

Activity Completion Report: Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP)

Summary

Activity information

Activity Title	Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP)
Goal	Strengthening of the capacity of Vanuatu's electoral authorities to prepare and conduct credible elections
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" and Output 4: "Legal Framework for Political Parties developed, and capacity building provided"

Contract or Grant Information

Start and end dates	20/06/2018 – 31/12/2020 (30/06/2021)
Total Activity Budget	US\$ 3,316,572
Assessment period for this report	2017-2020

Progress Report Preparation

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Executive Summary

The Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP) was approved and signed off by UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) in August 2017. VEEP was the first systematic effort to provide international electoral assistance in the country. The project included four outputs – strengthening of the electoral administration, enhancing the integrity of the voter register, supporting voter education and information and (added later in 2018) supporting the political reform efforts through the development of the legal and operational framework regarding political parties’ registration.

Achievements. With a long-term capacity-building approach, the project focused its activities around the four determined outputs. In particular, VEEP aimed at strengthening institutional capacities by: introducing good electoral management practices to the VEO in relation to output 1, including the consolidation of planning practices, development of procedures, manuals, handbooks, and operational training methodologies and contents. Efforts at gender mainstreaming at all levels of the electoral administration were also implemented. The infrastructure of the Electoral Commission (EC) and VEO buildings in Port Vila was upgraded and sensitive electoral material was substantially improved. The project was key in the formalization of main operational processes and practices as well as starting digitalization of the Electoral Management Body (EMB’s) information, in addition to supporting the development of EC’s first regulations and codes of conduct. VEEP assisted the authorities in the development of concept papers on various legal and operational issues to guide decision-making and preparation of policy papers, as well as instructions for key legal amendments. Additionally, VEEP also provided significant technical and operational support to multiple electoral events in 2019-2020, including the general elections held in March 2020.

Importantly, under output 2, the enhancement of the accuracy and integrity of the voter register was one of the main emphasis of the project. In 2017 the national authorities decided to launch a national ID card and to link the voter and civil registry databases, however without a clear plan. VEEP not only provided technical and operational support to the modification of the voter registration model, which will have the electoral authorities derive the voter register from the civil registry database and to replace the voter card with the national ID for electoral purposes, but it was also instrumental in the definition of a “roadmap” to the transition from the old to the new model of voter registration. The areas of work included supporting a locally-owned electronic registration system, carefully studying synergies with the various registration systems in the country, providing important operational and technical assistance to both the pilot for the “joint registration” and the massive joint registration drive across the country for the 2019 and 2020 provincial and general elections. Additionally, VEEP supported the efforts of the electoral authorities to modify the current voter registration legislation to ensure the legal provisions are coherent with the new practices and modalities to build and maintain the voter register.

In terms of output 3, VEEP focused on strengthening the capacities of the EC and VEO to provide accurate and timely voter information and to create information tools for the various stakeholders. The attention was on voter awareness (a combination of “voter information, education ” and public awareness), as the lack of enough permanent staff made any effort at long-term voter education unfeasible. Key activities included the establishment and maintenance of an electoral website and an official Facebook page, the development of VEO branding identity (logo and colour), mainstreaming gender in the official electoral information tools and messages, as well as the development of a civic education booklet, a voter information guide, and a candidates handbook. The project also supported the establishment of a Voter Awareness Committee to ensure an effective and regular follow up of electoral awareness activities for the 2020 general elections.

Output 4 depended on the progress of the political reform process. While significant progress was made, one expected electoral event for which the government had requested UN assistance, the first national referendum, did not take place during the project’s lifetime. In 2018, VEEP’s project document shifted the

focus to assist in developing the required legal and operational framework for the registration of political parties. VEEP concentrated in supporting the deliberations on the political reform process, including providing valuable information based on international comparative experience and to support and encourage wide consultations on the issues related to the reform process. In that context, VEEP supported political party registration proposals and procedures, drafted legal options papers on political party financing and memberships as input to discussions, and continued to support operational planning for an eventual referendum, including an extensive voter awareness campaign; all of these outcomes have become part of the institutional knowledge of the electoral authorities. While halted, the reform process is not dead following the 2020 general elections, and there are still some expectations for it to move forward; if that would be the case, a lot of ground work has already been made by VEEP and any eventual request for further assistance can be undertaken in a straightforward and timely manner.

Challenges and risks. The main challenges focused on the frailty of the electoral institutions and their lack of national support in terms of resources, both financial and human resources. The lack of formal institutional memory of both the EC and VEO was a major obstacle to transcend. The politically unstable environment was another challenge (not just concerning the lack of progress of the political reform process but also the unforeseen electoral events), as well as the lack of active political participation in many areas of the country. Despite the efforts of “gender mainstreaming” in the EMB, there was little achieved in terms of promoting women’s participation in the political and electoral processes, for which there was limited national support. Throughout the project, there were concerns regarding the lack of independence of the EMB, which falls under the supervision and management of the Ministry of Interior.

The risks identified at the beginning of the project were revised and complemented throughout the project period with the active participation of the project partners. Among the major risks identified were government and national stakeholders’ commitment to the project, the political context surrounding the political reform package, the capacity and ability of national partners (in particular the electoral authorities) in absorbing and dealing with the various changes of modalities introduced to the electoral administration through the implementation of the project activities (including the transition to a new voter registration model) given the frailty of the EC and VEO, and issues with financial delivery. Additional operational risks included natural disasters such as TC Harold and the Covid-19 Pandemic that impacted directly on stakeholder priorities and the ability to implement and participate in activities under the project, as well as the infrastructure limitations (in particular with the IT setup required for the new VR modalities). Mitigation activities were designed at each appropriate stage of the process and were successfully implemented, thanks to the flexible approach adopted by the project management structure. Overall, the various stakeholders felt that VEEP dealt well with all the various challenges and risks (particularly the declaration of the COVID-19 world pandemic and the concurrent preparation and conduct of the 2020 general elections), which did not compromise the results and outcomes of the project.

Lessons-learned. The lessons-learned were instrumental in designing the new phase of the project (VEEP II), in conjunction with all the pertinent partners. The reflections below would be beneficial in a similar context as Vanuatu, with a small population, frail and vulnerable electoral institutions, a complicated geography, and limited national funding and weak infrastructure. The key points include: a) small but strong and agile team, that did not overwhelm the local authorities; b) in an environment of an extremely frail electoral administration, often the project staff inevitably end up doing some of the substantive work of the electoral office. This was the case during VEEP I, but the capacity-building approach was never abandoned; c) the importance of building and maintaining a good relationship between the project partners; d) making sure that there was a conscious effort to put national leadership and ownership forward, which resulted in an increased credibility built by the electoral authorities as a result of the amplified visibility of their leadership; e) the importance of agile programming, flexibility, pragmatism and a multi-tier approach from the project’s side. Agile programming and contingency planning is crucial for programming in disaster prone communities/countries and in COVID-19 context - When TC Harold and Covid-19 restrictions hit Vanuatu in

the first quarter of 2020, presenting compounded development context, the project quickly adapted to the changing context and still delivered its results; g) the beneficial results of proactive communication to the various audiences and stakeholders of the electoral process.

Report on Performance and Results

1. Activity context, risks and opportunities

Context. Since independence in 1980, elections have been held in the Republic of Vanuatu periodically, with results that have been accepted as credible. Until 1991 the country experienced political stability, with a reasonably robust party system centered around the pro-independence Vanua'aku Pati (VP) and the Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) which was originally linked to a francophone image. Since then, however, the governance system has been weakened by almost chronic political instability following political party splits. Vanuatu inherited a Westminster style system, which requires strong political parties; unfortunately, that is currently far from being the case. As a result, forming and retaining a coalition government has become a complex process of negotiation between fragmented political groups and independents.

On a national level, Vanuatu is governed by a single-chamber Parliament, composed of elected representatives in a combination of First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) and Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNVT) electoral systems (elected in single-member constituencies and multiple-member constituencies, respectively). Members of provincial and municipal councils are also directly elected under the same system. All elections are the responsibility of the Electoral Commission (EC), as is the establishment of a voter register. The EC is composed of a Chairman and two other members who are supported by a small executive secretariat, the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO), headed by a Principal Electoral Officer (PEO).

Vanuatu has been a developing country until now, however graduated from the official list of Least Developed Countries (LDC) on 4 December 2020, becoming the sixth country to achieve the milestone since the development categorization was created in 1971. The country has nevertheless relied on overseas aid for government revenues, although the government revenues are increasingly supported by the citizenship investment programme (US\$150,000 per single applicant plus fees). All government agencies are, however, still in constant competition for government funds in the context of limited national funds. This is the case of the electoral authorities, who have been chronically underresourced and underfinanced, resulting in a fragile electoral administration, despite the successful elections held since independence. In particular, the accuracy and integrity of the voter register have for years been signalled by all electoral stakeholders as the “weak-link” in the country’s electoral system.

In late 2015, a political scandal led to the dissolution of Parliament and “snap” elections were held in early 2016. In order to address the chronic political instability, the new government launched a major political reform, centered on political party registration and party discipline, crystallized on anti-defection measures (floor-crossing). Despite “watering down” the reform proposals, ultimately centered almost exclusively on the idea of

registration of political parties, the limited initiative was eventually blocked, and the government revised its proposals in 2019, with no better luck.

Electoral assistance in Vanuatu. Vanuatu has benefited since independence from sporadic international electoral assistance, mostly from Australia and New Zealand. Such support was mostly centered in operational support for electoral events. Following a series of training sessions for women candidates to municipal elections in 2014, facilitated by UN Women, the electoral authorities requested the United Nations (UN) support for the first time. Following that request, a UN desk review (the first one for Vanuatu) recommended to provide assistance in several areas (including the promotion of women's participation in elections and support to civic and voter education), yet no immediate assistance resulted from the review.

As part of the political reform process launched following the inauguration of the government issued from the 2015 “snap elections”, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu requested in May 2016 UN assistance in preparations for a potential referendum to approve the constitutional reforms, as well as medium- and longer-term assistance to develop the capacity of the EC and the VEO. In response, and building on the recommendations of a scoping mission deployed to Vanuatu in June 2016, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Focal Point for Electoral Assistance in the UN, approved the provision of the following: 1) technical assistance and capacity building to the electoral management body on voter registration and civic and voter education; 2) technical guidance to the reform process and support to broad consultation activities; and, 3) assistance to gender mainstreaming at all levels of the electoral process.

Following the 2016 review, two UN short-term consultants were deployed to Port Vila, to work with the electoral authorities on preparations for the eventual referendum, voter awareness and longer-term support to the VEO. As mentioned, because of political complications, the political reforms (and therefore the referendum) did not take place. Nevertheless, arrangements for longer-term support to the EC and the VEO were made and negotiations for a UNDP electoral assistance project were launched.

The project document for the Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP) was finally approved and signed off by UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and the VEO in August 2017. Initially, the project included three outputs (strengthening of the electoral administration, enhancing integrity of the voter register and supporting voter education and information) but in 2018 a new output was added, relating to the development of the legal and operational framework regarding political parties' registration, the main issue addressed in the political reform proposals.

A couple of months after the signing of the VEEP project document, two additional UN short-term consultants were deployed to Vanuatu, with the objective of supporting the VEO in building its overall operational capacity and its ability to deliver an effective voter

education campaign within the electoral cycle. In late 2018, VEEP established a permanent presence in the country, with a permanent Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager (who arrived in January 2019) and initially two permanent officers (increased to three by the end of 2019 to include a civil and voter registration specialist), as well as the presence of short-term international advisors as needed.

2016-2020 electoral cycle in Vanuatu. The initial request for UN assistance was centered on support to the preparation and conduct of the first national referendum in the country. The referendum is required by the Constitution should the Parliament adopt the proposed constitutional amendments proposed by the political reform package. While the preparations for a referendum were fraught with uncertainties given the political issues with the political reform process, the possibilities of such a pivotal event were very much a source of concern for the electoral authorities from 2016 to 2020.

Nevertheless, the “normal” events of the electoral cycle included provincial and municipal elections, spread throughout the period, complicated by frequent “by-elections” and culminating in the 2020 general elections. Initially, it was expected that the national referendum would take place “as early as possible” in 2016. Given the delays in the political reform process, the electoral authorities were prepared to hold “concurrent” elections, having the referendum and impending provincial elections (in Tafea, Shefa, Malampa and Penama provinces), which were scheduled for March 2017. Eventually, those provincial elections took place by themselves on 23 March 2017. Hereafter, Torba provincial election took place on 21 November 2017, municipal elections in Port Vila took place on 7 March 2018, an unforeseen parliamentary by-election in Efate rural province took place on 2 September 2019, Luganville municipal elections took place on 17 September 2019, provincial elections in Sanma in January 2020 and the general elections were held in March 2020. The general elections were the first elections in the world held after the COVID19 pandemic was declared. Finally, a by-election in Ureparara constituency (Torba province) will take place on 17 December 2020 to elect a provincial councillor. Additional elections during this operation period included the indirect Presidential elections held on 6 July 2017 and the Malvatumauri elections on 29 October 2018.

Besides the electoral events taking place in the four-year period, the electoral cycle was characterized by an important and substantial modification of the voter registration model, whereby the civil and voter registers were linked following the introduction of a national ID card, which is to culminate in a single registration process (undertaken by the Civil Registry), with the VEO deriving the voter register from the civil registry database and to replace the electoral card with the national ID card for all electoral purposes.

Changes of context and VEEP. The context in which the government first made the request for international electoral assistance and during which the project document was discussed, involved a number of modifications, including the increased support to the countrywide registration process mobilizing an additional US\$ 1 million to the project.

Additional changes in context included the failure (thus far) of the political reform process and the COVID-19 crisis and closed borders.

The political reform process, which had been at the source of the government's request for UN electoral assistance, did not progress as expected. Nevertheless, the project was successful in supporting widespread consultations both at Pacific regional, national and local levels, and public dialogue regarding the substantive issues the reform process was addressing, as well as producing technical options and proposals regarding political parties' registration, which are now knowledge products in the hands of the electoral authorities and other pertinent stakeholders.

COVID-19 global restrictions on travel and movement did affect negatively the preparations and conduct of the 2020 general elections, but ultimately they were able to take place successfully with targeted mitigation measures, strong partnerships and several last minute innovative measures in place. On the other hand, the expansion of VEO permanent staff, while approved in 2019 to be effective 01 January 2020, could not be implemented because of the financial crisis resulting from the the devastating impact of TC Harold and COVID-19 crisis, as new recruitments were put on hold by the Public Service Commission.

All the same, the main objective of strengthening the institutional and operational capacities of the electoral authorities maintained its pertinence and the results throughout the project's lifetime were positive and encouraging. The government's support to the main objective of consolidating the country's democratic processes through a stronger and more credible electoral administration was maintained throughout the period, and the electoral authorities backing of the project and its activities also indicate that the project's resources were very well employed.

Challenges and risks. The main challenges focused on the frailty of the electoral institutions and their lack of national support in terms of resources, both financial and in terms of human resources, as well as financial independence. The lack of formal institutional memory of both the EC and VEO has been a major obstacle to transcend. The politically unstable environment was also a challenge (not just in regard to the lack of progress of the political reform process but also the unforeseen electoral events), as well as the lack of active political participation in many areas of the country.

There were continuous efforts by VEEP of "gender mainstreaming" in the electoral administration, which were difficult at best given the frailty of the electoral authorities but which were well accepted: operational procedures were formulated with a gender perspective, as well as being careful to be gender-conscious when designing forms, developing manuals, producing voter information materials (including a poster promoting women's participation), encouraging provincial temporary staff to hire women as polling staff, or with the branding (two characters, one per gender, designed along with the new

logos). Nevertheless, there was little achieved in terms of promoting women's participation in the political and electoral processes, for which there was limited national support (voter registration statistics for 2020 showed that 49.16% of registered voters were female, as opposed to 50.84% who were male; however, there was no women elected in the parliamentary elections held during the period).

The risks identified at the beginning of the project were revised and complemented throughout the project period with active participation of the project partners, including the Project Board. Among the major risks identified were government and national stakeholders' commitment to the project, the political context surrounding the political reform package, the capacity and ability of national partners (in particular the electoral authorities) in absorbing and dealing with the various changes of modalities and processes introduced to the electoral administration through the implementation of the project activities (including the transition to a new voter registration model, and management of countrywide registration operations) given the frailty of the EC and VEO, and issues with financial delivery. Additional operational risks included natural disasters that impacted directly on stakeholder priorities and ability to implement and participate in activities under the project as well as the infrastructure limitations (in particular with the IT setup required for the new VR modalities). Mitigation activities were designed at each appropriate stage of the process and were successfully implemented, thanks to the flexible approach adopted by the project management structure.

2. Effectiveness: How well did the Activity achieve the intended inclusive/resilient/sustained development outcomes?

VEEP activities focused on the planned four outputs, and project activities (both in terms of technical and operational assistance) were formulated with an aim to fulfill the objective agreed to in the project document. Implementation of these activities (both during operational mode and in-between elections) has been evaluated positively by all stakeholders, in particular the electoral activities. The positive intervention of the projects has been the result of a number of factors: the fact that VEEP was able to create a solid relationship of trust with both the electoral authorities and other government partners; the steady and continued support from development partners (New Zealand in particular); sustained flexibility of the project in responding to new requests as context and conditions evolved; and the responsiveness of national partners to encouragement from the project to consolidate planning practices and introducing evaluation exercises. There is strong national ownership of the process, including the assurance of the electoral authorities and other government agencies of the benefits of the professionalization of the electoral administration in the short and long term. The electoral authorities are now convinced of the need to establish long-term partnerships and the experience with the Civil Registry has been enlightening in that regard. While the overall results appear positive and encouraging, there is still a need to continue working in many areas to consolidate the positive outcomes and ensure full national ownership of an efficient, transparent and sustainable electoral administration and practices.

Output 1: *Institutional capacities of the electoral authorities strengthened.* This output's relevance remained intact during the project's implementation. For years, experts and observers, as well as the electoral authorities, had advised on the need to "restructure" the electoral authorities, as the current status is not sustainable and the failure to upgrade the electoral capacities could have a very negative effect. Under the scope of Output 1 of the project, there was a need to continuously support and to strengthen the capacities of the Vanuatu Electoral Commission (EC) and the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) with a view of consolidating and efficient and sustainable electoral administration in Vanuatu.

In particular, VEEP aimed at strengthening of institutional capacities by: a) introducing good electoral management practices to the VEO, such as: operational planning; development of procedures, manuals, handbooks and operational training methodologies and contents; focused efforts at tabulation, announcement and management of results; gender mainstreaming at all levels of electoral administration; strengthening practices that enhance transparency such as systematic public relations and regular reporting, among others; b) upgrade of the infrastructure of the EC and VEO in Port Vila (establishing an electoral commission building for the first time in Vanuatu and refurbishing and restructuring the electoral office building to create an environment that is conducive to work in and can accommodate additional staff); c) upgrade and provision of electoral material (such as transparent ballot boxes, tamper-evident security seals, indelible ink); d) establishment of first-ever Electoral Commission administrative and operational procedures, bridging laws and consolidated procedures; e) formalization and documentation of main operational processes and practices (including operational procedures, handbooks for training and information to various stakeholders, providing training for temporary staff that was hired or seconded to the VEO during operational periods) as well as digitalization of the EMB's information; f) introduction of cascade training and production of training materials; g) support to the development of numerous EC regulations and codes of conduct pending EC adoption and State Law formalization, including: Electoral provincial officers; Voter registration; Candidates nomination; Designation of overseas polling stations; Emergency measures; Electoral offences; Party/Candidate representatives; Electoral observers and special guests; Media; Polling and counting; Verification and announcement of results. Additionally, codes of conduct were finalized for: electoral observers and special guests; political party and candidate representatives; and media); h) development of concept papers as required by the EC and VEO on various legal and operational issues to guide decision-making and preparation of policy papers and drafting instructions on key legal amendments to be presented to government and Parliament; i) focused support to the "restructuring" of the VEO by assisting in the development of articulated proposals to government, and in particular the Public Service Commission, to boost the staffing levels and develop functional organizational structures (including supporting the development of justified and realistic proposals for creating permanent presence of VEO at the provinces); and j) facilitation and support in the preparation and conduct of capacity self-assessments and lessons-learned exercises after electoral events (in order not only to better support EC and VEO planning in the future, but to guide the future

electoral reform process), as well as fostering knowledge exchange of the electoral authorities with peers within the region and beyond.

Additionally, VEEP also provided significant technical and operational support to multiple electoral events in 2019-2020, including the unforeseen by-election in Efate, municipal elections in Luganville, provincial elections in Sanma and the general elections held in March 2020. Vanuatu was the first country in the world to hold elections after the COVID19 pandemic was declared, with special mitigation measures in place (developed with VEEP assistance), such as handwashing stations, hand sanitizers provided with polling materials, sanitizers for material locally produced in collaboration with a small Rhum distillery. Furthermore, to replace all measures of international and local observation, the tabulation and counting was live-streamed via Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corp (VBTC) and Electoral Office's Facebook page, which was considered a major milestone in terms of transparency and access by the public. Despite multiple difficulties, including natural disasters and the COVID 19 pandemic, the various electoral events, including the general elections, took place in a peaceful manner and the results were accepted by all stakeholders.

All these combined efforts have significantly enhanced the operational capacity of the electoral institutions and made progress towards a more cost-effective and sustainable electoral administration. Nevertheless, efforts are still required to fully consolidate the EC and VEO's capacities, in particular with continued government support to reduce under-resourcing and understaffing, boost presence in the provinces, increase financial independence, the consolidation of planning practices and support new reform measures.

Output 2: *Integrity and accuracy of the voter register enhanced.* Under Output 2, there was a need to continuously strengthen capacities and frameworks to increase the integrity and accuracy of both the civil and voter register, which were linked since 2017, as part of the reform to the voter registration system aimed at increasing its accuracy and integrity, building the public's trust in democracy in Vanuatu. In this context, VEEP's activities were key in developing a roadmap for the transition to a new voter registration model (the linkage of the civil and voter register was done without much strategy planning from government side), supporting the pertinent authorities in identifying the challenges ahead and coming up with feasible solutions.

The areas of work in that area included supporting the local endeavours to come up with a locally-owned electronic registration system, studying carefully synergies with the various registration systems in the country (most clearly with the Civil Registry and Vital Statistics department, CRVS), providing important operational and technical assistance to the pilot projects for the "joint registration" (implemented in the island of Mota and Port Vila in 2017 and in Luganville in 2018) and the massive "joint registration" drive across the country for the 2019 and 2020 provincial and general elections. A significant achievement was the migration from the old registration system (GVRS) to a new web-based registration system (Web-GVRS) that allowed the data-entry of electoral data of thousands of records collected during the field work.

This process provided VEO with the capacity to print consistent electoral lists that were used for the successful general elections in March 2020. VEEP also supported the implementation of a help-desk for Election Day that demonstrated to be an essential and excellent tool for both internal and external support, and data information exchange.

The project also assisted the joint VEO/CRVS work on data validation and verification in the field, province by province, issuing birth registrations and national ID cards, as well as the training of provincial staff and area administrators/area secretaries on the registration systems and national ID awareness. Furthermore, 24 graduate students were recruited to work on identification of registration duplicates and on the updating of both RegVIZ, VES and Web-GVRS based on the data coming back from the field, slowly working on merging the registers.

Besides the provision of technical and operational assistance to the “joint registration” followed by another countrywide data verification exercise, VEEP also supported the efforts of the VEO to modify the current voter registration legislation to ensure the legal provisions are coherent with the new practices and modalities to build and maintain the voter register. This included the harmonization of the use of the national ID card as a voting credential for verification purposes for all direct elections, meaning general elections, local government council (provincial) and municipal elections, as well as any eventual national referendum.

Additionally, the project worked with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the development of very detailed maps based on satellite cloud-free images, which capture the geo-locations of villages, polling stations, health clinics etc. in line with data collected by field registration teams. These detailed maps will also be crucial in VEEP phase II’s demarcation of boundaries exercise.

It is important to note that the field work outlined above allowed the recruitment of dozens of young people, not only in Port Vila, but also in each province, significantly contributing to local employment, skills development and capacity building of youth.

Output 3: *Ability to conduct voter education and raise public awareness strengthened.* In terms of Output 3, VEEP focused on strengthening the capacities of the EC and VEO to provide accurate and timely voter information and to create information tools to the various stakeholders. Lack of sufficient information and awareness activities across the country, in particular hard-to-reach areas, preserved the pertinence and importance of this output. The focus was on “voter information” and public awareness, as the lack of enough permanent staff made any effort at long-term voter education unfeasible. In any case, this would have required the development of long-term partnerships, as voter education is not possible exclusively through the electoral authorities and requires multiple partners, from other government agencies and civil society.

Key VEEP activities in Output 3 included strengthening the VEO public outreach efforts, including the establishment and maintenance of an electoral website and an official Facebook page, the development of VEO logo and identity, mainstreaming gender in the official electoral information tools and messages, as well as the development of civic education booklet (My Election Week by Week and Civic Education booklet in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and their curriculum taskforce) as well as a candidate handbook. The project also supported the establishment of the Voter Awareness Committee to ensure an effective and regular follow up of electoral awareness activities for the 2020 general elections; the committee, that also functioned as a ‘sounding board’, was made up of selected members representing different segments of society to review voter information material and messages, and to plan activities in coordination with the EC/VEO to be implemented by civil society and faith-based organizations.

Output 4: *Legal framework for political parties developed and capacity building on legal framework to key stakeholders provided.* While significant progress was made by VEEP in terms of Output 4, one expected electoral event for which the government had requested UN assistance, and which was an eventuality throughout, the first national referendum, did not take place during the project’s lifetime. The reform process encountered significant obstacles, and the necessary legislative approval was blocked by the political stalemates.

In 2016, the government’s request for assistance had highlighted support for the referendum process. With UN support, significant work was done at the time in terms of the referendum, including modifying the legal framework, supporting operational planning, including a solid awareness campaign. The reform process was halted, however, and the government retired the proposed bill. In 2019, however, following new political agreements and simplifications of the bill (which now concentrated almost exclusively on political party registration), the government requested, once again, UN support, not just in terms of the referendum, but also in regards to the new legislative and regulatory framework that would be required through the reforms. As a result, Output 4 was added to VEEP’s project document, shifting the focus from support to the referendum to assistance in developing the required legal framework. The government’s request included technical legal advice with respect to consistency and conformity between proposed and existing legislation in view of possible adoption of legislation on political parties and review of the election system. Additionally, the EC sought legal assistance as to the necessary consistency with other relevant instruments including the Representation of Peoples Act, the Municipalities Act and Decentralization Act.

As a result, Output 4 focused on supporting the deliberations on the political reform process, including providing valuable information based on international comparative experience and to support and encourage wide consultations on the issues related to the reform process, in particular the registration of political parties (including options for the registration of political parties). In that context, VEEP supported political party registration proposals and procedures, drafted legal options papers on political party financing and memberships as input to

discussions, and continued to support operational planning, including an extensive voter awareness campaign. Importantly, VEEP was successful in supporting widespread consultations both at Pacific regional, national and local levels, and public dialogue on the proposed amendments and the substantive issues the reform process was addressing. In September 2017, the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji in cooperation the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung organised a three-day dialogue on political parties in the Pacific. One of the sessions at the conference focused on political party regulation including some discussion on party registration, minimum standards for internal party functioning, transparency in party funding and administrative requirements. Building on the theme of political party regulation, a two-day regional conference was held in Port Vila in September 2018. The conference focused on the regulatory and legislative frameworks governing political parties in the Pacific, and the specific challenge faced in this regard in small island states. Finally, a Pacific Regional Political Parties Conference was held in September 2019 in Solomon Islands, to discuss inclusiveness through engaging youth, women and minority groups in the structures and membership of political parties in the Pacific. Vanuatu participated with the biggest delegation, consisting of 12 political party representatives. Following these conferences, the project produced technical options and proposals regarding political parties' registration, which are now knowledge products in the hands of the electoral authorities and other pertinent stakeholders.

While halted, the reform process is not dead following the 2020 general elections, and there are still expectations for it to move forward; if this is the case, a lot of ground work has already been made by VEEP and any eventual request for further assistance can be undertaken in a straightforward and timely manner.

Sustainability of electoral administration. The Vanuatu electoral authorities have accumulated a great deal of electoral experience and expertise through the years, and in particular in the last few years with VEEP support. The electoral administration has, so far, successfully faced great challenges from the geography of the country and the lack of communication in some areas. Nevertheless, the electoral administration is not as strong as desired and, in the long-term perspective, there are concerns regarding the sustainability of the electoral institutions. Despite their achievements, the important question is whether the authorities will be able to sustain and improve their present level of performance, to carry on as efficient and credible institutions. The EC has a constitutional mandate defined largely in operational terms, to be in effect during electoral periods. Moreover, there are few legal-specific details as to its rules and regulations and its explicit tasks, particularly during the non-electoral phases. More importantly, the EC-executive arm, the VEO, depends on administrative support from the Ministry of Internal Affairs which is much less present in the “down” inter-electoral period. In any case, the permanent core electoral staff of the commission, while very capable and competent, is still very limited, which makes any attempts at rational organization and functioning of the office extremely difficult. There are encouraging signs however, as recruitment is now again underway to add more permanent staff at headquarters and to establish permanent provincial electoral officers. Resourcing from the government has been

stronger in the last couple of years, but a fragile national financial situation could compromise sustained government support during non-electoral periods. Despite progress, in short, recurring under-resourcing and financial problems, remains a constant risk for an institution that relies on a few key individuals for sustaining its institutional capacity. Support by international partners through VEEP is seen as current strength, but further efforts are required in terms of longer-term sustainability. Sustained attention and support from government will be required to consolidate electoral institutions, with political will translating into concrete support, including enhanced political and financial independence. Some argue that the lack of government support to the electoral institutions reflects a general state of affairs regarding all state agencies in the country, but this does not take away from the importance to ensure the electoral administration does receive the necessary attention and support it deserves. VEEP has covered the expenses of 24 graduate students working on de-duplication and data entry into the civil and voter registers during the last six months, which otherwise wouldn't have happened. It is unlikely that similar efforts can be expected from government in the future, so VEEP will cover this additional support until the data validation and de-duplication endeavour has been completed. Finally, planned electoral reform efforts will also be essential in defining the political sustainability of electoral institutions and practice in the country.

3. How well was this Activity managed?

The project was managed effectively and efficiently throughout outputs and activities and have obtained good value for money working with local partners and local solutions, and significant outputs have been achieved for the funds committed. The final actual expenditure compared to budget shows that expenditures occurred are matching very closely the budget projections. The project went slightly over the expected budget in outputs 1, 2, 3 and under budget in output 4. The total variance in expenditure against budget however, was only 41,000 USD, equal to 1.2 %. This amount has been covered by other UNDP core resources.

The VEEP budget and expertise/skills were suitable for the intended outcomes, and the project has been considered very cost effective with significant and important results achieved. The funds were thus spent on results achieved, and closely coordinated with government and partners to maximise results. The Ministry of Internal Affairs (our local implementing partner) has been HACT assessed and trusted with funds for some field activities, formalised under Letter of Agreement (LOA), and well managed and timely acquitted.

A preliminary financial report with commitments is provided in annex C. The *final* financial report will only be finalized by end January 2021 as payments will still be continued and final GMS will only be charged in January 2021 for year 2020.

Were relevant safeguards applied?

The management structure put in place under the project document has worked well. There was a gap between the time the project document was signed in 2017 and the arrival of the permanent team staff, in particular the chief technical adviser/project manager, who arrived only in early 2019. Nevertheless, since that moment, relations between the project staff, the electoral administration, government officials, MFAT and other stakeholders were solid and productive, with good communication and information flow, and high level of trust. The UNDP project cycle has underpinned the process that provided VEEP with the ability to plan and deliver results through appropriate technical and operational advisory. The Project Board functioned effectively and smoothly, and was able to react in a flexible manner to address any new challenge or change in context.

4. Lessons Learned / Future Opportunities

The following are a few of the lessons-learned from the project. The internal evaluations (between the project team and the various partners, in particular the electoral authorities) indicate that the process worked well. Other than having much earlier permanent project staff, there are no indications that things should have been done differently. The lessons-learned were instrumental in designing the new phase of the project (VEEP II), in conjunction with all the pertinent partners. The reflections below would be beneficial in a similar context as Vanuatu, with a small population, frail and vulnerable electoral institutions, a complicated geography and limited national funding and infrastructure:

Small but strong and agile team. The project lacked leadership on the ground until the arrival of the Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager and other two permanent staff (project assistant and public outreach coordinator) in January 2019. The presence of the permanent project staff allowed for the project to massively increase focus and activities under the various outputs, to create and consolidate the relationship with the various partners, in particular the EC, VEO, CRVS and the political reform taskforce. The project staff has been fully embedded within the VEO and this was seen as a major source of credibility for the project. The permanent staff was quite small as it was intended that international staff should not overwhelm the small number of national permanent electoral officers. The small project staff was increased with a permanent civil and voter registration expert in line with massive increase in nationwide registration activities and budget, and complemented, as required, by international experts working as consultants, which was also a productive and useful arrangement.

Capacity-building and capacity-substitution. In an environment characterized by a very frail and under-resourced electoral administration, often it was inevitable that the project staff that end up doing some of the substantive work of the electoral office. While this was the case during VEEP I, the capacity-building approach was never abandoned, and conscious efforts were made to ensure the necessary transfer of skills and competences to maintain and sustain the national institutional capacities. Ultimately, the small number of project staff allowed the EC and the VEO to take greater control of operations with input from the project team.

Importance of good relations between partners. One key reason for the successful implementation of the project activities had to do with the establishment of strong, trusted and productive relations between the project and its various partners. Relations between the electoral officers and the project staff were cordial and fruitful for the most part, as mentioned. But the project was also involved with a number of other partners, such as the Civil Registry Department, the Department of Local Authorities, the Ministry of Interior, the State Law Office, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Political Reform Taskforce, among others. The project also had fruitful relations with other national leaders, religious groups, media and civil society organisations, as well as other UN agencies.

Putting national leadership forward. The project made a conscious effort to support the EC and VEO leadership, with an increased credibility built by the electoral authorities as a result of the amplified visibility of their leadership. The EC and VEO stepped up when it came to be interacting with different agencies and development partners in structured fora and was therefore more visibly leading the process.

Flexibility, pragmatism and a multi-tier approach. The project outputs are both focused enough, yet allowing a reasonable margin of action and flexibility to arrive at the expected results. The project (and its administration) allows for a multi-tier approach in order to arrive successfully at its objectives. Flexibility and pragmatism are necessary in order to be effective in the face of frailty of the electoral institutions, unstable political environment, difficult and insufficient infrastructure and problematic weather conditions (such as volcano eruptions, earthquakes and cyclones) and world health pandemics as was the case in 2020.

Proactive communication to audiences. With the project's support, the EC and VEO were able to be more proactive in providing information to audiences, thereby stemming questions and criticisms amongst different stakeholders. Although there might have been areas where information was not provided to the public, the volume of information distributed was much greater for the 2020 general elections than in previous years, using multiple channels of information sharing (for example radio talk back shows, targeted sms messages, Facebook, radio announcements, songs and videos, vehicle w. hailers, posters and bill boards, handbooks etc.). Additionally, proactive communication between the electoral authorities dramatically improved credibility of the process, the confidence of civil society, media, and development partners.

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.

ANNE-SOFIE GERHARD

Chief Technical Adviser/Project
Manager

Full Name (in block capitals)

Title / Position (e.g. CEO)

Anne-Sofie Gerhard

17-Dec-2020

Signature

Date

Appendices

(Delete those not relevant)

This report includes the following appendices:

Appendix A: Achievement against MERL (Results) Framework

Appendix B: Transition or Exit Planning

Appendix C: Report Against Agreed Workplan and Budget

Appendix D: Asset Register

Appendix A: Achievements against MERL Framework

This table shows progress of the Activity against the intended outputs and outcomes agreed in the MERL Framework.

Note: For planned and actual indicators and targets, please provide numbers by gender (e.g. males and females) separately if possible.

<i>From agreed Results Measurement Table in the Activity Design Document</i>				<i>Data up to and including this reporting period</i>	
Results	Planned indicators	Planned targets	Planned data sources	Actual measurement against targets and data sources	Variance explanation
Long/Medium-term outcome Strengthen the capacity of the Vanuatu electoral authorities to implement their mandate.	Electoral authorities with improved administrative and operational capacities.	Consolidate the practice in use and codify them.	Project activity reports Concept papers Regulations Codes of Conduct	Operational Procedures for Registration, Polling and Counting consolidated and published. Administrative procedures and operational handbook for the Electoral Commission adopted.	The Electoral Commission and Office already had a significant amount of experience and good practices accrued. However, institutional memory was mainly based on individual knowledge of experienced electoral officers. Having codified administrative and operational procedures is key in achieving more sustainable electoral processes and strengthened electoral institutions based on institutional rather than personal memory.

<p>Short-term outcome</p> <p>Secrecy of voting procedures improved.</p>	<p>Number of ballot boxes of new generation replacing the old in use.</p> <p>Use of deterrent measures to prevent double voting.</p>	<p>Use of new ballot boxes in all the polling stations of the country.</p> <p>Number of polling stations with effective measures in place.</p>	<p>Approximately 350 padlock wooden ballot boxes.</p>	<p>400 stackable translucent plastic ballot boxes with tamper proof single use numbered seals.</p> <p>400 high quality indelible ink to be used at polling station level.</p>	
<p>Output 1 Institutional capacities of the electoral authorities strengthened</p>	<p>Electoral authorities with improved administrative and human resources capacities to fulfil mandate</p> <p>Proportion of women on the governing mechanism of the electoral management body and in the organigram structure.</p>	<p>Women representation in the Electoral Commission leadership and at all level of staffing in the Electoral Office</p>	<p>Organigram structure</p> <p>New positions established and filled</p> <p>Composition of the Electoral Commission board</p>	<p>According to the revised organigram structure approved by Public Service Commission, VEO structure is composed of a total of 17 staff. The recruitment started and six new positions were already filled. Other recruitments were put on hold due to the financial impact of the pandemic crisis.</p>	<p>The new organigram structure is composed of 17 staff, from the initial five plus two temporary positions. Additionally, there will be for the first time a permanent presence of the electoral officers at decentralized level with one electoral officer per province. Currently, three out of six have already been recruited.</p> <p>The Electoral Commission board kept its composition of three members, with a woman lawyer as commissioner.</p>

<p>Output 2</p> <p>Integrity and accuracy of the Voter Registry enhanced</p>	<p>Data from pre-project voter registry</p>	<p>Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote.</p>	<p>Number of voters included in the new system VES before CVR campaign: 13,321</p> <p>Number of people in the old system GVRS before CVR campaign: 203,663</p>	<p>Number of voters in the new system VES after CVR campaign: 109,658</p> <p>Number of people in the old system GBRS after CVR campaign: 266,036</p>	<p>The nine-month countrywide registration process represented a turning point on the ID card use in the country. Also, it represents the fundamental push the electoral authorities needed to have a more reliable register from which to derive the electoral rolls.</p>
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<p>Output 3</p> <p>Ability to conduct voter education and raise public awareness strengthened</p>	<p>Countrywide ample outreach through different media</p> <p>Partnership with other government entities and civil society organizations</p>	<p>Country with strengthened environments for civic engagement, including legal/regulatory framework for civil society organizations to function in the public sphere and contribute to development, and effective mechanisms/platforms to engage civil society (with a focus on women, youth or excluded groups).</p>	<p>Project activity reports</p> <p>Media products</p>	<p>Through the radio, the campaign reached out at least 90,736 people. (38,816 in urban areas 51,920 in rural areas).</p> <p>Through TV, the campaign reached out at least 29,148 in total. 21,788 in urban areas and 7,360 in rural areas.</p> <p>The SMS were received and read by roughly 200,000 citizens.</p> <p>Estimates based on the data of the media consumption included in the 2016 mini-census and reports of the mobile operators.</p>	<p>A comprehensive strategy was developed based on multi-media channels (internet, TV, radio, SMS) and messages spread by CSOs, including faith-based organizations (churches).</p>
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<p>Output 4</p> <p>Legal framework for political parties developed and support to political parties provided</p>	<p>Extent of legal framework developed with UNDP assistance, legal and regulatory frameworks that enable political parties to function</p>		<p>Project activity reports</p> <p>Concept papers</p> <p>Amendment bills</p> <p>Regulations</p> <p>Knowledge products</p> <p>Sensitization activities with electoral and political stakeholders</p>	<p>Three conferences organized. One at national level, two at regional level (Pacific). The events focused on the political parties' systems and regulation in the including some discussion on party registration, minimum standards for internal party functioning, transparency in party funding and administrative requirements. A final event was more focused on inclusiveness through engaging youth, women and minority groups in the structures and membership of political parties in the Pacific.</p> <p>Two knowledge products were produced out of the works of the conferences.</p>	<p>A comprehensive political reform package was presented at COM level but not at Parliament level for lack of political support. However, the project support managed to assist the Political Reform task-force and other political stakeholders by presenting option papers and comparative experience at international level. Also organizing sensitization sessions at provincial level.</p>
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Appendix B: Transition or Exit Planning

Task to be continued beyond Activity completion	Necessary inputs	Timeframe	Responsible organisation	Capacity development required to support responsible organisation
Improving and upscale the physical infrastructure of EC and VEO	Storage space for electoral material IT infrastructure Functional furniture	2021-2022	EC/VEO and VEEP	
Consolidation of the Civil and Voter Registries	Data verification and validation campaign nationwide	2021-2022	CRVS, VEO, COM, SLO and VEEP	Software development and management. Database management. Data protection and safety. Linking the CRVS database to other government entities (Education, Health, etc.) and private sector (financial inclusion)
Digitization of the EC/VEO and CRVS archives	Training, IT tools both at software and hardware level	2021	CRVS, VEO and VEEP	Archiving and filing methods and management
Development and analysis of satellite imagery for boundary delimitation purposes	Training and software tools	2021	CRVS, VEO, UNITAR, VEEP	GPS training

Civic Education	Develop a teachers' manual and a students' handbook based on the Civic Education booklet produced and school manuals in use	2021-2022	VEO, Ministry of Education and VEEP	
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Transition or exit planning should suit the particular context of the Activity, so details will vary. The checklist below intends to support activity managers:

- Reflection on the quality of transition or exit planning during design and implementation, including whether actions have been completed, the results from those actions, and the degree to which they will aid sustainability of outcomes*
- If transition, brief description of what is intended for the new, follow-up Activity; anticipated approach or modality; and implementing partner(s)*
- Outline of key steps that are necessary to support sustainability of outcomes beyond completion of the existing Activity, including monitoring and evaluation tasks*
 - Identification of inputs, timeframes, responsibilities and any capacity development required for carrying out each step*
 - Consideration of expectations / roles of other donors*
 - Integration of cross-cutting issues by:*
 - Providing for women's meaningful and equitable participation in transition or exit planning,*
 - Including steps that provide opportunities to address cross-cutting issues considered 'principal' or 'significant'.*

Appendix C: Report against the Agreed Workplan and Budget

Please note that this is a *preliminary financial report with commitments*. The final financial report will only be finalized by end January 2021 as payments will still be continued and final GMS will only be charged in January 2021 for year 2020.

PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL REPORT FROM 2017 TILL 15TH DECEMBER 2020						
Output	Planned Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Commitment	Actuals including commitments	Variance	Reason for Variance
Output 0. Non-output specific costs / Management costs						
Output 1. Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened						

1.1 Support the VEO in increasing their staffing structure, incl. recruitment and training. Furthermore, assist in designing a graduate programme that sees two graduates employed with the electoral office over a two-year period, including support to development of TORs and negotiations with relevant government institutions.	7154.78	7154.78		7154.78	0.00	
1.2 Development of VEO Operational Plan. Development of operational procedures and manuals in key electoral areas, including voter registration, candidate nomination, registration of political parties, polling, counting, announcement of results, electoral complaints and petitions	48033.71	33111.78		33111.78	14921.93	
1.3 Identification and roll out of capacity building efforts for the electoral office (this may involve human, financial and material resources)	23129.28	263.34		263.34	22865.94	

1.4 Improvement and restructuring of the physical infrastructure of the EC/VEO, to create an environment that is conducive to work in and can accommodate additional staff	105416.58	77943.97	28728.88	106672.85	(1256.27)	Both Electoral Commission and Electoral Office was upgraded to accommodate additional staff
1.5 Support the VEO in exploring the feasibility of an increased staffing structure within a decentralized framework (provincial administrators) and put in place administrative arrangements to support this structure	23637.44	1711.42	83781.30	85492.72	(61855.28)	Once the staffing table and budget was approved by Public Service Commission to fund Electoral Provincial Officers, additional resources were spent on training of provincial staff, including CRVS provincial staff, on databases and National ID awareness, and to procure technical equipment for each office for them to implement their responsibility of continuously registering citizens and voters at provincial level
1.6 Support the VEO in codifying and digitizing all knowledge and information (currently all paper-based) within the electoral office, alongside establishment of a shared digital drive and secure server archive	30000.00	29363.29		29363.29	636.71	

1.7 Sustain the modernization of the VEO with procurement of additional modern transparent ballot boxes and security seals.	26926.45	25836.31		25836.31	1090.14	
1.8 Assist the VEO in mainstreaming gender-sensitive policies and procedures, and ensure gender-sensitivity in outreach activities in the electoral process	32672.14	27672.14		27672.14	5000.00	
1.9 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation[1]	235665.91	231175.26		231175.26	4490.65	
1.10 Direct Project Costs[2]	5000.00			0.00	5000.00	
1.11 (New) (2020) Support the VEO in exploring a geographical information system (GIS) solution and implementing mapping of electoral boundaries of existing 'electoral districts'	2500.00			0.00	2500.00	

1.12 a) (NEW) (2020) Post-election Reviews - Support a Multi-stakeholder Post-election Review Conference (Gov authorities, CSOs, FBOs, PPs etc.);	30000.00	11016.79		11016.79	18983.21	
1.12 b) (NEW) (2020) Post-election Reviews - Support a post-election workshop on lessons learned from VEO central and field level;	14800.00	52666.89	6306.12	58973.01	(44173.01)	All financial resources for post-electoral reviews, internal and external were allocated to 1.12 and 1.12b and in total went approximately 25k over budget - funds were spent on workshops on electoral reform discussions, and support to recruit 20 graduate students to support data de-duplication and data cleaning.
Output 2. Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Registry Enhanced						

<p>2.1 Develop a joint civil & voter registration concept paper, in collaboration with the VEO, aiming at 1) to clarify the current process of linking the civil and voter registration databases, 2) to establish progress made so far in the joint civil and voter registration and 3) to identify possible future issues and challenges, as well as possible solutions.</p>	46562.14	25172.96		25172.96	21389.18	
<p>2.2 Provision of advice on the selected voter registry system's implementation and capacity building support in IT related issues to ensure its sustainability and cost-effectiveness</p>	135506.21	135504.17	6170.71	141674.88	(6168.67)	Recruitment of the designer of the civil registration database to develop necessary utility upgrades

2.3 Support development of a strategy and implementation plan for the next steps of the transitional period to ensure a smooth transfer from the current transitional system (currently old red/blue VR cards are issued alongside the new National ID) – to the new system with one single population database, wherefrom the VEO derives their data	42242.75	47288.99		47288.99	(5046.24)	additional pre-printed security national ID cards were procured
2.3.1 (NEW) (2019) Support VEO in the nationwide joint civil & voter registration process in Vanuatu – Procurement of CVR Equipment & Material	327730.59	327730.59		327730.59	0.00	
2.3.2 (NEW) (2019) Support VEO in the nationwide joint civil & voter registration process in Vanuatu – Training (Help desk function, area secretaries, ward secretaries, field technicians, and operators in each province)	24573.34	24367.97		24367.97	205.37	

2.3.3 (NEW) (2019) Support CR/VEO in the nationwide joint civil & voter registration process in Vanuatu – Gov. salaries, allowances, logistics and transportation.	818886.09	818886.09		818886.09	0.00	
2.4 Review legislation, including a continuously updated electoral registry, Referendum amendment, constitutional amendment regarding voter registration etc. (some legislative changes has been made, and more to come)	40000.00	24763.63	5720.00	30483.63	9516.37	
2.5 Support development of a strategy for recruitment and training of voter registration officers within the current and new joint CVR registration activities	10334.99	5475.47		5475.47	4859.52	
2.5.1 Development and roll-out of cascade training, training of trainers (ToT) at the provincial level on electoral processes (polling & counting, results mgmt & transmission)	26000.00	27706.66		27706.66	(1706.66)	

2.6 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation[3]	191515.74	246878.51		246878.51	(55362.77)	recruitment of civil and voter registration specialist as a permanent staff member of the VEEP team, which was not anticipated from the prodoc design and budgeting stage.
2.7 Direct Project Costs[4]	5000.00			0.00	5000.00	
Output 3. Ability to conduct voter education and raise public awareness strengthened						
3.1 Development of website as an online archive and information management system for the electoral office	16533.87	16533.87		16533.87	0.00	
3.2 Conduct an assessment on different modalities, broken down by province, on civic understanding and how different communities prefer to access information and public awareness	15000.00	1749.02		1749.02	13250.98	

3.3 Support the development of a concept paper for voter education, voter awareness and public outreach, and the implications in terms of work of the VEO, as well as assist in setting up a mechanism to coordinate all these actors and manage clear messages (for referendum and General Elections)	14893.50	13182.84		13182.84	1710.66	
3.3.1 (NEW) (2019) Support VEO in the nationwide joint civil & voter registration process in Vanuatu –Voter Information	87761.58	111958.20		111958.20	(24196.62)	country-wide registration efforts in the complicated geography of Vanuatu, increased the expenditures given time constraints, meaning doubling staff and equipment to do more area councils and provinces simultaneously.
3.4 Support targeted awareness campaigns (media, material etc) on the referendum, CVR, Luganville municipal elections, Sanma provincial elections, General National Elections	140772.32	113070.25		113070.25	27702.07	

3.5 Assist the VEO staff in training field staff (provincial administrators, area secretaries, ward secretaries etc.) on voter information and awareness on the referendum, Luganville municipal elections, Sanma provincial elections and General National Elections (face-to-face trainings) Review the current Vanuatu Voter Education Curriculum	59590.99	62453.28		62453.28	(2862.29)	small support to unforeseen by-elections, for example parliamentary by-election in Efate rural in 2019.
3.6 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation[5]	210143.55	232422.78		232422.78	(22279.23)	The project implemented the observation accreditation process, including printing of accreditation credentials, observer briefing conference etc.
3.7 Direct Project Costs[6]	5000.00			0.00	5000.00	
Output 4. Legal Framework for Political Parties developed and support to political parties provided						

4.1 Develop legislative options papers and provide technical advice as input to discussions and development of legal framework related to regulation of political parties	81866.25	111398.14		111398.14	(29531.89)	more funds were spent from this line in preparation for the referendum, development of legal memo, COM papers, political party registrar procedures etc.
4.2 Provide support to national consultations regarding impact of legal framework related to regulation of political parties	104947.33	84134.21		84134.21	20813.12	
4.3 Support the operationalizing of the positive outcome of the political reform process with development of all regulations, mechanisms and procedures related to a new legal framework for political parties. Development of procedures and forms for the Office of political party registrar embedded in VEO structure. Support political parties to understand and adhere to the legal framework	47700.42	45215.17		45215.17	2485.25	
4.4 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation[7]	186084.34	170909.59		170909.59	15174.75	

4.5 Direct Project Costs[8]	5000.00			0.00	5000.00	
Evaluation (as relevant)						
Lessons learned and final project evaluation completed	15000.00			0.00	15000.00	
General Management Support						
General Management Service (GMS) Fees 8%	72988.80	9216.34	31929.38	41145.72	31843.08	
TOTALS	3,316,571.09	3,153,934.70	162,636.39	3,316,571.09	(0.00)	

Appendix D: Asset Register

For all non-consumable capital items valued at NZ\$1000 or more:

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Dell professional backpack 17	USD 63.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell professional backpack 17	USD 63.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell professional backpack 17	USD 63.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Multimedia Keyboard KB216 - US International	USD 13.60	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Multimedia Keyboard KB216 - US International	USD 13.60	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Multimedia Keyboard KB216 - US International	USD 13.60	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
HP Color Laser Jet Pro Printer - M477fdw	USD 405.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Premier Wireless Mouse - WM527	USD 32.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Dell Premier Wireless Mouse - WM527	USD 32.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Premier Wireless Mouse - WM527	USD 32.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Dock WD 15 with 130W AC adapter - EU	USD 110.45	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Dock WD 15 with 130W AC adapter - EU	USD 110.45	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Dock WD 15 with 130W AC adapter - EU	USD 110.45	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I to C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I to C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I to C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I to C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Dell Latitude 7490 i7-8650U/16GB(1x16)/512GB/No/Yes/3cell (Sofie)	USD 1,378.10	26/11/2018	Electoral Office	Laptop no longer working and cannot be charged. Did a check at Computer World but still not charging.	25/07/2020
Dell Latitude 7490 i7-8650U/16GB(1x16)/512GB/No/Yes/3cell (Maurizio)	USD 1,378.10	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell Latitude 7490 i7-8650U/16GB(1x16)/512GB/No/Yes/3cell (Wendy)	USD 1,378.10	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I (Argent/Aust) to C5 - included in aboveto C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I (Argent/Aust) to C5 - included in aboveto C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I (Argent/Aust) to C5 - included in aboveto C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Oceania cable type I (Argent/Aust) to C5 - included in above C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I (Argent/Aust) to C5 - included in above C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Oceania cable type I (Argent/Aust) to C5 - included in above C13 - earthed - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Cable patch CAT5e RJ45M UTP - included in above	USD 0.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
HPToner Magenta High Yield 5.000 pages	USD 138.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
HPToner Black High Yield 6500 pages	USD 88.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
HPToner Cyan High Yield 5000 pages	USD 138.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
HPToner Yellow High Yield 5000 pages	USD 138.00	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell HDMI to VGA Adapter	USD 18.90	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Dell HDMI to VGA Adapter	USD 18.90	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell HDMI to VGA Adapter	USD 18.90	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell P2419H 24" LED monitor (1920x1080) Black - EU	USD 178.70	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell P2419H 24" LED monitor (1920x1080) Black - EU	USD 178.70	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Dell P2419H 24" LED monitor (1920x1080) Black - EU	USD 178.70	26/11/2018	Electoral Office		
Samsung J2 core	FJD 249	21/02/2019	Electoral Office		
Samsung Galaxy J8	FJD 799	21/02/2019	Electoral Office		
Desks Office Walnut 143*73.5*12.5cm	VUV 24,230.00	04/04/2019	Electoral Office		
Desk Office 143*71*6cm	VUV 26,820.00	04/04/2019	Electoral Office		
1 Camera for VEEP use	VT54,778	05/04/2019	Electoral Office		
1 Projector for VEEP use	VT47,735	05/04/2019	Electoral Office		

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
1 Trip od Projector screen black VEEP use	VT11,300	05/04/2019	Electoral Office		
1 Speaker VEEP use	VT10,430	05/04/2019	Electoral Office		
Filing Cabinet 3 Drawer	VUV 22,222.00	03/05/2019	Electoral Office		
26 Lenovo ThinkPad T480 14" HD Business Laptop 8GB RAM	VT147,600	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
USB 2.0 cable A/B	VT563	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
64GB USB 3.0 Toshiba	VT1,381	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Power board 6 way	VT891	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Main Power Extension lead 3M	VT394	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
4 Ports USB Switch Hub	VT2,500	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Lenovo Lithium Ion ThinkPad Battery 68 + Extended Run Time 6 Cell	VT12,300	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
External Laptop Battery Charger for Lenovo ThinkPad T480	VT19,950	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Handheld Barcode Scanner/Imager with USB Cord	VT13,640	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Colour ribbon(500 prints per ribbon)	VT19,840	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Cleaning cards for CD800 printer (pack of 10) cards	VT3,900	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Cleaning rollers for CD800 printer (pack of 5 rollers)	VT6,500	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Pre-Printed/offset printed PVC Card w/micro-text (100,000)	VT2,151,250	17/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Nikon Camera	VT21,960	24/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Storage boxes/case	VT25,161	24/05/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Alcatel 1x	VUV 11,304.00	06/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
13 Netgear wireless-n router	VT3,525	06/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
26 Cat6 UTP Lan Cable blue color 3M	VT275	06/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Stamps	VT3,280	12/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Stamp Pads	VT1,045	12/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Bottle Inks	VT2,150	12/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Alcatel 1x	VT11,304	17/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Vest for VEO/CVR Exercise	VT12,340	17/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Cap for VEO/CVR Exercise	VT1,535	17/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Portable generators	VT97,705	25/06/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
12 Mobile Phones Dual Sims @4783 VUV each	VUV 4,783.00	09/09/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Tarpaulin	VT2,330	08/10/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Tarpaulin	VT2,330	08/10/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Caution Tapes	VT2,000	08/10/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Caution Tapes	VT2,000	08/10/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Caution Tapes	VT1,000	08/10/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Container for storage	VT2,170	08/10/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
20 Cameras from Sound Centre	VT17,500	11/12/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
7 Duplex Datacard CD800 Printers	VT295,000	19/12/2019	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	19/06/2019
Indelible Inks	USD 27.45	13/02/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Yellow Caps with Embroidery	USD 4.80	14/02/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Yellow Landywar and two clips	USD 0.98	14/02/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Clear plastic Pouch	USD 0.28	14/02/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Laptop HP Pro Book (Paulo)	VT165,213	25/04/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Office Chair	VT32,626	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Desk Office	VT52,695	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Sofa 1+2+3 Grey Sunpac	VT130,025	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Cabinet Office 800W*400D*1800H	VT35,926	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Cabinet Office 1800*900*390 White/Grey	VT37,980	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Desk Coffee	VT20,141	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Cabinet File	VT27,160	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Desk Conference table	VT72,365	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Chair Office Black	VT7,895	11/05/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Hp Prodesk 600 - SFF Intel I7-7700/ 16GB/ 256GB SSD/ Intel HD/ DVDRWWindows10 Pro/ HP keyboard and mouse	VT86,950	15/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
HP Screen	VT19,125	15/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Office for Business 2019	25213.04348	15/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Network Cross Cable 50M	0.5	15/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Switch Cisco WS-C2960G-24TC	43473.91	15/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Tablet Covers Silver	VT2,169	18/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Tablet Covers Black	VT2,169	18/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Powe Banks 10000mAh Solar and Power	VT3,039	18/05/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Aircon	VT139,500	04/06/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Hp Prodesk 600 - SFF Intel I7-7700/ 16GB/ 256GB SSD/ Intel HD/ DVDRWWindows10 Pro/ HP keyboard and mouse	86950	23/06/2020	Electoral Office		26/06/2020
HP Screen	19125	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Office for Business 2019	25213.04348	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Seagate Barracuda External Drive 1TB	8691.5	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Power Saving UPS 550 VA	13039.13	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Samsung Galaxy Tablets A10.14G	35714	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Micro SD with adapter	1039	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Samsung Galaxy Tablet Shockproof military case	5400	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
12W Solar Panel Charger with 10000mAH Li-Battery	6952.169	23/06/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	26/06/2020
Stove Gas Top 2 Banner	VT6,850	25/06/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Microwave Oven 20L	VT14,275	25/06/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Whiteboard Easel 2 sided magnetic 600*900mm 24""36"DELI	VT11,675	25/06/2020	Electoral Commission Building	Handed over to VEC	26/06/2020
Scanner	VT780,000	21/07/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	22/07/2020
Laptop HP Pro Book (Sofie)	VT165,213	10/08/2020	Electoral Office		
Dual Charger USB	VT0	10/08/2020	Electoral Office	Handed over to VEO	11/08/2020
Alcatel 4G Mifi	VT4,348	11/09/2020	Electoral Office		
75PPM Colour/BW Printer/Scanner	VT1,994,783	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		
50 Sheet Finisher	VT346,668	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		
Saddle stich Fnicer(100SHT Staples)	VT56,348	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		
Black Toners	VT21,195	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		
Cyan Toner	VT51,130	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		

Asset Name	Purchase Price	Date of Purchase	Location Held	Asset Disposed (where relevant) Comment on where, how and why asset has been disposed of	Date Disposed
Magenta Toner	VT51,130	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		
Yellow Toner	VT51,130	02/11/2020	Electoral Office		