



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

1 Quarter 2021

PROJECT TITLE: *Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP) II*

PROJECT NUMBER: 123236

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and SRPD 2018-2022:

UNDP Strategic Plan (SP) 2018-2021: Signature Solution 2 to strengthen effective, inclusive and accountable governance; and Signature Solution 6 to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

(SRPD) (2018-2022) Output 5.3. More women and men benefit from strengthened governance systems for equitable service delivery, including access to justice: 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.

ATLAS Output ID: 00129624

Implementing Partner: United Nations Development Programme



Provincial Elections Voter Awareness in Maewo Island, Penama Province, March 2021



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PART 1: KEY ACTIVITY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THIS QUARTER:

Results Resource Framework with Quarterly Progress.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA EVIDENCE	KEY ACTIVITY RESULTS ACHIEVED	
			Key Activities	Output Results/Impact
<p>output 1 <i>Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened</i></p> <p>Gender marker: 2</p>	<p><i>1.1 Number of provincial electoral and civil registration offices with recruited and trained staff, sufficient physical and technical infrastructure to accommodate their mandate</i></p>	<p><i>Renovated and equipped VEO Bldg.</i></p> <p><i>PSC contracts Job Descriptions</i></p> <p><i>Lease Agreements for 6 provincial CRVS offices</i></p> <p><i>3 VEO provincial offices</i></p>	<p><i>HQ Port Vila Level:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Refurbishment work of the VEO building, supported by VEEP, completed in December 2020 and VEO staff moved into their newly renovated building in January 2021.</i> <i>2. Procurement of office equipment (new desks, chairs, and high-performance printer)</i> <i>3. Vanuatu Electoral Cycle 2021-2024 board-posters developed and installed in the offices.</i> <i>4. 30 additional Data Entry students identified, recruited, and trained for data processing following the field work data verification and validation project over the last few months.</i> <p><i>Provincial Level:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>5. Two out of six VEO Provincial Electoral Officers recruited and trained (Penama, Sanma).</i> <i>6. Six out of six Provincial Civil Registration Officers in place and trained.</i> <i>7. Physical Office facilities in provinces identified, and in some cases awaiting renovation or extension of buildings to suitably accommodate both CRVS and VEO in co-location.</i> <i>8. Technical support. Upgrade of printers at provincial offices awaiting. Support to infrastructure and network connections required.</i> 	<p>The Electoral Authorities and the Civil Registration & Vital Statistics department will extend their mandate into each of the provinces in line with the GoV decentralization strategy with establishment of strong Local Government Regions and Local Government Councils – bringing services closer to the people.</p> <p>This will be supported by a robust and well-functioning HQ office including a Senior Electoral Officer/Field Coordination Officer</p>



	<p>1.2 Number of new increased and trained permanent staff at HQs and provincial offices, including joint training activities with the CRVS Department</p>	<p>2021 VEC Restructure Submission</p> <p>2021 VEO Restructure Submission</p> <p>VEO JDs</p> <p>VEO NPPs</p> <p>VEO PMR Forms</p> <p>VEO Unit Mandate Statements</p> <p>Training List of Participants</p> <p>Consultancy Completion Report</p>	<p>UNDP/VEEP supported the EC/VEO in sustaining (and again slightly increasing) their staffing structure and capacity-building activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewed VEO unit re-design. 2. Supported the formulation of a VEO process restructuring strategy and timeline. 3. Reviewed and aligned all VEO job descriptions. 4. Supported organization of each VEO 'unit' to reach a higher level of performance by aligning processes and people to the EC/VEO overall mandate and strategy. 5. Developed a Restructure Submission to the Public Service Commission detailing the redrafted and retitled Job Descriptions. 6. Provided cost estimates for establishment of the positions. 7. Developed a Mandate Statement for VEO Units. 8. Established a New Project Proposal (NPP) for the 2022 MBC Budget Submission for salaries for the restructure. 9. Undertook Analysis of Policy Plans & Legislation as basis of restructure. 10. Developed the NPP for 2021 Budget. 11. Developed Electoral Commission Structure. 12. Organised a Staff Training on new Job Descriptions (JDs) and Staff Performance Appraisal (PMR) process. 13. Facilitated 'One-on-One' Interviews. <p>As for CRVS Dept. please see below under 'Sustainability and Scaling-up'.</p>	<p>The Vanuatu Electoral Office currently seeks approval of a Restructure Submission to better position this critically important electoral authority to deliver the Government's prioritised policy, planning and legislation directions for the electoral system in Vanuatu, and to implement regular, credible, transparent, genuine elections in Vanuatu, truly reflecting "the will of the people" and "universal and equal suffrage" reflecting well-functioning fundamental human rights.</p> <p>Pending to be completed: Submission of 2021 VEO Restructure Submission and VEO NPPs to be submitted by PEO, countersigned by MoIA DG. VEOs Business Plan to be redrafted in line with new PSC format 2021, when Budget Book 3 is available.</p>
	<p>1.3 Number of formalised EC internal regulations and VEO operational procedures drafted and endorsed.</p>	<p>State Law Office Gazette</p>	<p>Acknowledging the Policy authority in accordance with the Representation of the People Act, Part 17 Section 69, the Electoral Commission may regulate the electoral processes by orders consistent with the electoral law provisions, therefore:</p>	<p>EC internal regulations are essential for the consolidation of the electoral processes in Vanuatu, which will greatly improve its integrity and transparency,</p>



		EC Minutes Printed Booklets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12 EC regulations and 3 codes of conduct 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 are currently being drafted by State Law Office. Candidate Handbook was updated and translated into Bislama in support of the Candidate Nomination process. My Provincial Election Week-by-Week 2021 was developed and translated into Bislama in support of civil and voter education activities, endorsed and distributed through the established Voter Awareness Committee. 	<p>paving the way for elections that are increasingly more credible and whose results are increasingly more legitimate.</p> <p>It is good international practice for the electoral authorities to complement the electoral legal provisions with internal regulations. Throughout the world, electoral authorities also establish “codes of conduct” for different stakeholders and participants in the electoral process to ensure their transparency and fairness.</p>
	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);	Digitization Manual Data Declaration of Confidentiality TORs scanning and document handling staff.	<p>This activity is on stand-by.</p> <p>The four graduate students recruited and trained for the codification and digitization project have been diverted to support crucial data entry ahead of the provincial elections on 12 May 2021, given the high number of new registrations and updates coming back from the field verification and validation teams.</p>	
	1.5 No of electoral administrative processes where gender is mainstreamed, and gender disaggregated	Amend-ments to: CAP 146 CAP 230 CAP 126 CAP 61	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All electoral laws have been amended to be gender neutral. All Job Descriptions has been amended to be gender neutral. 	Female Empowerment through the politics of language, and introduction of Gender-Neutral Amendments in all related electoral laws and CRVS laws.
Output 2	2.1 Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote,	Data reports from voter	The concept of registering voters may seem simple - a list of all persons who are eligible to vote and adequate information to	Vanuatu will ultimately have an accurate civil and voter registration



<p><i>Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register Enhanced</i></p> <p>Gender marker: 2</p>	<p><i>disaggregated by sex, age, and location – to be done on a yearly basis</i></p>	<p>register (GRVS and VES) and civil register (VIZ).</p>	<p><i>uniquely identify each eligible voter, yet implementation consumes a huge amount of resources. Challenges relate to wrong birth dates, wrong name spelling, location errors, Village duplication names, missing photo IDs, duplicates, deceased etc. The planned verification and validation project following the national joint CVR registration campaign in 2019 extended to be a “de facto” registration process, with several thousands of people being registered.</i></p> <p><i>Field work data collected so far:</i></p> <p>Penama: 15,266 Forms Deaths: 86 New Birth registrations: 4,359 Reprinted National ID card: 9,040 Reprinted Birth Certificate: 7,415</p> <p>Malampa: 22,769 Forms Deaths: 148 New Birth registrations: 6,969 Reprinted National ID card: 11,290 Reprinted Birth Certificate: 7,153</p> <p>Tafea: 16,803 forms Deaths: 454 New Birth registrations: 7,686 Reprinted National ID card: 11,148 Reprinted Birth Certificate: 9,330</p> <p>Shefa: so far 24,246 forms collected Deaths: 385 New Birth registrations: 5,355</p>	<p>database, which is one of the most effective ways for Vanuatu to protect the integrity of their elections and increase the confidence of voters in electoral processes.</p> <p>The production of their accurate electoral roll can convincingly be guided by the basic principle of universal and equal suffrage.</p>
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			<p>Reprinted National ID card: 10,959</p> <p>Reprinted Birth Certificate: 8,628</p>	
	<p>2.2 Number of voters issued with national ID card disaggregated by gender (replacing the electoral cards)</p>	<p>Data reports from voter register (GRVS and VES) and civil register (VIZ).</p>	<p>By the time of this Q1 2021, the number of voters issued with a national ID card is (Gender disaggregated):</p> <p>F: 47,584</p> <p>M: 51,540</p>	<p>Vanuatu will ultimately run elections where national ID cards are used for voter identification in polling stations and using the civil register to extract and produce the electoral roll. Using an updated and validated population database as the basis to create the electoral roll will enable very accurate voter statistics and ensure equal and universal suffrage. Vanuatu is still in a transitional phase where voters can vote with both national IDs and their old coloured electoral cards to ensure no one is excluded.</p> <p>Achieved 99,000</p> <p>Target 200,000</p>
	<p>2.3 Percentage of merge of databases/transition to new voter registration model.</p>	<p>Data reports from voter register (GRVS) and civil register (VIZ).</p>	<p>All the national ID numbers of voters registered in VES are linked to the civil register and has been inserted into GRVS. So far this includes 99,098 voters or 38% of the voters. The merge is slowly ongoing, alongside data is being verified, validated, and cleaned of incorrect data, duplicates, deceased and typical errors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently there are 260,902 voters registered in the GVRs. - Duplicates already removed from GVRs: 20,606. - Number of cleaned data records: 54,000 	<p>Vanuatu will ultimately have one 'foundational' database, which will serve the purposes of multiple ministries and gov agencies.</p> <p>The computerized electoral register will be based on information already available in the national civil registration system (also administered by the Ministry of the Interior), to which the provincial CRVS and VEO officers will continuously convey basic, administratively relevant information about citizens, including the acquisition of voting rights, changes of address, and death. Thus, inclusion on the electoral register and changes due to</p>



				<p>change of residence, etc. should take place automatically and continuously. As a result, the register will be permanently updated, but citizens must take the initiative to keep their records up to date.</p> <p><i>Achieved 38%, target 100%</i></p>
	<p>2.4 <i>Expected number of duplicated and deceased citizens removed from the Civil and Voter registries.</i></p>	<p>Data reports from voter register (GRVS) and civil register (VIZ).</p>	<p><i>UNDP/VEEP and MoH have liaised on the systematic collection of data of deceased people, so far 400 was reported for 2020. Field work data seem to indicate another 1,000 deceased over the years. Duplicates so far removed from the GQRS database are 20,606.</i></p>	<p>The integration with MoH for the identification of deaths has been planned for later this year and will be an important achievement in the pursue of maintaining accurate data.</p> <p>No formal data is available at this moment.</p>
	<p>2.5 <i>New components developed and updated for Civil and Voter registration systems.</i></p>	<p>Civil and Voter registration system assessment.</p>	<p><i>UNDP/VEEP has thus supported VEO in development of a New Electoral Management and Results System. Requirements and expectations of VEOs results system are increasing. Many local stakeholders now demand results significantly faster than they used to, and some expect transparency during the entire results process, not just the vote count. This can also address long transportation of critical count-related material, unclear tabulation procedures or tardy release of results – all issues that can threaten the integrity of the vote count.</i></p> <p><i>The initial phase of the new Results system is focused on the Local Elections module. Modules for Municipal and General Elections will be implemented and tested after the May 2021</i></p>	<p>EC/VEO will have a new integrated results management system incorporating all key aspects from vote counting to the certified results being announced with relevant complaints having been properly adjudicated.</p> <p>(currently on trial basis)</p>



			<p>provincial elections.</p>  <p>VOT FIUJA BLONG YU</p> <p>UNDP/VEEP is also supporting National ID enhancement project as a tool to help the Government respond better to development, pandemics, natural disasters, incl. legal identity issues and development of strategy for linking of governments and development partners in harmonisation on use of unique IDs.</p>	<p>Prototype COVID19 Vaccine Registry developed based on National ID/Birth registration No.</p> <p>Presented to WHO, UNICEF, MoH, Deputy PM and MoIA</p> <p>The System is still under development.</p>
<p>Output 3 Ability to Conduct Voter Education and Raise Public Awareness strengthened</p> <p>Gender Marker 2</p>	<p>3.1 Number of new partnerships with civil society developed (Women, PWDs, churches), as well as regional bodies, and national and international stakeholders.</p>	<p>NGO mapping Voter Awareness Committee TORs Minutes of Meetings List of Participants</p>	<p>1. A Voter Awareness Coordination Committee was established, made up of selected members representing the different segments of society, such as Vanuatu Christian Council, Malvatu Mauri Council of Chiefs, VANGO etc. The committee has been meeting every 2 weeks throughout the last 10-week period heading to the provincial election to review voter information material and messages, planning activities in a coordination with VEO. Activities are to be implemented by NGOs, FBOs (Churches), and the Awareness Committee will support dissemination of material and messages.</p>	<p>Effective and regular electoral awareness activities in view of the 12 May Provincial elections, and the importance of registration.</p> <p>Increased knowledge about elections, Increased number of eligible and qualified candidates.</p> <p>Increased voter turnout.</p>



			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. My Provincial Election week-by-week Booklet, developed and translated into Bislama, disseminated through the Voter Awareness Committee. 3. Two motivational movie clips have been produced "I vote". 4. one Short Film has been developed about the National ID in Vanuatu for a CRVS side event at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD), which is the SDG forum for Asia and the Pacific. "visibility in Covid-19 times: Are we getting everyone in the picture through civil registration?" 5. Media exposures include support to two major radio campaigns including on BUZZ FM and Radio Vanuatu. 6. FB Posts, Radio Shows once a week for Buzz FM + National TV Talk Back Shows, 7. Two SMS Messages sent to all Vanuatu. 8. Three Billboards are up in Port Vila on strategic locations. 	<p>Increased awareness of the benefits and use of the national ID for the population of Vanuatu.</p> <p>Increased regional focus (Asia and Pacific) and attention to the national ID introduction in Vanuatu, carrying many important lessons learned for small island states.</p>
	3.2 Percentage of matrix on gender tracking in elections developed, including gender-disaggregated data on all aspects of the electoral administration		In progress	
	3.3 Percentage of matrix on gender tracking in Civil registry developed, including gender-disaggregated data	CRVS Department databases	In progress	
	3.4 Assessment on civic understanding and access to information implemented.		<p>This activity is on stand-by.</p> <p>Data Analysis awaiting access to NSDP Baseline survey 2019 and Census Nov-Dec 2020 data by VNSO where VEO and CRVS had included specific questions.</p> <p>Numerous attempts of requests have not been granted yet. Information should be available by May 2021.</p>	



Output 4 <i>Legal Electoral Framework Improved and Capacity Building on Electoral Reform to Key Stakeholders provided</i> Gender Marker 2	4.1 <i>Number of viable and practical reform proposals developed</i>	Amendment to CAP 61 Explanatory Note National ID Working Group minutes Order No. 24 of 2020 for CAP 230 Provincial Council Elections Amendment to CAP 126 Municipal Council Elections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>National ID Working Group established following COM approval. VEEP supports the working group with legal expertise and national ID/CRVS Policy expertise.</i> 2. <i>Civil Status (Registration) Act [CAP 61] (“CSR Act”) amended to provide for the civil registration system, and the technical and operational changes in the registration process. Provision is also made for issuing national ID card. The amendments are taken to have commenced on 5 November 2020 to ensure they are in force for the upcoming provincial and municipal elections on 12 May, as well as legal for the Ureparara election held on 17 December 2020 (registration deadline 5 Nov.2020)</i> 3. <i>Revised drafts of the Bill and Explanatory Note are sent for Translation, for first ordinary Parliament session on 14 May.</i> 4. <i>Order No. 24 of 2020 (Provincial Government Council Elections Rules-Amendment) gazetted.</i> 5. <i>first draft of the Municipal Council Elections (Regulation) Amendment Order No. Of 2021 prepared.</i> 	<p>The amendments are essential for the update of the legal framework to reflect current civil registration policy and practice, as well as the shift in voter identification methodology following GoV decision in 2017 to link the civil and voter registration databases in an effort to improve the integrity and accuracy of voter registration and to enhance the synergies between different government ministries and agencies.</p> <p>Amendments include introduction of the national ID card, removal of requirement for entries in the Register to be hand-written, establishing the Central Civil Register to be maintained electronically etc.</p> <p>Without these changes, the national ID card would in principle be illegal for voting purposes.</p>
	4.2 <i>Number of electoral staff (gender disaggregated) trained on new reform measures</i>		Q3-4	
	4.3 <i>Number of key stakeholders trained on new reform measures</i>		Q3-4	
	4.4 <i>Electoral Gender mainstreaming action plan for the project developed and monitored</i>		Under development	1



PART 2: PLANNED ACTIVITES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Output 1:

- Follow up on PSC submission and NPP submission by VEO.
- Continue to support VEO in building its decentralized provincial electoral offices, as well as CRVS offices, put in place office and network arrangements to support this structure where needed.
- Update the Polling and Counting Manual and translate it into Bislama/Eng/French.
- Support development of Training Concept and Agenda.
- Support development of Training Material, including audio material/video productions.
- Support planning and logistics for training of Polling Staff.
- Procurement of indelible Ink.
- Procurement of additional National ID cards (pre-printed template).
- Procurement of security lamination rolls.
- Complete the satellite imageries for all provinces, incl. demarcation and alignment of electoral boundaries/area councils etc.

Output 2:

- Support the implementation of a helpdesk and call center component for voter services.
- Support on-going data entry and data consolidation based on field work updates, verifications and 'de-facto' new registrations.
- Support publication of Candidate List
- Support merging of VES and GRVS, and preparation of digital electoral roll, per polling station.
- Support preparation of paper based electoral rolls, per polling station.
- Develop a Mobile Application for Voter Identification in polling stations based on tablet scanning ability, linked with the electoral roll.
- Prepare and deploy 250 Tablets for electoral roll verification on Election Day.
- Support Electoral Operations for Provincial Elections on 12 May
- Support Electoral Operations for Luganville Municipal by-elections end May/early June, and possibly more by-elections expected.
- Follow-up on prototype system development and the Covid19 vaccine registry with MoH.
- Training of VEO, CRVS, MOH, OGCI, MOYS, MOET 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 Ministry SQL Server environment, in addition to OGCI experts, limiting reliance on only few individuals.

Output 3:



- Continue to support meetings of the Voter Awareness Committee as a mechanism to coordinate some key stakeholders, manage clear messages and disseminate information.
- Continue strong efforts of Voter Information and Voter Awareness through radio, tv, Facebook messages, Website, VBTC, billboards, small videos, and efforts through the Voter Awareness Committee partners in the islands.
- Provincial Council Open Day – Civic and Voter Awareness event in the provinces
- Develop concept paper and support activities on National ID awareness campaign, the benefits of having/using National ID.
- Establish storyboard of a short film documentary ‘the story of the National ID introduction in Vanuatu’.
- Initiate the study of the preliminary results from the Census regarding the ‘Access to Information’ as well as the results of the Vanuatu NSDP Baseline Survey 2019, if access is granted and information is publicly available.

Output 4:

- Follow up on legal amendments for Parliament session, Cap 61, Cap 230, Cap 126.
- Pursue a comprehensive review of CRVS in Vanuatu through collaboration with ESCAP-CRVS, together with UNDP/VEEPs national ID expert. Focus on CRVS strategy, CRVS business processes and CRVS software. This would then be adapted to the legal framework ahead of November seating in parliament.
- Development of a CRVS Operational Handbook.
- Start preparations for support to Electoral Legal Reforms, to-write and replace Cap 146.
- Possibly support establishment of COVID19 Vaccine Register to support vaccination roll out.

PART 3: PARTNERSHIPS

EC/VEO, CRVS, CSU, VNSO, DLA, MOH, UNICEF, WHO, DoW, DSSPAC, VBTC



PART 4: RISK and ASSUMPTIONS

Risk Category	Risk Sub-category	Event	Causes	Impact	Action needed	Treatment activity description	Expected effect from treatment
POLITICAL	Political will	Limited scope for strengthening institutional and operational capacities of VEO and VEC, particularly during the non-electoral periods	Limited or inconsistent political will and commitment to provide the necessary support to the electoral authorities and legal reforms	Delays in project output implementation; Reduced impact of project on VEO and VEC	Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEEP II will continue supporting 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 supporting them through the whole electoral cycle. • Prospective legal reforms require a wide and inclusive consultation process to raise awareness on legal changes. VEEP II envisages key activities to enhance engagement of relevant stakeholders (public, government ministries, donors and CSOs) to continue building collaboration mechanisms with 	STRENGTHENED OWNERSHIP BY VEC/VEO



						<p>governmental and civil society with a view to have ample participation and awareness on key electoral reform aspects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with other electoral stakeholders and institutions. 	
POLITICAL	Political will	Poor perceptions of the independence or efficiency of the EC/VEO create obstacles to the implementation of the project activities.	Insufficient capacity within VEO / VEC to provide independent accurate legal advice on electoral matters	No confidence in VEO/VEC advisory services	Acclaim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technical advisory roles within the EC/VEO include provision for high level advice on and recommendations for the EC's consideration and adoption related to perceptions management; strategies to address poor perceptions and to build the integrity of the institution • Provide technical support to re-draft key legislation • Coordinate high-level advocacy by development partners and civil society 	CONFIDENCE IN CAPACITY OF VEO/VEC BY STAKEHOLDERS AND VOTERS



OPERATIONAL	Capacity development of national partners	The voter register is not adequately corrected through the next updates during the transition period.	<p>Disconnect between Voter registry and Civil registry systems.</p> <p>CRVS and VEO have each their mandate and collect different information.</p> <p>This form of registration is predicated on the principle that voting is a right of citizenship and that voters may choose to register or not to register for an election.</p> <p>Currently, the national ID registration is voluntary.</p>	<p>Lack of confidence in work of VEO; Low confidence in project impact</p> <p>The current 'voluntary national ID registration' will also have implications on accuracy and inclusiveness. if citizens do not register, they effectively deprive themselves of the right to vote.</p>	Acclaim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration between the VEO and the CRVS will be maintained, supported by VEEP's technical assistance, to support successful efforts of duplication analysis, data validation in the field for improved quality of the register. VEEP Phase II will endeavour to support the VEO in its awareness and outreach efforts targeting key segments of the population to encourage new entries in the registration process with a view to ensure an inclusive and reliable voter register 	VOTER REGISTRY IS UPDATED SYSTEMATICALLY
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OPERATIONAL	Leadership & management	Non-availability of VEO staff capacity	Delayed recruitment	Late appointment of the VEO staff can have an impact on it properly carrying out its mandate.	Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will continue to support the EC/VEO efforts to ensure that the expected additional permanent staff (including the provincial officers) are appointed as promised. 	VEO CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT THEIR MANDATE
POLITICAL	Political instability	Increased snap elections in Vanuatu	Political instability during the project duration might increase the chances of emergency (“snap”) elections, which could alter the project’s workplan and priorities.	Delayed project implementation; unclear direction on electoral reforms given by political leadership	Acclaim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VEEP technical assistance will be provided to the EC/VEO to ensure there are plans in place to respond efficiently and in a timely manner to emergency elections, including in terms of regulations, operational plans, template legal timelines and procedures. 	EFFICIENT AND TIMELY RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY ELECTIONS
POLITICAL	Political instability	Public disillusioned with the democratic processes	Regular vote of no confidence/snap elections	Delay in project implementation	Acclaim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EC/VEO will be supported to strengthen its public outreach. Improvement in the provision of electoral services (such as a more accurate and 	PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN EC/VEO



						trusted voter register) will help improve public perceptions.	
ENVIRONMENTAL	Health and Safety	Natural disasters and pandemics including COVID-19 in Vanuatu change stakeholder priorities and ability to implement and participate in activities under the project.	Natural disasters and pandemics including COVID-19 in Vanuatu	Delayed project implementation	Acclaim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure flexible schedule for activity implementation to minimise potential impact on outputs and ensure sequenced and timely implementation of project activities, with adjustments made where necessary. • Use lessons learnt from Covid-19 and other natural disasters for scenario planning and put in place contingency measures for activation as situations unfold 	FLEXIBLE WORKPLAN INORPORATING 'EMERGENCY' SHOCKS



PART 5: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

The Short Film produced about the National ID in Vanuatu for a CRVS side event at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD), which is the SDG forum for Asia and the Pacific. “Visibility in Covid-19 times, mid-term and mid-crisis: Are we getting everyone in the picture through civil registration?”:

https://mega.nz/file/Lqhm1Q6T#EjxDbwtBMTXPqV-2hv5jy_vx9IRBcb0rjF9Aou_zXaY

Two final render broadcast ready files (“I vote”) have been produced and disseminated through Facebook and TV. Here are the links:

<https://mega.nz/file/OmR0hLYT#xmIU11WYckVnNRKXSBtWt569mleGwAKAaxnPLUdzPI4>

https://mega.nz/file/b6YgFLiY#EK_587I3UQnfJUyvclq3_wXOq3jTpLUjWG3srXoYyRI

PART 6: KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES

The upscaled support to National ID implementation in Vanuatu and on-going data verification and data validation process has faced several challenges since the start of its implementation in June 2021. Developed with the objective to verify CRVS’ civil information and VEOs voter information, the project expanded to be a “de facto” registration process, with several thousands of people being registered, personal information records amended and updated, thousands of new-borns and youth registered, and thousands of Birth Certificates and National ID cards (re)printed.

The initial technical process in place had to be adapted in support the new requirements. Initially using 70 procured tablets in Malo, Aore in Sanma Province and all Penama province, the field work in Malampa, Tafea and Shefa provinces have required use of more than 400 tablets. The immense amount of data (and forms) collected has generated a heavy and unexpected workload on the back-office process. As response, another 25 students (in addition to current 25 students) have been identified, recruited and trained in the three systems to increase the data processing, hoping all data can be processed in time for printing the electoral rolls for 12 May provincial elections.

Financial constraints have had a strong impact on the entire process which has caused delays in processing the data, that would cause significant impact the quality of the electoral roll for the May 2021 provincial elections. As the data validation and verification (and registration) project has been done in phases and per Province, the field work operators have not all been the same. New trainings



were held at provincial and area council level in each province but sometimes the quality of the data collected had to be reviewed by the staff working at HQ.

Another classic challenge has been the logistics, as the population is so dispersed among all the islands. Access to good vehicles and boats etc. and sometimes chartered flights to field staff on the ground in some remote area councils. Good quality trainings are often a key factor in the success of any project, and VEO and CRVS Department have been working hard to support these trainings, not only in the field but also in Port Vila (cascade training).

In terms of sustainability, the increasing ICT capacity and database development as well as maintenance skills within the VEO and CRVS is a major requirement. Given the many ongoing activities and having many in the field have challenged VEEPs ability to ensure proper ICT capabilities and database development skills. A technical training is now planned for mid-end June 2021 with the participation of IT technicians from several segments of the Government.

One effective tool used during the verification project has been the use of satellite imageries, supported by the VEEP project and the results of combined efforts of UNDP/VEEP, UNDP Crisis Bureau, and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have developed these detailed maps and visual analysis to support the process. Maps were installed in tablets providing a sound overview and detailed information of the households and their exact locations to the field operators.

PART 7: SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

UNDP/VEEP once again got involved in scaling up VEEP Support, this time in connection with the roll out of COVID-19 vaccine by developing a prototype vaccine register based on national ID/birth registration number.

Meetings have been held with UNICEF, WHO, Ministry of Healthy exploring requirements for the health sector and how to appropriately link data between CRVS/MoIA and MoH and analyse further requirements and actual implementation strategies to get vaccination operations going.



VANUATU MINISTRY OF HEALTH COVID-19 VACCINE REGISTRY

Meetings have also been held with PMO's Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC), heads for section to further explore the potential of using the unique identification numbers for government planning purposes, and linking ministry agencies and their individual isolated, and often outdated, databases with the Central Civil Register and use of the unique IDs.



PART 8: QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report - Quarter 1: 2021 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project Name: Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP) II UNDP reference number: 00123236 MFAT Activity Code: ACT-0102062 Project Period: - 01/01/2021 - 30/06/24 Reporting Period: 01/01/2021 - 31/03/2021 Donor: MFAT (NZ) Currency of Reporting: USD							
INCOME: Fund received - Dec 2020 358,448.28							
EXPENSES:							
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	ATLAS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Budget 2021	Actual Expenses (Q1)	Commitments	Total Expenses including Commitments	Balance
Output 1: <i>Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened</i> Gender marker: 2	1.1	1.1 Support the EC/VEO in sustaining their staffing structure, incl. technical, financial and logistics support, capacity-building activities, and establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs, including planning and evaluation workshops.	30,000	1,592.59	12,894.33	14,486.92	15,513.08
	1.2	1.2 Support the EC/VEO in continuous development/updates of regulations, operational procedures, manuals, forms etc.	30,000	6,419.02	(33.02)	6,386.00	23,614.00
	1.3	1.3 Support the VEO in building its decentralized framework (provincial electoral administrators) and put in place administrative arrangements to support this structure incl. alignment with VEO/CRVS/DLA resources etc.	20,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
	1.4	1.4 Support National ID enhancement project as a tool to help the Government respond better to pandemics and natural disasters, including legal identity issues and strategy for linking of governments and development partners in harmonisation on use of unique IDs.	20,000	0.00	15,045.94	15,045.94	4,954.06
	1.5	1.5 Support digitization, digital archiving and knowledge base – including digital files into the Government Document Management System (Saperion).	40,000	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	25,000.00
	1.6	1.6 Sustain the modernization of the VEO with procurement support to a new voter identification model, incl. scanners/tablets for all polling stations, electoral material etc.	40,000	45.93	18,400.00	18,445.93	21,554.07
	1.7	1.7 Development and roll-out of cascade training, training of trainers (ToT) on electoral processes (polling & counting etc. for provincial, municipal and general elections)	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	1.8	1.8 Assist the VEO in mainstreaming gender-sensitive policies and procedures, and ensure gender-sensitivity in all outreach activities in the electoral process	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	1.9	1.9 Examine and support VEO in the identification of people with disabilities, in collaboration with GRVS department.	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00



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	1.10B	1.10 Support the VEO in demarcation and alignment of electoral boundaries, villages/new settlements/area councils/constituencies/polling stations. Support to satellite imagery development, services and production in conjunction with UNITAR and UNDP Crisis Unit, to support the establishment of a common locations dataset to be used by VEO, CRVS, Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) and other Government offices.	60,000	0.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00
	1.11	1.11 Post-election Review: Support a Multi-stakeholder Post-election Review (EC/VEO, Gov authorities, CSOs, FBOs, PPs etc.);	20,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
	1.12	1.12 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	42,456.32	3,064.85	45,521.17	49,478.83
		1.13 Direct Project Costs Programme management costs (rent, equipment, DPC, etc.)	5,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Sub-Total for Output 1		430,000	50,514	124,372	174,886	255,114
Output 2: <i>Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register Enhanced</i> <i>Gender marker: 2</i>	2.1	2.1 Support transitioning to the new 'voter registration model' and capacity building support in ICT related components to ensure its sustainability and cost-effectiveness, as well as improve technical resources, systems sustainability and stimulating local ownership.	30,000	0.00	16,755.52	16,755.52	13,244.48
	2.2	2.2 Support implementation of strategy and operations for the transitional period to ensure a smooth transfer from the current GRVS and VES databases – to the use of the National ID Card database for the production and establishment of a unique electoral roll.	30,000	12,842.34	17,157.66	30,000.00	0.00
	2.3	2.3 Provide procurement support to the VEO in the data verification/validation of joint civil & voter data in all provinces, - procurement of equipment, material and services.	10,000	11,228.41	0.00	11,228.41	1,228.41
	2.4	2.4 Provide training support to the VEO in the data verification/validation of joint civil & voter data in all provinces – help desk functions, area secretaries, ward secretaries, field technicians, and operators in each province.	40,000	545.31	32,600.81	33,146.12	6,853.88
	2.5	2.5 Support the development of a component to link the VEO website with the voter register for active voter response service.	10,000	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
	2.6	2.6 Support the development of a SMS service for Voter verification based on the National Id Number.	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	2.7	2.7 Provide technical support to the CRVS systems and databases, revise the actual identity management system with the objective to guarantee the accuracy to the existent citizen information and the quality of related services.	40,000	0.00	3,768.84	3,768.84	36,231.16
	2.8	2.8 Develop a centralized a CRVS/VEO citizen image database.	20,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00



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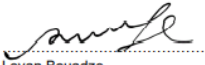


	2.9	2.9 Develop and implement a facial recognition system with the objective to identify possible matches in CRVS/VEO databases.	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	2.10B	2.10 Support the implementation of a helpdesk and call center component providing services for electoral activities - hr, training and equipment.	30,000		0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	2.11	2.11 Develop a study/prototype for database verification and results transmission auditing processes.	15,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
	2.13	2.12 Develop a study/prototype for database verification & results transmission auditing processes.	15,000	4,226.54	68.91	4,295.45	10,704.55
	2.12	2.13 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	30,647.12	0.00	30,647.12	64,352.88
		2.14 Direct Project Costs	5,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
		Sub-Total for Output 2	400,000	59,490	80,352	139,841	260,159
Output 3: <i>Ability to Conduct Voter Education and Raise Public Awareness strengthened</i> <i>Gender marker: 2</i>	3.1	3.1 Continuously support maintenance of the website as an online archive and actively use of VEO Facebook page to reach particularly the Youth segment of the electorate.	10,000	3,154.91	0.00	3,154.91	6,845.09
	3.2	3.2 In collaboration with Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), analyse the Census 2020-2021 data and assess, broken down by province, possession of National ID, civic understanding and how different communities prefer to access information and public awareness	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
	3.3	3.3 Support the development of a concept paper and support activities for voter education, voter awareness and public outreach, and the implications and use of National ID.	30,000	3,795.94	11,295.94	15,091.88	14,908.12
	3.4	3.4 Continue to support establishment of a Voter Awareness Committee as a mechanism to coordinate all stakeholders and manage clear messages	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
	3.5	3.5 Support targeted awareness campaigns (media, material etc) on potential referendum, National ID registration, Municipal elections, Provincial elections, General National Election.	40,000	8,965.16	30,309.62	39,274.78	725.22
	3.6	3.6 Assist the VEO in training field staff (provincial administrators/ area secretaries/ward secretaries etc.) on voter information and awareness on any election, including face-to-face trainings.	40,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
	3.7	3.7 Support the VEO in further deepening of partnerships between various stakeholders and the electoral authorities, including focus on inclusion of women through grassroots outreach and activities.	30,000	903.21	0.00	903.21	29,096.79
	3.8	3.8 Support a youth induction training in Municipal Local Council (MLC) functioning and monitoring/Provincial Council (PC) functioning and monitoring, in collaboration with PPFJ, SLIP, Parliament	15,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
	3.9	3.9 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	32,631.24	(5.86)	32,625.38	62,374.62
		3.10 Direct Project Costs	5,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Sub-Total for Output 3	285,000	49,450	41,600	91,650	193,950	


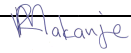


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Output 4: <i>Legal Electoral Framework</i>	4.1	4.1 Develop legislative option papers/concept notes and provide technical advice as input to discussions on legal reforms, in collaboration with Law Commission and State Law Office.	20,000	0.00	19,680.00	19,680.00	320.00
<i>Improved and Capacity Building on Electoral Reform to Key Stakeholders provided</i> <i>Gender marker: 2</i>	4.2	4.2 Provide support to reforms of the electoral legal framework, including the integration of all direct elections in a single act.	30,000	0.00	29,520.00	29,520.00	480.00
	4.3	4.3 Provide support to national consultations regarding impact of legal framework changes	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	4.4	4.4 Support operationalizing the positive outcome of the legal reform process with review of all regulations, procedures, operational manuals, forms etc.	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
	4.5	4.5 Support operationalizing the positive outcome of the possible political reform process for political parties. Development of procedures and forms for the Office of political party registrar embedded in VEO structure.	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
	4.6	4.6 Support political parties to understand and adhere to the legal framework	20,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
	4.7	4.7 Support development and implementation of data protection/data security policy and related legislation.	10,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
	4.8	4.8 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	32,131.24	0.00	32,131.24	62,868.76
		Project Monitoring, communication and viability	2,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
		Sub-Total for Output 4	247,000	32,131	49,200	81,331	165,669
		Total All Outputs	1,362,000	191,585.28	295,523.54	487,108.82	874,891.18
		5 General Management Support @ 8%	108,960	15,301.80	0.00	15,301.80	93,658.20
		Total Funding	1,470,960	206,887.08	295,523.54	502,410.62	968,549
Balance as at 31 March 2021			151,561.20		(143,962.34)		
Fund Utilization Rate at at 31 March 2021			58%		140%		
I declare that this financial acquittal is a true and accurate record of monies received and expended for this project.							
 Levan Bouadze Resident Representative UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji			Date: 16/04/2021				
*Total expenses as at 31st March 2021 including the immediate dues are negative \$143,962 (Salaries expense for April approximately \$45,000 is not included in commitment)							

PART 9: QUALITY ASSUARANCE

PROJECT MANAGER	PROGRAMME CLEARANCE
Name: Anne-Sofie Gerhard	Name: Revai Makanje Aalbaek
Title: Chief Technical Adviser & Project Manager UNDP/VEEP	Title: Team Leader – Effective Governance UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji
Signature: 	Signature: 



ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Quarter 2 Commitment Report

PO No.	Account	Opera	Activity	USD Amount	Vendor ID	Vendor Name	Purchase Order Reference
0000046601	74210	FJI	3.5	5.480	00000712	CLASSIC SIGNS	VEEP - Printing of Posters
0000046601	74210	FJI	3.5	12.330	00000712	CLASSIC SIGNS	VEEP - Printing of Posters
0000046601	74210	FJI	3.5	1.860	00000712	CLASSIC SIGNS	VEEP - Printing of Posters
0000046601	74210	FJI	3.5	6.690	00000712	CLASSIC SIGNS	VEEP - Printing of Posters
0000046601	74210	FJI	3.5	2.170	00000712	CLASSIC SIGNS	VEEP - Printing of Posters
0000046610	72145	FJI	2.1	16755.520	000001486	NEXTECH LEARNING	Microsoft Training -VEEP
0000046622	72125	FJI	2.2	58.670	000001174	VILA MOTOR TRADERS T/AS UNI	VEEP-Charter Flight
0000046622	72125	FJI	2.2	58.180	000001174	VILA MOTOR TRADERS T/AS UNI	VEEP-Charter Flight
0000046622	72125	FJI	2.2	8.620	000001174	VILA MOTOR TRADERS T/AS UNI	VEEP-Charter Flight
0000046645	71205	FJI	3.3	7500.000	000001185	PHILIPPA NEAVE	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/028
0000046653	74205	FJI	3.5	6125.000	000001485	FUSION PRODUCTION LIMITED	RLA 01/2021
0000046692	71205	FJI	1.1	8625.000	000001531	MARGARET ELIZABETH MACFAR	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/044
0000046707	72405	FJI	2.7	3768.840	00000560	COMPUTER WORLD	VEEP IT Equipment and Software
0000046713	71205	FJI	1.4	7500.000	000001534	FRANCISCUS ALPHONSUS BERN	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/050
0000046714	72220	FJI	1.1	4269.330	00000873	Wilco Hardware	VEEP - VEO Furnitures (Wilco)
0000046719	74210	FJI	3.5	6409.820	00000311	COLORITE GRAPHICS PRINTER	Printing of Election Material
0000046722	72445	FJI	3.5	2907.820	00000782	DIGICEL VANUATU LTD	SMS Bulk - VEEP
0000046729	74210	FJI	3.5	4487.460	00000807	SUN PRODUCTIONS	Posters and Flyers-VEEP
0000046732	71205	FJI	4.2	9840.000	000001532	MICHAEL SHANE WRIGHT	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/053
0000046732	71205	FJI	4.2	19680.000	000001532	MICHAEL SHANE WRIGHT	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/053
0000046732	71205	FJI	4.1	19680.000	000001532	MICHAEL SHANE WRIGHT	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/053
0000046742	74225	FJI	3.5	7544.880	00000714	VANUATU BROADCASTING AND	VEEP-Election awareness/advert
GP500487-1	72399	FJI	1.6	18400.000	GPU-COPE	COPENHAGEN ELECTION A/S	indelible ink, 18% SN, 80 ml
				143,647.67	Total of all outstanding PO's as at 15.04.21		
				1.10B	60,000	UNITAR Payment	Supervision and Coordination
				2.4	14,633	UNITAR Payment	Quality Control
				2.4	17,968	LOA payment for MOIA	
				2.5	10,000	LOA payment for MOIA	
				2.2	17,032	LOA payment for MOIA	
				119,633.00	LOA payments due already		
TBC			1.5	15,000.00	procurement of pre-printed National ID's for electiois next month		
2021-0072778			1.12	3,064.85	Aelan Internet Payment monthly internet		
TBC			3.5	2,806.11	Lionfish Designs Billboards and Candidate handbooks		
UNDP1-PO08	75705		3.9	-500	46717		
FJI10-001361	64397		1.4	32.15	15342	FRANCISCUS ALPHONSUS BERNADI	FJI/IC/2021/050/1stDeliverable
FJI10-001361	64397		3.3	32.15	11853	PHILIPPA NEAVE	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/028/2nd Pay
FJI10-001361	71205		1.4	7500	15342	FRANCISCUS ALPHONSUS BERNADI	FJI/IC/2021/050/1stDeliverable
FJI10-001361	71205		3.3	3750	11853	PHILIPPA NEAVE	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/028/2nd Pay
FJI10-001361	74596		1.4	13.79	15342	FRANCISCUS ALPHONSUS BERNADI	FJI/IC/2021/050/1stDeliverable
FJI10-001361	74596		3.3	13.79	11853	PHILIPPA NEAVE	UNDP/FJI/IC/2021/028/2nd Pay
FJI10-001361	75705		3.9	500	423	SHANGRI-LA S FIJIAN RESORT	SPA 500117299/UNDP RETREAT/Mar21
FJI10-001361	76135		3.9	-5.86	423	SHANGRI-LA S FIJIAN RESORT	SPA 500117299/UNDP RETREAT/Mar21
FJI10-001361	64397		2.13	48.23	11237	ANNE-SOFIE GERHARD	PPCF/P#123236/Apr 2021
FJI10-001361	74596		2.13	20.68	11237	ANNE-SOFIE GERHARD	PPCF/P#123236/Apr 2021
FJI10-001361	76135		1.2	-32.16	15347	PACIFIC CONNECTION	Translation/25Mar'21
FJI10-001361	76135		1.2	-0.18	15347	PACIFIC CONNECTION	Translation/25Mar'21
FJI10-001361	76135		1.2	-0.2	15347	PACIFIC CONNECTION	Translation/25Mar'21
FJI10-001361	76135		1.2	-0.48	15347	PACIFIC CONNECTION	Translation/25Mar'21
				17,242.87	Payments done and posted already as at 9th April 2021		
				295,523.54	Grand Total of all commitments as at 14th April 2021		
				141,000 Approximate Salary - Quarter 2			
				436,523.54	Total Fund Request Amount for Quarter 2 expenses		