising schools, churches, and community centres to disseminate information.

Furthermore, as physical health is deeply intertwined with mental, spiritual, and social well-being, a more comprehensive health strategy could incorporate mental health services and social support into primary healthcare. Mental and spiritual health programs, informed by community needs and cultural contexts, would further contribute to the holistic well-being of the population.
The data also underpins the importance of continuous monitoring and targeted interventions to address health inequalities. By adopting a data-driven approach to healthcare, Vanuatu can identify and respond to gaps in service delivery, ensuring that every child, irrespective of gender or geography, has access to life-saving vaccines.

In summary, the immunisation data for DTP3 serves as both a measure of current health system performance and a call to action. It provides a snapshot of where improvements are needed to ensure a high quality of physical well-being for all children in Vanuatu. As the nation moves forward, leveraging this data to inform policies and programs will be critical in building a healthier, more resilient population, capable of achieving the comprehensive well-being envisioned in Society 3.

IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD

Challenges to achieving this vision of well-being in Vanuatu include geographic dispersion, which complicates healthcare delivery, limited resources for comprehensive mental health services, and the risk of cultural practices being eroded by globalisation, potentially impacting spiritual and social well-being.

To overcome these challenges, it is recommended that Vanuatu continues to invest in healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas. Strengthening telemedicine capabilities can also help bridge the physical distances. Furthermore, incorporating mental health education in schools and community programs can demystify mental health issues and encourage early intervention. Maintaining cultural integrity requires deliberate efforts to document and integrate traditional knowledge into education systems and public life, while fostering social cohesion calls for community-centric development projects that bring people together for a common purpose.

In sum, as Vanuatu continues on its path toward achieving Society 3’s goals, the nation exemplifies a commitment to the comprehensive well-being of its people, embracing the complex and interwoven aspects of health that are crucial for the vitality and vibrancy of any society.
SOCIETY 4: SOCIAL INCLUSION

In the vision of Society 4, Vanuatu strives to create an inclusive society that upholds human dignity and ensures the rights of all Ni-Vanuatu – including women, youth, vulnerable groups, and the elderly – are supported, protected, and promoted within its legislation and institutions. This aspiration is not only a reflection of the country’s commitment to human rights but also its recognition of the diverse needs within its population.

An inclusive society as outlined in Society 4 is one where equality and equity form the bedrock of all social, economic, and political structures. It acknowledges the necessity of providing tailored support to those who may face systemic barriers, such as women and girls who often confront gender-based disparities, or the youth, who require robust platforms for education and employment to secure their future.

• **Women’s Rights and Gender Equality**

  The protection and promotion of women’s rights are paramount to achieving gender equality. This involves ensuring women’s equal participation in decision-making processes and their equitable access to resources and opportunities. Legislation that supports gender equity, combats discrimination, and addresses issues such as violence against women is a critical indicator of an inclusive society. The enactment and enforcement of such laws reflect a commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of women.

• **Youth Empowerment**

  Youth empowerment is another crucial aspect of inclusivity. A society that provides its youth with access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities is one that invests in its own future. Data reflecting high school graduation rates, youth employment figures, and access to healthcare and social services for young people would be indicative of a nation that values and empowers its youth.

• **Support for Vulnerable Groups**

  Vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as women, single mothers, widows, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, remote rural communities and people living in poverty, require specific attention to ensure they are not left behind. Policy and legislation that addresses specific needs and institutions that are equipped to deliver specialised services are vital. Metrics that show the accessibility of buildings, availability of social support programs, and representation of these groups in various spheres are telling of how inclusive and supportive a society is.
• **Elder Care and Senior Rights**

The elderly are often at risk of neglect and marginalisation. A truly inclusive society is judged by how it cares for its older citizens, ensuring they have access to healthcare, social security, and the opportunity to participate actively in community life. Indicators here might include the coverage of pension schemes, the quality of eldercare facilities, and the extent of community-based programs that engage the elderly.

• **Legislative and Institutional Frame**

The backbone of an inclusive society is its legislative and institutional frameworks. These systems must be designed to guarantee rights, offer protection, and enable participation. A review of the legal codes, the efficiency and fairness of the judiciary, and the capability of institutions to deliver services would provide concrete evidence of the society’s inclusiveness.

**POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Vanuatu’s commitment to building an inclusive society, as detailed in Society 4, is reflected in the recent survey data, which offers insights into the subjective well-being of its population, the participation and value felt by its youth, and the engagement of young people in sports and community decision-making.

• **Subjective Well-being**

The mean subjective well-being score of 8.45 out of 10 for those aged 15 and over signals a generally positive self-assessment of life satisfaction among Ni-Vanuatu people. Men report slightly higher well-being (8.50) compared to women (8.41), with youth aged 15-30 scoring even higher at 8.61. These figures suggest that overall, the population perceives their quality of life favourably, but there is room to ensure that this sense of well-being is experienced more uniformly across genders.

Vanuatu’s Well-Being Score measures various aspects of life quality, including physical and mental health, economic stability, education, environmental quality, and social relationships. These indicators provide a holistic view of the living conditions and satisfaction levels of the population.

The linkage between Vanuatu’s Well-Being Score and the Happiness Index lies in their shared goal of evaluating quality of life. High well-being scores often correlate with high happiness index ratings, as improvements in health, economic stability, and social relationships contribute to overall happiness. Understanding this connection helps policymakers in Vanuatu create strategies to enhance both well-being and happiness, and also explains why Vanuatu often scores well on such indices.
• Disability and Inclusion
With 6.36% of the population reporting some degree of functional difficulty, the data emphasises the importance of supportive policies and accessible infrastructure to enhance their inclusion. The higher rate of reported difficulties in rural areas (6.92%) compared to urban areas (4.81%) underscores the need for targeted interventions to ensure that disability support services reach those in remote locations.

• Youth Thriving and Participation
A substantial 62% of youth feel that they are thriving, with a higher percentage reported among urban (67%) than rural youth (60%), indicating that urban areas may offer more opportunities or support structures for young people. However, the data also reveals a disparity between the perceptions of male and female youth, with females feeling less valued (60%) compared to their male counterparts (65%). This points to an area where gender-focused initiatives could further empower young women.

• Youth Influence and Sports Participation
The survey suggests that youth believe they have a moderate ability to influence local decisions, with an average score of 5.75 out of 10. Male youth feel slightly more empowered (6.01) in this regard than female youth (5.52), highlighting an opportunity to encourage more active female participation in community decision-making. Sports participation stands at 8% for youth aged 13-30, with a notable gender gap where 11% of males and only 5% of females participate in organised sports. This indicates potential barriers to female participation in sports and suggests that promoting gender-inclusive sports programs could be beneficial.

IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD
The data paints a picture of a society with a solid foundation of well-being, yet with discernible gaps that could be addressed through targeted policies and programs. Enhancing gender equity, improving disability services - especially in rural areas - and increasing the involvement of youth and women in community leadership roles are key areas for action.

Policies that focus on creating equitable opportunities for sports and recreation can have a positive impact on both physical and social well-being, and thus should be prioritised. Additionally, there is an evident need for initiatives that amplify the voices of young women and girls in decision-making processes to ensure their perspectives and needs are adequately represented.
In summary, in order to realise the vision of Society 4, Vanuatu must continue to fortify its commitment to inclusivity through practical, on-the-ground improvements, data-driven policy making, and a steadfast resolve to ensure that each citizen is afforded the dignity and rights they inherently deserve. These efforts, while complex, are essential for building a society that is resilient, dynamic, and equitable for all.

**SOCIETY 5: SECURITY, PEACE AND JUSTICE**
Vanuatu’s vision for Society 5 emphasises the upholding of the rule of law and ensuring access to timely justice for all its citizens, a cornerstone for any society that values security, peace, and justice. The available data offers insights into the costs of legal services, the frequency of theft and vandalism, and the population’s trust in traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

- **Cost of Legal Services**
  Accessibility to justice is partly determined by the affordability of legal services. If the average cost of legal fees for a court case and annual household expenditure on legal services are high, this could be a barrier to justice for low-income families. Affordable legal services are crucial for enabling citizens to exercise their legal rights and navigate the justice system effectively.

- **Crime and Reporting**
  The rate of reported theft and vandalism is a direct indicator of both the prevalence of crime and the population’s trust in law enforcement institutions. However, these figures alone may not tell the whole story, as there is often a disparity between reported and unreported incidents. High reporting rates can indicate a trusting relationship between the community and the police, whereas a high proportion of unreported incidents might signal a lack of faith in the ability of the police to effectively deal with crime or fear of

The data shows a variation in experiences of theft and vandalism between urban and rural households, with rural areas likely experiencing less reported crime. This could reflect actual lower crime rates or, conversely, lower reporting due to a variety of possible factors, such as distance to police stations, community norms, or different levels of police presence.

- **Traditional Dispute Resolution**
  The proportion of the population with a positive assessment of their chief’s ability to resolve disputes peacefully is indicative of the strength and effectiveness of traditional governance structures. In communities where formal justice systems may be less accessible, these traditional mechanisms play a vital role in maintaining social order and resolving conflicts. High levels of trust in chiefs’ dispute resolution capabilities suggest a robust traditional justice system that aligns with the community’s values and expectations.
POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS
The aspiration for Society 5 is a fundamental pillar for Vanuatu, envisioning a society where the rule of law is not merely an abstract principle but a living, breathing aspect of daily life, manifest in the consistent upholding of laws and equitable access to justice for all citizens. The available data provides a valuable snapshot of how these ideals are being realised in practice.

• Cost and Expenditure on Legal Services
With an average annual household expenditure on legal services reported at VT 134, the cost appears relatively low, suggesting that, on the surface, legal services are reasonably accessible to the average household. However, this figure alone does not account for the possible disparities in the types of legal services required or the varying financial capabilities among households. It would be crucial to examine whether this cost is a barrier to justice for the most vulnerable and whether legal aid or support services are available and sufficient.

• Crime and Safety
The data indicates that 21% of households have experienced at least one incident of theft in the last 12 months, with a slightly higher incidence in rural (22%) than urban (15%) areas. Meanwhile, vandalism is reported by 8% of households, again with a higher incidence in rural (7%) than in urban (9%) areas. These figures point to a modest level of property-related crimes but may also reflect underreporting, especially in rural areas where access to police services may be limited, or cultural factors may influence reporting practices.

• Dispute Resolution
Of particular interest is the confidence placed in traditional mechanisms of dispute resolution, with 62% of households expressing a favourable assessment of their chief’s ability to resolve disputes. This percentage is higher in rural areas (67%) compared to urban (45%), suggesting that traditional leadership and dispute resolution practices are more integral or effective in rural communities. It indicates a significant reliance on traditional governance structures, which might be perceived as more immediate and culturally aligned with the population’s needs.

IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD
These statistics should be analysed in the context of a comprehensive understanding of societal security, peace, and justice. The data speaks to a society that values and utilises traditional leadership structures alongside formal legal systems. It highlights the need to ensure that these traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are recognised and supported by the formal justice system, creating a harmonious blend of customary and modern practices.

The disparities between rural and urban experiences call for a tailored approach to law enforcement and justice services. Rural areas may benefit from increased policing resources and greater accessibility to legal services, while urban areas may require initiatives that build trust in formal justice systems.
Moreover, the underrepresentation of urban confidence in traditional dispute resolution suggests a need to strengthen community leadership and support mechanisms that resonate with urban populations. As urban areas tend to be more heterogeneous, creating inclusive and representative forums for dispute resolution can help to uphold peace and justice in these communities.

Looking forward, it is critical that Vanuatu continues to invest in the legal framework and law enforcement capabilities to serve all citizens effectively. This includes addressing any barriers to accessing justice services, whether due to cost, geography, or lack of awareness, and fostering a culture of lawfulness and active citizenship. Strengthening the synergy between traditional and formal justice mechanisms will also be paramount in realising the vision of a society where peace and justice are not only available but also experienced as fundamental rights by all.

To realise the aspirations of Society 5, it is essential that Vanuatu continues to work on making legal services more accessible and affordable, particularly for vulnerable groups. This could involve legal aid initiatives, community legal education programs, and measures to simplify the legal process.

The discrepancies between rural and urban experiences with crime highlight the need for a nuanced approach to law enforcement and community safety. Strengthening community policing, increasing law enforcement resources in rural areas, and encouraging the reporting of crimes through community outreach are steps that could be taken to improve security.

The respect and confidence in traditional leaders’ dispute resolution capabilities demonstrate a valuable aspect of Vanuatu’s social fabric. The government can further support these traditional mechanisms while ensuring they complement the formal legal system and uphold national and international human rights standards.

In summary, the data presents a multi-dimensional view of the rule of law and access to justice in Vanuatu. To progress toward Society 5’s goals, a combined approach that respects and integrates both traditional and formal justice systems, addresses economic barriers to legal services, and bridges the gap between rural and urban experiences with crime and law enforcement, is required. This will foster a more equitable, peaceful, and just society for all Ni-Vanuatu.

SOCIETY 6: STRONG AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

The vision of Vanuatu’s Society 6 focuses on establishing a public sector that is guided by good governance and bolstered by strong institutions capable of delivering the services and support that the citizens of Vanuatu expect and deserve.
• **Good Governance Principles**
Good governance is characterised by transparency, accountability, efficiency, and responsiveness to the needs of the people. A dynamic public sector adhering to these principles is one where government operations are open to public scrutiny, enabling citizens to be well-informed about policies, decisions, and use of public resources. The involvement of civil society in the policymaking process is crucial for ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered and that policies reflect the needs and wishes of the population.

• **Strong Institutions**
Strong institutions are essential for the consistent and fair application of laws and policies. They require well-trained and ethical public servants, clear procedures, and robust systems to deliver services effectively. For Vanuatu, strengthening institutions means investing in human resources, upgrading technology for better service delivery, and establishing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation to continually improve performance.

• **Service Delivery**
Strong institutions are essential for the consistent and fair application of laws and policies. They require well-trained and ethical public servants, clear procedures, and robust systems to deliver services effectively. For Vanuatu, strengthening institutions means investing in human resources, upgrading technology for better service delivery, and establishing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation to continually improve performance.

• **Expected Outcomes for Citizens**
The citizens of Vanuatu expect their government to provide not just basic services but also to create an environment conducive to economic development, social welfare, and environmental sustainability. They expect the public sector to be a facilitator of progress, enabling individuals and communities to realise their full potential.

**POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS**
Society 6 envisions a public sector in Vanuatu that embodies the essence of good governance: transparency, accountability, and service orientation. This vision is measured by several key indicators, including electoral participation, trust in parliamentary institutions, and access to information through various media outlets.

• **Electoral Participation**
The data reveals that a high proportion of the eligible population (86%) reported having voted in the last election, with a slightly higher participation rate among males (88%) than females (85%). The rural voter turnout (89%) exceeds that of urban areas (81%), suggesting strong civic engagement in rural communities. This level of electoral participation is indicative of a politically conscious society and reflects positively on the perceived legitimacy of the electoral process and the resulting governance.
• **Trust in Government**

Trust in the Vanuatu Parliament is reasonably high, with an average score of 6.88 out of 10. Men’s trust is slightly lower (6.77) compared to women (7), and urban residents (7.42) report a higher level of trust than their rural counterparts (6.6). These figures suggest that while there is a baseline confidence in parliamentary institutions, there may be opportunities to further enhance this trust, particularly in rural areas.

• **Media for News and Information**

The use of media for news and information is critical for an informed citizenry. The data shows significant urban-rural and gender divides in accessing news through traditional media and the internet. While only 20% of households report reading a newspaper at least once a month, urban households (53%) are much more likely than rural ones (9%) to do so. Mobile phone usage for calls is widespread (71%), with higher usage in urban (82%) compared to rural areas (67%). Radio listenership is low (26%), with a stark contrast between urban (51%) and rural (18%) households. Television viewership also exhibits a similar urban-rural divide (urban 55%, rural 10%). Internet access is limited (33%), with urban residents (57%) again having greater access than those in rural areas (24%).

The data points to a public sector that is actively engaging with its citizens, as evidenced by the high voter turnout. The variance in trust levels between different demographics suggests that while parliament is generally trusted, there might be a disconnect or perceived disparities in representation or service delivery that need to be addressed.

The gaps in media access underline the challenge of ensuring that all citizens can receive timely and accurate information, which is vital for informed public discourse and participation. The urban-rural divide in access to information poses a significant challenge to achieving the goal of a dynamic public sector that meets the expectations of all citizens.

To enhance the public sector’s dynamism and adherence to good governance principles, efforts must be made to ensure equitable access to information, foster greater trust in government institutions, and maintain robust civic engagement. This could include initiatives to:

- Improve digital infrastructure to increase internet and mobile penetration in rural areas.
- Expand civic education programs to promote electoral participation and understanding of governmental functions.
- Foster community radio and television programming, especially targeting rural areas to bridge the information gap.
- Encourage public consultations and feedback mechanisms that allow citizens to directly engage with and influence government policies and services.
- Ensure that governmental services, including legal aid and support, are accessible and affordable to all citizens to maintain the rule of law and timely justice.
By addressing these areas, Vanuatu can move closer to realising its vision for Society 6, creating a more inclusive, informed, and engaged society that fully benefits from good governance and strong public sector institutions.

IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD
The path to achieving the goals of Society 6 involves addressing several challenges. These include logistical issues due to the archipelago’s geography, limited financial resources, and the need for capacity building within the public sector. Tackling corruption and ensuring equitable service delivery across all islands remain ongoing tasks.

To move closer to the vision of Society 6, Vanuatu will need to continue its efforts to:

• Enhance Capacity Building: Conduct regular training for public servants to ensure they have the skills and ethical grounding needed for good governance.
• Improve Infrastructure: Invest in infrastructure to improve physical and digital connectivity for service delivery.
• Strengthen Accountability Mechanisms: Implement rigorous accountability mechanisms, including audit systems, public feedback channels, and performance evaluations.
• Cultivate Public Engagement: Encourage active citizenship where public input is sought and valued in the decision-making process.
• Leverage Technology: Utilise technology to streamline services and make them more accessible, especially for remote populations.
• Foster Partnerships: Engage with international partners for technical assistance, funding, and knowledge exchange to bolster institutional strength.

ENVIRONMENT PILLAR
ENVIRONMENT 1: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY
Vanuatu’s vision for Environment 1, the aim is to meet the food and nutrition security needs of all its citizens through sustainable agricultural practices and enhanced household production. The success of this vision hinges on several key indicators related to food production and poverty rates, as outlined in the provided data.

• Household Food Production

The proportion of households engaged in producing food for their own consumption is a critical measure of self-sufficiency and sustainability. With a significant portion of households actively engaged in agriculture, it is clear there’s a strong tradition of domestic food production. The distinction between rural and urban households in terms of engagement in food crop production can be reflective of access to land, traditional knowledge, and availability of resources. Typically, rural households have higher engagement due to larger land areas and a stronger reliance on subsistence farming.
Primary Production Data
The availability of up-to-date data on primary production is essential for informed decision-making and effective policy formulation. The data encompassing agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and biosecurity sectors provides a comprehensive overview of the nation’s primary production. By analysing trends and patterns from the NSDP Baseline Survey and later on from the 2022 Agriculture Census, policymakers can allocate resources, support relevant sectors, and implement programs that bolster food security and nutrition.

Food Poverty Rates
The incidence of food poverty provides insight into the efficacy of current food production systems and the economic accessibility of food. The data shows the proportion of the population living below the food poverty line, with distinctions between rural and urban populations. High food poverty rates can indicate areas where interventions are needed, such as agricultural support programs, food aid, or economic development initiatives to enhance the purchasing power of households.

Potential Implications

Household Food Production
A significant 83% of households are engaged in producing food crops for their own consumption. This high percentage suggests a strong tradition of subsistence farming and a degree of food sovereignty that benefits households by providing food security and reducing reliance on market purchases. However, the data reveals a stark contrast between rural (97%) and urban (42%) areas. This disparity underscores the challenges faced by urban dwellers, such as limited space for growing food and potentially less knowledge or fewer traditions related to farming, thus emphasising the need for urban agriculture initiatives and food security policies tailored to the urban context.

Primary Production Data Availability
The availability of data on primary production in 2022, as informed by the 2022 National Agriculture Census will be available for the next report. This indicates ongoing efforts to collect and utilise data to drive policymaking and reporting. This reflects a data-driven approach to governance and policy development, essential for adapting strategies to increase productivity and ensure food security in response to changing circumstances, such as climate variability or economic shifts.

Food Poverty Rates
The average food poverty rate across Vanuatu stands at 5.7%, with a higher rate in rural areas (7.6%) compared to a notably lower rate in urban areas (0.3%). These figures point to rural communities being at a greater risk of food poverty despite higher engagement in food production, possibly due to issues like market access, food distribution challenges, or the quality and variety of food produced. The low urban food poverty rate suggests that access to food through markets is relatively good in urban settings, though it does not necessarily indicate better nutrition outcomes.
Average food poverty rates are typically calculated based on the proportion of the population that does not have enough income to cover the cost of the minimum required intake of calories. This is known as the “food poverty line.” Therefore, we would expect a lower percentage in urban areas given that these areas have the highest concentration of civil servants, aid workers and internationals.

However, these areas are also likely to have the ‘deepest’ levels of poverty as those in the lowest income brackets do not have access to land which is considered a significant indicator of hardship in Vanuatu.

The data highlights the importance of localised strategies to address the unique challenges of urban and rural food systems. In rural areas, where there is high engagement in food production but also a higher risk of food poverty, policies may need to focus on improving access to markets, providing agricultural extension services, and ensuring a diversity of production that can withstand environmental and market fluctuations.

In urban areas, food security strategies could include promoting community gardens, rooftop farming, and other forms of urban agriculture, alongside policies that ensure the affordability and accessibility of nutritious food in markets.

Furthermore, the high reliance on traditional farming methods in rural areas emphasises the need to protect and sustain these practices while integrating modern agricultural techniques that can increase yields, enhance nutritional value, and maintain environmental sustainability.

Educational campaigns focusing on nutrition and the importance of a diverse diet can complement these efforts, as can policies that encourage the use of locally produced food in school feeding programs and other institutional settings.

The low urban food poverty rate is reassuring, but it must not overshadow the necessity for ongoing efforts to ensure that all urban residents can access a variety of healthy foods. This is particularly important for vulnerable populations who might not be captured in broad statistics.
IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD

To fortify Environment 1’s vision, Vanuatu must ensure that the strides made in household food production translate into tangible reductions in food poverty. Strengthening the agricultural sector, providing training and resources to farmers, and ensuring the distribution of food supplies to all regions, especially those most vulnerable to food insecurity, are crucial steps.

The data suggests that while the rural population is actively engaged in food production, urban areas may face challenges due to the limitations of urban agriculture. Strategies to address urban food insecurity could include the promotion of urban gardening, supporting community and school gardens, and establishing food markets that provide affordable produce to urban residents.

Additionally, the difference in food poverty rates between urban and rural settings indicates the need for targeted policy responses. In rural areas, this might include improving agricultural productivity and resilience to environmental challenges. In urban areas, addressing food poverty may require creating better economic opportunities and improving supply chains to reduce food prices.

The analysis underscores that whilst Vanuatu is progressing well towards achieving its vision for Environment 1, continual efforts are required to address disparities between rural and urban areas, ensuring that the entire nation moves forward together towards the ultimate goal of complete food and nutrition security.

Moreover, access to comprehensive production and consumption data through surveys is vital for continuously monitoring the impact of policies and adapting strategies to meet the evolving needs of the population. By leveraging this data, Vanuatu can make evidence-based decisions that promote food security and nutrition for all its citizens.

In summary, the data reflects a nation committed to addressing food and nutrition security holistically. It underscores the importance of enhancing household production capabilities, making informed policy decisions based on accurate data, and addressing the underlying factors contributing to food poverty. With continued focus on these areas, Vanuatu can build on its existing strengths to create a robust food system that serves the needs of its entire population.

ENVIRONMENT 2: BLUE–GREEN ECONOMIC GROWTH

In pursuing Environment 2, Vanuatu aspires to create an economy that not only grows but does so sustainably, harnessing low-impact industries and modern technologies. A key aspect of this sustainable development is the use of renewable energy technologies, particularly in household lighting. An analysis of this data can illuminate the progress made and challenges ahead in achieving this goal.
Renewable Energy Use in Households

The use of renewable energy technologies, especially solar energy for lighting, is a practical measure of a country’s transition towards sustainability. It suggests an emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and environmental impact while providing energy security. The use of solar panels and solar lanterns as the main source of lighting in households captures both the adoption of sustainable practices and the accessibility of renewable technologies to the average citizen.

Rural and Urban Disparities

The distinction between the proportions of rural and urban households using solar energy can be reflective of several factors, including availability, affordability, and the reliability of traditional power grids. Rural areas often suffer from less access to centralised power infrastructure, making off-grid solar solutions an attractive alternative. Conversely, urban households typically have more reliable access to the power grid but may be turning to solar solutions for other reasons such as cost savings, environmental concerns, or as a backup power source.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Vanuatu’s commitment to fostering sustainable growth is evident in its pursuit of renewable energy adoption. The data reflects this commitment, showcasing a significant reliance on renewable solar energy among households for lighting – a key marker of sustainable development.

RENEWABLE ENERGY ADOPTION

A substantial 65% of all households in Vanuatu use renewable solar energy as their main source of lighting. This high percentage indicates a national trend towards embracing renewable technologies, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and contributing to a smaller carbon footprint. The prevalence of solar energy use aligns with global sustainable development goals, demonstrating Vanuatu’s proactive stance in combatting climate change and promoting environmental sustainability.

RURAL VS. URBAN SOLAR ENERGY USE

The contrast between rural (83%) and urban (13%) households’ use of solar energy is particularly striking. The significantly higher rate in rural areas could be attributed to a lack of grid connectivity, which compels rural households to adopt off-grid solutions like solar panels and lanterns. Conversely, the low uptake in urban areas could be due to better
access to the central power grid, making renewable options less of a necessity. However, this disparity also reveals an opportunity to increase awareness and incentives for urban residents to adopt renewable energy solutions.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The high overall use of solar energy for lighting reflects a broader implication for the country's sustainable development. It suggests that households are not only willing to adopt renewable technology but are also possibly gaining economic benefits from reduced energy costs. It is essential, however, to ensure that the technologies adopted are reliable, cost-effective, and accessible to all segments of the population.

Furthermore, the investment in renewable energy is a critical component of low-impact industries that Vanuatu aims to develop. It presents an opportunity for creating green jobs and establishing new economic sectors that are environmentally sustainable and contribute to the national GDP without compromising the ecological balance.

**CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

The data suggests several areas for policy focus and improvement:

**Urban Incentives:** Develop initiatives to incentivise the use of renewable energy in urban areas, such as subsidies for solar panel installation or reduced tariffs for renewable energy usage.

**Rural Infrastructure:** Continue to support rural areas with solar technology, ensuring maintenance and sustainability of the systems installed.

**Education and Awareness:** Enhance public awareness campaigns about the benefits of renewable energy and how households can transition to these sources.

**Energy Policy:** Develop a comprehensive energy policy that integrates the Renewable Energy Roadmap targets with national development plans, ensuring environmental and economic objectives are met in harmony.

**Investment in Technology:** Invest in research and development to improve the efficiency and affordability of renewable technologies, making them more attractive to all sectors of society.

In summary, Vanuatu's adoption of renewable solar energy as a primary source of lighting for a majority of its households is a commendable step towards achieving sustainable development and ensuring the wellbeing of future generations. To continue this momentum, targeted policies that address the urban–rural divide and promote widespread adoption of renewable technologies are crucial. By doing so, Vanuatu can set a global example of how sustainable practices can be effectively integrated into the development framework of a nation.
In the rural context, where the use of solar energy may be more prevalent, the focus should be on scaling up access, ensuring quality control, and integrating these systems into broader rural development strategies. In urban areas, incentives for rooftop solar panels, community solar projects, and integration into smart grid initiatives could be considered, community solar projects, and integration into smart grid initiatives could be considered.

The wellbeing of future generations depends on the actions taken today. Vanuatu’s commitment to renewable energy as evidenced by household usage of solar lighting is a positive step towards sustainability.

**ENVIRONMENT 3: CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE**

To undertake a meaningful analysis of Vanuatu’s resilience to climate change and climate related events, it is crucial to consider various factors that contribute to a nation’s strength and adaptability.

- **Disaster Preparedness and Response**
  An analysis of this aspect would look at the country’s systems for predicting, responding to, and recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.

- **Infrastructure Resilience**
  Infrastructure is a critical element in resilience to climate change and disasters. Data on the proportion of buildings, roads, and bridges built to withstand natural hazards would inform an understanding of physical resilience. Additionally, the percentage of critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and power plants, with backup systems in place would also be a key indicator.

- **Environmental Protection and Management**
  Sustainable environmental practices contribute to resilience by maintaining ecosystems that can buffer against climate impacts. Indicators here would include rates of deforestation or reforestation, the health of coral reefs, and the extent of protected natural areas.

- **Community and Economic Resilience**
  Community resilience could be gauged through indicators such as the diversity and sustainability of livelihoods, the existence of social safety nets, and access to climate-resilient food and water sources. Economic resilience would consider the diversity of the economy, the flexibility of the labour market, and the country’s financial mechanisms to recover from disasters.
• **Adaptation Strategies.**
The analysis would review the country’s strategies for adapting to climate change, including policies and plans in place, the existence of climate-resilient agricultural practices, and the engagement with international frameworks and support mechanisms.

• **Public Health**
Public health systems need to be resilient to handle the outbreaks that can follow natural disasters and to manage the longer-term impacts of climate change. Indicators here might include the capacity of health services, the prevalence of waterborne diseases, and the nutritional status of the population.

**POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS**
In the absence of specific data on the areas described above, this analysis draws upon types of indicators that highlight strengths, such as strong community networks and rich traditional knowledge, and identify areas for improvement, such as infrastructure development or diversification of the economy.

Vanuatu’s resilience in the face of climate change and disaster risks is heavily dependent on the population’s access to communication technologies that can convey early warnings. Data on the utilization of these technologies can offer insights into the nation’s preparedness and ability to respond to such threats.

**MOBILE PHONE ACCESS**
The data indicates that 71% of the population over the age of 15 uses a mobile phone at least once a month, which is a promising sign for the country’s disaster communication strategy. Mobile phones are essential for the rapid dissemination of warnings and coordinating responses during emergencies. There is a notable difference between genders, with 77% of males and 66% of females using mobile phones, pointing towards a gender disparity in access to communication that may need addressing.

**RURAL AND URBAN DIVIDE**
There is also a significant difference in mobile phone usage between rural (67%) and urban (82%) populations. This gap suggests that while urban areas are well-connected, rural areas, which are often more susceptible to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, might face challenges in receiving timely warnings.

**INTERNET USAGE**
Internet usage stands at 33% for the population over 15, which is relatively low but still an important medium for accessing detailed information on climate change and disaster preparedness. The gender divide is also apparent here, with 37% of males and 29% of females using the internet monthly. The urban population has better internet access (57%) compared to the rural population (24%), highlighting an area where improvements are necessary to ensure equitable access to information.
IDEAS TO MOVE FORWARD
The overall picture that emerges is one where a significant proportion of Vanuatu’s population has access to basic communication technologies. However, disparities based on gender and location are evident. Urban areas, with higher internet and mobile phone usage rates, are likely better positioned to receive early warnings and access climate-related information. In contrast, the rural areas, while having a majority with mobile phone access, lag behind in internet connectivity, potentially limiting the effectiveness of online early warning systems.

This data is crucial for guiding policy interventions aimed at improving communication infrastructure and ensuring equitable access across all demographics. Investing in mobile and internet technologies, particularly in rural areas, is not just about connectivity; it is about building the nation’s capacity to withstand and bounce back from the adverse effects of climate change and disasters. Enhancing accessibility and usage of these technologies across the country will play a vital role in securing a resilient future for all Ni-Vanuatu.

With its status as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Vanuatu faces unique challenges posed by climate change and natural hazards. The nation’s strategy emphasizes robust infrastructure, sustainable environmental management, diverse and adaptable livelihoods, and strong governance to build resilience. These efforts, combined with international support and local engagement, are critical to ensure the wellbeing of future generations in the face of increasing climate and disaster risks.

ENVIRONMENT 4: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
No data at the time of drafting of this report

ENVIRONMENT 5: ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY
This dataset focuses on the awareness level of the population regarding local biodiversity, considering it a vital indicator of the community’s engagement with conservation efforts. The proportion of the population that can identify more than one species of local tree serves as a metric for ecological literacy, which is crucial for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Having a higher proportion of individuals, both male and female, with knowledge of local flora and fauna is indicative of a society that values its natural heritage. This awareness is typically fostered through education, community engagement, and participatory conservation efforts. In rural areas, a closer relationship with nature may lead to higher identification rates, as these communities are often more directly involved with their natural environment for livelihoods. In contrast, urban areas may present lower identification rates due to the urban–rural divide in lifestyle and everyday interaction with biodiversity.
Furthermore, ecological knowledge is closely linked with sustainable practices, as individuals who can name and thus likely understand their local species are more inclined to participate in or support conservation actions. This awareness is a stepping stone to advocating for sustainable resource management, engaging in reforestation efforts, and resisting practices that harm the environment.

Gender disparities in knowledge can point towards the need for targeted educational programs. If males have higher rates of species identification than females, it might suggest that traditional roles or educational opportunities are influencing access to environmental knowledge.

The ultimate goal is to increase the overall ecological literacy of the population, regardless of gender or locality, to foster a truly conservation-minded society. This literacy enables citizens to make informed decisions that benefit the environment and to hold institutions and governing bodies accountable for the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems.

To drive the point home, as the data shows a significant portion of the population with the ability to identify multiple species of local trees, it could be argued that Vanuatu is on a promising path toward a sustainable future. However, the numbers are low, in urban settings, signalling a need for more robust environmental education and outreach programs in this area.

Vanuatu has been at the forefront of climate advocacy on the international stage, playing a pivotal role in promoting global climate action. In 2023, Vanuatu led a significant initiative by successfully rallying a coalition of 132 countries to adopt a United Nations General Assembly Resolution. This resolution requested a non-binding advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of states concerning climate change, aiming to clarify international legal responsibilities and the consequences of inaction on climate issues.

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The initiative was widely regarded as a historic moment in climate diplomacy, celebrated as a win for climate justice, particularly for nations most vulnerable to climate change impacts like Vanuatu. This resolution also aimed to strengthen the enforcement of international environmental and human rights laws, potentially setting a precedent for future climate litigation and accountability.
This proactive measure reflects Vanuatu’s commitment to addressing global warming and its adverse effects, despite the country’s relatively minor role in global greenhouse gas emissions, underscoring its leadership in championing the interests of small island developing states on the world stage.

**POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In Vanuatu, a nation determined to safeguard its biodiversity and ecosystems, the ability of its citizens to name more than one local tree species is a significant indicator of environmental consciousness and engagement. With 81% of the population over the age of 15 able to identify multiple tree species, it is evident that there is a strong baseline of environmental knowledge within the community.

The slight gender variation, with 83% for males and 80% for females, is relatively minor, suggesting equitable knowledge distribution across genders. This balance is critical because it implies a shared understanding of environmental stewardship between men and women, which can drive collective action for conservation efforts.

The contrast between rural (91%) and urban (56%) residents’ ability to identify tree species is stark, reflecting the closer relationship that rural communities typically have with their surrounding natural environment. This high level of knowledge in rural areas can be attributed to daily interactions with local ecosystems, often rooted in traditional practices and livelihoods that depend on the land and its resources.

However, the urban–rural divide presents a challenge and an opportunity. The lower rate in urban areas highlights the need for urban–specific environmental education and engagement initiatives. Urbanisation can lead to a disconnection from nature, and bridging this gap is essential for fostering a nationwide commitment to conservation.

**CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

These data points suggest that rural communities are likely to be strong allies in conservation initiatives, potentially serving as stewards and leaders in the preservation of biodiversity. Yet, to achieve a truly national commitment, urban communities must not be left behind. Policies and programs that encourage urban residents to reconnect with their natural heritage could significantly enhance conservation outcomes.

The implications of these findings extend beyond environmental policy. They suggest a populace that is rooted in its natural heritage and invested in its preservation. Such a foundation can influence sustainable development, as citizens are more likely to support and engage with practices that protect the environment.

For effective conservation and sustainable ecosystem management, it is critical that both rural and urban populations are involved. Programs that leverage the high environmental literacy in rural areas while increasing the same in urban settings could include community-based projects, environmental awareness campaigns, and integration of biodiversity topics into the education system at all levels.
In summary, the existing knowledge within the Vanuatu population provides a promising platform for conservation and sustainable management initiatives. To build upon this foundation, it is crucial to develop strategies that address the urban–rural divide in environmental literacy, ensure gender inclusivity, and foster a widespread culture of environmental stewardship.

**Economy Pillar**

**Economy 1: Stable and Equitable Growth**

To assess the economic stability and equitable growth within the framework of Economy 1, it is essential to consider key indicators like GDP growth rate, government revenue as a percentage of GDP, the budget deficit, and the debt-to-GDP ratio for the year 2021. These metrics provide a holistic view of the economic health and fiscal policy effectiveness in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic progress.

- **GDP Growth Rate**

  The GDP growth rate is a crucial indicator of economic health, reflecting the overall economic activity and the capability of an economy to expand and generate wealth. A positive growth rate suggests that the economy is expanding, which is essential for improving living standards and reducing poverty. However, the specific rate (not provided in the query) is necessary to evaluate the robustness of the growth and its sustainability over time.

- **Government Revenue as a Percentage of GDP**

  Government revenue as a percentage of GDP indicates the government’s capacity to fund its operations and invest in public services without relying excessively on external debt. A higher ratio suggests that the government has a significant resource base relative to the size of the economy, which is crucial for funding development projects, healthcare, education, and other public goods that contribute to equitable growth.

- **Budget Deficit**

  The budget deficit, which reflects the difference between government expenditure and revenue, is pivotal in understanding fiscal policy and its sustainability. A deficit indicates that the government is spending more than it earns, which might be necessary in the short term for stimulating growth or investing in critical infrastructure. However, persistent deficits can lead to increased borrowing and debt accumulation, which may hamper long-term economic stability.

- **Debt / GDP Ratio (2021)**

  The debt-to-GDP ratio provides insight into the level of national debt relative to the economy’s size. A manageable debt-to-GDP ratio suggests that the country is likely able to meet its debt obligations without jeopardising its economic stability. Conversely, a high ratio may indicate potential challenges in sustaining fiscal balances and could impose constraints on future government spending and investment capabilities.
These indicators collectively inform about the government's effectiveness in managing its fiscal policies and its impact on economic stability. For instance, a stable or increasing GDP growth rate combined with a manageable budget deficit and debt-to-GDP ratio suggests effective economic management that supports sustainable development. Conversely, if the growth is low, and the deficit and debt ratios are high, it could signal vulnerabilities that might require policy adjustments to ensure long-term economic stability.

Overall, analysing these indicators helps gauge how well the economy is positioned to achieve stable and equitable growth, providing a clear picture of both the current economic conditions and the sustainability of fiscal policies in supporting broad-based development and reducing economic disparities.

Potential Implications
In 2021, the economic landscape of the economy showcased a blend of growth and sustainability challenges, as depicted by several key financial indicators. These metrics, fundamental to assessing economic health and stability, illustrate a nuanced picture of stable yet cautious growth. This was a noteworthy achievement given this also marked the start of the COVID 19 pandemic.

GDP Growth Rate
The GDP growth rate of 2.7% signals modest economic expansion within the year. While this rate indicates a positive trajectory, it remains relatively conservative, suggesting that the economy is growing but perhaps at a pace that seeks to balance development with sustainability. This rate might reflect a recovery phase or cautious economic management amidst global or local uncertainties.
Government Revenue as a percentage of GDP
A government revenue to GDP ratio of 45.7% is notably high, indicating a substantial governmental intake relative to the economy’s size. This could imply a strong tax base and effective revenue collection mechanisms, which are crucial for funding public services and investments without over-relying on external debt. It also suggests that the government has significant control over economic resources, which can be directed towards social programs and development projects.

Budget Deficit
The nearly balanced budget, with a deficit of just -0.2%, demonstrates fiscal discipline and a focus on maintaining economic stability. This slight deficit indicates that the government is managing its expenditures closely in line with its revenues, a positive sign for fiscal health and indicative of careful financial planning and execution.

Ideas to Move Forward
Overall, the data from 2021 reflects a scenario where the economy was cautiously navigating its growth path, leveraging substantial government revenue to manage its budget effectively while maintaining a watchful approach to its debt levels. This balance is critical for ensuring long-term economic stability and equitable growth, allowing the government to invest in essential services and infrastructure without compromising financial sustainability. Such a strategy is aimed at fostering a resilient economic environment that can support equitable growth and development, aligning with broader sustainable development goals.

The data from 2022 did show a further decline in GDP growth but the other indicators remained stable despite it also being a year with a Tropical 5 cyclone. So in 2022 preliminary data suggests the economy contracted by just under 5% which is far less than most external analysts predicted as it was also during COVID and as such again demonstrated that the economy of Vanuatu is far more resilient and far less based on activities like tourism than had been previously assumed.

Economy 2: Improve Infrastructure
The focus of this set of indicators within Vanuatu’s development plan is to ensure sustainable infrastructure and services, including energy, water, sanitation, transport, and internet connectivity, through effective partnerships.
• Renewable Energy Access
The data indicates a commendable shift towards renewable energy, with a significant proportion of households in both rural and urban settings utilising solar energy for lighting. However, the disparity between rural and urban usage rates suggests that rural areas are either more adapted to or dependent on renewable sources due to lesser access to conventional power grids. While this is environmentally beneficial, it raises questions about the availability and reliability of energy sources in urban areas.

• Water and Sanitation
Access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development. The data shows that a proportion of the population has access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities, which is critical for public health, especially in rural areas. These figures are foundational for assessing the quality of life and could also indicate a robust public health framework capable of supporting citizens' basic needs.

• Transport Accessibility
The proximity to transportation services – road, sea, and air – is essential for economic and social participation. While the data doesn’t provide specific percentages, it emphasises the importance of accessibility to these services. The mean perceived convenience of public transportation can reflect the effectiveness of these transport systems and their alignment with community needs.

• Digital Connectivity
Internet access is a crucial component of modern infrastructure, enabling education, communication, and business. The data suggests that there is room for improvement, especially in rural areas. Ensuring that more households can access the internet from home would enable broader participation in the digital economy and improve information flow, which is essential for both individual advancement and national development.

Potential Implications
Renewable Energy Utilisation
A substantial 65% of households use renewable solar energy for lighting, highlighting a strong commitment to green energy. This is more prevalent in rural areas (83%) than in urban areas (13%), suggesting a successful rural implementation of renewable solutions. However, the stark contrast with urban areas indicates a need for policy interventions to enhance urban adoption of renewable technologies.
• **Renewable Energy Access**

The data indicates a commendable shift towards renewable energy, with a significant proportion of households in both rural and urban settings utilising solar energy for lighting. However, the disparity between rural and urban usage rates suggests that rural areas are either more adapted to or dependent on renewable sources due to lesser access to conventional power grids. While this is environmentally beneficial, it raises questions about the availability and reliability of energy sources in urban areas.

• **Water and Sanitation**

Access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development. The data shows that a proportion of the population has access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities, which is critical for public health, especially in rural areas. These figures are foundational for assessing the quality of life and could also indicate a robust public health framework capable of supporting citizens’ basic needs.

• **Transport Accessibility**

The proximity to transportation services - road, sea, and air - is essential for economic and social participation. While the data doesn’t provide specific percentages, it emphasises the importance of accessibility to these services. The mean perceived convenience of public transportation can reflect the effectiveness of these transport systems and their alignment with community needs.

• **Digital Connectivity**

Internet access is a crucial component of modern infrastructure, enabling education, communication, and business. The data suggests that there is room for improvement, especially in rural areas. Ensuring that more households can access the internet from home would enable broader participation in the digital economy and improve information flow, which is essential for both individual advancement and national development.
Potential Implications

Renewable Energy Utilisation
A substantial 65% of households use renewable solar energy for lighting, highlighting a strong commitment to green energy. This is more prevalent in rural areas (83%) than in urban areas (13%), suggesting a successful rural implementation of renewable solutions. However, the stark contrast with urban areas indicates a need for policy interventions to enhance urban adoption of renewable technologies.

Solar Home Systems Distribution
The distribution of solar home systems across provinces reflects uneven penetration, with Sanma and Malampa leading. These figures underscore the importance of targeted strategies to balance renewable energy access across regions, ensuring no area is left behind.

Water Access
The data reflects positively on water access, with 88% of the population using improved sources. Urban areas outperform rural areas, demonstrating efficient urban water infrastructure. Yet, the rural-urban divide must be bridged to ensure equitable access to this vital resource.

Sanitation Facilities
With 79% of the population having access to improved sanitation facilities, there is a high baseline of public health infrastructure. Notably, urban areas nearly achieve full coverage, which is commendable. Efforts should continue to focus on increasing rural access, where 73% coverage suggests room for improvement.

Transport Accessibility
Transport by road, sea, and air is crucial for economic activities. Most of the population is within a 30-minute walk of a road, yet access to sea and air transport is limited, signifying a need to bolster connectivity, especially for remote communities.

**Perception of Public Transportation**

The mean perceived convenience of public transport is relatively high, particularly in urban areas. Rural perceptions are lower, signalling a potential gap in service provision or quality that could be addressed through investments in rural transport infrastructure.

**Internet Connectivity**

Despite a one-third internet usage rate over the past 30 days, regular home access is much lower, especially in rural areas. This digital divide can hinder economic and social participation, emphasising the urgency for broadband expansion and affordability initiatives.

**Ideas to Move Forward**

The trend towards renewable energy should be encouraged and supported with policies that incentivise solar and other renewable installations in urban areas. Investment in grid reliability and expansion can help meet urban energy demands sustainably.

Water and sanitation infrastructure should continue to be a priority, with efforts to maintain and expand access. This requires ongoing investment in infrastructure and public education on health and hygiene practices.

Transport accessibility data highlights the need for investment in transportation networks that are inclusive and cater to the geographical spread of the population. Enhancing the connectivity and convenience of public transportation, especially in rural areas, is essential.

The data suggests several policy implications:

- Enhance urban renewable energy initiatives to match rural success.
- Distribute resources equitably to even out disparities between provinces.
- Strengthen rural water and sanitation infrastructure to ensure universal access.
- Improve transport links, particularly maritime and aerial, to support remote communities.

Finally, improving digital connectivity, particularly in rural areas, can bridge the digital divide. This could involve extending broadband infrastructure and supporting community access points such as internet cafes or community centres with Wi-Fi capabilities.
In summary, Vanuatu shows positive strides in building sustainable infrastructure, but continued effort is needed to reduce disparities, particularly between rural and urban areas. A coordinated approach that includes public-private partnerships, community involvement, and a focus on inclusivity and sustainability will be essential for the continued development and well-being of all citizens.

**Economy 3: Strengthen Rural Communities**
No data at the time of drafting of this report

**Economy 4: Create Jobs and Business Opportunities**
No data at the time of drafting of this report

- **Rural Entrepreneurship and Trade**
  The data presented under ECO 4.2.1 highlights the engagement of rural households in trade with family members in urban centres, suggesting a strong link between rural and urban economies. This connection is crucial for distributing goods and resources and can be seen as a vital component of the country’s supply chain dynamics. It also underscores the role of family networks in sustaining rural livelihoods and integrating them into the broader market economy.

- **Labor Force Participation and Sectoral Employment**
  The labour force participation rate for the working-age population is a key indicator of economic activity and the availability of employment opportunities. The detailed breakdown of employment across sectors—agriculture, industry, and services—provides insights into the economic structure and potential areas for growth and development.
• **Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries**

As traditional cornerstones of the Vanuatu economy, these sectors likely employ a significant portion of the population. This reflects a reliance on primary industries and may indicate a potential for growth through agricultural innovation and sustainable practices. Diversification within this sector, along with value-added processing, can enhance productivity and incomes for rural entrepreneurs.

• **Industry and Manufacturing**

The industrial sector, including manufacturing and construction, often drives economic development by providing jobs and stimulating the creation of ancillary services. Data on employment in this sector could suggest the extent of industrialization and its contribution to the national economy. A focus on sustainable practices within these industries could further enhance their long-term viability and attractiveness for investment.

• **Services Sector**

A thriving services sector, encompassing trade, accommodations, and education, amongst others, is indicative of a diverse and mature economy. High employment figures in this sector would signal a shift towards a more knowledge-based economy, with implications for the education and skill development of the workforce. This shift could generate opportunities for entrepreneurs to innovate and create new businesses, particularly in areas such as digital services and tourism.

• **Impact of Remittances**

Remittances play a critical role in the economies of many developing countries, and Vanuatu is no exception. With total annual remittances forming a significant proportion of the GDP, they represent a crucial influx of external funds that boost household incomes and facilitate consumption and investment at the grassroots level. This financial inflow is vital for poverty alleviation and supports the national economy by increasing the disposable income available to households.

**Potential Implications**

**Rural-Urban Trade Dynamics**

The data indicates that 41% of rural households engage in trade with family members in urban areas at least once a year (ECO 4.2.1). This substantial figure underscores the pivotal role of familial and communal networks in rural economies and their potential as channels for distributing agricultural goods, sharing resources, and strengthening social bonds that are essential for business growth. These ties between rural producers and urban markets are vital conduits for economic activity and can be leveraged to improve market access for rural entrepreneurs.
Labor Force Participation and Sector Employment

With over half (50.2%) of the working-age population participating in the labour force (ECO 4.6.1), there is a notable potential workforce available. However, the challenge lies in ensuring that this workforce is effectively employed, particularly in productive sectors that contribute significantly to the economy.

Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries employ 37.3% of individuals aged 15 and over, which is a testament to the traditional importance of these sectors (ECO 4.6.1). Yet, the relatively high dependence on these industries may also suggest vulnerability to external shocks such as climate change or global market fluctuations. To bolster the rural economy, diversification through agribusiness, ecotourism, and value-added processing could be promoted.

The industrial sector appears to be considerably smaller, with only 8.9% employment (ECO 4.6.1), indicating either a nascent stage of industrial development or potential for growth. This could be an area for strategic focus, encouraging investment in sustainable manufacturing practices and infrastructure development to stimulate job creation.

The service sector emerges as the largest employer at 49.4% (ECO 4.6.1), reflecting a transition towards a service-oriented economy. This sector’s growth can be a catalyst for sustainable economic development, with opportunities in retail, tourism, and administrative services. Given its size, the service sector may offer the most immediate potential for entrepreneurial activities and job creation, provided there is adequate support for skills training and enterprise development.
Remittances are a major economic force, accounting for a substantial 21.70% of GDP. This high level of remittances underlines the significant role of external financial inflows in supporting household incomes and, by extension, fuelling domestic consumption and investment. Remittances enhance economic stability and provide a financial buffer that can help mitigate the effects of economic shocks.

**Ideas to Move Forward**

To fully realize the potential of a thriving business environment, policy efforts should be directed at enhancing the connectivity between rural and urban markets, fostering a diverse economic base, and facilitating the development of infrastructure and services. Investments in education and skills training will also be essential to equip the workforce for jobs in emerging industries and the service sector.

The data paints a picture of a rural economy with strong ties to urban centres and a labour force that is largely engaged in agriculture and services. Therein lies the opportunity to create a business environment that is not only enabling but also resilient and adaptive to the changing economic landscape. Such an environment would support entrepreneurs throughout Vanuatu, driving innovation, inclusive growth, and, ultimately, national prosperity.

For Vanuatu to foster an enabling business environment, it must capitalize on the interconnectivity between rural and urban economies, support the primary sectors with investment and innovation, and facilitate growth in industry and services. Entrepreneurial development, particularly in rural areas, should be supported by policies that improve access to capital, training, and markets. Nevertheless, the relatively significant labour migration trends combined with the decline in fertility suggest a stable or even diminishing long term labour pool which will place even greater emphasis on increasing the productivity of the human capital through training and education in order to sustain economic development and growth.

In conclusion, Vanuatu’s approach to creating an enabling business environment seems to be rooted in leveraging its traditional economic strengths while paving the way for sectoral diversification and integration into the global economy. Strengthening rural–urban economic linkages, enhancing sectoral productivity, and embracing service–oriented growth can collectively contribute to a resilient national economy, offering a sustainable path towards increased prosperity.
How Has the NSDP Impacted Progress Against the SDG’s?

The NSDP was designed to be a holistic framework that guides the nation’s development, aligning with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. By focusing on key areas like economy, society, environment, and culture, the NSDP aims to promote sustainable and inclusive growth that can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

The NSDP’s progress against the SDGs reflects a nuanced picture of development in Vanuatu. While there are clear advancements, particularly in education, gender equality, and infrastructure, significant efforts are still required, especially in fostering economic opportunities, ensuring food security, and building inclusive institutions. The data indicate that continued focus on inclusive growth, particularly in rural areas, and investments in health, gender equality, and sustainable industry will be critical to further progress.

Goal 1: End Poverty

Vanuatu’s efforts have reduced the proportion of people living below both the international poverty line and the national basic needs poverty line, with rural populations showing a higher poverty rate than urban. This differential underscores the need for targeted rural development to achieve inclusive prosperity.

The data presented reflects a nuanced picture of poverty in the specific context, segmented by various demographics and factors such as age, sex, employment status, and location.

International Poverty Line:

- Overall, 8.5% of the population lives below the international poverty line of USD $1.90 a day. The difference between male (8.4%) and female (8.7%) is marginal.
- A more significant disparity arises when comparing rural (11.3%) and urban (0.6%) populations, indicating higher levels of poverty in rural areas.
- Age-wise, the highest rates of poverty are observed among the population under 15 years (11.1%), which suggests that children are particularly vulnerable to poverty.
- Employment seems to be a critical factor, with those employed in the labour force showing a lower poverty rate (3.8%) compared to the unemployed (4.5%).

National Basic Needs Poverty Line:

- A broader segment of the population, 15.9%, lives below the national basic need’s poverty line.
- Rural residents are significantly more affected (20.8%) than their urban counterparts (2.0%).
Gender differences are less pronounced nationally, with females slightly more affected than males.

Children and young adults (under 15 and 15–30) experience higher rates of poverty (16.9% and 16.1% respectively) compared to other age groups.

The unemployment rate below the national poverty line (13.1%) is substantially higher than that of employed individuals (9.0%), which could highlight the effectiveness of employment in mitigating poverty.

**Land Tenure Rights:**

The majority of adults (85%) have secure tenure rights to Indigenous customary lands. Men (88%) have slightly more access compared to women (78%), indicating a gender gap in land rights.

**Potential Implications**

The high poverty rates in rural areas, especially among children, call for targeted rural development programs and social safety nets.

The data on land tenure rights suggest that while a majority have access to customary lands, disparities between men and women could impact economic opportunities, particularly for women.

Given that employment significantly lowers the likelihood of living below the poverty line, creating job opportunities could be a pivotal strategy for poverty reduction.

This information could be used by policymakers to tailor interventions that address these specific vulnerabilities and to track progress over time. Moreover, understanding the demographic breakdown of poverty can help in the design of inclusive and equitable poverty reduction strategies.

**Goal 2: Zero Hunger**

The NSDP has tackled food insecurity, indicated by a significant proportion of the population experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity. The monthly income value from home consumption shows an engagement with local agriculture, which supports small-scale food producers.

The data offers useful insights into the state of food security and the economic status of small-scale food producers:

**Undernourishment (2.1.1):**

A total of 8% of the population consumes dietary energy below what is required for good health and an active life. This statistic is an indicator of undernourishment, which could lead to health problems and impede individuals’ ability to lead productive lives.
Food Insecurity (2.1.2):
Food insecurity affects a significant portion of the population (23.3%), with limited access to food attributed to financial constraints or insufficient natural resources. This high percentage indicates that nearly a quarter of the population struggles with obtaining enough food, which can result in malnutrition and hinder development.

Income of Small-Scale Food Producers (2.3.2):
The average monthly income from home consumption for small-scale food producers is Vatu 17,275. While this figure does not provide a direct comparison to the poverty line or cost of living, it does give an idea of the financial situation of those who contribute to local agriculture and food supply chains.

Potential Implications
The data reflects a critical need for interventions that address both the accessibility and affordability of food. The prevalence of undernourishment highlights the importance of improving the quality of diet and nutrition, while the extent of food insecurity points to issues with food availability and distribution systems. Moreover, enhancing the economic conditions of small-scale food producers can not only lead to better food security but can also contribute to the overall development and sustainability of the agricultural sector. These areas are likely critical for any strategies aimed at achieving the goal of ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
The data reflect challenges such as tobacco use and alcohol consumption, but low household expenditure on health services suggests either effective cost control in healthcare or potential underutilisation of health services, which could be an area for further analysis and action.

The provided data from Goal 3 of the SDGs reveals significant aspects of public health behaviour and healthcare spending within the population:

Tobacco Usage (3.a.1):
The proportion of the population over 15 years old that currently smokes cigarettes or uses tobacco is 20%. Out of these, 7% are daily smokers. This rate is quite significant and suggests that a sizeable portion of the population is at risk of developing tobacco-related health issues.
Alcohol Consumption (3.5.2):
A smaller segment of the population (6%) consumes alcohol at least once a week. This figure suggests that while alcohol use is present, it may not be as prevalent as tobacco use. However, even this level of consumption can have health implications and contributes to the overall public health landscape.

Healthcare Expenditure (3.8.2):
The average annual household expenditure on health services is Vatu 2,422. This expenditure level provides insight into the financial burden of health care on families. While it does not indicate the proportion of income spent, the data may imply that health expenses are a notable part of household budgets, which could be challenging for lower-income families.

Potential Implications
The data suggests that while there is a noteworthy prevalence of tobacco use, alcohol consumption is less common. However, both these factors are important considerations for public health initiatives. The relatively low expenditure on health might reflect either a lack of access to health services, affordability issues, or both. It may also point to potential underinvestment in healthcare, which could affect the well-being of the population if not addressed. Public health campaigns to reduce tobacco and alcohol use, along with efforts to increase healthcare access and affordability, could be beneficial strategies to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.

Goal 4: Quality Education
Participation in education and training programs seems equitable across genders, but there’s room for improvement in the participation rate. Additionally, the high self-assessed literacy rates indicate a strong foundation for lifelong learning and knowledge dissemination.

The data from Goal 4 of the SDGs focuses on the educational attainment and literacy rates within the population, indicating the level of access to and quality of education:

Education Participation (4.3.1):
The overall participation rate in formal or non-formal education and training programs for the population aged 13–60 is relatively low at 16%. The male population has a slightly higher participation rate at 17% compared to females at 16%. This reflects a moderate engagement with educational opportunities for all genders, highlighting a potential area for improvement in access to and promotion of lifelong learning.
Literacy Skills (4.6.1):
The self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French among those aged 12 and above is significantly higher at 84%, suggesting that while enrolment in educational programs may be low, basic literacy skills are widely reported across the population. The data shows a small gender disparity, with 85% of males and 83% of females reporting literacy, indicating a relatively equitable distribution of basic language skills.

Self-assessment typically measures perceived ability to read and write, which may not reflect an individual's functional literacy – the ability to use reading and writing effectively in real-life situations.

Potential Implications
Whilst the participation in educational programs is not very high, the majority of the population claims a good level of literacy, which is crucial for personal development and empowerment. The gender parity in literacy rates is also a positive indicator. However, the data could reflect a need to enhance and incentivise formal and non-formal educational opportunities, especially for those who may not have access or the means to participate. It also raises questions about the quality and outcomes of the education system if literacy rates are high but formal participation is low. This discrepancy may suggest that informal learning or alternative education pathways are compensating for formal systems or that there may be barriers to continued education post-literacy attainment.

Goal 5: Gender Equality
Ownership of mobile phones by women is lower than men, which may suggest a digital divide and potential barriers to information and economic opportunities for women. The data highlights disparities in mobile phone ownership between genders, which is an indicator of access to information and communication technologies:
Overall, 57% of the population over 15 years old own at least one mobile phone in working condition. This indicates that just over half of the adult population has access to mobile communication, which can be instrumental in various aspects of empowerment and access to information.

Disaggregating the data by gender reveals a significant gap: 66% of the male population owns a mobile phone compared to 48% of the female population. This 18% gap underscores a gender divide in access to technology, which can have implications for gender equality. Mobile phone ownership can lead to increased opportunities for education, business, and social connections, and the gap suggests that women may be missing these opportunities compared to men.
The lower rate of ownership among women could be due to a variety of socio-economic factors, including lower income levels, less access to technology due to societal norms, or lower prioritisation of resources for women within households.

**Potential Implications**

Even though a moderate proportion of the adult population has access to mobile technology, the gender gap in ownership is notable and could reflect broader inequalities in economic and social resources. To achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, addressing the barriers that lead to this gap is critical. Policies and programs aimed at increasing women’s access to technology could help bridge this divide, potentially leading to greater participation in the digital economy and society at large.

**Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

The unemployment rates, particularly among youth and women, reveal challenges in job creation and the need for economic opportunities that are more inclusive.

Overall, the unemployment rate for the population aged 15 and over is 7.9%. This figure serves as a baseline to understand the general state of employment within the population and suggests that a relatively small percentage is without work but actively seeking employment.

Dissecting the data by gender reveals that males experience a lower unemployment rate (6.7%) compared to females (9.4%). This disparity suggests that women may face more significant barriers to employment or may be working in less secure job sectors.

Youth unemployment (ages 15–24) is markedly high at 18.0%, indicating that younger individuals face challenges entering the workforce. This could be due to a lack of experience, education, or training opportunities, or a mismatch between the skills of young people and the jobs available.

For the primary working-age population (25–64), the unemployment rate drops to 6.1%, suggesting that employment opportunities improve with age and experience.

The unemployment rate for those aged 65 and over is significantly lower at 1.1%. This could indicate a smaller proportion of this age group actively seeking employment, possibly due to retirement or sufficient income from other sources.

Persons with disabilities experience an unemployment rate of 8.1%, slightly above the general population’s rate. This suggests that disability may lead to increased challenges in finding employment, potentially due to workplace accessibility issues, employer discrimination, or limited suitable job opportunities.
**Potential Implications**
The unemployment rates reflect certain social and economic patterns. High youth unemployment indicates a potential need for better job training and education programs. The gender disparity points to the necessity of targeted interventions to support women’s employment. Lastly, the relatively higher unemployment rate among persons with disabilities calls for inclusive policies and programs to improve their access to employment opportunities. Addressing these disparities is essential for achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, as outlined in SDG Goal 8.

**Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**
The data for Goal 9 indicates that manufacturing accounts for 4.5% of total employment. This suggests that the manufacturing sector may be relatively small or underdeveloped compared to other sectors of the economy. A lower proportion of employment in manufacturing points to a potential area for development to foster industrialisation.

Given that manufacturing is often a key driver of economic development due to its potential for innovation, job creation, and value addition, a figure of 4.5% highlights that Vanuatu is a predominantly agrarian economy, with a relatively stronger service sector, and that the manufacturing sector is in a nascent stage and will need further investment and development to grow.

Small nations are unlikely to be able to develop sustainable industrialisation, nevertheless it is important to consider not just the proportion of employment but also the quality and productivity of the jobs provided. The manufacturing sector’s ability to innovate and adopt new technologies is important for long-term economic resilience and competitiveness.

**Potential Implications**
This figure presents an opportunity to explore ways to foster growth in the manufacturing sector to contribute to a more diversified and resilient economic structure. Strategic investments in infrastructure, training, and technological innovation could be key to enhancing this sector’s contribution to the overall employment landscape.

**Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**
There’s a significant portion of the population living below 50 percent of median consumption, indicating persistent inequalities that need to be addressed to fulfil the NSDP and SDG objectives.
The data showcases several important socio-economic aspects:

- The median annual per capita expenditure for the bottom 40% of the population is reported at 125,766 Vatu. This figure helps to gauge the purchasing power and living standards of the lower income segment in the population.

- The proportion of the population living below 50% of median consumption is 20.6%, indicating that a fifth of the population lives on less than half of what is considered median consumption, reflecting significant income disparity.

- Breaking down this disparity by demographics, both male and female populations experience nearly the same level of low income, with proportions of 20.7% and 20.6%, respectively.

- Rural residents are significantly more affected by poverty than their urban counterparts, with 27.7% living below 50% of median consumption compared to just 0.8% in urban areas. This highlights the rural–urban divide, often associated with lack of access to economic opportunities, services, and infrastructure in rural areas.

- Children under 15 are particularly vulnerable, with 25.2% living below 50% of median consumption. This may impact their access to nutrition, education, and overall well-being.

- Interestingly, the proportion of people living below 50% of median consumption decreases with age, from 18.4% for those aged 15–30 to 16.9% for those aged 30–64, but then increases slightly to 20.1% for those 65 and over.

- People with disabilities are also more vulnerable to living below the poverty threshold, with 19.3% living below 50% of median consumption, almost on par with the general population without disabilities at 20.3%.

However, it should be noted that the definitions of ‘rural’ and ‘urban’ are somewhat nebulous as Vanuatu moves towards gathering data by Local Area Council. This is important statistically as whilst poverty on aggregate might be worse in ‘rural’ areas prior poverty studies suggest the deepest pockets of poverty are peri urban.

**Potential Implications**

This data underlines the ongoing challenges related to income inequality in the context being analysed. It suggests a need for targeted social protection policies, more equitable economic development opportunities, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, and specific support for vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. It also highlights the potential need for interventions that specifically assist people with disabilities to ensure they are not disproportionately impacted by poverty.
**Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

The mean level of convenience of public transport suggests a well-developed transportation infrastructure in urban areas, yet it may indicate the need for enhancements in rural areas to ensure inclusivity.

The mean level of convenience of public transportation rated on a scale from 0 to 10, at the household level, for Vanuatu is 7.24. This figure suggests a moderate to high level of satisfaction with the convenience of public transport among the population. A rating above 7 indicates that, on average, people find public transport reasonably accessible and convenient for their needs.

**Potential Implications**

This data point alone does not provide specific insights into the variability of satisfaction across different demographics or regions. For a comprehensive analysis, it would be necessary to examine the distribution of scores across various segments of the population, including by sex, age, and persons with disabilities.

Additional data that could complement this figure might include the frequency and reliability of public transport services, the coverage of transport networks, affordability, as well as the physical accessibility of public transport for persons with disabilities.

Understanding these aspects is crucial because public transportation is a key factor in the liveability of cities and human settlements. Efficient and accessible public transport can significantly impact the ability of all individuals to access education, employment, and other services, which in turn contributes to the overall sustainability and resilience of cities.

This rating suggests that while there might be room for improvement, the public transportation system in the context of this data is perceived as fairly adequate by the population. Moving forward, targeted policies could be implemented to address any specific areas of concern identified through more detailed data analysis, ensuring that all community members, including those with disabilities, experience the benefits of sustainable and inclusive urban development.

**Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

Experiences of discrimination and safety concerns highlight areas where more work is needed to foster an inclusive and just society. Public trust in institutions seems moderate, suggesting a foundation upon which to build more effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.

The data collected to date gives us insight into how the people of Vanuatu perceive discrimination, safety, corruption, satisfaction with public services, and inclusiveness in decision-making.
Discrimination and Safety
The proportion of the population aged 15 and over that reported experiencing discrimination in the last year stands at 0.16 (16%), which suggests a significant minority have faced discrimination based on various grounds. This highlights an area where improvement is necessary to promote a more equitable society.

Corruption
Similarly, 0.16 (16%) of the population reported having been asked for a bribe by public officials, indicating a level of corruption that could undermine trust in institutions and the rule of law.

Public Service Satisfaction
However, the population generally seems satisfied with public services, with a mean satisfaction score of 7.27 out of 10. This suggests that, while there is room for improvement, services are functioning at a level that meets the needs and expectations of most citizens.

Inclusive Decision-Making
The ability to influence local decisions is rated moderately, with an overall mean level of agreement of 5.96 out of 10. This score is higher among males (6.22) than females (5.7), suggesting a gender gap in perceived empowerment. Younger individuals (aged 15–30) feel slightly less empowered (5.75) compared to the older age group (31–64) who scored 6.15, indicating that age and possibly experience play roles in individuals’ perceived influence over local decision-making.

Safety Perception
Additionally, the proportion of people who feel safe walking alone in their community after dark is relatively low at 0.6 (60%). This indicates a concern for personal safety that could impact community cohesion and individuals’ freedom of movement, particularly at night.

Potential Implications
Overall, the analysis suggests that while there are positive indicators in terms of public service satisfaction, there are significant concerns regarding discrimination, corruption, and safety that could hamper the pursuit of peaceful, inclusive societies. Addressing these challenges would require targeted interventions to reduce discrimination, increase transparency and accountability in public services, and improve the safety and security of communities. Moreover, enhancing the involvement of all demographic groups, especially women and the youth, in local decision-making could further strengthen societal cohesion and empower individuals.
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals
Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on strengthening global partnerships to support sustainable development. The data provided under Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals highlights several key aspects of Vanuatu’s economic and technological developments, particularly in terms of financial management and digital access.

Total Government Revenue as a Proportion of GDP (45.7%)
This figure indicates that nearly half of the nation’s GDP is accounted for by government revenue. This high percentage suggests a robust capacity to mobilize government resources relative to the size of the economy, which can be pivotal for funding development initiatives and public services.

Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes (69%)
A significant portion of the government’s budget is financed through domestic taxes. This high rate of domestic financing underscores a strong tax base and financial independence, reducing reliance on external borrowing or aid.

Debt Service as a Proportion of Exports of Goods and Services (6.8%)
The debt service ratio, at 6.8%, shows that a relatively small proportion of the revenues from exports is used to service debt. This indicates a manageable debt level, which allows for more sustainable economic growth and reduces the vulnerability associated with external financial shocks.

Proportion of Individuals Using the Internet (Proportion of Population Age 15+ Using Internet at Least Once a Month (0.33))
The connectivity data reveals that only 33% of the population aged 15 and over uses the internet at least once a month, highlighting a significant digital divide. This low level of internet penetration suggests challenges in digital inclusion, which may impede access to information, e-government services, and digital economy opportunities.

Potential Implications
Together, these indicators reflect a scenario where financial management appears stable with a solid basis for fiscal sustainability, but challenges in digital infrastructure and access remain a barrier to achieving broader development goals, including enhancing the inclusiveness and sustainability of economic growth. Addressing the digital divide will be crucial for ensuring that technological advancements contribute effectively to sustainable development.
The data shows that there is significant room for improvement in increasing internet accessibility and usage in the population aged 15 and over. Efforts to address this will be crucial for achieving broader sustainable development goals and ensuring that all segments of the population can participate in the increasingly digital global economy.

**Chapter 6. Means of Implementation**

The Evolution of National Partnerships and National Enablers for Sustainable Development

The evolution of national partnerships in Vanuatu, alongside strategic enablers like decentralisation, has significantly shaped the landscape for sustainable development in the nation. These collaborative frameworks and governance models have been instrumental in addressing Vanuatu’s unique challenges and opportunities on its path toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In particular, the evolution of national partnerships and the implementation of decentralisation policies have been central to promoting sustainable development in Vanuatu. These efforts have enabled more inclusive, responsive, and effective governance, integrating the strengths of various stakeholders. Moving forward, Vanuatu’s focus on strengthening these partnerships and continuing to innovate in governance approaches will be vital in achieving its long-term development goals and in creating a resilient, sustainable future for all its citizens.

National Partnerships: Evolution and Impact

Vanuatu has made substantial progress in fostering national partnerships across various sectors. The engagement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society, the private sector, and community groups has deepened, driven by a collective commitment to sustainable development. These partnerships have evolved from simple consultative roles to active participation in policy formulation, project implementation, and monitoring through forums such as the 2023 National Summit.

One of the notable evolutions in national partnerships has been the increased collaboration with international and regional organisations, which has enhanced capacity building and resource allocation. These partnerships have helped bridge knowledge gaps, brought in technical expertise, and provided financial resources necessary for significant projects, particularly in areas like renewable energy, climate resilience, and healthcare.
Decentralisation as a National Enabler

Decentralisation has been a critical enabler of sustainable development in Vanuatu, facilitating more localised and effective governance. By gradually devolving powers to provincial and municipal levels, the government has ensured that decision-making processes are closer to the needs and realities of local communities. This shift has not only increased government responsiveness and service delivery efficiency but has also empowered local authorities to tailor development initiatives that are culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

The decentralisation policy has also facilitated better resource management and more equitable distribution of development gains. It has enabled local leaders to leverage unique local resources and capacities in a way that aligns with national development goals but respects local priorities and practices.

Integration of Traditional Knowledge

An essential aspect of national partnerships in Vanuatu involves the integration of traditional knowledge and practices into modern governance and development frameworks. This integration has been crucial in sectors such as environmental management and disaster preparedness, where indigenous strategies and knowledge systems have significantly contributed to resilience-building efforts. This effort has been led by key institutions such as the Malvatumauri and Vanuatu Kaltoral Centre.

Role of Technology and Innovation

Technology and innovation have played pivotal roles as enablers of sustainable development in the context of national partnerships. The government is increasingly partnered with tech companies and academic institutions to deploy technology solutions that address challenges such as geographic isolation and limited healthcare access. Innovations in digital communication, for instance, have improved connectivity between the central government and remote islands, enhancing the delivery of public services and citizen engagement by leveraging early investments in financial management systems and ICT networks.

Strengthening the Institutions and Machinery of Government

Institutional strengthening is crucial for the effective planning and implementation of the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) development priorities within the Vanuatu government. Robust institutions ensure the efficient allocation of resources, coherent policy formulation, and systematic execution of development initiatives. By enhancing institutional capacity, the government can better coordinate efforts across various sectors, promote transparency and accountability, and foster stakeholder collaboration.
This leads to more resilient governance structures capable of addressing complex challenges and achieving sustainable development goals. Additionally, reviewing and potentially reforming the ‘machinery of government’ can streamline processes, eliminate inefficiencies, and adapt organizational structures to better support NSDP priorities.

**Challenges and Opportunities**

Despite these advances, challenges remain. The uneven capacity of local governments can sometimes hinder effective decentralisation. Ensuring consistent and adequate training, funding, and resources across all provincial governments is crucial for maintaining the momentum of sustainable development.

Moreover, as national partnerships continue to evolve, there is a growing need to ensure that all partnerships are transparent, accountable, and aligned with the national development agenda. This involves regular monitoring and evaluation, as well as adaptive strategies to respond to new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

**Review Of Progress of SDG 17 and Suggested Improvements to Enhance the Means of Implementation**

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, which focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development, has seen noteworthy progress. However, continuous efforts are needed to address existing challenges and further enhance these mechanisms.

Vanuatu has made commendable progress under SDG 17 but must continue to innovate and adapt its strategies to meet the evolving challenges and opportunities. Strengthening financial resources, enhancing data capabilities, and fostering inclusive and sustainable trade are critical for advancing global partnerships and achieving sustainable development goals.

**Progress on SDG 17 in Vanuatu**

Vanuatu has made significant strides in enhancing its partnerships for sustainable development, crucial under SDG 17. This includes improved collaboration across governmental sectors, increased engagement with international donors and partners, and strengthened ties with non-governmental organisations and the private sector. Key areas of advancement include:

- **Finance:** Vanuatu has worked diligently to secure funding from various sources, including international donors and regional development banks, to support its sustainable development initiatives. The country has seen an influx of climate finance aimed at combating the impacts of climate change, a critical area of concern for the island nation.
• **Technology:** There has been a focused effort to harness technology for sustainable development, particularly through initiatives aimed at improving digital connectivity across the islands. This is crucial not only for communication but also for facilitating e-governance and online education resources, which are vital in remote areas.

• **Capacity-Building:** Vanuatu has emphasised building local capacity to ensure that development projects are well-managed and that outcomes are sustainable. This includes training programs designed to enhance the skills of government officials and community leaders in project management, environmental stewardship, and disaster resilience.

• **Trade:** Efforts have been made to enhance the trade capabilities of Vanuatu, aimed at boosting economic resilience. This includes improving market access for Vanuatu’s products by leveraging trade agreements and participating in regional markets.

• **Systemic Issues:** Policy and Institutional coherence: The government has worked on aligning national policies with the SDGs, ensuring that all sectors operate cohesively towards the common goal of sustainable development. This has involved streamlining processes and reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies.

**Suggested Improvements to Enhance SDG 17 Implementation**

Despite these advancements, there are several areas where Vanuatu could further enhance its approach to achieving SDG 17:

• **Diversifying Financial Resources:** While international aid and climate finance are crucial, Vanuatu needs to explore additional funding mechanisms. This could include the development of green bonds, sustainable tourism taxes, or public-private partnerships that leverage private investment for public good.

• **Enhancing Data Collection and Analysis:** For effective monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress, robust data collection and analytical capabilities are essential. Vanuatu could benefit from improved data infrastructure and training for data analysts, which would aid in better planning and implementation of policies.

• **Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Partnerships:** Creating a more conducive environment for international partnerships through clear legal frameworks can attract more foreign investment and international collaborations. This includes ensuring transparency, enhancing regulatory frameworks, and providing incentives for sustainable business practices.
• Public Awareness and Engagement: Increasing public awareness about the SDGs and the importance of global partnerships can foster a more inclusive approach to sustainable development. Educational campaigns and community engagement initiatives can empower citizens to participate actively in sustainability efforts.

• Focus on Sustainable Trade Practices: Encouraging sustainable trade practices and supporting local industries in meeting international environmental and labour standards can boost Vanuatu’s export potential and contribute to economic diversification.

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Gaps in Implementation of SDG 17 Identified by this Review
For Vanuatu, like many small island developing nations, the challenges in implementing SDG 17 are multifaceted, encompassing gaps in data collection, strategic alignment, policy formulation, and adapting to emerging issues on global, regional, and national scales.

Gaps in Implementation
Data Collection and Quality:

• Gap: Vanuatu faces significant challenges in gathering high-quality, timely, and reliable data. This affects the ability to accurately monitor progress toward achieving SDG 17 targets, particularly those related to finance, technology, and capacity-building.

• Impact: Without robust data, it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of partnerships or the exact financial needs for development projects.

Strategic Alignment:

• Gap: There is sometimes a misalignment between national development strategies and the specific targets of SDG 17. While there are efforts to attract external funding and build partnerships, these are not always strategically aligned with national priorities or other SDGs.

• Impact: This can lead to inefficiencies and the suboptimal use of resources, reducing the overall effectiveness of these partnerships.

Policy Challenges and Trade-offs
Resource Allocation:

• Challenge: Allocating resources efficiently between immediate national needs and the long-term goal of sustainable development involves difficult trade-offs, especially in a resource-constrained environment like Vanuatu.
• Trade-off: Investing in infrastructure that supports sustainable development may divert funds from immediate disaster relief or social services, which are also critical for the nation.

Policy Coherence:
• Challenge: Ensuring that policies related to trade, technology transfer, and international partnerships are coherent and mutually reinforcing is a complex task that requires integrated planning and coordination across multiple government sectors.
• Trade-off: Policies that favour international investment and trade might conflict with local development objectives or environmental conservation efforts.

Emerging Issues
Global Financial Instability:
• Issue: Global economic downturns, such as those triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic or other international financial crises, directly impact the flow of development assistance and foreign direct investment.
• Impact on SDG 17: This instability can delay or derail funding for critical development projects in Vanuatu, affecting all aspects of sustainable development.

Geopolitical Tensions:
Technological Advancements and Digital Divide:
• Issue: Rapid technological advancements globally contrast sharply with the digital divide in Vanuatu, where access to modern technology and connectivity is limited.
• Impact on SDG 17: This gap hinders the nation’s ability to engage effectively in knowledge sharing and technology transfer agreements, which are vital for sustainable development.

Recommendations
• Enhance Data Systems: Invest in national statistical capacities and technologies to improve data collection, management, and dissemination. Partnerships with international organisations could facilitate technical and financial support.
• **Align Strategies with SDG Targets**: Ensure that national development strategies and actions for achieving SDG 17 are fully integrated with other SDG initiatives. This includes aligning efforts to attract external finance and partnerships with the broader goals of sustainable development.

• **Strengthen Policy Coherence**: Develop a cohesive policy framework that integrates trade, technology transfer, and sustainable development, minimising conflicts and enhancing synergies.

• **Navigate Geopolitical Shifts**: Actively engage in international forums to navigate geopolitical shifts and advocate for stable, long-term partnerships that support development finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

**Progress and Challenges Relating to Financing the SDGs and National Priorities**

Vanuatu, like all nations, continues to face challenges to fully finance its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national priorities. The nation’s efforts to secure the necessary funding have been intertwined with global and regional commitments that aim to support sustainable development through enhanced financial flows and partnerships.

Whilst Vanuatu has made commendable progress in financing its development goals through alignment with global and regional frameworks, significant challenges remain. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving continued partnership, capacity building, and innovative financing strategies to ensure sustainable and resilient development.

**Progress in Financing SDGs**

Vanuatu has made significant strides in aligning its financing strategies with its development goals. The commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement has been a key driver, with Vanuatu actively pursuing climate finance to support its mitigation and adaptation projects. These funds have been instrumental in coastal protection initiatives, renewable energy projects, and resilience building against natural disasters. Through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund, Vanuatu has accessed substantial financial support for these critical areas.

Additionally, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing development. Vanuatu has leveraged this to enhance its financial strategies, focusing on increasing domestic resource mobilisation, improving tax collection, and managing public expenditures more efficiently. These efforts are crucial for creating fiscal space to fund development priorities.
The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which emphasises sustainable ocean management, has also guided Vanuatu’s approach to securing funds for marine conservation and blue economy projects. This regional strategy underscores the importance of protecting marine biodiversity, a vital component of Vanuatu’s economy and food security.

**Challenges in Financing SDGs**

Despite this progress, Vanuatu faces several challenges in financing its SDGs and national priorities:

- **Dependency on External Funding**: Vanuatu heavily relies on international aid and climate finance. This dependence creates vulnerability to changes in donor policies and global economic shifts. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted this vulnerability, as global financial crises and shifting donor priorities impacted the flow of funds.

- **Limited Capacity for Effective Fund Management**: Managing and effectively utilising the funds received remains a challenge. There is a need for stronger institutional capacities to ensure that funds are used efficiently and transparently, achieving the maximum impact on development goals.

- **Need for Diversified Funding Sources**: Relying primarily on traditional donor funding and climate finance mechanisms limits Vanuatu’s financial autonomy. There is a growing need to explore alternative financing options such as green bonds, social impact investments, and enhancing private sector involvement through incentives for sustainable development projects.

**Commitments from Partners**

Recent consultations with development partners have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Vanuatu’s sustainable development. Key messages from these consultations emphasise the need for continued financial support, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation and sustainable economic development. Partners have also stressed the importance of aligning their support with Vanuatu’s national priorities to ensure coherence and effectiveness.

**Future support from partners was outlined in several areas:**

- **Enhanced Technical Assistance**: Partners committed to providing technical support to build local capacity for project management and financial governance.

- **Flexible Funding Mechanisms**: There is a consensus on the need for more flexible funding mechanisms that can respond quickly to emerging challenges, such as natural disasters or economic downturns.
• Support for Economic Diversification: Encouraging investment in non-traditional sectors to reduce Vanuatu’s economic vulnerability and increase resilience.

Future Support Required
Looking forward, Vanuatu requires continued and enhanced support in several key areas:

• Strengthening Domestic Resource Mobilisation: Efforts need to be intensified to improve domestic revenue collection and expand the tax base. This includes reforming tax systems and enhancing enforcement.

• Capacity Building for Fund Management: Developing local expertise in financial management and project implementation is crucial. This includes training for government officials and stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation techniques to ensure transparency and accountability.

• Innovative Financing Solutions: Exploring innovative financing solutions such as public–private partnerships, blended finance models, and impact investing to attract more diverse funding sources.

Chapter 7. Strategies to Accelerate Progress

Linking NSDP Acceleration Plan and Follow Up Summits
By effectively linking the NSDP, the acceleration plan, and future summits, Vanuatu can create a dynamic and robust mechanism for advancing its development agenda. This integrated approach not only ensures coherence across different initiatives but also leverages the collective capacity of all stakeholders involved, driving the nation towards achieving its ambitious development goals.

Integration of the NSDP with the Acceleration Plan
The NSDP serves as Vanuatu’s overarching framework for all development activities, outlining the nation’s long-term objectives and strategies. To enhance its effectiveness, the NSDP should be intricately linked with a well-defined acceleration plan. This plan should focus on identifying and implementing high-impact strategies that can quickly advance progress on lagging SDGs and critical areas of national importance, such as health, education, and economic resilience.

Priority Setting: The acceleration plan should begin with a thorough analysis of the NSDP’s current progress, identifying areas where goals have been underachieved or are at risk of delay. Prioritising these areas ensures that resources, both human and financial, are allocated efficiently, focusing on activities that promise the most significant developmental returns.
Resource Mobilisation: Effective linkage between the NSDP and the acceleration plan requires robust mechanisms for resource mobilisation. This includes exploring innovative financing options, strengthening partnerships with international donors, and enhancing private sector involvement. Aligning these financial strategies with specific projects and programs detailed in the acceleration plan ensures that funding is targeted and impactful.

Role of Future Summits
Future summits will play a critical role in bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to review progress, set agendas, and forge partnerships. These summits should be directly linked to the NSDP and the acceleration plan in several key ways:

Monitoring and Evaluation: Summits can serve as platforms for comprehensive reviews of the NSDP and the acceleration plan’s implementation. By systematically evaluating progress, challenges, and opportunities, summits can help refine strategies and redirect resources where they are needed most.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** These gatherings are crucial for ensuring broad-based support and for harnessing collective expertise. Summits should involve a diverse array of stakeholders including government officials, community leaders, NGOs, the private sector, and international partners. This inclusivity enhances the richness of the dialogue, leading to more holistic and sustainable development solutions.

- **Policy Recommendations:** Summits can generate actionable policy recommendations that directly influence the NSDP’s strategic directions and the execution of the acceleration plan. Discussions and workshops during these events can uncover new insights and innovative approaches that can be formally integrated into national strategies.

Enhancing Alignment through Communication and Collaboration
To ensure the NSDP, acceleration plan, and summits are effectively linked, continuous communication and collaboration are essential:

- **Integrated Planning and Execution:** Develop a framework that allows for the seamless integration of planning and execution processes across these platforms. This might involve setting up a dedicated oversight committee or working group that operates across different sectors and levels of government to ensure alignment and focus.
• Transparency and Accountability: Maintain high levels of transparency in reporting the outcomes of summits, progress of the acceleration plan, and updates on the NSDP. This transparency not only builds trust among stakeholders but also enhances accountability.

• Adaptability: The framework linking these initiatives should be flexible enough to adapt to emerging challenges and global shifts. This adaptability ensures that Vanuatu can quickly pivot its strategies in response to unexpected events or new opportunities.

Strengthening decentralisation efforts
To effectively strengthen decentralisation efforts in Vanuatu, a strategic, integrated approach is necessary. This approach should focus on enhancing local governance capabilities, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and fostering greater community participation. These elements are crucial for realising the potential benefits of decentralisation in improving service delivery, increasing government accountability, and promoting local economic development.

Enhancing Local Governance Capabilities
Investing in the capacity building of local government officials is paramount. Training programs should be developed to enhance the skills necessary for effective local governance, including project management, financial administration, and strategic planning. Additionally, providing local governments with access to digital tools and technologies can significantly improve their operational efficiencies and decision-making capabilities. These investments will empower local authorities to manage their affairs more independently and respond more effectively to the specific needs of their communities.

Ensuring Equitable Resource Distribution
A key challenge in decentralisation is the equitable distribution of resources across all regions. To address this, a transparent and fair mechanism for resource allocation should be established. This mechanism should consider the unique needs and potential of each locality, ensuring that no area is disproportionately disadvantaged. Moreover, local governments should be given the authority to not only administer these resources but also to raise their revenues through local taxes or initiatives, which can be reinvested into the community.

Fostering Community Participation
Decentralisation efforts must include mechanisms that encourage and facilitate active community participation in governance. This can be achieved through regular public consultations, participatory budgeting processes, and the establishment of local advisory councils that include representatives from various community groups. Such inclusive practices ensure that the voices of all citizens are heard and considered in the decision-making process, thereby increasing transparency, accountability, and trust in local governments.
By focusing on these key areas – namely, building governance capabilities, ensuring fair resource distribution, and enhancing community engagement – Vanuatu can strengthen its decentralisation efforts. These strategies not only support more effective and responsive local governance but also advance broader national development goals by empowering communities at the grassroots level.

Further national and community resilience
To further enhance national and community resilience in Vanuatu, a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach is required. This approach should encompass strengthening infrastructure, diversifying the economy, and building community capacity to manage and respond to various challenges effectively:

Strengthening Infrastructure
Investing in resilient infrastructure is crucial for enhancing both national and community resilience. This includes upgrading buildings, roads, and bridges to withstand natural disasters such as cyclones and earthquakes. Additionally, improving water management systems and flood defences can mitigate the impact of extreme weather events. By adopting green and sustainable construction practices, Vanuatu can ensure that its infrastructure not only supports current needs but is also adaptable to future environmental conditions.

Diversifying the Economy
Economic diversification is essential to reduce vulnerability to external shocks, such as fluctuations in global markets or impacts from climate change. Vanuatu can encourage growth in sectors such as technology, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy, which offer potential for sustainable development. Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in these sectors through incentives, training, and access to capital can stimulate job creation and economic stability, thereby building a more resilient national economy.

Building Community Capacity
Empowering communities to effectively respond to and manage crises is fundamental to resilience building. This can be achieved by providing education and training in disaster risk reduction and management. Establishing local emergency response teams and conducting regular drills can enhance preparedness. Additionally, fostering strong community networks and supporting local leadership can improve communication and cooperation during emergencies.
Leveraging Technology
Utilising technology to improve communication and data collection can significantly enhance disaster preparedness and response. Implementing early warning systems and using mobile technology to disseminate information quickly can save lives and reduce disaster impacts.

Deepen community and business engagement
Deepening community and business engagement is essential for fostering sustainable development and creating a resilient society. For Vanuatu, this means establishing strong partnerships and open lines of communication between local communities, businesses, and government entities. The review identified the following practical strategies to enhance these relationships:

Facilitate Regular Dialogue and Partnerships
Establish regular forums and workshops that bring together community leaders, local businesses, and government representatives. These meetings should serve as platforms for discussing local issues, exploring potential collaboration opportunities, and sharing best practices. Such interactive sessions not only enhance mutual understanding but also foster partnerships that can lead to innovative solutions tailored to community needs.

Community-Based Projects
Encourage businesses to invest in community-based projects that have direct social impact. This could involve initiatives like local infrastructure improvements, educational programs, or environmental conservation efforts. Businesses can contribute through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, which not only benefit the community but also build the company’s local presence and reputation.

Incentivise Local Engagement
Implement policies that incentivise businesses to engage with and invest in local communities. This might include tax breaks, grants, or subsidies for companies that participate in local development projects or that hire locally. Such incentives encourage businesses to contribute more actively to local economies and community well-being.

Leverage Technology for Engagement
Utilise technology to facilitate more effective communication and engagement between communities, businesses, and government. Platforms such as mobile apps or online forums can be used for gathering feedback, disseminating information about local opportunities or initiatives, and encouraging greater participation from community members and local entrepreneurs.
Transparency and Accountability
Ensure transparency in how community projects are chosen, funded, and implemented. Regularly update all stakeholders on progress and challenges. This openness builds trust and encourages more businesses and community members to participate actively in future projects.

Tailor Engagement Strategies
Recognise and address the unique characteristics of different communities. Tailored engagement strategies that consider local cultures, languages, and economic conditions are more likely to succeed. Engaging local cultural leaders can also enhance community participation and support for business initiatives.

Implement Climate Action Plans
Implementing climate action plans effectively requires integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into all aspects of planning and development, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainable development.

This includes adapting urban and agricultural practices to be more resilient and sustainable, such as modifying building codes for better energy efficiency and adopting agricultural methods that enhance soil health and water conservation.

Key to these efforts is the prioritization of sustainable land and marine resource management, involving the protection of natural habitats, sustainable fisheries, and responsible water and forest management.

Investing in renewable energy sources is crucial, with an emphasis on expanding solar, wind, bioenergy, hydropower, and geothermal energy to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Public education and awareness campaigns are essential to drive community engagement and support for these initiatives.

Additionally, securing adequate funding through climate finance options, such as green bonds and international aid, supports these transitions. Investments in research and development to innovate new technologies also play a critical role. Together, these measures aim to reduce carbon footprints, enhance ecosystems’ resilience, and ensure economic sustainability while addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change.
Investing in Education and Skills Development

Investing in education and skills development is essential for aligning with the national development agenda and preparing the workforce for future challenges. Improving educational infrastructure is a priority, encompassing both physical and digital enhancements to schools and institutions to facilitate a conducive learning environment. Increasing access to quality education at all levels ensures that every individual has the opportunity to attain the skills needed in a rapidly evolving job market. This approach involves updating curricula to reflect the demands of modern economies, focusing on digital literacy, environmental sustainability, and entrepreneurship to equip students with relevant competencies.

Vocational training and higher education play a crucial role in this educational enhancement by providing specialized skills aligned with industry needs. These programs should be designed to support sectors identified as growth drivers within the national development strategy, ensuring that students graduate with job-ready skills. Partnerships between educational institutions and industries can also foster practical learning opportunities, internships, and direct pathways to employment. By focusing on these areas, educational reforms can bolster economic growth, reduce unemployment, and enhance social cohesion, making the education system a pivotal foundation for sustainable development.

Improving Healthcare Systems

Improving healthcare systems is critical for enhancing public health outcomes and ensuring equitable access to medical services. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure involves not only upgrading existing facilities but also constructing new ones equipped with modern technology to handle a variety of medical needs. Expanding healthcare services in rural and underserved areas is particularly important, as these regions often lack the necessary resources and facilities. This expansion can be achieved through mobile health clinics, telemedicine, and by establishing more permanent healthcare centres that are staffed by well-trained professionals.

Furthermore, enhancing the capability to manage public health emergencies is vital for minimizing the impact of crises such as pandemics or natural disasters. This includes improving emergency response strategies, stockpiling essential supplies, and training healthcare workers in emergency preparedness. Increasing investments in health technology, such as electronic health records, e-prescribing, and patient monitoring systems, can significantly improve the efficiency and quality of healthcare delivery.
Training for healthcare personnel is another fundamental aspect that requires ongoing investment. Continuous professional development and specialized training programs are necessary to ensure that healthcare workers are up to date with the latest medical practices and technologies. By focusing on these key areas, healthcare systems can become more robust and responsive, ultimately leading to better health outcomes for the population.

**Enhanced International Coordination and Assistance**

To enhance resilience and development, securing increased international financial assistance is crucial, particularly in terms of climate finance, development aid, and disaster recovery funds. Direct access to global climate funds is essential to facilitate local projects aimed at adaptation and mitigation, addressing specific needs of vulnerable communities.

Technical expertise is another critical element, where collaboration with international experts provides significant benefits. These experts assist in areas such as urban planning, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience building, offering knowledge and technologies that may not be readily available locally. This collaboration ensures that strategies and solutions are both innovative and suited to local conditions.

Capacity building also plays a fundamental role. By engaging with global and regional partners, training and capacity building can be provided for local authorities, civil servants, and community leaders. This enhances their ability to effectively implement and manage development projects, ensuring that the benefits of international funding and technical assistance are maximized.

Encouraging private sector investment is vital for sustainable development. By creating favourable policies and incentives, private investment can be attracted to key sectors such as infrastructure, technology, and new industries that are crucial for economic growth and sustainability.

Lastly, strengthening partnerships with NGOs, civil society, and development agencies is indispensable. These partnerships leverage a wide range of expertise, resources, and networks, facilitating broad-based engagement. They play a critical role in addressing complex development challenges holistically, ensuring that efforts are coordinated and comprehensive.

Overall, regional coordination enhances these efforts, creating synergies among countries facing similar challenges and opportunities. This not only maximizes the impact of each initiative but also fosters a sense of shared goals and mutual benefits across borders.
The principle of ‘leaving no-one behind’ is fundamental to achieving equitable and sustainable development. This commitment ensures that every individual, regardless of their socioeconomic status, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, or geographical location, has access to the same opportunities for growth and well-being. Embracing this principle helps address the root causes of poverty and exclusion by actively targeting the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable populations.

Implementing ‘leaving no-one behind’ not only fosters social inclusion but also strengthens community cohesion and resilience. By ensuring that everyone can contribute to and benefit from economic and social progress, societies can break cycles of poverty and reduce inequalities. Moreover, inclusive development policies enhance the overall productivity and potential of the nation, driving broader economic growth and stability. Therefore, prioritising this principle is not just a moral imperative but a strategic one, crucial for the long-term prosperity and unity of any society.
Chapter 8. Conclusion
As we reflect on the commitments made in the 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR), it is imperative to consider the progress we have made, evaluate the relevance of our initial goals, identify new or emerging challenges, and delineate the path forward. This evaluation is crucial in ensuring that our national efforts remain aligned with both our long-term development goals and the dynamic global landscape.

Evaluating Past Commitments
The 2019 VNR set forth ambitious goals centred around enhancing resilience, promoting sustainable economic growth, and advancing social equity—principles that remain at the core of our national agenda. Significant strides have been made in these areas; however, the journey is far from complete. Our commitment to decentralisation, for example, has proven to be a vital strategy in improving governance and service delivery at local levels, ensuring that decision-making is closer to the communities most affected by these policies. This approach remains as valid today as it was at the time of commitment, and continued efforts are essential to fully realise its potential. By consistently updating and publishing reports such as the ADR, Vanuatu can help ensure that all stakeholders are kept informed and engaged in the nation’s progress.

Progress and Ongoing Challenges
We have seen commendable progress in infrastructure resilience and economic diversification, which have been critical in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters and global economic fluctuations. Yet, the need to enhance our healthcare and educational systems has become even more pronounced, especially in the face of global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. These areas require sustained investment and innovation to ensure that all citizens have access to quality health services and education.

New and Emerging Challenges
Since 2019, new challenges have emerged that necessitate adaptation of our strategies. The global shift towards digital economies presents both an opportunity and a challenge; it necessitates rapid enhancement of our digital infrastructure to ensure that no member of our community is left behind in the digital divide. Additionally, the increasing impacts of climate change demand that we continuously adapt and enhance our environmental policies and practices.
**Future Commitments**
Looking forward, our commitments must evolve to address both the enduring and emerging challenges. We will continue to prioritise the strengthening of our healthcare and education sectors, ensuring they are equipped to meet future demands. Economic resilience will remain a key focus, with an increased emphasis on sustainable practices and technologies that align with global environmental goals and economic opportunities.

We will also enhance our efforts in data collection and analytics, a crucial area that underpins effective policymaking and resource allocation. Improving our capabilities in this area will enable more informed decision-making and better measurement of our progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moreover, we recognise the importance of inclusivity in all our development efforts. We will intensify our initiatives to ensure that every segment of our population, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised, is an active participant in and beneficiary of our development journey. This commitment to inclusivity is essential not only for social equity but also for the cohesive and comprehensive advancement of our nation.

**Transparency and Cooperation**
In a spirit of transparency and cooperation, we invite our international partners, private sector stakeholders, and all communities within Vanuatu to join us in this renewed commitment. It is only through collective effort and shared responsibility that we can achieve the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves. Our journey towards sustainable development is ongoing, and while challenges remain, our resolve to address them must be unwavering. We are committed to a future that is resilient, inclusive, and prosperous, ensuring that Vanuatu not only meets its own development goals but also contributes positively to global efforts for a sustainable future.

In conclusion, as we build on the progress made since the 2019 VNR, we are guided by a vision of continued improvement, adaptation to new challenges, and an enduring commitment to the well-being and prosperity of every citizen in Vanuatu.
### ANNEX 1: Core Dataset from VBoS

#### SOCIETY 1

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<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value 2021 Survey</th>
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<td>Proportion of population speaking indigenous language daily</td>
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<td>Proportion of population age 12+ speaking at least one indigenous language every day</td>
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<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one traditional game</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOC 1.2.2</strong> Proportion of population possessing common and basic traditional production skills related to weaving, transport, housing, farming, food preparation</td>
<td>Proportion of households with members that possess all five basic production skills related to housing, food production and food preparation</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households with members that possess all five basic production skills related to housing, food production and food preparation (rural)</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households with members that possess all five basic production skills related to housing, food production and food preparation (urban)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to weave a mat</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to weave a mat (males)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to weave a mat (females)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to assemble thatch roofing</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to assemble thatch roofing (males)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to assemble thatch roofing (females)</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to produce walls from local materials (males)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to produce walls from local materials (females)</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to produce walls from local materials (females)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to plant food crops</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to plant food crops (males)</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to plant food crops (females)</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to prepare food by roasting</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to prepare food by roasting (males)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ able to prepare food by roasting (females)</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOC 1.2.3</strong> Proportion of population with ability to 1) produce herbal medicines, and 2) massage</td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines (rural)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage (rural)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage (urban)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SOC 1.7.1 Proportion of population with free access to traditional lands, forest and marine resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous customary lands</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous customary lands (males)</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous customary lands (females)</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous customary lands (urban)</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest resources</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest resources (males)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest resources (females)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest resources (rural)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine resources</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine resources (males)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine resources (females)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine resources (rural)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine resources (urban)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SOC 1.7.2 Proportion of population that use traditional lands for agriculture, marine, forestry and livestock for consumption or customary purposes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growing food crops</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing food crops (rural)</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tending livestock</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tending livestock (rural)</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tending timber</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tending timber (urban)</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SOCIETY 2: An inclusive and equitable quality education system with life-long learning for all

**SOC 2.1.1 Percentage of age 6 in Yr. 1 who attended kindergarten**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten Attended</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended rote, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (males)</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (females)</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (rural)</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (urban)</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SOC 2.1.2 Survival rates Yrs. 1–6, 1–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Attended Rate</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary (males)</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary (females)</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCITY 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>A healthy population that enjoys a high quality of physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOC 3.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1 year old (%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (males)</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (females)</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (rural)</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (urban)</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOCITY 4**

*An inclusive society which upholds human dignity and where the rights of all Ni-Vanuatu including women, youth, vulnerable groups and the elderly are supported, protected and promoted in our legislation and institutions*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SOC 4.2.1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Subjective Well-being</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population ages 15 and over</td>
<td>8.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population age 15 and over (males)</td>
<td>8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population age 15 and over (females)</td>
<td>8.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10 population age 15 and over (youth 15–30)</td>
<td>8.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SOC 4.3.1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Proportion of population reporting some degree of disability</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington Group inclusive of “some” functional difficulty</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Group inclusive of “some” functional difficulty (males)</td>
<td>6.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Group inclusive of “some” functional difficulty (females)</td>
<td>5.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Group inclusive of “some” functional difficulty (rural)</td>
<td>6.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Group inclusive of “some” functional difficulty (urban)</td>
<td>4.81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOC 4.6.2 (p)**

| Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving | 62% |
| Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (males) | 55% |
| Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (females) | 60% |
| Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (rural) | 50% |
| Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (urban) | 57% |

| Mean level of agreement, “I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community”, | 5.75 |
| 0–10, youth ages 15–30 | |
| Mean level of agreement, “I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community”, | 6.01 |
| 0–10, youth ages 15–30 (males) | |
| Mean level of agreement, “I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community”, | 5.52 |
| 0–10, youth ages 15–30 (females) | |
| Mean level of agreement, “I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community”, | 5.95 |
| 0–10, youth ages 15–30 (rural) | |
| Mean level of agreement, “I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community”, | 5.75 |
| 0–10, youth age 15–30 (urban) | |

**SOC 4.7.1**

| Proportion of youth actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months by gender | |
| Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months | 8% |
| Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (males) | 11% |
| Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (females) | 5% |
| Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (rural) | 7% |
| Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (urban) | 9% |
### SOCIETY 5

**SOC 5.1.3**  
Average cost of legal fees/services for a court case  
Average annual household expenditure on legal services  
VT 134

**SOC 5.5.2**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of theft in last 12 months</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of theft in last 12 months (rural)</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of theft in last 12 months (urban)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of vandalism in last 12 months</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of vandalism in last 12 months (rural)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of vandalism in last 12 months (urban)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOC 5.5.3**  
Proportion of population with positive assessment of their chief’s ability to resolve disputes peacefully  
Proportion of households with favourable assessment of their Chief’s ability to resolve disputes | 0.62  |
| Proportion of households with favourable assessment of their Chief’s ability to resolve disputes (rural) | 0.67  |
| Proportion of households with favourable assessment of their Chief’s ability to resolve disputes (urban) | 0.45  |

### SOCIETY 6

**SOC 6.3.1**  
Proportion of eligible population reporting to have voted in last election  
Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (males) 0.86  
Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (females) 0.85  
Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (urban) 0.81

**SOC 6.3.2**  
Proportion of population with an overall positive assessment of their local elected officials  
\( p \)  
Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 6.86  
Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (males) 6.77  
Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (females) 7.0  
Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (urban) 7.42

**SOC 6.7.1**  
Proportion of population utilizing media outlets for news including newspapers, mobile phones, radio, television, and internet  
Proportion of households with members that read a newspaper at least once a month 0.2  
Proportion of households with members that read a newspaper at least once a month (rural) 0.05  
Proportion of households with members that read a newspaper at least once a month (urban) 0.53  
Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month 0.71  
Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (males) 0.77  
Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (females) 0.66  
Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (rural) 0.67  
Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (urban) 0.82  
Proportion of households with members that listen to radio at least once a month 0.26  
Proportion of households with members that listen to radio at least once a month (rural) 0.18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENVIRONMENT 1:</th>
<th>A nation that ensures our food and nutrition security needs are adequately met for all people through increasing sustainable food production systems and improving household production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.1.1</td>
<td>Proportion of households engaged in production of food for own consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households with members engaged in production of food crops for home consumption 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households with members engaged in production of food crops for home consumption (rural) 97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households with members engaged in production of food crops for home consumption (urban) 42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.2</td>
<td>Up to date data on primary production (agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, biosecurity) available for analysis and informed decision making and reporting available in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic production and consumption information collected through the 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey available for analysis and reporting available in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.3</td>
<td>Average incidence of food poverty at the household level (Food Poverty Line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food Poverty Rate, Proportion of population living below the food poverty line 5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food Poverty Rate, Proportion of population living below the food poverty line (rural) 7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food Poverty Rate, Proportion of population living below the food poverty line (urban) 0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT 2:</td>
<td>An economy which fosters sustainable growth and development through low impact industries and modern technologies to ensure the wellbeing of future generations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 2.3.2</td>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable energy technology as main source of lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting, including solar panels and solar lanterns 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting, including solar panels and solar lanterns (rural) 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting, including solar panels and solar lanterns (urban) 13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT 3:</td>
<td>A strong and resilient nation in the face of climate change and disaster risks posed by natural and man-made hazards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 3.2.2</td>
<td>Proportion of population with access to technologies that convey early warnings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month 71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (males) 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (females) 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (rural) 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (urban) 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (males) 37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (females) 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (rural) 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (urban) 57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT 5:</td>
<td>A nation committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of our biodiversity and ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 5.3.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population with knowledge of the names of local flora and fauna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECONOMY 1: Stable and equitable growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECO 1.1.2</strong> GDP Growth rate (2021)</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECO 1.2.1</strong> Government revenue as % of GDP (2021)</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECO 1.3.2</strong> Debt/ GDP ratio (2021)</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMY 2: Sustainable and well-maintained infrastructure and services for all, through inclusive and effective partnerships</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECO 2.1.1</strong> Proportion of households sourcing energy for lighting from renewable sources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting (rural)</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting (urban)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>102.2.1 Proportion of population with reliable access to safe drinking water</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (males)</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (females)</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (rural)</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (urban)</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>102.2.2 Proportion of population with reliable access to improved sanitation facilities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (males)</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (females)</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (rural)</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (urban)</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>102.6.1 Proportion of population with access to transport by road, sea and air</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of the population within 30-minute walking distance to nearest road</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of the population within 30-minute walking distance to nearest sea passage</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>102.6.2 Proportion of the population within 30-minute walking distance to nearest air strip</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean household perceived convenience of public transportation, 0–10</td>
<td>7.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean household perceived convenience of public transport, 0–10 (rural)</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean household perceived convenience of public transport, 0–10 (urban)</td>
<td>8.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECO 2.9.1 Proportion of population having access to broadband connection</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet in last 30 days</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with members accessing internet from home modem or Wi-Fi at least once a month</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with members accessing internet from home modem or Wi-Fi at least once a month (rural)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with members accessing internet from home modem or Wi-Fi at least once a month (urban)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMY 3: A strong rural economy that creates opportunities, enables the development of rural communities and increasingly contributes to national prosperity</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECO 3.2.1</strong> Average annual household income from tourism</td>
<td>VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual household income from tourism related industries ([SIC sections H &amp; I])</td>
<td>113,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual rural household income from tourism related industries ([SIC sections H &amp; I])</td>
<td>61,713</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ECO 3.6.1

**Average annual urban household income from tourism related industries (/SIC sections H & I)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>264,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TORBA</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANMA Rural</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENAMA</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAMPA</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEFA Rural</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE A</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUGANVILLE</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT VILA</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TORBA</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANMA Rural</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENAMA</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAMPA</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEFA Rural</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE A</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUGANVILLE</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT VILA</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police post</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TORBA</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANMA Rural</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENAMA</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAMPA</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEFA Rural</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE A</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUGANVILLE</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT VILA</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ECONOMY 4:

#### An enabling business environment, creating opportunities and employment for entrepreneurs throughout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proportion of rural households engaged in trade with family in urban centres**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proportion of rural households that exchange goods with family in Port Vila or Luganville at least once a year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ECO 4.6.1

#### Labor force participation by sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Labor Force Participation Rate, % of working age population age 15+ in the labour force**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment, age 15+, in agriculture, forestry or fisheries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG Indicators</td>
<td>GOAL 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1</strong></td>
<td>Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ that currently smoke cigarettes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ that smoke cigarettes every day</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.5.2 (p)</strong></td>
<td>Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ that consume alcohol at least once a week</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.8.2</strong></td>
<td>Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual household expenditure on health services, Vatu</td>
<td>VT 2,422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GOAL 1.

**End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

#### 1.1.1

Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

- Proportion of population living below US$1.90 a day: 8.5%
- Proportion of male population living below US$1.90 a day: 8.4%
- Proportion of female population living below US$1.90 a day: 8.7%
- Proportion of rural population living below US$1.90 a day: 11.3%
- Proportion of urban population living below US$1.90 a day: 0.6%
- Proportion of population under 15 living below US$1.90 a day: 11.1%
- Proportion of population 16-30 living below US$1.90 a day: 7.0%
- Proportion of population 31-64 living below US$1.90 a day: 7.0%
- Proportion of population 65 and over living below US$1.90 a day: 6.3%
- Proportion of population employed in labour force living below US$1.90 a day: 3.8%
- Proportion of population unemployed in labour force living below US$1.90 a day: 4.5%

#### 1.2.1

Proportion of population living below the national basic needs poverty line, by sex and age

- Proportion of population living below national basic needs poverty line: 15.9%
- Proportion of male population living below national basic needs poverty line: 15.6%
- Proportion of female population living below national basic needs poverty line: 16.2%
- Proportion of rural population living below national basic needs poverty line: 20.8%
- Proportion of urban population living below national basic needs poverty line: 2.0%
- Proportion of population under age 15 living below national basic needs poverty line: 16.9%
- Proportion of population age 15-30 living below national basic needs poverty line: 16.1%
- Proportion of population age 31-64 living below national basic needs poverty line: 14.0%
- Proportion of population age 65+ living below national basic needs poverty line: 18.0%
- Proportion of population employed in labour force living below national basic needs poverty line: 9.0%
- Proportion of population unemployed in labour force living below national basic needs poverty line: 13.1%

#### 1.4.2

Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

- Proportion of population age 15 and higher with access to indigenous customary lands: 85%
- Proportion of households headed by men with access to indigenous customary lands: 88%
- Proportion of households headed by women with access to indigenous customary lands: 78%

### GOAL 2.

**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

#### 2.1.1

Prevalence of undernutrition

- Proportion of the population whose dietary energy intake is lower than the amount of energy it needs to be in good health and have an active life: 8%

#### 2.1.2

Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

- Proportion of population with limited access to food due to lack of money, lack of access to natural resources or other environmental factors: 23.3%

#### 2.3.2

Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

- Average monthly income value of home consumption, Vatu: 17,275

### GOAL 3.

**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

#### 3.1

Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older

- Proportion of population age 15+ that currently smoke cigarettes: 20%
- Proportion of population age 15+ that smoke cigarettes every day: 7%

#### 3.5.2 (p)

Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

- Proxy: Proportion of population age 15+ that consume alcohol at least once a week: 6%

#### 3.8.2

Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

- Average annual household expenditure on health services, Vatu: VT 2,422
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL4.</th>
<th>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.3.1</td>
<td>Participation rate of youth and adults informal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 13–60 currently enrolled informal or non-formal education and training programs</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of male population age 13–60 currently enrolled informal or non-formal education and training programs</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of female population age 13–60 currently enrolled informal or non-formal education and training programs</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 12+ with self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of male population age 12+ with self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of female population age 12+ with self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS.</td>
<td>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.b.1</td>
<td>Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ owning at least one mobile phone in working condition</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of male population age 15+ owning at least one mobile phone in working condition</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of female population age 15+ owning at least one mobile phone in working condition</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS.</td>
<td>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5.2</td>
<td>Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, age 15+</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, males age 15+</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, females age 15+</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, age 15–24</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, age 25–64</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, age 65+</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate, persons with disabilities, age 15+</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL9.</td>
<td>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2.2</td>
<td>Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing as a proportion of total employment</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL 10.</td>
<td>Reduce inequality within and among countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1.1</td>
<td>Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median annual per capita expenditure for bottom 40% of total population</td>
<td>125,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.1</td>
<td>Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of male population living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of female population living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of rural population living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of urban population living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population under 15 living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population 15-30 living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population 30-64 living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population 65 and over living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population with disability living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population without disability living below 50 per cent of median consumption</td>
<td>0.203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALII.</td>
<td>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean level of convenience of public transportation, 0–10 scale, household level</td>
<td>7.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL 16.</td>
<td>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.b.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.1.4</td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ that have experienced discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnicity or place of origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or disability in previous 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.5.1</td>
<td>Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.6.2</td>
<td>Mean level of satisfaction with last experience of public services, age 15+, 0–10 scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.7.2</td>
<td>Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL 17.</td>
<td><strong>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.1.1</td>
<td>Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.1.2</td>
<td>Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.4.1</td>
<td>Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.8.1</td>
<td>Proportion of individuals using the Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.8.2</td>
<td>Proportion of population age 15+ using internet at least once a month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>