

Activity Progress Report: UNDP/Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP)

Summary

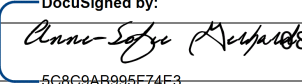
Activity information

Activity Title	Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP) Phase II
Goal	Meeting citizens expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability through stronger systems of democratic governance?
Intended outcomes	Output 1: Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities strengthened; Output 2: Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register enhanced; Output 3: Ability to Conduct Voter Education and Raise Public Awareness strengthened; Output 4: Legal Electoral Framework Improved and Capacity Building on Electoral Reform to Key Stakeholders provided.

Contract or grant information

Start and end dates	Start Date: 01/01/2021 End Date: 30/06/2024
Total cost	US\$ 3,815,640
Reporting period	01/01/2021 – 30/12/2021

Progress report preparation

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Others involved or consulted	UNDP/VEEP team, CRIM Department, EC/VEO Department
Date of report	01/02/2022

Executive Summary (1-3 pages)

Highlight the **most significant achievements (or difference made) during the period. Please clearly indicate this Activity's contribution to achievements.**

The Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Government of New Zealand, is focussed on strengthening electoral systems and democratic practices in the country. Whilst the VEEP Project continues to focus on the key mandate of electoral reform, efforts have been made to ensure increased sustainability of VEEP outcomes by reinforcing legislative frameworks, supporting both institutional reform and planning and broadening the “buying in” of a range of various stakeholders to the innovative platforms and strategies being institutionalised through VEEP support.

If 2021 could be summarised with four inter-linked descriptors, these would be “consultative partnerships,” “legislative reforms,” “sector-wide innovation” and “embedding institutional sustainability.”

Consultative Partnerships: Four very active, multi sectoral working groups were established that worked across all four of these inter-linked areas:

- 1) *Electoral Reform Working Group* to review and harmonise all pertinent electoral legislation into one single Electoral Act and to consolidate the independence of the Electoral Commission;
- 2) *Civil Registration and Identity Management Working Group* undertaking comprehensive civil registration reforms to replace the civil registration and vital statistics framework dating back 41 years to pre-independence by focussing on development of two new bills - 1) Civil Registration and Identity Management Bill and 2) National Identity Card Bill – supported by related first ever regulations and standard operating procedures;
- 3) *Data Protection and Data Privacy Working Group* developing policy and legislative protocols for protection of personal data, data privacy and harmful digital communication;
- 4) *Voter Awareness Committee* – made up of media groups, Transparency International (Vanuatu), disability groups, Vanuatu Council of Churches, and community-based NGOs,

These four groups were drawn variously from Prime Minister’s Office, State Law Office, Law Reform Commission, Electoral Commission, Electoral Office, Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management, Vanuatu National Statistics Office, Department of Local Authorities, Department of Urban Administration and Planning, Department for Immigration, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, media groups, Transparency International (Vanuatu), disability groups, Vanuatu Council of Churches.

Legislative Reform was driven with the drafting, presentation and passing of two bills - Civil Registration and Identity Management Bill and the National Identity Card Bill - to the November sitting of Parliament with Presidential Gazettal in January 2022. Drafting Instructions for further legislation are well advanced for a single Electoral Act, which aims at harmonising all current legislation for all direct elections in Vanuatu in addition to embracing some important reforms including voting only with national ID, moving to a one-page ballot, reinforcing out of country and introducing out of constituency voting, establishing campaign finance and temporary special measures (TSM) for women seats at provincial and national level in multi-member constituencies. The Electoral Act will be proposed for country wide consultations from March onwards in 2022 and is aimed to be presented for the November 2022 sitting of Parliament. Cascading from these acts and newly drafted bills are revisions to regulations and the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to operationalise and insert the new legislation into practice. Much of the legislative reform is being watched closely by other nations in the region as commendable and inspirational legislative innovation in both results and processes.

Sector Wide Innovation: With so many agencies involved, there has been a growing sense of sector-wide cooperation with emerging opportunities for further partnerships, not merely within the Government of Vanuatu but also across other donor partners, private sector and non-government agencies. The issue of verifiable biometric

ID cards to establish legal identity has already had a beneficial impact on health and education planning, on the private sector (bank accounts, licences), as well relief and disaster recovery package payments. The National ID cards will be used for voting purposes, streamlining the establishment of the voter register and rationalizing governance practices. The ID cards were also used as the planning basis for Vanuatu's COVID19 National Vaccination Strategy. The National COVID19 strategy was implemented using VEEP trained enumerators, tablets loaded with satellite geospatial multi-layered atlases and the newly developed tailored App to scan and identify citizens' identities and record vaccination details. Any future programs or digital services provided by the Government of Vanuatu, donors, NGOs and private sector requiring verifiable, traceable ID, can now "on board" updated citizen's data if permitted by CRIM Department through established partnerships/MoUs with careful consideration of data privacy.

As mentioned, currently on-going work, and a priority in 2022 is the new Ministry of Internal Affairs Corporate Plan (2022-2026) – the consultative drafting of which was VEEP supported - will see the creation of an integrated database as the foundation not only for the central civil register and the voter register but also for a Population Register. The latter is also part of the focus for legislative reform for data protection and privacy.

Following on from the 2021 Provincial Elections in Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Tafea in May 2021, the Port Vila Municipal By-Election on 24th September, Pentecost Parliamentary By-Election on 8th October and Torba Provincial Council Elections on 7th December (where voting ran smoothly utilising the National ID card as the primary source to identify voters), it has been decided to progress the transitional phase of moving from the old electoral card to only utilising the ID cards as the verifiable voter identifier for elections in future. This means at the same time moving from paper voter lists to digital voter lists, scanning voters at polling station level instead of only ticking voters off on the voter list, which at the same time facilitates disaggregated voter information based on citizens digital records.

This seemingly simple innovation of the National ID card has resolved deeply defective electoral lists populated by dead people, duplicated names, incorrect village names and location errors, and poor or no birth certificates to create a verifiable electoral register with facial image IDs. In close cooperation with the United Nations Satellite Centre and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNOSAT/UNITAR), a system with geospatial satellite maps turned into multi-layered atlases have now established and mapped all villages using Global Positioning System (GPS) locations, reconciled with census data, allowing improved polling stations and voter list identification and allocation but also potentially tracking of the population movement in times of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and cyclones. Links to international best practice have been supported by VEEP and in so doing Vanuatu is being recognised as leading regional best practice.

At the direct request of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Ishmael Kalsakau Maau'koro (MP), VEEP supported the development of a Civic Education textbook, a Teacher's Guide and a Student Workbook in English, French and Bislama to increase civic awareness for first time voters. The Curriculum Development Unit (CDU) from the Ministry of Education participated in editing and validation, endorsing the materials for use in 26 senior secondary schools as enrichment materials, with the CDU seeking further discussion on the potential of the materials use in trainee teacher programs. While the textbook has already been translated into French and Bislama, the Teachers Guide and Student Handbook will be translated in 2022 for distribution to schools.

Voter engagement has been encouraged with other programs of civic education and awareness such as the official launch in November of the VEO Website uploaded with voter information, educational videos, pamphlets, posters, candidate information packages and forms, and at the same time working as an online archive with results of all elections by year, supported by VEEP.

“Embedding Institutional Sustainability:” Lessons Learned from previous projects have demonstrated that to ensure long term sustainability of donor funded programs, specific strategies are key to entrench institutional change. Accordingly, VEEP has supported the restructuring of the Electoral Commission (EC), the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO), the Civil Registry and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Department (now Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) Department) and currently the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) Corporate Service Unit

(CSU). An effective CSU will result in stronger planning, budget and staffing outcomes for VEEP's core partner agencies post-project completion in 2024. Well attended workshops to collaboratively develop the 2022-2026 Ministry of Internal Affairs Corporate Plan and subsequently individual Business Plans for all 17 MoIA Departments and agencies were used as capacity building opportunities for MoIA teams.

Alignment to the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), the new GoV Planning and Reporting Guidelines and Budget Narratives of the Appropriations Act built understanding of the "how and why" of GoV planning processes. The critical gap identified by participants was the need for a Sector Strategy and anticipatory governance with use of foresight to define and optimise the nascent sectoral collaboration already underway, as well as the need for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support the significant legislative reforms and strong collection of data to guide evidence-based decision asking but also evidence-based assessments of achievements and impact.

Comment on whether the Activity is making adequate progress to justify the level of investment provided.

The Activity is making very good progress, justifying the investment provided and indeed additional initiatives have commenced following government partner agency requests to improve sustainability outcomes through institutional capacity, governance, digital transformation, reporting, planning and capacity building of counterparts and partner agencies. This progress has been made despite the potentially negative impact of the global pandemic of COVID19 and the impact of category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold.

The on-going impact of Cyclone Harold has resulted in driving recovery in the affected northern provinces. The VEEP project is situated within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry chiefly responsible for decentralisation and provincial services. There had been the threat of interruption to the planned electoral cycle or movement of key counterparts, difficulties with voter register updates, but this was mitigated by careful planning with steady progress against VEEP deliverables continuing.

Interestingly, the challenge of both COVID19 and Cyclone Harold created an opportunity for the Project to upscale support to expand the digital onboarding of citizens, the reach and use of the National ID Card and continuously updated civil and voter registers as the basis for the roll-out of the Vanuatu National COVID19 Vaccination Plan, as well as in disaster response for the National Disaster Management Office together with IOM to track displaced people, disaster relief packages and recovery initiatives.

Despite the reduced access to in-country technical support provoked by the COVID pandemic, progress across all four VEEP outputs has been very strong largely due to partner organisation "buy-in", itself the result of mentoring, capacity building and sector engagement. Indeed, the VEEP intended outcomes have been constantly upscaled as opportunities arose to strengthen outcomes for sustainability, to broaden partnerships envisaged in the project design to include other key sectoral stakeholders in country, regionally and internationally that will be critical to longevity, inclusion and quality.

Output 1: Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened

Output 2: Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register Enhanced

Output 3: Ability to Conduct Voter Education and Raise Public Awareness strengthened

Output 4: Legal Electoral Framework Improved and Capacity Building on Electoral Reform to Key Stakeholders provided

Key Achievements for 2021

The Activity Results Framework (refer Appendix A) clearly details achievements that demonstrate value for money/investment. The following comments by Output are therefore deliberately succinct to avoid repetition of information provided later in Appendix A.

Outcome 1: Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened	
Initiative	Value for Investment
Electoral Commission (EC) Institutional Capacity	<p>A restructuring of the EC was undertaken and submitted to the Minister in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff the EC more appropriately • Provide clear a mandate statement for the EC • Clarify TORs for Commission members • Develop Job Descriptions defining officers' responsibilities • Present Performance Review templates based on new Job Descriptions • Propose forward staffing budget estimates • Prepare new project proposals (NPPs) for the following year's budget submission and supplementary budget consideration • Development of EC regulations (for General Elections, Local Government Council elections, Municipal Government Council elections and Codes of Conduct)
Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) Institutional Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A VEO restructure was undertaken and submitted to the Public Service Commission to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More appropriately staff the VEO ○ Provide a clear mandate statement for the VEO ○ Detail Job Descriptions (JDs) defining officers' responsibilities ○ Introduce performance Review templates based on new JDs ○ Forward staffing budget estimates • Prepare NPPs for following year's budget submission and supplementary budget consideration • Prepare templates for Quarterly, Half Yearly and Annual Reports • Prepare template for VEO Annual Business Plan • Develop revised budget narratives (Book 3) for Appropriations Bill to improve budget outcomes ad reporting compliance • Train on Performance Review processes • Integrate 'Inclusion' in development of MoIA Strategic Plan • Undertake trainings on Business Plan drafting • Train VEO contracted enumerators/data entry officers creating a pool of local expertise for future contracts/quick onboarding • Provide training on website management, social media guidelines and ethics, Facebook updates etc for outreach advocacy and awareness
Electoral Cycle Mapping and Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear mapping of the Electoral Cycle 2020-2024 and associated timelines has facilitated stronger planning and budget allocation, as well as awareness for projected elections, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National ○ Provincial ○ Municipal and ○ Presidential And support to a number of unforeseen by-elections • Electoral Cycle Maps have been provided in English, French and Bislama for candidates, communities, schools, and voters

Standard Operating Procedures and/or Manuals	<p>The VEO now has a holistic electoral operational plan, developed through VEEP technical support to codify, and institutionalise the VEO operational procedures. Procedures developed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for party / candidate agent’s accreditation • Procedures for observer’s accreditation • Procedures for candidates’ nomination • Procedures for voter registration (old and new methodology) • Procedures for polling and counting, including operational forms (Polling Station (PS) reconciliation form, PS results form, Record of the Seals form, material transfer forms) • A joint civil and voter registration manual based on codified procedures, with the objective to support the work of 500 registration officers around all provinces of Vanuatu. • Operational forms to be used in the joint civil registration process have been developed, along with checklists, guide for the registration supervisors with their roles and responsibilities.
Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although not initially seen as an “electoral authority,” the critical importance of the Civil Registration Department’s contribution to verifiable up-to-date accurate voter register, voter lists based on ID Card identification for voting purposes and locations to allocate to nearest polling stations, has led to considerable inputs into strengthening and improving the now former CRVS. • A CRVS restructure (to create CRIM Department) was undertaken and submitted to the Public Service Commission to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More appropriately staff CRVS ○ Provide clear a Mandate Statement for the CRVS ○ Develop Job Descriptions (JDs) defining officers’ responsibilities ○ Develop Performance Review templates based on new JDs ○ Forward staffing budget estimates • Prepare NPPs for following year’s budget submission and supplementary budget consideration • Prepare templates for Quarterly, Half Yearly and Annual Reports • Prepare template for CRIM Annual Business Plan • Revise Budget Narratives (Book 3) for Appropriations Bill to improve budget outcomes and reporting compliance • Provide training on Performance Review processes • Ensure inclusion into development of MoIA Strategic Plan • Provide training on Business Plan drafting • Support development and legal drafting of new legislation to strongly reflect the ‘Legal Identity’ Management role of CRVS, creating a “new” Department: The Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management • Two new bills passed 1) Vanuatu National Identity Act, No. 27 of 2021 and 2) Civil Registration and Identity Management Act no 28 of 2021 • Linking CRVS (now CRIM) with other regional and international agencies involved in ID management, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UN ESCAP to support to the mapping of birth registration and death registration business process mapping -Bloomberg Philanthropies, to explore the interoperability and linkage of health data with civil registry data -South Pacific Community (SPC) for SIDS lessons learned and synergies

Ministry of Internal Affairs Strengthening	<p>Without a strong Ministry, the sustainability of NZ MFAT/UNDP VEEP initiatives would be at risk. Therefore, assistance has been provided that has helped reinforce the work of the MoIA including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing briefings as requested by DG, Minister and MoIA Management • Supporting the restructuring of MoIA Corporate Services Unit • Supporting the development of MoIA Corporate Plan 2022-2026 • Supporting the development of trainings and training material on Business Plan writing aligned with new GoV reporting guidelines • Facilitating initial discussions for a MoIA Sector Strategy based on anticipatory planning and foresight analysis
Planning Innovation	<p>Additional funding and technical advisory support have been secured through UNDP New York and UNDP Fiji Office to support on anticipatory planning strategies to become a driver for the development of the MoIA sector strategy at a 2-day conference for around 100 participants.</p> <p>MoIA DG intends that the Sector Strategy will more strongly engage cross Ministry NGO private sector and development partner engagement in MoIA activities broadly but also specifically in the electoral environment sector.</p>
Output 2: Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register Enhanced	
Initiative	Value for Investment
Voter Register	The National Voter Register, deeply flawed, was systematically cleansed, validated and verified through field work of citizens' details and capturing unregistered voters, re-issuing identification documents and credentials for citizens losing their core documents during natural disasters and at same time capturing new-borns and youth as yet unregistered in the civil register.
Voter List	The voter lists are the lists printed for each polling station. Using the National ID Card has improved the validation and verification outcomes of the previous paper booklet electoral cards that were easily duplicated, or 'borrowed', and deceased voters that kept voting, contributing to potential electoral fraud. Therefore, voter lists were also wildly inaccurate. Over 2020-2021, the electoral cards were being phased out to be replaced by the biometric National ID Cards for identification purposes, and voter lists updated and verified through close cooperation of the VEO with the Civil Registration Department. In the future the voter register and voter lists will be extracted from the civil register. A flow on effect was then the strengthening of CRIM Department and in turn, the Vanuatu National Statistics Office data – further examples of value for investment.
Polling Station Reforms	<p>The identification of polling stations has been widely improved, following the significant field work. Each polling station, and each village in Vanuatu, is now GPS number allocated and represented in multi-layer atlases based on collaboration with UNITAR/UNOSAT, and the development of geo-spatial satellite maps of Vanuatu to include all households.</p> <p>Color-coded maps are now being used to measure distance of household accessibility to voting opportunities/polling stations and therefore verify with evidence, the need for additional polling stations to ensure equal and fair access. The maps have also captured schools and health clinics and their distance to household, so these maps are equally beneficial for Ministry of Education or Ministry of Health for resource planning and appropriate allocation of their facilities to service the people of Vanuatu.</p>

National Identity Card	<p>The National ID Card has truly demonstrated its cost-efficiency and enormous potential, which is now used by Department of Labour, Immigration/Passports but also Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education for planning clinics nurses, teachers, schools, budgets and planning. It is providing the basis for Police Clearances, air ticket booking, opening bank accounts, tracking displaced persons and cash/relief benefits after natural disasters. The private sector is equally keen to explore the use for business registration and employee records.</p> <p>Vanuatu's National COVID 19 Vaccination Strategy was based on the voter lists and elector mapping systems and by using the National ID Card.</p> <p>In recognition of the veracity of the National ID Card, in 2022 the National ID Card will entirely replace the electoral card and end the transitional phase for voter identification and voter eligibility.</p>
An integrated Identity System	<p>Identity systems are those that support government in creating one or more registries for fundamental or functional identification. Fundamental identification is essentially about assigning a number to a citizen. Functional identification covers broader use cases in a functional area, such as passport issuance, driving license management, voter registries, civil registries, identity card issuance, etc.</p> <p>A new integrated Identity System is under development and has been documented. This integrated identification system will allow various functional areas to cooperate, and proposals have been prepared for the rules for migrating from RegVIZ (the current civil register) to the new identity database, merged with GVRs and VES databases.</p> <p>By the time of Q1 2021, the number of voters issued with a national ID card is (Gender disaggregated): F: 47,584 M: 51,540</p> <p>By Q2 2021, (10/June/21) the number of voters issued with a national ID card (Gender disaggregated) was: Female: 73,721 Male: 77,507</p> <p>By Q3 (end August 2021) the number of voters issued with a national ID card (Gender disaggregated) was Female: 99,161 females (29.7%) and Male: 106,341 males (35.4%).</p> <p>By Q4, the UNDP/VEEP Project had thus supported 222,646 citizens, which is 74.21% of total population of 300,019 (2020 National Census), to register and receive their National Identity card. Females: 106,854 (35.6%) Male: 114,347 (38.1%)</p> <p>The migration plans and final system development is ongoing, alongside data being verified, validated, and cleaned of incorrect data, duplicates, deceased and typo errors. This integrated database will also serve as the basis of a future population register in Vanuatu.</p>
Output 3: Ability to conduct voter education and raise public awareness strengthened	
Initiative	Value for Investment
Civic Education	<p>Creation of Civic Education Materials for use in schools - a Teachers Manual, Student's Workbook and textbook.</p> <p>These will be distributed in boxed sets to 26 Senior Secondary Schools from 2022. Discussions were held to include this in teacher education at Vanuatu Institute of Teach Education (VITE).</p>

Vanuatu NZ Expo	Involvement in the Vanuatu/NZ Expo provided opportunity for further awareness activities, and the launching of VEO new website and comprehensive online repository.
Media International	https://stories.undp.org/finally-i-exist video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/Ai4x2aDKVVs (slightly updated version) short documentary video (8min) on Civil Registration and national ID in Vanuatu
VEO's Facebook	By end of 2021 - 5,895 followers Port Vila City – 4,000: 45% women, 54% men Luganville – 450; Suva – 122; Noumea – 45; New Zealand – 45
Media Local	Regular Press Releases, television, radio articles on innovation and outcomes of the electoral reforms supported by NZ MFAT and UNDP/VEEP is on-going.
Training for VEO Team	Training has been provided for VEO staff on maintenance of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Facebook
PWD Action Plan	Consultations were held and a People with Disability (PWD) Action Plan developed, uploaded to website and a sensitisation workshop developed for EC and VEO staff. All VEEP materials are inclusively themed with characters in wheelchairs, on crutches, of different genders and ages etc
Gender Action Plan	A Gender Action Plan initiative commenced in 2021, with further work planned in 2022 to encourage women's participation in the electoral cycle – in particular as candidates. Posters have been printed and distributed clearly showing women voting, as candidates and as strong community leaders.

<p>Voter Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The following Report from Q2 for the 2021 Provincial Elections demonstrates the reach and innovation of VEEP supported voter information and civil education strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued to support meetings of the Voter Awareness Committee (10 members from NGOs, CSOs, GoV, and media), as a mechanism to coordinate some key stakeholders, manage clear messages and disseminate information; 2. Continued strong efforts of Voter Information and Voter Awareness through national radio VBTC (8 weeks of daily spots (280 broadcasts); commercial radio (9 one-hour Buzz FM shows); TV (112 broadcasts in Prime Time); Facebook messages; Website; newspaper (9 articles in Daily Post); billboards, small videos, and efforts through the Voter Awareness Committee partners in the islands; 3. A National Talk Back Radio program on VBTC with Electoral Senior Management; 4. Awareness Posters (6,350) disseminated; 5. "My Provincial Election" - week-by-week Booklet, drafted around key messages, graphically designed, and translated into Bislama (1,000 copies), disseminated through the Voter Awareness Committee members and provincial offices; 6. Two motivational movie clips were designed and produced incl. "I Vote" by awarded filmmaker; 7. Media exposure during the Provincial Elections was supported by the VEEP project, including two major radio campaigns on BUZZ FM and Radio Vanuatu. Radio Shows were held once a week on Buzz FM + National TV Talk Back Shows, and every week FB key messages were posted in line with legal provisions; 8. 3 x SMS messages sent nationally through both Digicel/Vodafone: SMS 1 reached 141,473 citizens; SMS 2 reached 142,405; SMS 3 reached 154,245 citizens; 9. Three Billboards were designed and put up in Port Vila on strategic locations; 10. The project also developed a Concept Note for Provincial Council Open Day – a public awareness event in the provinces, to be implemented in 2022; 11. Similarly developed a Concept Paper and support activities for a National ID awareness campaign, the benefits of having/using National ID, and the responsibility of citizens to maintain updated records; 12. Established the storyboard and produced a short film documentary on the National ID introduction and history in Vanuatu for a CRVS side event at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) in November 2021, which is the SDG forum for Asia and the Pacific. The focus was on "Visibility in Covid-19 times: Are we getting everyone in the picture through civil registration?". Vanuatu was one of the key presenters at this event. 13. Initiated an assessment of Census data regarding the 'Access to Information' as well as the results of the Vanuatu NSDP Baseline Survey 2019 14. Have contributed to a CRVS movie production by MoIA in connection with 50 year's anniversary, and have contributed with interviews 15. Prepared article in June 2022 for release on multiple Websites, Social Media platforms - "How an Agile Response Transformed Vanuatu's Civil Register System at a Time of Crisis."
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Civil Registration and Identity Management	<p>VEEP supported the participation and presentations in the High Level Second Ministerial CRVS Conference event in BKK for Asia and the Pacific by the then CRVS Department. The main event focused on the role of civil registration and Vanuatu's identity management system, and the side event focused on the connection between civil registration and the Covid-19 vaccination rollout; Presentations were thus prepared on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deep dive on progress made during the first half of the decade 2. CRVS assisting Vanuatu Covid-19 Vaccination rollout 2021 <p>Vanuatu Progress Report on The Regional Action Framework was prepared, along with publication of Vanuatu's Country Statements.</p> <p>In connection with this event, the project produced a small documentary movie telling the story of CRVS in Vanuatu "National ID in Vanuatu, are we really getting everyone in the picture?" or "My Registration, My Identity, My Vanuatu". Vanuatu was one of the few, small but proud presenters in this event among big players such as India, Pakistan, Japan, Sri Lanka, Philippines etc.</p>
Output 4: Legal Electoral Framework Improved and Capacity Building on Electoral Reform to Key Stakeholders provided	
Initiative	Value for Investment
Electoral Reform Working Group (ERWG)	VEEP facilitated and supported the ERWG, intended to review and harmonise all pertinent electoral legislation into one single harmonised Electoral Act and to consolidate the independence of the electoral authorities.
Civil Registration and Identity Management Working Group	Working Group established focussing on development of two new bills - 1) Civil Registration and Identity Management and 2) National Identity – both important bills were passed in November 2021 Parliament Session and gazetted in January 2022. This Group will continue to undertake comprehensive civil registry reforms related to Marriage and Adoption Act and drafting of Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures.
Data Protection and Data Privacy Working Group	Working Group established to develop a comprehensive data protection legislation adherent to the Vanuatu legal framework and complying with international standards, on close cooperation with the Council of Europe. In the absence of data protection and privacy rights legislation in Vanuatu, this was identified as a barrier to the further development of digital transformation, digital onboarding and digitally based ID projects.
Legislative Amendments	Amendments to: CAP 146 Representation of the People Act CAP 230 Decentralisation Act CAP 126 Municipal Act CAP 60 civil registration, 61 Marriage Act
EC Regulations and Codes of Conduct	12 EC regulations and 3 codes of conduct combined into 3 overall regulations have been developed by the Electoral Commission with support from UNDP/VEEP, in the form of orders, to substantially improve the practices involved in the preparation and conduct of the various phases of the electoral processes in Vanuatu. They have subsequently been drafted by State Law Office, and approved by the Electoral Commission in the shape of three EC Regulations
New Acts	Civil Registration and Identity Management and the Vanuatu National Identity Bills – passed in the November Sitting of Parliament with Presidential Gazettal in January 2022. Drafting Instructions for further legislation are well advanced for a single Electoral Act.
Job Description - EC for Political Party Coordinator	The creation of a Political Party Coordinator to assist in providing information and training to improve the institutional capacity of a political party to operate effectively in the electoral cycle.

Capacity Building	The above mentioned three working groups provide very strong mentoring and capacity building to participating members - Civil Registration and Identity Management Working Group; Electoral Reform Working Group; Data Protection and Data Privacy Working Group
Mentoring and Consultation	The EC and VEO have strengthened their information and analysis capacities through regular confidential meetings between VEEP's Chief Technical Advisor and PEO and EC Chairman to provide advice on electoral initiatives and best practices. This advice is also requested ad hoc by DG and Hon Minister Ishmael Kalsakau Maa'u'koro, Director CRIM and other related agencies.

Highlight any specific lessons learned

A key lesson learned is the importance of collaboration and consultation, a process deeply entrenched in the custom and culture of Vanuatu. Without broad discussion across many agencies, initiatives are doomed to failure as being donor driven.

Although such broad consultation is time and resource hungry in its early phases, this investment has significant positive results in engagement, understanding awareness “buy-in” or commitment and of course ultimately to the sustainability of GoV, NZ MFAT UNDP investment in the critically important electoral environment.

Summarise key issues and challenges addressed.

In 2021, there were several key issues and challenges. Many of these have already been addressed in the Outputs Table provided previously and again in the Table of key risks and further in significant detail in Appendix B. However, some of the key issues/challenges in 2021 have been the following:

- a. Planning - reactive instead of anticipatory
- b. Trust and relationships
- c. Lack of corporate plan for Ministry of Internal Affairs
- d. Budget constraints
- e. Technical assistance
- f. Dealing with unexpected by-elections
- g. Political party registration
- h. VEEP operations
- i. Additional GoV requests.

a) Planning: In Vanuatu, instead of anticipatory planning, recent historical examples strongly demonstrate the opposite – a reactive, responsive approach. Planning has been negatively affected by a growing culture of “wait and see,” exacerbated, if not caused by, an increasingly high dependency on aid support. If we have a cyclone/tsunami/earthquake, our development partners will come to our aid. Why bother investing time and human resources to planning?

Historically this is a recent attitudinal change. Contingency planning was a core part of kastom (custom) and culture, with traditional Chiefly led communities preparing yam towers, breadfruit pits lined with stone and a very strong system of “reciprocal obligation” so that one village would assist the other in turn as disasters or celebrations occurred.

Recently, Strategic Planning has often been donor driven with resulting plans often carefully filed away rather than being used as living documents that provide the basis for day-to-day practical outcomes derived from evidence based contingency planning. Realistic, community supported, resource sensitive, delivery-based planning has suffered negatively as a result. Ad hoc, “shoot from the hip” reactive responses are invariably more expensive with irrational use of human, technical and financial resources with long term, adverse outcomes environmentally, economically and socially.

Much has been done to improve proactive planning within EC, VEO and CRIM departments with support to development of annual business plans, individual workplans, electoral cycle maps, operational timelines as per legal

requirements etc. and in February 2022 the first big anticipatory planning sector strategy development will be held with MoIA and cross-sector partners and donors, supported by VEEP project.

b) Trust and Relationships: The opposition to some proposed electoral environment reforms, such as the draft political party registration bill, has been a challenge since the program's commencement. Yet strong collaborative relationships and trust can still give a chance for successfully achieving the proposed objectives.

The collegial relationships developed through VEEP have been important. The mentoring and consultation, the response and delivery on requests in a timely professional manner from the Hon Minister, Director General, EC Chair, PEO, Director CRIM, State Law Office have been critical in an assessment of risk mitigation outcomes, deflating of challenges and upscaling of emerging opportunities.

c) Corporate Plan: It was critical for business plans and budget submissions that a new Corporate Plan be drafted for the Ministry in which VEEP's key MoIA partners – EC, VEO, CRIM and Department of Local Authorities. This gave rise to the opportunity for a MoIA Corporate Plan 2022 – 2026 to be consultatively prepared based on anticipatory planning.

At the end of November 2021, a broad cross section workshop with MoIA senior managers and stakeholders was organised to validate this strategic plan, the first meeting bringing all MoIA departments together in many years.

d) Budget Constraints: An additional challenge was that the schedule of payments was initially not aligned with the project budgets as per the VEEP Project Document. As a result, in 2021 there were financial constraints on cash flow to maintain support for upscaled data validation field work, several elections as well as unanticipated by-elections, and national COVID19 rollout support.

Following discussions with Wellington, a new schedule of payments was adapted to adequately maintain support as planned. The total contribution remains the same.

		Initial Budget as per Agreement	Revised Budget on 22nd June 2021	Amount paid already	Revised balance to be disbursed
Description	Payment Due date	NZD	NZD	NZD	NZD
Upon signature	1/1/2021	514,500	514,500	514,500	-
2nd report	30/06/2021	1,029,000	2,157,368	300,000	1,857,368
3rd report	30/06/2022	1,470,000	1,470,000		1,470,000
4th Report	30/06/2023	1,986,500	858,132		858,132
Completion report	1/5/2024	-	-		-
Total		5,000,000	5,000,000	814,500	4,185,500

Furthermore, lack of EC/VEO and CRIM department budgets for example national ID Card production, short term contracts for enumerators/data entry officers proved problematic. This is a threat to sustainability, once VEEP budget support completes or MoIA funds are not able to be allocated.

Therefore, VEEP has supported Business Plan and Budget training and revision of Appropriations Act Budget Book 3 Narratives (which has not been updated for many years and therefore not legally compliant). VEEP partner agencies were provided a template and training for new GoV Business Planning and Reporting Guidelines. Improved understanding should result in stronger budget submissions and securing of future resources for stakeholders.

e) Technical Advisor Availability: A significant challenge during 2021 was the lack of availability of international Technical Advisors on ground in Vanuatu. The use of ZOOM facilities somewhat mitigated matter i.e. provided in an on-going manner by primarily Michael Wright based in Canberra on legal drafting, Carlos Valenzuela based in Colombia on electoral policy advisory, Frank Nan based in Egypt and Sierra Leone on civil registration and identity management policy and Chahine Hamila based in Paris on integrated identity system database development - and by utilisation of locally available Technical Advisors – when available. An additional internal challenge in Q3 2021 was the handover process between two UNDP ICT experts in a critical support area during a transition phase, replacing the VEEP Civil and Voter Registration Expert, which saw delays in outstanding documentation and handover of data and e-files by the outgoing staff member (going onto retirement). This had implications for data security, accessibility to the data and IT system for the incoming staff member.

The new expert started working remotely to entirely rebuild all three database systems for development purposes in a test environment in order to upgrade, test and develop new required features, and the new integrated Identity System database, and the work is proceeding well. The Project is eagerly awaiting approval of special category visas to get the ICT expert on the ground for direct interaction with local counterparts.

f) Unexpected By-Elections: Another challenge was a number of unexpected by-elections. By-elections as stipulated in the electoral framework are not cost-efficient and take away useful resources, time and energy from electoral authorities. Furthermore, they disturb strategical and operational planning.

The Electoral Reform Working Group has been studying possible alternatives to by-elections, in order to increase the effectiveness of the electoral administration, and a proposal to address this is included in the electoral reform package.

g) Political Party Registration: Political instability continued through 2021. Although the Government managed to stay in power, there was a constant underlying unrest by the possible vacation of seats that could stir up conflict between certain groups.

VEEP continued to support the lobbying work of the EC/VEO within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other government agencies to push for compliance with government commitments towards support for the whole electoral cycle, an independent (politically and financially) electoral authority, an adequate recurrent electoral budget and the fact that Vanuatu has very regular although entirely unanticipated by-elections which each time require COM paper submission and budget approval. These long processes, political sensitivities and inadequate budget often released late by GoV jeopardizing timely electoral preparations.

Prospective legal reforms will require a wide and inclusive consultation process to raise awareness on legal changes. In addition to the profound policy guidance advisory and legal drafting provided by VEEP on the electoral reform, VEEP is also supporting key activities to enhance engagement of relevant stakeholders (public, government ministries, donors and CSOs) to continue building collaboration mechanisms with governmental and civil society with a view to have ample participation and awareness on key electoral reform aspects.

There was, and continues to be, resistance to political party reform bill. Earlier drafts provided a stronger compliance framework for establishing new parties and for transparency of operations for existing parties. VEEP will continue to work closely with other electoral stakeholders, institutions, and the Ombudsman to promote discussions on the issue of reform to political parties' regulation; nevertheless, some issues have proven to be too sensitive in the current coalition environment where small parties are most averse to changes that may negatively impact on their viability and ability to hold their seat/s or to contest future elections.

h) VEEP Operations: In 2021 there were some internal operational challenges for VEEP given the small team based in Vanuatu and the difficulties of the UNDP office based in Fiji, which is responsible for an additional 13 other Pacific countries. During the period, essential administrative and operational support officers left the project in a crucial period, including the project assistant and the project finance officer.

i) Additional New Government requests. Upscaling of the VEEP Project occurred in response to GoV requests for additional support, consultatively agreed with NZ MFAT, UNDP, DSPPAC and MoIA. The response and implementation of all of the following are detailed elsewhere in the Report. Additional areas where new support was required include:

- Geospatial satellite maps/GIS Mapping/multilayer atlases
- Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM restructuring
- Corporate Service Unit (CSU) restructuring
- Enumerator and data entry staff contracts
- Establishment and operationalization of three inter-institutional Working Groups
- Development of mobile and offline registration applications
- Strengthening of Business Plans and Reporting, training and templates
- Support to MoIA Corporate Plan drafting
- Promotion of Anticipatory Planning and Sector Strategy development Conference

- Strengthening of Procurement of technical and non-technical materials

Key Actions Planned or Underway

The following is an analysis against the Project's Outputs of key actions planned or already underway as a result of issues identified in this assessment. Issues relevant to transition/ exit were provided in 2020. A further analysis will be provided in May 2024.

Output 1:

- Follow up on the Electoral Commission (EC) restructure submission progression and submission with the critical new post of a Political Party Coordinator to support information on electoral legislation, processes, and compliance;
- Follow up on the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) restructure submission progression and submission to the Office of the Public Service Commission (OPSC);
- Update and follow up on the CRIM Department (formerly CRVS) restructure submission submitted to OPSC which needed amendments to reflect new Acts approved by Parliament and Gazetted in January 2022. The restructure creates a Provincial Services Unit, an Identity Management Unit and a Civil Registration Unit, to comply with new legislation and the Decentralisation Act;
- Support the changes to corporate and administrative templates in connection with the creation of the new Civil Registration and Identity Management department (to replace Civil Registry and Vital Statistics) i.e., Business Plan, Annual Report, logos and stationery;
- Support development of regulations and Standard Operating Procedures will be required to support the two new Acts: National Identity Act #27 of 2021 and Civil Registration and Identity Management Act#28 of 2021;
- Provide support to progress approval and budgets for VEO and CRIM through Office of Public Service Commission review and approval processes;
- Support Ministry of Internal Affairs to finalise, design (Graphic Design) and launch the MoIA Corporate Plan 2022 – 2026 as per GoV planning and reporting guidelines;
- Support to operationalise the new MoIA Corporate Plan to cement the EC, VEO and CRIM reforms and business plans will considerably enhance sustainability outcomes for all three agencies, as well as ensuring cross sectoral cooperation;
- Support a stronger cross sectoral coordination, as prioritised by the Minister and Director General in the development of the Corporate Plan, when they envisaged a Sector Strategy to be developed with a MoIA Sector Conference to be supported by VEEP in Q1 2022;
- Provide support of UNDP TA from New York and Fiji for presentations and guidance for Sector Strategy facilitators and conference participants on principles of Anticipatory Planning for Sector Strategy, Annual and Business planning;
- Support with Graphic Design of Ministerial banners, posters, and printing/publication of the Sector Strategy document;
- Support revision of GoV Budget Book 3 in Q1 will further ensure EC, VEO, and CRIM budget and reporting is integrated. Alignment with NSDP will be a focus. The revisions will form the basis of Ministerial budget submissions in September and approval annually in November Parliament's Budget Appropriations Act;
- Continue to support VEO in building its decentralised provincial electoral offices, as well as CRIM provincial offices and staff, put in place office and network arrangements to support this decentralised staffing structure where needed. Continued procurement and implementation of a 'provincial package' for each provincial office (desk, chair, laptop, printer, phone, scanner, zoom equipment (speaker and webcam), poster material, manuals, and in some cases, a satellite disc where GoV network is not available. Central procurement is ongoing;

- Support development of booster training concept in case of probable by-elections in 2022, including polling training agenda, provincial rollout concept and training material, simulation exercises;
- Update some of the already developed training material, including three audio video productions to support visuals and to boost the efforts of the training manual;
- Support planning and logistics for Presidential and Port Vila Municipal elections scheduled for 2022;
- Continue the work on village listing reconciliation in collaboration with National Statistics Office utilising the satellite imageries for all provinces, reconciling village listings with 2020 Census data. Final validation through support from provincial officials and those with local knowledge to assign corrections for listings not matched in 2020. Align revised 2020 listing with UNITAR map listings and isolate non-matching villages or locations for purging. Finalize village listings inclusive of coordinates, and complete the geospatial satellite maps as multi-layered atlases, including polling stations, schools, health clinics, evacuation centres;

Output 2:

- Support data validation, verification, and public scrutiny of voter lists, to support 2022 Port Vila Municipal elections and unplanned by-elections;
- Support migration of all National ID holders aged 18 and above to be integrated with the Voter Register ahead of the Port Vila Municipal election legal cut-off date, consolidating field work updates, verifications and 'de-facto' new registrations;
- Provide support for Presidential College as needed in regards to facilitation, logistics and administration, as requested;
- Continue to support recruitment of short-term Data Entry Staff for data centre operations, field work updates, and data cleaning, as necessary;
- Support preparation of digital voter lists, per polling station;
- Support preparation and printing of paper-based voter lists, per polling station, as necessary;
- Support preparations to use the Mobile Application for voter identification in polling stations based on tablet scanning ability, and online voter register;
- Complete the new Integrated Identity System design and documentation;
- Support development of SOPs on the use of the new Integrated Identity System to be aligned with legal requirements;
- Continue the biometric facial duplication analysis software development to support clean-up of duplicates in civil and voter register images database, and explore adding fingerprint biometrics;
- Develop rules regarding the migration from the RegVizFour to the new integrated database;
- Complete the new Identity system to support the government in creating one or more registries for fundamental or functional identification;
- Create an integrated identification system that allows various functional areas to cooperate (future population register);
- Continue to support a major piece of work for data clean-up in central civil register, and the voter register;
- Procurement of new integrated mobile workstations for provincial offices for field registration;
- Produce all the voter lists based on National ID numbers only, to be sent to all provinces in coordination with DLA and area council administrators, to support the 'voter list inspection at area council level';
- Continue technical support to COVID19 vaccination roll-out and 2022 booster vaccination in provinces. The MOH has requested CRIM support in terms of volunteers and use of tablets for verification purposes during the ongoing vaccination efforts;
- Follow up on training of VEO, CRIM, MoH, OGCIO, MoY&S, MoE on SQL query optimization, to strengthen skills/build capacities of GoV database developers and IT officers to address the challenge of identifying and tuning queries that are optimizing statistics, reporting, impacting performance or development of new components. The objective is to build capacities on analysing and addressing performance issues in partner/stakeholder Ministries;
- In collaboration with UN ESCAP, keep the momentum of the CRIM Working Group and VEEP's policy experts to provide policy guidance and coordination to the ESCAP business process assessment and mapping of CRIM with focus on birth registration and death registration;
- Develop civil registration and identity management regulations and National identity regulations to support the two new Acts;
- Support and coordinate with the Global Grants Program with Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, and collaborate on development of applications for MoH and CRIM integration of data, development of API for inter-operability, explore integration of systems;

- Support CRIM Staff training on Procedures/SOPs arising from gazettal of two new Acts National Identity #27 of 2021 and Civil Registration and Identity Management Act #28 of 2021.
- Continue to support a CRIM – OGCIO liaison in the building of a platform to support data integration and data interoperability between Government datasets, building the Vanuatu population registry, and contribute to the accuracy to the existent citizen information and the quality of related services
- Support CRIM to work closer with VNSO to establish a population register or vital statistics system. This will be a broader set of data than that currently held solely by the CRIM and includes establishing a system to regularly extract and share data across databases held by a wide variety of stakeholders;
- Support establishment of a proposal for the GoV given the limited capacity within Vanuatu based servers and the possible requirement to establish a fully-fledged system of data centres, alternatively host data on the cloud;

Output 3:

- Continue to support meetings of the Voter Awareness Committee as a ‘sounding board’ mechanism to coordinate key stakeholders, manage clear messages and disseminate information;
- Continue support efforts of Voter Information and Voter Awareness through radio, TV, Facebook messages, Website, SMS services, VBTC, billboards, small videos and key messages in line with legal provisions;
- Support the Presidential, Municipal Council and By-Elections with Voter Education materials, Candidate Education materials, My Election Week by Week booklets, dissemination of key messages, graphic design of training materials, manuals, support brush-up training on tablet-based voter identification in polling stations and counting;
- Support training of polling staff;
- Develop an Election Logistics Standard Operating Procedure;
- Support consultations on the draft single harmonised Electoral Bill in all provinces, as changes are highly sensitive, including Temporary Special Measures for Women (reserved seats) at provincial and national level, out of country voting etc.
- Combine a six provinces awareness campaign (Road Show approach) with awareness training on other Acts and electoral environment initiatives with an ‘Open Democracy Day’ incorporated as a panel activity;
- Undertake population and trend analysis of the central civil register in Q1;
- Complete the study of ‘Access to Information and Civic Understanding’ based on 2020 Census data and the 2019 Baseline Survey, to inform future awareness campaigns;
- Support translation the Civic Education materials: Teachers Manual and Student Handbook;
- In collaboration with Ministry of Education, Curriculum Development Unit and Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education release nationally the Civic Education materials to 26 Senior Secondary schools, translated into all three official languages (Eng, French, Bislama);
- Pursue consolidation of the People with Disabilities (PWD) Action Plan developed in 2021;
- Develop Gender Action plan and strategy;
- Support development of a comprehensive nationwide National ID awareness campaign;
- Support the final phase-out of electoral cards (with new electoral law in 2022) and keep transitioning voters to the use of national ID cards for voting, and being registered on the Voter Register;
- Participate in the ‘Open Democracy Day’ at the Parliament;
- Continue to support uploading of materials on the VEO Website as a news feed and repository of information on electoral cycles in Vanuatu, electoral processes, voting rights, voter Information etc. and archive of past elections;
- Support refinement of the CRIM logo to match their new title and mandate;
- Support the updating of the CRIM Department website, create new letterhead template and update all forms;
- Draft and submit regular media articles to local media outlets such as “Daily Post’ Buzz FM, VBTC and FM107 a part of the awareness strategy.

Output 4:

- Mentoring and capacity building through the on-going work of three working groups: Electoral Reform Working Group, Civil Registration and Identity Management Working Group, and the Data Protection and Data Privacy Working Group;
- Promote Temporary Special Measures for Women (reserved seats) at provincial and national level building on example of reserved seats at Municipal council level;
- Investigate and support electoral legislation changes for By-Elections;

- Continue support in engagement of the Law Reform Commission to undertake legal analysis and consultations on various electoral modalities for amendment/harmonisation;
- Continue to support the Electoral Reform Working Group, which sees wide participation and interest, first draft of drafting instructions ready for validation and integration with Law Reform Commission Report;
- Support electoral reform consultations in the field and completion of draft drafting instructions;
- Arrange a rolling program (Road Show) of provincial workshops on electoral reforms, focusing on change of ballot structure, out of country voting, out of constituency voting, campaign finance, voter registration transition to new model, special temporary measures for women etc;
- Provide support to legal drafting in collaboration with State Law Office on revision of electoral legislation, regulations, and harmonisation of laws;
- Pursue a comprehensive review and reform of CRIM processes through collaboration with ESCAP-CRVS and UNDP/VEEP's national ID expert. Focus on CRIM strategy, CRIM policy, CRIM business processes and CRIM integrated identity system;
- Support development of detailed CRIM Regulations to support the two new Acts: National Identity Act #27 of 2021 and Civil Registration and Identity Management Act#28 of 2021;
- Support development of CRIM Standard Operating Procedures to support the two new Acts: National Identity Act #27 of 2021 and Civil Registration and Identity Management Act#28 of 2021;
- Support development of CRIM Administrative Handbook;
- Continue to support the working group on Data Protection and Data Privacy Legislation with legal, policy and technical advisory, in close coordination with Council of Europe;
- The advent of biometric data and machine learning analytics means that passing key data protection and other legislation is now critical for legal and administrative purposes. Hence assuming the Government supports the building of a Tier III datacentre as recommended it will need the legislation in place given the nature of Government data.
- Continue exploration of a possible pilot of Asian Development Bank in Vanuatu.

Review of Progress to Date

Effectiveness

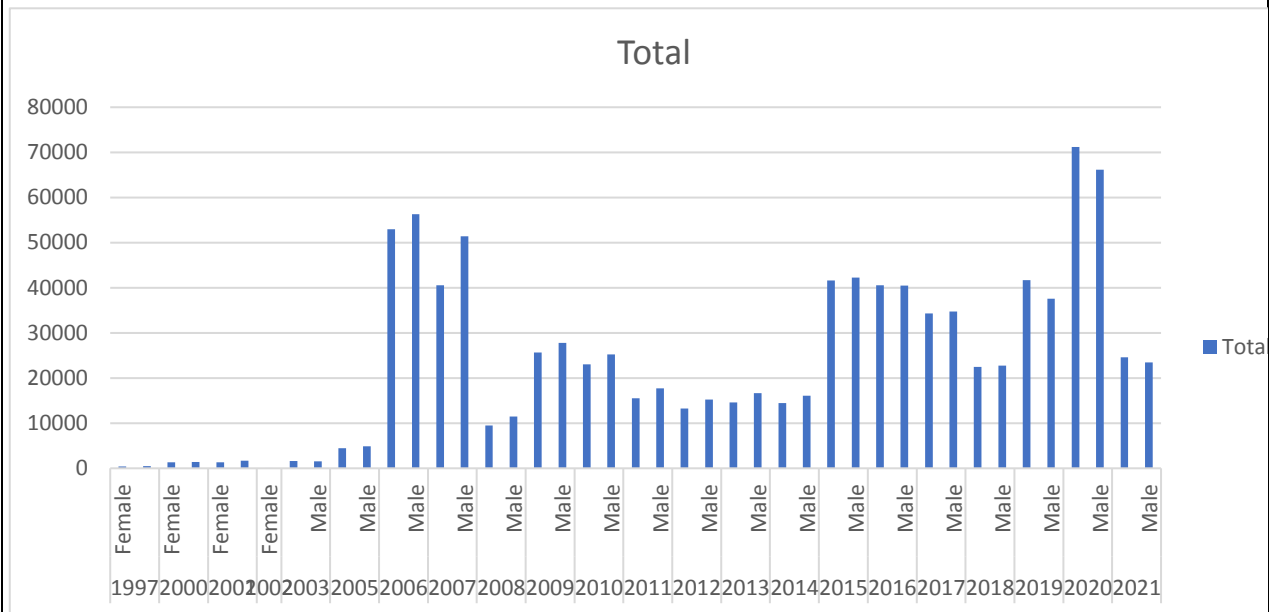
- 1) **Assess the progress of this Activity against the intended outputs and outcomes defined in the Results Framework by annotating the Results Measurement Table with data and explanation of any variance**

The VEEP Project Document Results Framework includes output indicators directly linked to institutional capacity, reform measures etc. and also provides for the regular collection of data and monitoring in relation to strengthened national capacity. Targets and results for 2021 as outlined in signed Project document are as follows:

Output indicators	2021 Targets	2021 Results
Output 1: Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened		
1.1 Number of provincial electoral and civil registration offices with recruited and trained staff, sufficient physical and technical infrastructure to accommodate their mandate	1.1 – 4	1.1 - 4
1.2 Number of new increased and trained permanent staff at HQs and provincial offices, including joint training activities with the CRVS Department	1.2 – 20	1.2 - 50

1.3 Number of formalised EC internal regulations and VEO operational procedures drafted and endorsed	1.3 - 12 regulations; 6 Procedures	1.3 - 12 regulations; 6 Operational Procedures, 2 Administrative Manuals
1.4 The percentage of progress in codifying and digitizing institutional memory of EC/VEO systems and procedures, including congregating files to the Government Document Management System (Saperion):	1.4 - 35%	1.4 - 40%
1.5 No of electoral administrative processes where gender is mainstreamed, and gender disaggregated	1.5 - 2	1.5 - 3
Output 2: Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Registry Enhanced; Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, and excluded groups.		
2.1 Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, and location – to be done on a yearly basis	2.1 - 100%	2.1 - 100% but still manual process

Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, and excluded groups.



Comparative analysis by LAC to geographically focus key error locations

Authorised birth certificate

	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
under 18	55,581	60,487	116,068	82%	83%	83%
18 - 30	38,965	44,027	82,992	152%	185%	168%
30 to 50	47,139	56,275	103,414	142%	167%	154%
50 +	26,808	32,317	59,125	148%	158%	153%
Total	168,493	193,106	361,599	116%	128%	122%

Authorised ID cards

under 18	17,935	18,963	36,898	26%	26%	26%
18 to 30	23,472	25,181	48,653	91%	106%	98%
30 to 50	27,814	31,015	58,829	84%	92%	88%
50 +	14,793	16,891	31,684	82%	82%	82%
Total	84,014	92,050	176,064	58%	61%	60%

Population Census	under 20	67,804	72,711	140,515
	20 to 30	25,679	23,757	49,436
	30 to 50	33,262	33,700	66,962
	50 +	18,069	20,513	38,582
	Total	144,814	150,681	295,495
Census minus ID cards	under 20	49,869	53,748	103,617
	20 to 30	2,207	1,424	783
	30 to 50	5,448	2,685	8,133
	50 +	3,276	3,622	6,898
	Total	60,800	58,631	119,431
2.2 Number of voters issued with national ID card disaggregated by gender (replacing the electoral cards)	2.2 - 160,000	2.2 - 168,247		
2.3 Percentage of merge of databases/transition to new voter registration model	2.3 - 60%	2.3 - 65%		
2.4 Expected number of duplicated and deceased citizens removed from the Civil and Voter registries	2.4 - 20,000	2.4 - 35,000		
2.5 New components developed and updated for Civil and Voter registration systems	2.5 - 50%	2.5 - 60%		
Output 3: Ability to conduct voter education and raise public awareness strengthened				
3.1 Number of new partnerships with civil society developed (Women, PWDs, churches), as well as regional bodies, and national and international stakeholders	3.1 - 2	3.1 - 4		
3.2 Percentage of matrix on gender tracking in elections developed, including gender-disaggregated data on all aspects of the electoral administration - done on an annual basis	3.2 - 100%	3.2 - 50%		

3.3 Percentage of matrix on gender tracking in Civil registry developed, including gender-disaggregated data – done on annual basis	3.3 - 100%	3.3 - 50%
3.4 Assessment on civic understanding and access to information implemented	3.4 – 0	3.4 - 1
Output 4: Legal Framework for Political Parties developed and support to political parties provided.		
4.1 Number of viable and practical reform proposals developed	4.1 – 4	4.1 - 6
4.2 Number of electoral staff (gender disaggregated) trained on new reform measures	4.2 – 10	4.2 - 17
4.3 Number of key stakeholders trained on new reform measures	4.3 – 50	4.3 – 50
4.4 Electoral Gender mainstreaming action plan for the project developed and monitored	1	1

2) Assess the effectiveness of this Activity by considering the following:

- a) Progress in delivering outputs. Consider (if appropriate) quality, relevance, timeliness of outputs and whether the Activity is reaching the intended people.

The project has been able to draw on global expertise from the UNDP global expert roster to provide timely and quality advice and assistance to progress and upscale in delivering project outputs. Thus, the project has been able, under each of the outputs, to respond in a timely and efficient manner to the needs of the VEO, as well as CRIM Department as identified under the project document, as well as responding in a timely manner to the additional requests for additional support. Being based within the VEO and fully embedded in local structures also means that the VEEP team was on hand to provide immediate technical advice to the offices when needed.

The Outreach Programs have been successful, combining traditional vehicles of communication such as press, radio, posters, pamphlets, community meetings and awareness workshops. Global trends in communication and outreach have included a new VEO Website, and new CRIM Website, supported by two newly appointed full time ICT Website Officers, and VEO Voter Information & Public Outreach Officer. These officers have been supported by VEEP TA with capacity building through mentoring.

Further, more innovative strategies have also been utilised to expand the VEO's reach and embed practices for sustainability such as the Voter Awareness Committee whose members predictably include EC, VEO and CRIM Officers but also the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs, Vanuatu Council of Churches (VCC), media groups, Transparency International (Vanuatu), disability groups, and community-based NGOs.

- b) What unintended consequences (positive or negative) might have also resulted? If negative, how are these being addressed?

The limited number of technical VEO staff means that most of the technical support being provided is directed at the same few technical staff, with both negative and positive impacts. There is a real risk of over-absorption amongst the few technical staff within the VEO. The project had foreseen this risk and

developed a mitigation strategy. VEEP project worked with the EC, VEO and CRIM on revised staffing structures with a significantly increased number of technical staff. If approved, EC will have 2 new staff members, VEO will have 3 new staff with 6 vacant positions prioritised and filled by end 2022 and CRIM will have 12 new staff. These new positions will undoubtedly ease the absorption burden and also allow for more tailored approaches to capacity building based on staff needs. Unfortunately, many of these positions are not yet budgeted as the restructures must first of all be approved by the Office of the Public Service Commission. Once approved, a supplementary budget can be requested in April 2022 Parliament Sitting for the identified high priority positions in each of the agencies, an Implementation Plan for which is part of the Restructure Submission. Current provincial positions funded through UNDP/VEEP and UNICEF or by budget virement from other MoIA agencies can be replaced by this process – mitigating risk and ensuring sustainability of work being undertaken on and the multi-agency investment in training.

The beneficial outcomes of initiatives unintended in project design have been dealt with in earlier parts of this report. However, the key beneficial outcomes are significant improvement in reporting and planning practices, seeing not only the EC, VEO and CRIM being amongst the first agencies to adopt the newly mandated GoV Planning and Reporting Guidelines but also to offer the same training support to all MoIA agencies – a move strongly supported by Director General MoIA. This has seen the development of the MoIA 2022-2026 Corporate Plan, Department Business Plans and Annual Reports all compliant and aligned to the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). The development of the Corporate Plan and Business Plans afforded the opportunity to embed the historical VEEP reforms and those envisaged to project end 2024.

Furthermore, teams of enumerators/data entry officers trained through VEEP are using solar powered tablets for citizen registration (National ID Card) and voter verification and validation, and are available not only to VEEP but also other donor, NGO and Government agencies i.e. National Census, MoH's roll out of the National COVID19 Program. The increase in staffing in CRIM and VEO departments will see staffing presence in all 6 provinces to support, implement and drive electoral and National ID reform and outreach initiatives.

Moreover, in terms of beneficial outcomes, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Internal Affairs, Hon Ishmael Kalsakau Maau'koro, saw a gap in Civic Education and suggested the VEEP project to develop a Civic Education textbook. As a result, the project developed a Textbook, supported by a Teacher's Guide and Student Workbook in three languages (English, French and Bislama) for upper Secondary School. These materials were launched in Q4 and will be provided to all 26 Secondary Schools nationally. DPMs vision is that young voters leaving school at ages 17-18 will have a fuller understanding of the rights and responsibilities of voting. In addition, the materials will be used at the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education for secondary school teachers' trainees.

c) Assess how achieved outputs are contributing to reaching outcomes

Achievements under the four outputs have each contributed towards increasing the opportunities for citizen voice to demand accountability and better governance from their government, as evidenced in previous sections.

The four outputs under the project are aimed at strengthening the medium to long term capacity of the electoral authorities and civil registration authorities, so inherently all assistance should benefit these departments, including now the whole of the Ministry these departments fall under. As such, all support and technical advisory feeds into and contributes to the overall intended outcome of the project under Governance and Community Engagement, namely, that by 2022, *people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed and transparent decision-making processes; accountable and responsive institutions; and improved access to justice.*

The project is providing technical support on a number of sensitive national issues by facilitating platforms for information sharing and peer-to-peer learning on various aspects relevant for all three on-going working groups. VEEP's technical support through research, and independent analysis of the proposed draft laws and draft regulations ensures that each of the reforms proposed are rights-based

and in line with accepted international norms. In the longer term, this work is contributing towards a more stable governance system, ensuring that the government can focus on its core mandates: oversight of service delivery to all communities in Vanuatu, transparent law-making processes, and stronger representation of the public's views and needs in the work of parliament.

d) If relevant for this period of Activity reporting, comment on progress against short term outcomes and medium-term outcomes

- i) What difference is the Activity making, if any?**
- ii) Which aspects are working better, for whom, why?**

i) The VEEP Project is making considerable gains in short term outcomes and medium-term outcomes, already detailed on other sections of this report.

ii) Reforms are gaining traction due to the development of collegial, professional relationships based on strong mentoring and partnership practices underpinned by Vanuatu's historical culture and beliefs, network of cooperation, consultation and collaboration. The four Working Groups have been pivotal in building this broad relationship, not merely withing EC/VEO and CRIM but also with MOIA and other sectoral stakeholders. This is a model that could easily be replicated in other Micronesian and Melanesian states in the Pacific sharing similar cultural traditions.

The working groups and the development of MoIAs Corporate Plan have highlighted a gap in the more formal sector cooperation mechanisms and has led to the start of the development in Q4 of a MoIA Sector Strategy, work on which will continue in the new reporting period in 2022.

e) Comment as appropriate on Cross-cutting issues:

- **Describe how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment are being enhanced or protected and demonstrate how the principles outlined in the Gender Analysis guideline are being addressed in this Activity**

The project has so far assisted the EC, VEO and CRIM in establishing and mainstreaming gender-sensitive policies and procedures and ensure gender-sensitivity in outreach activities in their processes. Gender mainstreaming has been embedded in new procedures, new manuals, and new identity. Furthermore, the project has planned for VEO Gender Strategy Action Plan development in Q3 of the new reporting period and training of female candidates towards end October/early November in the new reporting period.

Through the VEEP supported Electoral Reform Working Group (ERWG) the project is studying possible alternatives to include measures that would improve women representation in elected bodies in the Vanuatu in the framework of the proposed reform of the country's legal provisions for municipal, provincial and general elections. The ERWG is working on introducing the relation of women participation in elections and the electoral system in place, the definition and types of temporary special measures (TSM) to enhance women representation, giving an overview of the current situation in Vanuatu and making concrete proposals that are feasible and viable under the current conditions in the country. The project is also working with the CRIM department and their new identity Management system to enable registration of all citizens on true, fair and equal basis registration. The need to ensure equal participation of women is underlined in many internationally agreed upon documents, including in particular the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Vanuatu has endorsed all these international agreements, yet very little progress has been made to take meaningful measures that would support representation of women in elected bodies.

f) Describe how Human Rights are being enhanced or protected and demonstrate how the principles outlined in the [Human Rights Guideline](#) are being addressed in this Activity

Data on disability is being collected by civil registry operators and recorded in the civil register. Operators have been sensitized on the importance of recording accurate data, as this may help planning of polling operations for people with special needs.

A People with Disability Action Plan has been developed and launched. The PWD Action Plan was uploaded to the VEO Website. A sensitisation workshop was held for VEO staff to support the launch. Ramps have been installed around the VEO Office to improve accessibility.

VEEP plans to work with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP) with the double objective of sensitizing people living with disabilities about their political rights and conduct outreach activities among their associates and through their structures. The ultimate goal is to promote more inclusive electoral processes, including addressing special needs of disabled citizens.

g) Describe how the Environment is being enhanced or protected in keeping with the Environmental and Social Impacts [Guideline](#) and how climate change is being addressed in keeping with the [Climate Change Operational Policy](#).

To the extent possible, VEEP has given preference to the use of vegetable-based ink (soy) to produce environmentally friendly campaign materials, including posters, pull-up banners, street banners, training manuals and booklets – and recycled paper.

Relevance

Has there been any change in the Activity's relevance during the assessment period? (i.e. from design phase or previous report)

A new request for additional support under the project was received from the Government of Vanuatu, and the project had been in communication with NZ MFAT on this upscale of the project. Additional new UNDP funding will be channelled through VEEP, to cater for the additional support requested. The Multi-year workplan was reviewed and updated, which was already part of the approved Project document. A formal revision was not needed as the new activities align well with existing outputs / activities of the project.

All planned outputs remain relevant.

Are there any changes in the context that require adjustments to the planned outputs or risk management (e.g. timing, approach or scope) to ensure they remain relevant and effective? If yes, describe briefly what adjustments have been or will be made.

The four Outputs remain the same, although there are new activities being added to capture the increased work and support to Ministry of Internal Affairs Corporate Plan 2022-2026, as well as the Ministry's first ever Sector Strategy following an anticipatory planning approach.

The project allowed for the continuity of the different aspects of the various electoral processes that took place during the period, particularly under the sanitary restrictions imposed by Covid 19. Additionally, the project has been instrumental to advance the electoral reform agenda in an efficient manner, highlighting the technical aspects of the process while staying away from the political issues, to be handled by the national stakeholders.

The continued strengthening of the capacities of the electoral and civil registration authorities, and the promotion and assistance to each their legal reform processes, are aspects that are having a greater impact within the project's scope. The legal reform processes have been acknowledged as a requirement in the strengthening of the governance system in the country: the progress made, with substantial support from the project to the technical aspects and legal drafting of both bills and regulations, as well the upscaled support the Ministry at large are noteworthy and recognized as such. The on-going reform processes of the electoral legal framework, civil registration framework and data protection and data privacy framework, with support from the different stakeholders (in particular the various government agencies involved) also bodes well for a major improvement in the practices in Vanuatu, which affects positively the country as a whole.

Efficiency

Attach an annotated version of the original workplan and budget which clearly reports actual against planned expenditure and explanation of any variances (see example in Appendix B).

All electoral technical consultants utilised under the project were engaged through the UNDP global roster of experts. The roster is pre-vetted by the UNDP global programme and utilised for quick mobilisation of expertise to the field. It also ensures high quality expertise at "rational" costs. As such, the EC, VEO, CRIM and other relevant stakeholders received high-level and cost-efficient quality technical support and advise when requested, and as part of the workplan. Additionally, without additional expenses, the project supported the preparation and conduct of different elections under COVID-19 conditions, with swift and flexible measures taken to face the new challenging sanitary conditions. The new context required the need for the timely revision of the electoral procedures for their alignment with the requirements and with the health prevention/mitigation measures adopted by the Vanuatu public authorities; this was done within the necessary timeframes and without the need for additional resources. As of now, the VEO now has an electoral operations plan, a staff capacity development plan, and key electoral procedures documented and available as reference material for current and new staff. Additionally, the project is working on establishing a standing pool of youth ICT/data entry officers, pre-vetted and regularly performance evaluated for quick mobilization of resources.

Sustainability

Is the plan for sustainability of benefits (including transition/exit plan) adequate?

Sustainability has been reinforced through the development of collegial, professional relationships based on strong mentoring and partnership practices underpinned by Vanuatu's historical culture and beliefs, network of cooperation, consultation and collaboration. Although the four working groups were established for specific tasks (with VEEP facilitation and support), their regular meetings have been building "buy-in" and knowledge of the electoral reform, civil registration and identity management reform, the sector, issues, risks and processes. This is a model that could easily be replicated in other Pacific Island States, sharing similar cultural traditions.

What is the Activity doing to ensure benefits will continue beyond MFAT funding? (for example building country capacity and ownership)?

Please refer above section on sustainability regarding buy-in and ownership.

Predictably, on-going mentoring and capacity building will assist in sustainability outcomes. A more formal approach has been through regular training programs i.e. how to write a Corporate Plan, how to develop a Business Plan, writing of Annual Reports and budget requests and reporting based on GoVs Cost Centres. This will improve reporting and planning with a beneficial impact on requests to GoV for higher annual budget ceilings through the Ministerial Budget Committee Cycle and Appropriations Bill preparation. The development of a Sector Strategy commenced in Q4 with a broad range of cross sectoral agencies and sector stakeholders involved. This spreads understanding of the innovations (mostly the work of VEEP) and engagement with those strategies. Spreading knowledge and participation mitigates risk and deepens possible future financial and resourcing reserves. Final development of the sector strategy will be in next Reporting Cycle Q1 2022 but will build on the traction and partnerships that are the outcome of 2021 activities.

The restructures in EC, VEO and CRIM as well as in Corporate Services Unit (CSU) of the MoIA will also provide sustainability outcomes in that people in contracted positions may migrate to full time GoV funded positions and the training and mentoring provided is not lost to these organisations. Please refer to previous sections detailing restructure processes undertaken.

What challenges are faced in addressing sustainability?

The challenges faced in the pursue of sustainability is the available national funding and general IT literacy in rural areas to undertake continuous registration and ongoing collection of data in the field. Another challenge is to build more specialised knowledge and capacity at central level to address continuous challenges of bug fixing, updating features in databases, to deal with duplicate registrations, under-age pre-enrolment and other technical matters. Currently there is limited advanced ICT skills in both VEO and CRIM departments, so it would be important to limit risk of dependencies and focus on building a small group of software developers, bug fixers to main the integrated identity system.

The lack of understanding across the whole of Government has been a sustainability issue that is intended to be mitigated through a sectoral approach by engaging a broad cross section of GoV Line Ministries, GoV agencies, NGOs, Development Partners, and private sector in a Sector Strategy consultation. It is intended that this will generate not only understanding of the intentions of the project but the already significant reforms and initiatives able to be utilised by all – National ID Card and use of unique identity numbers for all, multi-page Atlases with polling station/school/health clinic mapped with GPS coordinates and consolidated village dataset, mobile Apps on tablets, trained cohort of enumerators etc. This approach of broader engagement and “buy in” is intended to address the challenge of sustainability through shared vision, partnerships, and benefits.

In addition, political engagement with reform remains as an on-going challenge to sustainability as detailed in a previous section on issues and challenges.

Relationship between Partners, Beneficiaries and Other Stakeholders

Comment on any changes, problems or important features of (a) relationships with key stakeholders, and (b) contributions by partners and sub-contractors.

a) The Civil Register and Vital Statistics department was initially not anticipated to be an important partner in the original project design but has become so when embarking on the joint civil and registration activities for Vanuatu in collaboration with the Electoral Office and in development of the legislative framework guiding the electoral environment. In 2017, the Vanuatu Government decided to link the voter registration data with the on-going digitization of the civil registry data, under a “National ID” project. Linking the voter register with the civil register was not anticipated at the time the project document was written. There were a number of issues associated with linking the voter register with the civil register, and a number of risks in its implementation, unless careful planning

took place and close coordination between the implementation agencies was ensured. Therefore, the close collaboration for a joint registration was fostered by VEEP, including some unexpected technical and financial support for the civil registry. The appointment of a new CRVS Director led in turn to stronger relationships and interdependence with VNSO – particularly in relationship to population data. The Electoral Commission, the Vanuatu Electoral Office and Civil Registry and Identity Management Department are all under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A strong relationship with the Director General and Corporate Services Unit has evolved with VEEP up-scaling to include support for MoIAs new Corporate Plan budget and CSU restructure – all with important sustainability impact once VEEP technical support and funding ceases.

b) Contributions from Government partners continue to add to VEEP outcomes through engagement and cooperation with EC, VEO, CRIM, DoLA, DUAP, VNSO, SLO, LRC, MoH, MoET, NDMO, and OGCIO.

Support to improving the voter registration system will continue to focus on assisting the national authorities establishing a feasible solution to the updating, maintaining and protecting the integrity of the national population data through VNSO and OGCIO but more recently from sector stakeholders Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education – both organisations that collect data and need data for their own planning.

As mentioned, the National ID is a valuable tool for many government agencies. as well as the multi layered maps developed by VEEP in collaboration with UNOSAT/UNITAR to devise based geo-spatial satellite maps to include all households and important buildings.

Implementing Partner (IP) and Focal Point Contact (Title, email, fax, phone, address)	Type of Partnerships or Role	Duration of Partnership	Progress of Deliverables from Partnership (**)
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Government agency under which the EC/VEO and CRIM operates.	2017 - 2021	Close cooperation, mentoring capacity building and innovation
Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO)	Implementation partner for VEEP.	2017 - 2021	On track with annual workplan implementation.
Department of Civil Registry and Identity Management (CRIM)	Joint and intensive CVR process and legislation, policy, SOPs and Procedure Manuals New Integrated Identity System database	2017 - 2021	A very close collegial and productive relationship delivering innovative initiatives
Department of Local Authorities (DLA)	Collaboration in the CVR process field level, data validation, data verification	2017 – 2021	Joint civil and voter registration exercise in provinces.
OGCIO	Policy, Legislation and Data base development and security	2021	Office of Government Chief Information Officer is heading the data protection working group, in charge of policy and legislation development, and assisting with database development, sharing and security
Ministry of Justice	Cross Sectoral Cooperation	2021	MoIA has been allocated some Departments, previously under the Ministry of Justice, which has been demobilized, and others have been moved to Ministry of Youth and Sport. This will affect the review of the Marriages Act and Adoptions Act.

Electoral Reform Working Group Taskforce	Political reform process.	2021	Multi Agency group bringing high level contributions from Prime Minister's Office, State Law Office, Law Reform Commission, Electoral Commission, Electoral Office, Department of Civil Registry and Vital Statistics, Vanuatu National Statistics Office, Department of Local Authorities, Department of Urban Administration and Planning, Department for Immigration, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.
Civil Registration and Identity Management Working Group	Political reform process.	2021	Multi Agency group bringing high level contributions and engagement
Data Protection and Privacy Working Group	Political reform process.	2021	Multi Agency group bringing high level contributions and engagement
Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO)	Development of multi-layered electoral maps; undertake assessment on information needs of voters, and operational and geographical needs of polling stations	2017 - 2021	Ongoing liaison and consultation on voter assessment and on electoral boundaries has upscaled to include ID Card data, apps and UNOSAT/UNITAR to devise based geo-spatial satellite maps
Ministry of Health	Cross sectoral Data sharing and Vanuatu National COVID19 Strategy	2021	Data sharing with ID Card and Registers used for planning as well as using ID Card and VEEP tablet technology for COVID19 Strategy roll-out
Ministry of Education	Cross sectoral Data sharing	2021	Data sharing with ID Card and Registers used for planning as well as using ID Card. School curriculum development, Teacher Manual and Student handbook
Dept of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC), PMs Office	Policy and planning	2021	Close cooperation on improved planning and reporting, as well as budget

UN agencies	Cross Sectoral Cooperation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with focus on digital economy work. • United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) with focus on improvement of civil registration processes. • Bloomberg Philanthropies, Data for Health Initiative (CRVS, Global Grants Program) with focus on integrating Public Health Systems with CRVS data. • The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) with focus on birth registration • UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) with focus on death registration and COVID19 vaccination in Vanuatu. • UNESCAP on CRVS business process assessment and mapping, on data interoperability between civil register data and ministry of Health data • UNDESA on alignment and localisation of national sustainable development goals
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Updates to Key Activity Management Documents

Activity Results Framework

Have the Results Diagram, Measurement Table and Monitoring and Evaluation workplan been reviewed to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate?

These are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The four main outputs of the project remain unchanged and relevant, although additional activities have been added to Output 1 to include restructure of several departments under MoIA, development of MoIA corporate plan 2022-2026 etc., Output 2 to include the support to the joint civil and voter field registration, data validation and verification, and the development of a new integrated identity system, Output 3 to include school curriculum enrichment materials and Output 4 to include three working groups on important and comprehensive legal reforms.

UNDP internally scheduled three phases of project evaluation, called ‘Quality Assurance’ that is undertaken at the design phase of each project, at mid-term (implementation phase), and at the end of the project term. The project is currently undergoing the mid-term quality assurance process where the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the project achievements to date are being assessed. Lessons and recommendations from this process are then fed back into the work of the project to ensure that Outputs are achieved and contribute towards the desired Outcomes for VEEP.

Are there justifiable changes/updates needed due to changes in context/need and lessons learned?

Upscaling of the VEEP Project occurred in response to GoV requests for additional support, consultatively agreed with NZ MFAT, UNDP, DSPPAC and MoIA. The response and implementation of all of the following are detailed elsewhere in the Report.

- GIS Mapping
- CRIM Restructure
- CSU Restructure
- Enumerator Contracts
- Working Groups x 3
- Mobile Apps Development
- Electoral Results Management System
- Integrated Identity Management system
- Business Plan and Reporting training and Templates
- MoIA Corporate Plan
- Sector Strategy development conference
- procurement of technical and non-technical materials

Briefly summarise any proposed changes to the Activity Results Framework. Attach an updated version of the Results Framework as proposed. N/A

Costed workplan

Where relevant, attach a costed workplan for the subsequent period. Describe any implications for, or changes to, the Activity's overall costed workplan and/or budget.

(Refer to revised Multi-Year Workplan in Appendices)

Risk Management Matrix

Review the risk management matrix and attach the updated version in the Appendix – Refer Appendix B Describe any key risks that have emerged during the reporting period and how they have been mitigated.

Risk	Mitigation Action	Timeframe	Mitigation Action Progress
<p>The VEO and CRIM lacks operational and financial capacity to be able to institutionalise its knowledge and experience. There is no clear segregation of duties. There is no financial officer. The VEO has no permanent representation in the provinces and outer islands yet. Instead, DLA is charged with substantive authority around electoral operations. There are unclear lines of authority and the VEO has limitations in monitoring and controlling the operations of the field.</p>	<p>An ICT officer and a public outreach officer started working with VEO during May and June respectively to boost VEO capacities in two crucial areas.</p> <p>The PR officer is seconded from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) and the IT officer is recruited as an intern to start with, has master's in computer science and practical experience from CRVS.</p> <p>Additional USP students have also joined the VEO to support the data entry and data processing.</p> <p>The VEO has recently requested support to build the permanent provincial field structure, which will be brought up at next Board Meeting.</p>	<p>2019-2021</p>	<p>The increased VEO staffing structure and CRIM staffing structure has now been submitted.</p> <p>New JDs provide a very clear segregation of duties and Reporting Lines.</p> <p>Once approved, the restructure implementation plan must be pursued to staff high priority positions ie Deputy PEO, FO.</p> <p>Four vacant provincial positions are staffed by end 2021 with the remaining 2 to be filled in 2022.</p> <p>USP students have been on short contracts (VEEP and DLA funding) to enter data for National ID Cards and Register.</p> <p>In the field enumerators in provinces have also been flexibly contracted.</p> <p>New legislation more clearly defines the roles of VEC VEO CRIM and DLA.</p> <p>On-going collaboration with DLA will enhance the VEO's decentralisation strategy.</p>

<p>The quality of the voter register continues to be raised in stakeholder consultations as one of the greatest concerns affecting the credibility of elections in Vanuatu.</p>	<p>VEEP scaled up its support for the entire nation-wide civil and voter registration in Vanuatu, including a large procurement of material and equipment, development of full strategy and implementation plan, support to integrate and merge all data into one digital database and issue national IDs to all voters.</p> <p>The support includes duplication analysis and clean-up records, massive public awareness campaigns. The strategy continues to be based around supporting a locally-developed electronic registration process.</p> <p>A continuous concern is the remaining lack of provincial presence for continuous updates, as well as IT skills to maintain any of the two registries.</p> <p>Another concern is the recruitment of field staff and the required technical skills required.</p>	<p>2019-2021</p>	<p>Actions taken: CVRs/CRIM process launched and on-going. Support to improving the voter registration system will focus on moving from the transitional dual registration system to the new fully digitised database, linking voter details to the civil registry, and issuing all citizens with national ID cards. 157,767 voters or 52% of voters (increased from 99,098 voters or 38% of the voters at end Q3)</p> <p>A revised legal framework has been created with 2 new Acts approved by Nov 2021 Parliament - Civil Registration and Identity Management Act and the National Identity Card Act</p> <p>Procurement of equipment ie tablets for enumerators, office equipment photocopiers continues for both Head Office and Provincial Offices</p> <p>Amalgamation of data bases continues with success based on stronger ID through the National ID Card.</p> <p>Four provincial officers are appointed by end 2021, with 2 others to be appointed in 2022</p> <p>A Standing Pool of contracted enumerators is being explored to provide surge capacity. The Business Plan for VEO will need to provide funding to reduce reliance on VEEP or DLA financing.</p> <p>On-going IT refresher training for enumerators is being supported by OGCIO, VEEP, VEO, CRVS/CRIM and VNSO</p>
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<p>Voter information and public awareness for past electoral events has been undertaken in an <i>ad hoc</i> manner and very few materials exist</p>	<p>An Information and awareness Officer has been appointed by VEO VEEP has supported development of Civic Education Materials for public use but also for Secondary School curriculum enrichment.</p> <p>VEEP is providing on-going support development and implementation of awareness campaign.</p>	<p>2019-2021</p>	<p>VEO now has 2 permanent officers supporting PR and access to information -. Voter Information and Outreach Officer and ICT Web Site Officer</p> <p>At Minister's request a Civic Awareness textbook, Teacher's Guide and Student Workbook has been developed in 3 languages. This was launched Dec 2021 and uploaded to VEO Web Site. In addition, the materials will be distributed to 26 Senior Secondary Schools – Vanuatu's new voters</p> <p>An advocacy program uses Facebook, Twitter, Web Site, radio, TV and community workshops.</p>
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Governance and management arrangements

Describe any necessary changes to the governance and management arrangements between NZ, partners, contractors and other donors.

No changes are foreseen in the governance arrangements for the project, and to the membership of the Project Board.

The project aims to hold another project board meeting in Q1 2022 dependent on availability of Board members i.e., new NZ High Commissioner recently deployed and quarantined to review results and ensure that the support provided so far to the VEO has enabled the office to be sufficiently prepared for the 2024 general elections.

Authorisation

I declare that the information contained in this report is true and correct and confirm:

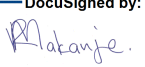
- MFAT Funds were received and used only for the agreed purpose(s); and
- All conditions attached to MFAT's Funding have been met; and
- MFAT Funds have been fully utilised for the intended purpose, OR
- There are unspent Funds and I understand that MFAT may deduct this amount from the next tranche payment of Funds OR a cheque is attached returning these Funds to MFAT.

Revai Makanje Aalbaek

Team Leader

Full Name (in block capitals)

Title / Position (e.g. CEO)

DocuSigned by:

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08-Mar-2022

Signature

Date

Appendices

This report includes the following appendices:

- APPENDIX A: Progress against Results Framework (table)
- APPENDIX B: Risks, Assumptions and Mitigation Matrix
- APPENDIX C: Progress Against Agreed Workplan and Budget (table)
- APPENDIX D: Costed workplan for subsequent period
- APPENDIX E: Out of Country Voting - Concept Note
- APPENDIX F: Out of Constituency Voting - Concept Note
- APPENDIX G: Ballot Paper Design and Structure – Concept Note
- APPENDIX H: Temporary Special Measures to Improve Women’s Representation – Concept Note